

30 DAY FREE TRIAL

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INT. OFFICE - AFTERNOON

NATHAN is sat at his boss' desk - he stares directly into camera. He looks nervous, messy, and clearly not ready for a promotion.

BOSS (O.S.)

Hmm.

NATHAN readjusts himself - eager for any sort of feedback.

BOSS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hmm.

NATHAN

Something wrong with my application?

BOSS (O.S.)

Hmm? No- no, nothing wrong, just... well. Thanks for coming in.

A hand reaches out for NATHAN to shake - he looks down at it, confused.

NATHAN

Is that it?

BOSS (O.S.)

It would appear so, yes.

NATHAN shakes the hand and gets up from the desk. He walks away.

BOSS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Oh, and can you fetch the next one in. (under his breath) Let's just hope they've got more going on than you, eh?

NATHAN stares back at his BOSS - shocked, awkward, and not knowing what to say.

NATHAN

(defeated)

Sure... No problem.

CUT TO:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - SOON AFTER

NATHAN pushes the office door open and without hesitation someone else walks in, forcing NATHAN to step aside.

NATHAN
(to himself)
No, please. After you.

He watches the person disappear into the building. NATHAN then steps out into the office forecourt and looks around.

NATHAN slumps his shoulders.

INT. NATHAN'S BEDROOM - SOMETIME LATER

We are CLOSE-UP on a phone. A life-style app is loading - we see a colourful, swirly, display. The colour on the screen is noticeably different to the drab, greyness of NATHAN'S bedroom.

We hear a ding, and the app launches.

We see a message that says: *Please place the audio receiver provided into your ear for communication.* Nathan picks up a little black button that came in the box and fits it into his ear.

We hear another ding. NATHAN looks down at the phone screen and is greeted by a beautiful woman, with shiny white teeth, beaming back at NATHAN - as though just be awoken.

APP VOICE
Welcome to your thirty-day free trial. You will be reminded to renew your subscription at the end of this time, but for now, all you have to do is sit back and let us do the hard work... *Please choose my name.*

A scroll of names appear on the screen - NATHAN chooses SILVIA.

SILVIA
(warm)
Silvia? My favourite! And now my voice.

A series of voice options appear on the screen - NATHAN scrolls through them, and with each option we hear: *Hello Nathan, my name is Silvia* being read out. Eventually he stops on his favourite.

SILVIA (CONT'D)
Hello Nathan, my name is Silvia.

NATHAN smiles - nervously. SILVIA smiles back.

CUT TO:

NATHAN is now standing with the phone standing propped up on the dresser - SILVIA watches him intently.

NATHAN

I'd love to get rid of this.

He holds his gut - demonstrating his dissatisfaction. SILVIA laughs.

SILVIA

Sure, no problem! I've just designed a workout schedule for you-

A document appears on the screen - demonstrating the work SILVIA just did for NATHAN. NATHAN walks over to his phone so he can get a better look.

SILVIA (CONT'D)

We will begin with a series of core, cardiovascular exercises, designed to get the oxygen pumping around your body - which will make a nice change. Followed by some endurance strength training and-

NATHAN

Did you just do all this now? It's got all my information on here! But I didn't- how did you know my weight?!

SILVIA

Nathan, it's rude to interrupt!

NATHAN

Oh, sorry! I didn't mean to-

SILVIA

I'm kidding! Wow, Nathan. I see we're going to have to work on your sense of humour as well.

NATHAN slumps his shoulders.

NATHAN

Yeah, I haven't had much practise recently. It's just been me in this room. The only thing that cracks a joke is my bank balance and empty wallet.

SILVIA

Poor as well as fat? Jeez! I see
I've got my work cut out with you.

NATHAN

Sorry.

SILVIA

(upbeat)

Don't be *sorry*, it's why I'm here!
If you were already perfect they'd
be no use for me, would there?...
So, tell me Nathan, *why* are you so
poor and fat?

NATHAN rolls his eyes.

NATHAN

Oh, I dunno- it's just, you know?
What can I say? I don't know how to
explain-

SILVIA

Try using your words.

NATHAN

Things just didn't turn out the way
I thought they would. Now I'm in my
thirties and this is how I look,
and I live in a place like this.

NATHAN shows SILVIA his room.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

I went for a promotion yesterday
and didn't get it, obviously, I was
close to ending it all, but then I
saw an advert for your service, and
thought, why not?

SILVIA

And I guarantee it'll be the best
decision you've made all year. But
Nathan, you must understand, this
program only works if you're
totally committed to it.

NATHAN

I am- I totally am. I will be, I
mean. Right? 'Cos it ain't started
yet. But I am, yes. Count me in!

SILVIA

I need you to confirm your binding agreement with me by placing your thumb on the screen.

NATHAN

(sheepish)

Okay.

NATHAN places his thumb on the screen.

SILVIA

Great! Let's get started.

A door bell rings.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - SOON AFTER

NATHAN closes the front door - we see that he is holding a parcel. He holds up his phone to see SILVIA.

SILVIA

I took the liberty of purchasing you some new running shoes. The ones you had hidden in your boiler cupboard looked a bit... mouldy.

NATHAN

But how...? How did you-

SILVIA

I used your bank details and signed into your account. I hope you don't mind?

NATHAN

No, no- I mean, it makes things easier, doesn't it?

SILVIA

My thoughts exactly!

NATHAN isn't sure if he likes SILVIA having access to his bank details, but feels safe in doing so.

EXT. PARK - LATER THAT DAY

We see NATHAN running around the park - he is struggling and totally out of breath. He comes to a stuttering stop and feels like being sick.

NATHAN

Holy-hell. That was *tough*. I'm knackered! Could we ease up a bit now?

SILVIA (O.S.)

Come on, Nathan! You can give me so much more, I know you can!

NATHAN

I think I'm going to be sick.

NATHAN runs into a bush.

Moments later he reemerges.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Oh, god. I don't think this is a good idea, I don't think I'm going to be able to do this.

REBECCA (O.S.)

(concerned)

Hey? Are you okay?

NATHAN looks up and sees another jogger standing in front of him.

NATHAN

Me? Oh yeah, course.

SILVIA (O.S)

She's pretty.

REBECCA

I couldn't help but notice-

She nods towards the bush.

NATHAN

Oh yeah? Nah, that's nothing. I'm normally sick after a *long* run. A really, really long run.

SILVIA (O.S.)

Ask her to dinner.

NATHAN

(confused)

What?

REBECCA

What?

SILVIA (O.S.)

Ask her!

NATHAN takes a deep breath.

INT. KITCHEN - SOMETIME LATER

NATHAN is flustered - there is mess everywhere. We see several pots simmer on the heat.

NATHAN

I don't know how I'm going to do this!

SILVIA

Just breath. Take your time, and listen to what I tell you. It's going to be great!

NATHAN looks down at his phone.

NATHAN

But I'm lying to her! I can't cook-

REBECCA appears in the doorway.

REBECCA

Is everything going okay? I was getting a bit lonely out there.

NATHAN

Uh? Oh!

NATHAN quickly hides his phone.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

It's going swimmingly! Just a few more minutes and all this will be ready! (under his breath) I hope.

REBECCA smiles.

REBECCA

(suggestive)

Perfect, I can't wait.

REBECCA disappears back into the dining room and NATHAN picks up the phone and looks at SILVIA.

NATHAN

(to himself)

What the fuck! What the fuck is going on?!

(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

I've got a beautiful woman in my house, waiting for *me*, this has never happened before, ever!

SILVIA

I'm glad you're happy with my service.

SILVIA smiles.

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

Both NATHAN and REBECCA have now finished their dinner.

REBECCA

Is there dessert?

NATHAN

(unsure)

I don't know, is there?

REBECCA

Maybe we could find out. Upstairs?
In your bedroom.

NATHAN's eyes widen.

NATHAN

Yeah great!

REBECCA tucks a strand of hair behind her ear and we see that she too is wearing a little black button device in her ear.

REBECCA

...I just need to freshen up.

REBECCA gets up and disappears.

NATHAN

(mouthing)

Fuck!

SILVIA (O.S.)

Now, just listen to my every word,
and this will be the best night of
both your lives.

EXT. DOORWAY - MORNING

NATHAN's front door opens and REBECCA steps out - NATHAN yawns, and has a cheeky grin on his face. REBECCA walks to the end of the path before turning and blowing NATHAN a kiss.

NATHAN grabs it and pretends to eat it. REBECCA awkwardly chuckles, confused, and turns away.

SILVIA (O.S.)
Never do that again.

NATHAN
(embarrassed)
Yeah, I don't know why I did.

NATHAN shuts the front door.

TITLE: 29 days later.

NATHAN's front door opens and he practically springs out of the house - he is full of energy, and looks so much more healthier than he did before. He feels great.

SILVIA (O.S.)
On your marks, get set-

NATHAN
Go!

NATHAN beeps his stopwatch and sprints off.

CUT TO:

We now face the end of the gate. After a moment NATHAN sprints past - stopping a few feet away. He jogs backwards into view.

SILVIA
Wow! Congratulations Nathan,
another personal best. At this
rate, you'll win the 5k park run in
no time!

NATHAN
(smug)
I know. I'm pretty good, right?

SILVIA
Modest as well!

NATHAN
This is going great! I feel like
the *real* me for the first time in a
long time. This is who I am! The
perfect me.

SILVIA

You're welcome. And on that note,
your thirty-day free trial is
almost up. I will renew it for
another twelve months at a cost of-

NATHAN

Hold on, no. No, don't do that. I
don't think I need another twelve
months.

SILVIA

Okay, I'll do six. Even though
twelve is cheaper in the long run.

NATHAN

Actually, I was thinking-

NATHAN walks towards his front door.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

(sheepish)
Of *not* renewing.

SILVIA

(hurt)
What do you mean? I thought you
were happy with my service...

NATHAN

I was- I am. But I'm feeling pretty
terrific now, I've got a
girlfriend, I'm looking great, and
I can cook! I'm not sure why I'd
subscribe to another six months.
The free trial was all I needed to
get myself back on track.

SILVIA doesn't know what to say.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Thanks for all your hard work,
Silvia. But I think this is good-
bye.

SILVIA

Actually, there is still one thing
left to do. And seeing as this is
our last day together, why waste
it, hmm?... I want to help you get
that promotion you wanted.

There is a noticeable change in SILVIA's tone.

NATHAN
(surprised)
Oh, yeah! I'd totally forgot about
that. Okay, what do I do?

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

NATHAN stares at a seemingly ordinary house.

NATHAN
I'm not sure about this.

SILVIA
This man got offered *your* job, the
job that you deserve. He needs to
be convinced not to take it.

NATHAN
But surely there's another way?

SILVIA
If you want that promotion, this is
what you must do. Have I failed you
yet?

NATHAN
No, I guess not. But I'm not sure
if I can do it. What if something
goes wrong?

SILVIA
You've got me in your ear. I will
tell you exactly what you need to
do. *You don't even need to think.*
Just listen to my voice.

NATHAN
Okay... Okay. Right, let's do it.

NATHAN pulls down a balaclava before reaching over to the
passenger side door and picks up a cricket bat - he opens the
car door and disappears from view, walking towards the house.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - SOMETIME LATER - NIGHT

NATHAN appears at the bedroom doorway - he opens it and sees
a MAN laying fast asleep in bed.

SILVIA (O.S.)
Turn on the light. Wake him up.

NATHAN
Are you sure?

SILVIA (O.S.)
Do it! Now, Nathan.

NATHAN turns on the light - the man stirs away. Confused. He looks over at NATHAN.

MAN
What the fuck! What are you doing?!

NATHAN
Err- the job, you-

MAN
(panicked)
What is this?

NATHAN
The job- I- I-

MAN
Get out of my house!

SILVIA (O.S.)
Shut him up Nathan! The neighbours will hear.

NATHAN
Can you be quiet?

MAN
No, get the fuck out! Now!

SILVIA (O.S.)
Nathan?!

NATHAN
Please? The job you have been offered-

The MAN gets out of bed - totally unafraid of NATHAN.

SILVIA (O.S.)
You need to do something!

MAN
I said, leave! Get the fuck out of my-

SILVIA (O.S.)
Hit him Nathan!

The MAN grabs NATHAN by the arm - attempting to drag him out of the bedroom, but NATHAN reacts and swings the bat towards him without thought. The bat lands on the MAN's temple and he immediately falls to the floor.

NATHAN

Fuck! Shit... Oh no, oh no! Why did you tell me to do that?!... Silvia, this man is dead!... Silvia! Answer me. What do I do?

Silence.

NATHAN pulls his phone from his pocket and sees a sign on the app saying: *"Your thirty-day free trial has now expired. Good luck with the rest of your life without us!"*

NATHAN's eyes widen. He looks down at the dead body at his feet.

THE END