

fine print
by: patrick cronin

man on the phone dressed in a business suit walking down a city street. hes dressed in nice close but he looks slightly disheveled and. lacks confidence. he comes to an intersection and is waiting at a red light. there is a homeless person sitting on the corner behind him with a sign that reads **out of work. anything helps**

CHRISTOPHER

taken aback

huh, what? no charlene please you can't do that i'm begging you, i already only get to see the kids once a month.

pause for response

best for them? but i work so hard to support us all and make sure that we can all live a stable life, i think its at least fair to ask that you don't cut my time with them back any more.

HOMELESSPERSON

straight up

christopher turns around thinking he might have heard someone say something, but its just him and the homeless man

it's not easy to begin with. teenage girls don't exactly want to hang out with their father. **slight gain in confidence** that should not mean i never get to see her

HOMELESSPERSON

nah ah

HOMELESSPERSON

on god

CHRISTOPHER

give me just a sec

christopher turns to the homeless man, holds his hand to his phone

CHRISTOPHER

is that you?

HOMELESSPERSON

yeah im sorry. it's a bad habit, i was an ad libber before i
got laid off. i'll shut myself the fuck up

CHRISTOPHER

an ad libber?

HOMELESSMAN

yes sir, have you heard 21 savage?

CHRISTOPHER

i cant believe this but yeah. that rapper that got deported?
looks kinda like hes going to attempt world domination?

HOMELESSPERSON

exactly. well i worked with him on all his albums before
they bought some computer program to do all the ad libs.
a.i has decimated our entire fuckin industry.

CHRISTOPHER

im sorry man

HOMELESSPERSON

and my bad for bothering you

CHRISTOPHER

actually, dont stop. let it flow

homelessperson smiles

HOMELESSPERSON

oh? aigh't what's your name?

CHRISTOPHER

christopher

HOMELESSPERSON

yeah yeah

CHRISTOPHER

charlene im actually sarting to think id like to see the kids
every other week. - *other week*

no thats fair- *its fair*

unless you want me to tell the children about how youn left
me for charlie - *for who*

me?! you've gotten out of check - *hes gotta tech*

christopher swings head to look at homelessperson,
homelessperson raises his hands as if to say my bad

thats it im tired of your disrespect- *need respect*
i want equal time with the kids - christopher-
and you need to stop getting massages with the alimony
money if you are going to complain you need more- *she*
out a check

no thats final-*on my momma*

you can shove it - *on her momma*

i have to go. i'll talk to you later-*loser*

homelessperson has by this point gotten up and off the ground and is very into the conversation
standing right behind christopher. christopher hangs up. the two men hi five.

CHRISTOPHER

pumped up. confidence flowing
you're god damn gifted

HOMELESSPERSON

its my art

CHRISTOPHER

that was the most in control i have felt in two years
reahes into his pocket

CHRISTOPHER

here's a denny's gift card there's 15 bucks on it. maybe
you can treat yourself.

HOMELESSPERSON

20 bucks, that's gonna cover you for one line.

CHRISTOPHER

one line?

HOMELESSPERSON

didn't you read the fine print

both turn to the sign

VOICE FROM ABOVE

the services provided on this site are not intended to
be a complimentary commodity. the work here is done
by professional lyricists. all content, including text,
graphics, images and information, contained on or
available through this homeless person is for
purchase only. amita health makes no representation
and assumes no responsibility for inaccurate or
offensive information contained on or available
through said destitute. failure to comply to restitution
may result in
discipline. -discipline

HOMELESSPERSON

thats fucking right. 24 verses. gonna cost you 480.

CHRISTOPHER

are you kidding me

HOMELESSPERSON

nope

slew of homeless people emerge

all in unison

straight up

end.

christopher

that was the most in control i have felt in two years. i think i could probably get erect right now. it doesn't look like your doing anything right now. do you want to be my personal assistant. i'd need you to adlib as much as you want.

everyone freezes

andrew walks out onto the stage.

andrew

hi, im 2020 presidential candidate andrew yang. and while i'm happy for this man, i'm scared about what our forthcoming a.i dominated future means for the economy. a.i threatens to automate a huge portion of the job market, putting hundreds of thousands of blue collar americans out on the streets. not everyone will be able to rise out of poverty by seducing random business men into employing them for their now obsolete skills. my universal basic income economic model would provide every eligible citizen with a basic income of 1000 dollars a month helping avoid economic disaster. vote andrew yang