

**From Help Desk**

*By Don Zolidis*

BRIN, *any gender*

CHARLIE, *any gender*

*Lights up on BRIN and CHARLIE*

CHARLIE

Help desk, this is Charlie.

BRIN

Hey there. I'm having a little bit of a problem.

CHARLIE

Aren't we all? But I'm the only one getting paid to help people, so fire away.

BRIN

So I downloaded your virus protection program on my computer.

*Charlie laughs.*

What?

CHARLIE

Nothing. I'm sorry I'm just amused. Go ahead.

BRIN

What are you amused about?

CHARLIE

Little joke we have here in the office. Not a problem. You don't need to worry about it. I just love my job, that's all. By the way, if you hear me laughing or high-fiving people, just ignore that.

BRIN

Why would you be high-fiving people?

CHARLIE

I just love my team, that's all. So you downloaded the virus protection.

BRIN

Yes, your "Virus Assassin 3."

CHARLIE

Oh you got 3?!

*Charlie laughs again.*

Hey everybody I got a customer here who got Virus Assassin 3!

*Laughs and celebration from off-stage (or off-screen.)*

I know, right!? Wooo!

BRIN

Yeah, so I downloaded Virus Assassin 3 because it said it would take care of my viruses permanently.

CHARLIE (*chuckling to himself*)

Yeah it says that. Classic.

BRIN

But as soon as I installed it I started getting all these pop-ups.

CHARLIE

Yup!

BRIN

And they just say things like, “your computer is in danger!” Or this one “There are viruses coming for your computer – they are stealing all of your information and writing emails to your Mom blaming her for all the problems in your life.” I mean that’s really specific. My Mom doesn’t even know she’s responsible for all the problems in my life.

CHARLIE

Amazing.

BRIN

So it seems like all Virus Assassin 3 does is just put pop-ups on my computer scaring me.

CHARLIE

Sometimes fear is the best motivator.

BRIN

But that’s basically what a virus does.

CHARLIE

Yup!

BRIN

So how is Virus Assassin 3 different than a virus?

*Charlie laughs.*

CHARLIE

Hey she's asking how Virus Assassin 3 is different than a virus!

*More laughs and celebration off-stage.*

Yes you're right.

BRIN

What am I right about?

CHARLIE

Virus Assassin 3 is in fact a virus. Don't get upset – it's there to show you just how bad a virus can be.

BRIN

But I paid for it!

CHARLIE

I know! You made a terrible mistake! You were completely fooled! That just shows you how vulnerable you are to other viruses!

BRIN

It says it murders viruses!

CHARLIE

And it does! By becoming one of them! And now your computer is infected with Virus Assassin 3, which is totally about to beam all your credit card information to the Dark Web.

BRIN

The dark web?!

CHARLIE

Oh yeah! It's scary. That's why it's called the Dark Web. Pretty soon organized crime in Morocco is going to have access to all your contacts and will be calling your Grandma.

BRIN

This is crazy!

CHARLIE *(laughing)*

I know! You'd be amazed at how many people fall for this!

BRIN

But how do I get rid of it?

CHARLIE

That's where I can help you. We have a specially designed product that will take care of Virus Assassin 3. No problem. No questions asked.

*He can barely keep a straight face while saying it.*

Virus Assassin Extreme. I know you're worried that it's gonna be expensive, but it's only a monthly fee of 19.95.

BRIN

Why is it a monthly fee?

CHARLIE

It's a subscription service. Because Virus Assassin 3 is constantly mutating, so you need Virus Assassin Extreme to be constantly adapting to fight it. Don't you know anything about viruses?

BRIN

How do I know Virus Assassin Extreme isn't just another virus?  
*Charlie laughs again.*

CHARLIE

I guess you'll just have to trust me.

BRIN

But you don't seem trustworthy at all!

CHARLIE

It's quite a dilemma, isn't it? You are really in a bind!  
*He calls out to the other people*  
I think she's gonna buy Virus Assassin Extreme!  
*More laughs and cheers from people off-stage.*

BRIN

I'm not doing this.

CHARLIE

Aww. You sure?

BRIN

Yes! You guys are like criminals! I guess I need to buy a new computer then.

CHARLIE

I guess you do. But you're in luck because we sell those too.

BRIN

Ooh!

*Lights down on them.*