

THE GEEK LIFE

"Master Troll"

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

Nathan and Henry are sitting at their usual table, studying, on a typical afternoon.

HENRY
(thinking)
...Romulus and...

Nathan gives Henry a hopeful look until Henry drops his head and motions Nathan to give him the answer.

NATHAN
Romulus and Remus.
(thinking)
...did you ever see the latest
Space Trek movie? The one right
before they rebooted it?

HENRY
(defensive)
What? No...I don't watch Space
Trek.

NATHAN
Oh...well, if you did, then I'd
have an easy way for you to
remember Romulus and Remus.

Nathan gives up and moves on to the next question.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
What year was Rome founded?

HENRY
...753 BC.

NATHAN
Yes.

Nathan begins to move on when his phone goes off. He seems surprised by who's calling.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
(to Henry)
Uh...alright, look over these for a
minute.
(answering the phone)
Hello?

CHRISTOPHER (V.O.)
Hey, sorry I had to call you.

NATHAN
Yeah...you typically don't call me
on my phone unless it's important.

CHRISTOPHER (V.O.)
Yeah, well...this is pretty
important.

NATHAN
(concerned)
Why? What's up.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

We see Christopher from behind as he faces his computer, with
the NHQ forums pulled up. He slowly swivels his chair to face
us.

CHRISTOPHER
...he's back, Nathan.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

NATHAN
...who's back?

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

CHRISTOPHER
The one troll to rule them all.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

NATHAN
(in disbelief)
...no...*PLEASE* do not tell me he's
back. Not after what I told him
last time.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

CHRISTOPHER
Oh, he is. AGMA is back.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

NATHAN
(in shock)
...I'll be home as soon as I can.

Nathan hangs up the phone and stares off away from Henry.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
...I have to go.

HENRY
What's going on?

NATHAN
(packing up)
It's...a long story. But basically,
someone just got on my last nerve
and I've got to go take care of it.

HENRY
Okay...

NATHAN
I'll see you tomorrow...hopefully.

Nathan jogs towards the door passing right by Bobby, who is in the middle of his shift.

BOBBY
Dude, what's up?

NATHAN
(half yelling)
NHQ thing! Later!

We see both Bobby and Henry look confused as Nathan quickly leaves the coffee shop, the door closing behind him.

SUPERIMPOSE: The Geek Life

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

We see Bobby come in through the front door having just gotten off from work. As he walks in, Nathan is on the couch fervently typing on his laptop. Julia is sitting next to him with her own laptop, looking over at his every so often.

BOBBY
(slightly confused)
Hey guys.

JULIA

Hey.

Nathan continues typing, not acknowledging Bobby's arrival.

BOBBY

...So, uh, what's Nathan been so worked up about all day? He ran out of the coffee shop like the apartment was on fire or something.

JULIA

AGMA is back.

BOBBY

(trying to remember)
Ohh...he was some kid that trolled Nathan's forums, right?

NATHAN

(still focused)
No, Bobby, this...kid transcends the definition of the word troll. He's in a whole league of his own.

CHRISTOPHER (V.O.)

(from the laptop)
He posted again. Art discussion.

NATHAN

(pissed)
Oh my God. This kid will not stop.

BOBBY

I thought you already banned him?

NATHAN

(seething)
Oh, yes. I did. A long time ago. But he made another account, which I also banned. And then he made another. So I IP banned him. But I guess he's on dial up or something, because he got past that, too. And to top it all off, he *keeps* *messaging me*, trying to get me to give him even *more* chances and arguing why he never even did anything wrong in the first place.

BOBBY

(slightly scared of
Nathan)
(MORE)

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Right...well, you have fun with
that...I'm gonna go grab a snack.

Bobby begins to walk into the kitchen for a snack.

JULIA
Yeah...I've been up for like two
days, so...I'll see you guys
tomorrow.

Julia shuts her laptop and goes to her bedroom. We Nathan
left alone in the living room.

CHRISTOPHER (V.O.)
He posted again.

Nathan breathes a deep sigh of frustration.

EXT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

We see a time lapse shot of the exterior of their apartment
go from night to morning.

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING

We see the same shot of Nathan as he is in the same spot,
passed out, with his computer still on. He slowly wakes up
and gets his bearings.

NATHAN
(groggily)
Ugh...Christopher, you still there?

Nathan hears no response. He tabs over to the forums on his
computer and refreshes to find a page full of topics posted
by AGMA. He begins to get angry before remembering to check
the time on his phone. He sees that it is almost the
afternoon and, after some thought, begins to text Henry that
he won't be in class that day.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

We see Henry sitting in Algebra class, alone. We hear his
phone vibrate as he notices and checks it. We see Henry give
a slightly confused look before Lily takes her usual seat
near Henry.

LILY
Hey!

HENRY

Hi!

LILY

You know I think you're always here when I get here.

HENRY

Yeah, I try to be a little early for most everything. I was always taught that if you're early, you're on time; if you're on time, you're late; and if you're late, you're fired.

LILY

(laughing)

Wow...so basically you're the complete opposite of Nathan, then.

HENRY

I guess so, in that respect.

LILY

(looking at the door)

And I'm guessing that today will be no different.

HENRY

Actually, he just texted me saying that he wouldn't be here today.

LILY

(to Henry)

Oh, did he say why?

HENRY

No...but he did randomly bail yesterday at the coffee shop.

LILY

(curious)

Oh, is that where you guys study for world history?

HENRY

Yeah.

LILY

Are you guys on the birth of Rome, too?

HENRY

Yeah, actually. I've been having a little bit of trouble with it.

LILY

Ahh. But Nathan's still helping you out, right?

HENRY

He's doing his best!

Mr. Ramsey walks into the classroom and the students begin to straighten up. Lily turns to see him walk in and then turns back to Henry.

LILY

Hey, you're good at math, right?

HENRY

(attempting modesty)
Well I'm not bad...

LILY

Works for me.

Lily gets out of her seat and takes Nathan's usual seat right next to Henry. Henry smirks as Mr. Ramsey begins writing on the chalkboard.

INT. JR. HIGH HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

We see Dillon gathering things from his locker. As he closes the door, we see Alex's face where the locker door was, which mildly surprises Dillon.

ALEX

(trying to spook Dillon)
Hey!

DILLON

(relatively unphased)
Hey.

ALEX

(slightly disappointed)
I wanted to give this back to you.
I finished it.

Alex hands Dillon back his copy of Compost Error.

DILLON

Oh! Thanks. So...what did you think?

ALEX
(admitting)
You were right, I liked it...a lot.

DILLON
(proud)
Totally called it. So who was your
favorite character?

ALEX
Oh, definitely Lunos. I'm kind of a
sucker for the quirky side
character who's secretly a bamf.
Plus, whenever he-

Alex briefly looks past Dillon to see Jessica, who is looking
and walking straight towards them. Alex looks down to see
Dillon still holding the DVD out in the open. She quickly
grabs it out of his hand and hides it behind her as Jessica
walks up to them.

JESSICA
(with the fakest smile you
could possibly imagine)
Hi!

ALEX
(oblivious)
Hi...

JESSICA
Hey, so, I wanted to say that I am
so sorry about the other day when
we ran into each other. I was
having a bad day, and I shouldn't
have taken it out on you.

ALEX
(somewhat relieved)
Oh...that's okay. We all have bad
days, I guess.

JESSICA
Yeah. I never got your name, by the
way.

ALEX
Oh! It's Alex. I'm Alex.

JESSICA
Oh, ok. Well I'm Jessica.
(looking at Dillon)
...and you must be...?

DILLON

Dillon.

JESSICA

Oh, well, it's nice to meet both of you. I'm sure we'll be seeing each other around!

Jessica walks off in the direction opposite where she came from, joins her friends, and they laugh together as they walk off. Alex and Dillon both look confused.

DILLON

...Well that was weird.

ALEX

Yeah...

DILLON

Do you know her?

ALEX

Not really...but I guess we just had a bad first impression.

DILLON

Huh...

(eying Alex's concealed arm)

...so uh, can I have my DVD back now?

ALEX

Oh! Sorry!

Alex hands Dillon back his DVD, who puts it in his back pack as they both walk off together.

INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

We see Nathan sitting at the dining table, hopelessly staring at his computer screen as he periodically hits the F5 key. Finally, he sees something of interest on his screen, clicks it, and becomes infuriated. He looks over to Julia, who is sitting across from him on her own computer.

NATHAN

(calmly)

...Julia.

JULIA

(not looking up)

Yeah?

NATHAN

Do you remember that favor you owe me?

Julia stops typing and looks up at Nathan.

JULIA

(suspiciously)

...Yes...

NATHAN

...I need your help.

JULIA

What do you want?

NATHAN

I...need you to find everything you can on AGMA.

Julia looks down at her computer with renewed focus.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

And I mean everything. His name.
His address. His phone number.
Anything and everything you can
find on this guy, I wanna-

We hear the sound of Julia sending an email.

JULIA

Alright, I sent it over.

NATHAN

(surprised)

Wha...did you even look?

JULIA

Yup...and I found what you're
after, plus some, probably.

Nathan hears the email sound from his computer and opens the email. We see Nathan's eyes widen as a slow subtle grin creeps on his face. He looks up at Julia.

NATHAN

Julia...holy crap. How did you find
all of this.

JULIA

(sarcastically
disappointed)

Nathan, please.

NATHAN

I mean...you've got his parent's
cell phone numbers here. How even?

JULIA

So is my favor paid off, then?

NATHAN

(slightly amused)

Uh, yes. Yes it does.

Nathan begins typing up an IM to AGMA and then sends it. We
hear him get a reply and Nathan smiles. Bobby then walks in.

BOBBY

Hey guys, what's up?

NATHAN

...I think I just took care of that
AGMA situation for good...

Julia clears her throat loudly.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

...with Julia's help.

BOBBY

Oh, cool.

Christopher SkyCalls Nathan's computer. Nathan picks up.

CHRISTOPHER

Dude! Did I just read this
correctly?

NATHAN

(smirking)

I dunno, Christopher, what did you
read?

CHRISTOPHER

That AGMA is gone for good?

NATHAN

It certainly looks that way.

CHRISTOPHER

Wow...how did you manage that?

NATHAN
(glancing at Julia)
Well...I had a little help, but
let's just say that I was able to
convince him that leaving NHQ alone
was in his best interests.

CHRISTOPHER
Wow...

BOBBY
Hey, uh, I don't mean to ruin your
high right now or anything, but I
kinda need the table here soon.
I've got the guys coming over.

NATHAN
(uncaring)
You know what? That works out,
because there's really something
else I should do, too.

Nathan gets his phone out and begins texting Lily. We see
their texts on screen.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
(texting Lily)
Hey, sorry I wasn't in algebra
today. Think I could get the notes
from you?

LILY
(texting Nathan)
Hey! Sure! You want me to just
bring them to our next class?

NATHAN
(texting Lily)
Or we could meet up at Dunn Bros
Coffee in around 15 minutes? If
that works for you?

LILY
(texting Nathan)
Sure! See you in 15! =D

Nathan puts his phone away.

NATHAN
(uncharacteristically
confident)
Well guys, I've got to get down to
the coffee shop to meet Lily.
(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)
You have fun with your Goblins &
Giants game.

Nathan gathers his school bag and leaves the apartment.
Bobby, Julia, and Christopher all stand in shock of Nathan's
behavior.

BOBBY
What...did that just happen?

JULIA
...I think so.

BOBBY
...Is he...is he gonna go...

CHRISTOPHER
...I think he's about to go ask her
out.

BOBBY
...What.

Bobby looks back at Julia and Christopher and then back to
the door, all still looking very confused.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

We see a wide shot of a coffee shop.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

We see Nathan sitting alone in a booth. All the confidence he
had after dealing with AGMA is now completely gone, and he
nervously waits for Lily and anxiously checks the time every
few seconds.

We then see Lily walk in and look for Nathan. Nathan sees her
after a few seconds and waves her over.

NATHAN
(extremely nervous)
Hey!

LILY
Hi!

Lily reaches into her bag and takes out her notebook,
flipping for the math section.

NATHAN
...Thanks again for meeting me
here. I appreciate it.

LILY
Oh, no problem. I'm glad to finally
have an excuse to check out this
famed coffee shop of yours.

Nathan and Lily chuckle.

NATHAN	LILY
(at the same time)	(at the same time)
So there was something-	Speaking of the cof-

LILY (CONT'D)
Oh, sorry. You go first.

NATHAN
(still a nervous wreck)
No, that's okay. What were you
going to say?

LILY
Oh, well I was just going to say,
that, speaking of the coffee shop,
Henry and I were talking in class
today and we figured out that we're
all in the same place in world
history.

NATHAN
Oh, really?

LILY
Yeah, so we both figured that we
could all study together. You know,
if that's cool with you.

NATHAN
(pleased)
Oh yeah, sure! The more the
merrier!

LILY
Cool!

Lily gets a text on her phone and checks it as Nathan begins to look through Lily's notes and begins to copy them down. Lily looks surprised by the text, but grins as she texts back. She puts her phone back up right after a few more texts.

LILY (CONT'D)
...Sorry about that.

NATHAN
Oh, it's no problem.
(curious)
...Who was it?

LILY
(slightly confused and
excited)
That was Henry.

NATHAN
Oh? What'd he want?

LILY
Actually, he just asked me out to
dinner.

We see Nathan's eyes widen as he tries to hide the silently
horrified expression on his face.

NATHAN
(trying his best to sound
interested)
...Really?

LILY
Yeah. Looks like we're gonna meet
up tomorrow night!

NATHAN
(still horrified)
Wow...that's...out of the blue.

LILY
Yeah, I know! Who'd have thought,
huh?

NATHAN
Yeah...

LILY
Oh! But you were gonna ask me
something, weren't you?

We see Nathan stare up at Lily with the most nervous and
embarrassed expression he's ever mustered.

CUT TO:

BLACK