

*A living room. A and B sit on chairs as if watching TV.*

A     How was your day?

B     The usual.

*Silence.*

A     I had my meeting.

*B's phone bings.*

*A watches B, who glances at their phone.*

A     It went really well.

*B's phone bings three times in fast succession. B tries not to react.*

A     They've offered to mentor me.

*B says nothing.*

A     What do you think?

B     I don't know.

*A looks wounded.*

*B looks at their phone and laughs loudly.*

*A stares at them, then looks out at the audience.*

A     *(to the audience)* What makes a text message more urgent than a real life conversation? The noise? The vibration? The sender? The recipient?

*B's phone bings again.*

*A composes themselves and turns to look at B, playfully.*

*B picks up their phone and composes a long message.*

*A looks at the audience again- whats with this guy?*

*B's phone bings, they laugh.*

A     *(to the audience)* Would you ask? Or is that an invasion of privacy? The sort of question only a paranoid nag asks?

*A stares at B intensely.*

*B eventually looks up from their phone at A.*

B     What?

*A smiles seductively, puts a hand on B's leg.*

*B looks back at their phone.*

*A sighs.*

*B looks at the audience.*

B (to the audience) It's nothing bad. Not really.

*B resumes looking at their phone.*

*A takes out their phone. Laughs.*

*B doesn't notice.*

*A laughs louder.*

*B doesn't notice.*

*A laughs even louder.*

*B glances over, scrunches their nose and smiles affectionately. Looks back at their phone.*

*A looks at the audience, incredulous.*

A What did you want to do tonight?

B I don't mind.

A We could order pizza, watch a film...?

*B doesn't look up.*

A Or we go out for dinner...?

*B doesn't look up.*

A Or we could not eat anything at all.

*B doesn't look up.*

B Whatever you want.

*A looks at the audience, exasperated.*

A I'm going out.

B *(still looking at their phone)* I'll come with you.

*A stands up, looks at B.*

*B eventually looks up.*

A You don't know where I'm going.

*B shrugs.*

B I thought we were hanging out.

*A raises their eyebrows.*

B     What's wrong?

*A sighs.*

A     Nothing.

*B puts their phone down.*

B     Tell me.

A     *(to the audience)* Isn't it obvious?

*A moves across the stage as if leaving.*

B     *(to the audience)* I don't know why they do this.

*A stops.*

A     *(to the audience)* It should be obvious.

*A turns slowly. Stares at B. Takes a deep breath.*

A     It's like you're not even here.

B     Of course I'm here.

A     No you're not.

B     I'm right here.

A     Physically.

*B's phone bings.*

*A stares at B: point proved.*

B     What?

*A shakes their head in disbelief.*

*B stands up, moves towards A.*

B     What's wrong?

*A moves away from B.*

*They circle each other, moving to opposite sides of the room.*

*Staring at each other, they turn the furniture into makeshift barricades and take position behind them.*

A     You can't see me.

B     Err, no. You're hiding.

A     You make me feel invisible.

B No I don't.

A What?

B How do I make you feel invisible?

A You don't pay attention.

B I do.

A How did my meeting go?

*Silence.*

*A stands up. Takes aim.*

*(A and B mime the weapons as they speak in the rhythm of fire.)*

A *(Rocket Launcher)* Well?

*An explosion.*

*B falls backwards onto their back as if feeling the impact, then scrambles back into hiding position and peaks their head over the barricade, one hand held up as if in surrender.*

B Maybe I missed that bit. Tell me.

A Again.

B Yes. Please?

A They offered to mentor me.

B Is that good?

A Of course it's good.

B Oh. Well that's good then.

*A sighs.*

*B's phone bings.*

A *(Machine Gun)* Have you never heard of silent mode?

*B ducks, hands on head.*

B Calm down, it's just—

A Interrupting every conversation we have!

B We're talking now aren't we?

A No, we're arguing!

B Actually, you're attacking me.

A Attacking you?!

B Yeah...

A How am I attacking you?

B You're shouting.

A I'm not shouting.

B Yes, you are!

A No I'm not- (shouting) This is me shouting!

*B blinks.*

B (Hand gun) I'm leaving.

*A recoils from two bullets.*

A Great. Run away.

B I'm not going to stay and be talked to like this...

A So you're going to leave and not say anything at all?

B I'll talk to you when you've calmed down.

A (Rocket launcher) Calmed down?!

*B freezes, then goes to leave.*

A If you leave, there's no coming back.

*Silence. A stand off.*

B I don't want to talk about this.

A You never want to talk about anything. We can't even have a conversation about our days. Aren't you interested?

B Of course I'm interested.

*A shakes their head.*

A You don't show it.

B What is it you want me to do?

A I want you to be involved, invested. In us. In me. I want us to be a team.

B So help me to do that.

A Help you?

B Tell me what you want me to do.

A I should tell you to communicate?

B Yeah.

A That's not a given?

*B shrugs.*

B It works both ways.

A Sorry?

B You shouldn't bottle things up.

*A is amazed.*

A You think I should have said something sooner?

B Yeah.

A Okay... I guess I didn't say anything because it's not always been like this...

B You're very stressed at the moment.

A I know, but we talked about that and I just want some support...

B I can't get it right if you don't tell me how to.

*A takes a deep breath.*

A I want us to communicate.

B Okay.

A I want you to show up to stuff.

B Okay.

A I want our time together to be us being together. Present.

*B's phone bings. A sighs.*

B Okay.

A Okay isn't really a response.

B What do you want me to say?

A Anything that shows you understand.

*B looks blank. Nothing.*

A This isn't going to work if you don't get it.

*Silence.*

A We should be on the same page.

B Sure.

A What's the page?

*B tries to muster a response.*

A Forget it.

*A returns the furniture back to the way it started, but turning it over- looking for something.*

B Do you want me to help you?

*A continues.*

B What're you doing?

A I'm looking for the kill switch.

B Isn't that a bit extreme?

*B moves towards A who continues to search.*

B Seriously, you're overreacting.

*A finishes rectifying the furniture.*

B It's just the inevitable wane of excitement.

*A stands off opposite B, speechless for a moment.*

A I'm done.

*Silence.*

A We're done.

*A loud explosion- A & B fall to the floor.*