

In a Flash

By

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INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Matt and Derby, a young couple in their 30s, wake up in the morning to the sound of their phone alarms going off.

Derby reaches over to the bedside table squinting her eyes trying to turn it off.

She fumbles around for a while and then knocks over a glass of water.

DERBY

Oh shit.

Matt wakes up.

MATT

You alright?

Derby reaches for the bedside light switch and turns it on.

She is turning it on and off but thinks nothing is happening.

DERBY

I think the bulb has gone.

MATT

Oh for fuck sake.

Matt gets up and fumbles his way to the light switch next to the door.

DERBY

Matt I cant see shit.

MATT

Yea me neither.

DERBY

What time is it ?

MATT

I don't know.

Matt reaches out and turns the light on, nothing. The alarm still going off.

MATT (CONT'D)

Has the bulb has gone in this one too?

Derby is now on all fours searching for her phone.

MATT (CONT'D)
Babe please turn off that alarm.

DERBY
I'm trying ! I cant see it.

Derby's hand is scrambling around on the floor until she finds her phone finally and turns off the alarm.

She holds it to her face and unlocks it, it makes the unlock sound.

DERBY (CONT'D)
Matt I cant see anything.

MATT
Yea I know.

DERBY
No I mean it's just pitch black,
I'm looking at my phone, it's
unlocked, but it's all pitch black,
can you see the screen ?

She points it in Matt's direction.

MATT
Are you pointing it at me ?

DERBY
Yes.

MATT
Is it on ?

DERBY
Yes its fucking on, can't you hear
it, I'm unlocking and locking it ?

MATT
Alright, maybe your screen is
broken, I'm going to open the
blinds.

Matt stumbles over to the blinds and opens them.

MATT (CONT'D)
I cant see anything outside Derby,
I can't even see my own hands, it's
all completely pitch black.

DERBY
Me too.

MATT
What the fuck is going on ?

DERBY
I don't know.

Derby starts to whimper. Matt comes and sits next to her on the bed and gives her a hug.

MATT
Come on lets go to the lounge.

DERBY
Ok.

They get up and still hugging one another shuffle to the lounge.

INT. LOUNGE - MORNING

They sit down on the sofa.

DERBY
Is it actually pitch black for you ?

MATT
Completely pitch black, nothing.

DERBY
Call an ambulance.

MATT
Ok, ok I will. Give me your phone.

She hands him the phone.

MATT (CONT'D)
Unlock it please.

She does.

Matt holds down home and says to Siri.

MATT (CONT'D)
Call 999.

The phone starts ringing as the two of them are sat hugging on the sofa.

AUTOMATED MESSAGE

We're sorry, but the emergency services are not available right now, please turn on your TV for more information from the government.

DERBY

Matt what's going on.

MATT

This can't be happening.

DERBY

What?

MATT

We need to turn on the TV.

DERBY

Where's the remote ?

MATT

I think it's on the sofa.

The two of them fumble around for the remote which is perched on the coffee table in front of them.

DERBY

It's not on the sofa.

MATT

I've got it I've got it.

CUT TO:

The two of them are sat on the sofa cuddled tight to one another like they are on a lifeboat.

Matt turns on the TV. They are unconsciously stroking one another.

Matt presses channel 1.

We hear an announcement.

BBC 1 ANNOUNCEMENT

This is an automated government message, we understand that people are reporting a sudden and total loss of vision. We are currently doing everything in our power to ensure public safety.

Please remain calm.

If you are in a public place, be careful of roads and do not attempt to drive, emergency services are responding to the road incidents as we speak.

Please remain calm, we are seeking help from the governments of the European Union and the USA.

This is a government message, we understand that people are reporting ...

The automated message continues to play out on a loop, we come back to Matt and Derby who are sat in stunned silence.

DERBY

The whole country, how?

MATT

Something to do with the sun, or space or something? I've got no idea.

DERBY

Thank god I'm not alone right now.

MATT

I'm going to the toilet, and I'm going to call my Dad.

DERBY

Ok I'll going to call my Mum.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Matt is standing over the sink talking to his Dad.

MATT

Ok Dad I love you too, stay safe,
bye ... bye.

Matt hangs his head and takes a few slow deep breaths.

He turns and opens the bathroom door, Derby is outside holding her phone in her hands.

MATT (CONT'D)

Derby!

DERBY

I'm right here.

MATT

It's the same in South Africa.

DERBY

Mum said it's the same in
America...What do we do?

MATT

Shall we try and make some
breakfast?

DERBY

Yea, sure.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

The two of them stand there at the ready.

MATT

Right where to start.

DERBY

How about, you make coffee's and
I'll do some toast?

MATT

Yep sounds good.

DERBY

Chocolate spread, marmite or just
butter ?

MATT

Butter and marmite please if you
can.

DERBY

Ok I'll try.

MATT

Alright lets do it.

First Matt opens the cupboard and gets out two mugs, he
places them down on the counter.

Derby opens the fridge and fumbles around for the bread and the butter, she gets them out and pops it next to the toaster.

Matt gets out his AeroPress from its usual place, he places a filter inside, screws it together and places it on the mug.

Derby opens a cupboard and fumbles around for marmite, she pulls out two jars, one marmite, one chocolate spread. She doesn't know which is which. She places them both next to the toaster.

Matt fills up the kettle, swishes it around to gauge how much water is in there and then boils it.

Derby gets out two plates and a knife.

MATT (CONT'D)

How's it going over there ?

DERBY

Going ok, and you ?

MATT

So far so good.

Matt takes a scoop of coffee and puts it in the AeroPress.

Derby puts 4 slices in the toaster.

She then smells both pots and figures out which one is the marmite.

They are now both ready, with utensils in hand, concentrated. Waiting for their auditory cues.

Matt's kettle boils and he gently grabs the handle and figures out where the hole is for the AeroPress.

He's shaking slightly as he pours the water in, but he's misjudged how much water he needed and it overflows a little bit onto his finger.

MATT (CONT'D)

Ahh fuck !

DERBY

You ok, you ok ?

MATT

Yea, yea just burnt my finger a little bit.

DERBY

Run it under cold water.

MATT

No it's fine.

Matt mixes the coffee with the water slowly.

He then takes the plunger and gently plunges down, it all goes well and he smiles.

He pours in a bit of milk, 2 sugars and he's done.

He lifts it up to his mouth very slowly, sips pure air for ages and tips until he gets the tiniest sip of coffee.

He breaths a sigh.

DERBY

How is it?

MATT

Perfect.

The toaster pings and Derby gently puts the toast on the plates.

Meanwhile Matt is preparing another coffee for Derby.

Derby is spreading a ridiculous amount of butter on the toast.

Matt has finished making the coffees.

MATT (CONT'D)

Right I'm all done, I'll meet you by the sofa.

DERBY

Ok, I'll be right there, be careful.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Matt shuffles very slowly off towards the sofa until he finally hits the coffee table very gently with his shins.

He bends down and places the coffee's on the table and then fumbles for a coaster.

Derby has finished and now she too bumbles towards the coffee table next to the sofa.

DERBY
I'm coming.

MATT
Ok nice and slow, careful of the
coffees.

She places them down.

DERBY
That one is for you.

MATT
Thank you.

The government announcement is repeating in the background.

DERBY
Can you turn that off please ?

MATT
Yea.

He turns off the TV, then he takes a bite into the toast.

MATT (CONT'D)
Bloody hell.

DERBY
What? Is it disgusting?

MATT
No its lovely, just very buttery,
how's the coffee?

DERBY
Yea, lovely thank you.

The two of them sit there and enjoy their well earned meal in
a moment of quiet.

MATT
I can't believe this is worldwide.

DERBY
I know, hopefully it's only
temporary.

MATT
That means no one is coming to save
us.

DERBY
I'm sure the government has a plan.

MATT
I don't think this is something
they could plan for.

They hear crying and screaming from next door, the little old religious lady.

DERBY
What was that ?

MATT
Shit, that's Lynn she's all on her
own bless her.

DERBY
We should go over.

MATT
Ok.

INT. LYNN'S FRONT DOOR - MORNING

Matt and Derby stand outside the front door, they can hear Lynn crying.

They knock on the door.

LYNN (O.S)
Who is it !

MATT
It's Matt and Derby !

LYNN (O.S)
I'm coming, bear with me, I can't
see anything!

The door opens to reveal Lynn.

LYNN (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry, I woke up this
morning and I can't see anything.

DERBY
It's ok, we can't see anything
either.

LYNN
What ?

DERBY

We woke up this morning and
couldn't see anything, so we turned
on the news and it said that the
whole world has gone blind
overnight.

LYNN

That can't be right.

MATT

It is Lynn, we heard it on the
news, I spoke to my Dad in South
Africa, Derby spoke to her Mum in
the USA, it's all over the globe.

LYNN

In a flash, in the twinkling of an
eye, at the last trumpet.
Corinthians 15:52.

MATT

Do you want to come over and have a
cup of tea ?

LYNN

No thank you dear, I have to go to
the church, would you mind taking
me there, its just down the road.

DERBY

I'm not sure going outside is a
good idea right now Lynn.

LYNN

Please dear, it's only a few doors
down.

MATT

We'll take you there.

LYNN

Thank you, I'll fetch my keys.

Lynn leaves to find her keys.

DERBY

Really?

MATT

We'll be ok.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE CHURCH - DAY

Matt, Derby and Lynn all walk holding hands going down the pavement.

The sound of car alarms going off and people panicking in the streets.

Manic street preachers shouting out versus of impending doom. The rapture.

Screams for help echo through the streets.

MATT

Just don't let go, stay close together.

DERBY

Matt, can we go back?

MATT

It's ok, it's not far. We're almost there.

The three of them shuffle onwards.

EXT. CHURCH DOOR - DAY

The three of them are approaching the church doorway.

They can hear a family coming towards them.

DERBY

Hello? Can you help us please?

WOMAN

Hello, yes don't panic it's ok. Where are you trying to go to?

LYNN

To the church.

WOMAN

Yes you're almost there.

MATT

How far are we ?

MAN

Keep going the way you are going and then follow the sound of ...

Suddenly absolute silence. The camera stays on Matt, Derby and Lynn.

MATT

Follow the sound of what sorry ?

Silence.

LYNN

Hello ?

DERBY

Is anyone there ?

MATT

Keep moving. Just keep going.

The family vanished.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

They walk in through the front door and are welcome by the Vicar, an old wizard of a man. The vicar notices the sound of the door opening and welcomes them in. All we see is his maniacal smile exposing rotten teeth and sticky saliva.

VICAR

Come in please don't be afraid,
come in and bear witness to our
lord and saviour.

The three of them shuffle in.

VICAR (CONT'D)

This day was foretold thousands of
years ago. It's written there in
the holy scripture. The time is
upon us and now, we must embrace
it.

Newcomers kneel before me. Let me
nourish your souls with thy Holy
Communion.

Lynn starts walking still holding Matt and Derby's hands.
They go with her.

VICAR (CONT'D)

I ask you all to please put your
hands together and recite the lords
prayer for the Eucharist.

Many people start praying in whispers to themselves and their families. "Our Father, Who Art In Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name ..."

VICAR (CONT'D)
Come kneel before me.

All three of them kneel, Lynn first then Matt then Derby.

The Vicars hand reaches down to Lynn's face cupping her chin perfectly. He puts the Goblet to her mouth and pours the wine in.

VICAR (CONT'D)
The Blood of Christ.

She swallows and he gently pries open her mouth. He puts the bread in.

VICAR (CONT'D)
The Body of Christ.

Next he does the same to Matt.

VICAR (CONT'D)
The Blood of Christ. The Body of Christ.

Finally the same to Derby.

VICAR (CONT'D)
The Blood of Christ.

She takes a sip but some falls out of her mouth. She lets out an involuntary noise.

VICAR (CONT'D)
There, there.

He wipes away the wine from her face using his white robe.

He places the bread in her mouth.

VICAR (CONT'D)
The body of Christ.

The Vicar walks away to the altar and places the bread down.

We cut to the three of them who are kneeling, we can only see them. The vicar's lower half walks into frame, and with it a dagger and the wine goblet.

VICAR (CONT'D)

What we took from Christ, we must
now return, on this holy day of
judgement he must know you, as you
have known him. The elixir of life,
that which God gave you.

Hold out your hand.

The prayers around them get quicker and louder.

Lynn holds out her hand.

The vicar cuts her hand and holds it and squeezes it into the
Goblet. She winces slightly.

DERBY

What are you doing father ?

VICAR

Silence child.

The Vicar dips his thumb into the blood and draws a crucifix
on Lynn's forehead.

VICAR (CONT'D)

In the name of the Son, The Father
and the Holy Spirit.

He moves over to Matt now.

VICAR (CONT'D)

Hold out your hand, my child.

MATT

What for?

VICAR

Don't be afraid, give me your hand.

MATT

But what for ?

VICAR

Because the lord compels it, now
give me your hand.

The Vicar grabs it and Matt lurches backwards and falls on
his back, crawling away.

VICAR (CONT'D)

Satan has infiltrated these divine
walls !

Church goers scream.

VICAR (CONT'D)
Find them!

MATT
Derby where are you ?!

He reaches out for her. Fumbling around in the dark.

VICAR
Seize the imposter! His blood must
be spilled on holy soil!

MATT
Derby !

He reaches out and grabs the Vicar shin who immediately
slices downwards cutting Matt's arm open. Matt screams in
pain and jumps back to find himself in someone's arms.

Derby catches him, covers his mouth and whispers in his ear.

DERBY
Shhhh, it's me.

They back out in silence.

VICAR
Where are they !? Bring them to me!
Bring them to me! Do not let them
escape!

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE CHURCH - DAY

Matt and Derby burst out onto the streets and make their way
back home.

They are breathing heavily as the roars of the Vicar echoes
from the church.

They walk and the screams grow more and distant.

Now it's just them two holding hands, they walk past a front
garden and can hear two children crying.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

Two children are sat on the front garden hugging each other
and crying.

LITTLE BOY
Mummy ... Mummy.

LITTLE GIRL
It's ok, they will be back soon.

Derby stops and speaks into the garden.

DERBY
Hello? Are you ok?

The little girl wipes her tears away and looks towards the entrance of the front garden.

LITTLE GIRL
We've lost our parents.

DERBY
Oh no, did they say they were going somewhere ?

LITTLE GIRL
No Mum was talking to Dad about something and then they just left us.

MATT
Come on Derby, we can't.

DERBY
We can't just leave them.

LITTLE GIRL
Please don't leave us.

MATT
Well we can't take them with us.

Derby turns to address the children.

DERBY
How long have they been gone for ?

Silence.

The crying has stopped, now nothing.

DERBY (CONT'D)
Guys ?

MATT
Come on.

DERBY
Where did you go?

MATT
Come on, please.

DERBY
Where did they go?

MATT
Derby come on!

DERBY
Get off!

Matt tries to tug Derby away but she pulls off and their hands break.

MATT
Derby take my hand were almost there.

Silence.

MATT (CONT'D)
Derby my hand is out, take it.

Silence.

Matt knows she's gone.

MATT (CONT'D)
Derby please, Derby ! Derby where are you?

A see through invisible pipe swallows Matt's head like an anaconda, Matt tries to scream.

EXT. EXTREME WIDE SHOT OF THE CITY - DAY

Huge see-through pipes are sucking people up into the atmosphere where the Alien spaceships are harvesting them.

INT. SPACESHIP COCKPIT - SPACE

An evil Alien cackles and laughs as he uses two joysticks to suck up the humans from planet earth.

THE END