

AMIGO

by

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"AMIGO"

FADE IN:

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

3 men walk down a road - TOM (glasses), DAVE (big), and OTHER DAVE (bigger). All around 30 - and drunk. These are OK guys though, not louts. In front of them, a group of MEXICAN MUSICIANS. That's how they dress, packing bongos, guitars, and fake moustaches.

The Bogus Banditos (in their 40s and 50s) go into a TEX/MEX RESTAURANT. Most of them anyway - but Tom watches the ACCORDIONIST, a melancholy sort, finish a cigarette while his more charismatic bandmates make an entrance.

Tom looks through the window. He sees a cute 30ish woman - RACHEL - sharing nachos with a goateed poseur, JULIAN. Tom's beery amiability turns into anguish as he sees her.

DAVE

Forget her.

INSIDE THE RESTAURANT

Rachel looks through the window at Tom. She feigns to ignore him. The two Daves peel Tom from the glass. The Accordionist shares a bitter smile with Tom.

EXT. TOM'S FLAT

A big Victorian house. There's a light on in one window.

TOM (OS)

She said there's no excitement any more. I'm predictable.

IN TOM'S LIVING ROOM

The room is alarmingly tidy. Dave sits with Tom, who is feeling drunk and confessional.

TOM

Why would Rachel say a thing like that?

Other Dave comes from the kitchen and passes a plate of toast and Marmite to Tom, who inspects it.

TOM (cont'd)

This is granary. It's the white sliced for toasting.

Dave takes the plate of toast. And rolls eyes with Other Dave. Tom is oblivious.

IN THE RESTAURANT

Rachel and Julian do a raunchy salsa. The other DINERS are impressed -- but the Accordionist doesn't like the look of Rachel's dance partner.

IN TOM'S LIVING ROOM

Dave and Other Dave munch toast in interlocking rhythms. Other Dave mimes a goatee and tugs at it.

OTHER DAVE

Chinpubes.

IN THE RESTAURANT

Julian grips a rose in his teeth, sensually places another in Rachel's mouth.

IN TOM'S LIVING ROOM

Tom looks at a photo of himself with Rachel, happy together on holiday -- she in ski gear, he on crutches. Dave sees what he's looking at.

DAVE

Don't let her be the best thing that happened to you. If she's worth it, give yourself a kick and do something.

Other Dave comes from the kitchen clutching cans of beer.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Not now. We're going. Tom's got some thinking to do.

OTHER DAVE

Why think when you can drink?

INT. TAXI - MOVING

Rachel and Julian kiss in a taxi. It comes to a halt. He looks at her, strokes her hand with a rose. He gets up - she stays put. Julian is disbelieving. He gets out of the cab and watches it drive off.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM

Tom readies for bed. This involves meticulously folding the trousers he was wearing - he catches himself doing so, and throws them to the floor.

INT. STEPH'S FLAT/RACHEL'S BEDROOM

It's actually Rachels's friend Steph's flat, who she's staying with and will appear later. Rachel lies in bed, the light out. Moonlight streams in.

TOM'S BEDROOM

Tom turns over in bed, light off. He looks at the trousers on the floor - in the shadows, they look almost alive.

RACHEL'S BEDROOM

Rachel turns over in bed. She can't sleep.

TOM'S BEDROOM

On the floor, Tom's trousers stir. And stand up of their own accord. Tom is asleep.

RACHEL'S BEDROOM

Rachel stands in the window, looks up at the full moon.

TOM'S BEDROOM

Tom turns over. Drowsily watches as something climbs out of his trousers. A strange puppety creature, a cross between Flat Eric and Fozzie Bear, maybe a metre tall, steps out. This is the AMIGO.

They look at each other, equally startled. The Amigo mirrors Tom's reactions. Tom starts to yell - the Amigo's mouth opens, but no sound emerges. It looks surprised at this, tries - and fails - to make a noise.

Tom shuts his eyes, thinking he's having a weird dream. The Amigo shuts its eyes too.

RACHEL'S BEDROOM - NEXT DAY

The door swings open. In comes her best friend STEPH, in jogging gear and with a tray holding tea and toast. She looks at Rachel, who seems to be asleep.

STEPH

Didn't fancy breakfast with
Goatee-Man?

Rachel shakes her head ('no'). Opens her eyes and looks at the toast - made from white sliced bread.

STEPH (CONT'D)

You're not...pining for Tom?

RACHEL

It's OK, isn't it? To want things
to be more fun sometimes?

Steph goes over to a chest of drawers, pulls out a t-shirt and jogging bottoms, throws them over to Rachel, who eyes them with suspicion.

STEPH

Out with the old.

TOM'S BEDROOM

Tom opens his eyes. Looks at his trousers on the floor. No sign of anything weird.

BATHROOM

Tom brushes his teeth - very methodically. Soaps and other bathtime bits and pieces are laid out meticulously around. He rearranges them to be less organised.

KITCHEN

Tom spoons coffee into a percolator, adds boiling water. He's about to take one particular mug off the mug tree -and takes another instead.

LIVING ROOM

Tom sits down with a mug of coffee. All is well with the world - until the Amigo comes in clutching its own coffee, in the mug that he'd originally planned to use. All the while looking at it, Tom picks up the phone and dials.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Tom and Dave throw a frisbee to one another

DAVE

You're getting cabin fever, cooped
up on your own.

TOM

That doesn't explain what I saw.

DAVE

Overactive imagination.

TOM

Been a while since I was accused
of that.

ELSEWHERE IN THE PARK

Rachel and Steph are running. Rachel is struggling. The frisbee sails close to them. Steph looks, sees Tom and Dave.

STEPH

Don't look now.

That's exactly what Rachel does do. She sees Tom. Dave catches the two looking at each other.

DAVE

Well?

The frisbee clunks Tom on the head as he ponders. He watches Rachel running away. Dave looks at Tom, shaking his head in bewilderment.

DAVE (CONT'D)

When, then?

THROUGH BINOCULARS

The Amigo watches Tom with Dave, Rachel with Steph. It's on a bench. A MOTHER and TODDLER go past - the Amigo waves to the Toddler, who waves back.

LATER

Tom is on his own in the park, sitting down despondent. No one else is about. It's starting to rain.

INT. STEPH'S LIVING ROOM

Rachel and Steph share a pizza and bottle of wine. Chucking down with rain outside.

STEPH

Call him. He'll understand.

Rachel doesn't respond.

STEPH (CONT'D)

The roses. The dancing. What are you waiting for?

INT. TOM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tom comes into the flat, wet. Looks around - neat, ordered. He goes over to the stereo, puts a moody jazz CD on. He settles in to listen - and hears a noise from upstairs.

BEDROOM

The Amigo finds some boxes in the wardrobe that have laid unopened for a long time. It opens them, spills colourful superhero comics and kids' toys and records about.

The Amigo turns - Tom is in the room. The Amigo seizes one of the records, and charges downstairs with it.

LIVING ROOM

The Amigo dashes to the stereo. Turns the CD off. Puts the vinyl record on - Hawkwind's 'Silver Machine' blares out huge and messy and loud as Tom chases the Amigo round the living room, knocking things over. The chaos and anger turns into fun - the chase becomes a mad dance.

INT. CAFÉ BAR - NIGHT

A sophisticated venue. Tinkling piano. Rachel sits at a table, elegant and glamorous in her best outfit. Julian comes from the bar with two glasses of wine. They smile.

INT. STEPH'S LIVING ROOM

Steph answers the phone.

STEPH

(on phone)

No, I can't tell you where Rachel is. She's out.

(pause)

What's that noise?

INT. CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Tom is in his car, talking to Steph on his mobile and listening to the righteous noise of Silver Machine. The Amigo is driving. Tom is manic, scruffy.

TOM

You wouldn't understand.

INT. STEPH'S LIVING ROOM

Steph on her own. She pours herself a wine. Looks like she'd rather not be alone.

INT. RESTAURANT

Tom bursts into a swanky restaurant. Makes quite a stir. Looks at the STUFFY DINERS and heads back out.

INT. WINE BAR

Cool DRINKERS enjoy their wine. Then the noise of a car pulling up. Tom comes in, flings the doors open. Looks around, slams the door as he leaves.

INT. CAR (MOVING)

TOM

If I'd just met Rachel and I
wanted to get into her pants,
where would I take her?

The Amigo passes a copy of the Yellow Pages up to Tom, points to an ad for a bar.

TOM (CONT'D)

Probably the same place I took her
three years ago.

The car revs up. Man and Amigo charge onward.

INT. CAFÉ BAR

Rachel and Julian are getting on very well. Smiling and touching. CUSTOMERS dress in black, look very serious.

Commotion at the door with the BOUNCER. It's Tom.

TOM

I don't care about my footwear. I want to come in.

Rachel catches sight of Tom and vice versa. The Bouncer turns Tom away. Rachel is clearly surprised to see Tom in the state he's in.

Tinkly piano ambience is restored and Julian takes Rachel's hand. Then there's a distraction -

Tom climbs in through a window by their table.

TOM (CONT'D)

Look at his chin for god's sake.
That's not hair, it's a tapeworm.
The other end's up his arse.

More commotion and conniption. The Bouncer has gone outside and yanks Tom down from the window.

OUTSIDE THE CAFÉ

The Bouncer moves in on Tom - looks like there could be violence in the offing.

BACK INSIDE

Rachel looks at Julian. He looks back - and clearly doesn't like the fact that Rachel is evidently associated with the awful man who's just been shouting rudely at him.

Rachel hears Tom outside. Goes to the window - and through it, tearing her skirt in the process.

OUTSIDE THE CAFÉ

Rachel takes in what's happening with Tom and the Bouncer and leaps onto the Bouncer. After that, there's only one thing for it - Rachel and Tom kiss. The Bouncer looks on.

BACK INSIDE

Julian looks crestfallen. He doesn't like being the centre of attention, and fails to look cool and composed. The piano tinkling starts again -

- a cocktail jazz arrangement of 'Silver Machine'. Being played by the Accordionist who was at the Tex/Mex place at the start. Without the fake moustache, and with a piano.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - LATER

Tom and Rachel in bed. The room strewn with the items that the Amigo found earlier - and their clothes.

RACHEL

Once in a while, maybe it would be nice to have toast made with granary. A croissant even. But frankly, this isn't the conversation I want to be having at the moment.

(they kiss)

Who's your friend? I haven't seen him in a while.

Tom looks worried - looks across the room and sees a shape that could be the Amigo...but is a combination of shadow and clothing. Then realises that Rachel is referring to his erection. They begin to make love.

At the foot of the bed, is a pile of the items that the Amigo emptied out of their boxes earlier. Prominent in the pile is a comic, open to the last page.

COMIC

Close in on the last page of the story:

A superhero shakes the hand of an alien creature who looks very much like the Amigo. The hero's superheroine girlfriend ties up a goateed supervillain in a chair. A glass jar containing a nasty looking worm is also visible.

Superhero word balloon: MINDCONTROLLING WORMS? SUCH DEVILRY! THANKS AMIGO -- IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU, I MIGHT NOT BE HERE NOW.

Next panel: the Amigo-like sidekick winks at the reader and viewer. In the bottom right of the panel, it reads

THE END