

BEYOND

by

Alex Mathias

Bands of people traipse across a field, drawn to the sound of fairground BASS pulsating in the distance. It's Summer and a festival is starting.

Four 17-year-old boys down cans as they walk. They jostle, laugh and yell random gibberish. One boy trails behind:

ANGLESEY. A wallflower with a mop of hair wearing an orange over shirt. He's a fish out of water.

Handing him a can of beer is DYLAN, the popular guy who doesn't let it go to his head. A kind soul.

DYLAN

Hide that if you see the police.

Anglesey takes the can but stops. Stares. Baffled.

By a tree line, staring at him, is a small girl in an oversized, green ALIEN MASK. Head cocked, frozen still. The small child lifts their arm and points up to the darkening sky. Unsettled, Anglesey looks upward.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

ANGLESEY!

Dylan waves for him to catch up. Anglesey turns back but the small girl is gone.

TITLES -- BEYOND

Anglesey moves in a stream of people. Some wear Welsh rugby jerseys. Face paint. Novelty hats. Kids with candy floss. A vendor with a cart of merchandise shouts from a corner.

VENDOR

WE GOT SCARVES! HATS! FLAGS! Don't be frightened, be enlightened!

There's a celebratory mood in the air. It feels like Cardiff on Match Day. A Woman has a Welsh flag painted on her cheek, but on the green and white background is a RED FLYING SAUCER.

The scarfs, hats and flags are a bizarre blend of the Welsh and paranormal: neon green dragons and logos of sheep being beamed up by UFOs. A BANNER with an alien mascot reads:

WELCOME TO THE ROSWELL OF SOUTH WALES!

Dylan grips Anglesey by the shoulders.

DYLAN

Ready for the weirdest night of
your life?

ANGLESEY

Do people here really believe in
aliens?

GAV is the leader and self-described 'alpha' of the group. He
mocks Anglesey's North Walian accent. Everyone else speaks
with a South Walian accent.

GAV

*'Do people here really believe in
aliens?'* Why do Gogs always sound
like they've had a stroke?

BEANIE, Gav's sidekick, laughs along with him. Feeling
awkward, Anglesey smiles and Dylan pats his shoulder
reassuringly - *don't worry about them.*

A warden scans tickets. Nearby, a DOOMSAYER (30s)
proselytises. She may be a performance artist. She may be for
real.

DOOMSAYER

The solstice is upon us! 25 years
ago this very night, Esca Hughes
vanished never to be seen again!
Tonight those travellers from
beyond will return!

GAV

You say that every year, Sharon!

DOOMSAYER

Mark my words! Before this festival
is through, another will be taken!

The boys scoff and shake their heads dismissively. Anglesey
glances back, mesmerised by the Doomsayer's conviction.

3

EXT. FESTIVAL. (BARRY'S SHACK) DAY. DAY 1

3

Anglesey smiles at the blend of weird and wonderful:

People roam about in space-themed fancy dress: astronauts;
jetpacks; hats of purple tentacles. Crude, DIY costumes.

People crowd around pop up bars and munch on street food on
rows of wooden benches under festoon lights.

Gangs of guys in green alien Morphsuits carry crates of beer.

Anglesey walks past a row of craft market stalls. A wiry old Painter smokes a pipe. He's surrounded by his wares: paintings of spaceships beaming up stick figures.

Without noticing, Anglesey walks by a painting of a small child in an alien mask pointing up at the sky.

Through the crowd, a girl in the distance waves at Anglesey. He looks over his shoulder, but no, she's waving at him, and he can't believe it. He waves back awkwardly, half raising his arm before running his fingers through his hair.

This is SEREN (17). 90s throwback and alternative style: choppy black hair and a baggy pink fleece.

4 **EXT. CARAVAN (DRUM STUDIO) DAY. DAY 1** 4

A solitary caravan. A neon green ENTER sign flickers over the doorway. Anglesey looks bemused. Dylan wears a knowing smile.

DYLAN

Go on. We all have to.

Anglesey steps forward but hesitates. He glances back at Dylan, who nods for him to go forth.

5 **INT. CARAVAN (DRUM STUDIO) DAY. DAY 1** 5

Atmospheric SPACE MUSIC plays through a speaker. Psychedelic cosmic art is painted on the walls in UV paint. A glow in the dark solar system hangs from the ceiling.

The wall SHIFTS behind him -- Anglesey JUMPS out of his skin.

The shifting wall takes the shape of a TATTOOIST (30s) covered in UV paint. He sits at a small table and clicks on a lamp. Deadpan expression. A celestial fortune teller.

ANGLESEY

Sorry, you scared me--

TATTOOIST

Shush.

He indicates an empty seat and Anglesey sits. There's an old metal tombola on the table.

ANGLESEY

Is this like a raffle or--

TATTOOIST

Shush. Paid â siarad.

The Tattooist takes Anglesey's hands and reads his palms. He moves his finger in front of Anglesey's face so his eyes follow it. Places his hand against his forehead as if checking his temperature.

Part divination, part doctor's check-up. He smirks.

He slowly cranks the handle of the creaking tombola. Glow-in-the-dark plastic balls RATTLE within. He stops. Opens the hatch. Gestures for Anglesey to reach inside.

TATTOOIST (CONT'D)

They wanna get near you. They wanna take you. They wanna keep you. From sundown to sunup.

ANGLESEY

Right. Okay.

Anglesey pulls out a glow-in-the-dark plastic ball and hands it over. The Tattooist pops the plastic ball open and pulls out a slip of white paper.

He pulls up the sleeve of Anglesey's orange overshirt, slaps the paper on the inside of his forearm, sprays water and presses down hard. He peels back the paper--

The tattoo is a RED ALIEN FACE.

He catches his breath. Hand covers mouth. Eyes bulge. Actual fear or performance, it's hard to say.

ANGLESEY (CONT'D)

Is that bad?

He raises a trembling finger to his lips: *silence*.

6

EXT. CARAVAN (DRUM STUDIO) DAY. DAY 1

6

Anglesey displays the glittering red tattoo.

ANGLESEY

Is that bad?!

Dylan looks at it and shares the same expression as the tattooist. Hand covers mouth. Eyes bulge.

DYLAN

It's not great.

ANGLESEY

You said you all do it!

Dylan pulls up his sleeve: a GREEN alien face tattoo.

ANGLESEY (CONT'D)

What does red mean?

Dylan quickly pulls down Anglesey's sleeve.

DYLAN

Nothing! Just don't show anyone and don't tell anyone and you'll be fine. Until 9 o'clock.

ANGLESEY

What happens at 9 o'clock?

Dylan marches ahead, leaving Anglesey confused and nervous.

7

INT. DRINKS HALL. NIGHT. NIGHT 1

7

A crowded, noisy venue. Everyone wears TIN FOIL HATS. The sound of pub chatter fills the room.

Dylan carries two pints, Anglesey follows him.

ANGLESEY

(harsh whisper)

What happens at 9 o'clock?

Anglesey glances at the clock on the wall: **20:55**

They join Beanie at a table. Anglesey notices the GREEN alien face tattoo on his forearm.

BEANIE

Come on 'en!

Beanie drum rolls on the table. Dylan slowly rolls up his sleeve, milking the tension, but reveals his green tattoo.

BEANIE (CONT'D)

Boring! What about you--

DYLAN

He's got green too.

Dylan gives Anglesey a knowing look and he plays along, smiling innocently. Beanie doesn't suspect a thing.

ANGLESEY

What does red mean?

Beanie blows air out of his cheeks and shakes his head as if it was too horrible to share.

BEANIE

You don't want to know.

Scanning the room, Anglesey sees that every visible forearm is tattooed with a green alien face. He swallows hard.

Through the crowd, he catches eyes with Seren, sat at a table across the room. Her smile is a perfect but fleeting tonic.

CLANK -- Gav lays a tray of three shots on the table. He passes one to each of the boys, missing out Anglesey. He has a GREEN alien face tattoo on his forearm.

Anglesey stares up at the clock. Eyes wide. Leg hopping. All sound seems to be sucked out of the room as the second hand slowly ticks toward 9 o'clock... but then it passes... and nothing happens. Sound returns! Life resumes!

THE LIGHTS CUT -- DARKNESS -- A PIERCING SCREAM!

The lights turn back on. **I'm Your Boogie** by **KC & The Sunshine Band** softly starts. Pockets of conversation fall silent like a classroom when a teacher walks in. All heads in the room turn and Anglesey turns to see--

Three people stood at the side in shiny silver overalls with terrifyingly realistic GREY ALIEN MASKS.

The song KICKS in properly and the mood completely shifts.

DISCO LIGHTS FLASH. The whole pub, except Anglesey, are on their feet, dancing and clapping along.

The Grey Aliens roam through the crowd with disturbing yet admittedly sick dance moves. People react with excitement and fear, as if they were loose animals on the prowl.

They examine tattoos, looking for something other than green.

One stops and stares directly at Anglesey, who tenses up as the Grey Alien approaches and grabs--

A GUY stood next to him. The Guy resists. His sleeve is yanked up, exposing a RED alien face. The crowd goes WILD. Anglesey sees everything in SLOW MOTION--

The Guy's pint glass SMASHES as he drops it in the struggle as the Grey Aliens overpower him.

The obnoxious laughing faces of the crowd. Dancing. Clapping.

The Guy claws the floor and grips Anglesey's ankle, clinging on for dear life. The Grey Aliens drag him back by his legs. His face contorts in sheer terror as the catchy party song BLARES. The Grey Aliens force him to his feet. The crowd cheer as they drag him out of the exit into the darkness.

Doors SLAM. Music CUTS. Lights ON. Slow motion STOPS.
Everyone instantly resumes chatting as if nothing happened.

Anglesey is completely shocked and disturbed.

GAV
Look at his face!

ANGLESEY
What are they going to do to him?

BEANIE
What *aren't* they going to do to
him?

DYLAN
(*downplaying*)
Supposedly, they just, you know,
haze people. No biggie.

Anglesey's mouth hangs open.

BEANIE
No biggie? Bro, they're going to
violate him! Alien style. Drugged,
branded, anally probed--

GAV
My brother says they strip you
naked and literally stuff you
inside a mutilated cow.

BEANIE
Serious?

GAV
Serious. It's like a whole thing.

Anglesey reflexively squeezes his arm where he's tattooed.

BEANIE
By the end of the night they'll
abduct everyone who's marked.
Every. Last. One.

8

INT. TOILETS. NIGHT. NIGHT 1.

8

Anglesey bursts into the toilet. Water gushes from the tap.
He splashes his skin and rubs the RED alien face but the
glittering tattoo doesn't even smudge.

He uses soap. A smile breaks through his despair as the white
lather covers the tattoo. He washes the soap away.

The red alien face remains. Unfaded. Indelible. He presses the dispenser till his palm is full of soap.

VOICES-- someone's coming. Not now. Arm soaked and hand dripping with soap, Anglesey hides around the corner just as the toilet door is thrown open. Gav, Beanie and Dylan enter.

DYLAN (V.O)
Where'd Anglesey go?

Anglesey overhears as they BELCH and loudly SNORT.

GAV
Bro, he's such a weirdo. Let's ditch him.

BEANIE
That would be well funny!

They notice Dylan's reticence.

GAV
Wait. Do you actually like him?

His friends consider him critically. Dylan feels the pressure of wanting their approval. Anglesey smiles hopefully.

DYLAN
No. I just feel bad for him.

Anglesey's face drops. He takes it to heart.

GAV (O.S.)
What, cause Mrs Ratcliffe asked you to babysit him?

A message notification DINGS. Gav checks his phone.

GAV (CONT'D)
Oh shit! Cerys is in Moon Bar. Let's goooo! Look. He can find his own friends. Fuck him.

Gav, Beanie and Dylan exit.

With the coast clear, Anglesey scrubs himself in the sink. He rubs his skin faster and harder, frustration building. But the stubborn mark persists. He looks up to find a TEENAGER with his mouth open.

ANGLESEY
Wait--

The Teenager sprints out of the toilet.

9

INT. DRINKS HALL - NIGHT. NIGHT 1

9

Anglesey weaves through the crowd of people in tin foil hats.

His sleeve is grabbed and pulled up! It's the TEENAGER who spotted him in the toilet, exposing the red tattoo. Everyone takes a step back as if he were infected. They GASP, POINT and SHOUT in feral excitement.

Anglesey yanks his arm free, but someone else in the crowd grabs his other arm. They converge on him. He twists and turns, fighting the whirlwind of clamping hands.

Gav and Beanie laugh in the distance. Dylan looks guilty but doesn't intervene. Seren watches with concern.

Anglesey pulls away and bolts for the exit.

10

EXT. PATH. NIGHT. NIGHT 1

10

Anglesey rushes down the dark path. It feels post-apocalyptic and nightmarish. Stragglers stumble around intoxicated. A guy in a green Morphsuit pukes his guts up.

Sat on the ground, a drunk WOMAN (40s) sobs and wails.

WOMAN

They took my husband! GAAARRY!

Anglesey stops. Across the field, staring directly at him, is that same small child wearing the oversized, green ALIEN mask. Head cocked, frozen still.

SEREN

Are you leaving?

He turns to find Seren. She wears a SILVER NECKLACE WITH A STAR PENDANT. Anglesey turns back but the small girl is gone.

ANGLESEY

It's not really my vibe.

SEREN

Better alien festivals in North Wales, is it? Didn't have you down as a snob.

He smiles weakly.

ANGLESEY

See you around.

SEREN

Hang out with me. It'll be fun.
Promise.

ANGLESEY

My idea of fun isn't getting anally
probed and stuffed in a dead cow.
Thanks though.

SEREN

(*laughing*)

What?!

Anglesey pulls up his sleeve to reveal his tattoo. Seren
GASPS, feigning shock. She pulls up her sleeve: she has the
exact same RED alien face tattoo.

SEREN (CONT'D)

Whatever they told you is bullshit.
Those guys are a bunch of
dickheads. I like your shoes by the
way.

Anglesey and Seren are wearing the exact same pair of
Converse shoes. He smiles. She walks toward the festival, but
turns back to him.

SEREN (CONT'D)

You coming, or what?

Seeing her complete lack of fear, he decides to follow.

11

EXT. FESTIVAL (BARRY'S SHACK) NIGHT. NIGHT 1

11

Fairground games and alien-themed prizes. Seren playfully
nudges Anglesey as he plays the coconut shy.

Anglesey and Seren play a claw machine. She excitedly points
at a cute PINK ALIEN PLUSHIE.

Anglesey's face is a mask of concentration as he controls the
claw. It lifts up the alien plushie. Seren hops on the spot,
giddy with anticipation.

Anglesey wins the alien plushie. Seren EXPLODES with
excitement. They hug each other, linger in it a little too
long, pull away and straighten their tops.

12

EXT. HOUSE OF MIRRORS - NIGHT. NIGHT 1

12

Anglesey and Seren stumble around a house of mirrors.

Anglesey stops laughing. Seren is gone. He glances around but is only met with a dozen reflections of himself.

Seren LEAPS OUT from a corner, laughing hysterically.

13

EXT. STONE WALL - NIGHT. NIGHT 1

13

Anglesey and Seren sit on a bale of hay, eating a lollipop. The pink alien plushie is on her lap. He catches her glancing at him. They both look away and smile.

SEREN

It's just a stupid tradition. We should worry about the real aliens. This town's overdue a visit.

ANGLESEY

Did a woman really get abducted?

SEREN

That's what they say. Beamed up and taken away. Never to be seen again.

SEREN (CONT'D)

All they found were a few of her possessions. One of her shoes. A ring.

ANGLESEY

What do you think happened to her?

SEREN

Maybe it was aliens. Or maybe she just wanted to disappear. Loads of weird stuff happens around here.

Spaceman by **Babylon Zoo** BLARES from the venue.

They GASP in excitement and then GASP at each other's GASPS.

ANGLESEY

You know this song?!

SEREN (CONT'D)

You know this song?!

14

INT. DANCE FLOOR (CIRCULAR VENUE) - NIGHT. NIGHT 1

14

Seren pulls Anglesey onto the smoke-filled dancefloor. Glowsticks. Dancers in green alien Morphsuits.

As the song becomes rocky and guitar-infused, Seren playfully whips her hair, fully getting into it. Anglesey admires her carefree confidence. They do not see the GLIMPSE of a Grey Alien mask through the dancing crowd.

Seren waves the pink alien plushie in the air, unaware of the Grey Aliens circling.

Anglesey and Seren share a look, desires in sync. They slow. His hand touches her hip, her hand strokes his arm.

As the song builds to the chorus, they inch closer, leaning in to kiss when--

THE LIGHTS CUT. DARKNESS. DISCO LIGHTS FLASH.

I'm Your Boogieman by KC & The Sunshine Band BLARES!

GREY ALIENS fly in and grab them. They struggle and fight to get to one another. Their hands thrust out, fingertips nearly touch but they're wrenched apart.

The catchy party anthem blares as they're dragged away kicking and screaming by the Grey Aliens.

15 **INT. DANCE FLOOR (CIRCULAR VENUE) OVER BLACK. NIGHT 1** 15

The SOUNDS of STRUGGLING. PANICKED BREATHING. ZIPS. WHISPERS.

ANGLESEY (V.O.)

What are you doing to me? Stop! Let me go! STOP!

16 **INT. DANCE FLOOR (CIRCULAR VENUE) - NIGHT. NIGHT 1** 16

A terrifyingly realistic Grey Alien mask. The alien wears an ORANGE OVERSHIRT - Alien Anglesey. He touches his masked face with his gangly alien hands. His breathing steadies as he realises what has happened: he is now one of them.

I'm Your Boogieman by KC & The Sunshine Band BLARES.

A huge bonfire rages. Dreamlike. A party trance. A group of people in silver jumpsuits and grey alien masks dance in a ring around the fire, worshipping the night and flames.

They invite him to join them. They teach him a synchronised routine. He looks as if he's found where he belongs.

Across the smoke and flames, he spots an alien holding a PINK ALIEN PLUSHIE - Alien Seren. He rushes over... but she's gone. He glances around, unable to find her in the haze.

17 **EXT. FIELD. MORNING. DAY 2** 17

The blue hour. The morning after. The field is the aftermath of Bacchanalian revelry. A passed out astronaut lays face down amidst the litter.

Alien Anglesey staggers along and suddenly stops, having found what he was looking for. In the distance, Alien Seren holds the pink alien plushie. Alien Anglesey rushes over.

They turn and stare into each other's giant black bulbous eyes. He reaches out and strokes her rubbery face with his massive gangly alien fingers. Extra-terrestrial love.

He pulls off his silicon alien mask.

ANGLESEY

That was the best night of my life.

Alien Seren pulls off her alien mask.

But it's NOT Seren. A bemused BLONDE GIRL (18) laughs at Anglesey as if he's drunk.

BLONDE GIRL

Do I know you?

Anglesey is speechless. The Blonde Girl sneers at him as if he's weird and walks away.

Anglesey approaches another person in a Grey Alien mask. They pull it off: it's the man who was abducted from the pub, smiling at him. Anglesey glances around, confusion growing.

Three strangers, holding Grey Alien masks, laugh in conversation. The terror of the night has passed, but Anglesey feels like he can't wake from a bad dream.

By a distant treeline, staring at him, is that same small child wearing the oversized, green ALIEN mask. Head cocked, frozen still.

As if hypnotised, Anglesey heads toward the child. He pauses by a Converse shoe, the kind that Seren had on, discarded in the grass. His breathing quickens as he picks it up.

The small child turns and dashes into a wooded area. Racing to follow, Anglesey stumbles out of the woods into a secluded field containing a stone circle. The child is nowhere to be seen, but an object glints in the grass. Anglesey picks up Seren's silver star pendant necklace.

His thoughts race. Baffled and disturbed, he glances around before looking up at the vast, mysterious sky.

END