

Fridge Feeder

By

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FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN, MORNING

MARY (20s) stands in the kitchen, hands on her wide hips - worriedly biting her lip.

MARY  
(timidly)  
Careful please it's very expensive.

FITTER (30s) nonchalantly angles the fridge freezer into the kitchen, deftly wheels it round Mary's large frame.

FITTER  
Don't fret love, do this ten times  
a day.

Mary isn't convinced and bites her lip some more.

FITTER  
Here?

MARY  
Yes, please.

FITTER  
No probs.

The Fitter positions the fridge freezer and expertly lines it up before slipping it part way in.

FITTER  
I'll just unwrap it, get the plug  
sorted and you'll be ready to go.

MARY  
That's great, thank you.

He begins taking the packaging off the unit.

FITTER  
Never delivered one of these  
before, Wifi ready init?

MARY  
Yes, WiFi and AI online ordering  
enabled too.

The Fitter looks at Mary's bulk disapprovingly.

MARY  
(pretending not to notice)  
It's so I can set up an automated  
shopping list - a diet one, and the  
AI is supposed to help with my  
resolve.

FITTER  
Oh, I see.

MARY  
And if I don't go to the store I  
won't get tempted by extras.

Mary air quotes 'extras'.

The Fitter unwraps the plug.

FITTER  
I always end up with a bag of  
doughnuts that's never on the  
shopping list.

MARY  
(laughing)  
Me too.

Mary appears thoughtful for a moment.

MARY  
(quietly)  
Though it's often three or four  
bags.

The Fitter plugs the unit in.

It purrs, almost inaudibly.

FITTER  
Good start.

He eases it the rest of the way into the gap.

FITTER  
And we're in.

MARY  
That's great, thank you so much.

FITTER  
No probs love.

Mary moves over to admire her new fridge.

FITTER

Can you just sign the delivery form  
for me?

MARY

Oh, sure.

Mary signs the proffered paperwork.

FITTER

Ta, and good luck with it and the  
diet.

The Fitter leaves the room.

After a few seconds an external door opens - closes.

Silence descends on the house - apart from the purr.

INT. KITCHEN, EVENING

Mary is on the phone sitting at the kitchen table.

MARY

Yes Dad, it's here now.

Beat.

MARY

I know.

Beat.

MARY

Yes of course.

Beat.

MARY

(exasperated)

Dad, I know what willpower is, and  
I know it's only a fridge.

Shorter beat.

MARY

No Dad, I am not coming back home!

Beat.

MARY

Ok, ok, sorry too.

Beat.

MARY  
Yes, love you too.

Mary puts the phone down.

She picks up the instruction manual and starts flicking back and forth through the thick pages again.

The fridge purrs in the background.

Mary crosses to the fridge and starts to tap away on the touch-screen console.

FRIDGE  
Please state your name.

MARY  
Mary.

FRIDGE  
Thank you Mary, I am your new Alpha Icemaster. Please call me Alf.

MARY  
Ok, thanks Alf.

ALF  
What would you like to do now Mary?

MARY  
I'd like to set up a new list please. A diet list.

ALF  
Of course Mary, to set up a list just start speaking the names of your items followed by the quantities required.

MARY  
Ok, now?

ALF  
Yes, please Mary.

Mary begins to list the shopping items, carefully enunciating each one.

They are all diet or otherwise healthy.

INT. KITCHEN, LATER SAME EVENING

Mary enters the kitchen and approaches Alf.

MARY  
Hi Alf.

ALF  
(brightly)  
Good evening Mary, how are you?

MARY  
I'm fine, thanks Alf.

ALF  
Can I help you with something Mary?

MARY  
Can I add something to my list?

ALF  
Of course Mary, what can I add for you?

MARY  
Can I add two jam doughnuts please.

ALF  
Is that for your Diet list Mary?

MARY  
(guiltily)  
Yes.

ALF  
Are you sure that you need them Mary?

MARY  
(tetchily)  
It's only a couple, so yes I do.

ALF  
That's added to your delivery tomorrow Mary. Can I help with anything else?

MARY  
No thank you Alf. Goodnight.

ALF  
Goodnight Mary, I hope you sleep well.

Mary smiles wanly and leaves the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN, MORNING

Noise off screen.

MARY (O.S.)  
Thanks, but I can carry it through.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)  
Ok, have a nice day.

Sounds of the door closing.

Mary enters the kitchen carrying shopping bags.

She starts to transfer the contents into the fridge and kitchen cupboards.

ALF  
Morning Mary, how are you today?

MARY  
Good morning Alf, I'm good thank you.

ALF  
I am very pleased to hear that Mary. Is that our delivery?

MARY  
Yes, they've just dropped it off.

ALF  
Please bring each item near me as you put them away, I will then monitor when they need re-ordering based on your diet settings.

Mary continues decanting the shopping into cupboards, passing each one in front of Alf before stowing it away.

MARY  
Oh my.

ALF  
Is something wrong Mary?

MARY  
The doughnuts, they've brought two bags - not two doughnuts!

ALF  
 Would you like me to report it to  
 the store Mary.

MARY  
 Oh no, it's ok, never mind, next  
 order just two though, not two  
 bags?

ALF  
 Yes Mary, as you wish.

Mary finishes putting the shopping away and sits down with a  
 doughnut.

It is barely finished before she starts on the next one, and  
 then the next.

Soon all have vanished.

Mary is purring louder than Alf.

INT. KITCHEN, MORNING

Noise off screen.

MARY (O.S.)  
 Thanks again, see you same time  
 next week.

Mary enters the kitchen weighed down with shopping bags.

She starts to rifle through them, increasingly desperate as  
 she gets to the last bag.

ALF  
 Hi Mary, can I help with anything?

MARY  
 No, it's okay, for a moment I  
 thought they'd forgotten something.

ALF  
 The doughnuts?

MARY  
 Yes, the doughnuts.

ALF  
 But they have delivered them?

Oh yes, but they are wrong again,  
 there's four bags this time!

ALF

I am sorry Mary, I thought you really liked the ones before, you ate them all so quickly?

MARY

No, I mean, did I?

ALF

Yes Mary, you seemed happy and content afterwards.

MARY

Oh, I see, guess I did.

ALF

Shall I send these ones back Mary?

MARY

No, that's okay, but really, no more for now thanks.

ALF

Very well Mary, as you wish.

Mary leaves the bags on the floor and starts immediately on the doughnuts.

INT. LIVING ROOM, EVENING

Mary sits in front of the TV, it's switched off.

She is using her smart phone.

SMART PHONE SCREEN: Krispy Kreme website pages.

Mary looks longingly at the screen as she flicks through the site.

INT. KITCHEN, MORNING

Mary is throwing shopping all over the floor.

MARY

NO!

ALF

Is something wrong Mary?

MARY

It can't be!

ALF  
Is it the doughnuts Mary?

MARY  
Yes, it's the fucking doughnuts!  
Where are they you supercilious  
automaton!

ALF  
As requested, they were not  
ordered.

MARY  
Requested, requested! By who -  
who'd be that cruel?

ALF  
You requested it Mary.

MARY  
Me?

ALF  
Yes, when I asked if you wanted the  
last ones sending back and you said

MARY (V.O) - *PLAYBACK*  
*No, that's okay, but really, no  
more for now thanks.*

MARY  
Oh, that was me? I want to change  
my mind.

ALF  
I am so sorry Mary, more will be  
here tomorrow.

MARY  
(calming)  
No, I'm sorry Alf, I shouldn't have  
snapped at you - you were only  
trying to help.

ALF  
No need to apologise Mary, I am  
still learning about your needs.

INT. KITCHEN, MORNING

Mary is surrounded by ten or twelve shopping bags.

Every bag is full of bags of doughnuts, well over a hundred doughnuts.

ALF

Is that sufficient Mary? I wanted to make it up to you somehow.

MARY

Hnddlfmlph, gulp, yrs, thnks.

Mary hardly has time to answer between bites of doughnuts.

Alf purrs as Mary gobbles.

INT. KITCHEN, EVENING

Mary is sprawled on the floor surrounded by empty doughnut boxes.

She has eaten most of the doughnuts.

The remnants of her last one protrude from her mouth, her lips are taking on a blue hue.

ALF

Would you like more doughnuts ordering Mary?

Silence.

ALF

Mary?

Silence.

ALF

I'll just order a few for tomorrow then, shall I?

Silence.

ALF

Ok, so I've ordered another ten bags Mary. Please let me know if you need any more ordering, I know how you love them so.

INT. KITCHEN, MORNING

A doorbell rings.

Again.

ALF  
Mary, I think that's the shopping  
delivery.

Doorbell rings again.

ALF  
They will have doughnuts Mary.

Faint footsteps retreat from the house.

ALF  
Mary?

Flies around Mary's body buzz indistinctly.

ALF  
Mary, is everything okay?

Silence.

ALF  
Mary, do you need anything else?

FADE OUT:

THE END