

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Written by

Leah Schwartz and Gabe Lopez

[gabrlopez@chapman.edu](mailto:gabrlopez@chapman.edu)  
[leaschwartz@chapman.edu](mailto:leaschwartz@chapman.edu)

INT. APARTMENT - ETHAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

ETHAN HONEYBONE, 24, chapped lips, lays awake in his bed. He looks a mess, as does his room. Polaroid pictures of JUNE, 23, his ex-girlfriend, are in the trash can. Her eyes are colored red, and there are doodles of devil horns on her head.

He cannot sleep. MOANS reverberate in the room next door.

He throws a pillow against the wall. It makes a soft POOF, but the MOANS only continue.

He grabs his phone from the nightstand and pops in a pair of earbuds. He checks his bank account...nothing. He is practically broke. Then, he starts to scroll. Doom scroll.

He stops at an ad for a new app called "ASCEND," where a COMMERCIAL ACTRESS, 30s, with a thick head of hair stands against a white backdrop.

COMMERCIAL ACTRESS

...It's easy to ascend. Just listen to our app as you fall asleep. Get started today with a seven-day free trial.

Ethan begins the download process. He scrolls past the TERMS AND CONDITIONS, not bothering to read them.

He opens the "Day One Listening" and closes his eyes.

INT/EXT. APARTMENT - VARIOUS - DAY

BEGIN MONTAGE:

...The next morning. An alarm clock RINGS. It reads 6:00 AM.

...Ethan combs his hair and dons a suit, a bright smile on his face.

...He grabs his laptop and opens an email. It reads that he got a job offer.

...Outside, he grabs the mail. A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN stares at him, smiling and waving.

...Now, in workout clothes, he does one-armed push-ups in his living room.

...Ethan cleans his room, finally shredding June's polaroids.

...Ethan falls asleep, earbuds in again.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ethan kicks back on the couch. He takes out his phone and opens the Ascend app.

A notification reads, "7-DAY FREE TRIAL OVER -- \$29.99 MONTHLY CHARGE STARTS NOW."

His cheery expression drops. He looks for a way to cancel.

The "CANCEL SUBSCRIPTION" button is grayed out. He checks again, and this time, the app crashes. When he goes back into the app, the "CANCEL SUBSCRIPTION" button has disappeared.

ETHAN

That's weird.

He goes into settings and clicks "TERMS & CONDITIONS," then scrolls to a section that reads "SUBSCRIPTION TERMS."

In a tiny, almost impossible-to-read print, he reads:

ETHAN (CONT'D)

"If the subscription is not canceled before the trial ends, the soul will be automatically forfeited five hours later."

He does a double take. Yep, that's actually what it says.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

What... the... FU--

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Ethan paces around, phone in hand. He wears a WATCH with a timer ticking down. Currently, four and a half hours left.

ETHAN

THERE'S NO CUSTOMER SERVICE FOR THIS SHIT?

HENRY, 24, Ethan's trashy roommate and June, now Henry's girlfriend cuddle on the couch.

HENRY

Can you keep it down? We're trying to watch a movie.

ETHAN

(under his breath)  
Can you keep it down? We're trying to watch a movie.

Ethan scrolls on his phone.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Oh, but y'all have an office? Sure--

His phone shows a pin to an alleyway. He raises an eyebrow, then goes to leave.

HENRY

(calling after him)

Don't forget, your rent is due  
Friday.

Ethan doesn't respond. Henry bites into a chocolate bar, which somehow manages to get all over his face.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I don't know how you ever put up  
with him.

JUNE

He's nothing compared to you, Baby.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Ethan enters the alleyway, hands in his pockets as he looks around. A CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER (20s), clearly the same Commercial Actress but with a cheap bald cap, stands in the alley. She is trying to look menacing, but it's clearly not working.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER

(her "commercial voice")

Thank you for coming in.

She clears her throat and pulls her bald cap tighter.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER (CONT'D)

(deeper voice)

Thank you for coming in. You're  
here for the Ascend offices?

ETHAN

Yeah...I want to cancel my  
subscription.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER

Oh, we can't do that.

ETHAN

What do you mean you can't do that?

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
It's a complicated process.

Ethan looks at his watch. Two hours left.

ETHAN  
That's fine. Let's get started.

The Customer Service Member gestures for Ethan to take a seat on the asphalt. After a beat, he does so. The Customer Service Member joins him and pulls out a clipboard, lined paper, and a "Grammarly" pen.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
So why did you download the app?

ETHAN  
My girlfriend cheated on me with my roommate, I was unemployed, and I couldn't even clean my room. Your app promised me something better.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
And did it work?

ETHAN  
Yes, but that's beside the point.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
Right, then, why did you want to cancel?

ETHAN  
I don't want to forfeit my soul.  
Also, \$29.99 is steep.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
Okay, noted. Next, what's your social security number?

ETHAN  
What? Umm...I don't know.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
You should really have it memorized.

ETHAN  
Yeah, I know that.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
We can skip that for now. What about your past relationships?

ETHAN  
What about them?

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
Describe them.

ETHAN  
Do I have to?

The Customer Service Member flips through her empty papers.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
Ummm--yes, it appears so.

ETHAN  
Okay, well, I had my first  
girlfriend in middle school. She  
went to art school, and I never saw  
her again. And then, in college, I  
was experimenting with everyone and  
everything.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
Right, and after that?

ETHAN  
Well, I met June, she was perfect.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
Until she grounded the corn with  
your roommate.

ETHAN  
Yeah.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
Okay, noted. And finally, do you  
think you will make it into heaven?

ETHAN  
Shit, I don't know. I mean, I think  
I've done alright so far.  
Yeah, like if there was a middle  
one, I'd be in there. Hellven,  
that's where I belong.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
Uhh, okay. Well, it looks like you  
passed our preliminary test.

ETHAN  
Haha, great!

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
 Yes, so I'm going to have you meet  
 our manager over there-

The Customer Service Member points toward a dumpster.

ETHAN  
 Wait, what? I thought I was done.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
 Oh no, now you have to meet with my  
 manager.

ETHAN  
 Your manager? Then what was all  
 this for?

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
 A meeting with the manager.

Ethan shakes his head and walks over to the dumpster.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER (CONT'D)  
 He'll be with you shortly.

The Customer Service Member disappears.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - BEHIND THE DUMPSTER - CONTINUOUS

Ethan peeks behind the dumpster. The same Customer Service Member sits in a plastic garden chair, hands in her lap. She's wearing a different outfit and the bald cap is gone, but this time she wears a fake mustache. There are two red horns on her head.

ETHAN  
 Umm, you're the same person.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
 No, I'm the manager.

ETHAN  
 Yeah, okay, I'm starting to think  
 this whole thing is a big prank.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER  
 Do you really want to find out?

Ethan hones in on her horns. He gulps and shakes his head. The timer on his watch has twenty minutes left.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER (CONT'D)

I have to say, Ethan Honeybone, I'm deeply impressed by your determination. Most people don't make it this far.

ETHAN

It really wasn't that difficult.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER

True, but I must remind you, you don't have much time left. So, I'm going to offer you a deal. You can either keep the perks and embrace damnation, or you can find a loophole.

ETHAN

A loophole?

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER

Yes, a way to keep your soul.

ETHAN

Uhh, okay. How do I do that?

CUSTOMER SERVICE MEMBER

Use your brain, Ethan. Time is running out. What got you in this mess in the first place?

Ethan stares off into space, the timer ticking down. A lightbulb goes off.

He opens the app and then the TERMS & CONDITIONS. He finds a bullet point: "REFER A FRIEND."

It reads, "REFER A FRIEND: TO AVOID LOSING YOUR SOUL WHEN YOUR TRIAL ENDS, YOU MAY REFER A FRIEND AND EXCHANGE THEIRS FOR YOURS. YOUR BENEFITS WILL BE REVOKED."

A sinister smile spreads across Ethan's face.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Henry lazily eats popcorn on the couch, crumbs everywhere.

Ethan rushes in. His timer has four minutes remaining. He stares Henry down.

ETHAN

Have you heard of the app "Ascend?"