

The Inside Out Love Life of Sherman Banks

Created & Written by

Paul Spreadbury

An Original Story

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2021 WGA Registration: 2134482

(850) 723 3663  
Shedman11@hotmail.com

FADE

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Neat-as-a-pin living room. **SHERMAN BANKS (32)** is engaged in video chat with his VGFB (Virtual Girlfriend with Benefits) **SAMANTHA TELLER (29)**. MyChic-VGFB APP logo with the words "Samantha - Your Virtual Girlfriend with Benefits" is on the screen. (Characters may be any race or mixed race).

SAMANTHA

Sorry about your mom Sherman.

SHERMAN

(voice cracking with emotion)  
If only she listened to me. She had this weird thing about *fresh air!*

SAMANTHA

I know, some old people never get it.

SHERMAN

(angry)  
After 96 years of sucking that poison it finally killed her!

Sherman's voice cracks as he recalls his last chat with mom.

SHERMAN (CONT)

She made me a mask for Christmas.

CUT: FLASHBACK ON PC SCREEN.

Video chat between Sherman and his mom **RUTH**. Sherman wears a hand knit mask with HO! HO! HO! embroidered on it. The "O's" look like a bizarre virus. Ruth's webcam is askew. Only the upper right side of her head and one eye appear in the lower corner of the screen. Her dialog is voice over.

SHERMAN

I love it mom. It's great.

Sherman removes the mask to admire it.

RUTH (VO)

I made the O's to look like the airborne flesh eating amoeba virus!

SHERMAN

Oh yeah! The Fresno variant.

RUTH (VO)

Now y'can go out, get some fresh air!

SHERMAN

Sure, sure and get touched by who knows who with who knows what! Who needs it? I can get anything I want with an app.

RUTH (VO)

Can y'give me a grandkid with an app!?

SHERMAN

Oh ma.

RUTH

Huh? Can y'find love with an app!?

SHERMAN

Yes I can! I found Samantha.

RUTH (VO)

A virtual girlfriend with benefits? I don't want virtual grandchildren!!

Sherman rolls his eyes, changes the subject.

SHERMAN

Sooo ma, how's things in Boca?

RUTH (VO)

It's a beautiful day. I'm gonna putter in the garden. (beat) There's a birds nest and a bee hive in the lemon tree!

SHERMAN

Aw, mom. Those aren't 'birds', they're drones and bee stings will cause your brain to rot. (pause) Don't you ever read Facebook?

RUTH (VO)

Oh! I made a new friend on Facebook!

SHERMAN (REPLAY)

Really?

RUTH (REPLAY)

His name's Roger! He's wiring two-hundred-and-fifty thousand dollars into my checking account!

FLASHBACK ENDS

Back to the video chat between Sherman and Samantha.

SAMANTHA

What a sweet lady. Such a warm eye.

SHERMAN

You weren't at the funeral. (beat)  
 Didn't you get the link I sent for the  
 RIP Final-Services App?

SAMANTHA

I was there but I opted out of the  
 'show-your-sad-mournful face' feature.

SHERMAN

Why?

SAMANTHA

Who wants to see someone's Virtual  
 Girlfriend With Benefits at a virtual  
 funeral? (beat) Tacky.

SHERMAN

Yeah, that could be awkward.

Sherman's surprised to see a dog run behind Samantha.

SHERMAN

Hey! I didn't know you had a dog!

SAMANTHA

Isn't she cute? She's a Doggie-Dash  
 dog! (pause) Oh shit!

Samantha buries her face in her hands - instantly regretting  
 what she just said. A smaller screen appears.

SHERMAN

What?

An annoying commercial for Doggie-Dash plays in the screen.  
 Poorly animated dogs dance on the screen.

DOGGIE-DASH JINGLE

Doggie-Dash brings a dog to your place  
 From your app to your lap then it  
 licks your face. Roll over, do tricks,  
 sniffs your rear end. Everybody needs  
 a friend who is housebroken.

Doggie-Dash Logo with title: *FIDO2*. An animated dog points to the CLICK HERE button as a tacky voice makes the pitch.

TACKY PITCH MAN (VO)  
Download Doggie-Dash App now and get a  
free box of Doggie-Dash doggie treats!

DOGGIE-DASH JINGLE  
Everybody needs a friend who is  
housebroken!

Video box with the commercial goes away. Samantha shrugs.

SAMANTHA  
Sorry. The app plays a commercial  
whenever you say its name.

SHERMAN  
Speaking of names, what's the dogs?

SAMANTHA  
DD1236B.

SHERMAN  
What's the "B" stand for?

SAMANTHA  
Female.

SHERMAN  
'B' is for female?

SAMANTHA  
In doggie world a female is a 'bitch'.

SHERMAN  
Uh, what's a male dog called?

SAMANTHA  
A dog. (beat) Guys are just dogs.

SHERMAN  
So how she working out?

SAMANTHA  
I dunno, she humps my leg a lot.

Samantha mimes being humped by a dog. Sticks her tongue out, pants and thrusts herself back and forth.

SAMANTHA (CONT)

I don't think I like being humped by a lesbian bitch all the time.

SHERMAN

Uh-oh.

SAMANTHA

Oh no! I did it again!

FCC LOGO with WOKE ALERT flashes across the screen with a WARNING ALARM SOUND. A firm **OFFICIAL WARNING** voice.

OFFICIAL WARNING (VO)

WOKE Alert! WOKE Alert!

Words 'lesbian bitch' flash on screen.

OFFICIAL WARNING (VO - CONT)

The term lesbian bitch is in direct violation of FCC Inclusionary Policy 167 dash 351. This is user...

Samantha's name appears on the screen. Samantha glares.

ELECTRONIC INSERT VOICE

*Samantha Teller*

OFFICIAL WARNING (VO-CONT)

... third violation this month. The fine is three hundred dollars.

SAMANTHA

She's a dog dammit!

The WARNING ALERT sound blares again.

OFFICIAL WARNING (VO-CONT)

Body Shame Alert! Body Shame Alert!

Samantha lowers her head in defeat.

OFFICIAL WARNING (VO-CONT)

Disparaging comments regarding appearance are in direct violation of FCC Code of E-Conduct...

ELECTRONIC INSERT (VO)

*Samantha Teller*

OFFICIAL WARNING (VO-CONT)  
Is required to complete the 30-day FCC  
course in tolerance and inclusion.

Sherman shakes his head in shame at Samantha.

SHERMAN  
Three violations in one month?

SAMANTHA  
What can I say?

SHERMAN  
If I were you I wouldn't say anything.

SAMANTHA  
I can't help it! You wouldn't believe  
what us VGFB's are asked to do.

Sherman leans into the webcam.

SHERMAN  
(whispers)  
Are you saying some guys want you to  
be (pause) *politically incorrect*?

Samantha holds a tin container of shoe polish.

SAMANTHA  
There's this guy in Idaho makes me put  
shoe polish all over my body.

SHERMAN  
He's a racist?

SAMANTHA  
Not black polish.

Samantha wipes a smear of polish on her forehead. Sherman  
leans close to the screen to get a good look.

SAMANTHA  
Cordovan! I smear it all over my body.

SHERMAN  
Oh?

SAMANTHA  
Then he smears his and we pretend to  
be the last man and woman of a dying  
race called the Cordovians.

SHERMAN

Is there such a thing?

SAMANTHA

Then we e-screw like a pair of digital bunnies to replenish the species!

SHERMAN

That's disgusting.

SAMANTHA

It's a living.

Sherman shakes his head, waves his hands.

SHERMAN

So, the virtual woman I love is some kind of alien shoe polish whore!?

SAMANTHA

Shermie, do you really love me?

SHERMAN

Of course! You know I do.

SAMANTHA

Then why won't you touch me?

SHERMAN

What are you talking about? Every time we have a virtual love session I...

SAMANTHA

No Sherman. You're touching yourself.

SHERMAN

Well, it's almost the same thing.

SAMANTHA

No Sherman, it isn't.

SHERMAN

Really? (beat) How would you know?

SAMANTHA

When you have a dog y'gotta walk it.

SHERMAN

(confused then shocked)  
Walk it? (beat) You mean...



SAMANTHA

Yes Sherman, I went outside.

SHERMAN

What about the airborne flesh-eating amoeba? (beat) The Fresno varient?

SAMANTHA

I don't think there is an airborne flesh-eating amoeba!

SHERMAN

Then how do you explain all those Facebook posts and Tic Toc...

SAMANTHA

Sherman, there's more.

SHERMAN

What do you mean, more?

SAMANTHA

I met a man. He's a boarder.

SHERMAN

What the hell's a boarder?

SAMANTHA

They're the guys who board-up all the stores that are going out of business.

SHERMAN

(confused)

I thought they're called liquidators.

SAMANTHA

Liquidators do all the paper work. Boarders do all the dirty work.

SHERMAN

Dirty work?

SAMANTHA

They take wood and pound it over and over, they pound it. Me and DD1236B watched a boarder pound his wood for two hours!

SHERMAN

Maintaining proper social distancing, I hope?

SAMANTHA

Sweat poured down his face and arms and chest. It was so hot. The dog ran up and started humping his leg!

SHERMAN

Does that mean the dog is actually bi?

SAMANTHA

The boarder says, 'Pretty dog. What's her name?' So I told him, 'DD1236B'. You'll never guess what he said!

SHERMAN

No, what?

SAMANTHA

He said, 'you sexy little bitch.'  
(long pause) Don't you see?

A quizzical 'no I don't see' expression on Sherman's face.

SAMANTHA (CONT)

He knew exactly what the 'B' stood for without even asking!

SHERMAN

That is impressive.

SAMANTHA

So naturally I went to his place.

SHERMAN

You what!!!?

SAMANTHA

He stripped me to my undies (beat) I was wearing the pizza lingerie.

SHERMAN

The ones I got for you with my Robo-za Pizza App credits?

SAMANTHA

He took DD1236B's collar and put it on me and said...

SHERMAN

Don't tell me!

SAMANTHA (CONT)  
...you're my bitch now! He pulled the  
leash!

SHERMAN  
Stop Sammie! Stop!

SAMANTHA (CONT)  
...our tongues danced like snakes!

SHERMAN  
Snakes don't dance!

SAMANTHA (CONT)  
I kissed his neck, then down to his  
chest, then his abs, then lower to...

SHERMAN  
I don't want to hear it!

Samantha lustfully presses on.

SAMANTHA (CONT)  
He ripped the pepperoni bra off my  
breasts, pressed his hand against my  
stomach and slowly inched down toward  
the slice mushrooms with extra...

Shaking his head, hand over his ears, Sherman pleads.

SHERMAN  
Why? What are you doing this to me!?!?

Samantha becomes suddenly very matter-of-fact.

SAMANTHA  
Because Shermie, that could've been  
us. Our snakes dancing. Me sucking  
your neck, you ripping pepperonis off  
my breast! Your hand sliding down...

SHERMAN  
All that touching! All that feeling!  
All those (pause) fluids!

SAMANTHA  
The touching is good. The feeling is  
great and the fluids (pause) oh  
Shermie, the fluids are *wonderful!*

SHERMAN

Stop!

SAMANTHA

Don't you see what I'm saying Sherman?

SHERMAN

Um (pause) that you like the fluids?

Frustrated, Samantha throws her arms up in defeat.

SAMANTHA

That's it! I'm leaving you Sherman!

SHERMAN

Please don't! I virtually need you!

SAMANTHA

I figured it might end like this so I got you a lovely e-parting gift that might come in handy.

Samantha taps a key. A smaller screen opens and a commercial for an app called *The Pocket-Palm-Sisters* plays.

POCKET-PALM-SISTERS COMMERCIAL

Images of three sexy young woman slide into frame; **RUBY**, **BETSY** and **AMBER**. One's White, one's Black, one's Hispanic. Ruby winks and does a right-handed masturbation motion.

RUBY

I'm Ruby (pause) the righty!

Betsy wiggles her tongue, does a left handed jerk.

BETSY

I'm Betsy (pause) the lefty!

Amber waves and does the motion with both hands.

AMBER

I'm Amber (pause) the ambidextrous!

The girls sing the jingle. A DOWNLOAD NOW button flashes.

JINGLE (ALL 3 GIRLS)

With Pocket Palm Sisters, don't need no girl or wife. We do what it takes to motivate - so get a grip on life!

AMBER

Don't do it all on your own.

BETSY

Go to your PC or phone.

RUBY

Every woman, every man sometimes needs  
a helping hand

AMBER

Or two!

The commercial ends. Sherman pleads.

SHERMAN

Please Samantha, let's talk.

SAMANTHA

Gotta go Sherman. They're boarding up  
a Starbucks and I'm in the mood for a  
Cafe Misto, mmm with extra Misto.

Samantha's gone, just a desktop full of app icons remain.

SHERMAN

Noooo! Samantha!

He taps a key. Words on screen: **VGFB HAS BLOCKED YOU!**

SHERMAN (CONT)

Blocked? No! No!

Sherman cries. Wipes tears from his eyes and cheeks with his  
hands. Stops. Looks at his hands in horror.

SHERMAN (CONT)

Oh my god what have I done!?

He squirts hand sanitizer, frantically wipes his hands.

SHERMAN (CONT)

Did I get it all?

He sniffs his hands. Looks at them. Still unsure, Sherman  
clicks keys. His Facebook page comes up.

SHERMAN (CONT)

Where's that post?

Enters a search: *TEAR DUCT SALINE*.

Sherman reads the health warning post.

SHERMAN

Tear duct saline (beat) when absorbed  
through hand skin (beat) respiratory  
failure (beat) possibly fatal!?

Sherman inspects his hands, panics. Taps an app.

SHERMAN

Oh no! My hearts breaking and my lungs  
are collapsing at the same time!!!

Animated logo swirls on the screen: VPCP app accompanied by  
the soothing, friendly female **VOICE OF VPCP**.

VOICE OF VPCP

Welcome to VPCP, the AMA approved  
digital, virtual primary care  
physician service. Enter the last four  
digits of your social security number.

Sherman quickly enters the data.

VOICE OF VPCP

Now connecting to your Virtual Primary  
Care Physician.

ELECTRONIC ROBOTIC VOICE

*Doctor Heston.*

Proper and dignified **DR. HESTON** (65) appears.

DR. HESTON

Sherman! Good to see you again. What  
seems to be the trouble?

SHERMAN

My virtual girlfriend left me!

DR. HESTON

For temporary relief I recommend you  
download The Palm Sisters App...

SHERMAN

I was crying!

DR. HESTON

Oh dear! Don't tell me you wiped your  
tears with hand skin!

Sherman turns his hands. Looks at them in a panic.

SHERMAN  
Yes! Yes I did!

A sudden sense of urgency.

DR. HESTON  
When did this happen?

Sherman's frantic with fear.

SHERMAN  
Maybe five minutes ago. (beat) I used  
hand sanitizer.

DR. HESTON  
Hand sanitizer won't keep those lungs  
from collapsing!

SHERMAN  
I forgot all about your post!

DR. HESTON  
Never mind that. We have to move fast.  
Quick! Put your hands on the scanner,  
one hand at a time.

As Sherman scans, images of the hands appear on the screen.  
Dr. Heston examines them. Nods and relaxes.

DR. HESTON  
Okay. We caught it in time.

Sherman is relieved.

SHERMAN  
Phew. Thank you doctor.

DR. HESTON  
Microwaves from a scanner are the only  
proven method of keeping tear duct  
saline from penetrating the epidermis.

SHERMAN  
I should've known.

DR. HESTON  
Yes you should've.

Sherman lowers his head, contrite.

SHERMAN

I'm sorry Dr. Heston.

DR. HESTON

VPCP health tips are posted on  
Facebook for a reason.

SHERMAN

I know, to keep us all alive.

Dr. Heston nods understandingly, folds his hands.

DR. HESTON

Always remember, broken hearts heal,  
collapsed lungs don't.

SHERMAN

I'll write it down.

Dr. Heston taps his keyboard. A discount code for Robo-za  
Pizza appears on the screen.

DR. HESTON

Now, as far as the heartache goes, I'm  
giving you a prescription for one  
Robo-za Pizza! Here's a discount code.

SHERMAN

Thank you Dr. Heston! I feel better  
already!

Sherman clicks the link.

An animated hands less droid robot with an Italian accent  
(**MARCO**) appears with the name/theme: *ROBO-ZA AS GOOD AS  
HANDMADE BUT WITHOUT THE HANDS.*

MARCO

Welcome to-a Robo-za Pizza. As-a good  
as handmade butta widout da hands. I'm  
Marco. How can I a-help you?

SHERMAN

I'd like a pepperoni and sausage with  
extra cheese, light on the sauce.

MARCO

Ah! We call that a-pizza Samantha!

SHERMAN

What?!



MARCO  
I named it after my virtual-a  
girlfriend with-a benefits!

SHERMAN  
Sam's *my* VGFB! Or at least she *was*.

MARCO  
Don't a-tell me. Are you Sherman?

SHERMAN  
Yes.

MARCO  
Whatta small-a world! Sammie's always  
a-talkin' about you!

SHERMAN  
Really?

MARCO  
Some-a times when we're a-makin' sweet  
virtual amore' she says-a your name.  
Instead of Marco, she goes 'oh Sherman  
touch-a me here, oh Sherman touch-a me  
there.' It's-a okay, Marco don't mind.  
What am I gonna do? I gotta no hands!

SHERMAN  
Then she really does love me?

MARCO  
Oh, she's a-crazy nuts about you.

SHERMAN  
I gotta go!

MARCO  
But whatta about your Robo-za Pizza?

Pizza app closes. Sherman taps keys. MyChic-VGFB app opens.  
Sherman enters Samantha's name. **NO LONGER A VGFB** appear.

SHERMAN  
Oh no! She's quit MyChic! I've lost  
her forever!!!

Overwhelmed with anguish, Sherman opens a desk draw, takes  
out a bottle of bourbon and pours a glass. He's about to  
drink, glances into the open desk drawer and see's the hand  
made virus mask his mom gave him for Christmas.

SHERMAN

Oh momma! Samantha's left me. (pause)  
I wish you were here! I really need  
someone to talk to!

Image of a cemetery fades onto the PC Screen with After-Life App logo and jingle. A gravestone emerges with the words **RUTH BANKS AFTER-LIFE** Member and **CLICK HERE**.

LYRICS

We encrypt a body in a special way.  
Digitize ashes 'n pixelate away. Talk  
to the dead or video chat With just a  
tap on the Afterlife app.

DISCLAIMER VOICE (VO)

Data usage rates may apply.

Sherman stares slack-jawed. Ruth's voice snaps him out of it.

RUTH (VO)

Don't just sit there. Click here!

Sherman clicks and Ruth appears as poorly framed as ever - with only the upper right hand side of her head and one eye appearing in the corner of the screen.

SHERMAN

Mom? Is that you?

RUTH (VO)

You don't recognize your own mother!?

SHERMAN

But you're, uh, you're dead.

RUTH (VO)

Not exactly. I'm a VD. Virtual Dead.

SHERMAN

You're a zombie?

RUTH (VO)

Zombie's are LD. Living dead. But you  
didn't tap to talk about that.

SHERMAN

Oh mom, I think I screwed up!

Ruth's one visible eye rolls a nd what we can see of her head shakes.

RUTH (VO)  
You *think*? A beautiful girl wants to love you like a polo pony, you send her away and you think you screwed up?

SHERMAN  
How do you know all this?

RUTH (VO)  
In virtual heaven we know virtually everything about the virtual world. For instance, there are no airborne flesh-eating amoeba!

Sherman waves his arms, disagreeing with Ruth.

SHERMAN  
Whoa! Wait a minute! I can show you over two dozen posts...

Ruth gets upset.

RUTH (VO)  
It's all virtual bullshit!

SHERMAN  
What does it matter? She's gone.

RUTH (VO)  
No, she's *virtually* gone. The real Samantha is out there somewhere.

SHERMAN  
Yeah, pounding wood with some boarder.

RUTH (VO)  
She doesn't love him.

SHERMAN  
She loves his fluids.

RUTH (VO)  
She loves you!

SHERMAN  
What am I gonna do?

RUTH (VO)  
Find her!

SHERMAN

How?!

RUTH (VO)

You won't find her between the sofa cushions you schmuck!

SHERMAN

Where would I start?!

RUTH (VO)

She's at the Starbucks.

SHERMAN

Maybe Uber Eats can deliver her.

RUTH (VO)

Sherman! Go out there and get her!

SHERMAN (CONT)

7 out of 10 rarely or never step outside anymore!

RUTH (VO)

7 out of 10 are mostly or always schmucks!

SHERMAN

8 out of 10 never have touchy sex!

RUTH (VO)

8 out of 10 can screw themselves.

SHERMAN

Wouldn't that be redundant?

RUTH (VO)

Dammit! Get out and find her! She wants you. She loves you!

Sherman stares at the glass of bourbon. Grabs it.

RUTH

That's the ticket! Get loaded!

Sherman slugs it down.

SHERMAN

(cough) Okay! I'm gonna do it!

He stands up, determined, looks down at the PC screen.

SHERMAN

I'm going ma! If being an outsider is  
what it takes to find love, so be it!

Sherman takes a step toward the door. Stops. Seems dizzy. A vertigo effect of the door makes it seem as if it's a hundred yards away. Sherman grabs his head, steadies himself.

SHERMAN

I don't think I can do it.

RUTH (VO)

Have another drink! Make it a double!

Sherman pours another, slugs it down. Wipes liquor off with his hand. Looks at his hand, worried, shakes it off.

SHERMAN

The hell with it!

RUTH

Love is waiting outside that door son!  
Go for it!

Sherman goes to the door. Opens it. Stops in his tracks when he sees Samantha waiting on the other side, with a pizza. The collar and leash around her neck.

SHERMAN

Sam!

SAMANTHA

Marco sent me.

SHERMAN

Where's DD1236B?

SAMANTHA

She and the boarder have a thing so I  
let him keep her. I kept the collar.

Sherman tosses the pizza aside. After looking at each other lovingly, they share a deep passionate kiss.

SHERMAN

Wow! Snakes really can dance.

Samantha licks her lips.

SAMANTHA

Mmm your fluid tastes like bourbon.

Sherman steps aside, motioning Samantha to come in.

SHERMAN  
Care for a glass?

SAMANTHA  
They're boarding up Casey's on Monday.

SHERMAN  
There's still a real bar open?

SAMANTHA  
Drinks are half off.

Sherman looks past Samantha at the sky. Squints at the sun.

SHERMAN  
Uh, I dunno...

SAMANTHA  
Come on Sherman, lets go liquidate  
some assets.

Samantha hands Sherman the leash. He smiles. Stops. Has remembered something.

SHERMAN  
Wait a minute!

Sherman rushes back to the desk, pulling Samantha by the leash behind him. Reaches in the drawer and removes the virus mask his mom made him for Christmas. Samantha see's 1/4 of Ruth's head on the screen.

SAMANTHA  
Hi Mrs. Banks! You look real good for  
a dead person.

Ruth's hand raises in the screen.

RUTH (VO)  
Hello dearie! Thank you.

SHERMAN  
Thanks mom!

Sherman kisses his fingers, presses them on Ruth's 1/4 face.

RUTH (VO)  
Make me proud Shermie. Give your VD  
mom some real sweet grand babies.

Sherman puts on the mask. He and Samantha leave. Ruth's one eye follows and begins to tear up. Sound of the door closing.

RUTH (VO)  
I'm so happy! (sniff) My boy is  
finally going to have a (sniff)

Ruth wipes tears from her eye - stops. Eye opens in panic.

RUTH (VO)  
Oh virtual god, what have I done?  
Help! Someone help!

She runs out of frame. Her voice crying out in panic and fades in the distance .

RUTH (VO)  
Get me a scanner! I got tear duct  
saline on my hands!!! My virtual lungs  
are gonna collapse! (audio fade)

Credits appear on the PC screen.

THE END