

Knock

by

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INT. NORMAN'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Norman is sitting on an armchair in the living room. He is home alone and on the phone to his mother.

NORMAN

Yes I'm fine. When are you coming home again? No, I'm not scared on my own, I was just wondering. Tomorrow around lunchtime? okay. Okay. Love you too. Bye mum.

He puts his phone down on the arm of the chair and picks up the television remote control. He scrolls through the television channels for a moment, bored, before a text message comes through on his phone from his friend Josh that reads "Pub?"

Norman picks up his wallet, jacket and keys, unlocks the front door and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. PUB - EVENING

Norman and Josh are sitting at a table in the pub. A number of empty glasses indicate the amount they've each already had to drink.

JOSH

(Laughing)

... To which the guy says "don't listen to the sheep, he's a bloody liar".

NORMAN

(Laughing)

Ha ha, I've heard it before but it still makes me laugh.

Josh goes to take a sip of his pint before realising it's practically empty. He notices Norman has just finished his drink too.

JOSH

I'll get these two.

NORMAN

You sure?

JOSH

Yeah, no problem. Same again?

NORMAN

Please. I think I've got the right change here now.

JOSH

Don't worry about that, just get the next ones.

NORMAN

Cheers Josh.

Josh leaves the table. Norman reaches into his trouser pocket and pulls out his phone, opens up a social media app and starts scrolling through the news feed. He looks up from his phone screen for a moment and sees Josh at the bar. He then looks back at the screen.

NORMAN

(Under his breath)

Jesus!

He is startled by a chain mail post, a picture of a frightening creature, as though from a horror movie, accompanied by the text "Share in 30 seconds or this will be in your room tonight". He stares closely at the image, unable to look away, until a loud bang brings him back to reality, the sound of his drink being slammed down on the table in front of him.

JOSH

Here you go.

Norman closes the app, locks his phone and puts it away back in his pocket.

NORMAN

Thank you.

They both take a few sips of their drinks.

NORMAN

Hate those chain mail things.

JOSH

Those what things?

NORMAN

You know. "Share this post in blah blah minutes or this'll be in your

room tonight.

JOSH
Oh yeah. Those.

NORMAN
Yeah. Stupid they are.

JOSH
Load of bull.

NORMAN
(Nodding)
Yep.

Josh notices Matthew's unease.

JOSH
Why? Have you just been scared by one?

NORMAN
No.

JOSH
(Laughing)
Oh my God, you have. Ha ha. Oh, did you share it in time? What if it comes true?

NORMAN
(Slightly annoyed)
Alright, alright. Pack it in. Bloody Hell, I was just pointing out that they're stupid, alright.

JOSH
Okay, okay. I'll shut up about it. Hey, did you see Bohemian Rhapsody yet?

NORMAN
Oh my God, yes. It's...

NORMAN/JOSH
... So good

NORMAN
Yeah, love their music.

They continue to speak and laugh but what they are saying gets lost amongst the background noise of the rest of the

pub.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Norman and Josh are walking home from the pub. They stop briefly at the top of the street for a moment.

NORMAN

Right, I will see you soon. When did you say you'll be out next?

JOSH

Um, I don't know, I'll have to check my shifts with work.

NORMAN

Ah, fair enough. Okay, then I'll see you whenever.

JOSH

Okay, See ya.

They both walk in different directions.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE NORMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Norman is walking up the street towards his house. He reaches the front door, fumbling with his keys for a moment before finally unlocking the door. He opens it but gets distracted by his cat who has been out all night and has come to greet him. Norman momentarily walks away from his open door to stroke him.

NORMAN

Hello you. Hi, good boy. Are you gonna come in?

Norman walks back to the front door whilst speaking to the cat. The cat looks as though it's coming in, but stops short of walking in.

CUT TO:

INT. NORMAN'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Norman is inside waiting by the front door.

NORMAN
Are you sure you're not coming in?
You'll be out all night otherwise.

He starts to slowly close the door.

NORMAN
Okay, suit yourself.

As the door is about to close the cat darts through the small gap.

NORMAN
(Tuts)
Bloody cats.

Norman laughs to himself and locks the door. He opens up the cloakroom cupboard, hangs up his jacket and throws in his shoes.

CUT TO:

INT. NORMAN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Norman opens up a kitchen cupboard, takes a pint glass, fills it up with water from the kitchen tap and takes a few big gulps.

CUT TO:

INT. NORMAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Norman's head hits his pillow and he closes his eyes. He hears a loud knock coming from downstairs and quickly opens his eyes again, sitting bolt upright.

He listens attentively for a moment before the same thing happens again, prompting him to get out of bed.

CUT TO:

INT. NORMAN'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

From the top of the stairs Norman peers down into the hallway below. He slowly creeps down the stairs and throws open the cloakroom door - but there is no one inside. The cat runs behind him, making him jump.

NORMAN
(Sighs with relief)
Nothing.

CUT TO:

INT. NORMAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Norman settles back down in bed, closes his eyes and falls asleep.

Some time passes, indicated by him being in a new sleeping position. He is awoken again by a louder knock, closer than the last one. Norman's eyes spring open and he sits upright. The blue light from a toy lightsaber illuminates his eyes. He gets up once again to investigate.

CUT TO:

INT. NORMAN'S LANDING - NIGHT

Norman approaches the source of the noise which is coming from the bathroom. Brandishing his toy weapon as though it were the real thing, he nervously reaches for the door handle, opens the door and -

MYSTERIOUS HOODED FIGURE

BOO!

NORMAN

(Shocked)

What the f-

Norman starts swinging the toy lightsaber at the hooded figure.

MYSTERIOUS HOODED FIGURE

Ow! Stop, stop, Norman, it's me.

The hooded figure reveals himself to be Josh.

NORMAN

What?

Josh laughs.

NORMAN

When? Wha...? How did you get in?

JOSH

Oh, you really shouldn't leave your door wide open at night, even if you have just gone to fuss your cat.

NORMAN

(Chuckling)

But why did you come back anyway?

JOSH

Dunno. Funny? Thought I'd try and scare you.

They both continue to laugh for a moment.

NORMAN

(Laughing)

Okay, okay, but Josh.

JOSH

Yeah?

NORMAN

(Serious)

Fuck off now.

JOSH

Yeah, fair enough.

They both laugh again. Cut to black.

NORMAN

Now.

JOSH

Okay.

CUT TO:

INT. NORMAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Norman settles back down in bed to sleep and closes his eyes. He hears a knock on his bedroom door.

NORMAN

(Annoyed)

Josh, seriously now, cut it out and go home.

Another knock.

NORMAN

Seriously. Stop.

He turns over in bed and opens his eyes, only to see in front of him not Josh, but the same creature from the chain mail post he saw on his phone earlier. Norman begins to scream

8.

out in horror.

CUT TO BLACK.

END.