

Relationship

By

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Synopsis: A lonely guy who longs for a relationship
discovers a store that sells them.

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1 EXT. PARK BENCH 1

REAGAN is sitting on a park bench, eating a sandwich. He is frumpy, beta male and nowhere near threatening. He looks around and sees other people in relationships in different places in his view.

2 EXT. STREET, COFFEE SHOP WINDOW 2

A man and his girlfriend are drinking cappuccinos and not facing each other. They sit close.

3 EXT. STREET, BUS STOP 3

There is a group of friends quietly chatting to each other as they wait for a bus.

4 EXT. STREET, BENCH 4

An old man is sitting on a park bench, his dog on a leash quietly sitting next to him.

5 EXT. PARK BENCH 5

He considers his life until he sees a flyer on the floor, Relationship, a service for lonely people who wishes to buy a relationship.

He pulls out his phone and puts the address on his phone, and the phone gives him a display of a map.

6 EXT. STREET 6

REAGAN begins to walk through the street with a display of the map leading him towards a shop with the sign: RELATIONSHIP. Midway through, he would pass those same people who are actually experiencing horrible relationships.

7 EXT. STREET, COFFEE SHOP WINDOW 7

REAGAN walks past the coffee shop. The girlfriend puts down her cappuccino, turns to him and stares at his face, no sound but shows titles.

WOMAN (S/TITLES)
I hope you fucking die.

8 EXT. STREET, BUS STOP 8

REAGAN walks past a bus stop with the group of friends as they're fighting, ripping clothes and bashing at their heads.

9 EXT. STREET, BENCH 9

REAGAN walks past the old man as he is sitting on a park bench, his head in his hands, and his little dog on a leash is barking at him.

10 EXT. STREET, OUTSIDE SHOP 10

Eventually REAGAN appears in front of the shop, looks up and sees the sign Relationshipshop. He squints into the window.

11 INT. SHOP, WINDOW 11

REAGAN peeks in. We see SALESMAN standing in front of a counter leafing through a catalogue. He looks up and makes eye contact with REAGAN but doesn't react. REAGAN feels hesitant at first, but then reluctantly enters the shop.

REAGAN remains by the doorway, ready to leap away at the first sign of danger. SALESMAN puts his catalogue down.

REAGAN
(nervously)
Hello.

SALESMAN
Hi (pause) welcome to the
Relationshipshop, how may I assist
you?

REAGAN
You have a nice shop.

SALESMAN
Thank you, it also comes in blue.
Can I offer you a cup of coffee?

SALESMAN produces a small coffee and saucer from below the counter. REAGAN eyes the coffee and proceeds forward. Relaxing more, he picks up the coffee and takes a sip.

REAGAN
How does this work exactly?

SALESMAN
Well, we sell relationships. You
come walking in here and I think
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SALESMAN (CONT'D)
that you're a man seeking a
wonderful connection with
someone. And we understand how
hard it is, so we take all the
guesswork, gruntwork and
paperwork, and put you straight
into a relationship that works
for you.

REAGAN
(looks scared)
Uh-huh.

SALESMAN
Have you got anything in mind?

REAGAN
I'm not sure, hey. Something with
a bit of colour, I suppose?

SALESMAN
Do you want to have a look at
what we've got on special this
morning?

REAGAN
Oh yes, yes please.

SALESMAN presses a button and a "hologram" of a tall,
handsome guy appears.

SALESMAN
This is the "best friend" model.
He's not shy, reliable, funny and
also has your back. You'll go out
and drink beers with him, play
tag rugby, go on roadtrips to
faraway places and watch movies
together. He'll also be your
wing-man.

REAGAN
Wing-man?

SALESMAN
Yeah, wing-man, from Top Gun.
When you're out looking for love,
he'll be the one to help you with
those corny one-liners and making
you feel confident. We do tend to
get returns though.

REAGAN
Why?

SALESMAN

Some customer say he's too good a wing-man. He ends up staring at you when you've brought a girl home and trying to make moves on her. Here's another one.

SALESMAN presses a button on the counter and a "hologram" of a beautiful woman appears beside him.

SALESMAN (CONT'D)

This is one of our more popular options, a "beautiful woman." She has all the best features you can expect from such a product: great looks, a stunning physique, great energy and an amazing social life. She'll take you out and make you dance for hours, making you feel 10 years younger.

REAGAN

What about a great personality, caring, honesty, no expectations?

SALESMAN

Sorry, those don't come pre-installed. Our customers tend to purchase voetstoets.

REAGAN stares at him.

NELSON

(clarifies)

As is.

SALESMAN

(disappointed)

Oh.

NELSON

Maybe you want something a little less strenuous?

SALESMAN presses a button and a "hologram" of an older woman appears.

REAGAN

Who is she.

SALESMAN

She...is your mother.

In the unfocussed background, a stranger enters the shop and begins to browse around.

(CONTINUED)

REAGAN

What?

SALESMAN

Yup, a top-of-the-line mom, our bestseller. A lot of customer find it comforting to rekindle a relationship with their mother, and our product will stand the test of time. She's a keen listener, loves to feed, consistently complains about the neighbours and gives advice about every part of your life. You'll be guaranteed to find a message in your phone from her every day asking "how you are" and "why you haven't visited her".

ALTAAF

Yeah, not only that but "did you hear what your sister said?". Those ones too.

REAGAN turns around and his face looks shocked.

REAGAN

Altaaf?

ALTAAF

Brother? How are you?

REAGAN

Umm...I'm good. I haven't seen you in...forever. Where have you been?

ALTAAF

Around. I travelled a bit, saw the world, seen things. Thought I would come back and...you know, try and reconnect with everybody.

REAGAN

You were away for a very long time, Altaaf. Things are not the same.

ALTAAF

I can tell.

SALESMAN oversees the conversation and feels a little overwhelmed with the conversation in his shop.

NELSON

Sirs, would you like to consider some of our other options?

(CONTINUED)

SALESMAN presses buttons and starts showing a variety of options.

SALESMAN

Maybe a puppy? A female best friend? Your boss? A local shopkeeper that offers your discount?

REAGAN listens to NELSON, then turns to ALTAAF.

REAGAN

You want a cup of coffee somewhere?

ALTAAF

Sure.

REAGAN and ALTAAF walks towards the door.

12 EXT. STREET, OUTSIDE SHOP

12

REAGAN and ALTAAF walk out the store, followed by a bewildered SALESMAN.

SA

What about a group of friends?
20% off when you buy in bulk?!!

13 EXT. STREET, COFFEE SHOP WINDOW

13

REAGAN and ALTAAF walk in and enter a shop, ordering two cappucinos. The boyfriend is alone, crying.

FADE