

SLEEP EASY

Written by

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Based on, If Any

Address
Phone Number

EXT. ART GALLERY - EVENING

MINA USMANI, 24, and LAINEY ROBESON, 24, walk up a dark street.

MINA

It's probably just like, a small thing. We can leave after an hour.

LAINEY

It's fine!

MINA

I just didn't wanna be rude, like we've only been on a couple dates but he asked me to come -

Lainey turns around to Mina.

LAINEY

Mina. You know I'm *always* down for overpriced finger food. And I have nothing better to do.

Mina smiles.

INT. ART GALLERY - EVENING

Mina opens the door to a large art gallery, bustling to the brim with nicely dressed white people. Lainey turns back to Mina with her mouth wide open.

MINA

So...it's A little bigger than I thought.

Lainey gives her a look. The two walk inside.

LAINEY

Who the hell are you dating?

They both look at a banner on one wall that says "YOU HELP US SLEEP EASIER". Images of a woman on her side sleeping peacefully are plastered tastefully as decoration.

LAINEY (CONT'D)

Wait. Sleep Easy? What does your guy do?

MINA

He funds like, the app I guess. It's cool, it's for women -

LARS

Hi.

LARS GREER, 33, reaches out his hand, and after a pause Lainey greets his handshake.

LAINY

H-hi.

LARS

I'm so happy you brought a friend.

MINA

Oh, I just didn't want to be alone.

Lars looks at Lainey.

LARS

Can I steal her for a sec?

Lainey nods eagerly and walks away. Lars turns to Mina.

LARS (CONT'D)

Hi, you.

He leans in for a kiss but Mina backs away.

MINA

Sorry, I just - don't really like public displays of affection.

Lars looks hurt but brushes it off. He smiles widely.

LARS

I'm so glad you came.

MINA

Yeah, of course. Are you a big deal or something? I feel like I'm missing out on information. It's so fancy here.

LARS

Nah, I'm just a part of something really great. Have you downloaded the app yet?

MINA

Truthfully, no. It feels dystopic. People watching? Tracking your friends? I don't know.

She laughs awkwardly.

LARS

Oh, come on. You never know. It's scary out here for women.

MINA

(shrugging)

Yeah, I guess you're right.

LARS

Will you come with me to the afterparty?

MINA

I don't know. I sleep pretty early, I might even head out of here soon.

She yawns to prove her point. Lars's eyebrows twitch.

LARS

Is there a problem?

MINA

No, no. We can talk later. Go, network or whatever.

Lars laughs too loudly.

LARS

You're funny.

He tucks her hair behind her ears.

LARS (CONT'D)

Gorgeous.

Lars walks off. Mina makes a face and untucks her hair. Mina finally scans the crowd, looking for Lainey. Lainey nowhere in sight, Mina heads toward the stocked catering table.

Mina walks over and surveys the platters, finally settling on the closest thing to a kebab. Suddenly notices another Indian woman, SAMIYA, hurriedly grabbing food beside her.

MINA

Two's a crowd, huh?

SAMIYA

Excuse me?

MINA

Oh, just like, there's only two of us here.

Samiya stares at her.

SAMIYA

Two of who?

MINA

Of us. Women of color.

SAMIYA

Okay. Well, I'm not your "us". I'm with them.

MINA

Who?

Mina turns back to see a handful of protestors outside of the venue holding signs, faces covered and voices muffled.

MINA (CONT'D)

Holy crap. Why?

SAMIYA

What do you mean why? Have you looked up Sleep Easy? An app for the safety of women entirely funded and controlled by a man? Algorithms made by people don't act on their own.

MINA

Then what are you doing here?

SAMIYA

I'm stocking up.

She points to her bag.

SAMIYA (CONT'D)

We're women of color, right? So you won't tell.

Samiya turns to leave, but slowly turns back around.

SAMIYA (CONT'D)

You'd be better off with us out there. No chance of being tracked.

MINA

Well, it's pretty complicated, I -

Tia gives her a dirty look and turns to go. Mina blushes and grabs a drink.

Lainey rushes up to Mina and grabs her arm. Mina turns around in surprise.

LAINNEY

Mina, that's Lars Greer. You're dating Lars Greer!

MINA

Well, we've been on two dates, we're not dating. Who knows if we'll even keep -

LAINNEY

It doesn't matter. You're set. He's a 30 under 30. Or 35 under 35. I can't keep track. You've got it. And you don't even know it.

MINA

You can have him, honestly, I have no -

LAINNEY

Holy shit, wait they're talking.

Lainey and Mina head over to a podium with the rest of the crowd, where ELIZA SWEENEY is poised to give a speech.

ELIZA

When my teammates and I were approached to create Sleep Easy, we were thrilled to be creating an app for women by women. Why is it that we have an app for almost anything except keeping women safe? Since we launched, we've had over one million downloads and so many success stories. We couldn't have done it without a powerful team of feminists. Now, I'm going to give it up to the mastermind of it all in lieu of our big announcement.

Lars walks across the stage.

LARS

Thank you so much, Eliza, and it's a pleasure working with you. I just, once again, want to reiterate the awe I feel working with these powerful women. Queens, you could say.

Mina rolls her eyes at Lainey.

LARS (CONT'D)

But today is about taking this app to new heights. Keeping women safe not only on the streets, but in their homes.

Someone projects a security camera behind him. The crowd begins to mumble.

LARS (CONT'D)

We're still in the middle of testing out these bad boys - in order to catch the bad boys.

The crowd laughs.

LARS (CONT'D)

A few lucky members of the audience will receive some in the mail. Come be part of the future. Sleep easier.

He leaves the podium and the crowd cheers. Mina turns to Lainey.

MINA

A security camera? Connected to the app?

LAINNEY

I guess! That shit is probably so expensive.

MINA

Makes the people watching easier.

LAINNEY

Don't be weird. It's for a good cause.

Mina pulls out her phone and searches up Sleep Easy. The description states:

Sleep Easy's neural network sends immediate text notifications and GPS tracking information to contacts of choice once alerted by the user. With the security camera add-on, Sleep Easy can bring you protection to the comfort of your own home. If you're in an immediate emergency, please call 911.

Mina hesitates and then downloads the app.

EXT. ART GALLERY - NIGHT

Mina and Lainey slowly walks past the group of protestors, who are still chanting. She sees signs that say STOP SELLING OUR DATA, FACIAL RECOGNITION IS RACIST - WHO ARE WE TARGETING, and WOMEN'S SAFETY ISN'T FOR BIG BUSINESS.

Mina makes eye contact with Samiya, now fully masked in a red bandana. She opens her mouth but Samiya makes a cutthroat gesture, holding her gaze for another second before Mina looks away.

Mina's phone lights up.

LARS (TEXT)
Lunch tomorrow?

Mina doesn't look back.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mina and Lainey sit next to each other on the sofa, sipping wine out of their glasses.

MINA
So what's the deal with Lars?

LAINY
What do you mean?

MINA
Like, he's 30 under 30 or whatever.
What's his rep?

LAINY
Well, you know, he's family money.
So he invested in a couple of apps
that are doing quite well. Why?

MINA
Just wondering.

LAINY
Trying to secure your future?

Lainey winks.

MINA
What apps has he invested in?

LAINY

Oh, um, this Waze-type app for directions, this babysitter near you thing, stuff like that. Shit everyone uses.

MINA

Oh. Okay. So he has all these apps where people's locations are tracked.

Lainey shrugs nonchalantly.

LAINY

I guess.

EXT. RESTAURANT - OUTDOORS

Mina and Lars sit across from each other at an outdoor table, an umbrella covering them both. Mina takes a chip from a bowl in front of them.

MINA

So, you didn't tell me anything about yourself! I didn't know you were this fancy, Forbes, AI guy.

LARS

AI guy, I'll use that.

MINA

So what's the deal? Are you hiding something?

LARS

No, no. I just don't like to tell that to people I date anymore. Sometimes they get ideas.

MINA

Like what?

LARS

Like, I'm easy money. You're with me and settled for life.

MINA

Wow, great outlook on women. So why this app? Why women?

LARS

Well, women because I'm straight.

Lars laughs, and Mina stares.

LARS (CONT'D)

That was a joke. Um, I guess, I had a good friend in college who was sexually assaulted on campus. There was no way to find out anything about who did it, or what could be done, because there really wasn't any evidence.

MINA

Oh. That really sucks.

LARS

Yeah. She's one of the women on the team. I won't say who, but, yeah.

MINA

So you're thinking, with the whole camera thing, that people could turn that in as evidence and, get some relief?

LARS

Sure. I've been experimenting with this for so long, and it's really cool, Mina. It can send tapes straight to the police if it senses something unusual - no questions asked.

MINA

That sounds - that's a lot of power.

LARS

Oh, come on. I'm not the boogeyman. I would think you'd be extra grateful for that, you know, as a woman of color.

MINA

What is that supposed to mean?

Lars lets out a sigh and shakes his head.

LARS

Sorry, I'm sorry! Don't know where to draw the line sometimes. Anyway, you - you look amazing today.

He takes his finger and runs it up Mina's arm. Mina snaps her arm back.

LARS (CONT'D)

Why do I feel like this is our last date?

Mina looks away, saying nothing.

INT. MINA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Mina works away ferociously on her laptop. Suddenly, her phone buzzes and Mina reaches around the sofa to pick it up.

MINA

Hello?

LAINY

Mina, I'm gonna shit my pants. I'm so excited. Guess what came in the mail today!

MINA

What?

LAINY

A security camera! From Sleep Easy! For free!

MINA

Oh, God. Lainey. This is weird. Why would he send it to you? This is because of how I was yesterday.

LAINY

Wow, way to make it about you.

MINA

No, ugh, I didn't - look, I'm coming over. Don't open it yet.

Mina hangs up and grabs her keys.

INT. LAINY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Lainey sits next to the unopened box as Mina approaches it cautiously. Lainey is beside herself with excitement.

LAINY

I'm so excited. I'm going to be a part of history.

MINA

Lainey. This is really creepy.

LAINY

Oh come on! I just get to try it out, and report back to them. Or, I guess the camera does. Because it's fancy or whatever.

MINA

Well, I guess you can't smoke weed outside anymore.

LAINY

I'm not gonna keep it on all the time. Just, like, at night, or when I bring a guy over.

Mina looks at her, shaking her head.

LAINY (CONT'D)

You know, this would be a lot cooler if you weren't so fucking cynical. Okay, so what if I got this because your connections? So what if you think it's weird? So many people have security cameras, and I bet you they thank God for it. It's not the same for you, you've never been harmed in your life. I'm not fucking giving you one and forcing you to do it. This is saving me a lot of money and maybe my life too, who knows?

Mina sighs.

MINA

I'm sorry. I'm just worried about something so personal in your house, you don't even know the creator really and ... okay, forget it, I'm sorry. I'll help you install it, if you want?

Lainey perks up again.

LAINY

I'm so glad you offered, I cannot possibly reach.

Mina smiles, setting down her bag and keys to pick up the package.

EXT. LAINEY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Mina stands on a stool, drilling in the last screw for the camera. Lainey stands below, looking up at her.

MINA
Okay, done.

Mina gets down from the stool and cocks her head.

MINA (CONT'D)
Looks kinda wonky.

LAINEY
Whatever. As long as it catches the bad guy. Hey, you wanna go out somewhere for dinner?

MINA
I would, but I have some leftovers and really don't wanna spend money like that right now.

Mina makes a sad face.

LAINEY
Okay, I get it. Here's to you and your day old pasta!

They hug, and Mina leaves.

INT. MINA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mina walks down the hall to her door, and then searches in her bag for her keys. She searches for a while.

MINA
What the hell?

Mina pats her pockets and then stops, throwing her head back.

MINA (CONT'D)
Fuck!

INT. LAINEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mina knocks at Lainey's door.

MINA
Please be home, please be home.

Mina looks back at her phone, which shows 14 missed calls to Lainey's phone.

MINA (CONT'D)
LAINNEY!!!

She looks behind her, and a neighbor is staring. Mina mouths sorry.

MINA (CONT'D)
Shit, shit, shit. Wait.

Mina opens her eyes wide and looks at the pot on Lainey's windowsill. Gingerly picking it up, she spots a spare key underneath it.

MINA (CONT'D)
Oh, thank God. Lainey, you genius.

Mina uses the key to get inside the apartment.

INT. LAINNEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mina walks in, tip-toeing. She goes to the bedroom and flips on the lights, but Lainey isn't home yet.

Mina walks over to the kitchen and finds her keys still on the dining table.

MINA
There you are, you dangly pieces of
shit.

Mina goes to leave, but then opens the fridge out of curiosity.

MINA (CONT'D)
I knew she still had some brownies
left!

Mina takes out a plate for the treat, and sets it in the microwave, taking her sweet time.

EXT. LAINNEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mina leaves her apartment, licking her fingers. She sets the keys back under the pot and walks back to her car.

INT. MINA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mina lies down on her couch, watching puppy videos. Suddenly, she gets three loud knocks on her door. Mina sits up straight and looks at the door tentatively.

OFFICER #1:
Open up! This is Austin PD!

Mina's eyes widen. She looks at her keys in horror.

OFFICER #2:
Open up right now or we are coming
in!

Mina rushes to the door and swings it open.

MINA
Oh, God, I can explain -

OFFICER #1
Mina Usmani, otherwise known as
Samiya Roy?

MINA
Wait what?

OFFICER #1
You're under arrest.

The officers approach her and turn her around to handcuff Mina.

MINA
Wait, Samiya Roy? Who's Samiya Roy?

Mina tries to turn back, struggling against their grasp.

OFFICER #2
You have the right to remain silent
...

MINA
I'm not Samiya Roy! What is this
for?

OFFICER #2:
Ma'am! We have verified video and
photographic evidence of you
trespassing and conspiring a crime.
Do not resist or this will get
ugly.

Their words fade into the background as the officers escort Mina into the squad car, while she grunts and attempts to wrestle away.

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING

Samiya sits down at her dining table, blowing on a cup of coffee to cool it down. She pulls out her phone to check the news, and sees the headline:

AUSTIN PROTESTOR APPREHENDED FOR
BREAKING AND ENTERING INTO A DEL
RIO APARTMENT

Her eyes widen and she clicks on the article and scrolls.

SAMIYA

(under her breath)

Mina Usmani, 24, was arrested at 11:47 p.m. on July 26th for, breaking and entering the Del Rio apartment complex. Authorities had previously been looking for her under the pseudonym "Samiya Roy" found, for trespassing at Sleep Easy launch party protest last week. Law enforcement was able to use video and facial recognition technology from the app Sleep Easy through self-installed security cameras.

Lars Freedman, who created the app to safeguard women, defends the decision to share data with the police. He says they plan to report all suspicious activity in order to continue keeping women safe. This has become one of many instances in which facial recognition technology has aided the police in solving cases of crime, and with its many successes, we will continue to see this method in use for future investigations.

Samiya looks at her phone in horror, and searches up a picture of Mina. Besides skin tone, they look nothing alike.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Mina lies on a rough bench-like fixture and looks up into the corner of a ceiling. A security camera stares at her. She stares back.

THE END