

Snak-o-maniac

By

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FADE IN:

1 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

1

CHESTER(20s), clean cut and wearing a nice suit, sits in front of his girlfriend, AMY (20s). It's date night: the table is set for two with candles and a vase of roses in the center.

CHESTER  
(incredulously)  
What?!

AMY  
You heard me. If you don't bring me  
Flaming Hot Cheetos, I *will* break  
up with you.

CHESTER  
But-- Babe, that's crazy! You're  
acting crazy!

AMY  
I have needs, Chester!

CHESTER  
Jesus, babe, you can't be serious.

AMY  
(deliberately)  
Don't test me.

Chester stares disbelievingly at Amy. Resigned, he sighs.

2 EXT. IN FRONT OF APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

2

Chester steps out of a dirty, florescent-lit lobby. He zips a light jacket over his formal wear as he mutters curses under his breath. He looks ridiculous.

Chester marches past a VENDING MACHINE and down the littered city street.

3 INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - LATER

3

Chester stands in front of a tired CLERK in a well-used convenience store. Chester impatiently taps his feet.

CLERK  
I'm sorry, sir, we don't stock  
Cheetos.

4 INT. GROCERY STORE - LATER 4

Chester stands just as before, now in front of a tired CASHIER in a well-used grocery store.

CASHIER  
We're all sold out.

5 INT. GAS STATION - LATER 5

Chester stands just as before, now in front of a tired TEENAGE WORKER in a well-used gas station store.

TEENAGE WORKER  
I've never heard of Cheetos.

6 INT. LAUNDROMAT - LATER 6

Chester now stands in front of a tired LAUNDROMAT CLERK.

LAUNDROMAT CLERK  
(slowly)  
Sir, this is a laundromat.

7 EXT. IN FRONT OF APARTMENT - LATER 7

Slouching and disheveled, a defeated Chester shuffles back towards the front doors of his apartment building. He looks up at his window far above and sighs.

He reaches the door handle and grabs it. Just as he is about to pull the door open, something catches his eye: the vending machine, pushed inconspicuously in an alleyway by the building.

Chester cautiously approaches the machine. It's old and rusty. A sign above the scratched and smudged plastic window declares the machine the "SNAK-O-MATIC." In the top right corner of the machine's snack area: a bag of Flaming Hot Cheetos, priced clearly at \$1.00.

Chester's eyes widen. He hastily takes out his wallet and dumps the contents into his hand. He has two old and very wrinkled DOLLAR BILLS and a handful of QUARTERS.

Chester looks back at the machine. The Snak-o-Matic only has a dollar bill reader. Beneath the reader: a posted sign that says "CAUTION: I ONLY TAKE CRISP BILLS."

Chester smiles and sticks his dollar bill into the machine. The dollar bill is slowly reeled into the machine with a troubling CLANKING noise, like a ratchet clicking. A beat, then a heavy WHIRRING, and the machine spits the bill back into Chester's hand.

(CONTINUED)

Chester quickly flips the bill over and sticks it back into the machine. Another beat, and the bill come right back out.

Chester tries the other bill. Same effect: the bill goes in, a beat, and the bill comes out.

Frustrated, Chester rubs the bill over the corner of the vending machine to smooth it out. He carefully and slowly feeds the bill into the machine. A long beat. The machine clicks and-- the bill come back out.

8

INT.IN FRONT OF APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

8

Chester stamps on his dollar bill in anger. He picks up the bill and inspects it from the side. It looks thin enough. Chester nods satisfactorily and turns to the vending machine. The Snak-o-Matic looms darkly over him.

Chester tries the bill. The machine spits the bill back out. Chester violently exhales. Crazy-eyed, he spins and looks at the street.

9

INT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

9

A CAR rushes past, clinking over a manhole cover in the road with its tires. Chester stares at the manhole and nods.

Carefully, he walks into the middle of the road. In the distance, two truck headlights crest a hill. They're headed towards Chester. Chester carefully puts the dollar bill down on the manhole cover. He runs back to the side of the road and watches.

The oncoming TRUCK rumbles down the street and directly towards the dollar bill. A half-second, and the truck drives directly over the bill, five large and heavy tires pressing down on the manhole cover. The truck passes.

Excited, Chester runs to the manhole to grab his newly-flattened bill and--

The bill is gone. Chester gapes.

10

INT. LAUNDROMAT - LATER

10

Chester leans in front of a whirring dryer, his foot tapping impatiently. In the dryer: his remaining dollar.

11 EXT. IN FRONT OF APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER 11

Chester tries the bill. The vending machine spits it back out.

Chester crumbles the bill angrily and throws it at the machine. Nothing happens.

Chester drops to a crouch, head in his hands. Suddenly, he has a thought. He grabs his wallet and takes out a credit card.

Standing, he carefully pushes the card into the dollar bill reader. The card goes in. Then-- nothing. The card doesn't come back out. Chester gawks at the machine.

12 EXT. IN FRONT OF APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER 12

Chester sits on the ground with his back to the vending machine. He's making a call on his cell phone.

CHESTER  
(to phone)  
Hey, Vincent? Vinnie? Hey man!  
Look, I need to call in a favor--

A dial tone. Vincent's hung up.

CHESTER  
Vincent? Vinnie? Vinnie? Vinnie?  
(beat)  
Vinnie?

13 EXT. IN FRONT OF APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER 13

Chester, now on his knees, tries to stick his arm up into the machine through the flap at the bottom. His arm won't fit.

Chester stands and pounds the side of the Snak-o-Matic repeatedly, each hit more violent and angry than the last.

CHESTER  
(with each hit)  
Damn-- you-- damn-- you-- damn--  
you--

A posh ELDERLY WOMAN in a fur coat and walking a posh dog slowly walks past, glaring at Chester. Chester notices and awkwardly smiles, waves, and leans on the machine.

14

EXT. IN FRONT OF APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

14

Chester stands in front of the Snak-o-Matic, now holding a heavy and jagged ROCK in his hand. He looks up and down the street. No one's in sight. Chester backs up and takes a deep breath.

He hurls the rock at the plastic window of the machine. The rock bounces off. Chester looks closer. The rock hasn't even left a scratch.

Fifteen feet away, a MAN walks out of the front doors of the apartment building. In his hand is an open BAG of Flaming Hot Cheetos. The man casually eats some chips and strolls past the near-delirious Chester.

Chester eyes the man, then eyes the jagged rock on the ground in front of the vending machine. Chester eyes the man again, then the rock. Confused, the man stares back at Chester and slowly pops a Cheeto in his mouth.

15

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

15

Amy sits at the table, lazily texting on her phone. She hears a KNOCK at the door.

She crosses the room and opens the door to the apartment. Standing with his coat unzipped, his tie untied, his hair disheveled, and an opened bag of Flaming Hot Cheetos in his hand is Chester.

Chester holds out the bags of chips.

CHESTER  
I got you Cheetos.

FADE OUT.