

Keyboard Warrior

By

Arjun Kumar Miglani

INT. STAIRWELL - DAY

An old, disfigured door lies slightly ajar at the bottom of a narrow, carpetless stairwell.

MAX (O.S)

No fucking way! You must be joking!

The doors shakes from the impact of an object thrown at it from behind.

MAX (O.S)

I can't believe you're saying that!

A glass shatters behind the door.

MAX (O.S)

That's it! I've had enough!

MAX, a rotund twenty year old storms out and up the stairs in a pair of boxers and an oversize t-shirt with the letters "wtf?" printed on, with a bag of unfinished chips in his hand. An interviewer stands in position, ready to introduce him to the camera.

INTERVIEWER

Meet Max Fire. A man who won't take no for an answer! A man who backs down for no-one! A man who...

MAX

Yeah, can you get on with it mate? I've got shit to do.

INTERVIEWER

Oh, sorry. ...strikes fear into the heart of his many mortal enemies! Yes, Max Fire is the ultimate...KEYBOARD WARRIOR!

Max stares the the camera and attempts to strike an imposing pose as the crew pack up their equipment and move to the next location.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Max sits in front of a computer in a bleak, undecorated room, with one hand in a bag of chips and the other on the mouse. His hands frequently move to the keyboard and engage in frantic typing. The walls are decorated with posters of Dr. Who, Warcraft, and other such symbols of coolness. 'Ridin' by Chamillionaire is playing from the speakers. An

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interviewer and a cameraman enter the room. Max pauses for a moment and wheels his chair away from the computer, failing to make eye contact with anyone.

MAX

Ugh, fine. Let's do it.

INTERVIEWER

Sorry to pry you away from your...computer thing there.

MAX

It's alright. I would just be pwning some noobs anyway.

INTERVIEWER

Uh...I'm sorry...I didn't...what?

MAX

Pwning. You know, like owning, but spelled the cool way. To defeat, to destroy.

The interview takes down some notes in his pad.

INTERVIEWER

I see. And the other thing you said?

MAX

Noobs. People who've just joined the game, who don't know what they're doing. Losers, basically.

INTERVIEWER

Ah. And what game is this?

MAX

You know, man, THE game, in general. Life. Life, the universe and everything.

INTERVIEWER

Ok. And...

MAX

Wait, did you see what I did there? Life, the universe...

INTERVIEWER

Yes, yes I did. Very good.

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Max's friend, KANE, of similar physical appearance to Max, enters the room. Max does not look up from the computer screen to acknowledge his presence.

MAX

Hey man.

KANE

Hey...whoa, cameras! Not cool man, not cool! Turn em off!

Max swivels his chair away from the computer screen and faces Kane.

MAX

Goddammit Kane, you're meant to act as if they're not there! Be cool, man!

KANE

Well you didn't tell me there would be fucking cameras here...

MAX

Watch the language man! This is going to go out on TV...

INTERVIEWER

Well, not necessarily...

MAX

Look, you've screwed it up already!

INTERVIEWER

Listen guys, don't worry about it. Just pretend we're not even here. We'll cut that last bit out.

MAX

Will you really?

INTERVIEWER

Oh yeah for sure, don't worry about it.

MAX

Alright cool, thanks. Yo Kane, walk out and back in again...

INTERVIEWER

No don't...

Max goes back to his computer and pretends to type, while Kane walks back out.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kane is sitting on the couch watching T.V. while being interviewed. The reality show 'Flavor of Love' is on.

KANE

Well, you know, guys like Max, and me for that matter, we're misunderstood...I mean in many respects, I feel we can relate to a guy like Flava Flav in that way.

INTERVIEWER

I'm sorry, Flavour...who?

KANE

That guy, the one with the massive clock round his neck. See, people say he's just a joke, a gimmick. Even his old group doesn't really like him anymore. But you know, it takes all sorts. I mean, people say he doesn't really contribute anything useful, but it just wouldn't be the same without him, you know? Similarly, people say we don't contribute anything to society, but the next time you need to configure your TCP/IP settings, or you have a problem with your modem, who you gonna call? Ghostbusters? No, you'd call...

INTERVIEWER

Flava Flav?

KANE

No, what? No, that was just an analogy. You'd call us, because we know about computers and shit. Don't call Flava Flav, he wouldn't know what to do. He'd make it worse, if anything.

Kane turns his unwavering attention back to the television.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Max is sitting in front of the computer, as per usual. 'Mongoloid' by Devo is playing through the speakers.

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MAX

Check this out.
Catsthatlooklikehitler.com. An
entire website dedicated to
pictures of cats that bear a vague
facial resemblance to Adolf Hitler.
And people say I just waste my time
on the Internet.

INTERVIEWER

Yes. Anyway I...

MAX

Oh, oh, look at this! Two girls,
one...actually, never mind. You
don't wanna see that.

INTERVIEWER

So this date your mum has set up,
you're aware of this?

MAX

Oh yeah, that. Yeah, it'll be cool
man. Chicks really dig me, you
know? It's like they're intimidated
by me, and that turns them on.
Yeah, Cheryl...that's her name,
isn't it?

INTERVIEWER

Elaine, actually.

MAX

Elaine, that's right. Elaine's
gonna love it. I mean, all the
other girls have probably told her
all about me already, if you know
what I mean!

Max smirks as he continues looking at the screen.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kane continues to watch TV.

KANE

Girls? I don't think Max has ever
talked to a girl. IRL, I mean.

Kane looks at the interviewer and proceeds to explain.

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KANE

IRL...in real life. I'm not sure that he knows what a real woman looks like. He's seen plenty on the Internet though. Oh yeah. Ask him to show you the folder on his computer called "homework." There's no homework in there, believe me.

He continues watching TV, smiling at an on-screen joke.

KANE

Of course, I've been with loads of women. Heaps.

Kane turns his attention back to the TV, occasionally glancing at the camera to make sure that it is still recording him.

INT. ELAINE'S BEDROOM - DAY

ELAINE is sitting on her bed, looking at the mirror, applying make-up and doing her hair.

ELAINE

I don't really know what it's going to be like, to be honest. I mean, mum says he's from down the street, but I've NEVER seen him around. And I've lived here for six years.

She continues her make-up procedure.

ELAINE

I mean, I'm not expecting too much, to be honest. But you never know...but I mean, I don't even know what he looks like.

The interviewer hands her a picture.

ELAINE

Well, you know, looks aren't important...

She stops applying her make-up and packs her equipment away.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Max has fallen asleep, with his head down on the keyboard. 'Dissident Aggressor' by Judas Priest is playing through the speakers.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Elaine sits outside at a table, fiddling with her phone, and looking around for Max.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Max is still asleep. Suddenly, he wakes up and notices the time.

MAX

Shit!

He runs his arm through his hair and runs out of the room.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Elaine is still sitting at the table as Max runs to the chair and sits down.

MAX

Sweet! You're still here.

ELAINE

Yeah. You're late.

MAX

Yeah well, you know what they say, better late than...nevermind. Listen, what's the payment situation here? Because I mean, traditionally, you know, I suppose I'm meant to foot the bill, but let's be honest, we don't really know each other, do we?

ELAINE

So you're saying you want me to pay for my share?

MAX

Yeah. I mean really, it should be done in hindsight, shouldn't it? If we're still seeing each other in a

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MAX (cont'd)
month, I'll give you the money
back. That way I know it wasn't a
waste...

Max grabs the menu out of Elaine's hands and surveys the options.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Max in his usual position, being interviewed.

MAX
You know, I get the impression that
sometimes women look at me and
think, "Oh, he doesn't care about
anything, he doesn't have any
feelings." To these people I say,
ask me what my favourite film is.

Max motions towards the interviewer to ask him the question.

INTERVIEWER
What's your favourite film?

MAX
The Notebook. Well, no, actually
probably Rambo. But after that,
definitely The Notebook. So there
you go.

Max stares at the camera.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Max and Elaine sit opposite each other, eating their
respective meals, with Max enjoying his considerably more.

ELAINE
So where do you usually hang out? I
never see you around...

MAX
Oh, you know, all the...usual spots.

ELAINE
Like where?

Max looks around him and sees a bottle of Evian on another
table.

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MAX

Ev...Evian Park? That's always a good one.

ELAINE

I've never been there, where is it?

MAX

It's...well you go, over...there...

Max points vaguely in a certain direction.

MAX

and, then you take a...left, no right, and, then it's about a five minute walk.

ELAINE

And who do you usually hang out with?

MAX

Oh, got a message. Excuse me...

Max takes his mobile phone out of his pocket and starts playing Snake.

ELAINE

Are you pretending to send an SMS?

MAX

What? No, of course not.

ELAINE

Course you are. Let me see.

MAX

No!

ELAINE

Come on!

Elaine reaches over and grabs Max's phone.

MAX

Elaine, I forbid you to look at that phone! It is private property and...

ELAINE

You're playing Snake?

MAX

Well, it's...quite addictive. You didn't quit did you?

Max looks at this phone and throws it away in disgust.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Max in his normal pose at the computer.

MAX

If I had to sum up how to be sexy in one word, I would say : look busy. If you look busy, people think you're important, you know, they think there's people all over just dying to get in touch with you...Of course, I don't have to pretend, it happens naturally.

Max picks his phone out of his pocket and pretends to send a message.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Max has finished his meal, while Elaine still has a substantial portion of hers left.

MAX

Well, you know, I'm done so...

ELAINE

You're leaving?

MAX

I mean, it's a restaurant, and I don't have any food left. You don't stay in a cinema after the movie's finished.

ELAINE

Yeah, well everyone finishes the movie at the same time.

MAX

Look, do you think...I mean, would you consider doing this sort of thing again?

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ELAINE

No, probably not. You?

MAX

Nah, don't think so. Anyway, have a good one.

Max leaves his share of the money and walks away from the restaurant.

INT. ELAINE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Elaine is sitting on her bed being interviewed.

ELAINE

What a loser! I mean, no wonder he has no friends. Just look at him! Joke's on him though, he left more money than he needed. Paid for more than half of my meal.

Elaine gets her make-up from her drawer and begins applying it.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Max sitting at the computer.

MAX

Well, you know, as soon as I saw her I knew she wasn't my type. I know they say you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but I mean, realistically, there's a lot of people in the world, and I don't have time to get to know them all. It's like if you're in a bookshop, yeah...either you can read all the books from back to front, or judge them by their covers. It's practical, it's efficient.

He turns back to the computer, before remembering to offer a final thought.

MAX

People say, you know, that my lifestyle is unhealthy. But I mean, look at Keith Richards. I think Keith and I are similar in that respect, you know, in that we play

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MAX (cont'd)
by our own rules. He did every drug
known to man. He even invented new
ones because he was bored with the
old ones. And he's still kicking
about.

Max stares at the camera.