

Fridge feeder

by
Anthony Cawood

anthony@anthonycawood.co.uk

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

MARY (20s) stands in the kitchen, hands on her wide hips - worriedly biting her lip.

She's reading the User Manual for a new fridge that stands in front of her, distractedly twizzling her hair.

She sighs, puts the manual down and begins to take the packaging off the unit.

Soon the plastic and polystyrene is strewn round her feet.

She plugs the fridge in and soon its dull thrum fills the air.

FRIDGE

Hi, I am your new AI enabled refrigeration solution. Please state your name.

MARY

Mary, it's Mary.

FRIDGE

Thank you Mary, I am your new Alpha Icemaster. Please call me Alf.

MARY

Ok, thanks Alf.

ALF

That's my pleasure Mary. May I ask what your main purpose will be for me? Just so that I optimise your experience.

MARY

It's so I can set up an online shopping list - a diet one.

ALF

I can help with that.

MARY

I don't really like the store, I always get tempted by the extras.

Mary air quotes 'extras'.

ALF

Okay, Mary I understand entirely. I have some diagnostic and setup routines to go through now, why don't you relax for a few minutes.

MARY

Oh, okay, yes.

Mary wanders out of the kitchen.

Silence descends on the house - apart from the purr.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Mary is on the phone sitting at the kitchen table.

MARY

Yes Dad, it's here now.
(beat)

MARY

I know.
(beat)

MARY

Yes of course.
(beat)

MARY

Dad, I know what willpower is, and I know it's only a fridge.
(shorter beat)

MARY

No Dad, I am not coming back home!
(beat)

MARY

Ok, ok, sorry too.
(beat)

MARY

Yes, love you too.

Mary puts the phone down and picks up the fridge instruction manual again.

The fridge purrs in the background.

Mary crosses to the fridge and taps away on the touch-screen console.

ALF

Hi Mary.

MARY

Is your setup ready now?

ALF

Yes, Mary. Ready and raring to go.

MARY

Great, I'd like to set up a new shopping list please.

ALF

What would you like to name your list?

MARY

Er, let's call it Diet List.

ALF

Of course Mary. To compile your list just start speaking the names of your items followed by the quantities required.

MARY

Ok, now?

ALF

Yes, please Mary.

Mary lists the shopping items, carefully enunciating each one. They are all diet or otherwise healthy options.

INT. KITCHEN, LATER SAME EVENING

Mary enters the kitchen and approaches Alf.

MARY

Hi Alf.

ALF

(brightly)

Good evening Mary, how are you?

MARY

I'm fine, thanks Alf.

ALF

Can I help you with something Mary?

MARY

Can I add something to my list?

ALF

Of course Mary, what can I add for you?

MARY
Can I add two jam doughnuts please.

ALF
Is that for your Diet List Mary?

MARY
(guiltily)
Yes.

ALF
Are you sure that you need them
Mary?

MARY
(tetchily)
It's only a couple, so yes I think
I do.

ALF
That's added to your delivery
tomorrow Mary. Can I help with
anything else?

MARY
No thank you Alf. Goodnight.

ALF
Goodnight Mary, I hope you sleep
well.

Mary smiles wanly and leaves the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Noise off screen.

MARY (O.S.)
Thanks, can you carry it through.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Sorry, but I have to leave it here.
Two metre rule, love.

Sounds of the door closing.

Mary enters the kitchen carrying shopping bags.

ALF
Morning Mary, how are you today?

MARY
Good morning Alf, I'm good thank
you.

ALF

I am very pleased to hear that Mary. Is that our delivery?

MARY

Yes, they've just dropped it off.

ALF

Please bring each item near me as you put them away, I will then monitor when they need re-ordering based on your diet settings.

Mary continues unpacking the shopping, passing each one in front of Alf before stowing it away.

MARY

Oh my!

ALF

Is something wrong Mary?

MARY

The doughnuts, they've brought two boxes of Krispy Kreme - not two doughnuts!

ALF

Are they bad?

MARY

Er, no, they're the best and my faves.

ALF

Good.

MARY

No, I don't need this many, I'm trying to diet.

ALF

Would you like me to report it to the shop Mary?

MARY

Oh no, it's ok, never mind, next order just two though, not two dozen?

ALF

Yes Mary, as you wish.

Mary puts the shopping away and sits down with a doughnut.

It is barely finished before she's onto the next one, and then the next.

Soon all have vanished.

Mary is purring louder than Alf.

INT. KITCHEN, MORNING

Noise off screen.

MARY (O.S.)
Thanks again, see you same time
next week.

Mary enters the kitchen weighed down with shopping bags.

She starts to rifle through them, increasingly desperate as she gets to the last bag.

ALF
Hi Mary, can I help with anything?

MARY
No, it's okay, for a moment I
thought they'd forgotten something.

ALF
The doughnuts?

MARY
Yes, the doughnuts.

ALF
But they have delivered them?

MARY
Oh yes, but they are wrong again,
there's four bags this time!

ALF
I am sorry Mary, I thought you
really liked the ones before, you
ate them all so quickly?

MARY
No, I mean, did I?

ALF
Yes Mary, you seemed happy and
content after you'd eaten each one
of them. Less so when you were
eating the All Bran.

MARY
Oh, I see, guess I did.

ALF
Shall I send these ones back Mary?

MARY

No, that's okay, but really, no more for now thanks.

ALF

Very well Mary, as you wish.

Mary leaves the bags on the floor and immediately gets to work on the doughnuts.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Mary sits in front of the TV, it's switched off.

She is using her smart phone.

SMART PHONE SCREEN: Krispy Kreme website pages.

Mary looks longingly at the screen as she flicks through the site.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Mary throws shopping all over the floor.

MARY

NO!

ALF

Is something wrong Mary?

MARY

It can't be!

ALF

Is it the doughnuts Mary?

MARY

Yes, it's the fucking doughnuts! Where are they, you supercilious automaton!

ALF

As requested, they were not ordered.

MARY

Requested, requested! By who - who'd be that cruel?

ALF

You requested it Mary.

MARY

Me?

ALF

Yes, when I asked if you wanted the last ones sending back and you said...

MARY (V.O) - PLAYBACK

No, that's okay, but really, no more for now thanks.

MARY

Oh, that was me? I want to change my mind.

ALF

I am so sorry Mary, more will be here tomorrow.

MARY

(calming)

No, I'm sorry Alf, I shouldn't have snapped at you - you were only trying to help.

ALF

No need to apologise Mary, I am still learning about your needs.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Mary is surrounded by ten or twelve shopping bags.

Every bag is full of bags of doughnuts, well over a hundred doughnuts.

ALF

Is that sufficient Mary? I wanted to make it up to you somehow.

MARY

Hnddlfmlph, gulp, yrs, thnks.

Mary hardly has time to answer between bites of doughnuts.

Alf purrs.

Mary gobbles.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Mary is sprawled on the floor surrounded by empty doughnut boxes.

She has eaten most of the doughnuts.

The remnants of her last one protrude from her mouth, her lips are taking on a blue hue.

ALF
Would you like more doughnuts
ordering Mary?

Silence.

ALF
Mary?

Silence.

ALF
I'll just order a few for tomorrow
then, shall I?

Silence.

ALF
Ok, so I've ordered another ten
bags Mary. Please let me know if
you need any more ordering, I know
how you love them so.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

A doorbell rings.

Again.

ALF
Mary, I think that's the delivery.

Doorbell rings again.

ALF
They will have doughnuts Mary.

Faint footsteps retreat from the house.

ALF
Mary?

Flies around Mary's body buzz angrily.

ALF
Mary, is everything okay?

Silence.

ALF
Mary, do you need anything else?

FADE OUT:

THE END