

LEE GOES SHOPPING

Written by

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EXT. CITY STREET - SUBWAY ENTRANCE - DAY

Lee exits the subway talking on his phone.

LEE  
I know. I will.

Lee takes the phone away from his ear.

LEE (CONT'D)  
I'll make my special pasta with  
spinach and eggplant.

Lee stops short.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Something. Nothing. Nothing.

Lee resumes walking.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Do we have any spinach? OK, I'll  
stop and get some. How about  
ricotta? OK. Anything else? No.  
Don't do anything. OK. OK, bye. See  
you soon. Bye.

Lee hangs up the phone and stops in front of a bookstore  
display window.

Lee stands next to a YOUNG MAN, twenties, bulky, who looks at  
a book in the window. Lee glances at the book the Young Man  
is looking at.

ONSCREEN:

Current Title

Lee looks over at the Young Man.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Is that supposed to be any good?

YOUNG MAN  
I've heard good things. Liked his  
last one.

LEE  
Never read anything by him. Read an  
interesting review of that one.

Lee points to a book in the window.

ONSCREEN:

Connected by Christakis and Fowler

YOUNG MAN

I don't usually read non-fiction.

LEE

Me either, but it sounds intriguing. It's about networking. Supposedly, the human brain has evolved to be able to keep track of one hundred fifty people.

YOUNG MAN

Plausible. I know probably at least a thousand people. Not all that well though.

LEE

But, its the fact that we can talk to each other that makes it possible to connect with so many other people.

YOUNG MAN

The gift of gab so to speak.

The young man checks his cell phone, but does not answer it.

LEE

Yeah, that's what separates us from other primates. Apparently, the way apes maintain relationships in a group is by grooming.

YOUNG MAN

Like getting the low down at the beauty parlor or the barber shop. Very old school.

Lee turns to face the young man.

LEE

Actually by picking nits out of each other's fur. Its a very specific one on one kind of thing.

YOUNG MAN

Yeah, I know some nit pickers, for sure.

LEE

Picking nits is very time consuming. It limits the size of your group.

(MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

Our evolved capacity for language allows us to talk to several people at once thereby extending our group.

YOUNG MAN

So, the moral of the story is; talk to your friends to your hearts content, but be very particular who you groom with.

The young man looks at his phone again.

LEE

Well, the key is how you use language to manipulate your social network to your advantage.

YOUNG MAN

Sorry man, but I have to take this call. Hey, good talking to you.

The young man walks off. He talks on his phone.

LEE

And that ability to manipulate may be genetically encoded.

Lee turns back and looks in the window.

After a moment, Lee walks away.

EXT. CITY STREET - NEAR LEE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Lee walks down the sidewalk with grocery bag in hand. He goes to his building, sits on the stoop and lights a cigarette.

Lee watches a MAN, fifties, beefy, attempting to parallel park a large SUV into a tight spot.

The man rolls down his window.

LEE

That's a tight squeeze. You've got to start turning sooner.

The man stops and looks at Lee.

SUV MAN

Hey, zip it pal.

LEE

They make ones now that will do it for you automatically. Aim your street side taillight for the curb side headlight of the car behind you and you'll glide right in.

SUV MAN

Everybody's a fucking expert.

The man pulls forward for a second try. He backs up and misses again.

LEE

Of course if you had a Mini Cooper, you'd be in like Flynn, you'd save a bundle on gas and we'd all be breathing cleaner air.

SUV MAN

Shit. Piss off asshole.

The man pulls the car forward again.

LEE

But to even get in a Mini you would have to change your eating habits, which would be good for your heart and prolong your life.

The man opens his car door while cursing Lee.

Lee stands up, puts out his cigarette, turns and hurries into the building past a WOMAN, fifties, rotund, who is carrying a large bag.

SUV MAN

Come back here.

WOMAN

Nicky, calm down, we gotta go. We're late.

SUV MAN

I'll break his fucking neck.

The Woman restrains the Man, and they both head back to the SUV.