

SECURITY

Husband and Wife in a nicely decorated, professional apartment. They stand at the doorway, the wife about to leave.

Husband: So the table's booked for eight?

Wife: I hope so.

Husband: Well I can't wait baby.

He kisses her.

Husband: Have a good day at work.

Wife: What are you going to do today?

Husband: Oh, I've got a few things that need sorting out.

Wife: Ok. Well, take care. Love you.

She pinches his cheek and looks deep into his eyes and then leaves. The man shuts the door behind him and goes to the kitchen to make himself a cup of coffee. While waiting for the kettle to boil he starts to hum the theme tune to 'Dads Army'. Once he has poured his drink, he returns to the lounge. He goes to a drawer and pulls out a bank statement, looks over it and sits down next to the phone. He dials a number. And waits. We hear the message that there is a cue and the theme tune to 'Dads Army' is the waiting music. This makes the man chuckle. After the first two lines of the song, a Customer Service advisor comes onto the line.

Woman: Customer Services. How may I help you?

Husband: Oh. That was quick. Could I just have the balance of my account please.

Woman: Certainly. We just need to go through a few security procedures first. Can I have your account number?

Husband: Yes, it's 78452169.

Woman: Thank you.

Sound of keys tapping

Woman: And could I have that in French?

Husband: Sorry?

Woman: In French if you don't mind, sir.

Husband: Erm...Sept - Huit - Quatre...is this really necessary?

Woman: Did you take a French degree?

Husband: No.

Woman: Thank you, that's all I wanted to know. Can I have your Mother's maiden name now please sir?

Husband: Yes. It's Hansen.

Woman: And could you spell that for me?

Husband: Yes. H-a-n-s-e-n.

Woman: Thank you. Bear with my one moment while your details load up.

Pause

Woman: OK. So when did your Mother loose her virginity?

Husband: Sorry?

Woman: Her virginity, sir. When did she lose it?

Husband: What the HELL has that got to do with you?!?

Woman: Just procedures sir. Now if you could answer the question I can give you your bank details.

Husband: Well I don't know and frankly I wouldn't tell you if I did. This is outrageous!

Woman: Let's try another avenue then...

Husband: NO! Just give me my bank balance!

Woman: But security sir...

Husband: Sod security because it's obviously me! David Templeton, 78452169, born on the 25th of April 1968. Now give me my balance!!!

Pause

Woman: When did your wife first cheat on you?

Pause

Woman: Hello?

Pause

Woman: Mr Templeton?

Pause

Husband: How dare you...

There is silence. The phone clicks and the first line of 'Dads Army' can be heard. Then it clicks back.

Husband: How much information have you got on me?

Woman: Oh I can't reveal that sir. Security. You might not be who you say you are.

Husband: And if I answer your question you'll give me my balance?

Woman: Of course.

Pause

Husband: (*Wearily*) It was three years ago.

Woman: With whom?

Husband: FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!

Woman: The quicker this is over with, the better.

Pause

Husband: My brother.

Woman: Three years ago?

Husband: (*Barely audible*) Yes.

Woman: Let me just check those details.

Pause

Woman: I'm sorry sir, but that does not match with our records. I can't tell you why for security reasons...

Husband: What?!?

Woman: ...but I can tell you it was a lot longer ago than that. I am sorry.

Husband: Tell me when it was.

Woman: I can't.

Husband: Tell me!

Woman: Sorry sir...

Husband: TELL ME BEFORE I RIP YOUR FUCKING HEAD OFF!

Woman: Thank you for using this Telephone Information Service. If you experienced any difficulties...

Husband: TELL ME YOU EVIL FUCKING SCUMBAG!!!

Woman: Are there any other queries?

The man is in tears

Woman: 78452169. Anything else?

Pause

Husband: *(Vacantly)* Do you enjoy your job?

Woman: Thank you for using this service.

She disconnects.

The man sobs into the phone. He pulls back and stares into the receiver. He holds the phone up to his head and shoots himself dead.

End

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