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Trance Meeting



Logline: A personable therapist, accustomed to subtle malpractice to satisfy his desires is unsettled by a new client and her partner. He struggles to protect his secret in the face of hacking, trolling and arrest before finally accepting his fate.

Personable Chad (35) helps people give up smoking, lose weight and learn new skills using hypnosis, he keeps a video record of the sessions. Sometimes he misuses his skills to satisfy himself. He always takes care when selecting victims to minimise risk as he gets most customers by referral. Chad also has a professional web site for his practice containing testimonials.

Helen, 32, a stunning physiotherapist, has an increasingly debilitating stutter, her partner Adam 37, a telecoms engineer wants to give up smoking. Adam is recommended Chad by a friend. They visit Chad together. Chad and Helen share an instant attraction.

Helen and Adam have a joint few sessions, both show improvement. Helen is ecstatic. Chad recommends they go solo, Adam is jealous, reticent, Helen enthusiastic. They agree to consecutive solo sessions. Both improve.

Chad's web site is hacked, someone has loaded incriminating video material (all lies) as a testimonial, but it is his office, his voice, his body. The video is as if Chad had executed it. The police visit the office. Chad is upset and defensive about the allegations.

Helen is interviewed by the police. Helen witnesses the police interview Chad roughly, she is appalled. Helen defends Chad and offers to help him, Adam is jealous, falls out with Helen.

Chad and Helen try to trace the hacker, their relationship blossoms. The hacking and trolling gets worse.

Chad suspects Adam, Helen says a dissatisfied customer. They trawl his files, identify several, some of whom he has taken advantage of, but not all. His secret remains so.

Helen offers to be a decoy to expose the hacker. Adam is furious and insists on being involved. Adam bugs Chad's office after Helen mistakenly trusts him.

Suspects arrive, lured by the offer of a free session and massage, by Helen, under the pretext of a partnership deal. They settle on a choice of two but fear they are being toyed with.

Another, the worst, video is published. Incredibly Adam recognises an anomaly which means it can't be Chad's office, he says nothing. The police arrive, Chad is arrested on the strength of the video.

Adam manipulates Helen, blackmails Chad with the anomaly info. Helen grows to hate Adam.