

WE WON!

St. Hetty's Day and Nigel's long overdue screen time

by @filthylilteapot (I'm back)

This is what rambling in DMs too much leads to :}

This was meant to be short...

Premise

Hi, me again, that one girl who gets more annoying about Ghosts in general and Nigel in particular by the day. Last week's episode was SO GOOD and I'm excited about Ghosts like I haven't been in forever, despite all initial doubts.

When Brandon had said "a new guy would come between Nigel and Isaac, and they would both be quite enamored with him", I thought I was in Hell with Elias somewhere playing *Chumbawamba*. I can't stand them being broken up and a love triangle was the last thing I wanted. I never thought it would be Chris too, that seemed too predictable. Then I decided to not lose all hope, and started thinking Nigel having a fling could be the start of the road to get them back together, with Isaac maybe realising he's not over him, or that perhaps the writers had plans for drama that would lead to an eventual reconciling – I'm binging *The Office* right now and that's what they did by putting Jim with Karen for a while before he got back with Pam. Seeing Chris in the promo pics for *Bachelorette Party* made me start screaming (/neg) so loud I think my neighbours got scared (/j), because that could mean Isaac would be back excessively fawning over him again and I would hate every second of it. He did, and I did. But then Chris died ("after a first attempt, the writers finally managed to kill him!" -my mum) and I was genuinely SO happy to see where they'd take it, obviously hoping he wouldn't be into Isaac, but I trusted the show on that. Mostly. My friends and I were also curious because since Chris "liked someone unexpected" it could be Jenkins, and that would mean killing two birds with one stone: Chris is away from Isaac, Jenkins leaves Nigel alone.

Then the synopsis came out for *St. Hetty's Day*, not mentioning anything about Chris, which got me really worried he wouldn't show up at all, something like how Patience has been gone for forever even though she seemed to have a plan and want to come back immediately. Then that picture of him dropped with the episode screenshots, and I started screaming (/pos). And when John was announced in the cast? I was so happy I was dancing around my room. Christmas morning.

Anyway, I've been asked to write up a "little" something about it (I say, pretending I wasn't going to anyway) and that's what I'm doing! As always, the things I liked and didn't like in this episode are completely subjective, and as Nigel's self proclaimed no.1 fan, I'm obviously biased.

So without further ado, here we go.

Hetty's power

I won't talk about the other storyline of the episode much, but of course I have to mention Hetty's newfound ability. I was expecting everything but that, so it was really surprising and

fun to see for me. Being visible, even if it's one day a year, is definitely a "tier one" power. I am a bit curious about one thing, though. Assuming most –if not all– ghosts have a power (if only some have one, what's the criteria?), and assuming there's duplicates of powers (if not, really lucky that the only guy who can touch things and the only guy who can travel both ended up at Woodstone), does Ireland look like a zombie apocalypse during St. Patrick's Day? The reasoning behind Hetty's power just seemed to be "being Irish during St. Paddy's". That's why I think there's more to it. Like Rebecca said, it's also metaphoric of how Hetty was never seen during her life and finally is now as a ghost. Plus, the show won't be able to use her power properly or develop it if it only happens once a year. But time will tell.

I'm a bit sad Isaac wasn't around to get happy about her power. They're one of the best friendships of the show and lately they haven't had any scenes together; I thought since this was a big moment for Hetty he'd be there, but nope.

Hetty also mentions her relationship with Trevor when talking to Sunil, saying it was (past tense!) only physical and good enough as a replacement for the washing machine. I won't start going on about how I feel about H-Money (sorry, shippers... I just don't see it) but that sums it up. There were no feelings involved, they were basically friends with benefits. Not a couple. But that's not what this essay is about and ship discourse is dumb.

So anyway, why on Earth would they spoil her power a day before the episode aired? We've been waiting for this for years and it just seemed like a very weird choice to actually show what the power was and ruin the suspense that was building up. Thank God I managed to not see that interview clip.

The Chris situation™

So. Chris dies – and is probably the chilliest anyone's ever been about it. Isaac's already at the restaurant when the episode starts, and he's freaking out. I can't say I wouldn't have liked to see his very initial reaction, rushing over with fingers crossed, definitely gasping too loud when he sees Chris but playing it off as surprise to see a new ghost, stuff like that. But that's just me being overly nitpicky, I think.

Isaac becomes the most awkward guy to ever exist the second Chris acknowledges him, genuinely the worst (/pos, it was funny) thing I've ever seen. And I once watched a bear eat my corpse! Now that I'm thinking about it, he kind of needed that. Isaac has been getting more and more annoying lately, boasting about, being way more pompous than usual. At least he has let go of that "being a better person" thing he was just using as an excuse to brag. Seeing him so flustered and making a fool of himself was honestly refreshing.

Then it got a bit bad. He tells Trevor he decided to charm Chris by just cutting to the chase, "we're soulmates". For once in the show the other ghosts don't automatically agree with Isaac and say that that would obviously be too fast (especially for a guy who seemed to enjoy baby-stepping relationships so much...). Their intention is to help him flirt, but still, they give him constructive criticism and I'll take it over no criticism at all. Also, this doesn't need to be said, but they're clearly not soulmates. He barely knows Chris and has decided to just idolise him. Don't get me wrong, he's GREAT, but... Hasn't anyone told Isaac still?

By the way, Trevor says Isaac "broke off his engagement for Chris". Now, is it just me or does the show keep bouncing between the reason behind the wedding getting called off being "Isaac was in love with Chris" and it being "they were going too fast and he wasn't ready"? (in *Sad Farnsby*, "I do think, in retrospect, we may have been rushing into things, or at least you were"). Not that there can't be more reasons, of course, but can't they pick which way to take

this? One of those is more introspective and can be a bit of proper angst, the other is “I saw a stripper and it turned me on”. Very much not the same thing.

Anyhow, at the end of that, thank God, he decides to play it cool. Sort of. He’s physically unable to flirt, but at least he’s not screwing anyone over. Yet. Then Nigel walks in (considering how high I jumped when watching I don’t know how I didn’t drop my bowl of cereal) and says welcome to Chris. Being much smoother than Isaac, he picks up a conversation about dinosaurs and coincidentally uses the “Spinosaurus is the fastest swimmer” line – he very likely knew it was Isaac’s favourite dinosaur, but couldn’t have known Isaac was planning on using that one fun fact to hit on Chris somehow. (Real quick: Chris called him Nige! I don’t know why nobody ever had until now, but that made me so happy, that’s what I’ve always called him). And Isaac implodes. Despite Trevor telling him to not make a scene (like I said, finally!) he very much does, and oh dear God. After an overture of “I’m the reason Nigel likes dinosaurs” which got me wanting to throw a chair at him, he suddenly gains the ability to talk to Chris and uses it in the worst possible way. He lists the reasons they’re perfect for each other – which are, in retrospect, zilch: he likes dinosaurs, but Nigel studied them for him and now seems genuinely interested; he hates Hamilton, but I doubt Nigel likes any founding father in particular; he can’t smell, but Nigel said he likes that Isaac has a power. So seriously, how is Chris a better match? Then he mentions the tongue clicks (which I had been living in blissful forgetfulness of) and says the word “soulmates” three times. Have I mentioned all this is in front of Nigel? And that the other ghosts just cringed, didn’t think about how Nigel must’ve felt? And that I wanted to throw a wall at Isaac by now? And that I once watched a bear eat my corpse? There was one very amazing line though. Chris’ “*our* connection?”. Exactly! It’s just Isaac deciding they’re meant to be, Chris doesn’t know him one bit! That’s not something you can brush over when deciding who the love of your afterlife is! And then Chris rightfully gets out of there.

Moving along. Nigel finds Isaac and apologises – cue me screaming at him not to, he did nothing wrong.

He sits down.

And says he kissed Chris.

I think I need a moment.

Alright. Well, I got what I wanted: Chris rejecting Isaac, liking Nigel, but not as a long term thing. Also, a serious conversation that doesn’t end with anyone storming off. Right. So, when hearing that, Isaac looks, to me, sad (not jealous! He definitely was in the previous scene, but now, I don’t think he is anymore, finally). It’s not clear if that was because he blew his shot with Chris or if because of Nigel getting with someone else so easily (you still love Nigel, you idiot /aff). Nigel goes on saying how it gave him hope for the future and was the light at the end of a very dark tunnel and how he’s been feeling absolutely awful lately, and I’m crying again. A sentimental scene FROM NIGEL’S POINT OF VIEW? God, I love this. We never get this stuff! Afterwards he starts talking about how the smooching went, because this is a comedy and can’t have a fully serious scene (/neu). But this time it was actually pretty well balanced and funny in my opinion, seeing Nigel all smiley made my heart melt. He mentions Chris’ pecs (for the longest time I thought he was talking about “pecks”, not “pecs”) but I genuinely don’t know how or why anyone would flex their chest during a kiss, so let’s just move on. (After sleepless nights trying to figure out the logistics of it, best I can come up with is Chris flexes as a party trick or something, Nigel puts his hand there, and *then* that turns into a kiss. Better than a kiss randomly involving pec flexing. Perchance. Please pretend this part of the essay doesn’t exist.)

As always, Nigel doesn't get screen time unless Isaac is present, so them "hitting it off" was only said, not shown, but thank God we DIDN'T see them kiss, I guess. I can't picture how I would've felt but it wouldn't be great.

Where were we. Next scene, Chris flies down in his parachute, his ghost power is flying. But... he says the boundary doesn't apply "when he's airborne". What happens when he lands? (If he really can land with no problems or time limits, nobody tell Pete. His traveling power would fall down to tier two.) Does he zap back to Woodstone? If he disappears, does he appear back in the house (well, what else could happen?)? Reckon he'll be back someday, just hoping it's not soon enough that he causes more Nisaac drama. And so Chris decides to just travel around forever and go watch football. And Isaac says something I've been cherishing for a week now, first time I liked him in forever.

"What about Nigel?"

That's what being a better person is. That's what growth is. The guy you've been calling "man of your dreams" is leaving, and your first thought is worrying that he's going to break your friend's heart. Well done, Higgintoot. Also, he feels bad for rejecting Nigel the first time round, I'm pretty sure. I think he finally got over his crush on Chris and I couldn't be happier. About damn time.

And Chris doesn't even remember Nigel. Look, I love him, but what on God's green Earth was that? This entire episode is happening over the course of one day, how do you physically forget someone that quick? Hadn't they bonded? Nigel clearly liked him a lot and wanted to date him, but apparently they weren't on the same page there. Nigel told him to meet up by the pond just a few hours later, how did he literally forget he existed? Also, side note, what *did* they bond over? Did they just talk dinosaurs or did they get to more serious stuff? Did Chris know that Nigel was going through a really bad time? And still decided to not even say goodbye to him? Don't get me wrong, if I could fly everywhere, I would too, but I'd tell the guy I was interested in, and I'd come back to see him every now and then. Also, what happened to Chris' boyfriend? (I'm thinking about him a lot lately. Poor thing.) Had they broken up? (If they did, did he and Nigel talk about their breakups?) Or did Chris decide that the second you die, you're single? Question Hour over here. Point is, leaving like that was a bit lousy and careless on Chris' side.

Almost done. Last scene. Nigel finds Isaac (still calling him Higgintoot... but it's kinda cute sometimes) and asks him where Chris is, because they had plans to go to the pond (in the middle of the night? Which only adds to the "how could he leave like that". My mum's working theory is "guys like that only want one thing, and it's not committed relationships." To which I say, if you're meeting up with your new fling in the woods at 1am...). And that's the second time I liked Isaac – twice in one episode, that's big news for me. To not make him feel rejected, he says Chris got sucked off, and not only that, but that he moved on thanks to meeting Nigel. That's one of the sweetest things he's ever done. I'm crying again. Nigel is sad, but he says he's hopeful – first of all that Chris can come back with a séance, but mostly that good things can happen and that he should still be optimistic.

I'm so so glad Nigel was happier in this episode – in *Sad Farnsby* he looked so tired and down and it was breaking my heart, not to mention the first episodes of Season 4 where he was just crying on the couch and everybody was just complaining about him being sad instead of helping him out (and we were supposed to be laughing at his wallowing – which was a bit funny at one point, but just felt really insensitive). I'm so glad that changed last week and I'm just hoping it keeps going – if not, it wouldn't be the first time the show gave someone a moment of happiness and then forgot they existed for the rest of the season (or made Isaac do something really kind and then go back to being his arrogant old self).

The last few episodes were not my favourites, and I was starting to lose faith in the show getting back to its original glory. But last week's gave me hope for the rest of the season being just as amazing and I genuinely loved it so, so much.

"And that, my friend, is why I still look at sunsets."