

## **As Good As I Get**

A monologue for Ethan Hova

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By Mariah MacCarthy

*Michael stands in front of a doorway.*

MICHAEL

I know. I know. I just—

Can you—

Two minutes! Two minutes and I will turn around and walk away from this door.

Can you just let me—?

As a courtesy?

*(Beat)*

IT'S FUCKING CHRISTMAS! Can—

*(Beat)*

THANK you.

Um.

*(Beat)*

I'M THINKING. I DON'T WANNA—

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to shout, I just—

OK.

I um.

This isn't some last-ditch, like—

I respect you, you know your mind, you've made a decision, that's—

This isn't some Hail Mary, OK? This is just—

Before you disappear—

Forever—

You, um...

Like, obviously, I never would've got sober without you, so thanks for that, Would never have discovered, like...well, most of the things I associate with me-as-me-now, as opposed to me-before-you, you know...

Lou Reed...

Omelettes...

But like, those are like—

*Surface*, like, I mean—

I AM A KINDER FUCKING HUMAN BEING.

I AM FUCKING—*EMPATHETIC*.

Not just on a personal level, but like, GLOBALLY—

I DID NOT USED TO BE THIS WAY, OK?

I DID NOT USED TO GIVE HOMELESS MEN SOUP.

I DID NOT USED TO DONATE TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD.

I AM DIFFERENT. I AM A DIFFERENT HUMAN. MY CELLS REGENERATED AND CREATED SOMEONE WHO WASN'T A PIECE OF SHIT.

So, so basically, you swooped in, and you made me fall in love with you, and you made me this better person, and now you...are leaving.

Have left. Me.

So, um...so that sucks.

But um.

This better person I've become is clearly...

Not...

Enough...

Or not "not enough." I want kids. You don't want kids.

You, uh...you should be with someone who doesn't want kids.

So, so I guess you better go, because this is the best I've ever been.

I mean, I'd like to think I'd keep getting better? If you stayed?

But I have no basis of comparison, I've never been that person, so I think...

I think maybe this is as good as I get.

So.

I came here to say. Good.

It's good. It's good you left. It's good.

And it's Christmas.

So uh.

So Merry Christmas I guess.

OK.