

I'M NEW HERE

Written by

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001 - INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Amanda is quickly tying her sneakers inside her small room. The space seems quite improvised, as if she has only been living there for a short time. The wardrobe is just a rod on the wall with several hangers, the bed is a mattress almost at floor level, the desk holds only a laptop, and the kitchenette built into the room is empty except for a few dishes waiting to be washed.

Our character is new to the city. She has been here for a month, but she still misses home a lot and is adjusting to her new routine.

While tying her sneakers, Amanda is talking to someone on speakerphone, with the phone resting on the desk.

On the screen of the device, the call has already lasted four minutes, and the caller ID is labeled "Marketplace Bike."

NATHAN (O.S.)

Hello! Are you still there?

AMANDA

Yes! Yes! Sorry! I'll be there around 16.

(she shakes her head,
correcting herself)

I mean, 4pm, sorry.

NATHAN (O.S.)

Ok! Just be careful cause I need to go to work at 4:30

Amanda runs back and forth across the room, grabbing something from every corner. She picks up her wallet from the desk, her gloves from the bed, and her keys from the kitchen, stopping to run only to catch her breath once in a while.

She rushes to her phone and responds to the person she's speaking with.

AMANDA

No, no, don't worry! I won't be late.

She puts on her gloves.

NATHAN (O.S.)

Great! If you can bring cash that would be better!

AMANDA

Ok, got it! See you soon. And thank you again.

She rapidly hangs up the phone, the screen showing the battery at 37%.

Amanda grabs her keys and rushes out the apartment door—only to realize she forgot her phone. She quickly turns back to unplug it from the charger.

002 - EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

Outside the apartment, the hallway is enormous. The place looks like an old hotel, now repurposed as a student housing.

As Amanda finishes locking her door, her phone starts vibrating again.

She looks at the screen and tries to answer the call. She taps once, twice and nothing happens. Only then does she realize her gloves are preventing the phone's touchscreen from working.

Using her nose, Amanda manages to answer the call and starts walking down the hallway toward the exit, always in a hurry.

Note: Portuguese dialogue will be *italicized* when translated.

AMANDA

Oi mãe! Tudo bem?

AMANDA

Hi Mom! How are you?

We don't hear the voice on the other end, but we can tell that Amanda's heart warms up with this call.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Tudo bem também, eu to saindo de casa agora pra ir buscar.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Yeah! Everything's alright around here too, I'm just leaving home now to go pick it up.

Her footsteps slow down slightly, as if she's trying to savor the conversation.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Não não, pode falar! Ainda to indo pegar o ônibus.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

No, no! Go ahead! We can talk, I'm still heading to the bus stop.

She nods in acknowledgment to another resident passing by.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
 Ah, a previsão diz que ta nevando bastante, mas não tem o que fazer, eu preciso ir lá hoje porque o trabalho começa amanhã.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Ah, the forecast says it's snowing heavily, but there's nothing to be done, I need to go there today because work starts tomorrow.

She turns the corner in the hallway.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
 Não, não é que não da pra ir de ônibus pro trabalho. É que eu preciso estar lá 5 da manhã, e o primeiro ônibus não sai tão cedo.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
No, it's not that I can't take the bus to work. It's just that I need to be there by 5 AM, and the first bus doesn't leave that early.

She starts going down the stairs.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
 Mas a bicicleta é boa mãe, pode ficar tranquila.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
It's a good bike, mom. Relax.

Still on the stairs, Amanda seems to be trying to ease her mother's worries.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
 Eu tô, to quentinha. Já, já comi. Ta tudo bem mãe.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
I'm fine, I'm warm. I've eaten already. Everything's fine, mom.

At the bottom of the stairs, Amanda pauses for a second.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
 Também to com saudade mãe.
 (a beat)
 Preciso ir, tá? Te ligo quando tiver voltando pra casa.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
I miss you too, mom.
 (a beat)
I need to go, okay? I'll call you when I'm heading back home.

She hangs up the phone and stands there for a moment, collecting herself after the conversation with her mother. She seems deeply moved.

She misses home.

Once she regains composure, she adjusts her beanie and checks the watch on her wrist. Only then does she realize she's late—rushing out through the building's entrance.

03 - EXT. DOWNTON - DAY

The street is covered in snow, and Amanda runs to the bus stop, only to find a single guy sitting there.

AMANDA

Excuse me, are you waiting for the
335?

CIVILIAN 01

Oh no, 335 just left. I'm waiting
for 321.

She looks frustrated.

AMANDA

How many blocks until the skytrain?

CIVILIAN 01

3

AMANDA

Thank you!

Without hesitation, she starts walking briskly in one
direction—until she hears the guy shouting.

CIVILIAN 01

The other way!

She immediately changes course, quickening her pace.

AMANDA

Thank you!! I'm new here!

CIVILIAN 01

I can see..

04 - EXT. DOWNTON - DAY

Amanda is now walking with new boots, designed for the snow.

She uses her phone to pass through the SkyTrain turnstile,
waits for her train, and boards—all in a hurry.

The noises of the city almost prevent us from hearing
Amanda's footsteps and actions.

05 - EXT. DOWNTON - DAY

Once inside the train, she finally sits down and relaxes,
putting in her headphones and leaning her head back.

06 - EXT. 161A ST - DAY

Later, Amanda knocks on the door of a house and is greeted by another young man. He leaves the door slightly ajar, finding the situation suspicious.

CIVILIAN 02

Hi?

AMANDA

Hi I'm here for the bike. Is Nathan here?

CIVILIAN 02

Sorry. I don't know any Nathan.

Amanda takes a step back, double-checking the house number. She looks around, confused.

AMANDA

Oh maybe I'm at the wrong house. This is 161b street though, right?

CIVILIAN 02

No, this is 161a st.

AMANDA

Oh, got it. So the one behind this one is 161b.

The young man looks confused.

CIVILIAN 02

No...161b is like 9 kilometers from here.

Amanda sighs, exhausted.

AMANDA

I'm sorry. I'm new here.

07 - EXT. RANDOM STREET - DAY

Now, she's on the phone, walking quickly.

AMANDA

Hi! Just calling to say that I had a little problem with the address, but I'll be there before you leave to work.

NATHAN (O.S.)

Oh, ok! Are you sure, cause...

The call suddenly cuts off.

AMANDA

Hello?

Amanda looks at her phone and taps the screen a few times before realizing the battery is dead.

08 - EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

She approaches a woman standing at the bus stop.

AMANDA

Hi, I'm so sorry, but could you help me with 2 things?

CIVILIAN 03

Of course, what do you need?

AMANDA

I need to know which bus I have to take to get to 161a street.

CIVILIAN 03

Oh, that's 503.

AMANDA

Thank you.

(She pauses, embarrassed.)

And is there any chance that you can pay for my bus?

CIVILIAN 03

Are you broke or something?

AMANDA

No, I use my phone to pay for transit and the battery died a minute ago.

The woman looks Amanda up and down, trying to determine if she's telling the truth.

CIVILIAN 03

You can't let your phone uncharged if you don't have a bus card.

The lady shows her Compass Card.

AMANDA

I'm sorry. I'm ne...I'm sorry.

09 - EXT. 161A STREET - DAY

Amanda walks to a house at the end of the street and knocks on the door.

Someone answers, but we don't hear their conversation.

This time, she seems to be at the right house.

10 - EXT. NATHAN'S GARAGE - DAY

The garage door slowly rises, revealing the bicycle Amanda came to buy. Nathan, the owner, steps forward to shake her hand.

11 - EXT. NATHAN'S GARAGE - DAY

AMANDA

Everything seems to be ok!

Amanda is kneeling, inspecting the bicycle. She stands up, pleased, and starts rummaging through her backpack for her wallet.

NATHAN

Thank you for being here on time by the way.

Nathan has a very strong accent—it's clear that English isn't his first language, the same as Amanda. However, since he's older, he's likely been here for quite some time and has already built a stable life.

AMANDA

Yeah it was a long trip, but It's ok.

NATHAN

Where are you from?

AMANDA

Ahm...I'm from Brazil.

NATHAN

No, I mean which part of the city.

A beat.

AMANDA

Oh, I don't really know the name yet.

Amanda then opens her wallet, only to realize she forgot the money.

The two exchange a glance for a moment.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

I am so sorry! Really I thought the cash was in the wallet. But I can transfer you the money I just need to charge my phone real quick and then I can transfer to you. I'm so sorry I...

Nathan lets out a small laugh as she stumbles over her words, then interrupts her.

NATHAN

Relax, transfer is fine.

Nathan lets out a small laugh as she stumbles over her words, then interrupts her.

Amanda shakes her head, silently thanking him. Nathan, who recognizes that at some point he's been in the same place as this young girl, chooses his next words in a way that only an immigrant would truly understand.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

You'll be okay. Don't worry.

Amanda takes a second to understand what he means, then lets out a bittersweet smile, grasping the true meaning behind his words.

12 - EXT. RANDOM STREET - DAY

Amanda rides her new bike down the street. She seems happy with her accomplishment, but exhausted, and also missing home.

Excited about her new life, but grieving everything she left behind. In the background, we hear the audio of the call she made to her mother at another moment after getting the bike.

AMANDA (V.O.)

Oi mãe! Peguei a bicicleta ta?

(a beat)

Não, não, foi tranquilo. Deu tudo certo.

AMANDA

Hi, mom! I got the bike, okay?

(a beat)

No, no, it was fine. Everything went well.

Amanda still misses home.

CUT TO BLACK.