

BEING NATHAN LANCASTER

By

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INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

JEFF walks in holding a cell phone. His roommate, BRIAN, is sitting on the couch playing video games.

BRIAN  
Yo.

JEFF  
Sup?

BRIAN  
Same ole.

JEFF  
Still playing that game?

BRIAN  
You know it.

Jeff is standing motionless, looking at the TV and still holding the cell phone. Brian finally looks up at Jeff for a second before continuing his game.

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
You get a new phone?

JEFF  
Nah. I found it in the parking lot at work. I figure I'll call a couple people in the contacts and see if I can find out who it belongs to.

BRIAN  
Cool.

The phone rings. Jeff flops down on the couch and answers.

JEFF  
Hello?

A voice speaks on the other end, but we don't hear it.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
Oh. Uhh, he's unavailable. Can I take a message?

Jeff pops back up out of his seat and starts searching for a pen. Brian quits playing the game and stares at Jeff running around.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
Uh-huh.

Still looking for a pen.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Uh-huh.

Still looking.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Uh-huh.

Jeff gets down on all fours and starts looking under the couch.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Uh-huh. Hey look, I don't have a pen, and I haven't really been listening that well. Can you just call back tomorrow?

(beat)

Thanks.

Jeff hangs up the phone and flops back down on the couch.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Well, the phone belongs to someone named Nathan Lancaster.

BRIAN

Jeez dude. Are you trying to become Nathan Lancaster's secretary?

JEFF

Nah. I just thought maybe if it was important, the dude might be glad to get the message.

BRIAN

That's what voice-mail's for.

JEFF

But if I had let it go to voice-mail, I wouldn't know who the phone belonged to.

BRIAN

You could've just listened to the message.

JEFF

But then Nathan Lancaster might not know he had a new voice mail.

BRIAN

Huh?

JEFF

I mean, the little voice mail symbol indicator wouldn't have been on his phone.

BRIAN

Whatever man. I think you're too worried about this guy getting his messages. I think he'll be glad enough just to get his phone back.

The cell phone rings again.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Don't answer that, dude.

Jeff looks at the phone for a second. He presses the answer button. Brian throws his hands up in frustration.

JEFF

Hello?

CUT TO:

INT. CAR -- DAY

MOLLY, an attractive woman, is driving and talking on her cell phone at the same time.

MOLLY

Hey, Nathan? Um... you don't know me, but my name is Molly. I got your number from Seth. He said he thought we'd be good for each other?

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

JEFF

Uh, yeah. This is... This is Nathan. So, Seth gave you my number?

Brian looks over at Jeff in disbelief. He shakes his head and then continues to play his video game.

MOLLY

Yeah. He told you I would call you, didn't he?

JEFF

I'm not sure. I don't remember.

MOLLY

Oh gosh. I'm so embarrassed. I thought you were expecting me to call. I'm such an idiot. I'll just let you go.

JEFF

No. Wait. I'm glad you called.

MOLLY

Really?

JEFF

Yeah. Now, you said we've never met before, right?

MOLLY

Right.

JEFF

Have you ever seen a picture of me?

MOLLY

No. Not that I know of.

JEFF

Did Seth describe me to you?

MOLLY

Uh, not really. Just said you were in real estate.

JEFF

Great! Ok, so you wanna go out or something?

MOLLY

Go out?

JEFF

You know, for like... coffee or something.

MOLLY

Ok. Yeah, sure. And that way we could get to know each other a little bit.

JEFF

Exactly. So how 'bout Booth's diner at 8?

MOLLY

Ok, sure. Sounds great.

JEFF

Alright, perfect. I'll see you then.

Jeff hangs up the phone. He stands up and starts doing a goofy dance.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Oh yeah. I got a date.

BRIAN

No, Nathan Lancaster got a date. You just got another message to relay to him.

JEFF

Hey, I can be Nathan Lancaster if I need to. This chick sounded pretty hot.

BRIAN

You've got issues, dude.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

Molly is sitting at a table as Jeff approaches her.

JEFF

Molly?

MOLLY

Yeah?

Jeff extends his hand. Molly shakes it.

JEFF

Hi, I'm Nathan.

MOLLY

Hi.

Jeff sits down across from her and immediately picks up a menu.

JEFF

Ever had the patty melts here? They're freakin' awesome.

MOLLY

I thought Seth said you were a vegetarian.

Jeff flops his menu down.

JEFF

You mean to tell me they use real beef? All this time I thought they were using soy burgers. God that makes mad!

MOLLY

I'm sorry. The caesar salad is good.

JEFF

Yeah, yeah. So tell me about yourself.

MOLLY

Well, I've been an accountant for going on four years now-

JEFF

Yuck. That sounds boring.

Molly gives him a confused look before continuing.

MOLLY

Well, unfortunately, I was laid off about 6 months ago.

JEFF

Yeah, the economy sucks. They're about to lay off people where I work too.

MOLLY

Seth said you were self-employed.

Jeff leans back in his chair and heaves a sigh of frustration.

JEFF

Look, I thought you said Jeff didn't tell you anything about me.

MOLLY

No, I said he didn't describe you. He told me a little about your work though.

JEFF

Figures. That Seth can be such a douche sometimes, right? So what did he say I do for work?

MOLLY

Wait. Did you just call my husband a douche?

JEFF

Husband?

MOLLY

Yeah. Seth is my husband.

JEFF

Why is your husband setting you up on dates?

MOLLY

He's not. He said you were looking for an accountant for your real estate business.

JEFF

Oh. Well... he's right. I mean, yeah. I am.

Just then, a man walks up to their table.

MAN  
Excuse me. Are you Molly?

MOLLY  
Yes.

MAN  
Hi, I'm Nathan Lancaster. I ran  
into Seth at the gas station, and he  
told me I would find you here.

Molly turns and looks at Jeff with a who-the-heck-are-you  
face.

Jeff awkwardly looks up at the real Nathan Lancaster and  
then back at Molly. He stands up and takes a deep breath.

JEFF  
Ok. Well, Molly, is was great meeting  
you. I'm sure you two have a lot to  
talk about, so I'm just gonna...

Jeff awkwardly motions toward the door.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
...Head out.

He quickly walks out of the diner, and Nathan sits down in  
his seat. Molly is still in shock, sitting there with her  
mouth gaping open.

NATHAN  
Who was that guy?

Molly slowly shakes her head.

MOLLY  
I have no idea.

Jeff quickly walks back into the diner and up to their table.  
He pulls the cell phone out of his pocket and hands it to  
Nathan.

JEFF  
Here's your phone.

He turns and abruptly walks back out.

FADE OUT:

THE END