Spies "Like" Us

Ву

Jim Skrable

EXT. CUL-DE-SAC IN A SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD. DAY

An old, beat up landscaping van is parked in a cul-de-sac. The antenna of the van can be seen rotating towards a specific house

INT. THE SURVEILLANCE VAN. DAY

Inside the van, Jack (40's) and Jim (20's) sit amongst high tech surveillance equipment. Both wear large headphones and look intently at computers. Jim peers into the periscope which is hidden in the antenna and focuses on the house, where a couple (Rodney and Ann, 30's) can be seen through the front window. They're standing at the kitchen island on laptops. We hear their voices through Jim/Jack's headphones, who're listening via the couple's Amazon "Alexa"

RODNEY

What should we do tonight?

ANN

I'm not sure, want to order some food and watch a movie?

RODNEY

Yeah, sounds good.

(in a hurried tone)
I get the chaise though!

ANN

Fine. What movie should we watch? (to the Alexa)

Hey Alexa, what's a popular movie we should watch?

In the van Jack turns to Jim, nods, then speaks into a microphone. His voice comes through the couple's Alexa, in the Alexa voice

JACK

(as Alexa)

"Angels in the Outfield." It's the story of christ's impact on baseball.

Rodney is confused and turns to Ann

RODNEY

Isn't that movie super old? I don't want to watch that.

(to Alexa)

Alexa, what's a NEW movie we should watch?

JACK

(as Alexa)

There's a refurbished version of "Angels in the Outfield," in stunning 4d. Would you like to rent now for \$10.99?

RODNEY

NO! What's going on!? Please suggest something other than Angels in the Outfield

**JACK** 

(as Alexa)

Angels in the Outfield 2....

RODNEY

Forget it! We'll figure it out without you.

Back in the van Jim has been watching Jack intently. Jack shrugs and turns to Jim.

JIM

(to Jack)

Why'd you want them to watch "Angels in the Outfield"? I thought we're supposed to be strictly surveilling them for now.

JACK

We are. But when I first started with "The Company" we did a job for the studio to help get that movie exposure. I still see some commission when people watch it

.TTM

Cool! I love that movie. I'd love to get a part in a sports movie someday. Why aren't actors capable of throwing something without looking handicapped?

(pause)

I'm an actor, by the way

JACK

You are? I haven't seen you in anything.

How'd you get this job for "The Company" if you're some aspiring actor? I did 20 years with special forces and the intelligence services before I got this job

JIM

(nonchalantly)
Oh, I just applied online.

JACK

What!? I have a level 3 security clearance. My last mission was extracting data for the election!

JIM

I mean, I did have to lie on my resume a bit. And I had a couple guys from my acting class pretend to be spies for my reference calls. But everyone lies on their resume. Besides, I only applied because I got tricked by the job posting. Cause espionage sounds a lot like Entourage

(he phonetically sounds out the words espionage and entourage)

And that's my favorite show so I thought this job might have an acting component. But I'm totally down for this spying stuff. I love the Bond movies

Jack shakes his head in disbelief

JACK

I don't believe this. What a nightmare. Well, if you fuck this mission up I'm getting you fired immediately.

JIM

Yeah sure, whatever. What is this mission anyway?

Jim motions towards Rodney/Ann's house

JIM

These people seem super normal and boring.

Unfortunately, these days we do most of our spying on average people like these two. Their data is worth more than some foiled terror plot

Jack looks longingly out the window before continuing

Can't just spy on the muslims anymore...So, the mission- We need to get this couple fat. "The Company" rolls out a new weight loss supplement next week and we need this community to be extra thick when it debuts. These two haven't taken to the usual data tricks, so we need to get our hands dirty and plump them up ourselves.

JIM

Dude, that's fucked up! We young people actually take our health and wellness really serious.

Jim stops talking to flex his biceps for Jack

We might ruin their lives! And it's gonna be tough. These two diet and exercise forsure, everyone does.

He looks Jack up and down then makes a disappointed face

Well, maybe not everyone.

**JACK** 

What the fuck are you looking at? Sorry I'm not up to date on the trendiest diet, I've been busy protecting our country for the last 20 years. Anyway,we'll be fine. We have the resources

He nods at the plethora of surveillance equipment they have in the van

And was that a flex just now? I think you forgot your biceps at home.

JIM

(offended)

Whatever. At least I don't look like I've had a cigarette for breakfast for the last 30 years.

(laughs)

You don't know a thing about me, son. Lets focus. First things first, we'll have them order pizza tonight. That should get the ball rolling.

Jack motions towards the computer

Start with their social media. We want this to be quick.

Jim nods in acknowledgment, then gets to work. He quickly puts together a targeted pizza advertisement to Rodney's social media.

Back in the house, Rodney is looking at his laptop

RODNEY

(complaining)

I don't wanna pick. I always pick and you never like the movie!

Rodney sees the pizza advertisement on his social media

What about getting a pizza tonight? We never have a cheat meal and pizza goes great with a movie.

ANN

Ew, no. That's gross and you get all sweaty when you eat cheese

RODNEY

Ok, you're right. Let's find something healthy

Jim shakes his head in frustration. He furrows his brown then leans into his computer and puts together a cute picture of a dog with a pizza in front of it. He sends the targeted ad to Rodney's socials. Rodney see's the ad and throws up his hands.

RODNEY

Ok, this is ridiculous!

(jokingly)

Alexa, stop listening to us please (then, making a distressed

face at Ann)

Should we just get pizza? That's a handsome dog and pizza does sound good

ANN

No! I don't feel like pizza tonight

RODNEY

You're right. Let's eat healthy. I'm not one of those weak minded morons who falls for this shit.

In the van Jim is deep in thought trying to figure this out.

JACK

Come on son, figure it out..

Jim thinks, then puts together a picture of Instagram "Butt Models" with pizza all over them as they twerk. Rodney is still seen through the window scrolling on his laptop. He gets to the pizza/insta model twerking video. He slams his laptop shut

RODNEY

(shouting angrily) Ok, what the fuck!!!

Rodney aggressively grabs his phone and dials.

Yeah, I need two large pizzas for delivery! Of course I want extra cheese!! Thank you!!

In the van Jack smiles and nods at Jim approvingly. Jack looks back at a message which has appeared on his computer

JACK

You think you can handle this pizza delivery?

JIM

(condescendingly)
Uh, yeah. I'm an actor, dude. Of course I can do a pizza boy.

JACK

You keep saying that, but I've never seen you in anything and you wouldn't have applied here if you were working much. What've you done?

JIM

(defensively)

You must not watch much TV. I'm the face of this huge commercial campaign right now. It's for an "athletes foot" cream.

I play this Olympian who uses the cream and wins gold. It's everywhere.

JACK

(mockingly)

I can't believe I missed that one. How about you concentrate on our job here and worry about your budding acting career in your free time?

JIM

Whatever. Just let me do the pizza boy thing so we can get home for the day.

**JACK** 

Fine, but we need to do a trial run first. I need to make sure you're not going to fuck this up

EXT. ALLEYWAY. DAY

The van is parked in an alleyway. Jim stands at the back of the van in a pizza boy outfit that's too small. He's wearing a fake mustache. Jack stands at the opposite end of the alley.

JACK

Ok, you look like a moron. But let's do this practice run anyway. Just come up to me, knock on the door, do the delivery and get back to the van

JIM

(bored)

Okkk

Jim holds the box by his crotch like they do in "Big Sausage Pizza" Pornos and saunters up to Jack.

JACK

What are you doing!? Why are you holding it like that

JIM

(frustratingly)

Well, if you must know I inadvertently did some research for this role last night. If you had let me continue it would've been obvious why I'm holding it like this

Jim does the move where you unfurl your arm with your elbow by your crotch and starts mimicking sex moves.

JACK

Are you serious? How are you functioning in the world with this brain? Do it normally!! And take off that mustache, it's clearly fake!

JIM

(disappointingly)

Fine, I'll do it your way. Lets go.

They get back in the van and start driving to Rodney/Ann's house

INT. THE VAN. NIGHT

In Tim/Ann's cul-de-sac, inside the van, Jack sits and waits for Jim who's dropping off the pizza at the house. After some time, Jim enters the van

**JACK** 

Well, how'd it go?

JIM

Boring. I did it normal (does air quotes when he says normal)

There's noise coming from one of the speakers in the van. They realize they're still listening in on the couple

ANN

That new pizza delivery guy was really cute.

RODNEY

(calling to Ann from the couch)

You're missing it! Jesus just sent down the Angels to help Joseph Gordon Levitt!!

Jim looks over at Jack, raises his eyebrows, smiles, and turns his head in an "I told you so" type of way

JIM

That's EXACTLY the type of shit that would happen in one of the videos. If you'd have just let me...

Whatever, kid. You managed not to fuck this up yet. Let's head home for the day and regroup tomorrow. I need you to drop me off.

They drive away

EXT. A GRAVEL LOT NEAR A BRIDGE. NIGHT

The van is pulling into a gravel lot near a bridge. What looks like a colony of homeless people are under the bridge.

JIM

You heard what they said before, right? Pizza was a cheat meal for them. I told you they'd be on a diet..everyone is. How are we going to get them to change all of a sudden?

JACK

I'm not worried about that. You idiot young people follow whatever the attractive people on the internet do. It's the blind leading the blind.

Jim looks around and notices the homeless people under the bridge. He's getting curious and skeptical.

JIM

Uh, you live here? With these homeless people? Under this bridge?

JACK

Yes I do, son. You work for "The Company" long enough, you'll live here too. Once i realized there's no privacy in this data-driven world I chose to get off the grid and live amongst the homeless and vagrants. These type of people haven't changed since medieval times.

As Jim is about to answer Jack, an old homeless man storms up to the van angrily

HOMELESS MAN

What the fuck, Jack? Stop feeding the pigeons so much, they're already too fat!

They need to eat! What do you care!?

HOMELESS GUY

How dare you! You know I'm on a low fat diet right now. I have that date next week!

JIM

(to Jack)

Told you! Even this guy is on a fucking diet!

JACK

(ignoring Jim, talking to homeless guy) What are you talking about!? I saw

you eating cheese out of the dumpster yesterday!

HOMELESS GUY

(condescendingly)

I started it today! Just stop feeding them. I'm making pot pie for dinner and I want the meat lean!

JACK

They're not going to get skinny by tonight, you idiot! It's too late!

HOMELESS GUY

Fuck you! I'm gonna make them do physical fitness until they lose the weight!

JIM

(amused, to Jack)

So that's your roommate, huh?

**JACK** 

(annoyed)

Just pick me up here 08 hundred tomorrow, ok. Get lost

As Jim drives away, we hear Jack/homeless guy arguing about the pigeon meat

JACK

You know the rest of us are keto. Just trim off the fat

HOMELESS GUY

(MOCKINGLY)

Yeah! I'll just trim off the fat.

And lose all the fucking flavor. Do you even think before you speak?

EXT. MAIN STREET. DAY

The van is parked on a main street full of shops, restaurants, etc. Inside the van, Jim/Jack sit at the surveillance stations

INT. THE VAN. DAY

JIM

Ok, what's on the agenda today, boss?

Jack is looking at his computer where a red dot flashes on a map. He's tracking Ann

JACK

We're tracking the girl

Ann is walking down main street in yoga clothes carrying a yoga mat

**JACK** 

Looks like she's headed to yoga class. You'll need to follow her in there. The better we know their weight loss habits the easier it will be to break them

JIM

I should warn you, if i'm going to be following people in public, there's a good chance i'll get recognized from my commercial. Won't that blow our cover?

JACK

I'm actually not worried about that at all. You won't shut about this commercial. Did you even have a line?

JIM

Not technically. But before my character raises his gold medal I did a nod, smile, and wink thing. And i nailed it. People don't forget that kind of charisma

Jack stares blankly at Jim, who makes eye contact with him and does the nod, smile, wink move from his commercial while holding up a pretend gold medal.

JACK

Fine, you can put on a disguise if you promise to shut up about the commercial. Just get ready to follow her, please.

Jim excitedly puts on a wig and fake beard. Jack remains in the van while Jim jumps out to begin tailing Ann. While walking away from the van Jim puts in a tiny earpiece which they'll use for communication

JACK

Ok, follow her. Remember to keep a low profile and blend in. When you can-do something to add calories to anything she consumes.

They see Ann walk into a coffee shop. Jim hurries across the street and follows.

JIM

(talking to his watch)
She went into the coffee shop. I'm
following. I'm on her rear.

**JACK** 

Why did you just talk to your watch? The microphone is in the earpiece. This isn't James Bond.

JIM

I wish this was James Bond. Then you'd be a busty foreign girl and I'd be ten drinks deep.

INT. COFFEE SHOP. DAY

Jim enters the coffee shop. It's an over the top trendy, hippy type place. There's poetry reading in the background. Employees and patrons all fit the mold

JIM

(nervously whispering)
Dude, I'm gonna blow my cover in
here. I look like a complete nark

The patrons eye Jim suspiciosuly

Stay calm. Just blend in. Order something trendy

JIM

Right.

Jim nervously walks up to the counter to order

.TTM

I'll have a coffee

There's a pause as the patrons hear him order and look up suspiciously. Jim's getting more nervous and questioning his order

JIM

Black...

There's a longer pause. The patrons get more suspicious as black coffee is a total nark order. Jim starts to look panicked. Suddenly he has an idea and confidently finishes the order

JIM

Which is the same color as MY WIFE..

The patrons think about it for a second, then nod approvingly at Jim's interracial marriage. Jim lets out an exhale and takes his coffee. Jim sees Ann at the other counter where you add toppings/milk. Jim walks over and pretends to be adding cream while watching Ann. When she turns away to talk to someone..

JACK

Ok, now's your chance. Add some calories to her drink

Jim dramatically switches the label on the almond milk with the whole milk one. Ann refocuses on her coffee and adds the whole milk, which she thinks is Almond Milk. Jim does a fist pump.

JACK

Are you serious, that's it? Whole milk instead of almond? You atleast could have done the heavy cream.

JIM

I'm trying to make her gain weight, not kill her. Heavy cream, are you nuts?

(shaking his head)
Well, that's not enough. We need
more cals in that woman asap

Ann starts walking out of the coffee shop. Near the exit is a basket full of strawberries with a sign indicating they're free. Ann walks past the basket with Jim following. Jim notices a kid walk by with a "Hulk Hand" on. He grabs it and puts it behind his back before calling to Ann.

JIM

(to Ann)

Hey! You passed the free strawberries. You want a handful for the road? Come onnn, they're free!

ANN

Yeah, I guess. Thanks

Ann holds out her hands for the strawberries. Jim pulls out the "Hulk Hand" from behind his back, puts it on and uses it to grab an absurdly massive handful of strawberries. He clumsily dumps them into Ann's outstretched hands

ANN

Are you serious? I don't want all these

JIM

Sorry, you touched them. You have to eat them now. It would be gross to put them back

ANN

(annoyed)

Whatever. Fine

Ann starts eating the strawberries and walks off. Jim watches her walk away, happy with himself

JACK

(sarcastically)

Way to keep a low profile in there.

Jim starts following Ann to the yoga studio. He realizes he still has the Hulk Hand on, so he takes it off and throws it (too hard) at the young kid who's been standing there confused since Jim took the Hulk Hand in the first place. Up ahead, Ann enters the yoga studio

INT. YOGA STUDIO. DAY

Jim follows Ann into the yoga studio. As he walks into the class, the instructor (40's) stretches and rhythmically repeats a phrase

YOGA INSTRUCTOR (in a rhythmic, chanting type tone)

Hey-How-Are-Ya. Hey-How-Are-Ya

JIM

(to Jack)

I've never done yoga but this looks like the jiu jitsu studio my stepdad used to take me to to toughen me up. It's really hot in here, what the fuck?

**JACK** 

This is hot yoga, you idiot. She's going to sweat like crazy in here, shit!

The class begins normally. Jim is struggling with the poses and sweating profusely while the older, out of shape women around him do the poses easily. He's getting frustrated and competitive

JIM

(whispering to Jack)
I could do this all day. But
shouldn't we stop this class? She's
sweating like crazy.

JACK

Try and make it cooler in there. We can't disrupt her too much today or we'll get made

Jim looks for an air conditioner or a way to cool the room down. He starts blowing air at Ann with his mouth but realizes it's a stupid idea.

JIM

(to the class)

We should all pop our tops

The entire class looks at Jim like he's an idiot. An old lady yells at him

OLD LADY

Shut up, pervert. You suck at this anyway!

We need to end this class. I've got a plan.

Jack says something we can't hear to Jim and starts working on the computer in the van. Jim is still struggling through the poses.

JIM

(to the class)

Did you guys know that influencers are now choosing soul cycle over hot yoga?

All the young women in the class look over at Jim, surprised and concerned

RANDOM GIRL

What the fuck? Where did you hear that?

Jack had crafted up an article literally titled "The top ten reasons influencers are now choosing soul cycle over hot yoga" and sent it to Jim's phone. Jim shows the article to the group of women who've surrounded him

RANDOM GIRL

What the fuck! Look at number 4. It says perverts go to yoga to look at girls butts!

The old lady who had called Jim a pervert looks at him knowingly. Jim gets mad and shakes his head. The girls in the class quickly go through the article, groaning and shaking their heads.

RANDOM GIRL

Shit, he was right. Yoga's for lames. We'll just finish out today and go to cycling tomorrow

**JACK** 

Ok, good. Tomorrow we'll make a story about cycling class and she'll have nowhere to exercise. Now find a way to end the class early and get out!

JIM

(to an old person next to him)
When does the class end? OLD LADY 2

(as she nods towards the teacher)

Whenever he's done. Or when someone taps out and has to quit.

JIM

(intrigued)

Taps out, you say?

YOGA INSTRUCTOR

Ok, now everyone partner up for Souls Unite pose

Everyone in the class pairs up. Jim looks around awkwardly until an older man in a speedo appears from behind a bigger woman. He smiles at Jim as he walks over

SPEEDO MAN

Hey handsome. Looks like we'll be partners

Jim frantically looks around for an available female partner but can't locate one.

JIM

(sadly)

Fine

They start doing the yoga pose. They sit facing each other, pulling on their partners arms to get a stretch. Jim gets competitive with the guy and they start doing tug-of-war with their arms. All of a sudden, Jim pulls the guy really hard and twists him into an arm bar (Mixed Martial Arts move). Speedo guy roles around, trying to wiggle his arm free. He's in pain

JIM

Just tap out old man. Tap!!

Speedo guy taps out. Jim jumps up and pretends to put a UFC belt around his waist

Andddd Stilllll the lightweight champion of the world!!!!

YOGA TEACHER

Ok, that was a tap out! That's it for the day!

Teacher ends the class and everyone shuffles out

JIM

Great class!! See you guys next week!!

Jim jumps back in the van with a smile on his face

JACK

What the fuck was that? I told you not to cause a scene.

JIM

Ann wasn't looking and I had to get out of there. Dude, atleast I won. I kicked that guys ass!!

JACK

You're really testing my patience. Lets go check in on Rodney. Maybe he'll be easier.

The guys jump in the front of the van and start driving away

EXT. THE GYM PARKING LOT. DAY

Jim and Jack sit in the van wearing fitness clothes.

**JACK** 

Alright, I'm going undercover as a personal trainer. I'll convince him he needs to put on a ton of mass. Piece of cake

JIM

Dude, nobody will believe you're a trainer. Your body sucks, you're frail as hell and skinny fat. You need to work out and eat way more pigeons.

**JACK** 

(impatiently)

First of all- I'm lean not frail. But ok, what's your bright idea?

JIM

Think about it. What's the best way to make someone fat? We need to make them break up! Everybody binge eats after a breakup. And I know how we'll do it!

That's actually not a bad idea. Let's hear it?

JIM

We'll Catfish Rodney online! And I know what girl we'll use to do it!

Jim points into the gym window where Rodney can be seen flirting with the front desk girl

We'll use her. Everyone loves the front desk girl. The gatekeeper. That's a super hot dynamic.

They quickly create a fake social media account for the front desk girl and start direct messaging (DM'ing) Rodney, who has now left the gym and is sitting in his car across the parking lot from the van.

Jim nervously starts DM'ing Rodney as the front desk girl. He's saying the dm's out loud as we see them come across the screen

JIM

(in DM's to Rodney)
Hey, it's me from the front desk.
Good talking just now. Watched you
leave

Jim adds winky face emojis. They see Rodney look at his phone in his car and smile. He does a fist pump and responds back

RODNEY

(in DM's)

Hey, thanks. You like what you see?

JIM

(in DM's)

Yeah. You're yoked.

Jack shakes his head at Jim's shitty sexting skills.

RODNEY

(in DM's)

Thanks babe. 165X8 on the bench press today.

Rodney adds some smiley emojis and sends a picture of him flexing in his car.

Jim/Jack and Rodney can all see the front desk girl get up from the desk and go into the bathroom. Rodney is pulling on his crotch in his car. He's aroused.

JIM

(to Jack)

It's working!

JIM

(in DM's to Rodney,
responding to flex
picture)

Beefy..

Jim adds a bunch of heart and water droplet emojis. Rodney sees the DM but gets disappointed

RODNEY

(in DM's)

Well... where's my picture?

JACK

Fuck, he wants a picture of the girl. What are we gonna do now? we're gonna lose him!!!

JIM

Ahh!!

Jim realizes what he needs to do and takes a picture of the crease in his elbow which looks like a buttcrack and sends it to Rodney. They see Rodney go nuts in his car. He starts pounding the roof with his hand

RODNEY

(in dm's)

That's so hot I just finished. That was great babe but I'm gonna delete this thread so my gf doesn't find out! Please don't ever message me again, gatekeeper. Bye!

Rodney peels out of the parking lot and drives away. He throws a little rag out of his window.

JACK

(indignantly)

Well, that was pointless. He deleted the messages. And now you're a gay man. And we still need to break them up.

JIM

(shaken up)

It all happened so fast. He didn't care about me at all. He just wanted to see my butt....

They're sitting in the van deep in thought. Jim's mad about the sexting thing when an idea comes to him.

JIM

(proudly)

I know what we'll do. We'll do what James Bond would do. What Vinny Chase would do.

Jim has gotten up and is rummaging through the back of the van looking for something.

JIM

I'll seduce her....

JACK

I wish we had a better plan, but we don't. If we do it now we can have Rodney catch you in the act. How exactly are you going to seduce her? She's just sitting at her house

Jack's pointing at Ann's tracking dot on the computer.

JIM

I'll tell you how...

Jim has dug through a drawer and pulls out the pizza boy outfit from earlier.

EXT. WALKWAY OF RODNEY/ANN'S HOUSE. NIGHT

Jim is in the pizza boy outfit. As rock music plays in the background he walks up to the house. Having his penis in the pizza box is making him walk awkwardly. He knocks on the door and Ann opens

ANN

(confused)

Hello? You look familiar..

Jim is squinting and biting his lip, trying to look sexy

JIM

Hey. Yeah, I delivered here last night. I was the cute one. So i brought you this complimentary pizza.

ANN

Uhh, this is really weird and I don't want pizza. Please leave my house and never do this again.

JIM

I'm not sure you understand

Jim's looking back and forth from the pizza box to Ann

JIM

This is a SPECIAL delivery.

Ann is about to slam the door in his face when Rodney walks up. He's confused, looking back and forth between Jim and Ann

RODNEY

What's going on here?

ANN

The pizza guy is trying to give us a free pie. I told him we don't want it.

Rodney Looks at Jim and realizes what's happening.

RODNEY

You have you're dick in that box, don't you!? Were you about to "Big Sausage" my girlfriend!?

ANN

What are you talking about? He's just a regular pizza guy!

RODNEY

No he's not! I know this guy is an actor!! He was in that commercial!

Rodney reenacts Jim holding up the medal in his commercial

JIM

(responding to Rodney but
 really talking to Jack)
THANK YOU! THANK YOU FOR NOTICING!
 (defensively)
But I don't do porn. I'm a legit
actor

RODNEY

Now I know you're lying! That mustache is pure pornstar! You were so good in that commercial, what happened to you man!?

JIM

You don't understand! I...

Rodney cuts Jim off

RODNEY

(to Ann)

I can't believe you would do porn and not include me. I love cuck porn, you know that!! We're done babe!

Rodney walks away furiously, leaving Jim and Ann standing there awkwardly. Ann's starting to get upset

ANN

(to Jim)

Well, you just ruined my life. Can I at least have the pizza now?

JIM

Umm, there's not actually pizza in here

ANN

I know that, you idiot. I've never been with an actor before.

Ann pulls Jim into the house and the episode ends