

Familiar Person

by

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INT. GYM - DAY

Disco music blasts out. SIMON (33), excellent dress sense, is running on a treadmill at great speeds. A number of running GYM MEMBERS are on both his sides. In front of SIMON are OTHER MEMBERS on mats doing press ups, burpees, etc. In front of them is a door. The door opens to reveal a FAMILIAR PERSON in his 30s. He glances at SIMON briefly, then walks to an unoccupied treadmill on the far left. SIMON keeps on running as he occasionally glances at the NEWCOMER, past the other PEOPLE.

SIMON
(internal monologue)
I swear I know that person who just looked at me... He's that deaf guy I met years ago...

A GYM MEMBER by SIMON's right comments as he runs.

GYM MEMBER
Are you ok? You just keep staring into space...

SIMON
I'm fine, thanks. Just got something on my mind...

The GYM MEMBER gives a thumbs up.

SIMON
(internal monologue)
Maybe I should talk to the person and introduce myself. But what if I'm wrong and I'm getting him confused with someone else? No. I'm pretty sure it's him.

SIMON looks at the FAMILIAR PERSON for a couple of seconds and rubs his chin.

SIMON
I know what to do. I could approach the guy from behind so he really notices me. Then he'll start talking to me...

SIMON leaves the treadmill and approaches the running FAMILIAR PERSON from behind. He gets ignored.

SIMON
Hm. That didn't work. Maybe he's just shy. Maybe he'll talk to me once he builds up his confidence.

SIMON turns round to see a number of WEIGHT LIFTERS beefing themselves up. SIMON picks up a weight for both hands and works out. He then shouts to the other WEIGHT LIFTERS.

SIMON

Hey!

SIMON gets ignored.

SIMON

Why is everyone ignoring me?? Is everyone here shy or just plain rude?

The WEIGHT LIFTERS shake their heads in frustration.

SIMON

(internal monologue)

Fine. I can't take this anymore. I'm going to take things into my own hands. I know how to test if he's the deaf guy.

SIMON drops the weight, and walks behind the FAMILIAR PERSON, casually.

SIMON

BOO!!!!!!

The FAMILIAR PERSON trips up and crashes to the ground. SIMON covers his mouth in shock.

SIMON

Oh no.

The FP gradually picks himself up and stares through SIMON.

SIMON

(nervously)

Hi.

The FP goes red.

FAMILIAR PERSON

Do you have a problem?

SIMON

You speak very well for a deaf person...

Everyone in the gym stares at the two. Some RUNNERS leave the treadmill to do so.

FAMILIAR PERSON

What??

SIMON
It's me! Simon!

FAMILIAR PERSON
And who do you think I am?

SIMON
Pete?

A PERSONAL TRAINER (25) approaches the two.

PERSONAL TRAINER
What's going on here?

SIMON
I'm not sure to be honest.

FAMILIAR PERSON
He shouted 'Boo!' right behind me,
and made me fall off the treadmill!

The GYM MEMBERS say things like 'it's true!' and 'he's mad!'

PERSONAL TRAINER
Would you like to apologise to the
poor guy?

SIMON notices a MAN entering the gym who looks very similar
to the FAMILIAR PERSON.

SIMON
Hang on a second.

SIMON jogs to the MAN as the PT comments to the FP.

PERSONAL TRAINER
What's he going to do now?

SIMON stares hard into the MAN's ear.

SIMON
Wow... Hearing aids are really
stealth nowadays, aren't they Pete?

The MAN scratches his head.

MAN
My name is Jacob.

SIMON laughs.

SIMON
Good one!

SIMON then sticks his fingers into the MAN's ears.

In a panic, the PERSONAL TRAINER runs to the MAN.

PERSONAL TRAINER
I'm so sorry! Is this your first
experience here??

MAN
Yes!

PERSONAL TRAINER
Dear God! What an introduction!
Please, please forgive me!

MAN
I don't feel safe here.

PERSONAL TRAINER
I can assure you, this has never
happened before!

A GYM MEMBER shouts across the room.

GYM MEMBER
It's happened to me!

Another MEMBER replies.

OTHER GYM MEMBER
Me too!

SIMON
I thought they were deaf!

PERSONAL TRAINER
You thought they were deaf? So you
harassed them?

SIMON
I'd say it was more of an
interrogation...

PERSONAL TRAINER
Get out.

SIMON
Okey dokey. Just let me do some press
ups. I'm feeling agitated. I have
been for a very long time.

SIMON does so.

PERSONAL TRAINER
You're banned.

Everyone cheers.