

FRIENDING

Written by

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INT. APARTMENT - DAY

NIRVANA lounges on a couch as she scrolls through social media, bored. She calls a friend.

NIRVANA

Hey, girl. Been a minute.

VIOLET (O.S.)

Hey, Vana, what's up? I thought you were too busy livin' it up in LA to call anymore.

NIRVANA

I really love this city. There's all these celebrities everywhere. There's always something to do. But you know, it's really hard to make friends.

VIOLET (O.S.)

What about that app I told you about?

NIRVANA

I don't know. It's too much like a dating app. No one can carry a conversation.

VIOLET (O.S.)

Think of it like dating. You gotta work the numbers.

NIRVANA

Can't you just move here?

VIOLET (O.S.)

Um, my mortgage is cheaper than a one bedroom apartment over there. No thanks. Just keep trying. I believe in you.

A baby CRIES in the background.

VIOLET (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Oh no. Sorry, I gotta go. I'm on diaper duty.

NIRVANA

It's ok. I miss--

Violet hangs up.

NIRVANA (CONT'D)

You.

Nirvana lays back on her couch. Scrolls through the BEETCHES app. She swipes right on every profile until she matches with someone.

She looks at the profile. The screen shows "Meghan" is single, has no kids, recently moved to Los Angeles, and is down for hiking, brunch, escape rooms, and likes to stay active.

Nirvana types on her phone.

ON SCREEN TEXT:

NIRVANA (CONT'D)

Hey girl, what's up?

MEGHAN

Chillin'. You?

NIRVANA

Same. Trying to figure out my weekend plans.

MEGHAN

Me too. Can I be honest with you?

NIRVANA

Sure.

MEGHAN

I hate this app.

NIRVANA

Me too!

MEGHAN

I hate these random convos with people.

NIRVANA

I was just saying the same thing to my friend.

MEGHAN

I'd rather meet up with someone and see if we hit it off. It's so hard to meet friends as an adult.

NIRVANA

I know what you mean.

MEGHAN
So, what do you think?

NIRVANA
About what?

MEGHAN
Meeting up to see if we hit it off?

NIRVANA
Okay. I have some time.

MEGHAN
Great. Here's my number. 818-678-9987. Does tomorrow at 11 a.m. work?

NIRVANA
Sure.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Nirvana waits at a bench for Meghan. She texts Meghan.

ON PHONE:

NIRVANA
Hey Meghan. I'm at the closest bench by the parking area, like you said. It's sooo nice out. Can't wait to meet!

Nirvana checks herself out on her phone. She hears a RUSTLE behind her and turns around.

She sees no one. Shakes her head.

We see a STRANGER wearing a mask hiding in the bushes. Watching Nia.

Nirvana hears another RUSTLE. She checks behind her again. There's no one.

Nirvana texts Meghan.

NIRVANA (CONT'D)
I think there's a mountail lion or something around me. I'm going back to my car. Let me know when you get here!

STRANGER'S POV

The Stranger follows Nirvana. She turns around, sees the Stranger, and begins to run. She's not that fast.

The Stranger covers Nirvana's mouth with a soaked rag.

Nirvana's eyelids flutter shut.

The Stranger places Nirvana in a car trunk.

INT. GARAGE - LATER

Nirvana wakes up, groggy. She sees herself tied to a chair. Her mouth is gagged. There's a camera in front of her.

STRANGER (O.S.)
Hi, Nirvana. It's Meghan. Love that name by the way.

Meghan sounds like a perky, upbeat woman.

MEGHAN (O.S.)
Thanks for agreeing to meet up with me.

Nirvana struggles with her gag and ties.

MEGHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You're tied up pretty good. Not too brag, but I received a Gold Award in the Girl Scouts. It's only like the highest honor you can get.

Nirvana, panicked, continues to struggle with her gag and ties.

MEGHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Okay, it looks like you're too riled up to talk right now. Maybe tomorrow?

Nirvana shakes her head no. The room goes dark.

We hear Nirvana continue to struggle.

INT. GARAGE - NEXT DAY

The lights turn on. Nirvana wakes up and looks around, groggy.

MEGHAN (O.S.)
Good morning, sleepyhead. You ready
to chat now?

Nirvana struggles again and tries to yell through her gag.

MEGHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I guess not. Byeeeeee!

The room goes dark. We hear Nirvana continue to struggle.

INT. GARAGE - NEXT DAY

The lights turn on again. Nirvana looks weak, haggard. She lifts her head up slowly.

MEGHAN (O.S.)
Hey Nirvana! You look like you've
been up all night. You ready to
talk now?

Nirvana nods her head, resigned.

MEGHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Great! Well, as you know, those
friends apps are just not cutting
it. I mean, until you meet someone
in person, you get to feel their
vibe, their energy, you know?
Which, by the way, your energy is a
little intense, but, I'm gonna give
you the benefit of the doubt.

Nirvana looks at the camera with a "WTF" face.

MEGHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
So, I'm gonna ask you a series of
questions to see if we click. We'll
do yes or no for now, cool?

Nirvana nods.

MEGHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Okay, first one. Are you a Pisces?

Nirvana shakes her head.

MEGHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Awesome! I totally don't get along
with them.
(MORE)

MEGHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You have no idea how many friends
I've had who were Pisces and then
all of a sudden, they're pissed at
me, and I have no idea what they've
said, and...

Nirvana stares at the camera. Really?

MEGHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Okay, sorry. Question two. Are you
vegan?

Nirvana shakes her head no.

MEGHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Whew! Yes! I was asking because I
looove brunch. But it's all eggs
and cheese and all that good stuff.
I know a great place we can go to
whenever you're available. Okay,
last question. Super important. Are
you trained in MMA?

Nirvana nods.

MEGHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Wait, seriously?

Nirvana nods.

MEGHAN (CONT'D)
Like you're a black belt, for real?

Nirvana nods.

MEGHAN (CONT'D)
Damn, girl. You were almost my new
bff. Back to the pond you'll go.

Nirvana shakes her head, panicked. A door opens.

MEGHAN'S POV

Meghan enters the garage and places a rag on Nia's face.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Nirvana wakes up on the bench she was originally supposed to
meet Meghan. She gets up, runs away, screaming.

FADE TO BLACK.