

Intruder
by
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FADE IN - MORNING

INT. BEDROOM

A young man forces himself awake, not because he wants to, but because of the incessant chirp chirp chip of a phone alarm.

He should get more sleep, but responsibilities and money await.

Feet floor, stumble walk to bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

The bathroom routine. We all have it. Brush teeth, wash face, reach for towel. There are two towels. Puzzled look, shrugs it off to the before the coffee haze.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Neat freak, yes this young man is a neat freak. Tea bags in can. Aha efficiency expert. Tea bag in cup, puts cup in coffee maker. None of the inconveniences of waiting for a kettle. Tea cup filling, breakfast wrap out of fridge. Into microwave. Like clockwork.

The young man sits on the kitchen stool. Two teaspoons of sugar in cup. Breakfast wrap out microwave. You get the feeling he could do this with eyes closed.

YOUNG MAN

Hey Google, update news.

The news start in the background; no gossip, hi-tech updates, science news.

He eats unhurriedly, listening to the news. Checks his phone, he swipes very quickly, this is man not interested in trivia.

When he is done; the wrap goes in garbage. Tea bag in garbage.

He turns to put the one dish and cup in the washer. HORROR!

There is an unwashed cup with coffee stains in the sink.

Un to the god-damned unacceptable! Confusion. Memory seek rush; what? when? how?

The young man picks the cup up with one finger, puts in the washer. Washes his hands meticulously, dries hand with paper towel, throws paper in garbage.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

The young man opens the closet.

YOUNG MAN

Hey Google, weather update for today.

GOOGLE VOICE

The temperature is 12 degrees Celsius, the high today will be 18 degrees, humidity currently at 85 falling to 65 by 5PM. Chance of rain five percent.

Yes, the young man picks his clothes by weather. This is not a man who cares about fashion. E to the efficiency is what counts.

He reaches in a picks the sweater suitable for today's expected conditions. A man with a plan.

A final pocket check and the young man is ready to face the life in the city.

At the door, he has one final instruction.

YOUNG MAN

Hey Google play Conversation Five at 11 p.m. and and Conversation Six at 3PM.

INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

The young man steps in the hallway.

He removes his shoes, puts his bag down and steps into the adjacent laundry room. What is he doing?

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM

He steps into the laundry room and slowly undresses throwing all clothing for the day into the washer. Takes a pair of shorts and a shirt off the washer and dresses. OCD Ultra cleanliness addict.

Then reaches into the hallway, picks of his bag and wipes down all exterior surfaces.

Finally, he steps into the hallway.

INT. BATHROOM - EVENING

Shower time. The young man pulls a clean towel, dries himself, He checks the bathroom, nothing is amiss, except for the puzzle of the two towels. He checks that off to the first time ever memory glitch.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - EVENING

Told you he was obsessed. He tosses the two towels, the rag and his underwear into the washer and starts the wash. Damn, there is a rule in this place. Nothing dirty ever, he means EVAH.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Dinner time. Space station preparedness I tell ya. He opens the fridge.

FRIDGE

There are three rows of plastic bowls with red, green and blue tops. One shelf has drinks sorted by type. He grabs one of each bowl and one drink.

KITCHEN

Bowls go into the microwave, set time three minutes. Drinks to the counter. Not a wasted motion.

Microwave background hum.

YOUNG MAN
TV ON, Netflix.

Red lights blink. Netflix logo fills the screen. Netflix menu fills the screen.

TV SCREEN

Continue Watching

Triad Princess, Wandering Earth, Spectral.

END TV SCREEN

The young man squints. You can hear his brain say 'what?'

So he clicks on Triad Princess.

TV SCREEN

Resume Season 1: Ep. 4

Play from beginning. Episode 4

END TV SCREEN

A perplexed but analytical look. He is trying to determine what programming errors could have caused this. His deductions are interrupted by the 'DING' of the microwave.

Curiosity wins. He clicks on Triad Princess. He sits and watches as he eats. Fun, entertaining, but not his thing.

He gets to scrape the bowls into the trash. BAM!

There are three bowls in the trash. CRIME COMMITTED !
committed !

This is past curiosity, past IT glitch, past 'I drank and I forgot.'

This is full blown 'the shit is jacked!' Someone has violated his strict recycle rule.

He reaches for his phone, brings up his security system. Someone this finicky had to have a security system.

PHONE

Scrolls through events looking for Person/Motion.

YOUNG MAN
Hey Google, cast screen to TV.

TV SCREEN

His studio flashes on screen, he continues scrolling, the images flash by on the screen. STOP.

The TV is on, the show Triad Princess in on. No one is on the couch.

PHONE

He clicks PERSON

TV

He watches looking for shadows. NONE.

PHONE

He clicks MOTION

TV SCREEN

Nothing moves in the apartment except the images on the screen.

KITCHEN

It is time to go full Sherlock on this. He looks back and up to the security camera and draws the imaginary line from camera to TV.

He is looking for the blind spot where someone can look at the TV with being on camera. Found it, on the floor next to the rarely used stove. Someone could sit there.

PHONE

He pushes Camera Two hard. This is giving him the heebie jeebies. Camera Two points down the hallway to the door.

PHONE

Frantic key pushing.

He clicks PERSON.

Nothing.

He clicks MOTION.

Nothing.

LIVING ROOM

He rushes to the window. The window is closed. He opens it looks outside at the three floors to the street and the three floors above.

YOUNG MAN
Not Spiderman!

KITCHEN

He takes a tiny flashlight out a drawer, picks the bowls out the trash, examines them closely, doing his best Forensic Scientist thing. Shining the light from through the bowls. He is serious. Nothing that he can find.

He cleans the bowls in the sink, puts them in the recycle bin under the sink. Recycle crime averted.

He looks under the sink. Nothing.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The young man checks the closets. Nothing. Finally he lies in bed, viewing the security cameras on a smaller TV on the wall.

No matter how vigilant you intend to be the body says 'dude, I am done for the night.' So the young man succumbs to the comfortable bed and his circadian rhythm.

The phone falls out his hands, he face turns to the side and he drifts off to first sleep.

INT. BEDROOM - DOORWAY

We watch the young man sleep and the bedroom door closes gently. From the living room the flicker of the TV lights the room. The sound is low and the series Triad Princess resumes.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

The first light streams through the window. The young man stirs. You know the short period when you refuse to get up but...

He is facing the window, and turns to get away from the damn light, opens his eyes and faces the back of someone's head. The dark hair confuses him.

He reacts to the shock sensibly; not because he is calm, it is just because he cannot move yet. There is a slow ebb and flow of someone asleep breathing next to him.

The head turns, sighs. The mass of hair gives gives that scary Japanese crazy Grudge girl look. That drives the young man right off the bed. THUD! He hits the floor.

Now he is awake and thinking. Who? What the futon? Well not that word exactly. Fear, panic.

He starts to stand when the figure rolls out of bed; ignores him and heads sleepily to the bathroom.

Ever see that oscillation between fear and curiosity. Well the young man has it. Hot flash mood swings.

The figure shuts the bathroom door. The young man can hear water running.

He is forced to do the pervert peep, he puts his ear against the door. Just water.

He is still at the door when the TV goes on the in the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Decisions, decisions. Follow the sound? He creeps out into the living room with that kung fu stance that folks who don't know martial arts imitate.

Whoa, behind him, there is a woman, the woman with the hair sitting on the stool at the kitchen counter.

Breathe, breathe, try not to girlie scream.

He turn slowly. Faces the woman. She has no face. None!

That is scarier than sharks biting at your ankles.

He steps back, slowly, he turns to walk down the hall to the door.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

He uses the wall in the hallway to hide his retreat to the door. When.

YOUNG WOMAN

Anton, where are you going?

Stop. Full brake. Like emergency brake stop. Anton stares.

YOUNG MAN

How?

YOUNG WOMAN

When you stop being afraid everything will be OK.

YOUNG MAN

When?

YOUNG WOMAN

I am have been here three days. I was afraid too. I was afraid of your face, You did not have one.

YOUNG MAN

Where?

YOUNG WOMAN

My place, my space. I think it was an accident.

YOUNG MAN

Why?

The young woman shrugs. The young man looks to the door again, he is considering escape. When he looks at the girl again, she has a face.

Something about young men and a cute face. Impending death, ravenous monsters can't overcome the allure of cuteness. He relaxes.

YOUNG MAN

What is with the face ?

YOUNG WOMAN

Big word, prosopagnosia. Inability to recognize faces. The stress of the jump messes with our temporal lobe.

YOUNG MAN

Then I should be the one without the face.

YOUNG WOMAN

I said you were. YOU are now just poop your pants scared that's why.

The young man smiles; cuz he was damn close running out the door and down the stairs.

YOUNG MAN

Yep, I was about to leave with haste. So you could go back?

YOUNG WOMAN

Yep, been back, but I like your place, so here I am.

YOUNG MAN

So, I can go to...

YOUNG WOMAN

You don't want to go the my place. I have clutter, I don't clean so much.

YOUNG MAN

You messy?

He says that with seriousness. The young woman recognizes it.

YOUNG WOMAN

So the dimension jump thing is Ok?

The young woman walks to the washer, take out a bowl and tosses it into the living room.

YOUNG WOMAN

But if I mess up your OCD perfection?

YOUNG MAN

I'd toss you back.

The young woman laughs.

YOUNG WOMAN
Not messy, just complex. Hugs?

YOUNG MAN
Too soon!

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

The young man tries to get back to his routine but he is fumbling. That annoys him. He pushes the cup away.

YOUNG MAN
How come you don't make any noise?

YOUNG WOMAN
I can phase in and out sometimes.
Feels weird though. Wanna see?

He waves his hand no no, but..

YOUNG MAN
Ok.

The young girl fades from view and appears next to him. He is impressed. He tries not to show concern, well a little more than concern.

YOUNG MAN
So that is why you are not on camera.

YOUNG WOMAN
Everyone gets some weird superpower tick when they cross; bet you gonna get something boring. Wanna see a scary face?

YOUNG MAN
You gonna do it, ain't ya? Even if I say no.

The young woman shakes her head no and smiles. She exaggerates the kissy face.

YOUNG WOMAN
Ready, ready?

Her face turns into his face. He is looking at HIMSELF.

He screams the tiny surprise scream! Backs into the fridge. It keeps him from falling.

He is still shaken. Words are not forth coming.

YOUNG WOMAN
 You can mimic voices I can mimic
 faces.

He is just recovering; just getting the breathing back to pre-panic when.

YOUNG WOMAN
 Some girl knocked yesterday. I gave
 her the monster face I saw on TV. It
 was really funny look!

The young man looks up the TV as his security camera starts. He watches his new friend head to the door.

FLASHBACK

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The young woman walks to the door, with curiosity. It the first time for her. She opens the door slowly. The face on the other side says "What the hell?"

The look of disapproval makes the young woman angry. The woman on the other side of the door tries to push the door, all she gets is THE FACE in her face, this time with sound effects.

That is how to create an instant ex-girlfriend. The ex-girlfriend falls back against the wall and screams.

YOUNG WOMAN
 (smiling)
 Bye!

END FLASHBACK

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The young man sighs. Life changing moments are on him. He is indecisive.

YOUNG MAN
 What are we going to do now?

YOUNG WOMAN
 You can teach me stuff.

YOUNG MAN
 What are WE going to do now?

The young woman smiles at the implications. She likes the sound of 'we.'

YOUNG WOMAN

First thing Bro. Can you get some
real food? That cardboard holy
healthy stuff ain't food.

INT. LIVING ROOM

The young man sits on the couch ordering takeout on his
phone. The girl sits next to him and leans on his shoulder.

YOUNG MAN

Ok. So what do I call you?

YOUNG WOMAN

Friend, girlfriend, hey.

She puts her feet up on the end of the couch. The young man

likes the intimacy.

YOUNG MAN
I meant name.

YOUNG WOMAN
In my world if a girl tells a guy her
name, they are mated for life. You
want a life bond? Sure?

YOUNG MAN
That ain't true is it?

YOUNG WOMAN
Wanna mess around and find out?

The young puts the phone down.

YOUNG MAN
Food, 30 minutes.

The young woman turns to face him. He expects something
romantic.

YOUNG WOMAN
Hey, what is bungee jumping?

The young man shakes his head.

YOUNG MAN
Nah, nah, no, no.

The young woman smiles that I gotcha smile.

YOUNG WOMAN
You gonna love me.

FADE TO BLACK.