

BackTrack

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TITLE:

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INT. NATASHA'S APARTMENT

JAMES ASTOR, late 20's, is standing in the kitchen with his girlfriend NATASHA. A burnt filet mignon sits in the frying pan beside them.

JAMES

Love you, hon.

NATASHA cradles JAMES' hand, giving a crooked smile.

NATASHA

Uoy llik lliw I.

JAMES smiles with a look of unconditional love.

JAMES

What would you like for dinner, hon? I've got leftover pasta, or we can order takeout Chinese

NATASHA

Rettalp a no daeh ruoy tnaw I.

JAMES

Okay honey boop, Chinese it is.

JAMES walks to the adjoining room to make the phone call. NATASHA gazes at him with a scientific sort of gaze.

A KNOCK at the front door. JAMES answers it, while NATASHA inspects a kitchen knife.

JAMES calls from the other room inaudibly. NATASHA inches closer to hear him.

JAMES

Honey, could you grab me four dollars for the tip?

NATASHA

Regnol hcum ti deen t'now ouy.

NATASHA hands JAMES four dollars and walks back to the kitchen. JAMES hands the four dollars to the delivery man.

CHINESE DELIVERY MAN

Thank you.

JAMES carries the Chinese food to the dining room table, and they eat. While eating, JAMES receives a text message from his friend JOHN. He is simultaneously wearing earphones, listening to soft music.

JOHN (TEXT MESSAGE)

Hey buddy, what's up?

JAMES (TEXT MESSAGE)

Chilin [emoji of sunglasses smiley face]

JOHN (TEXT MESSAGE)

Natasha there?

JAMES (TEXT MESSAGE)

Always. How's the film coming out?

JOHN (TEXT MESSAGE)

Good so far. Needed to get a shot of milk spilling in reverse. It's a lot more clever than it sounds [emoji of laughing smiley face]

JAMES (TEXT MESSAGE)

how you do it?

JOHN (TEXT MESSAGE)

Reverse movie FX. it puts video in reverse. Check it out.

JAMES (TEXT MESSAGE)

[thumbs up emoji]

JAMES gets up and walks around. He downloads the app and puts one of the videos of NATASHA speaking to him. When he plays it in reverse, he sees her saying "I will push you into traffic". She kisses him in the video right after saying it. He plays the clip over and over.

CUT to JAMES tucking NATASHA into her bed.

JAMES

See you tomorrow morning, Natasha.

NATASHA

Evil ouy fi.

JAMES gives a devilish grin.

JAMES

Ouy dnatsrednu I.

NATASHA looks utterly shocked, her face blank and pale.

JAMES slips out his travel bag, pre-packed with his belongings, and skips out.

EXT. CITY STREET, NIGHT

JAMES (V.O.)

I never told Natasha how much I heard her say in reverse. It was enough. I had many recordings of her speaking in her cute backwards language.

Unfortunately, when I ran it through the app, I learned that she'd been plotting my demise for many months. She derived a sort of satisfaction from planning in plain sight.

Thank you, John, I owe you my life.

End