

# 4 Commandments of Borrowing a Phone

MYAT MOE KHAING

We get hit by a wave of panic when someone borrows our phone. No matter who the borrower is – from best friends to parents – we aren't able to trust them with our phones. Borrowing phones can save us from many troubles, so why not respect our saviours?

## 1) YOU SHALL NOT PASS

I just got my phone back and it shows "Try again in 30 seconds"; I instantly know the person was up to something devious. The reason my unlock pattern requires the adept finesse of a skilled tailor is because my entire life is on that device – social media accounts, bank accounts and emails. If you want access to that stuff, I'd suggest you provide me with a security deposit, a non-disclosure agreement and a vial of blood. Or maybe you could have it unlocked by the owner. Saves you from the embarrassment when s/he notices that you were trying to have a peek.

## 2) IT'S NOT YOUR MONEY

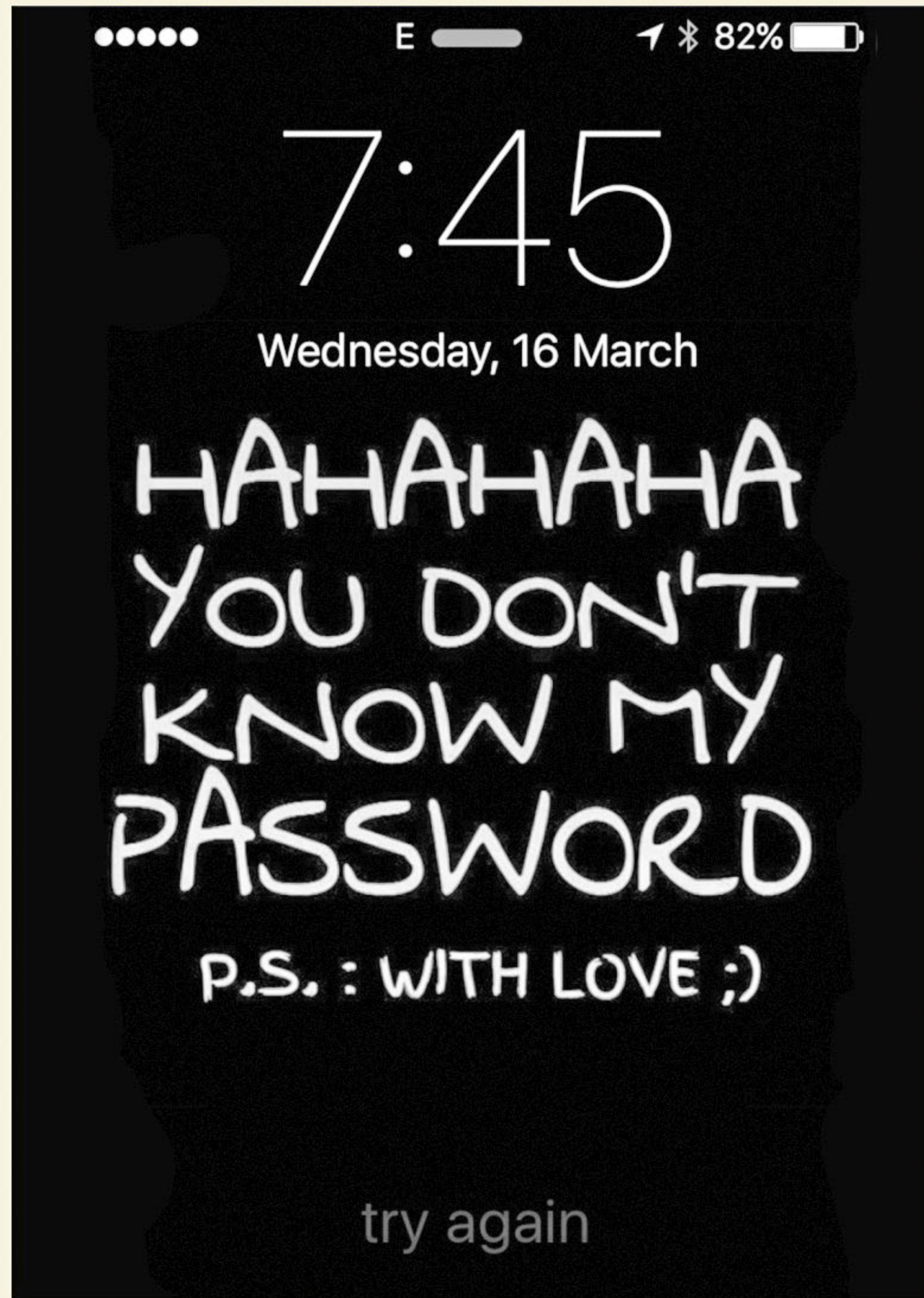
I recharged Tk 20 and my friend uses my phone to call another friend. S/he chats happily and surprises me when returning the phone, "Sorry, mate. I didn't realise the phone would run out of credit."

Thanks. I refill my phone balance for you so that I run on emergency balance.

Asking the person on the other end to call back is the least we can do to not seem like a leech.

## 3) DON'T BE A WONDER WO/MAN

It's not always the family dawats when



seconds feel like hours. Our hearts start racing the moment our phones are in others' hands; after all, these little devices hold our deepest and darkest secrets. Our friends constantly send us screenshots and snapchats. The gallery has 30 almost-similar selfies which were taken by the owner in an attempt to Instagram one. In few, they even look like intoxicated ducks. Had any of these been meant to be shown to others, they would have been uploaded to Facebook.

Besides, finding out your contact name in my phone as "Creepy guy from class" or that your message was seen isn't what you expect when you decide to dig the chamber of secrets.

Of course I saw your message, I replied to it in my mind.

## 4) OOPS IT WASN'T ME

Well, we all have been there when it was only us and someone else's phone. As tempting as it is to change our friend's account name to Batman Returns, dropping their numbers in public groups is no joke. Once when a friend asked me for money over Facebook, I was so freaked out that I and many others immediately reported that account.

No, we couldn't reach her then because she wasn't near her own phone. Duh!

The next time you borrow a phone, remember the chain reaction of karma can haunt us for eternity.

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# THE ETHICS BEHIND SCREENSHOTS

DYUTY AURONEE

Have you ever received a screenshot of a conversation your best friend might have had with her significant other, the mean girl in her class or a complete stranger? If not, she is clearly not your best friend. I'm sorry for any existential crisis caused.

Screenshots are something that has been done to us and we have been doing this to others. It's obviously off records how many relationships in a day get screwed over a simple phone feature such as this. One shot to ruin it all, really.

There are hundreds of people in my Facebook friend list who post screenshots of this and that and it's funny when it's a text from their mobile operators or from the super shop notifying how there's a Tk 1 discount on kilos of *dherosh* but if it's something between them and their exes or their current love affairs, say no more. I know he calls you "potato" and it's funny but do I really care? It's also a breach of privacy for the person whose message you put out in public, especially when you didn't even notify him beforehand.

Screenshots are like the 21st century gossip. It's not right but fun and, allegedly, girls participate in this more. When you screenshot something and send it to

your friend and you people laugh together saying "Look what he said about you" or how he expressed his feelings about me, you are being one of those bhabhis from Hindi serials. It's just that instead of having a big mouth you have

fingers adept at pressing the power button and volume rockers together real quick.

I personally hate the idea of screenshotting messages to show other people unless of course it's like a fan mail

(even if it's imaginary) that I had received or some meme or anything that is public information anyway. I stay away from saying really serious stuff over texts to people who are outright into screenshotting things and posting them on social media. Pro tip: If you HAVE to, try sending a recording instead.

If we are interacting with a person one-on-one, it means the message is directed towards them and sometimes ONLY them. If we were to share it with the world, we might have done it ourselves. While no one can set rules for you, you must use your better judgement to decide things for yourself. Even though something like this is well within cyber legality and actually quite harmless, it might not be ethically sound to do so. Belittle the consequences of a conversation screenshot sent to a third person today, and it can be damaging to your reputation as a trustworthy friend in the future.

If you ever send the screenshot to the same person whose message you just screenshot, know that it's karma. Good luck, mate.

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