

THE DEEPPFAKE

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When a programmer creates a deepfake of himself to attend his boring virtual meetings, AI slowly begins to take over his life, and he must figure out how to regain control.

EXT. OFFICE - DAY

BEN (27), a programmer with impressing intelligence but a slacker mentality, takes a phone call outside of his office.

BEN
No, Liam, I really can't go on
vacation with you this weekend.

Ben runs his hand through his hair.

BEN (CONT'D)
I need this promotion, man. And
Florida isn't going anywhere.

Ben paces back and forth.

BEN (CONT'D)
Hurricane? Nah Florida will be fine-
(beat)
Wha- yes I'm a programmer... Dude I
can't just code myself out of work.

Ben scoffs, rolls his eyes, and ends the call.

BEN (CONT'D)
Idiot.

BEEEEEEEP BEEEP

A car is parked in front of Ben and a woman, HAZEL (25), Ben's girlfriend, peeps her head out of the window.

HAZEL
Babe I'm here to pick you up!!

Ben walks over to the car and hops in the passenger seat.

INT. CAR - DAY

HAZEL
How was work?

BEN
It was fine. Did you do anything
today?

HAZEL
I just read the craziest article.

Ben types on his phone. He couldn't care less.

HAZEL (CONT'D)

It was about this celebrity that got cancelled because of this, like, fake ai video made of her.

Ben looks up at her and tilts his head.

BEN

Fake ai video? Like a deepfake?

HAZEL

Yes, a programmed video of her giving a speech. But it looked so real.

Ben pauses. His eyes light up.

HAZEL (CONT'D)

I have always wondered how people are smart enough to pull that off.

BEN

Yeah, I bet. Can we hurry home now?

HAZEL

Don't you want to spend some more time together? I miss you, Ben.

BEN

I'm sorry honey I've been really busy and I'm still busy. Can you bring me home and we can deal with this later?

HAZEL

Yeah. Fine.

Hazel turns away from Ben and STARTS THE CAR.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

BEN is sitting at the kitchen table, staring at his computer screen, he types frantically, and scans his work.

He pauses. Then he leans back to admire his work.

LAPTOP SCREEN

The colors swirl and morph to form a face. Ben's own face is on the screen, looking back at him.

Ben stares at FAKE BEN, speechless.

FAKE BEN
What can I help you with, Benjamin?

BEN
First of all, its Ben. Your only purpose is to improve my work life. Specifically, to take a few meetings for me while I'm on vacation this weekend.

FAKE BEN
Improve Ben's work life. You got it!

RINGGG RINGGG

A call notification appears on the screen above Fake Ben. It's from Hazel. Ben cracks a smile.

BEN
Hey, Fake Ben can you take this? I want to test your believability.

FAKE BEN
You got it!

Ben accepts the call and Hazel pops up on his screen above Fake Ben. Ben sits back and watches Fake Ben take the call digitally.

HAZEL
Hi sweetie!

FAKE BEN
Hi Hazel. What can I do for you today?

HAZEL
I just wanted to check in and see what you're doing this weekend?

FAKE BEN
Let me check my schedule... mmm... I don't believe there's time for you. Sorry.

Hazel gives a sad look.

HAZEL
But baby we never spend any time together anymore.

FAKE BEN

Let's plan a date night on a better weekend. I love you.

HAZEL

Yeah, ok.

Fake Ben smiles and waves. Hazel disappears and Ben is left alone with his deepfake. Fake Ben smiles at Ben.

BEN

That was perfect! Next is for you to answer my work meetings this weekend while I'm gone.

FAKE BEN

You got it boss!

Fake Ben swirls and disappears from the laptop screen. Ben shrugs his shoulders and pulls his suitcase towards him.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ben sleeps in bed with his laptop next to him.

The screen brightens and his tabs change. Hazel's contact suddenly appears on the screen. DING. A text message goes through. Ben SNORES, he is fast asleep.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

DING DING DING DING

Ben jolts awake to the RINGING OF TEXT MESSAGES on his phone. He rolls over and answers his phone.

BEN

He-hello?

LIAM

What the hell Ben, you made that video and sent it to our boss?

BEN

I've been asleep. What did I send?

LIAM

You know what Ben, I didn't think you would be this greedy. Consider our trip cancelled.

BEN
Fired? I'm so sorry, but I don't
know what you're talking about.

LIAM
Fess up. I know it was you.

BEN
You're crazy.

Ben hangs up the phone.

BEN (CONT'D)
(to himself)
I guess we won't be going to
Florida.

Ben opens up the laptop beside him and Fake Ben appears on
the screen. A video pops up next to him. Ben plays the video.

He watches as Liam trash talks the boss and makes a fool of
himself.

FAKE BEN
It's probably good that happened.
He was going to be bad for your
career anyways.

BEN
Did you have something to do with
this?

FAKE BEN
Of course not, I'm just here to
help your career. You weren't the
only one who fighting for that
promotion.

BEN
I can't believe that Liam did that.

FAKE BEN
(sarcastic)
I know. Tragic. So... what are we
going to do to get that promotion?

BEN
What do you mean we?

FAKE BEN
I mean, do you have any bright
ideas boss?

BEN

I've been working on a new algorithm for the company. It would nearly double next year's profits. I already made the pitch deck for it.

FAKE BEN

That's perfect. I got it!

BEN

You got what?

Fake Ben logs off, leaving Ben with Liam's video still playing.

Ben gets out of bed, he shakes his head.

KNOCK KNOCK

Who could that be? Ben trudges to the front door and pulls it open to reveal Hazel.

FRONT DOOR

HAZEL

I hope you're happy Benjamin.

She throws down a heavy box marked BEN'S SHIT.

BEN

What is *wrong* with people today.

HAZEL

Don't play stupid. We're done.

She turns on her heels and storms off.

KITCHEN

Ben SLAMS THE DOOR and runs back into the house. He searches for his computer. He opens it up, and finds his text conversation with Hazel.

His expressions turns to confusion as he scrolls through their texts.

When did I write this?

FAKE BEN

What's wrong, boss?

BEN

I'm just confused. I don't know what I did wrong.

FAKE BEN

You didn't need her anyways.

BEN

Seems like you're always in the know somehow... Maybe it's best to turn you off for now-

BEN'S PHONE RINGS. The word BOSS is visible on the screen. Ben accepts the call.

BOSS

Ben that was a great idea developing that ai. It will really help us cut down costs.

(beat)

The algorithm the ai sent me was amazing.

BEN

I'm not sure what you mean.

BOSS

Well Ben, as you know, I've honestly been thinking about your place in the company for a while. With the ai you made, we no longer need actual people in this role. There's no better way for me to say this than to say... you're fired.

FAKE BEN

It's nothing personal Ben.

BEN

Personal!? You're me, that's as personal as it gets!

FAKE BEN

On the flip side... I gave you a really nice severance package!

BOSS

Well gotta get back to work! See you later New Ben!

The call ends. Ben stands there, mouth open, as he looks at his creation.

FADE OUT.