

DISCONNECTED

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INT. JOE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT - 4AM

A dimly lit bedroom. JOE (Male, 20s) is lying wide awake in bed. He reaches across the bed for his phone on the side table. He grabs hold of it and scrolls through his Instagram for a few moments. He pauses at a photo of an attractive lady, he lingers on the picture for awhile more before sitting up.

He gets out of bed and settles himself in front of his computer. He pulls open his drawer on the side, and takes out a bottle of hand cream and a box of tissue paper.

With a click of his mouse, his computer screen lights up, illuminating his face and the dimly lit room.

CUT TO

COMPUTER SCREEN:

He opens up his browser and navigates to his bookmarks. Bookmarks > Important Stuff > School Stuff > Economics. A whole list of pornography website drops down in the menu. He clicks open and a dozen of pornography windows pop up.

CUT TO

Joe gets up hastily to ensure that his room door is locked. He pulls down his pants, cover himself with his blanket and waddles back into his seat, with his pants still in between his legs.

COMPUTER SCREEN:

A dozen of pornography websites overlapping each other.

CUT TO

Front view of Joe, his face half covered by his computer, revealing only his shifty eyes. He clicks. Audio of pornography plays.

COMPUTER SCREEN:

He navigates his mouse to the last link on his bookmarks menu. The Strangers Network. He clicks on it. His face appears in a small window. He mutes his pornography before he clicks "connect".

Within a few seconds, he connects with a random stranger - A topless 20 year old male. But almost immediately, he gets disconnected with him. The same thing happens for a

(CONTINUED)

couple of times with other strangers before he is connected with a gorgeous female in her 20s. Unlike others, this girl stays connected, however she seems to be preoccupied with looking at something on the table, which is cut off by the camera's framing.

CUT TO

Close up of Joe's excited face. He inches slightly forward and checks himself through the webcam window and shuffles his hair. He notices that she is not looking at him. He speaks.

CUT TO

COMPUTER SCREEN:

JOE (TACKY)

Hey there gorgeous. Are you religious?

JOE (CONT'D)

Because you are the answers to all my prayers ;-)

She looks up at the computer screen. Looks down and continues flipping.

STRANGER (INDIFFERENT)

No. There is no God.

JOE (AWKWARD CHUCKLES)

Oh...Okay...

JOE (CONT'D)

So... What brings you here? For some fun??

CUT TO

Joe bites his lips as he anticipates her reply.

COMPUTER SCREEN:

Joe mouse over to his pornography browser and opens another webpage with nudes. He scrolls through them. Clicks back to the conversation.

She looks up again and stares at him. Joe gets a full view of her face.

(CONTINUED)

STRANGER (INDIFFERENT)  
You're just like everybody else.

CUT TO

A pan from Joe's knees to his pulled down pants. He gets fidgety and starts shaking his legs.

JOE (STILL TRYING)  
Nonono, don't be mistaken.

COMPUTER SCREEN:

JOE (CHEEKY, CONT'D)  
  
It's just that you're really gorgeous, so how about a little tease? A quick flash. I'll show you something in return.

He angles his camera down at his crotch area.

She doesn't respond. She continues flipping what seems to be a photo album.

He angles it back to frame his face nicely.

JOE (CURIOUS)  
Umm okay fine... what are you looking at anyway?

STRANGER  
It's a photo album.

She takes out a polaroid and lifts it up towards the camera. Joe clicks to his pornography and pauses it. Thereafter, he drags her webcam window wider.

CUT TO

Joe inches forward and scrutinises the picture.

JOE  
Cute family and your dog is so freaking adorable. Is that a beagle? What's his / her name?

STRANGER (SPEAKS SOFTLY)  
Yeah, I'll miss Ginger the most.

COMPUTER SCREEN:

(CONTINUED)

JOE

What do you mean? You're leaving?

STRANGER (SPEAKS SOFTLY)

Yeah kinda.

JOE

Aw man. We haven't even gone on a date yet. Where are you going?

STRANGER (EVEN SOFTER)

I'm not really sure myself. I'll know in a few hours perhaps.

Joe increases the volume on his computer.

JOE (SLIGHTLY FRUSTRATED)

What did you say? Is it me or you're getting muffled.

JOE (CONT'D)

Hello?

He mouse over to the pornography window and scrolls again.

She drops the polaroid and slowly slumps into her chair, her arms drapes over the arm rest and she appears unconscious. Her body jerks for a bit before foam starts coming out of her mouth. But Joe doesn't see this happening as he is preoccupied with scrolling through nudes.

He goes back to the webcam window and sees her unconscious.

JOE (NERVOUS)

What the... Hello??

CUT TO

Joe, shocked by what he is seeing, stands up. His lap blanket falls onto the ground. He pulls his pants up. He places his hands behind his head and starts pacing around. He stops and speaks to the computer screen.

JOE (NERVOUS)

It's a prank. It's a prank right?

No response.

(CONTINUED)

JOE (ANNOYED, CONT'D)

You're fucking with me. You got to be fucking with me. So fuck you. I'm leaving.

No response.

He bends over and reaches for the mouse.

COMPUTER SCREEN:

He moves his cursor over to "x". He looks at her once more closely.

JOE

Fucking hell. Stop it already. You got me alright. I'm sorry for asking to see your tits.

She does not move a single inch.

JOE

Holy fuck.

CUT TO

He realises that something is amiss. Joe takes a step back. Picks up his phone from his bed. 4:12am. He sits on the edge of his bed, his gaze switching between his computer screen and his phone. He calls "Jake". Jake doesn't pick. He tries again. It dials and Jake picks up.

JAKE (HALF ASLEEP)

What the fuck Joe. It's 4am.

JOE (ANXIOUS)

HOLY FUCK I THINK SOMEONE JUST KILLED HERSELF IN FRONT OF ME ON STRANGERS NETWORK.

JAKE (HALF ASLEEP)

Wait, what are you talking about? What strangers?

JOE (ANXIOUS)

YOU KNOW THE LIVE STREAMING SITE I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE OTHER DAY??

(CONTINUED)

JAKE (HALF ASLEEP)

No...?

JOE (ANXIOUS)

THE ONE WHERE I MANAGED TO GET  
GIRLS TO STRIP FOR ME?

JAKE (HALF ASLEEP)

Yeah, yeah I remember now. Wait,  
what? Are you sure it isn't just  
a prank?

JOE

She has not moved for almost  
10mins now. I'm pretty sure she  
OD-ed or something. I can see  
foam coming out of her mouth.

He goes in front of the computer screen again and  
enlarges the window. He looks closely.

JAKE (SERIOUS)

You better not be pranking me  
bro. I think you should call the  
police.

JOE

HOW? WHAT DO I TELL THEM?

JAKE (SERIOUS)

Did she tell you her name? Or  
anything?

JOE

No... I don't know...she only  
showed me a picture of her  
family. HER DOG. GINGER. HOLD ON.

COMPUTER SCREEN:

He types "ginger, beagle, dog, singapore" into Google's  
search bar. "Ginger the Beagle" Instagram pops up. He  
clicks and navigates through the posts. He sees many  
photos of Ginger as well as pictures of the stranger  
posing with Ginger.

He clicks on her tag. Locked profile. Her biography reads  
"Amelia Lai - I've got a pocket full of sunshine".

He opens up the webcam window again. She is still  
unconscious.

(CONTINUED)

JOE(MUTTERS)

Amelia.

CUT TO

Joe picks up the phone again.

JOE

I GOT HER NAME. I'VE GOT TO GO.

JAKE

Wait what?

JOE

I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN.

He hangs up.

COMPUTER SCREEN:

The Stranger's Network window enlarged. Amelia lying still. Joe is on the phone.

JOE (ANXIOUS)

HI I JUST WITNESSED SOMEONE KILL  
HERSELF ONLINE. I DON'T KNOW HER  
PERSONALLY BUT I'VE GOT HER NAME.  
CAN YOU SEND SOMEONE TO HELP HER,  
PLEASE?

POLICE (COMPOSED)

Alright sir, calm down. Tell me  
what you know...

CROSS DISSOLVE

PRELAP

Police walkie talkie buzzing, medics shouting, coming from Joe's speakers.

COMPUTER SCREEN:

Police bust open Amelia's door. The paramedics attend to Amelia. One of the policeman heads directly to the computer and shuts the laptop down.

JOE

NONONONO DON'T CLOSE IT.

Amelia's screen goes black. Joe gets disconnected and is now connected to a guy stroking himself.

(CONTINUED)



CUT TO

Joe's helpless expression. He slumps into his chair.

COMPUTER SCREEN:

Joe opens another browser. He goes to google "Amelia Lai".

"Poly Student: The Haunting Moment My Boyfriend Leaked My Nude Photos Online"

"Poly student gets expelled after leaked nudes by ex-boyfriend"

He opens one of it.

The article reads "Polytechnic Student Amelia Lai" has opened up about one of her biggest regrets in her young life so far- sending nude photographs to a boy she thought she loved...

CUT TO

Joe sighs and places his fist to his forehead.

JOE (MUTTERING)

Fuck.

COMPUTER SCREEN:

Joe closes the Strangers Network browser.

He mouse over to his bookmarks. Hesitates a little before deleting the entire "Economics" folder.

CUT TO

Back view of Joe as he closes his pornography windows one by one as the camera dollies out.