

THE GOY-FRIEND

Written by
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INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A long dining room table is set perfectly. A loaf of covered challah, candlesticks, a cup of wine near the head of the table.

The COHEN family stands around the table chatting, the family is of all ages BENJAMIN (BENJI), 12 years old is a chubby middle-schooler already eating the gold chocolate coins set on the table for decoration. BUBBE, 70, is a short frail women with a kind face and bright pink lipstick, the kind that leaves a stain on your cheek when she kisses you. POPS, 75, enters the room, rolling a white board to the head of the table. He is a plump old man with round glasses and a stern face. The family quiets down as Pops starts to talk.

POPS

Shabbat shalom my lovely family.
Not only are we gathered here
tonight to celebrate the history of
our ancestors and our people, but
we are also here to continue that
legacy by helping our loved one,
Rebecca realize she has made a
tremendous mistake...

BUBBE

And...

POPS

... and of course to enjoy my
wife's fantastic brisket.

BUBBE

Tonight I basted it with extra
stock, it should be delicious.
Benjamin, I want to see you finish
your whole plate!

BENJAMIN

Yes, Bubbe.

POPS

Before we go over the game plan
lets say a quick tefillah.

The family puts there arms around each other and starts to sway. Just as they begin to sing...

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

REBECCA and NICK are standing together at the door. Rebecca, a 20 something year old girl, is jittery. Nick, 20's, is dressed in a very nice sports coat with khaki pants, dressed to impress.

NICK

Becca, everything is going to be fine. Your parents loved me! Stop worrying.

REBECCA

My parents are the easy ones to impress, trust me. Once when I was 8 years old, my grandfather called me out in front of the entire dinner table because I drew Santa Claus and elves during art class. He said I wasn't respecting the tragedies my people have faced.

NICK

Well, I may not be Jewish but I have been studying up. Ask me anything...

REBECCA

What is the prayer for the challah?

NICK

Its called the "ChaaMotzaa"

REBECCA

Oy vey.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Pops is in the middle of explaining "the plan". He is pointing to a drawn football looking play on the white board with a Torah yad.

POPS

We have been over this Benji! You ask to say the Kiddush, Bubbe will serve him Gefilte fish and ask Rebecca how Adam is doing...

BENJAMIN

Who is Adam again?

BUBBE

Benji that's Rebecca's ex-boyfriend.

BENJAMIN

Oh right... the one she met at the JCC, but he smells like steak and used his sleeve to wipe his face. Gross.

BUBBE

Hey, He is a very nice Jewish boy, his grandma and I play bridge together at the club. She says he is going to be a lawyer one day.

LORI, mid 40's and Rebecca's mom, she is wearing black jeans and a trendy top, a little too trendy for a mom. Her hair and makeup is perfect. Lori walks into the room, she is wiping her hands as if she has just come from the bathroom and immediately grabs her glass of wine, ready for the night that is about to unfold.

LORI

This is ridiculous. Nick is a great guy, its not like she is marrying him let her have some fun.

POPS

Fun? Fun is not going to continue the traditions of the Jewish people. Fun will not prevent the next exile of our people.

LORI

Dad, you need to relax. She is my daughter and I will not have this, and my son isn't taking part in it either.

POPS

Benji, if you don't participate I will not take you to the Yankee's game next week.

Benji looks shocked and panicked. Whose side should he take?

BENJAMIN

Sorry mom.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOORWAY - NIGHT

NICK

Tu sei la mia stella... do you know what that means? It means "you are my star" in Italian. No matter what happens in there, we will be fine.

REBECCA

Do you know what mir zenen shver means?

NICK

No what does that mean?

REBECCA

We're fucked.

Rebecca rings the doorbell. Pops opens the door. Face to face with Nick. Pops doesn't even acknowledge Becca, and at that moment her face shows that this night is not going to be easy. Nick is smiling largely with the his expression reeking of nerves. Pop is straight faced and stares at Nick with no expression. Nick holds out his hand for a shake.

NICK

Good evening, I'm Nick. Thank you for having me tonight.

Pops continues to stare, he looks at Nick's hand and doesn't take it. After what feels like an eternity...

POPS

Shabbat Shalom.

NICK

Uh... that's a great tie.

POPS

Come in.

Nick walks in first, Rebecca follows.

REBECCA

Shabbat shalom Pops. Be nice to Nick. He really wants to make a good impression.

POPS

Sure, my love. Once he converts.

REBECCA

Pops, don't do anything you are going to regret, Nick isn't going anywhere.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The family and Rebecca and Nick are now seated at the table. Rebecca and Nick are sitting across from each other with Nick sitting between Rebecca's Pops and Bubbe. Pops is looking through a prayer book and Bubbe is lighting the candles.

POPS

Shabbat shalom, this week we are joined by Nick. Rebecca's college fling...

REBECCA

POPS!

Rebecca looks mortified, Nick is smiling politely trying not to take offense.

POPS

Well then, let us begin with Kiddish. Nick, you can take the lead on this one.

Pops holds out the prayer book to Nick.

NICK

Oh uh, the ChaMotzaaa?

Nervous and stuttering, Nick flips threw the book trying to find the prayers. He is holding the book, reading left to right. Hebrew goes right to left.

Rebecca notices, she tries to indiscreetly kick Nick's foot from across the table, to get his attention and correct him of his mistake. Pops has an amused snarky look on his face, and looks at Rebecca as if to say, "really? You brought *him* home?"

He reaches down and corrects Nick's reading of the book, doing his very best to make it obvious that this was a dumb mistake.

POPS

Nicholas, the *kiddush* is the prayer on the wine the *chamotzi* is the prayer on the challah.

(MORE)

POPS (CONT'D)
 Becca and Benji learned that their
 first week in Hebrew school!

Nick looks nervous for the first time.

NICK
 Well, I didn't go to Hebrew school
 sir. I do go to Sunday school when
 I lived in Italy.

POPS
 Oh... Sunday school. Did they teach
 you that Jesus was resurrected and
 that Hilter was the good guy?!

REBECCA
 POPS

LORI
 DAD

Bubbe giggles in the corner, and takes a large sip of wine.

LORI (CONT'D)
 Hey Nick, why don't you help me
 with the gefilte fish in the
 kitchen.

NICK
 Sure, Mrs. Cohen.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

Lori is making plates of food and fhanding them to Nick to
 carry in.

LORI
 I am so sorry about my father. He
 is crazy with this stuff. Every
 since Rebecca's dad and I got
 divorced he has been over the top
 insane about only having romantic
 relationships with other Jewish
 people. He always told me,
 "marrying a member outside the
 tribe is like putting a knife in
 our history"

NICK
 Yea, he is a little intense.

LORI
 Maybe try just not mentioning
 anything having to do with
 religion. Talk about baseball, he
 loves baseball.

NICK
 Oh great, I love baseball too.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM

REBECCA
 Pops, seriously what is wrong with
 you. Nick is a great guy! Right,
 Benji??

BENJAMIN
 Sorry, Becca... Yankee's come
 first.

POPS
 That's right my boy.

Nick and Lori enter back into the room hands full of plates
 of gefilte fish. Nick is struggling to keep balance as he
 enters the room. Lori walks through the door and doesn't hold
 it open for Nick, as he attempts to stop the closing door, he
 trips and loses his balance. The gefilte fish goes
 everywhere.

BUBBE
 OH MY GOODNESS!

POPS
 SUCH A SCHMUCK!

Nick gets up, the gefilte fish is all over him but thankfully
 most of the plates are still in servable.

NICK
 I am so sorry, Mrs. Cohen. I will
 clean all of this up.

POPS
 Nick, lets go upstairs and get a
 clean shirt for you, we can also
 have a little chat.

Rebecca looks excited that Nick and Pops will get a chance to
 talk one on one, she throws Nick a small thumbs up. Nick
 looks at her with a "help me" type glance.

NICK

Oh that's not necessary I think I have a spare shirt in Rebecca's trunk... or maybe she has a tide to go stick in her bag or something??

REBECCA

Nope, don't think...

Nick gives Rebecca a look that screams "come on! Save me!"
Rebecca gets the hint.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Oh, yea. I think I might have something. Come on, my bag is in the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

REBECCA

This is the perfect time for him to get to know you. You were so confident before, he's not that scary.

NICK

Are you kidding? You were right, he isn't easy to impress.

REBECCA

Nick. Go talk to him, your great with parents, this is the time to make a good impression!

Rebecca basically pushes him back into the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOSET - BEDROOM

Pops and Nick are standing in a large walk in closet. Ties, suits, watches, are organized precisely. The room is nice but not overly fancy, nice enough to be intimidating without being over the top. Pops is looking through some drawers, while Nick stands awkwardly next to him.

NICK

So... uh Pops. Thank you very much for having me over tonight. I really care about your granddaughter

POPS

Nick. Rebecca will see soon enough, that you two are not right for each other. You come from different backgrounds and histories. It's just not going to work out.

NICK

I'm sorry sir, I would have to disagree. Rebecca and I have been dating for a few months now and I think... no I know that she and I are great for each other.

POPS

What do you do in your free time Nick? Read the bible, praise the lord? Watch movies about Jesus?

NICK

I do go to church every week. But I also really like baseball. I have been playing since I was a kid.

POPS

Oh you're a baseball guy. I myself was the best pitcher the 1952 Tigers Little League team ever saw.

NICK

Wow, I was a pitcher too! The best memory I can remember was when I went to my first Red Sox game. My dad took me to Boston for the weekend.

As he hears the words Red Sox you can see Pops go to annoyed to straight up disgust.

POPS

The Red Sox, hey?

NICK

Yea, I'm a big fan! Had season tickets for a while.

POPS

Oh, I just remembered where I put
that shirt that will fit you.

Pops goes over to the other side of the room. He pulls out a
Yankees jersey, and hands it to Nick.

POPS (CONT'D)

There you go Nicholas. I think this
will be a good fit.

Nick knows he fucked up.

NICK

Thanks, sir.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM

Everyone is sitting at the dining room table eating dinner.
Nick is sitting awkwardly in the Yankees Jersey while Pops is
slightly happy for the first time, feeling accomplished.

REBECCA

Bubbe and Pops are you planning on
going to Florida this year for
winter?

BUBBE

We sure are! And you know who
bought a house right next door to
us? Mrs. Goldberg! Adam's granny!
He was such a nice boy Becca, do
you keep in touch?

REBECCA

Not really Bubbe, not since high
school.

BUBBE

But I thought it was quite serious
between you two love birds.

REBECCA

We were only together for a few
months in high school, it wasn't
that serious.

BUBBE

Remember, that cute plan you two
had?

(MORE)

BUBBE (CONT'D)

You were gonna take your future son
to Israel for his bar mitzvah.

REBECCA

That wasn't really a plan Bubbe,
more of a fun idea that we joked
about.

BUBBE

Well, what about now? Will your kid
have a bar mitzvah if you marry
Nick?

POPS

Yea, how will you raise the kids
Nick? Will they go to church every
week with you?

BUBBE

How will your raise the kids??

(Simultaneously)

NICK

Christian of course!

REBECCA

Jewish obviously!

REBECCA (CONT'D)

WHAT?

NICK

You know how much my religion means
to me, I want to raise my kids the
way, I grew up. Celebrating
Christmas, believing in Santa
Claus, going to church on
Sundays...

REBECCA

Well I want my kids to be raised
the way I was taught... Having a
bar mitzvah, learning about the
traditions of Judaism... Santa
Claus isn't even REAL!

Pops is loving this. Taking in every word like a victory, his
plan is working.

LORI

This is not something you guys need
to be discussing right know! Let's
just enjoy dinner.

REBECCA

If you don't want our kids to be raised Jewish why did you learn all those prayers and do all that studying before tonight?

NICK

I didn't even know you cared so much about this! I learned those prayers and stories to impress your family, and you... but it looks like that doesn't matter anyway because this night has been a disaster. I care about you Becca, but I don't know if I can handle all of this. I'm sorry everyone for ruining your shabbiz (mispronounced) I'm gonna go home.

Nick walks out of the dining room, defeated. Rebecca runs after Nick blatantly upset, Lori gets up and runs after her daughter.

REBECCA

No Nick! I'm sorry, don't leave! I take back what I said about Santa Claus.

Nick turns around to face Rebecca, who is full out crying at this point. Seeing this, Nick starts to tear up as well, but tries to hide it.

NICK

Rebecca, I am going to go home. This is too much for me, if your family doesn't want us together, I can't be with you. I care about you too much to put this tension on you. We just aren't meant to be, your grandfather is right, I just don't belong.

At this moment, we see Pops turn from a pleased look to a look of defeat, maybe this wasn't fair to do the young couple. Nick is about to leave the house...

POPS

Nick, wait. Why don't you share with us some of the prayers you learned.

NICK

I think I have done enough here, I don't want to offend anyone anymore then I have.

POPS

Get over here, and say the prayers. Benji will help you.

BENJAMIN

But I want to go to the Yankees game!

POPS

Be quiet boy, you'll still go to the game. Plan is off.

BENJAMIN

But why? You made us practice what we were gonna say like a hundred times!

REBECCA

What plan??

BENJAMIN

Pops had a plan to break you and Nick up because he isn't Jewish and Pops didn't like that.

REBECCA

You really think you could break us up? Pops I love you, but I love Nick too. I'm sorry if I don't like that we are together but nothing is changing. Maybe I don't want to be a part of this "tribe" if its how they treat others.

POPS

Nick, forgive me for the way I acted. I still think your Italian people were in cahoots with Hitler and probably the mob, but I was not a mensch tonight and my father always taught me to be a mensch. So please come say the prayer that you practiced, and let us enjoy our meal.

NICK

Thanks sir. I learned the chaamotza, how about that one.

POPS

Sure.

Nick gets in front of the table to recite his prayer from memorization.

NICK

Baruk adah adoynae...

Its so bad. The whole table knows it... Pops whispers in Nick's ear...

POPS

Baruch atah, Adonai, Eloheinu

Nick repeats what Pops says, the best he can.

NICK

Baruch atah, Adonai, Eloheinu

POPS

Melech haolam

NICK

Melech haolam

Nick's memory starts to kick in now and Pops and Nick finish out the prayer together.

NICK (CONT'D)

hamotzi lechem min haaretz

POPS

hamotzi lechem min haaretz

When the prayer is done, Bubbe starts spontaneously clapping to a beat and begins to sing the "Shabbat Shalom to..." song.

BUBBE

Shabbat shalmon to Benji, shabbat
shalom to Becca...

The rest of the family starts to clap, sing along, and sway around the table...

EVERYONE

Shabbat shalom to Nick, shabbat
shalom to Bubbe, shabbat to Lori...

FADE OUT.