

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

(CONTINUED)

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.

(CONTINUED)

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.

(CONTINUED)

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.

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?

(CONTINUED)

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

(CONTINUED)

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.

(CONTINUED)

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.