

SIGNAL

by

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INT. MICHAEL'S APARTMENT - ANYTIME

...MICHAEL lets his best friend TASHA into his apartment to show her a demonstration on hearing voices from his headphones and computer set up.

TASHA

Are you okay? What is is you want to show me? You're making me so nervous.

MICHAEL

Okay, so I have everything set up over here. If you just sit down, you will start to hear things.

Tasha sits down cautiously.

Shhh. Just listen, listen to the headphone speak. (beat) You hear that?

TASHA

No...hold on. (listening)

MICHAEL

Listen, listen...(beat) You See?

TASHA

I don't hear anything.

MICHAEL

You gotta listen...just listen hard...

Michael looks at her.

TASHA

I'm sorry, Michael, I don't hear anything.

MICHAEL

There is a static of a man's voice coming out. An older man. I've tried a recorder but it doesn't pick up the frequency, so I write what the person is saying by hand.

TASHA

Yeah but, I don't hear anything coming out from the headphones.

MICHAEL

Look, at first I thought it was one of those advertisements on a website and the sounds were coming out from my headphones, which were plugged in. So I closed off all the websites right, made myself some coffee, came back and I still heard these voices coming through. I put the headphones to my ears and I was starting to decipher what was being said. For the past two days I've written down pages and pages full of dictation. Shit is coming from like the 1940's during the war...further back to the Renaissance Period and even further back, I swear, I got stuff from the Greeks and everything...

TASHA

So now you're talking to Aristotle?

MICHAEL

Tasha, Tasha, please, I know, I know I sounds crazy, I still think I'm crazy but I have pages full of shit that makes sense. It's like I can overhear people talking through time!

TASHA

Are you able to talk back?

MICHAEL

I've tried, I've tried but it's just a one way frequency. I've heard all sort of shit...the most mundane things like people shopping with coins, just coins, gold coins during the Roman Empire, buying chickens and shit!

TASHA

You're freaking me out.

MICHAEL

I'll calm down but I don't know who else to talk to about this that will believe me even halfway. Just believe me halfway is all I ask of you. Could you do that for me?

TASHA

I do believe you halfway cause your my best friend and I love you but the other half thinks you need psychiatric help. Have you been out?

MICHAEL

I haven't left my house since. Took off work...I had to, this stuff is insane.

(pause.)

I'm going back to work tomorrow, okay? I haven't completely lost it. But I needed to be sure that I was hearing things not from my head.

TASHA

Yes but, when you just let it play, supposedly, I didn't hear anything at all and you did. Do you realize that, Michael?

MICHAEL

Maybe our ears are on a different wave length or something.

TASHA

Right. Right...okay, now you're really concerning me. You are starting to sound like you are kidding yourself into believing this---

MICHAEL

Not at all! Read this stuff. Read it. I have accents and sentence syntax that I could never even imagine.

TASHA

Than how do you know if it's Ancient Greece or the Roman Empire or whatever, how can you tell if---

MICHAEL

Because I've researched it.

TASHA

How?

MICHAEL

I don't know. Movies. Books.
YouTube.

TASHA

Listen, even I've crossed paths
with period type stuff to get an
idea of the people in our past.

MICHAEL

So?

TASHA

So, in other words, I can make
shit up.

MICHAEL

You're saying I'm making this
whole thing up?

TASHA

I think you are under the
impression that you actually
believe there is a strong chance
that you may be imagining yourself
into the possibility of maybe
hearing something.

MICHAEL

Hmmm.

TASHA

Are you playing with me?

MICHAEL

No!

TASHA

Don't mess with me, I'll be pissed
because I'm worried.

MICHAEL

No, please, don't get upset. I'm
fine...I haven't lost it. I just,
I hear conversations...it's like
eavesdropping.

TASHA

Eavesdropping on random people
from all different centuries?

MICHAEL

...Yes...

TASHA

Maybe your computer is hacked and someone's messing with you or something is wrong with your computer altogether.

MICHAEL

I'll tell you what...I'll get my computer checked out. But maybe this is a special computer...I'm a little nervous to have it looked at, if it breaks the signal---

TASHA

Michael! Enough. There is no signal. Get your computer checked and get back to reality. Have it checked out if it's hacked or if programs are running on the backend of it without you being aware. Bring it back here and we will test it out together.

MICHAEL

What if the signal is gone completely?

TASHA

Then it is gone completely.

MICHAEL

I don't want to do it.

TASHA

Hey, for me, can you do this for me, please? ...For me...

MICHAEL

For you but if I lose the signal I'm going to really be beyond myself with you...it might break up our friendship.

TASHA

Are you kidding me right now? Don't make me hit you.

MICHAEL

Okay, but I'll be deeply depressed. Like, next level depression type shit. Medication and liquor and---

TASHA

Michael!

MICHAEL

Okay. You get my point.

TASHA

Pack this bitch up now and let's bring it to the computer store. We won't mention that you are hearing voices.

MICHAEL

Wait! I just thought of this, what if it's not the computer...what if it's the headphones?! Or what if the two need one another in order for this whole history thing to happen?

TASHA

Look, we will bring the headphones too and say they need checking, act like there is a loose wire or something. We'll come up with an excuse but either way this has to happen. Get me?