

SHELTER

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(1) INT. GOVERNMENT OFFICE - DAY

CU - Two dotted lines at the bottom of a document; a male hand - holding a pen - enthusiastically signs his name on the top one; DOMINIC FLETCHER. He hands the pen over to a female hand that signs her name underneath; EVETTE FLETCHER. A hand belonging to a GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL takes the completed document from Evette.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL'S POV;

Dominic and Evette sat opposite a large desk in a plush office.

OFFICIAL (O.S.)

Well, that's that settled then.

SIDE VIEW OF TABLE

The official quickly scans the document in his hand. Satisfied, he looks up at the young couple and smiles warmly.

OFFICIAL (CONT'D)

So, tonight will be your last night in your own beds for two months! What did you think of the place when you looked around earlier?

The couple look at each other and grin.

DOMINIC

It was probably a bit smaller than we thought...

(to the official)

...but I'm sure we'll get used to it.

OFFICIAL

Good. (Beat) Well, there will be someone coming over to collect your things this evening and then tomorrow morning we'll come for you.

Dominic and Evette look at each other and smile.

OFFICIAL (CONT'D)

All that remains for me to say is
to thank you on behalf of the
Yorkshire Regiment and wish you
the very best of luck. And when
you get out you can start
thinking all about your early
retirement!

With that the official stands up, signalling the end of the meeting.

DOMINIC

(offers his hand)

Thank you very, very much for
this opportunity.

OFFICIAL

(shaking it)

No, thank you both for being so
co-operative.

The couple stand up from their seats and make to leave.

EVETTE

Thank you again. See you
tomorrow.

Dominic and Evette leave the office. The government official turns to a tall, highly decorated army general who has been stood out of shot behind him and sighs deeply.

ARMY GENERAL

I think we've made the right
decision.

The general steps forward and stands alongside the government official who's now glancing over the papers on his desk with concern.

OFFICIAL

I hope so.

(looks up at General)

I hope so.

FADE OUT

TITLE CARD (Military-style font) - 'SHELTER'

(2) EXT. YORKSHIRE MOORS - DAY

The seemingly boundless landscape of the Yorkshire Moors in early Spring, carpeted in a vast array of greens and browns. In the middle distance a LAND ROVER snakes its way across a faded dirt track.

A SUBTITLE appears in the sky above the van; THE YORKSHIRE MOORS

The van leaves the track and continues across the steep hillside off-road.

(3) INT. BACK LAND ROVER - DAY

Dominic and Evette sit next to each other opposite their young daughter Claire. Next to Claire is the mysterious army general from the office who keeps his gaze firmly on the window to his right.

EVETTE

(to Claire)

You okay honey?

Claire, sitting directly opposite her mother, looks up to meet her gaze. She smiles and swings her legs casually.

CLAIRe

Yeah.

The four sit in silence, riding the bumps. Suddenly, the Land Rover stops and TURNS OFF ITS ENGINE. The driver thumps the wall.

DRIVER (O.S.)

We're here.

(4) EXT. YORKSHIRE MOORS - DAY

The DRIVER, an young infantry soldier in full uniform, gets out of the car and walks to the back, opening the door for the four passengers to disembark. They look around and take in the views of the peaceful valleys that surround them.

ARMY GENERAL

It's just along here.

The soldier and his general walk to a flat clearing twenty yards away from where the car stopped. Slowly the Fletchers follow.

The soldier starts making small circles with small steps, his head stopped to the ground, searching for something. Almost immediately he finds what he's looking for; patches of metal under the grass. This is the BUNKER ENTRANCE.

SOLDIER

Here we are.

Dominic, Evette and Claire stand opposite the soldier and the general, the gap of grass between them.

ENTRANCE POV;

Black. Then, as the soldier lifts up the entrance to the bunker a METALLIC SCRAPING SOUND is heard and the five can be seen stood in a circle directly above. They stare into the camera for a few seconds.

(5) INT. BUNKER - DAY

CU of calendar; APRIL. The first two days have large 'X's over them signalling that this is Day Three of their mission.

A TIGHT PAN OUT reveals the calendar is above a small desk with a large radio transmitter on it. Dominic is sat at it with his back to us reading a thick security manual.

DOMINIC

(to Evette in other room)

Hey Evie, get this. We've been reduced to a number, HQ will only refer to us as '20384'!

After several more seconds of reading Dominic stands up from the chair and stretches and sighs deeply. A TRACKING SHOT follows him from the desk to the doorway of the other room where Evette and Claire are. He stays in the middle of the doorway.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
Who wants a game of Scrabble?

(6) INT. BUNKER - DAY

CU of the calendar again, this time nine of the days have been crossed out.

The three Fletchers are sat at a modest dining table eating from unmarked tins.

DOMINIC
(to Claire)
What's the first thing you want
to eat when you get home?

Claire ponders the question, excited at the possibilities.

CLAIRE
(eventually)
Fish and chips!

DOMINIC
Fish and chips? Of all the
dinners in all the world you want
fish and chips? Fair enough.
(To Evette)
What about you honey?

Evette smiles at being included in the game.

EVETTE
Hmm. (Beat) I'd have to say a
good chicken and pasta dish, with
a really creamy, cheesy sauce.

Dominic grins and takes a mouthful of his dinner from the tin.

EVETTE (CONT'D)
And let me guess, your meal of
choice would be a steak?

DOMINIC
Oh yes.
(To Claire)
(MORE)

DOMINIC (CONT'D)

So when we get out of here we'll
have fish and chips for breakfast-
(To Evette)

A creamy cheesy pasta for lunch
and then a big steak for dinner.

Claire giggles.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)

How does that sound?

CLAIRE

Yeah!

Dominic and Evette share a glance and smile. A wide shot captures the moment, like a family photo.

(7) INT. BUNKER - DAY

The calendar indicates that eighteen days have passed.

Underneath it Dominic is sat at the radio desk again with the headphones on, mid-conversation with those at the other end.

RADIO (THROUGH HEADPHONES)

20384, this is HQ. Requesting report from yesterdays initiative. Over.

DOMINIC

Okay... Air pressure is normal, no need for the Kearny. The entrance seal and vents are fine, no damage. Whatever you did up there we didn't feel it and nothing's come through. Over.

RADIO

Affirmative 20384. There's no ill health amongst any of you? No coughing, shortness of breath, dizziness? Over.

DOMINIC

Nothing out of the ordinary.
Over.

RADIO

Affirmative. Await further
instructions for the next phase.
Over and out.

A click is heard on the radio and Dominic stands up,
putting the headphones down on the desk.

EVETTE AND CLAIRE

Are in the forefront of the frame sat on their beds. Evette
is reading a novel and Claire is playing with two dolls on
her lap. Dominic steps into the doorway between them and
leans against the wall, watching over his girls, lost in
thought.

After a few seconds Evette looks up from her book and
smiles at Dominic.

EVETTE

Everything okay?

DOMINIC

Yeah, fine. They just wanted to
know if anything had got in.

Evette screws up her face and puts her novel under her
chair. She looks over at Claire who is still playing with
her dolls and stands next to Dominic.

EVETTE

Like what?

DOMINIC

I don't know, anything at all.

EVETTE

What do you think they were
doing?

DOMINIC

I don't know, probably trying to
test for any leaks, trying to put
gasses or some sort of dust in.

EVETTE

Have you read that manual they
left?

(MORE)

EVETTE (CONT'D)

There's a lot of things they
didn't tell us about in the
meetings.

DOMINIC

(nodding)

I know. I'm not looking forward
to these 'blast tests' or
whatever they are.

EVETTE

(scared, looking for
reassurance)

What do you think they're going
to do? Drop a bomb on us?

DOMINIC

(slight smile)

I don't think so. In the
Yorkshire Moors?

EVETTE

I wouldn't put it past them.
Reading that manual makes it
sound like they're going to try
and destroy this thing with us in
it.

DOMINIC

Well, it's a bunker, it's got a
very specific use. That's what
they test for, I guess.

(smiles)

But we're obviously going to be
fine. They wouldn't put us in
here if we were under any risk.

Evette doesn't answer, leaving his words hanging in the air. Dominic puts his arms around her and kisses her on the top of her head.

(8) INT. BUNKER - DAY

The calendar is in the foreground showing twenty-two days crossed out. We ZOOM OUT and PAN LEFT, revealing the family sat around the dinner table, again eating from tins.

CLAIRe

Is playing with her food, spinning the spoon in the tin.

CLAIRe

I don't want anymore of this.

Claire puts her tin down in front of her on the table and slides it into the middle of the table. Evette sighs deeply, sensing her daughter's frustration.

EVEtTE

(sighing)

You know there isn't anything else.

Dominic backs up his wife, attempting to quell the looming confrontation between them.

DOMINIC

Eat it up please Claire.

CLAIRe

I don't want it!

Evette looks at Dominic despairingly.

EVEtTE

It is getting a bit repetitive.
Do you think we can ask them if they'd send down anything else?

DOMINIC

I think they'd tell us, in no uncertain terms, to get stuffed.

EVEtTE

But there's no harm in you asking, is there?

DOMINIC

Oh I'M going to ask, am I?

EVEtTE

Oh you know they won't listen to me.

DOMINIC

They're not going to listen to me either! I don't think you realise, this is supposed to be real, we're supposed to be cut off, isolated. They're not going to drop down some different food just because we don't like this.

Evette doesn't respond. Dominic takes an aggressive mouthful of his dinner. Claire looks down into the contents of her tin.

(9) INT. BUNKER - NIGHT

The calendar indicates twenty-nine days have passed. Although there is no real concept of day and night in the bunker, this is the family's 'night time', which is suggested by the low lighting.

Evette and Dominic in bed together. Whilst Dominic is still asleep Evette is sat upright; something has just woken her. There is a small beeping sound coming from the other room.

EVETTE

(aggressive whisper)

Dom. Dom!

She pushes him hard on the shoulder.

EVETTE (CONT'D)

Dom, did you feel that?

DOMINIC

(eyes still closed)

Feel what?

EVETTE

That shaking!

Dominic sits up slowly and rubs his eyes.

DOMINIC

What? What shaking?

EVETTE

(not impressed)

The whole place shook! They've been doing something again. I'm going to check on Claire. You can go and answer THAT (referring to the beeping).

Dominic aggressively throws his duvet back and walks through to the radio desk. He flicks a blinking red switch and holds the headphones over one ear. As he talks we only hear his side of the conversation.

DOMINIC

This is 20384. Well no, I slept through it but Evette felt it.
Over. (Beat) No, everyone's fine.
Over. (Beat) Check the vents and seals in two hours, okay,
understood. (Beat) Okay... day forty-one? Understood. Over
(Beat)

Dominic hears some more before taking off the headphones, walking back into the sleeping area and back into bed.

EVETTE

What did they say?

DOMINIC

They wouldn't tell me what it was, just more 'testing'.

Dominic pulls the sheets over him and sits upright next to his wife.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)

How was Claire?

We see a quick shot of Claire asleep.

EVETTE

Scared. But I managed to explain it to her and I think she's going back to sleep.

Evette looks at her husband.

EVETTE (CONT'D)

I know this is supposed to be
some kind of secret mission but
we're supposed to be in on it!
Why can't they tell us what
they're doing?

DOMINIC

I've no idea. But apparently
they're going to be doing some
similar testing on day forty-one.

EVETTE

What do you mean?

DOMINIC

(shrugs)

That's what they said. Whatever
they did this morning they're
going to be doing again.

Evette grunts and lies down, turning away from Dominic.
Fade out.

(10) INT. BUNKER - DAY

CU of the calendar on a new month; MAY. We zoom out to see
that the first three days have passed, making this their
thirty-fourth day inside.

EVETTE

Is sat at the end of the bed reading with Claire, who is
wrapped in a blanket in the middle of the mattress.
Dominic, looking like he has some news, walks into the
clearing again and waits for Evette to notice him.

EVETTE

(eventually looking up)

Yes?

(notices his expression)

What? What is it?

(to Claire)

One minute sweetie.

Evette gets up and walks with Dominic through to the radio
room.

EVETTE (CONT'D)

What is it?

DOMINIC

They're cutting off the radio.

EVETTE

What do you mean?

DOMINIC

They're cutting it off, no more communication. They said we're past halfway now in the mission and now they need to see how we do on our own.

EVETTE

(visibly worried)

But what if we need something?

DOMINIC

I just think they're trying to make the test conditions as real as possible.

(hugs Evette)

I don't think there's anything to worry about.

Dominic wraps his arms around Evette who rests her head on his chest and stares into the distance, visibly worried.

(11) INT. BUNKER - DAY

The calendar shows thirty-nine days have passed.

Dominic is sat at the radio desk with the headphones on, scanning the airwaves for any signals.

Evette walks into shot and stops in between Dominic and the desk. She offers him a bottle of water.

EVETTE

Here. (Beat) I don't know why you keep bothering with that, you know full well you won't get anything.

DOMINIC
(taking the water)
It's better than silence.

Evette walks out as Dominic returns to the radio. We ZOOM SLOWLY into Dominic turning the dial, his mind lost in the noise as he searches for something, anything. Suddenly a faint female voice is heard.

RADIO (THROUGH HEADPHONES)
Mass... surf... underground...

Dominic jumps in surprise, knocking the water bottle onto the floor.

DOMINIC
(shouting)
Evette!

Dominic frantically fine tunes the radio dial trying to hone in on the signal. Evette walks into the room again.

EVETTE
What?

DOMINIC
I heard something! A voice.

Evette folds her arms, unimpressed.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
It was a woman's voice, I
couldn't make out what she was
saying properly.

EVETTE
I think you've been listening to
it for too long.

Without warning the voice is heard again. Dominic instantly takes his hand off the dial to leave it in position.

DOMINIC
(whispering)
Shh, it's here again, listen.

DESK POV
Evette leans into Dominic to hear into the headphones.

RADIO (THROUGH HEADPHONES)
Anyone hear... Lake... similar...

The signal starts to die as the voice is replaced by more buzzing. Dominic starts to fiddle with the dial again but cannot find the voice. He turns to his wife.

EVETTE
(shocked)
What do you think it is?

DOMINIC
I don't know, but this thing
can't pick up normal radio. It's
for secret or emergency
broadcasts, that kind of thing.

EVETTE
Who'd be doing that kind of
thing?

DOMINIC
I don't know.

EVETTE
Another bunker?

DOMINIC
I don't know. We can't make
outgoing transmissions, I know
that. We can only speak when
spoken to. So to speak.

Evette stands up and rubs her temple. Dominic puts his headphones down on the desk and turns off the radio.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
It doesn't make any sense. There
shouldn't be any broadcasts.

EVETTE
(panicked)
If there was some sort of
emergency they'd tell us, right?
Regardless of cutting us off for
the mission. They'd get back in
touch and tell us, wouldn't they?

DOMINIC

(stumped)

I... I assume so, yeah. But it could be anything. (Beat) I'm going to keep trying to find it, see if I can get more than half a word coming through.

Evette makes to leave the room. A MID SHOT has Dominic blurred in the background.

EVETTE

(back turned)

I really wish we'd never got into all this.

As Evette leaves the shot, Dominic comes into focus. He sighs, letting her comments slide.

(12) INT. BUNKER - EVENING

CLAIRE AND EVETTE

Are asleep in their beds.

The calendar has fifteen days crossed off, indicating the family are entering their forty-fifth underground. Like before the camera ZOOMS OUT to reveal Dominic underneath - however this time the shot is HAND HELD and less smooth.

We stop at MID DISTANCE just to his right and gather than he is still trying to find the mystery signal. We then SLOWLY TRACK TO THE LEFT, finishing at the left hand side of the desk. As we stop it is revealed that Dominic has not only found the mystery signal, but is taking notes.

Dominic stops writing and holds up the note. We ZOOM to his eyes moving from right to left. Tears form in his eyes as he takes in the information.

(13) INT. BUNKER - DAY

CU of brick work. The camera follows the wall to its base and finds the calendar crumpled on the floor. We can just make out all the days in May have been crossed off.

A boot suddenly appears next to it. We follow up to someone in a protective suit and gas mask; we cannot make out who it is. They reach over the table to grab a pamphlet.

DESK POV

The person walks from the desk to another suited, masked figure at the base of the exit ladder at the other end of the room. The bunker is messy, empty tins are on the floor.

CLAIRE'S SHOULDER

In a protective suit - but no mask - walks casually from the bedroom to the two figures. One of them hands Claire a mask from behind their back.

EVETTE

You have to put this on before we can go up honey.

We ascertain that the other figure is Dominic as he hands the pamphlet to Evette.

DOMINIC

This is the evacuation procedure.
Wait here while I go up and meet them.

LADDER POV

Looking down on the three. Evette and Claire look up as Dominic begins to climb the ladders towards us.

(14) EXT. YORKSHIRE MOORS - DAY

THICK DUST blows, obscuring any certainties in the landscape. The BUNKER HATCH opens Dominic emerges, stopping at the shoulders. We SLOWLY ZOOM into his visors reflection and can see what he sees; burned, broken trees and the thick, swirling dust that surrounds him. Something serious has happened, but he has no idea what.

(15) INT. BUNKER - DAY

Dominic, his suit filthy, climbs back down the ladder and joins Evette and Claire at the bottom.

EVETTE

What's up there?

Dominic doesn't hear her - he's shocked to the core.
Eventually he turns to his wife.

DOMINIC

(barely audible)

There's nothing there. Nothing!

He reaches into the vast pocket of the suit and pulls out a scrap of paper and hands it to Evette.

EVETTE

What's this?

EVETTE'S POV

She holds the note up close and through the green tint of her visor we can make out the transcript;
"Britain... under nuclear attack. There... damage...
surface, remain underground. Can anyone... hear me?
We're... bunker... Lake Windermere... Believe there are
others out... please respond."
Dominic continues to talk as we read.

DOMINIC (O.S.)

That radio broadcast, it's a
loop, a recorded message. That's
what I've managed to work out.

Evette and Dominic look at each other as the wind whistles ever louder.

FADE OUT.