

Here Comes My Girl

By

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INT. BATHROOM- DAY

ELIZA, late-20's, disheveled and wearing an over-sized robe, kneels on the bathroom floor in front of the toilet, silently retching. She holds a fistful of own hair, pulling it away from her face.

When she's finally relieved, Eliza leans her head against the cold bowl. She brings the sleeve to her mouth, wipes the excess drool from her chin, and inhales the scent of the person who once wore the robe.

Eliza sits back, and twists open a half-empty water bottle. She watches her reflection in the full length mirror, just opposite of where she sits, while she takes a long swig.

She stops drinking, and looks into her pale, blank face: crusted make-up in the corners of her eyes, the dark under-eye circles, red blotchy skin from zits she's been picking at, her greasy hair.

A LOUD BANGING from the other side of the door startles her.

NIC (O/S)

Come on. I have to take a shit!

ELIZA

Nic?

KARA (O/S)

And Kara. Your Dad let us in.

NIC (O/S)

I'm serious, too much Tequila and Taco Bell. Open up.

TITLE CARD: HERE COMES MY GIRL

INT. HOME KITCHEN - DAY, SEVERAL HOURS LATER

Eliza, only a bit more presentable with day clothes on, some make up and brushed hair, stirs a coffee while seated at the kitchen counter.

ELIZA

I went out last Saturday.

NIC

You're overdue for some socializing.

ELIZA

Let me hermit in peace.

KARA

Staying cooped up like this probably  
isn't good for your anxiety.

KARA (female, late-20's, designated mom in their friend group) watches Eliza stare into her dark drink. Nic (female, late-20's) tip toes around the kitchen (in glitter, rose-gold Adidas).

KARA

Neither will that.

Kara grabs the sugar from Nic. They share a glance.

NIC

I think it'll be good for you. The party.

ELIZA

Going to a Friendsgiving with people from high school that we don't even like is one-thousand-percent going to make it worse.

KARA

You sure you're not just worried about seeing Patrick?

ELIZA

Is he even going to be there?

NIC

Don't know but that shouldn't stop you from dressing up and looking hot. I mean really, what is this?

Nic gestures at Eliza's floral sweatpants.

ELIZA

I'm comfortable and I'm sexy.

NIC

Unless you're not over it.

ELIZA

No. I'm over it. It's still weird for me though. People make it weird.

NIC

Why? Rae's always there. It's not weird.

ELIZA

You've been broken up a lot longer than we have.

KARA

What if he misses you?

ELIZA

He didn't call when Gran was in the hospital. It's over.

KARA

Maybe he wants to apologize.

ELIZA

He probably should have done that months ago.

Nic and Kara square shoulders.

ELIZA (CONTD)

Look. All I want is for him to be happy. I don't care about anything else.

Eliza stands from her stool.

NIC

So, you're coming then?

ELIZA

(A pause)

How can I slutty this up?

INT. CAR - DAY

Eliza sits in the back seat of Kara's car, in-between Kara and Nic. She's now dressed in an outfit that reads in between both cute *and* slutty.

Kara drives, wearing a pearl pendant and a Peter-Pan collared shirt. Nic puts on contouring make-up in the passenger visor.

Kara points to the bags next to Eliza's feet.

KARA

To mentally prepare.

Eliza pulls out a flask.

NIC  
And it's tradition.

Eliza takes a swig.

ELIZA  
Guys I'm fine.

NIC  
Of course you are. Pat's a scrub. The  
boy is emotionally challenged.

KARA  
Aren't they all.

ELIZA  
It doesn't matter how emotionally  
unavailable the man is, the woman's  
the crazy one for knowing better and  
caring anyway.

NIC  
I can say from experience, honey,  
that's not tied to gender.

KARA  
I bet you the art of listening is  
gender-specific.

NIC  
Oh absolutely. Men don't give a fuck  
what you say to them.

Kara looks to hear rear-view, and watches Eliza stare out to  
the trees passing quickly by.

KARA  
We could try and help you win him  
back.

Nic hits Kara's thigh with her make-up brush.

KARA (CONTD)  
If that's really what you want.

NIC  
Yeah, it's easy. You just get drunk  
and clingy.

Nic turns to face Eliza.

NIC (CONTD)

But is that what you want?

ELIZA

I don't know. I feel everything. I'm so confused.

Kara taps the breaks a little too abruptly.

KARA

Do you think we should have brought a housewarming gift?

Nic faces the road again.

NIC

For Daryl and Paul? Bitches are lucky to be getting my presence.

KARA

Because you haven't seen them in a year and the only reason you're coming out is to hook up with Tony.

Eliza looks up.

ELIZA

Tony?

KARA

Her newest obsession.

NIC

For the next four hours, sure.

ELIZA

At least neither of you got kicked out of the group chat.

KARA

I'm inspired by you, Nic.

NIC

Yeah?

KARA

Yes. Using men for your own self-interest. You're a real pioneer!

NIC

You almost say that like it's a bad thing.

Eliza's ignored. She focuses on the gray slab of road as it tumbles past.

KARA

It is when you start ditching your real friends for these desperate pursuits.

NIC

You're one to talk. When's the last time you weren't hanging out with boo?

KARA

I moved in with boo. An hour away.

NIC

I'm sorry, am I supposed to feel bad that you chose this life?

KARA

You're such a bitch.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Eliza, Nic and Kara stand just beyond the basement door, scanning the room for threats. Nic holds two reusable bags filled with their contributions- a Tupperware of once-frozen green beans, a bottle of wine, and a homemade apple pie.

Nic spots TONY (male, early-30's but looks 18 by the way he dresses and carries himself) near the dining table in the middle of the room. It's lined with dollar store Turkey-themed place settings and a wrinkled table cloth.

Tony helps DARYL, (male, late-20's shining in a glittery *Spice Girls* reunion tour T-Shirt), set dishes full of burnt stuffing down on the table.

Kara looks near the rear of the room, at an old folding table set up with a nostalgic game of beer pong. She waves to MIKE, (male, early-30's and too focused on his game to notice his girlfriend's arrival.)

Mike shoots his shot against PAUL (male, late-20's, you can tell he was the kid that got swirlies in high school for like too much anime.)

Eliza scans the room herself until she sees the cove of furniture surrounded by various acoustic instruments (a few guitars, a wooden cajon, a tambourine.)

RAE (female, late-20's, holding a ukulele like she did when she used to record YouTube covers on her laptop) sits on the dated, mismatched pieces. She's across from MEL, (female, early-20's, a near-lookalike but louder version of Eliza).

Their conversation and some out of place noodling adds to the room's chatter.

ELIZA

Everyone's staring at me.

KARA

Just try and relax.

NIC

Yeah, this is just the awkward part of the party. Why did we come so early?

KARA

Mike needs the car to pick up the keg.

NIC

We're here before the alcohol?

Daryl approaches.

DARYL

Kara, 'Liza.

(To Nic)

I'm mad at you.

Daryl hugs them, and reaches for their bags.

NIC

Let me help.

DARYL

These can go down on the far end of the table.

(To Eliza)

There are some Jell-O shots in the fridge.

Nic follows Daryl to the table. Kara hands Eliza her flask.

ELIZA

Are you leaving?



KARA

I'm going with Mike. I'll be right back.

Eliza takes a drink from the flask.

KARA (CONTD)

If you need a minute to escape, you know where the bathroom is.

ELIZA

Maybe this was a mistake. If you're leaving can you drop me back home?

Nic returns.

NIC

No, you are not freaking out already. I haven't even said hi to Tony.

ELIZA

Everyone hates me. I made it weird. Did you see them all staring?

Eliza leans against the sink to try and settle her breath.

NIC

You can't leave.

KARA

If you leave, it just looks bad.

ELIZA

Do you think I care how I look right now?

Nic and Kara's eyes meet.

NIC

Look, Pat's not even here yet. Don't think about it.

KARA

Just enjoy the time you have.

Eliza watches Nic exit, and walks off toward Tony.

Nic grazes Tony's arm, they begin to chat.

ELIZA

She is going to eat that poor boy

alive.

Eliza turns back to Kara, who's now enthusiastically engaged in a game of beer pong with Mike, Daryl and Paul.

Eliza turns her attention back to the tray of Jell-O shots.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

LATER

Eliza is seated on the couches, red solo cup in hand. She sways a bit.

The sliding glass doors open. PATRICK, (male, late-20's, bad tattoos and a fedora) enters with a saxophone case and a six-pack.

He looks right at Eliza. She freezes, and looks around for her friends. Kara is filling up Mike's cup at the keg. Nic enters the bathroom, with Tony wrapped around her waist.

PATRICK

Thought I might see you here.

Patrick leans forward, Eliza hesitates then meets him with an awkward embrace.

ELIZA

Oh.

PATRICK

Yeah. Good to see you.

Eliza straightens. She turns inward.

ELIZA

The last time we spoke, you told me to go to Hell.

PATRICK (CONTD)

I know. Things didn't end well with us.

ELIZA

Yeah, you could say that.

PATRICK

I actually should have said something to you a long time ago.

Eliza stares at him carefully.

ELIZA

Yeah?

PATRICK

Yeah, I should have thanked you.

Eliza's cheeks get hot.

PATRICK (CONTD)

Really. I wouldn't be where I am today without you. And I'm really, really happy.

ELIZA

Good.

PATRICK

I know that's what you wanted for me.

Eliza steadies herself on the couch.

PATRICK (CONTD)

If you hadn't done what you did...I probably wouldn't have Mel.

Eliza tenses. Then enters Mel.

Patrick's arm finds his way to her waist, and Eliza watches their hips touch when they hug.

She takes a breath. And holds.

Mel watches Eliza with intensity, like she's about to blow a fuse.

Eliza sharply exhales.

ELIZA

Really? You two?

Her volume is raised.

ELIZA (CONTD)

Well, since I'm such a good matchmaker, let me give you some unsolicited, helpful bit of dating advice.

Kara and Nic, together at the keg, become alert at the sudden

shift of energy coming from their direction.

ELIZA (CONTD)

Number one, try not to love yourself more than you love her- if you do, don't be obvious about it. Second, don't lie about dumb shit, that's just basic respect. And third, doing the bare minimum in a relationship doesn't make you Gods gift. Providing something as normal as emotional support doesn't earn you a medal.

Patrick tries to object.

ELIZA (CONTD)

And since this is a rebound because you're incapable of taking time to yourself to reflect, when you inevitably break up, have the decency to treat the other person like you gave a shit. That means calling to pick up your own shit and not sending Mommy to do it for you.

Kara and Nic insert themselves.

NIC

Hey, Patrick.

PATRICK

(to Eliza)

I can't believe you.

ELIZA

I don't think you're the one who should be thanking me.

Patrick takes Mel in his arms and leads her away. Nic grabs on to Eliza.

ELIZA

(to Mel)

Hey!

Mel shifts her attention towards Eliza.

ELIZA (CONTD)

You're welcome.

Kara holds onto Eliza's other arm. Patrick puts his face close to Mel's ear.

PATRICK  
(whispering, to Mel)  
I told you she was crazy.

NIC  
Oh, hell no.

ELIZA  
(to Patrick)  
Congratulations. You've always wanted the simple life. Stay in the home town, get married, kids before thrifty. She looks like just the type to 'forget' the birth control!

MEL  
Excuse me?

Nic and Kara grab back onto their friend. They drag her, and push her into the open bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM- DAY

The door slams shut. Kara locks it behind them.

ELIZA  
What a shady, no good, mother-freakin' Scorpio.

Eliza sits on the sink and puts her head in her hands. After an awkward pause, she glances up at Kara.

ELIZA (CONTD)  
Did you know about this? Is that why you've been avoiding me?

KARA  
Avoiding you?

ELIZA  
You guys are supposed to have my back.

NIC  
We can't stop you from saying stupid shit.

ELIZA

I hope you all enjoyed me making a fool out of myself in front of my exes' new girlfriend.

NIC (O/S)

Don't even sweat it, Eliza. On her best days, she's basic.

They turn Nic, who's pants around her ankles while she sits, half nude, fully on the toilet.

Kara covers her nose.

KARA

God, Nic. Stop eating Taco Bell when you're drunk! You always do this.

ELIZA

And you always change the subject so you don't have to deal with my shit.

NIC

Oh give it a rest, this is exhausting, Eliza. You either want to be with him, or you don't. Make up your mind.

Eliza looks to Kara, for support.

KARA

It's been 8 months.

NIC

And you broke up with him!

ELIZA

So I'm not allowed to be upset?

NIC

You don't even like him!

KARA

You need to let it go now.

NIC

If you were at this party together, right now, you'd be miserable. Following him around like a dog.

KARA

Until he starts jamming on shitty

cover songs until you suddenly don't exist to him.

Eliza puts her head in her hands. She sits for a moment.

Kara and Nic share a glance. They watch as Eliza wretches, but nothing happens.

Eliza finally look up and back at her friends. They're frozen.

ELIZA

Nope. Didn't do that. Drank all the jungle juice instead.

Nic flushes. Kara puts a hand on Eliza's shoulder.

NIC

No one told you to do that, either.

Eliza shrugs the hand off.

ELIZA

Don't get mad at me. You two dragged me to this party then left me to play *Mommy* to your boyfriend and corrupt an innocent turd.

NIC

Corrupt?

KARA

Turd?

ELIZA

You're so desperate to get laid you become the fuck boy.

NIC

What are you even talking about?

KARA

Eliza, you made the decision to come here.

NIC

Yeah, take a little responsibility for yourself.

ELIZA

You guys practically begged me.

KARA

Why would we beg you? I was coming anyway.

NIC

Only because she's Mike's "D.D."

KARA

And you're just trying to break your dry spell.

NIC

What's the big deal? If you weren't signed up for a lifetime full of missionary, you'd be back out on the prowl. Don't be a bitch.

Eliza hangs her head in defeat.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

MOMENTS LATER

The party has returned to normal. Patrick and Mel are engaged in conversation with Daryl near the beer-pong table.

Nic and Kara finally emerge from the bathroom. Slowly, Eliza emerges from behind them, shrinking.

They head straight for the keg. Nic hands out a few Jello-shots among them.

NIC

Is it too early for the band to start up? I could use some *Petty* right now.

KARA

It is always too early. I can't take Paul and his fucking tambourine solos.

ELIZA

How can I show my face after what I just did?

KARA

Head high.



NIC

Own it. Who cares what these fucks think? They live houses down from the ones they grew up in.

KARA

Why did we come here?

NIC

These are Mike's friends.

KARA

And you wanted Tony to fuck you.

ELIZA

I just wanted to be let back into the group chat.

They take the shots, and grimace.

NIC

You don't want to be in there anyway. Lots of self-deprecating memes.

ELIZA

I enjoy those.

NIC

Not when you find yourself relating to them too hard.

Kara begins to pour everyone their own beer. She hands out the solo-cups.

The girls cheers, then chug.

INT. CAR - DAY

Eliza, Nic, and Kara are piled back into their car. They sit in silence while Kara sips on a milkshake, Nic plays a game on her cell phone, and Eliza sits between them, elbow-deep in a fast food bag.

Eliza munches on fries.

ELIZA

You know, you didn't say goodbye to Rae.

NIC

Yeah. I'm not so desperate enough to

go sniffing around exes.

KARA

Yet.

Kara snorts. She takes some of Eliza's fries.

KARA (CONTD)

I'm glad we went. Our friendship  
needed a night like this.

ELIZA

The kind of night that makes you  
rethink your entire relationship with  
the people you've known since middle-  
school?

NIC

What are you talking about?

ELIZA

You two let me date a guy with bad  
tattoos and a Fedora for three years.

KARA

Nic would have slept with a guy in a  
Fedora tonight.

NIC

And if Mike didn't grow out of that  
phase, you would have married one.

Kara throws a french fry at Nic. She screams, then reaches  
over the seat and rips the bag from Eliza.

Retaliation.

INT. BATHROOM- DAY

Eliza's face first again in the toilet. Her eyes are red and  
watery.

A pair of hands rub her back comfortably as she resumes  
puking in slow motion. Another pair of hands is holding her  
hair back.

INT. BEDROOM- DAY

Light is shining from the windows.

Eliza crawls back into her bed. She pushes Nic's behind to make more room for herself, where now Nic and Kara's noses are an inch apart from touching.

The three of them lay peacefully, attempting to sleep.