

The Confession

INT. AIRPORT - NIGHT - CONT.

A largely empty airport with little noise but the one coming from a television playing CNN above benches.

Rows of benches are empty, except for one homeless person buried in blankets and JADEN, ~30, casually dressed with a backpack next to his seat. Both are sleeping.

Slowly, Jaden starts to wake up.

He looks around, but doesn't see anyone except for the homeless person next to him and a few security guards at a checkpoint.

Surprised, he looks up to the television playing CNN.

CNN's chyron reads "End of times in imminent. Apocalyptic storm now approaching East Coast after taking down all of the West Coast."

The pictures show frightened weather men in front of maps.

In the corner, next to the CNN logo and chyron, another logo reads "Apocalypse NOW! End of the world coverage!"

NEWS ANCHOR

It is without question that this is an event no one will survive. The question is just how long it will actually take for this storm to swallow the rest of the world. It has already taken an estimated 55 million lives.

Jaden looks around and sees no one but three security guards standing next to a checkpoint.

He quickly takes out a cellphone from the back of his pocket. When he tries to turn it on, it shows a red battery.

Jaden quickly goes through his backpack and takes out a phone charger, but finds the charger's wire broken.

A clearly frustrated Jaden puts his hands over his face, picks himself up from his seat and walks over to the three security guards at the checkpoint. SECURITY 1, male ~35, SECURITY 2, female ~35 and SECURITY 3, male ~50.

JADEN

Good evening!

SECURITY 1

Evening.

JADEN

Can I ask what you are still doing here? It seems like everybody else left.

SECURITY 2

We know what's happening. But our families are far away from this place. We might as well die doing our jobs.

Jaden nods.

JADEN

I was just wondering... My phone died... Maybe one of you would have one I could borrow for just one phone call?

SECURITY 3

Our phones have classified information on them. We won't lend them to you.

JADEN

Guys. The world is about to end! Classification doesn't matter anymore!

SECURITY 2

As I said. If we have to die, we'd like to do so while doing our jobs.

Jaden looks at the three guards. Desperately looks around for solutions.

He looks past the checkpoint and sees a payphone.

JADEN

Do you mind if I'd use that payphone over there?

SECURITY 1

Passport.

Jaden takes out a passport from his pocket and hands it to Security 1, who takes it and examines it carefully before handing it back.

SECURITY 1 (CONT'D)

Not happening. Your passport is good for domestic flights, not international.

(MORE)

SECURITY 1 (CONT'D)

The payphone is in the international section. We can't send you there.

JADEN

You're kidding, right? The world is about to end! Who cares about domestic or international flights or proper passports! I just really need to call someone before I die!

SECURITY 2

We'd like to die doing our jobs correctly.

Jaden looks around for a moment.

He looks at the payphone, which is just a checkpoint away.

Catching the guards by surprise, he takes a fist and swings it at Security 1.

Security 2 attempts to hold Jaden back but he punches her in the stomach and causes her to fall.

Before he can run, Security 3 kicks Jaden onto the ground.

Jaden holds onto Security 3's feet and manages to throw him across the checkpoint.

Security 2 takes out a stick and hits Jaden with it multiple times, until he holds onto the stick and manages to throw it away.

He then takes a plastic box from the checkpoint and throws it at Security 2 before she can hit him back.

Security 1 approaches Jaden holding a taser at him. He triggers it and Jaden gets tased. He however holds onto the taser's wires and manages to throw the device away.

Catching Security 1 by surprise, Jaden manages to punch him in the face.

Security 3 attempts to approach Jaden but trips over Security 2's stick Jaden threw away earlier.

Having all three guards on the floor now, Jaden runs over past the checkpoint. He takes a cart and drives toward the pay phone.

Once at the payphone, he stops the cart and reaches into his pocket for quarters.

He enters three quarters into the payphone, puts the phone at his ears and quickly dials a number.

JADEN

Leo?

LEO (V.O.)

Who is this?

JADEN

Leo... this is Jaden. We went to elementary school together. Listen, I need to confess something before you. I've been wanting to do this for decades now but I never got to do it and I don't want it to be too late.

LEO (V.O.)

Confess something?

JADEN

Yes. I was the one who stole your bike in third grade. I really wanted it, stole it and later destroyed it out of guilt. Please... please Jaden! Please forgive me!

A beat.

LEO (V.O.)

No.

JADEN

What?

LEO (V.O.)

No. I won't forgive you. My parents were dirt poor. They bought that bike with all of their savings so that I wouldn't have to walk for 3 miles every morning. I loved that bike. It meant everything to me. And you took it from me and never had the guts to admit it and make up for it! You literally waited till the end of the world to apologize! Go to hell!

Leo hangs up.

Jaden's face doesn't move.

He quickly goes through his pocked and finds two more quarters which he immediately puts into the machine.

He dials the number but nothing happens.

The payphone's display reads "50 cents entered. 75 needed. please enter 25 additional cents."

Jaden goes through his pocket- but it's empty!

Back at the checkpoint, all three guards are lying on the floor and recovering.

Jaden approaches them.

JADEN

Do any of you happen to have any quarters?

End.