Cruel To Be Kind – Nick Lowe Oct 2, 2025, 8:40 AM

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Notes: \wedge = Emphasise the down beat
                                                  G/B
                                                               F/A
                                                                              G
                                                                                         G7sus4
                                                                                                       Dm7/G
                                                                                                                      Dm
[Intro]
 C
          G/B F/A
||: / / / / | / / / | / / / | [2x]
                                                                  [Bridge]
| / / / / | Oh, I can't take another ...heartache,
                                                                          Α
                                                                                A7
                                                                    00, 00 -00! 00, 00, 00!
Though you say you're my friend, I'm at my wits end,
                                                                    F G Em Am Am
  You say your love is ...bona fide,
                                                                  ||: / / / | / / / :|| [3x]
                      Em Dm
But that don't ...coin - cide ...with the things that you do,
                                                                  G7sus4
And when I ask you to be nice, you say...
                                                                  [Verse 3]
                                                                  Well, I do my best to under - .stand, dear,
  [Chorus]
                                                                  But, you still mystify, and I wanna know why,
  You gotta be cruel to be kind, in the right measure,
                       Em Am Am
                                                                    I pick myself up ...off the ground,
  Cruel to be kind, it's a very good sign,
                                                                             Em Dm
                                                                  To have you ...knock me back down ...again and a - gain,
                  Em
                                         G7sus4
                               Am
  Cruel to be kind, means that I love you, baby-----!
                                                                       Em F G7sus4
                                               (Babe----!)
                                                                  And when I ask you to ex - plain, you say...
                                                 (You gotta be cruel!)
                                                                     [Chorus]
[Reprise]
                                                                                          F G
                                                                                                     Em
                               G/B F/A G
                                                                  You gotta be cruel to be kind---, oh, in the right measure,
                        C
You gotta be cruel to be kind! | | / / / / | / / / / / |
                                                                                         (Cruel to be kind!)
                                                                                 Em
                                                                                           Am Am F
                                                                            It's a very, very, very good sign----,
[Verse 2]
                                                                                    ^ ^ (Cruel to be kind!)
                                                                   (Cruel to be kind!)
                                                                           Am G7sus4
Well, I do my best to under - ...stand, dear,
                                                                  It means that I love you, baby-----!
                                                                              (Babe----!)
But, you still mystify, and I wanna know why,
                                                                               (You gotta be cruel!)
                  Em
                                                                                   G Em
  I pick myself up ...off the ground,
                                                                  You gotta be cruel to be kind---, oh, in the right measure,
                                                                          (Cruel to be kind!)
To have you ...knock me back down ...again and a - gain,
                                                                                Em
                                                                                      Am Am F G
                                                                        Yes, it's a very, very, very good sign--,
And when I ask you to ex - plain, you say...
                                                                    (Cruel to be kind!)
                                                                                    ^ ^ (Cruel to be kind!)
                                                                           Am G7sus4
                                                                  It means that I love you, baby-----!
   [Chorus]
                                                                              (Babe----!)
                                                                              (You gotta be cruel!)
You gotta be cruel to be kind!
                                                                  [Coda]
                                                                               F Dm7/G C
                                                                  You gotta be cruel to be kind-----!
                                                                             1///////
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