

A Lost Signal

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2nd Place Humor

The screen to my left flashed. I turned my head toward my Communicator. Another box had flashed black. Another member down. Panic took over me, half my team had already flashed out and only a number of the members remained online. Fortunately, my Superior was still connected and there were enough members to complete the mission. I awaited further instruction from my Superior about our next move. She opened her mouth and began to speak.

“Alright team, I know we only have half our crew, but we will work with what we have. The next step is extremely crucial for the success of our assignment. Each of you will ne-” Then her sound cut out. Her live video froze. The panic came back. Not the Superior!

I checked the time on my watch, 16:25. Only five minutes remained. The Superior was still frozen. I didn’t know what to do. If the Superior lost signal, the mission would be a definite fail. I looked to the agents in the top right corner of my Communicator. I was horrified to see their streams frozen as well. That meant that it was my signal that was failing. This was the one thing I hoped would not happen. I was the sole communications monitor for the team and my absence would greatly threaten the success of the mission. My hands scrambled to the keypad on my Communicator to check the signal connection box. The bars were going down. I needed to know what the Superior was saying! I spoke into my mic,

“M’am can you hear me? Can you hear me?” Silence. Absolutely no signs of recognition. I tried again. “Anyone? Agent 792?” I asked, panic biting at the back of my throat. As the communication monitor, I was supposed to have the best signal connection out of the entire team! People were relying on me.

Suddenly a green light flashed on the Communicator. Yes! I thought; I was coming back! I waited for the Communicator to unfreeze but the moment never came.

“Come on, come on!” I begged aloud. “Can you hear me? Can you hear me? I need a verbal response!” Still nothing. My heart beat increased and my head throbbed. My hands became clammy and I frantically clicked the refresh button on the signal connector. Still my team remained frozen and unresponsive. I tried my instant messaging box but the messages would not go through. The entire screen was frozen.

Then suddenly the entire Communicator went dark, and everyone slipped away. I was staring at my own reflection in the dark, blank screen. I sank my throbbing head into my hands and sighed. I hate Zoom classes.