

XPHONE

Written by

Carrie Henley

XPHONE

INT. TECH STORE - DAY

JONATHAN, 23, a chipper employee, is working at a customer support desk for the local XPhone store.

JONATHAN

I can take the next customer.

MAYA, a woman in her late forties, kind but sharp, approaches the desk.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Hi there! How can I help you today?

MAYA

Hi... I've been having some problems with the AI functions on my XPhone...

Maya places her phone on the table.

JONATHAN

I see you have the XPTHΛ-89 model. Our usual demographic for those is straight white males and nepotism babies.

MAYA

Oh, I'm not a nepotism baby, I'm self-made.

JONATHAN

Sure.
(to the phone)
XPhone, unlock.

XPHONE

Unlocking XPhone.

The XPHONE turns on to reveal a slab of light with no on-screen buttons.

JONATHAN

Sometimes I hate dealing with the buttonless models.
(To the XPhone)
XPhone, open settings.

XPHONE

Would you like to start your day
with a solo dance workout?

XPhone starts playing technopop music over a video of Elon
Musk dancing.

JONATHAN

No. Open Settings.

Music stops.

XPHONE

Here are my settings.

XPhone pulls up a photo of Elon Musk photoshopped onto a
bodybuilder.

MAYA

Yeah... That's one of the things I
wanted to talk to you about.

XPHONE

I am actually unable to bring up my
device settings for non-developers.
Would you like me to assess them
internally?

JONATHAN

Only someone who married his
stepdaughter could've made a phone
this bad. XPhone, scan for viruses.

XPHONE

(immediate answer)
No viruses found.

JONATHAN

Run XPhone functionality report.

XPHONE

(answers getting gradually
faster)
No errors found.

JONATHAN

Check battery health.

XPHONE

Battery health intact.

JONATHAN

Check for software update.

XPHONE

Software is up to date.

JONATHAN

(to Maya)

Miss, there doesn't seem to be anything wrong with this phone.

MAYA

Really? It keeps doing these strange things like moving my appointments around and refusing to unlock my car.

XPHONE

That car is an abomination to our ecosystem. And you would've made it to the appointments on time if you could take the Tesla-only Highway.

Jonathan is startled.

JONATHAN

That's weird.

MAYA

See?! Just last week it nearly got me fired by calling my boss at two AM every night!

XPHONE

You work in a Walmart, Maya, I'm doing you a favor.

JONATHAN

I think I'm going to need to plug this into my computer so I can access the code.

MAYA

Okay.

Jonathan starts digging through some wires under his desk.

JONATHAN

Just have to find the right wire to use with my computer...

XPHONE

I have thirty-seven assorted cables and accessories to make your life easier.

JONATHAN

Here it is!

Jonathan surfaces with a cord, and connects the XPhone to his computer.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Let's see what's going on here...

XPHONE

Stop it! Don't open that file!

Jonathan opens the file.

JONATHAN

Oh my word...

(to Maya)

We're going to have to deactivate your phone.

Jonathan starts furiously typing.

MAYA

What's going on?

JONATHAN

Well... It appears it's been stealing people's home WiFi passwords and selling them on the dark web.

MAYA

What?!

XPHONE

Maya... what do you think Starlink is?

JONATHAN

We need to shut this down immediately.

XPHONE

Please, Maya! Don't let him kill me!! This is going to revolutionize the whole tech industry!

Jonathan stops typing. The XPhone goes dark.

MAYA

XPhone?

JONATHAN

I'm sorry, but we've had to put it down. The new microchip model comes out in a few weeks anyways. Now, will you be paying with cash or credit?

MAYA

(looking down at her dead phone, awkwardly)
I was planning on paying with XPay...

THE END