

## Influence Lost

Sean is a semi-famous YouTuber who is in a tight competition for the hearts and minds of young, socially awkward men until the beautiful assistant media agent Angela Dempsey enters his angry world and turns it upside down.

FADE IN:

INT. COLUMBIA TOWER - VIDEO STUDIO - DAY

SEAN MONGEL (Male, 20s) sits in front of a small camera manned by his producer, CARLOS LENN. Sean is screaming into a camera for several seconds then the video freezes on his contorted face.

SUPER: Sean "AngryDog" Mongel

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This is Sean. He is an angry man, but doesn't know why. He thinks his channel helps young men from becoming victims. Sean hopes that New World Media, will be able to help him fend off his competitor, BroMedia. He believes love is dead. He is wrong on all accounts.

INT./EXT. ANGELA DEMPSEY'S CAR - MORNING

ANGELA DEMPSEY (Female, 20s) is driving to work in an old car, pounding on her steering wheel.

ANGELA

C'mon, people, move!

Video freezes mid-scream, with Angela's face contorted.

SUPER: Angela Dempsey

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This is Angela, a broke Psychology grad student, and an Assistant Media Agent for New World Media. She thinks that doing well on the Cerberus account could get her promoted from Assistant to full Agent. Angela believes she can do both work and school well. She is also wrong on all accounts.

INT./EXT. CERBERUS STUDIOS PARKING GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Angela drives under a massive office building into the parking garage, gets out hurriedly, and runs towards the elevators.

INT. CERBERUS STUDIOS - CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Angela enters the conference room, papers clutched to her chest, laptop bag in hand. IVAN SUSHKIN and Carlos, co-founders of Cerberus media (along with Sean) are sitting with feet up, throwing a Nerf football to each other.

IVAN

Look who decided to show up!

CARLOS

Well, well, aren't you a Stacey?!

Carlos ogles Angela, who looks at them confused and embarrassed.

ANGELA

Actually, my name is Angela, I'm from New World Media. The traffic was murder.

She puts her bags and papers down at the front of the table. Ivan, annoyed at being ignored, BEAMS the football at Carlos. It hits him in the head, bounces, hits and scatters Angela's papers onto the floor. She bends over to pick them up when Sean enters the room right behind her. She spins around to face him. They're awkwardly close together.

SEAN

Oh, um, sorry. Huh, you must be from...New Earth...ummm...

ANGELA

I'm Angela, from New World Media.

Angela holds out her one free hand, while the other holds her papers. He shakes it and then helps her with her papers.

SEAN

Sean, Sean Mongel. I see you've met my colleagues, Ivan and Carlos. We're the three founders of Cerberus. Started it from my Mom's basement, and now we employ ten people. It's a ton of fun.

They sit down, Sean not breaking his gaze from Angela.

SEAN (CONT'D)

So, what do you do for fun?

ANGELA

Well, I go to the Space Needle or the Ferris wheel.

(MORE)

ANGELA (CONT'D)

I love high places, where I can look to the horizon. I feel like I can see the whole world.

SEAN

Ugh, I hate high places. I was diagnosed with Acrophobia when I was eight.

ANGELA

That's awful. My sister is a terrified of heights.

Carlos and Ivan laugh rudely. Sean gives them a dirty look. Then Angela yawns.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Sorry! I was up late studying.

SEAN

You know we're in the coffee capital of the world. Why don't we grab some?

Angela nods and smiles. Sean and Angela leave the conference room abruptly. Ivan and Carlos look worried. The film freezes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Ivan and Carlos were worried and rightfully so. Soon Sean and Angela were inseparable. Days turned into weeks. Things were good for a time. That was, until that fateful day when greed and envy threatened to destroy it all.

TWO WEEKS LATER

INT. CERBERUS STUDIOS - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Ivan and Carlos are sitting in the conference room, pensive. Carlos has a computer hooked up to a projector. Sean walks in and looks surprised.

SEAN

Hey guys, you needed to see me?

IVAN

Sean, sit down.

SEAN

Uh oh, am I in trouble?

Sean sits down. Carlos hits a button his laptop. A picture of him feeding Angela ice cream up on the screen, the word "SIMP?" above his head.

SEAN (CONT'D)

What the hell is this?

Carlos forwarded the slide show. Picture after picture flashed by of Sean and Angela being affectionate.

CARLOS

Have you forgotten what a simp was, Sean? Someone so pathetic they give everything to a girl without any thought for their own needs.

IVAN

Angela is a Stacey. They feed on Simps. Beautiful women that flaunt their bodies in front of us, use us for our money and time, and then throw us to the curb the minute a Chad shows up.

SEAN

I know what a Stacey is. That's not Angela.

CARLOS

You're lost, man. We're staging an intervention.

Sean sat speechless.

IVAN

I know for a fact you're spending money on her. I saw that necklace on her the other day. Is she even sleeping with you?

SEAN

That's none of your business!

CARLOS

Sean, we're going to give you a choice. Either you sign over your portion of Cerberus to us for a reasonable discount and walk away or you drop that bitch.

SEAN

I can't believe this is happening. I thought you were my friends.

IVAN

We are. Look at what I found  
online.

Ivan slides Sean a stack of papers, stapled together. The title of the paper: "YOUNG MEN AND SEXUAL DYNAMICS BEHIND MALE RIGHTS ACTIVISM - Angela Dempsey, Psych 510"

IVAN (CONT'D)

This is her masters thesis. You can read it, but I'll tell you what it says. We're lab rat losers, and you are our leader.

As Sean flips through the report, his face grows sour.

SEAN

You guys didn't have to threaten me - this would have been enough. This ends, now. It's time for a special, live event. Right. Now.

Ivan and Carlos smile with glee as the three of them head to the filming studio.

INT. COLUMBIA TOWER - VIDEO STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

Sean sits in front of the camera, screaming, his face red. Ivan and Carlos sit next to him, brooding, nodding in agreement. The frame freezes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This is Sean screwing up his relationship. He commences to trash Angela by name for the world to see, an instant viral hit.

EXT. TACOMA - UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND - DAY

Angela is moving boxes into her car, walking up and down from her dormitory. Tears are streaming down her face.

Sad, dirge-like music plays, while she continues to move out.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This is Angela dropping out of University after being fired from New Age Media. Once her boss saw Sean's video, her dismissal was immediate. But Fate is not yet done with our couple.

ONE WEEK LATER

EXT. SEATTLE - SPACE NEEDLE BASE - DAY

Ivan and Carlos walk with Sean as he approaches a local radio station next to the Space Needle. Sean is uncharacteristically sullen.

CARLOS

What do you think, AngryDog? How are the Boomers going to take this? They're all into radio.

SEAN

(looking bored)

Who knows? They figured it out for their generation, or we wouldn't be here. Maybe they have answers for us. Wouldn't that be funny?

CARLOS

(fake laughing)

Super funny, AngryDog! All I know is our generation of males must stick together, right my man?

Sean doesn't respond. He stops, as if frozen. Carlos and Ivan follow his gaze. In the distance, they see Angela, in a work uniform. She sees them and crosses her arms defiantly.

IVAN

Oh my God, it's her. Let's go tell that bitch off.

Sean's face is stoic as the three men approach Angela.

ANGELA

Sean. What are you doing here?

SEAN

I have an radio interview. Seems that I'm a hot topic now. You?

ANGELA

I work in the Space Needle, at the restaurant.

SEAN

That's great - you know what, to hell with the niceties! Angela, why did you do it? Why did you write that hit piece?

(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

Was it a set up the entire time?  
Were we nothing but lab rats to  
you?

ANGELA

Sean, I'm taking a class, at least  
I was until I dropped out...just  
the opinions of a grad student. Did  
you read the whole thing?

SEAN

Enough of it.

ANGELA

Yea? Did you read the part about  
reframing situations? You, and  
those two henchmen of yours, have  
only yourselves to blame for your  
girl troubles. How could you listen  
to them?

SEAN

I see I was right the whole time.  
Love is dead.

ANGELA

The only thing that is dead is your  
brain, Sean.

Angela pokes him in the head, and steps closer to him.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

You know it's perfect that you  
called your company Cerberus. Do  
you know what Cerberus did in  
mythology?

SEAN

Three headed dog that guarded the  
gates of hell?

ANGELA

That's right, but not to keep  
people from entering, but from  
leaving. These fools and this whole  
mythos keeps you locked in a hell  
of your own creation!

Ivan and Carlos LAUGH LOUDLY. Angela GRUNTS, stomps her feet,  
flips them off, turns and storms off towards the Space  
Needle. Sean stands there, his face forlorn, tears begin to  
form. The frame freezes. Arrows appear on the screen pointing  
at Sean's eyes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

That's right, ladies and gentlemen,  
those are tears falling from Sean's  
eyes.

Film rolls again. Carlos looks at Sean's face, his eyes grow large. He hooks Sean's arm and drags him away from Angela to the radio studio entrance next door.

INT. SEATTLE - KXXX RADIO STATION - CONTINUOUS

Sean is seated at a microphone. In the other chair is ROGER ROCK (male, 40s), shock jock of Seattle.

ROGER

I have with me here the hottest  
YouTube sensation, Sean "AngryDog"  
Mongel here, from Cerberus Studios  
right here in Seattle. Sean, tell  
us about yourself and why you hate  
women!

Sean looks at Roger and then to Ivan and Carlos, who are behind the sound proof glass in a side room, nervously smiling.

SEAN

(beat)

Roger, I'm not sure its about women  
at all, really. Why do we hate  
women? Do we really?

ROGER

Well, I've been divorced three  
times, so I'll let you fill in the  
blanks on that one. You say love is  
dead in your latest episode that  
some are calling the most brutal  
breakup video ever.

SEAN

(sullen)

I was furious...lost my temper.

ROGER

I get you, young man. She used you  
for your money and dissed you in an  
academic paper. That's low!

SEAN

I gave her that money for school so  
she didn't have to work two jobs.

(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

I did it so she could spend more time with me. Honestly, if you read her paper or watch her YouTube channel, you'll see she's just trying to figure out why we're all so damn mad.

ROGER

Mad...do you mean angry or crazy?

SEAN

Both, Roger. We're both angry and crazy. This war we have with women is pointless. My producer, Carlos, said it best: Every generation has had to figure out how to get together, what the rules are for relationships.

Sean looks to Carlos, who looks dumbfounded. Ivan punches him in the arm, nearly knocking him down.

ROGER

You sound mad, AngryDog!

Sean peers over to his friends, who look extremely concerned. Carlos WAVES his hand under his neck, and mouths the words "Stop it!"

SEAN

(bangs the table)

You know what, Roger, I'm crazy. Crazy for losing the last few weeks of my life, hell, the last few years of my life being angry. For what? How am I going to learn about women by yelling into a camera about them? And I see my producer is telling me to stop, and I think that's exactly what I'm going to do.

Sean gets up abruptly and runs out of the radio studio.

ROGER

I guess that young man had to go to the bathroom! Radio isn't for everyone, AngryDog! We'll be back in a few minutes.

EXT. SEATTLE - SPACE NEEDLE - CONTINUOUS

Sean bursts out of radio studio. He looks up at the Space Needle. The film freezes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Sean faces a foe made of steel,  
glass, and metal, stacked 605 feet  
high - the Space Needle. His  
stomach churned. There was no time.  
Carlos and Ivan were coming.

SEAN

I will not be kept in hell!

Sean runs into the Space Needle, buys a ticket and heads to the elevator. The camera zooms to his face as it begins to pour sweat. His eyes clamp shut.

Music: **Carl Orff's - O' Fortuna** plays, softly at first, building as the elevator rises into the sky, and hitting a crescendo as the doors of the elevator open.

INT. SEATTLE - SPACE NEEDLE - RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

The elevator opens. We see out of Sean's eyes at first, as he exits the elevator, the world is tilting and spinning. Sean holds onto the walls as he nears the reception area. He reaches the podium, leaning on it for support. A HOSTESS approaches him, a worried look on her face.

HOSTESS

Sir, can I help you?

SEAN

(moaning)

Angela...is she here?

HOSTESS

She's on the Loupe taking a break.  
Are you sure you're okay?

Sean sinks to the ground. The film freezes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

It is only now that Sean recalls a detail of this concrete monstrosity - the Loupe, the only rotating glass floor in the world. For Sean, it might as well be a ring of fire. Yet, Angela's beautiful face enters his mind and fills him with renewed determination.

Music: **Carl Orff's - O' Fortuna** hits a crescendo as the hostess backs away and Sean crawls towards out towards the Loupe. Concerned diners and waiters avoid the crawling man.

SEAN

Angela! Angela! Where are you!?

Sean continues to crawl towards the outer ring of the Observation deck, but upon reaching the transparent floor his eyes cross, stomach GURGLES, body LURCHES, and he spews sick everywhere as people flee the scene.

Music: **Carl Orff's - O' Fortuna** comes to its climatic ending.

EXT. SEATTLE - SPACE NEEDLE BASE - DAY MOMENTS LATER

An EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN rolled Sean out of the Space Needle and towards an ambulance. A crowd had gathered, including Carlos and Ivan, who approached.

CARLOS

Dude, you look dead.

SEAN

Where is Angela?

IVAN

You are pathetic. Look at you! That Stacey has ruined you! Maybe the folks at BroMedia will be interested in some video-

Just then Angela steps in between the stretcher and Ivan. She stands on her tippy toes and points right in his face.

ANGELA

Why don't you take your big fat ass out of here and hit the road?! You two have been poisoning his mind for too long! That paper wasn't about him, it was about you two idiots! You don't hate women, you hate yourselves, and you can't even see it. Get help!

IVAN

So tough, little girl. So tough.

Carlos grabs Ivan's and Carlos walk away into the Seattle crowd. Sean reaches for and grabs Angela's hand.

SEAN

You found me.

ANGELA

Found you?! You made quite a scene. What were you thinking? You have a condition, Sean. You could have called!

SEAN

No, no, I needed to apologize, now, in person. I have been horrible. I am so sorry. You lost everything because of me.

ANGELA

No, I should have told you about the paper, but I didn't think it was a big deal. I am sorry.

Angela wipes the matted hair off of Sean's forehead.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

I would kiss you, but, you know, vomit.

SEAN

Totally understand.

ANGELA

I'll see you at the hospital, AngryDog.

WEEKS LATER

INT. SEATTLE - ANGELA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Angela and Sean are seen happily talking on camera.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Sean and Angela got back together with a commitment to communicate with respect and love. Sean gladly sold off Cerberus to his ex-friends, Ivan and Carlos. Sean and Angela started a hot new YouTube channel called Open Arms, specializing in relationship advice. The happy couple never returned to the Space Needle, for which the personnel there were eternally grateful.

FADE OUT.