



In the midst of the horribly cruel acts and insults that George and Martha fire at each other, George and Nick venture outside to sit and talk. Alone and removed for once from his spiteful relationship with his wife, George has a quiet, genuine moment where he shares a tragic tale with Nick about a poor boy who terribly loses both of his parents. Slowly it becomes apparent that George's story may actually be about himself, and that the sorrow and remorse that George is expressing and feeling is real. It is a poignant moment in the film where one of the two hateful leads lets down his guard to reveal that behind the spiteful and violent exterior is an actual soul, a faint glimmering light that over the years has been dimmed and diminished by the world's overwhelming darkness. In this moment George is revealing his true self to Nick, and making apparent his vulnerability and fragility. As such, the audience is given a glimpse of understanding into just how and why this man has been poisoned with such powerful and draining animosity towards the world.