

How To Impress Girls

By

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The apartment is small but homely, classic film posters adorn the walls and a guitar idly sits in the corner. A picture of a broody woman with glasses and a small boy sits on a nearby table.

RICHARD, a modest looking man in his mid to late twenties sits down on his sofa, his hair estranged from any kind of brush.

Titles appear on screen - 'Richard = Loser.'

KEVIN, a four and a half foot inflatable penguin stands beside him. The penguin turns and stares at RICHARD.

Titles again appear on screen - 'Kevin = Penguin.'

RICHARD looks at KEVIN hopelessly and sighs. He looks to us.

RICHARD (V.O.)
I have various hobbies.

RICHARD stuffs a whole boiled egg into his mouth and chews with great pleasure. He looks at KEVIN and smiles.

S.F.X - Exaggerated munching sounds.

- LATER

RICHARD slides in a DVD and jumps back onto his sofa. He happily watches a film and stuffs himself with popcorn whilst KEVIN looks on.

- LATER

RICHARD is back on his sofa, he leans back in his seat and stretches his legs. His feet are bare and pencils are lodged in the spaces between each of his toes.

He wiggles his toes, chuckles and looks to the camera.

RICHARD (V.O.)
You should try this too.

- LATER

RICHARD is again on his sofa. He strokes his chin and ponders to himself.

RICHARD (V.O.)
Now I'm thinking about my dream girl.

(CONTINUED)

He stops, his eyes glaze over and he begins to think.

RACHEL, RICHARD'S beautiful young dream girl appears with her back to him. She looks over her shoulder, directly at RICHARD and blows a kiss.

RICHARD (V.O.)
We all do it, right?

RICHARD suddenly snaps out of his dream state and looks at KEVIN as if the penguin was judging him. He looks at us.

RICHARD (V.O.)
But how do you impress the girl of
your dreams?

SUZIE a young, pretty woman with long brown hair and bright red lips (and the friendliest eyes you will ever look into) suddenly appears out of nowhere.

She puts her hands on her hips and stares at RICHARD.

On screen text reads 'SUZIE - Best Friend.'

SUZIE
For a start Rich you get rid of
that penguin!

RICHARD'S jaw almost hits the floor as he stares back at SUZIE in shock.

It gets worse as SUZIE pulls the plug on KEVIN and the penguin quickly deflates. RICHARD watches.

S.F.X. - Deflating Squeak.

RICHARD
Kevin!

CUT TO:

2 INT. BAR - EVENING

2

A nice little pub with music blasting over the speakers, YOUNG PEOPLE dance and socialise. RICHARD nervously stands by the bar and dances slightly (he moves like a nervous Ian Curtis).

RICHARD spots a PRETTY GIRL dancing. He moves closer to her and starts to dance up to her slightly - she moves away. He moves closer to her and begins to dance nearby but she appears uninterested.

(CONTINUED)

He whispers something in PRETTY GIRL'S ear; she turns around and punches him in the face. Everything goes black.

CUT TO:

3 INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - DAY 3

RICHARD lies on his couch; SUZIE kneels by his head holding an ice pack over his eye.

SUZIE shakes her head as he groans loudly.

RICHARD
Okay, maybe I need your help.

SUZIE looks at us with a bright big smile.

CUT TO:

TITLE: STAGE ONE - SMELL GOOD = LOOK GOOD.

4 INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - DAY 4

SUZIE holds RICHARD'S wet head over the bowl full of water and lathers in the shampoo.

SUZIE
When did you last have a shower?

RICHARD
Nineteen?

SUZIE dunks his head into the bowl.

CUT TO:

5 INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - DAY 5

RICHARD perches nervously on the side of the couch, his face covered in shaving foam.

SUZIE sharpens a razor over a bowl of water. RICHARD winces.

She blows on the blade, sharpens it and advances upon RICHARD. The razor appears exaggerated to Richard. He closes his eyes.

S.F.X. Exaggerated sharpening noises.

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD

I blame my mother for my
inadequacies.

SUZIE enjoying her work carefully scrapes his chin.

S.F.X. Exaggerated scraping noises.

SUZIE

Poor old mum, why's it always her
fault?

SUZIE dunks the razor in the sink.

RICHARD

You don't know my mother.

SUZIE takes a pair of tweezers and plucks RICHARD'S nose
hair. He yelps.

CUT TO:

6

EXT. PARK - FLASHBACK - DAY

6

A small park, the sun shines off the autumn leaves which lie
scattered on the ground.

A YOUNG RICHARD (aged around 6 years old) plays with a
kite and walks beside his MOTHER, a middle aged woman
wearing large glasses and a large fuzzy coat. YOUNG RICHARD
holds on to a small toy penguin.

Titles read = 'The Mother.'

YOUNG RICHARD spots a LITTLE GIRL around the same age
playing in the leaves. He stares at the girl and loses grip
of the kite.

YOUNG RICHARD runs over to the girl, they stare at each
other. He leans in and kisses her on the cheek.

Richard's MOTHER shrieks, grabs RICHARD and she spins him
around to face her.

RICHARD (V.O.)

She said no girl would ever love me
more than she does.

She furiously points her finger and screams at him, he
meanwhile looks up at her and beams with pride.

CUT TO:

7 INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - EVENING 7

RICHARD is sitting on his sofa with a book about Fellini in his hands. He admires an image of the young and handsome subject.

SUZIE kneels down by him and holds his foot in her hand. She starts clipping his toe nails.

RICHARD
I had it hard as a child!

SUZIE
And now you're on the pigs back.

CUT TO:

8 INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - EVENING 8

RICHARD is sitting in a chair facing SUZIE. We see the back of his head as she styles his hair.

SUZIE stops and puts a mirror in front of RICHARD.

SUZIE
TA-DA.

An astonished RICHARD looks at his new image in the mirror.

RICHARD
Is that me?

CUT TO:

TITLE: STAGE TWO - GET IN SHAPE - FLAB ISN'T FAB.

9 EXT. PARK - DAY 9

RICHARD wearing a baggy t-shirt and shorts runs around a track in the middle of a park.

SUZIE blows a whistle and a sweaty RICHARD stops and hits the deck to do push ups. He puffs and pants with each one.

After a small number he collapses on the floor and closes his eyes.

RACHEL suddenly appears again but this time she holds a bottle of water with squeeze top.

(CONTINUED)

We see her through RICHARD'S eyes as she bends down to comfort him. She squeezes the bottle and water spurts out of it.

The sound of SUZIE'S whistle quickly awakens RICHARD and RACHEL disappears.

SUZIE
No daydreaming fatty!

He slowly turns onto his stomach for more push ups.

CUT TO:

TITLES: STAGE THREE - GET IN THE GROOVE.

10 INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - EVENING 10

SUZIE straightens up RICHARD'S posture and then turns some music on. She takes hold of RICHARD and gets into a dance position.

SUZIE
Follow me.

RICHARD looks at his feet and the two begin to dance slowly.

RICHARD
Maybe I could take her to the pictures? Maybe a musical or an old romance.

SUZIE
Not with your taste in films.

RICHARD
You like them...

SUZIE
Just concentrate.

RICHARD steps on SUZIE'S toes and causes her to yelp in pain.

They continue to dance and RICHARD gets better at it.

RICHARD
Yeah, Jules and Jim is on this weekend.

(CONTINUED)

SUZIE
Subtitles?

RICHARD
French is romantic.
(Singing)
Elle avait des bagues à chaque
doigt. Des tas de bracelets autour
des poignets.

English subtitles appear on screen. 'She had rings on each finger. Heaps of bracelets around her wrists.'

RICHARD looks at SUZIE and smiles. They smile at one another and move in closer.

SUZIE
D'you think the first thing she
wants to do is sit in the dark with
you for two hours?

He thinks hard to himself and sighs.

RICHARD
Maybe you're right. You're always
right.

RICHARD looks down at his feet and then up at SUZIE. Their gazes meet and they stare into one another's eyes. An uneasy SUZIE backs away.

SUZIE
Err...let's try this later.

CUT TO:

TITLES: STAGE FOUR - DRESS TO IMPRESS.

11 INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - EVENING 11

RICHARD sits on his couch doodling on paper whilst pencils stick out of the spaces between his toes. He shoves a boiled egg into his mouth.

SUZIE suddenly appears in front of him holding a bag. She throws it onto RICHARD'S lap. He pulls a pair of shoes out of it.

SUZIE
Girls are really keen on shoes.

(CONTINUED)

SUZIE looks down at RICHARD'S feet. RICHARD looks at them, and then back at SUZIE. He shrugs slightly. She folds her arms and rolls her eyes.

CUT TO:

12 INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - EVENING 12

SUZIE sits on the couch sits on the couch reading a book. RICHARD enters wearing a pair of Converse shoes. SUZIE looks and shakes her head.

- LATER

RICHARD again enters the room wearing a pair of black Doc Martins. SUZIE stares for a moment and strokes her chin.

- LATER

RICHARD again comes back into the room wearing the black Doc Martins only this time he is smartly dressed.

SUZIE stares, smiles and nods - perfect.

CUT TO:

TITLES: FINAL STAGE - STOP DREAMING.

13 INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - EVENING 13

RICHARD stands in the centre of the living room looking good and dressed in full garb. SUZIE straightens his shirt and sweeps aside his hair.

SUZIE

Finally!

She inspects him for a moment and frowns. She puts her hand through his hair and messes it up, ruining her work. She smiles.

A confused but flattered RICHARD blushes slightly and chuckles.

SUZIE

You're going to blow that date of yours away.

RICHARD

Maybe.

SUZIE picks up some Flowers and shows them to RICHARD.

(CONTINUED)

SUZIE

They're my favourite... so there's
a chance they're hers too.

RICHARD is lost for words and looks at them in awe. He looks back at SUZIE with the look of a man in deep thought.

SUZIE turns RICHARD around and marches him to the door. She loosens his tie.

SUZIE

Go, you'll be late. I'll have this
place looking spotless for when you
get back.

He lingers, then goes.

SUZIE

Rich.

He turns around quickly and smiles. Pause.

SUZIE

The flowers.

SUZIE holds the flowers out to RICHARD. He stares for a moment, laughs and takes the flowers.

RICHARD

Oh yeah, thanks.

RICHARD, half walks half runs out embarrassed and closes the door leaving SUZIE alone in his apartment. She laughs for a moment but the realisation of being alone quickly sets in.

SUZIE looks around and stares at a picture of her and RICHARD looking happy together. It has replaced the picture from earlier.

She picks it up and then in the mirror puts lipstick on.

The deflated KEVIN suddenly starts to inflate, the air going straight to his beak. SUZIE stops and looks down at him.

SUZIE

Down boy.

SUZIE laughs and throws her jacket over KEVIN. He begins to deflate again.

S.F.X. - Deflating squeak.

CUT TO:

14 EXT. CAFE - EVENING

14

RICHARD approaches the small café and stops outside. He looks at the flowers and ponders to himself. He sees himself in the window reflection.

RICHARD (V.O.)
I wonder what my mother would think?

RICHARD closes his eyes and thinks to himself and suddenly we are in a park inside of RICHARD'S mind.

A kite flies past.

RICHARD (V.O.)
Luckily she'll never know.

RICHARD'S MOTHERS glasses drop to the floor. The kite drops down beside them.

- Back outside of the Cafe.

RICHARD sighs, opens his eyes and stares hard at his reflection. He shakes his head and chuckles to himself. He then takes his tie and jacket off, runs his hand through his hair and smiles.

CUT TO:

15 INT. CAFE - EVENING

15

The café is small but full of character and a nice setting for a first romantic outing.

RICHARD enters with the flowers in his hand and looks around. He spots RACHEL sitting alone at a nearby table.

RACHEL looks up at RICHARD as he approaches. She looks up at him, frowns slightly and covers her face with the menu. RICHARD smiles and walks right past her.

Suddenly we see SUZIE sitting at a table behind RACHEL. She looks up and smiles at RICHARD as he approaches. The small toy penguin from his childhood sits in front of SUZIE, propped up by her coffee cup.

Titles appear on screen reading 'Actual dream girl.'

RICHARD looks at the penguin and back at SUZIE. A large smile comes across his face. He stares at SUZIE for a moment and suddenly remembers the roses. He hands them to SUZIE and receives an impressed nod as she plays with them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

11.

RICHARD holds his hand out to SUZIE, looks to the camera and winks at us.

FADE OUT:

THE END