

MIND-FUL

EPISODE 106: "HUMAN ERROR"

Written by

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INT. ZEEK'S SECRET OFFICE - DAY

Zeek is too distracted *TEXTING* to even bother looking up from his phone.

ROBERTO
Invites have been sent to the
prospective new inductees. Were you
going to induct Curious4Coffee?

Zeek ignores him.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)
Sir?

The *ALARM BLARES. WOMP! WOMP! WOMP!*

ROBERTO (CONT'D)
(a little louder)
Sir?

ZEEK
Hmm?

ROBERTO
I suppose we'll get to her later.
It's time I greet incoming guests.

ZEEK
Yeah. Sure. I left it on the desk.

POP! Roberto vanishes out of thin air when we hear a
concerning *BEEPING* and *BOOPING* coming from the system.

SYSTEM
Warning. Unable to process incoming
accepted invites.

ZEEK
Roberto, update the system.

In his own little world, he continues to *TEXT* as he leaves
the room and *CLOSES* the door behind him.

SYSTEM
System overload. Perform system
update immediately.

INT. MIND-FILLED CAFE - LATER

Jax approaches Joe as he *TEXTS*.

JAX

Hey.

He ignores her.

JAX (CONT'D)

I thought we weren't supposed to be using apps.

JOE

Oh.

He *PLACES* his phone on the counter.

JOE (CONT'D)

Just. Work stuff. What can I get ya?

JAX

(in a you should already know this kind of way)

The usual?

Joe *POURS* her drink as his phone gets bombarded with *INCOMING CRUSH TEXTS*.

JAX (CONT'D)

I didn't know you were on Crush.

JOE

What?

JAX

The dating app? Your phone's blowing up.

JOE

Oh, someone must've ordered a bunch of sodas.

He *PLACES* her drink on the counter and *PICKS UP* his phone.

JAX

I know what Crush sounds like, and it sounds like you're crushing it. Besides, since when does Mind-ful serve soda. It has aspartame. Remember?

Joe ignores this.

JAX (CONT'D)

You're not even listening to me.

JOE

Huh?

JAX

Do you even know how to ask someone out?

JOE

Oh, yeah? We should go out sometime.

JAX

You're not serious. I should just go. Anyways, without Sam, there's no point anymore.

JOE

No!

Joe *SLAMS* his phone down.

JOE (CONT'D)

I am serious. Meet me here at the coffee shop tomorrow after I close. We can get something to eat.

Jax snorts.

JAX

Like you and me? Together?

JOE

Yeah?

JAX

And what about whoever you're Crushing on?

JOE

I'm all yours.

JAX

Oh... OK. Sure.

Jax *SWIPES* her card to pay, but there's a *CHIP MALFUNCTION*.

JAX (CONT'D)

It's not letting me use my points.

JOE

Weird. Don't worry about it. It's on me.

JAX
Cool. Thanks.

Joe scoffs as Jax *WALKS* away.

JOE
Who says I can't ask someone out on
a date in real life?

He goes back to *TEXTING*.

INT. MIND-FUL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Jax takes a *SIP*.

JAX
(to herself)
Iced black Americano? He knows I've
been drinking iced matcha with
almond milk and a dash of cinnamon.

INT. SAMEERA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sameera *TEXTS* Jax.

SAMEERA
(under her breath as she
types)
Miss you like Mandy Moore misses
candy.

After a long beat, she *DELETES* it.

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
Where are you when I need you, Jax?

She receives an *INCOMING CRUSH TEXT*. *DROPS* her phone with a
yelp.

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
Be cool. Be cool. Sam, who're you
talking to? You're alone in your
own ass apartment.
(sighs)
I need more real-life friends.

She *PICKS UP* her phone. *OPENS* the text.

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
From Joe Schmo-1984.
(reading Joe's text)
(MORE)

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
I can't believe you're talking to
someone like me.

Sameera *TYPES*.

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
Why wouldn't I?

SENDS.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
(reading Joe's text)
People never listen to me unless I
pretend to be someone else.

Sameera *TYPES*.

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
People pretend all the time.

SENDS.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
(reading Joe's text)
What d'you mean?

Sameera *TYPES*.

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
Sometimes I project how I want
others to see me. A more confident,
happier, beautiful, successful
version of myself.

SENDS.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
(reading Joe's text)
Like an alter ego? What do you call
yours?

Sameera *TYPES*.

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
Roxy Reza.

SENDS.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
(reading Joe's text)
So who am I talking to right now?

Sameera *TYPES. SENDS.*

INT. MEDITERRANEAN 4-D ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PSSSSH. Waves continue to *CRASH* against the coastline, but this time they sound more turbulent. Tumultuous.

Zeek gets an *INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.*

ZEEK
Roberto.

Roberto *POPS!* into existence.

ROBERTO
Yes, sir?

ZEEK
Get in touch with your feminine side and read Curious4Coffee's texts in your best Roberta.

Roberto clears his throat.

ROBERTO
(rolling his r's in a Mrs. Doubtfire-y voice)
Ms. R-r-roxy R-r-reza if you're nasty!

This gives Zeek a little chuckle.

ZEEK
(*TYPING*)
But you're perfect the way you are.
You don't need to be anyone else.

SENDS.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

ROBERTO
Nothing is as perfect as it seems.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)
Like your mustache. That can't be r-r-real?

ZEEK
(TYPING)
It is.

SENDS.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

ROBERTO
It's so r-r-rugged. I can't wait to r-r-run my fingers through it.

A long beat followed by an *INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.*

ROBERTO (CONT'D)
I've been thinking, and I think I'm r-r-ready to meet up. What about tomorrow night?

ZEEK
Shit. I just asked Jax to go out with me. What do I say?

Roberto breaks character.

ROBERTO
You should keep your prior commitments.

ZEEK
Why did I program a hologram with a good conscience?

ROBERTO
Just because I tell you what you don't want to hear, doesn't mean I'm not worth listening to.

ZEEK
You know? I think I like you more as Roberta.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

Roberto snaps back into character.

ROBERTO
What do you do for fun?

ZEEK
(TYPING)
I don't get out much.

SENDS.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

ROBERTO
Why not?

ZEEK
(TYPING)
Work keeps me pretty busy.

SENDS.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

ROBERTO
*There's more to life than making
skinny lattes.*

ZEEK
(TYPING)
When I was a kid, nobody really
paid attention to me except my baby
sitter. I thought if I worked hard
that'd be enough, but then I
realized the only way to get
people's attention was to act out.

SENDS.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

ROBERTO
Have you done anything wrong?

ZEEK
(TYPING)
I don't know if I should say. I
don't want to get cancelled.

SENDS.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

ROBERTO
*There're good people who make
mistakes.*

ZEEK
(TYPING)
I'm not who you think I am.

SENDS.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

ROBERTO
Then who are you?

We hear a monstrous, violent wave *CRASH* into a coastline.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Distressed, Zeek *BARGES* in. *LOCKS* the door.

ZEEK
Quick. Who am I?

He *PACES*.

NANCE
I've been asking myself that more
and more lately.

ZEEK
Who am I kidding? I'm just an
average Joe.

NANCE
There's nothing average about a guy
who created the mess you're in.

ZEEK
My Crush stats say differently.

NANCE
I've never seen you like this.
What's going on?

She gasps.

NANCE (CONT'D)
You've found someone.

Suddenly, a pesky Influencer *KNOCKS* on the door and *JIGGLES*
the knob.

INFLUENCER (O.S.)
Excuse me! Is someone in there? I
need to use the bathroom!

NANCE

(to Influencer)

Can you hold it a little longer?
It's a great way to practice those
Kegel exercises!

INFLUENCER (O.S.)

Ohhhhh. I'll try!

NANCE

(back to Zeek)

What's she like?

ZEEK

She listens to me. Like really
tries to get to know me and
understand where I come from.

NANCE

See? Not all people are bad.
Where'd you meet her?

ZEEK

On a dating app. At first it was
just a way to find more influencers
for Mind-ful until I found her. And
now she wants to meet. Like face-to-
face. I can't do it. I can't let
her know the real me.

INFLUENCER (O.S.)

Mysterious voice in the bathroom? I
can't hold it anymore! Can you
please let me in?

NANCE

(to Influencer)

Practice makes perfect!

(back to Zeek)

You can't keep hiding behind a
screen whenever you have a problem.
Look yourself in the eye and get
out of your own way. I see you
falling into the same trap as
before. I don't even recognize you
anymore. As scary as it may be,
this can be the beginning of one of
your biggest ventures yet. A new
you.

ZEEK

You're right. I can do this. I can
do this.

NANCE

Remember. If things don't go according to plan then that's what the universe wants.

ZEEK

I think I'm gonna throw up.

INFLUENCER (O.S.)

I'm gonna blow!

He runs into the nearest stall. *THROWS UP*.

Influencer lets out a relieved sigh as she *PEES* on herself.

The toilets start to *GURGLE*.

NANCE

What's happening?

One by one, the toilets *BLAST* a jet of toilet water into the air.

ZEEK

Bleh! It went back in my mouth!

He *RETCHES*.

NANCE

Son of a biscuit. Do I have to clean this up, too?

INT. MIND-FILLED CAFE - NIGHT

Jax *WALKS* up to a total shit show as Mind-ful Managers juggle *SPUTTERING* coffee makers, disgruntled influencers, and wrong orders.

INFLUENCERS

Ugh. This isn't what I ordered./I want a refund./I asked for oat milk not whole./This place used to care about the customer./And the cows.

MIND-FUL MANAGER

Sugar-free, extra hot, large chai tea latte with coconut milk and no foam for Bagels and Schwab!

Bagelsandschmear takes a *SIP*.

BAGELSANDSCHMEAR
But I ordered a soy latte with
cream.

Another Mind-ful Manager *FIDDLES* with the steam wand.

MIND-FUL MANAGER
The steam isn't working!

Mind-ful Manager *FIDDLES HARDER* when steam *SPRAYS* everywhere.

INFLUENCER
Ow! You burned my perfectly, supple
skin!

MIND-FUL MANAGER
It's OK! Hot steam will open those
clogged pores right up!

Jax is next in line, approaching a Mind-ful Manager taking
orders.

MIND-FUL MANAGER (CONT'D)
What can I get started for you?

JAX
Have you seen Joe?

MIND-FUL MANAGER 3
No, but if you do, please let him
know we're in need of his presence.

POP! Roberto appears and *OOOOH'S* and *AHHHH'S* ripple
throughout the crowd.

But soon after, he starts to *GLITCH*.

ROBERTO
(still in his best
Roberta)
Ms. R-r-roxy R-r-reza if you're
nasty! Nothing is as perfect as it
seems. Like your mustache. That
can't be r-r-real? It's so r-r-
rugged. I can't wait to r-r-run my
fingers through it.

Concerned chatter rumbles throughout the once easily
impressed crowd.

INFLUENCERS

What's going on?/You know what I heard?/Maybe @Samisthewhoaman97 wasn't so crazy./I haven't showered in eight days.

MIND-FUL MANAGER

OK, everyone! Time for the next workshop!

JAX

But there's nothing on the schedule.

Everyone *SHUFFLES* towards the workshop pod.

JAX (CONT'D)

(*TYPING*)

Hey, Joe. Are we still on for tonight?

INTERSTITIAL - NEWS CLIP

BREAKING NEWS SOUND BITE.

LOCAL NEWS ANCHOR

App giant, Readit, has fallen among other popular apps MeBox, Chaching, and Chirp. Without the presence of social media, people have been rediscovering what it means to disconnect from the internet and reconnect with reality.

He turns to nearby young BYSTANDERS.

LOCAL NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)

How are you all coping now that you don't have access to these popular apps?

BYSTANDER 1

I finally answered the phone when my mom called, and we talked for an hour straight.

BYSTANDER 2

I've worn the same outfit three times in a row.

BYSTANDER 3

When we went out to eat, I didn't
take a picture of my ramen.

LOCAL NEWS ANCHOR

Facegram is the only app left out
of the big 5. Although it's always
reigned as being the most
downloaded, Mind-ful has been
quickly rising through the ranks as
the new "it" app which might prove
to be the only competitor to
dethrone Facegram. I'll have that
story later as this story continues
to unfold, but until then ask
yourselves, how will you spend your
time? This is Stanley Bodi
reporting live for BMM News.

INT. WORKSHOP POD - CONTINUOUS

Influencers *PULL OUT* their seats and *SIT* down.

ROBERTO

Hello, everyone.

MIND-FUL MANAGER

(voice shaky)

Welcome back to another Mind-ful
workshop. We hope you all are
learning what it means to feel more
connected to the people and the
world around you.

All three laugh nervously in unison.

JAX

What are we doing here? There
aren't even any workshops
scheduled.

Jax receives an *INCOMING TEXT*.

JAX (CONT'D)

Sam?

She *OPENS* it.

JAX (CONT'D)

(reading Sameera's text)

Meet me in the courtyard.

Another *INCOMING TEXT*.

JAX (CONT'D)
(reading Sameera's text)
I have something I need to tell
you, and if you don't come.

Another *INCOMING TEXT*.

JAX (CONT'D)
This will impact our friendship
forever.

She *GATHERS* her things.

MIND-FUL MANAGER
Where do you think you're going?

JAX
I'm going to get bangs.

MIND-FUL MANAGER
If you leave, you'll lose
everything you've ever worked for.
Community. A sense of belonging.
Support.

ROBERTO
On top of that, your Mind-ful
person of the month title will be
revoked.

JAX
You don't think everyone can see
right through you, Roberto?

ROBERTO
Well, yeah. I'm a hologram.

JAX
This isn't even a real workshop.

Jax *GETS UP*.

JAX (CONT'D)
This was nice while it lasted, but
it doesn't matter if you can't
experience it with your best
friend.

She *WALKS* out followed by murmurs amongst disapproving
influencers.

EXT. MIND-FUL COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Joe *WALKS* out into the courtyard, *RUMMAGES* through his pocket, and pulls out his phone.

JOE
(*TYPING*)
I'm here.

SENDS.

INCOMING CRUSH TEXT.

JOE (CONT'D)
(*reading*)
So am I.

Sameera *WALKS* up to the Mind-ful gates.

JOE (CONT'D)
Sameera?

SAMEERA
Hey, Joe.

JOE
You need to leave.

SAMEERA
I don't think so.

JOE
I'm waiting for someone.

SAMEERA
Me, too.

JOE
One more step, and I'll have you escorted off the property.

SAMEERA
Technically, I'm already off the property. Besides, there's something I need to show Jax.

JOE
Shit.

SAMEERA
What?

JOE
Nothing. I'm supposed to meet her.

SAMEERA

Don't worry. Pretty soon she'll be meeting the real you. But first, it'd only be fair if you met the real me.

JOE

I don't know what you're talking about.

SAMEERA

I'm the influencer you've been talking to on Crush.

JOE

What?!

SAMEERA

I'm Curious4Coffee.

JOE

I don't believe this. This can't be happening.

SAMEERA

You can't hide anymore. I know who you are. What this is.

JOE

You don't know me.

SAMEERA

It's not that you're scared of yourself. You're scared of how people will see the real you.

JOE

This is what I get for letting my guard down. Letting people in. Opening up.

SAMEERA

Humans aren't meant to be perfect.

JOE

But you were to me.

Jax *EXITS* Mind-ful.

JAX

Joe? Where were you? They needed you in there.

(to Sameera)

Sam.

SAMEERA
Now it's your turn.

JAX
Turn for what? What's going on?

SAMEERA
Are you gonna tell her? Or do I
have to?

JOE
I... I...

SAMEERA
His name is Zeek. He's the
disgraced tech entrepreneur from
that Theodore talk.

JOE
Not again.

JAX
Is that true?

SAMEERA
Hey. Your mustache.

JOE
What about it?

SAMEERA
It's off-center.

Sameera *RIPS* off his mustache.

SAMEERA (CONT'D)
You said it was real!

Bagelsandschmear *WALKS* by.

BAGELSANDSCHMEAR
Ooooh. A live telenovela in the
courtyard?

SAMEERA
He wanted to create the perfect app
that controls and manipulates its
members to destroy his tech giant
competitors. He doesn't care about
mindfulness! More like
mindlessness!

JAX
Did you even like me for me? Or was
it all just for... this?

JOE
(to Sameera)
I trusted you.

SAMEERA
But the truth is you fucked up, and
you took it too far.

Sameera pulls the tablet out of her bag.

JOE
My tablet. What're you doing?
She *SMASHES* the tablet on the ground.

JOE (CONT'D)
No!

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nance MOPS the floor *SLOSHING* water back and forth when we
hear the fluorescent lights *FLICKER*.

NANCE
Now what's going on with the
lights? Everything's a mess around
here.

EXT. MIND-FUL COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Jax turns to Joe.

JAX
What's happening?

JOE
Now look what you've done.

Joe *RUNS* back into Mind-ful.

JAX
Joe!
(to Sameera)
What did you do?

SAMEERA
I don't know. I thought it would
stop it.

INT. WORKSHOP POD - CONTINUOUS

Roberto *GLITCHES* and *FLICKERS*.

MIND-FUL MANAGER
Roberto, you don't look so good.

ROBERTO
My apologies. I don't know what
came over me. I...

Roberto's hologram *GLOOPS* and *GLOPS*.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)
What? What's happening to me?

MIND-FUL MANAGER
Roberto!

He slowly *MELTS* away into nothingness.

MIND-FUL MANAGER (CONT'D)
He's... gone.

INFLUENCERS
I knew it. Mind-ful's shutting
down./No way. They just inducted a
million new members./Yeah, but more
isn't always merrier./They can't
even keep the lights on.

MIND-FUL MANAGER
May we have everyone's attention
please!

Everyone quiets down.

MIND-FUL MANAGER (CONT'D)
Due to recent events, we'll need to
cancel today's workshop.

Zeek *RUNS* by the workshop pod.

MIND-FUL MANAGER (CONT'D)
Zeek?! I mean Joe? Where're you
going?

ZEEK
Not now!

Influencers break out in confused whispers.

INFLUENCERS
Zeek?/Who's Zeek?

INT. ZEEK'S SECRET OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Zeek *BARGES* in. *LOCKS* the door behind him.

WOMP! WOMP! WOMP! The *ALARM BLARES*.

SYSTEM

System shutdown sequence has
initiated. All personnel please
exit immediately.

Nance *BANGS* on the door.

NANCE (O.S.)

Zeek! You're out of control!

ZEEK

(holding back tears)
I'm only human.

He *PUSHES* a button.

INT. MIND-FUL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Influencers *RUSH OUT* of the workshop pod as metal doors *SHUT DOWN* all around Mind-ful. Influencers *BANG* on the door.

INFLUENCERS

Open the door!/Let us out!/ I don't
want to be mindful anymore!

But it's too late. No one can get in or out.

SYSTEM

System shutdown complete.

END