

Foggy Days

EXT. STREET - DAY

It's obvious something awful has occurred. There are cars left abandoned, cars that have crashed into bollards, into buildings, into each other. There are some bodies among the wreckage. There are one or two that are still alive crawling their way out, making unintelligible noises. The street is mostly empty though. This is not the scene of some major road accident. Something happened. Either people lost control of their vehicles or were crashed into by others who had. And since there are very few people about it's obvious that no one waited around for any help. Or if they did they didn't wait long.

Although there aren't many people to be seen the place is not totally quiet. There is the noise of some music drifting out some appliances somewhere. Noise of a horn blaring in the distance. And there is noise of some people or some sort of creatures moving around, of things being broken inside some of the buildings.

A light fog has descended, making everything look a little hazy. It's easy to see the things right around you but things in the distance are hard to make out.

DANNY, a young man in his 20s, is cautiously walking up the road, he's looking around, watching out for danger, but he also appears to be looking for someone or something specific in the buildings he passes. He stops for a few seconds at their entrances, not moving any closer to them, just looking searchingly inside.

He's dressed in grey trousers, a blue shirt and a dark red patterned tie, none of which look very expensive. He looks like he works in a junior role in some financial institution or in sales or something.

He hears the sound of a car weaving its way through all the obstacles on the street. For a moment his eyes stop darting around and he focuses on where the sound is coming from and then stares at the car approaching trying to get a look at who is inside.

Danny is standing in front of a clothes shop. A man BANGS against the window. He is injured and bleeding. He is making noises, opening and closing his mouth, as if trying to speak but not knowing how to form words. It looks like he wants to get out of the shop but there is an open door just a few metres away from him.

Danny heads towards the car. He gets close enough to see who is inside and stops in his tracks. For a moment the look of anxiety and fear that's hung on his features lifts. He

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stands a little straighter and looks around him, not in fear but in a sort of expectation that this might all be some elaborate set up, some joke.

He watches as the car being driven by a man-sized teddy bear slowly rolls by. In the passenger seat is a woman with an oddly doll-like face. She watches him a little wide-eyed and puts up an open hand as a sort of greeting. In the middle of the back seat sits a man-sized fluffy rabbit who appears to be saying something very insistently to the teddy bear. Inside the near window of the back seat is a relatively small-sized cuddly-looking cow, or perhaps it's a bull, who is cautiously giving Danny a sympathetic look.

INT. CAR

RABBIT

Don't stop. Just keep driving.

TWIMII, the oddly doll-like woman, turns and gives RABBIT a reproachful look. He looks at her angrily for a moment and then turns back to TED urging him to not stop under any circumstance.

Ted looks in the rear-view mirror. Danny is still waiting for someone to appear and explain the joke. But as the car keeps slowly moving away and no one appears, and he looks at the - presumably real - carnage before him, the fear starts to return.

EXT. STREET

Danny starts to run towards the car.

DANNY

Hey! Hey stop. STOP. PLEASE.

INT. CAR

TWIMII

Oh, we have to stop now.

COW

He does seem alright.

RABBIT

Don't listen to them Ted.

EXT. STREET

The car comes to a stop as Danny reaches it. Cow opens her door for him.

Danny hesitates a moment.

DANNY
(weakly)
Thanks.

He is still hesitating, looking around at the entrances to the various shops.

RABBIT
Drive on.

Danny puts his foot inside the door to show he's getting in.

DANNY
BARBARA! BARBARA!

Cow is looking at Rabbit to try and get him to move over. Rabbit is not budging, is furious and has leaned in closer to Ted's ear. Cow climbs over Rabbit, behind his back to the other side of the car, leaving room for Danny to get in.

RABBIT
This is how we're going to die.
This Barbara is probably injured
- insane - will kill us all!

A woman, BARBARA, emerges from a pharmacy. She is in her 30s or 40s. Dressed in a dark expensive-looking business suit. Her blouse is half pulled up, hanging out over her skirt. Her hair is in a bun but strands of her hair hang loose around her face. There is a hole and ladders in her tights. Her heels are still intact. In one hand she's carrying a paper carrier bag that is overflowing with pharmacy items and in the other a briefcase.

She sees Danny and raises her arms up.

Twimii and Ted exchange a look. Ted looks at Rabbit in the rear-view mirror to check his reaction. Rabbit has stopped protesting and is now sitting alert watching Barbara with interest.

Barbara makes her way over to the car. She looks pleased to see Danny and even more so a car with its engine running. He moves back and holds the door open for her. She's smiling, about to get in and then freezes as she sees who is inside.

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She stands back looks around and then at Danny. Danny just shrugs shaking his head.

DANNY
(quietly)
Let's just get out of here.

Barbara gives one quick final look around before getting in. Rabbit has already moved over in the seat to let them in.

Ted lets the car roll off slowly as Danny squeezes in and closes the door.

TWIMII
I'm twimii, this is Ted, Cow and Rabbit.

BARBARA
Wh-... .. OK.

Barbara puts the briefcase flat on her lap and the carrier bag is stood on the floor between her and Danny's leg. She opens up the briefcase. Rabbit watches everything she's doing and sees all that she has with her. The corners of his mouth curl up slightly.

DANNY
I'm Danny. This is Barbara.

BARBARA
Barbara Hettigan. Hello.

Barbara is fitting the things from the bag into the briefcase. Rabbit is watching everything.

DANNY
Thanks for picking us up.

BARBARA
Yes. Thank you.

Inside the briefcase is a bottle of whiskey, a bottle of brandy, a bottle of soda water, a small bottle of plain water, two bags of crisps and peanuts, and now also lots of bottles and cards of pills, a toothbrush, wet wipes, a small scissors and a nail file.

Rabbit is staring at it all and looks quite impressed with the haul.

Barbara looks at his expectant face at little warily.

BARBARA

Would you - would anyone like some crisps?

TWIMII

What flavour?

BARBARA

Lightly salted.

COW

Do you've any dips?

BARBARA

No.

TWIMII

What else do you have?

Cow tries to clamber over Rabbit to see but he holds her back.

BARBARA

Peanuts?

RABBIT

And a bottle of whiskey and brandy.

TWIMII

Oh do you have ginger wine?

BARBARA

Ah ... no?

COW

We should stop for some supplies.

TWIMII

We'll need to stop at an off-license if we want to find ginger wine.

Rabbit momentarily takes his gaze off the contents of the briefcase.

RABBIT

Ted I swear if you[]

TED

We're not stopping till we're somewhere safe.

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TWIMII
What if there is nowhere safe?

RABBIT
Shut up twimii.

TWIMII
It's a valid question.

Barbara takes a pill with a sip of water.

RABBIT
You're upsetting Barbara and Danny.

DANNY
I think I'm having a psychotic
episode.

RABBIT
See.

Twimii turns round to Danny and places her hand gently on his leg which doesn't seem to reassure him at all.

TWIMII
Danny that's a totally normal
reaction to the end of the world.

RABBIT
Twimii.

TWIMII
Come on. It's what we're all
thinking.

Danny is staring at Twimii's hand on his leg.

DANNY
God I really hope this doesn't turn
into some weird sexual fantasy.

Twimii hastily withdraws her hand and turns back. Everyone else turns and looks at Danny while simultaneously drawing back a little from him. Except Ted who just eyes him nervously in the rear-view mirror.

TED
Let's everybody just keep their
thoughts to themselves for a bit.

Barbara has half closed the briefcase. Rabbit looks at it and then at Barbara a little disappointedly.

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She's puzzled for a second but then, remembering, takes out a bag of crisps and offers it to him. Rabbit shakes his head slowly, with an expectant half smile.

She seems pretty confused. She opens the briefcase fully, takes a couple of pills from one of the bottles.

She looks at Rabbit who's looking very brightly at her now.

She swallows the pills with a sip of water, closes the case and turns to stare fixedly out the window on Danny's side.

INT. CAR, COUNTRY ROAD

The fog has grown thicker.

Twimii is looking out the window up at the thick cloudy sky. There's an odd sort of mother-of-pearl glow to part of it, as if the sky were an upside down milky puddle with a washed-out oil slick colours spreading across it here and there.

TWIMII

Don't you think the sky looks weird?

RABBIT

Shut up twimii.

Twimii looks at Ted who just shrugs.

Barbara is a little more slumped in her seat now, staring in front of her at nothing in particular. She looks quite relaxed.

Danny looks more confused and troubled. He takes out his mobile and checks it one more time. It's still reading No service for the carrier.

COW

I'm hungry.

BARBARA

Want some crisps?

COW

No. I want some proper food.

INT. CAR

They pass by three bungalows, two of which are burnt out smoking remains, and flames can be seen through the window of the third. There is the sound of a DOG WHIMPERING IN PAIN and the sound of a HUMAN ROARING IN PAIN AND ANGER.

Everyone apart from Barbara avoids looking at the scene. Barbara is looking at things in a very detached way. Her gaze wanders from the burning houses to the sky.

BARBARA

There's a patch of blue sky.

Everyone ignores her, not wanting to look out fearing what they might see.

They drive on in silence for a bit.

Twimii starts humming and then breaks into song

TWIMII

(singing)

Forget your blue skies, come on get
happy. Get ready[]

RABBIT

(sincere and eager)

Twimii?

Twimii immediately turns around, excited to hear what Rabbit is going to say.

RABBIT

Shut up.

Barbara laughs.

The merriment seems to be adding to Danny's despondency. He turns towards the window and looks as far away into the distance behind them as he can.

DANNY

Hey there is a patch of blue over
there...

Twimii twists herself around the back of her seat so that she can look out Danny's window and follow his gaze.

TWIMII

Oh yeah I see it. - Strange a patch
of blue sky shining through fog
like that. Don't you think the sky
looks weird?

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Twimii is almost leaning into Danny at this stage and he is very uncomfortable. He just stares at her worriedly and presses himself as far back into his seat as possible.

RABBIT

You only think that because you spend so much time indoors.

Twimii appears to consider the validity of his point, shrugs and swings back to sitting normally in her seat.

TED

Blue skies it is then.

Ted does a u-turn.

TWIMII

Guys we really should think about what to do if there is nowhere safe.

RABBIT

Twimii?

TWIMII

Tell me to shut up once more Rabbit and I'll start singing my guessed at translation of Mme Butterfly but with melodies I can manage. And I'll be singing all the parts.

Rabbit looks tempted to reply but then just stares out the window instead.

COW

I'm hungry.

AREA UNDERNEATH BLUE SKY, DAY

The fog gets thinner and thinner until they roll into the area and find themselves under a perfectly blue and sunny sky.

RABBIT

The sky is a little weird.

COW

That's today's weather for you.

There is an unfinished building estate - more of a cul-de-sac - in front of them. There are people working on one of houses at the end. But the first five houses are

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finished and appeared to be occupied. There are 10 or so plots dug up and foundations laid is three of them with half built building on two of the others.

Apart from the weird sky it looks surprisingly normal even if the lay-out and design of the whole thing looks quite retro.

TWIMII

It kind of looks like the set of an American 1950s tv-show.

Danny starts to really freak out. He turns to Barbara desperately.

DANNY

This has all been set up. They've taken us here on purpose.

COW

Who?

Barbara looks out the window past Danny. The construction workers have stopped and are smiling and waving at them.

Danny looks from them back to Barbara. They don't seem at all curious about the fact that the car is being driven by a large teddy bear. Barbara is too medicated to be concerned or anxious.

She pulls up the briefcase and opens it up taking out some pills for him.

BARBARA

Have some of these. They'll help.

Danny refuses.

Rabbit takes Barbara's hand up to his mouth and drops the pills in. He takes the bottle of water from the open briefcase, takes a sip and smiles at her.

She watched him do this in an unconcerned detached way. She stares at his face. It looks very soft and fluffy. She slowly moves one of her fingers to his nose to see how it feels. Rabbit still friendly and smiling, pulls back a little and touches her nose with a paw. She lets out a short laugh of delight.

Danny groans.

One of the construction workers is walking over to the car. Barbara closes up her briefcase.

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The man comes over to the driver's side of the car. Ted rolls down the window.

PADDY
Fierce peculiar weather we're
having, hah?

TED
Yeah.

PADDY
I'd say it's terrible to drive in,
hah?

TED
Terrible.

Paddy peers in at the occupants of the car.

PADDY
Where are ye from?

TED
Dublin.

PADDY
Oh ye've come a long way so?

Ted nods.

PADDY
I'd say you don't want to be going
back into that, hah?

Ted shakes his head, laughing a little wearily.

TED
No.

PADDY
Well ... listen Maura has some tea
and sandwiches made for us, so if
you go to her's, that house there
with the red door, she'll sort you
out.

TED
Thanks.

COW
Yes thank you!

Paddy slaps his hand down on the hood of the car and goes back to the site.

Cow turns to Danny.

COW
Well? He seems alright.

DANNY
Yeah he seems sound but ... (to
Barbara) Why wasn't he freaked out?

Barbara shrugs unconcerned.

TED
They mightn't even know what's
happening out there. ... We should
hold off telling them for a bit.

He looks around at each of them to see if they agree. Twimii
appears to be lost in some major thought she's having.

TED
Twimii?

TWIMII
We've been invaded by aliens. And -
they've learned our language by
watching TV - stuff like
D'Unbelievables and stuff. Best.
Invasion. Ever.

RABBIT
Twimii no talking for the rest of
the evening.

TED
Yeah.

COW
FOOD!

Ted nods. He drives over to Maura's and parks. Maura has
already come out to welcome them. She is a middle-aged woman
with short dark curly hair, a motherly-plump figure and full
smiley cheeks.

EXT. MAURA'S DRIVEWAY

Ted parks on the road outside the driveway. They all get out
of the car.

MAURA
Well, ye've certainly picked a
funny day for a road trip.

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Rabbit and Ted laugh weakly. Barbara is looking around at everything, still dazed. Danny is eyeing Maura and Ted suspiciously, looking for some conspiratorial glances. Twimii is smiling knowingly at Maura, letting her know she knows what's going on.

COW

We've been driving for hours. I'm starving.

MAURA

Oh ... OK ...

Rabbit moves forward offering a paw to Maura. She shakes his paw.

RABBIT

Hello Maura I'm Rabbit. This is Ted, Cow, Twimii and this is Barbara and Danny. We rescued them from the fog along the way.

Twimii, Ted, Rabbit and Cow all appear relatively friendly and calm. Barbara is obviously drugged and Danny looks increasingly disturbed and suspicious of everything. Maura seems a bit concerned about them.

MAURA

Rescued? ... Is the fog that bad?

TED

It's pretty bad. Yeah.

MAURA

Well it's clear skies here anyway.

She bends down to Cow smiling.

MAURA

How would you like some sandwiches and a nice cup of tea?

COW

I'd love it!

MAURA

Very good. Come on in so. We'll get ye fed at least.

She heads into the house. The gang all follow along behind her. Cow takes Barbara by the hand to bring her in. Danny is the last to enter.

INT. HOUSE - HALL

Halfway down the hall there is a desk with a landline phone. Danny is delighted to see it.

DANNY

Maura can I use your phone?

MAURA

Oh I'm sorry love. It's not connected yet. Someone was supposed to come out today but...

Danny is disappointed. He checks his mobile. Still no service.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN

By the time Danny reaches the kitchen Maura is already pouring out cups of tea for people and Cow is carrying a large tray of sandwiches over to the table.

MAURA

Do you take milk in your tea Danny?

DANNY

I'm OK thanks.

MAURA

A good cup of sugary tea is just what you need.

DANNY

Thanks. I'm OK. ... Can I use your bathroom?

MAURA

Sure. Go out there, turn to your left, it's underneath the stairs.

DANNY

Thanks.

INT. HALL

Danny steps out. He can hear Maura asking the others more about the journey they've had. Rabbit is the one replying and he sounds very hesitant about what he's saying - that they drove out of Dublin, the fog was much thicker there, they got lost, etc.

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Danny sees the door under the stairs. It opens into a small toilet.

He stands there a moment looking at it and listening to the voices from the kitchen.

MAURA (O.S.)

And what about you dear? Where are you from?

BARBARA (O.S.)

Oh ... Waterford originally ... My family moved a few times ... um ... we moved to Kildare ... and then

While Barbara is sleepily recounting the details of her life story, Danny decides to go upstairs and check out the rest of the house.

He quietly shuts the door to the downstairs toilet, goes back through the hallway and as silently as possible walks upstairs.

INT. HOUSE UPSTAIRS

Danny opens the door which is almost directly opposite the stairs. It opens into the bathroom. It's a normal bathroom with a bath-shower, toilet and sink. There are toiletries and towels. Everything you'd expect. And it's clean like a showroom.

He returns to the upstairs landing but leaves the door open.

He opens the door that is to the left of the bathroom. It's a bedroom with a double bed. The bed's made. Again the room looks a bit like a showroom. He listens for any noise of someone coming. No one's coming. He enters the room slowly checking if anyone can see him through him but the window just looks out on the back garden. Past the garden is obscured by fog. He stops a moment trying to make sense of what he's seeing. The luscious green garden is under a blue sky but the hedge at its back border is thinly veiled in fog and beyond it is completely obscured.

He takes a couple of deep breaths to calm himself.

He listens out again to make sure he's alone. Then he opens and closes the wardrobe, a couple of drawers. Everything is empty.

He backs out of the room and opens the door that is to the right of the bathroom. It's another bedroom. Again the bed is made and the drawers and wardrobe are empty.

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He opens the door into a bedroom that's at the front of the house. There is a large glass balcony door with a view of the unfinished houses where people are working. He doesn't go in and closes the door again.

There is also a small box bedroom to the front. Danny does go into this. The window is smaller. It's a small room with a single bed. He can't help being drawn to the window to take a good look at the sky. The fog beyond the estate seems to have got much thicker since they entered the house.

He looks over at the people working. They seem to be doing regular building work. Paddy sees Danny and waves at him. It's such a friendly normal reaction Danny feels a little ashamed as he sheepishly waves back.

He turns and goes out of the room.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN

MAURA

So it's Rabbit, Barbara, Ted, Cow
and - Twimii is it?

Twimii nods her head, all while smiling a slightly knowing smile at Maura.

MAURA

Does she talk?

RABBIT

I've made a bet with her she can't
stay silent for one day.

MAURA

So you do talk.

Twimii opens her mouth to respond and Rabbit immediately throws his arm around her clamping his paw over her mouth.

RABBIT

Let her win the bet Maura.

Danny walks into the kitchen.

MAURA

You found it alright?

DANNY

I used the one upstairs. Hope
that's OK.

(CONTINUED)

MAURA

Of course. Of course. - Will you have that cup of tea now?

DANNY

(nods)

Thanks.

COW

Maura makes her own blend. With some flowers from her garden and everything. It's really good.

Danny looks down at Cow's happy face. He looks a little disgusted and confused. He looks at the others and how odd they look. He's angry at how strange everything is and how everyone seems to be fine accepting it all.

DANNY

Actually would it be OK if I just lay down somewhere for a bit?

Maura looks concerned and walks around to him.

MAURA

Of course. Come on. You must be exhausted.

She leads him out of the kitchen.

One of Rabbit's ears is drooping down as the pills have started to take effect.

BARBARA

I'm going to go to bed too
... Things will be better in the morning.

She doesn't move. They all sit there in silence for bit with Cow clearing stuff away and the others just staring into cups or into the distance.

TWIMII

(singing softly)

Everybody talks about a new world
in the morning

RABBIT

(singing)

New world in the morning never
comes

Twimii gently pulls on his drooping ear and he smiles at her a little sleepily.

INT. HOUSE - SMALL BOX ROOM - NIGHT

Danny wakes. He's lying on the bed still dressed but his shoes and tie are on the floor.

It takes him a second to realise where he is. The room is dark and the curtains are drawn. There is a little light from the hall coming in around the outline of the door.

He sits up and looks at the curtains but decides against looking outside. He gets up and goes out the door.

INT. HOUSE UPSTAIRS

Twimii, dressed in the shirt Ted was wearing earlier, walks towards the bathroom. She nods a greeting at him. He just watches her go into the bathroom and shut the door.

He walks towards the stairs. Through the half open door of Twimii's bedroom he sees a normal-sized teddy bear and fluffy rabbit, and Cow. They look like normal cuddly toys laying on a bed.

He stops a moment wondering what if anything this means.

At the stairs he can hear that there are people in the kitchen talking.

He walks downstairs to the kitchen.

Twimii quietly opens the bathroom door and descends a few steps. She sits down and leans her head through the banisters trying to hear what's happening in the kitchen.

MAURA (O.S.)

Danny. better ...

It's very hard to make out what they're saying, only an emphasized word here and there is distinguishable. Danny talks too softly to be made out. All that she can hear is the tone of what's been said. It sounds like normal greeting and someone laughs at something. Then the noise gets lower still and more sombre. Danny is probably telling them about all he's seen.

Twimii gives up listening and goes back to the bathroom.

INT. HOUSE UPSTAIRS BACK BEDROOM - MORNING

Barbara is in the left back bedroom. She is awake and fully sober. She is wearing the same clothes as yesterday except without the tights, and everything is now neatly tucked in. She has pinned her hair back in a roll.

Her briefcase is laying on top of the chest of drawers closed. She looks out the window. Things are the same as yesterday. Beyond the luscious green back garden under the bright blue sky is completely obscured by a thick fog. She looks worried but determined. She takes the briefcase and heads downstairs.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN

Maura and Danny are sitting at the table with another woman, two other men and Paddy. Danny seems perfectly calm now and he's wearing different clothes.

MAURA

Hello. You're looking much brighter this morning.

BARBARA

Yes. - Maura I want to thank you for all your hospitality.

MAURA

Oh stop.

BARBARA

No you've been great. I'm so grateful. - I just need the use of someone's car and I'll be out of your hair. A car with good fog lights.

She laughs but the others don't join in.

MAURA

Barbara, Danny was telling us some of things you went through yesterday[]

BARBARA

Look, things are bad. There's no denying that. But - I just really want to get back home, you know?

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MAURA

Of course. Of course.

PADDY

Barbara - I'm Paddy, how are ya? - Listen, we're taking one of the big trucks out and see exactly what's going on, right? Now if it's grand, sure great, we'll give you a lift back home tomorrow. Alright?

Barbara wants to argue but there doesn't seem to be a valid argument for her taking someone's car.

BARBARA

OK. Thanks.

Twimii, Ted, Rabbit and Cow walk into the kitchen. They're dressed in the same clothes as yesterday. They all say hello. Barbara looks once again to be a little freaked out by them. She looks at Danny. He no longer seems at all concerned about them and no one else reacts as if there is anything strange about them either.

TED

Full house.

PADDY

We're just leaving. Going to take one of the trucks and see what's what.

TED

Oh very good, yeah.

BARBARA

Could I go with you?

MAURA

Oh ... I don't think that's a very good idea... It could be quite upsetting, you know?

BARBARA

Don't worry. I'll be fine. I - I []

PADDY

(standing up)

You take it easy now and have some breakfast. And sure we'll be back before your know it.

Paddy, Danny, the two men and the woman leave. Maura stands up also.

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MAURA

Well, did you all sleep OK?

Rabbit, Ted, Cow and Barbara all smile and nod at her.

TWIMII

I had the weirdest dreams. I was dreaming of sea monsters. And they kept wanting to teach me gin-rummy.

MAURA

Why didn't you want to learn?

TWIMII

I already know how to play.

RABBIT

Maura thanks so much for everything. Don't let Twimii and her sea monsters hold you up.

She smiles and nods at them and leaves. Barbara, Twimii and Ted sits down.

COW

Thanks Maura!

Sound of the front door closing.

COW

She's so nice.

TWIMII

Yeah they're a gentle kind of invasion force... Apart from all the destruction and carnage - obviously.

COW

You don't know that they're responsible for any of that.

TWIMII

No... But they're able to keep this place clear of the fog. Why don't they clear up the skies everywhere?

TED

Maybe the fog has a calming effect on the ... you know ... the people who've ... you know...

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

Wait ... you all think these people
are aliens?

Rabbit tries to look very reassuring and shakes his head.

RABBIT

No. No. No. Not at all.

She looks around at each of them. They all look like they
don't want to upset her.

BARBARA

You do. You all think they're
aliens.

COW

Well ... it's more that we're open
to the possibility that Earth has
been invaded by aliens and
we've driven to ... the Irish HQ
of that invasion?

Cow looks at the others to see if they agree and they all
sort of shrug their shoulders and nod.

BARBARA

Please don't take this the wrong
way but ... what exactly are you?

TWIMII

How d'you mean?

Barbara looks at her completely flummoxed.

TWIMII

Oh, you mean these guys. They just
woke up one day in a field. They've
no idea where they're from or why.
I think they're from some failed
psy-ops experimental project or
something.

COW

(whisper)

But we could be magical creatures.

RABBIT

Not the time Cow.

BARBARA

(to Twimii)

And you?

TWIMII

(puzzled)

I'm the same as you. Human - woman.

Barbara shakes her head.

RABBIT

No Barbara she is. Really. She just says out loud every single thing she has in her head.

COW

Or sings it.

TWIMII

Thanks guys.

RABBIT

Not a compliment.

BARBARA

Why do you think these guys are aliens?

RABBIT

Well ... what do you think is going on?

BARBARA

I think ... I think the guy we went to audit in Bailieborough drugged us. I'm probably strapped to some chair in a basement somewhere. And I'll wake to find poor Danny lying in a pool of blood...

TWIMII

The guy - what's he look like?
What's he wearing?

Rabbit slaps the back of Twimii's head.

Barbara stands up decisively and walks out of the kitchen.

She's left the briefcase behind. They look at the briefcase and each other.

They hear the front door open. Rabbit rushes out to the hallway followed by the others.

INT. HOUSE - HALL (FRONT DOOR)

RABBIT
BARBARA. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

EXT. HOUSING ESTATE

Barbara is walking determinedly towards the fog.

BARBARA
I'M GOING TO FIND AN ABANDONED CAR.
(turning back towards the fog) Or
wake up.

She carries on walking and soon disappears into the fog.

Rabbit runs out after her but stops before he reaches the fog. The others follow. He turns angrily to Twimii.

RABBIT
In the middle of this madness we
happen upon someone with
intelligence and foresight. And
you! You break her!

Twimii ignores him. She stares into the fog worriedly.

TWIMII
(to Ted)
Should we go in and get her?

TED
We could drive slowly through with
the lights on full? Maybe beeping
the horn?

TWIMII
Do you've the keys?

Ted heads back to the house.

SCREAMS of fright and pain emerge through the fog.

Twimii turns and runs after Ted to help him find the keys.

Cow looks at Rabbit before turning and running over to the work site. People are already starting to walk over to them.

MAN
What's going on?

(CONTINUED)

COW
Barbara's walked into the fog. And
I guess she's ... fallen or
something.

Cow looks back to Rabbit but he's disappeared.

MAN
Why'd she do that?

COW
Uh - I think she wanted to find a
car?

Cow is looking around searching for Rabbit. The screaming
stops.

MAN
Don't ye have a car?

Cow runs back to the spot where Rabbit was standing and
starts calling his name. The man follows slowly behind her.

COW
RABBIT. - RABBIT. - RABBIT.

She listens out for a minute and then calls out again.

Twimii and Ted are running towards their car.

COW
RABBIT. - RABBIT. - RABBIT.

She listens out again.

RABBIT
(sound is a little faint - and
Rabbit's voice sounds
strained)

COW!

Ted is driving over with lights on full and Twimii is in the
passenger seat.

COW
RABBIT!

More people are walking over to them to see what's
happening.

RABBIT
(getting closer)
COW!

COW
RABBIT!!!

Rabbit emerges through the fog carrying an unconscious Barbara in his arms. Both his and her clothes have tears as if they had a fight with a briar patch. Barbara has a few scratches, some which are bleeding.

COW
Well done Rabbit. Well done.

RABBIT
Thanks Cow.

He continues on into the house.

MAN
(to Cow)
Maybe take a flashlight next time.
Or just - you know - don't.

Cow nods.

The assembled crowd disperse going back to their work.

INT. CAR

Ted turns off the lights and turns to Twimii, patting her consolingly on the shoulder.

TED
It wasn't your fault.

TWIMII
I know!

INT. HOUSE - SITTING ROOM

Rabbit is sitting on the sofa with his feet up, in a t-shirt and jeans. He's taken his pullover and shoes off. He's staring at his feet and looks bored.

Ted is standing in front of him looking out the window at the fog.

Twimii is rummaging through cupboards and drawers in the room - well, they're empty so she's just open things up and runs her hands around inside trying to find things.

(CONTINUED)

TWIMII

I wish I had my laptop. There's nothing here. Not even one magazine or a paper.

TED

(muttering to himself)
Why would there be?

RABBIT

What you thinking Big Fella?

TED

The fog. It's completely unnatural looking.

Rabbit just nods.

Twimii stops rummaging and walks over to Ted.

TWIMII

It's kinda pretty though.

TED

If it's something they're doing - then maybe there's a generator somewhere - and we could destroy it?

RABBIT

Whoa, whoa, whoa. No. If these guys are aliens and have set this all up - then this isn't a colony. They don't view us as an enemy. We're just zoo animals to them. They probably even see it as them protecting the native lifeforms. Even if we did manage to disrupt their set up they would just put us down, reset and carry on.

TWIMII

What if it's some elaborate psychological experiment? And our mounting an effective resistance will actually end it?

RABBIT

What kind of messed up psychologist would design an experiment like this? Do you remember all the stuff that happened yesterday? All the stuff we saw? That guy[]

(CONTINUED)

TED

Stop.

TWIMII

Do I think in a world where
MK-Ultra was a thing, where drones
exist to kill people thousands of
miles away from the command centre,
where governments have set up bots
and stuff to incite tension and
discord between different groups,
where people die from treatable
diseases, where[]

RABBIT

Ah shut up Twimii.

TWIMII

You know for a man-sized fluffy
rabbit, you're very closed minded
about these things.

Rabbit turns his head towards the window, too annoyed to
talk. Ted sits down in a chair, looking a bit dejected.

TWIMII

Look, we've no idea what's going
on. They're probably aliens but
maybe they're not. They might be
responsible for what happened
yesterday - and for all this - but
maybe they're not. We don't know.
... Maybe ... *maybe* they're aliens
who just happened to be near here
when things kicked off and they
really are just here to protect us.

Rabbit is ignoring her and Ted is too gloomy to talk.

Cow opens the door and enters.

COW

She's awake.

RABBIT

How is she?

COW

She's ... OK. Her clothes are kind
of ruined though. Do you think it
would be alright to take some
clothes for her from Maura's room?

Twimii looks at Ted not sure how to respond.

(CONTINUED)

Rabbit pulls out his pullover from behind him and offers it to Cow.

RABBIT

Give her this for the moment. It's a bit torn but there's no bloodstains on it - or not much.

Cow nods and takes it away.

TED

(quietly)

Who's guessing Maura's room is as empty as the rest of the house?

RABBIT

We don't know what's going on. Maybe Maura and - the rest - are normal people just doing a much better job of coping with things.

He looks at Twimii to let her know that he's acknowledging her point but she's looking at the design of the tabletop. It seems to have a handle on it. She rises up and tugs on the handle. The top rolls back to reveal something that looks like an old fashioned radio except the dial runs from 20 - 30 - on through 90 - 00 - 10.

TWIMII

Oh my God! A radio!

Ted and Rabbit lean forward to look at it.

TED

I haven't seen a radio with that kind of range before.

RABBIT

Do you think...

TED

I don't know ... They'd hardly leave us here with something important.

Twimii turns the dial to 88.

TWIMII

Let's see if RTE is still on the air.

She twists the volume dial to turn it on. Bobby McFerrin's Don't Worry Be Happy rises from the speakers.

(CONTINUED)

Twimii cheers in delight. Ted and Rabbit also seem excited and happier to find out that the radio stations are still on the air.

RABBIT

Try a different station.

Twimii moves the dial up to 06 and Go Put Your Records On by Corinne Bailey Rae starts playing.

Ted seems a little deflated.

TED

Move the dial back to the 20s and see what plays.

Twimii moves the dial back to 24 and George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue starts playing.

Ted flops back in his chair and sinks into it.

RABBIT

(quietly)

Turn it off.

Twimii twists the volume dial the other way shutting it off. Rabbit puts his feet back up on the sofa.

They are all pretty disappointed and a gloom has descended over them again.

The noise of someone coming down the stairs can be heard.

Cow opens the door and enters. Barbara follows her in. She has her skirt on, which is a little torn. Her legs are scraped and bruised. One of her hands is bandaged with part of her old blouse. She is wearing Rabbit's torn blue pullover. She's barefoot and her hair hangs loose and unbrushed around her face.

Ted, Twimii and Rabbit all try to look brighter.

TED

Hey Barbara. How are you doing?

BARBARA

Fine. ... Thanks. ... I'm sorry about earlier. I -

TWIMII

You tried something. It didn't work out.

BARBARA

I got so disorientated in the fog.
You can't see where you're going at
all. And ... I ... ended up tangled
in some briars and ... it felt like
they were attacking me.

She laughs weakly.

RABBIT

I felt the same. It's totally
disorienting. You don't know what's
what.

TWIMII

You thought the briars were
attacking you?

RABBIT

(glaring at Twimii and
speaking deliberately)
The fog is very disorienting. And
as you say, we don't know what's
going on.

Twimii nods distractedly as she's now lost in some thought.
Rabbit moves his feet off the sofa.

RABBIT

Barbara, sit down.

BARBARA

Thanks. (Suddenly remembering) Oh
yeah ... thanks. Seriously thank
you.

RABBIT

Don't worry about it.

As he's saying this Twimii gets up and leaves. Barbara
watches her go and then looks at the table.

BARBARA

Is that a radio?

RABBIT

No. It's a kind of jukebox. It will
play music from whatever year you
turn it to.

BARBARA

Oh... cool. ... The others aren't
back yet?

(CONTINUED)

RABBIT

No not yet.

Sound of the front door opening.

BARBARA

I hope they're OK.

Ted gets up and moves over to the window. Twimii is walking across the driveway carrying a large kitchen knife. Rabbit and Barbara follow Ted's gaze.

Twimii walks over to a low hedge that separates Maura's house from the one next door. She kicks the hedge and ducks and dives for a moment in front of it.

Rabbit joins Ted at the window. Rabbit starts quietly laughing and Ted is definitely amused. Barbara stays on the sofa but is turned towards the window and can see everything. She's a bit dazed - not drugged but still dazed. Cow moves over to the window, watching but not amused.

Twimii kicks the hedge again and takes a step back, holding the knife up, adopting a ready-for-a-fight stance.

Maura comes out and hurriedly walks towards Twimii calling her name.

Rabbit gently opens the window so they can hear the exchange.

EXT. MAURA'S DRIVEWAY

MAURA

Twimii!

TWIMII

Oh hey Maura.

MAURA

What are you doing?

TWIMII

Oh ... I ... ah ... exercising?
Kickhedging. It's like kickboxing
but instead of kicking boxes you
kick hedges.

MAURA

Why are you holding a knife?

(CONTINUED)

TWIMII

Ah ... for the ... pruning. First you kick. Then you prune. It's very zen. It's supposed to be good for growth.

MAURA

Please don't.

TWIMII

Well if you're sure - but it's supposed to be the best thing for your hedges. And your glutes.

MAURA

Don't.

TWIMII

OK.

INT. HOUSE - SITTING ROOM

Rabbit and Ted are still quietly laughing at the scene. Rabbit gently closes the window. Cow moves away from the window.

COW

It's not funny. Maura is allowing us use her home. We can't let Twimii do stuff like this.

RABBIT

Cow.

He looks at her as if to say "Come on it's funny."

Sound of the front door shutting.

Twimii walks into the sitting room still holding the knife.

TWIMII

Did you see that?

RABBIT

The kickhedging?

TWIMII

See how quickly she came out? - Probably some sort of psychic connection.

(CONTINUED)

Using the knife she points from her brain out towards the rest of the room in a wide circling motion, while nodding at everyone seeking agreement.

RABBIT

Put down the knife Twimii.

Twimii puts the knife down on the open table-top-jukebox.

COW

You can't go around kicking plants and destroying things. We're guests here.

BARBARA

Yeah. That fog is dangerous. You don't want to get kicked out of this place.

TWIMII

Maura's fine. I've agreed not to go kickhedging again.

BARBARA

She's not an idiot.

TWIMII

Barbara these guys have so little clue of what life is like here that they don't even get how unusual Rabbit, Ted and Cow are. - They can know all the words we use but people use words so differently in different parts, for all they know my experience of kickboxing is kicking boxes.

BARBARA

Oh yeah. I forgot. She's - an alien.

Twimii doesn't know what to say because she doesn't understand how Barbara doesn't get it.

TED

(to Twimii)

Come on let's check out the rest of the house.

They leave. Sound of them going upstairs.

COW

Right. I'm going to make dinner for everyone. One less thing for Maura to worry about.

She carefully takes the knife and leaves.

Barbara is looking at Rabbit's fluffy feet. She looks up at the rest of him and realizes she's in his pullover.

BARBARA

Do you think they'll be able to give us some fresh clothes?

RABBIT

Yeah, I'd imagine so.

BARBARA

You really think they're aliens?

RABBIT

I don't know.

He reaches over the other side of the sofa's armrest and pulls up Barbara's briefcase.

RABBIT

I brought this in here in case you were looking for it.

Barbara looks at him with a mixture of apprehension and amusement.

EXT. BALCONY OFF MAURA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

The sun is setting behind the house giving it a background of hazy orange-redness.

Twimii and Ted are out on the balcony of Maura's bedroom. Through the open balcony doors the open drawers and doors of dressers and wardrobes can be seen. There is no mess though - nothing to mess up. They both look a little tense. They aren't speaking each other but it seems they are of the same mind, contemplating their situation.

Maura comes out of one of the houses heading towards the entrance to the estate. She sees Twimii and Ted and beams at them.

MAURA

Twimii. I've a surprise for you. I'll bring it over once we've everyone settled in.

(CONTINUED)

TWIMII

Great.

TED

(quietly to Twimii)

I wish she'd do a better job of pretending.

TWIMII

She's doing the best she can in fairness.

Headlights are now shining through the fog and there's the increasing sound of a heavy truck approaching.

The truck emerges from the fog being driven by Paddy, with Danny in the passenger seat. Paddy BEEPS the horn twice. Maura does a small leap of delight and is waving at them enthusiastically.

There are about 20 people standing in the back of the truck, blinking and looking bewildered to be suddenly under a clear dusk sky.

TED

Christ. It's like being abducted by ... what's the name of the neighbours in The Simpsons?

TWIMII

The Falanderses.

TED

It's never the Philanderers.

TWIMII

No, it's the Falanderses.

TED

No. It's not. It's ...

TWIMII

Falanderses.

The truck is now passing by the house. The new passengers seem even more bewildered by Twimii and Ted than by the suddenly clear sky. A man and a woman, GREG and TAMMY, in their 30s are a little drunk and so more amused by the bizarre situation.

GREG

It's a Furry! WELL THAT'S ONE WAY OF DEALING WITH THIS.

(CONTINUED)

Twimii smiles and waves at them.

TWIMII
WELCOME TO SPRINGFIELD!

The truck parks at a house a couple of doors down. Twimii and Ted go inside.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN

Twimii, Ted, Cow, Rabbit and Barbara are sitting at the table eating dinner. Rabbit and Barbara seem quite relaxed.

There's the sound of a knock at the front door, followed by it being opened and someone entering.

MAURA (O.S.)
Hello!

She walks into the kitchen carrying several sheets of thick cardboard. She looks at the spread on the table approvingly.

COW
Would you like a plate?

MAURA
No. But it does look very tempting.

Maura lays the cardboard on the counter and proceeds to take one and turn it into a box.

MAURA
Now Twimii if you want to go kickboxing, here you go.

BARBARA
Oh Jesus Christ.

Maura looks Barbara up and down, a little dismissively.

TWIMII
(brightly)
Thanks Maura.

MAURA
No problem love.

Maura turns to leave.

RABBIT
Oh Maura would you be able to get us all some fresh clothes?

(CONTINUED)

The others enthusiastically second his request.

MAURA

Of course. - I'll have them ready for you tomorrow when you get your physicals done.

RABBIT

What?

MAURA

We have a doctor now. So, we're going to get everyone checked.

TWIMII

Oh Maura we can't do that. It's ... it's against our religion.

MAURA

What religion is that?

TWIMII

Oh...

She looks around at the others trying to remember which if any religion is against medical exams. They're all letting her take the lead though.

TWIMII

I really shouldn't tell you - it's a secret. You must pass a series of tests in order to be admitted.

COW

Twimii tell her. Go on.

TWIMII

(sigh)

It's the Church of ... Colourful Stationery ... and Movement.

MAURA

Well ... look no one here is going to tell your Church if you get examined. And I really think you should.

TWIMII

But we'll know Maura. We'll know.

MAURA

Well I'll have the clothes ready for Barbara to take after her exam then.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

Oh no. I'm joining the Church.

RABBIT

Yeah she just passed the first test this morning. Running into the fog.

MAURA

I heard you were looking for a car?

COW

(whispers)

Because it's a secret.

TWIMII

(singing)

Oh Blessed Colourful Stationery

The others copy her singing the same tune as a sort of response. Twimii takes Ted's paw. Ted then takes Cow's and so on until they're all holding hands.

TWIMII

(singing)

A-----nd

RABBIT

(speaking impatiently)

And.

TWIMII

(speaking)

Movement.

She starts an arm wave which the others each pass it on. Maura seems convinced.

INT. HOUSE - SITTING ROOM

Twimii, Ted, Rabbit, Barbara and Cow are all sat around the jukebox, either on chairs or on the floor. They each have a small empty glass. The bottle of whiskey and brandy are open.

Whigfield's Saturday Night is playing.

BARBARA

It's '96. I know it is!

RABBIT

It's not. - Pick your poison.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

I know for a fact it's '96.

TED

It's '95. - But if you can do the
dance you'll gain control of the
dial.

COW

Ooh!

RABBIT

Hang on does anyone here actually
know the dance?

TWIMII

I do.

RABBIT

Shut up Twimii.

The doorbell rings.