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by

INSTA-GENIE

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

The sound of quick typing fills the small corner office. Underworked, over-stimulated DEWY (40) stares intently at his computer screen, his fingers tapping expertly at the keyboard.

A knock at his office door interrupts him.

DEWY

Busy here.

ALLY (26) enters with a coffee in hand, documents tucked under her arm. She's beautiful but doesn't really know it.

> ALLY (Gestures to coffee) Just thought you needed some fuel.

She places the coffee on the desk. Dewy concentrates intently on the screen.

ON THE MONITOR

A solider with a machine gun crouches behind a wall.

BACK TO DEWY

He looks up at Ally, one hand banging the keys.

ALLY (CONT'D) I suppose now would be the time to admit I had an ulterior motive.

Dewy reaches for the coffee with his free hand, eyes back at the screen.

ON THE MONITOR

Players run as Dewy mows them down with his machine gun.

BACK TO DEWY

He sips the coffee. Ally holds out the documents.

ALLY (CONT'D) Accounts want you sign off on these.

ON THE MONITOR

Dewy takes a hit. Blood splashes, covering the screen.

## DEWY

N0000!

BACK TO DEWY

He slams the cup on the table, wincing at the hot contents spilling onto his lap. Ally, shocked, tucks the documents back under arm and turns for the door.

DEWY (CONT'D) No... I mean...

He pulls the documents from under Ally's arm. She turns to him. He smiles, then looks for something to wipe the desk.

ALLY I suppose now definitely isn't the time to admit I had an ulterior motive for my ulterior motive.

Dewy glances at the screen, dabbing the desk with his tie.

ON THE MONITOR

A message window appears.

"Scud69: Totaled your ass!"

BACK TO DEWY

He signs the papers.

ALLY (CONT'D) It's just... We never agreed on a specific day for our next dinner.

DEWY Yeah. I'm glad this impromptu meeting came up...

Dewy glances at the screen.

ON THE MONITOR

A new message appears.

"Insta-Genie: Don't you dump her!"

DEWY (O.S) I wanted to tell you...

"Insta-Genie: You'll regret it for

the rest of your life."

ALLY (O.S) This week isn't good?

"Insta-Genie: Tell her Thursday."

BACK TO DEWY

He looks up to Ally.

DEWY

Ahhh...

Dewy glances back at the screen.

ON THE MONITOR

Another message.

"Insta-Genie: THURSDAY THURSDAY"

DEWY (O.S)

Thursday?

BACK TO DEWY.

He looks up to Ally. She smiles brightly. Dewy forces a smile, then awkwardly, points his finger and shoots.

ALLY Thursday it is.

Ally points her finger, shoots, blows the smoke off her pistol. She exits.

Dewy immediately leans into the computer and types.

ON THE MONITOR

New message window.

"IdoThisAllDay: Who is this?"

"Insta-Genie: Can't you read?"

"IdoThisAllDay: Haha Phil, I'm going to kill you buddy."

"Insta-Genie: Not Phil. Not Scud69, AragonMyFinalFantasy or ButtmanReturns... Insta Genie at your service."

BACK TO DEWY.

He leans back, runs his fingers through his thinning hair. Dewy leans in and types.

ON THE MONITOR

The message window.

"IdoThisAllDay: What do you want?"

"Insta-Genie: To save you from an eternity of lonelieness."

"IdoThisAllDay: Oh yeah?"

"Insta-Genie: Yeah. I just stopped you from dumping your soul mate, didn't I?"

BACK TO DEWY

He leans back and gazes through the office window at Ally, who is mid-conversation with someone.

He looks back at the screen.

DEWY Insta-Genie.

He lets out a loud, maniacal laugh.

SUPER: INSTA-GENIE

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Ally sits alone at a table. Dewy rushes into the room, almost colliding with a WAITRESS carrying a tray. He apologises and quickly takes a seat opposite Ally.

> DEWY Phew. You're early.

ALLY You're late. DEWY (checks his watch) We said eight o'clock.

ALLY

Seven.

Dewy wipes perspiration from his forehead.

ALLY (CONT'D) You look different.

DEWY

I do?

She leans in closer and studies his face.

ALLY Have you plucked your eyebrows?

Dewy chuckles awkwardly.

DEWY

Good one.

He leans his head down into his hands.

ALLY Your nails are shiny.

Dewy frowns, then surreptitiously checks his hands. Ally stifles a giggle.

DEWY That's what nails are. Shiny.

ALLY So, that's why your late.

DEWY

What?

ALLY You went to a salon.

DEWY I'm late...

ALLY

-Because you did!

DEWY No. I didn't. ALLY It is so obvious!

DEWY No. I'm late because I was reconsidering even coming- THAT'S WHY!

Ally sits back in astonished.

ALLY You were going to stand me up?

Dewy throws her a guilty look.

ALLY (CONT'D) Why did you change your mind?

DEWY Because there's someone else.

Low vibrating erupts from Dewy's pocket. Ally hears it.

She stands, taking her purse. Dewy stands, grabs her wrist gently, showing her the phone. Ally reads.

ON PHONE SCREEN

"Insta-Genie: The truth, Dewy. Tell her the truth."

BACK TO ALLY

She looks at Dewy, unsure. Low vibrating sounds again.

Ally opens her purse, then reads her phone. A mischievous smile spreads across her face. She shows Dewy.

ON PHONE SCREEN

"Insta-Genie: "Now you can stop asking if you can take him home."

THE END