

NATURE LOVER

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

A concrete jungle. There's not a tree, flower, blade of grass or even a weed in sight. No room for nature here.

ALAN, 33, holding a plastic bag protectively to his chest runs as fast as he can towards a huge apartment block. Out of breath and sweating hard he doesn't dare stop.

INT. ALAN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Alan runs towards his wardrobe tripping over his bed as he goes.

He falls to the floor. Dropping the plastic bag. A potted green house plant spills out. He looks at it with horror.

ALAN
Shit. Fuck. Shit.

He scurries back up onto his feet. Picking up the plant he quickly places it inside the wardrobe. Inside is a single light bulb shining bright and a shallow dish of water.

He gently places the plant inside on top of the water dish.

Then without any further hesitation he closes and padlocks the wardrobe doors shut. It's a big fat lock. He pockets the key.

Now he breathes a sigh of relief.

ALAN (CONT'D)
Jesus that was close.

INT. ALAN'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

Alan holds the door open, leaning against it. In a dressing gown. Looks like he's just gotten up. He yawns.

BETTY, 30, long blonde hair and pretty stands on the other side of the open door, holding onto a bottle of wine. She's all dressed up.

BETTY
It's a party. Everyone is going to be there.

ALAN

No, I'm sorry not tonight. Not for me.

BETTY

This is like the third time you've cancelled on me.

ALAN

I just don't feel like going outside right now.

BETTY

You keep this up Alan and soon you'll have no one knocking on and asking you to do shit.

ALAN

I just need to be on my own for a while.

BETTY

Let me come in. I'll pick you out some clothes and you can come party with us. Smack you out of this depression. Depression is boring, don't be boring.

She moves to enter the apartment. Alan quickly positions himself and blocks her, filling the doorway.

ALAN

No. You can't come in.

BETTY

Excuse me?

ALAN

I'm sick.

BETTY

You look fine to me.

ALAN

I'm sick, I'll see you later. Ok?

She turns her back on him and walks away.

BETTY

Whatever. But don't say I didn't try.

INT. ALAN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Alan kneels down at his wardrobe. He has the potted plant in his hands. Admiring it. Smelling it. Even kissing it. He's in heaven.

INT. APARTMENT CAR PARK - NIGHT

A small crowd is gathered around a pile of damaged and dying plants and flowers. All of them stacked high.

Betty joins the crowd. JONAS, 40, looking like a trucker stands on top of a small pair of ladders, he's holding onto a slowly burning black rag.

JONAS

All these disgusting things were found in that apartment block we call home. A fucking nature lover living right amongst us.

The crowd boos loudly. Betty even joins in with them. Pure hatred.

JONAS (CONT'D)

These things growing in our apartment block. Spreading diseases. Dirt. Filth. Fucking gross nature lovers.

The boos from the crowd get louder.

Jonas throws the burning rag into the pile. Setting them all on fire.

JONAS (CONT'D)

Nature has no place in the modern world. The perfect world we have created. And any nature lovers found need to be handed over to the law to receive punishment for their disgusting crimes. If you know anyone who's a fucking nature lover you better come forth. If we do nothing we could all wake up to a future where these disgusting things are growing everywhere. Nature is a cancer and needs wiping out!

The crowd loves him. Jonas jumps down from the ladders.

JONAS (CONT'D)
(laughing)
Now let's get this party started.

Jonas is first to start dancing wildly around the burning pile. The rest of the crowd joins in. All having a blast.

INT. ALAN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alan still kneels at the wardrobe gently stroking the leaves of the plant.

ALAN
You're so beautiful.

EXT. CAR PARK - NIGHT

The party is still going strong. Lots of dancing, drinking and doing drugs.

Jonas finds Betty amongst the crowd.

JONAS
Where is he?

BETTY
Won't come out of his place.

Jonas smile quickly melts away.

JONAS
Jesus what the fuck is wrong with him?

BETTY
He looks depressed.

JONAS
He's not depressed.

BETTY
Then you go get him.

JONAS
What the fuck is going on with him?

BETTY
He's been acting strange for weeks now.

JONAS

Did you go inside and take a look around like I told you too?

BETTY

He wouldn't let me past the door. He's never been that rude to me before. Something is most definitely wrong with him.

JONAS

You don't think he's one of them do you?

BETTY

I don't even want to think about it.

JONAS

Fuck. My own fucking brother a fucking disgusting nature lover. It'll kill our dad. A fucking nature lover. Jesus.

BETTY

We don't know anything for sure yet.

JONAS

Then we better find out then hadn't we?

BETTY

You need to calm down first. I don't want you doing anything stupid.

ALAN

I'd rather have a dead brother than one living who's a fucking nature lover. When I was little I never saw a single plant or flower. Not ever. Not even once. And that was all thanks to our parents hard work. But now it feels like we're surrounded by them because of these fucking nature lovers spreading these dirty plants around, growing them in their own fucking homes. It's insane. Well, I'm not going to stand for it. Family or not, I'm willing to make a stand for what is right.

INT. ALAN'S APARTMENT - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

Alan lays out across his bed cradling the potted plant in the crook of his arm. Like a stuffed toy.

They watch a movie together.

Suddenly the sound of people banging on his front door sounds out around him.

Alan is startled but stays as he is.

ALAN
(muttering)
Go away.

The sound of banging is soon replaced with a terrible cracking sound. His front door is being broken a part.

Alan jumps up out of bed in a panic, still cradling the potted plant to his chest.

ALAN (CONT'D)
(shouting)
What the fuck is going on out there!

INT. ALAN'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

His front door is broken wide open. Jonas leads the way inside with Betty following closely on behind him. Jonas glances back at her.

JONAS
We find him.
(calling out)
Alan, where are you?

INT. ALAN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alan hurries to get the potted plant back inside the wardrobe. He's scared and his hands are shaking.

ALAN
What the fuck are you doing?

He gets it inside and only just manages to get the padlock shut when Jonas and Betty enter.

JONAS
What the fuck is going on in here?

Alan leaps up to challenge him.

ALAN
Me? What the fuck are you breaking
into my place for?

BETTY
We're worried about you.

ALAN
I told you. I'm sick and I just
want to be left alone.

Jonas snaps out a hand and takes Alan by the throat.

JONAS
I'm going to ask you this once,
have you got anything in here that
you shouldn't?

Alan tries to break free from Jonas grip.

ALAN
Get the fuck off of me.

Jonas is too strong for him. Now holding onto Alan's neck
with both hands, he shakes him.

JONAS
Answer me.

ALAN
What the fuck are you talking
about?

JONAS
Are you a god damn nature lover?

ALAN
What?

JONAS
Disgusting bits of plants have been
found all throughout this apartment
block.

ALAN
What the fuck has that got to do
with me?

JONAS
It's coming from somewhere.

ALAN

So you thought it must be me?

JONAS

Ever since the fucking police have been coming around here and finding more and more you've locked yourself away. Why?

ALAN

I just want to be left alone.

Jonas eyes switch to the wardrobe and the padlock.

JONAS

(to Betty)

In there. Take a look.

Betty walks over.

ALAN

Don't go searching through my fucking things.

JONAS

Do it.

Betty tries to open the wardrobes doors. Tries to undo the padlock. Fails.

BETTY

I can't get in.

JONAS

Have you got anything in there?

ALAN

Get out. Now.

JONAS

If you've got any nature shit in there and the police find out you could go to prison for a long, long time. In the eyes of the law owning nature is worse than murder. I'm trying to save you. But you're too fucking stupid to see it!

ALAN

I said get out!

Jonas releases Alan. Alan goes over to Betty and yanks her away from the wardrobe.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Don't touch my fucking stuff.

Jonas marches over to Alan, he pushes Betty out of his way and punches Alan as hard as he can in the stomach. A solid hit.

Alan has the wind knocked out of him. Collapsing to his knees.

Jonas takes out a long thin hammer that's tucked in the back of his belt.

Jonas smashes the padlock free. He rips open the wardrobe door. And there right in front of him is the potted plant underneath the light.

Betty holds a hand in front of her mouth and gasps.

BETTY

Oh no.

Jonas looks like he could be sick.

JONAS

What have you done?

Jonas reaches in, takes hold of the plant and throws it to the floor. Stamping down on it, over and over.

Alan screams out.

ALAN

Please no.

BETTY

Don't you realise how bad those things are?

JONAS

My own brother, a fucking nature lover. What the fuck have you done?

BETTY

They spread diseases. Those plants are poison. We shouldn't be anywhere near them.

ALAN

It's not true. Everything you've been told about plants. Trees. Grass. It's all lies. I don't know why we're being told this stuff, but it's all lies.

Jonas stamps down on the plant again. Crushing it under his foot.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Stop it!

JONAS

I'm saving you from yourself.

Alan finds some hidden inner strength, he gets up, reaches out and snatches the hammer from Jonas. He swings and catches Jonas in the side of the face. Breaking his jaw and knocking him out cold.

Jonas collapses to the floor.

BETTY

No.

(screaming)

What have you done?

ALAN

(to Betty)

Just get out. Go. Get out now.

BETTY

It's that plant. It's made you crazy.

Betty throws herself down on top of the plant. She starts ripping off it's leaves. Trying to destroy it with her bare hands.

Alan hits her hands with the hammer, breaking a couple of her fingers. She cries out in pain.

ALAN

Don't touch it.

Alan drops the hammer and picks up the plant. It's badly damaged but there's still plenty of life still in it.

EXT. APARTMENT BLOCK - NIGHT

Alan has the potted plant smuggled in his jacket.

He comes away from the apartment block. Nothing but concrete all around him.

Alan passes by a group of young MEN. One of them accidentally bumps shoulders with him.

It's not much but it's enough contact to cause Alan's jacket to open just enough to expose the plant.

One of the group points at it.

BLONDE HAIRE D MAN

He's got one.

The crowd all lunge for Alan. Each one wanting to be the one who grabs him.

Alan runs. Crossing the road without even looking. He runs and doesn't look back.

The crowd gives chase. Alan runs as though his life depends on it and it does.

EXT. UNDERGROUND PARK - NIGHT

Abandoned. Closed for business. Do not enter signs posted all around its main entrance.

Alan still runs. But drenched in sweat and struggling to breathe he's slowing to a stop.

The sound of the chasing and yelling crowd of young men echoes of around him.

Alan stops outside the entrance to the carpark. Still cradling onto the potted plant. He fights to get his breath back.

Doubled over looking at the ground. Gasping for air.

ALAN

I can't do this.

Then something in the corner of his eye catches Alan's attention. He moves over for a closer look.

The sound of the hunting crowd getting louder and louder.

A single green leaf. Alan picks it up. Smells it. Brings it to his lips.

ALAN (CONT'D)

It's real.

Alan moves to the entrance to the underground carpark. Ducking underneath the 'do not enter' signs. Disappearing inside.

As the darkness swallows him up the chasing crowd comes into view. But unsure where he's gone they split up, going off in all different directions. Still desperate to catch him.

INT. UNDERGROUND CARPARK - NIGHT

Alan stumbles onto a secret meeting, many different men and women of all different ages and backgrounds. A few children are here too.

They're all holding onto different plants, all different shapes and sizes.

All these people here go into a blind panic when they see Alan just wander on in.

Alan spots this panic, but quickly opening his jacket he takes out his own potted plant and holds it up above his head.

ALAN
(triumphant)
It's ok. I'm one of you.

The members of this meeting all relax and smile.

ALAN (CONT'D)
I'm a nature lover and I'm proud.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END