LOVE - A CIVIL WAR

Ву

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24th March 2008

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FADE IN

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

The small white room is filled with aisles of COMPUTERS. SMALL GREY MEN work on each one in total silence.

BERNARD LANNING(early 40s) walks up and down each aisle with authority. He wears a bright white uniform with silver buttons that sparkle.

He stops next to TIM's booth and stares in amazement at the screen. Tim swings around in his chair, a sheepish look on his face.

BERNARD How long has it been like that?

TIM It's just started, Sir. I'm sure it's just a glitch.

BERNARD Well, a glitch it may be, but this could be a very good chance for a test. (beat) You know what to do.

Tim spins back around in his chair and types with skilled ease on the keyboard.

The word - LOVE - fills the monitor in bright red type. It flashes.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The park is filled with COUPLES, FAMILIES and GROUPS OF CHILDREN who play football.

LEONARD BRANNING and SOPHIE JONES(both late 30s)walk hand in hand.

They come to a bench and sit down.

LEONARD Sophie, we've been together for six months now. I really can't say I've ever been this happy before.

Sophie smiles at Leonard. She takes his hand.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Bernard watches the computer screen in horror as the word flashes faster.

Tim looks to his side and his eyes widen. He spins full circle on his chair and sees the same message on all of the screens.

He bites his bottom lip and taps Bernard on the shoulder.

TIM Erm, Sir? You might want to take a look at this. (beat) Could be bad.

Bernard grunts at Tim, irritated by his distraction.

He looks around. His mouth agape.

BERNARD Oh, sweet mother of God!

All of the grey men stare at Bernard. Panic in their eyes.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Sophie gazes into Leonard's eyes as he struggles with his words.

LEONARD What I'm trying to say Sophie is -

BERNARD(V.O) Butterflies, I want butterflies people!

Leonard struggles more, he looks around for inspiration.

LEONARD Well...what I'm trying to say is -

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Bernard sits back on the computer desk and bites his nails as hundreds of butterflies fly through into the room.

The grey men run around the room in wild hysteria.

A section of the floor slides open and the butterflies swoop down as one.

Bernard looks around as the grey men bump into each other and fall to the floor. Their white uniforms and grey skin starts to change colour.

First pink.

Then bright red.

Bernard looks to the heavens.

BERNARD Please God, let this work.

A loud RING comes from a red phone on the wall.

Bernard looks at it with apprehension.

BERNARD Not yet, not yet you don't.

All of the grey men are now RED MEN.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Sophie looks into the distance. She still holds Leonard's hand.

SOPHIE What is it Leonard? What are you trying to say?

## LEONARD

I think I lo -

Leonard holds his stomach. A grimace appears on his face. Sophie looks worried.

> SOPHIE Leonard? Leonard, what is it?

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Bernard walks towards the phone with reluctance. The RINGS gets louder and more frequent.

The phone glows RED.

Bernard picks up the receiver just as - 'WOMAN' by John Lennon - starts to play.

Bernard's eyes widen in horror.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Leonard recovers his composure. He takes Sophie's hand in a stronger grip. A determination in his eyes.

LEONARD Sophie, I'm in -

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

All of the RED MEN are now in a line. They sing along to the music.

Bernard drops the phone as he looks to a large monitor which covers the whole of a wall in the room.

The monitor shows Sophie. She gazes straight forward.

BERNARD Oh God, no!

LEONARD(V.O) - love with you.

Bernard looks around the control room as the white walls change to red.

The floor under him gradually turns pink then red.

Bernard's uniform and skin changes colour in the same way. He looks down at himself and SQUEALS in fright.

He falls to the floor and bangs his fists. His noise gets drowned out by the music and singing as it grows louder.

Bernard sobs and rolls over onto his back. He SCREAMS!

He tries to get up and run away but falls back down again.

ROSE'S fall from the roof.

After just a few moments Bernard is hidden under the pile of flowers.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The music and the red men continue to sing(0.C).

Leonard and Sophie kiss as they sit on the park bench. His eyes start to look vacant.

He looks into the distance with a grin.

The crowds around them carry on with their activities. Oblivious.

## FADE OUT

THE END