

THE CLEANER

TITLE THE CLEANER SEASON 2
EPISODE PREPARE FOR THE WORST

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BASED ON “DER TATORTREINIGER”
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SHOOTING SCRIPT
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SHUK
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Wicky sits in his van outside the White Horse pub. We don't have to see it's the White Horse. He is on the phone.

WICKY

You know what, while you've been talking I've worked out this is the worst thing to ever happen to me and bear in mind, my old fiancée left me for a taxi driver, my mother is dead and my doctor recently described me as 'uniquely fat.'

*

A beat whilst the other person talks.

WICKY (CONT'D)

I'm in the pub car park! You understand how awful it is to be this close? My mouth is fully primed for beer. I've just parked up, my pint arm is pre bent

(he holds it up)

and you want me to go and do a night job?!

Beat.

WICKY (CONT'D)

Emergency? I'll tell you what's an emergency me getting my mouth wrapped around the soft pastry of Mervin's pie of the month.

(long beat)

Venison! What does that matter? If I'm 'the best' Why do I keep getting these shitty jobs?!

(beat)

Yeah. Yes! On my way!

A montage of Wicky driving through darkened streets. The radio plays. It is a mixture of banal chat and bland music. Wicky stops at a takeaway and gets out to get himself a pie. When he leaves the car we hear a grim news bulletin on the radio.

*

*

*

NEWS READER

I'm afraid we are getting some shocking breaking news through. We're getting reports of a serious incident at the Scarlett Avenue branch of Parson Campbell Electronics. An armed robbery which has left one employee dead and another fighting for their life in hospital. Police have confirmed that both armed robbers have been killed by the firearms team after refusing to give themselves up.

(CONTINUED)

Wicky has walked from the shop with a bag of pies and gets into the car just as the news report ends.

NEWS READER (CONT'D)
On a lighter note, get yourself over to the White Horse in town tonight if you like a delicious hot speciality pie. Tonight: Venison if you please!

Wicky curses and turns the radio off. He pulls away.

2 EXT. VAN / ELECTRONICS STORE. SHOPFRONT - NIGHT 2 *

Parson Campbell Electronics. Police activity on the street outside indicate a major incident. Wicky's van pulls up and he shakes his head, this is going to be a dreadful job. *

3 EXT. ELECTRONICS STORE. SHOPFRONT - CONTINUOUS 3 *

Wicky walks up to the shopfront with his cleaning bags. He is met by Ruth. *

WICKY
Late night spooge clean, thanks for this. *

RUTH
Oh sorry you have to do your job! *

WICKY
Yeah, bet I was the only one available... funny that. *

Half smiling, baffled. *

RUTH
What are you on about you nob? *

WICKY
Yeah, yeah. Come on what's gone down? *

Ruth is confused by his tone but fills him in. *

RUTH
Store robbery gone wrong, one dead, one critical. The store manager's here somewhere. She'll fill you in, right piece of work she is. You'll get on well... *

WICKY
Fine. *

RUTH
What is wrong with you?? *

Wicky nods knowingly, as if she's been sussed. Ruth is
baffled.

*
*
*

WICKY

You obviously haven't heard we've
split up? Me and Jules?

*
*
*

Ruth is genuine.

*

RUTH

No I hadn't. I'm really sorry.

*
*
*

WICKY

Sure you are. Maybe you could nudge
the person who sends the jobs through
now? Be nice to work close to home and
in the day.

*
*
*
*
*

RUTH

I don't have anything to do with who
gets the jobs.

*
*
*

WICKY

No, course not. The police never send
the jobs through. I'm a single loser
again now, the punishment can stop.

*
*
*
*
*

Ruth shakes her head, she suspects she's being accused of
something but isn't sure. She is gently sarcastic.

*
*
*

RUTH

Well it's been lovely seeing you.

*
*
*

WICKY

Off to the White Horse? Have a nice
time. Want me to text you when it's
done?

*
*
*
*
*

RUTH

I don't want you to text me full stop.

*
*
*

She rolls her eyes and leaves. Wicky loses confidence in what
he's been suggesting. It was actually nice to see her. We see
him regret the way he spoke. Wicky enters the store.

*
*
*

Wicky walks toward the manager through the shop: Parson
Campbell Electronics is a medium-sized electronics and home
appliance store, with some items on display on the shop
floor. It's the kind of shop where customers place their
order with staff, who fetch their purchases from a large
warehouse out the back. Think Argos. Wicky arrives at the
aisle where the manager (an odd-looking intense person) is
shaking her head at a blood-covered pressure cooker. There
are awful blood spills in various locations of the store
where the shootout occurred.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

WICKY

Well that's me here all night!
 Honestly, do these people never just
 go for a Friday pint? What's so
 relaxing about murdering?

The manager shoots him a look and Wicky immediately panics
 he's been insensitive.

WICKY (CONT'D)

Sorry! I'm from Lausen the cleaners.
 This must have been quite traumatic.

MANAGER

It's a nightmare. A living nightmare.

She picks the lid off the bloody pressure cooker.

MANAGER (CONT'D)

That's a gonner too!

WICKY

I can clean all that off.

The manger looks at him like he's mad.

MANAGER

Good luck using a pressure cooker with
 a bullet hole in the lid! They work by
 cooking under pressure! I mean, if you
 think it's worth a punt I can let you
 have it at a 35 percent mark down?

*

Wicky is baffled.

WICKY

I'm not looking for a pressure cooker.

MANAGER

Kitchen too small?

*

*

WICKY

It will be soon, I'm going to put a
 life sized model of you in it so I can
 remind myself why I never married.

*

*

*

*

She hasn't been listening

MANAGER

What?

*

*

WICKY

I don't want a food processor. I
 honestly don't know what they're for.

*

*

*

She walks to another blood site whilst talking:

*

(CONTINUED)

MANAGER

Exactly, so it's another for the damaged goods trolley. Who the hell is liable for that god knows. I mean it's hardly a force majeure is it? Two armed druggies on the rob! Look at this...

She is standing next to a wide screen telly. It has a splash of blood on it. *

WICKY

Looks okay.

MANAGER

Wait.

After a couple of beats the TV turns itself on. It is very loud. A bland day time show sounds out: "Today we're talking about aubergines. Why don't we use them more often?" The manager throws her hands in the air and turns it off with a remote. She walks away to another blood site and acts out the chat with the manufacturer. Wicky following again. *

MANAGER (CONT'D)

"Why am I returning it? Oh it's got blood on its central processor. Can you replace it with a factory new? No? Shot gun and blood damage isn't in the warranty?! Didn't think so!"

She stops by a spectacular bloodbath and Wicky decides to probe this odd woman. *

WICKY

I hear two of your colleagues were hurt?

MANAGER

Oh God, it's just awful. They've lost Dolly from returns and Johannes from stock is touch and go.

Wicky nods in sympathy.

WICKY

I'm so sor...

MANAGER

I can swap Dolly for Trent no problem, he's flexible and Dolly was in training anyway but Johannes... People don't realise how important the back room staff are to the running of a Place like this... all they see is the glamour.

(beat and dramatically)

I'm not sure we can open...

(CONTINUED)

Wicky is sarcastically melodramatic.

WICKY

(gasp)

What? But how will people buy an electric can opener or a baby monitor?

She takes it at face value.

MANAGER

The police say we can open tomorrow, it's not an active crime scene so if we're clean we're open but if we get an influx of in store purchases I don't know if we'll cope. Johannes is pretty key to keeping the machine greased and moving...

Wicky stares at her in disbelief.

WICKY

Well, maybe he'll be okay to come in tomorrow?

The manager looks hopeful for a beat.

MANAGER

They won't let him back to work though will they? He was shot twice and one went through his hand! He has to...

(mimes typing)

Do you think he'll be okay for a late shift?

WICKY

Of course not. And I think we can rule Dolly out too.

The manager looks stunned as if it's sunk in. Maybe Wicky underestimated her.

WICKY (CONT'D)

You okay?

MANAGER

Yes I... I just had an awful thought. I only changed the rota yesterday and if it had been left the way it was I might have been here...

WICKY

How awful.

She snaps herself out of it.

MANAGER

Help yourself to water from the staff room but please don't enter my office.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MANAGER (CONT'D)

Under any circumstances. You'll need to be finished by 6 am, our opening protocol takes one hour 45. I'll call head office and tell them business as usual. Goodbye.

She's gone. Wicky shakes his head. He looks around the vast now empty store. Right. Better get on with it mate. *

5 INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. SHOP FLOOR - NIGHT - LATER

5 *

A cleaning montage as Wicky prepares to tackle the area near the pressure cooker. The suit goes on. He wipes blood from a food processor etc etc. Wicky is on his hands and knees when he hears a noise. The squeak of a wheel. He kneels up and looks nothing. He continues to clean on his hands and knees. Underneath the shelving system he spies a trolley making its way down the aisle. Wicky frowns, who the fuck is that? He waits until it is level with him and pops up. Staring at him is an odd, intense, lank-haired looking man. He is clipped in his responses.

WICKY

Hello there.

The startled man nervously looks around for an exit to this unexpectedly friendly man.

KAI

Hello.

WICKY

Awful isn't it, what happened?

KAI

Yes and it's going to get a lot worse/
and this is just the beginning.

He bolts pushing the trolley at fast speeds. The wheel squeaking accordingly. When he is a safe enough distance he starts stacking the shelves. This is clearly Kai's job; night shift shelf stacker. Wicky shrugs and goes back to cleaning. As he scrubs we see him try and process what Kai said. What a weird thing to say.

6 INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. SHOP FLOOR - NIGHT - LATER

6 *

Wicky stands to take a breather. Something catches his eye, he bends down and picks up a name badge. It says Dolly on it and has a splash of blood which Wicky sadly wipes off as he walks up the aisle. He doesn't spot Kai lurking at the end of the aisle and jumps when he looks up to see him. *

WICKY

Oh! All right?

(CONTINUED)

Kai looks at the name badge in Wicky's hand and there is an *
awkward beat.

KAI

Can I have that?

*

Wicky looks at the name badge in his hand.

WICKY

Yes! Of course.

*

Kai takes it and after a beat of inspecting it puts it in his *
pocket. He's about to leave when Wicky stops him in his
tracks.

WICKY (CONT'D)

Sorry this must be... did you know
her?

He is snippy, almost scoffing.

KAI

In as much as we know anyone.

*

WICKY

Oh. Not a friend then?

Kai laughs manically out of nowhere. He has an odd energy, *
doesn't maintain eye contact with Wicky.

*

KAI

Um, let me think? She was trainee
sales staff and I'm the night shift
shelf stacker. I doubt it do you? I
doubt that very much thanks for
asking!

*

He sniggers manically again and with a squeaky wheeled
trolley is off. Wicky shakes his head. He empties his bucket
or some logistical stuff. Maybe bloody water going down a
sink would be a juxtaposition to the discussion of Dolly's
demise.

Back at the blood area Wicky arrives with fresh water to find
Kai restocking the area.

*

WICKY

So, life just goes on eh?

*

KAI

What?

*

WICKY

Like she was never here.

*

KAI

If she hadn't panicked then she might
be.

*

(CONTINUED)

WICKY

Eh?

KAI

She ran for the emergency exit. Like a headless chicken. Panic makes people illogical. And dead it seems.

*

WICKY

Pretty logical when a drug crazed lunatic's pointing a gun at you innit, heading for the exit?

He is snortingly sarcastic.

KAI

Running straight in to the line of fire of a high velocity weapon? Yes, sensible! Very logical. Why DID the chicken cross the road...to get murdered?

*

Wicky looks this strange man up and down.

WICKY

You remind me of a boy I went to school with. well, until the 3rd year when he went to another school for his own safety. / got expelled for drowning the school chameleon / first child to be expelled from the school for being too smug.

*

KAI

Oh I'm sorry for not being a sheep.

Before he can process this Wicky changes the subject.

WICKY

What would you have done then? In the same situation.

Kai surveys the scene, rubs his chin and looks like he's doing mental calculations.

*

KAI

Freezer section.

*

WICKY

Go on.

KAI

I would have run up the parallel aisle.

*

He points to the kitchen appliance aisle.

KAI (CONT'D)
 Those up-rights would have been good
 cover.

WICKY
 This isn't the first time you've
 considered this is it? Fascinating.

Kai lets out an exasperated sigh

KAI
 Do you want to live?

WICKY
 I do Liam Neeson. Then what? It's a
 dead end.

KAI
 Get in to one of the chest freezers.

Wicky stares at him for a long incredulous beat.

WICKY
 You'd hide in a freezer? That's your
 brilliant plan?

KAI
 Yes, they're not operational. It's
 quite safe. Lift and barrel roll.

Wicky laughs.

WICKY
 He'd have found you easily!

KAI
 How? Do tell?

WICKY
 By opening the freezers until he finds
 yours, you daft nob.

Kai does not return Wicky's playful smile.

KAI
 Wrong!

WICKY
 He would!

Kai spits his logic with contempt.

KAI
 You are presuming he's thinking
 logically. He wasn't expecting you to
 run in the direction you ran. He's
 panicking he's lost you.
 (MORE)

KAI (CONT'D)

He arrives here and checks a maximum of two freezers before removing himself from the area. There are 16 freezers here. Thats an 87 percent chance of survival. I think Dolly might have taken those odds don't you? YOU daft nob!

Wicky smiles at the odd smug little man.

WICKY

Well I guess we'll never know.

KAI

I think it's unlikely she would have. Most of the sales team don't even know where the fire extinguishers are! Thank YOU very much!

*

The broken TV switches itself on. It loudly plays an audio clip from a film. I'd like to use a known one but I guess they wouldn't be clearable? So a made up one that punctuates the action?

Film: The guy's a jerk, can't you see it? He's a goddamn jerk.

Kai scoffs and leaves the scene to turn it off. A baffled Wicky pauses and then continues to clean.

*

*

7 INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

7 *

Kai is loading new products on to his trolley. Wicky comes in. He's been thinking about something.

*

*

WICKY

Why did you want it?

KAI

Can I get on with my job please?! (Beat) Want what?

*

WICKY

The name badge of the dead girl. I thought it was for sentimental reasons but you seem to think she brought it on herself by being shit at hide and seek!

*

KAI

I wanted the clasp.

*

WICKY

Eh? What for?

(CONTINUED)

*

KAI

A project. You can only buy them in
packs of 5 and I only need one.

WICKY

Oh, thrift is it, you're like Scrooge!

KAI

Oh not being wasteful makes me
Ebenezer scrooge to you people does
it.

*

WICKY

No I'm talking about Tony Scrooge from
the White Horse. He'd rat his nan out
for a free pint. And she's a right
piece of work. Went to prison for
kicking a police dog onto her garage
roof.

*

*

*

*

*

*

Kai is immediately defensive and very angry.

*

KAI

Well perhaps his circumstances are
different? Is Tony Scrooge stacking
shelves at night for minimum wage!?

*

WICKY

Sorry mate I didn't mean to...

*

KAI

It doesn't matter. I'm used to being
talked down to but not for much
longer; the change is coming!

*

WICKY

Eh?

*

KAI

You'll find out soon enough. Tick
tock! Tick tock!

*

He starts to wheel his trolley out of the warehouse.

*

WICKY

I've got another one.

He holds up a second name badge and shouts after him

*

WICKY (CONT'D)

But he's still alive so let's hope he
pulls through and reclaims it.

Kai shouts back. The rest of the chat is shouted across a
distance. Kai moves his trolley a little further away after
every sentence.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

KAI

Even if he ends up a vegetable? I
believe it was a head wound?

Again shouting across the distance between them

WICKY

Well... he might be ok?

KAI

But if he's a vegetable shall we get
his name badge pinned on? Will he
enjoy being patronised as he's rolled
out of a restaurant with his own
slobber down his chest. 'hope you
enjoyed your meal

(he mock looks down for the
name badge Johannes)

Sorry your central nervous system was
destroyed by a bullet."

WICKY

I think we should see how he gets on!

KAI

Better to plan for the worst.

WICKY

Mate, try being positive.

KAI

Positivity is the lemming cousin of
planning.

WICKY

Have you ever considered moving in to
children's entertainment?

KAI

Have you ever considered living in a
pen with the other sheep?

Wicky is indignant. Kai does a huge sheep bleat and the
trolley gets wheeled out.

INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. SHOP FLOOR - NIGHT

Kai is stacking in a different part of the store, near some
coffee machines. He has intrigued Wicky, who strolls over to
him. He has his bag of pies in his hand.

WICKY

Truce? Fancy a mini pie? (I bought
them fresh from the all night bakery.)

Kai looks suspicious and then takes one from Wicky's offered
up bag. He puts it on his trolley. Wicky looks confused.

KAI
I'll save it.

WICKY
For the project?

Kai nods, Wicky shrugs. He tucks in to a pie and walks over to an expensive looking coffee machine. *

WICKY (CONT'D)
Woah I'd love one of these. How much are these? I can't actually walk before I've had my morning coffee. I have to drag myself to the kitchen like a wounded soldier in a war film.

Kai rolls his eyes. *

KAI
Yes because the human body is reliant on processed stimulants. Baaaaa.
(sheep noise)

He picks up a price tag and his mouthful of pie falls out of his mouth in shock.

WICKY
Fuck me!

Kai rolls his eyes. *

KAI
Surprised?

WICKY
It's 1200 quid?!

KAI
Yes. They buy what they're told to buy...

WICKY
What... what does it 'do'?

KAI
It makes 'the masses' their precious elixir. *

WICKY
No I mean, what else does it do?!

(beat)

It just makes coffee?! For 1200 quid!

KAI
You're surprised that 'they' spend their money on this nonsense? Theres a bin with an electric lid over there.
It's two hundred pounds.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KAI (CONT'D)

An automated bin! You can pay for it in instalments. Can you imagine a more pointless item of consumerism?

WICKY

A metal pig.

KAI

What does that mean?

*

WICKY

I don't know but I think we're loosely on the same page. My mate thinks the zenith of human achievement is going to be all these devices being able to do their primary function but also be able to pleasure you.

KAI

*

Pleasure you... how?

WICKY

Something as simple as some sort of rubber cowl attachment he thinks

Wicky mimes humping a domestic appliance.

KAI

*

What?!

WICKY

I know, I told him; "I'm not going to bang my toaster mate, those filaments are hot for a reason."

KAI

*

People fornicating with inanimate objects like confused dogs?! Anything to anaesthetise the populous! We're living in a dystopia. Your friend may be a prophet.

WICKY

Weasel? Oh no he is insane and unemployable.

Kai is undeterred.

*

KAI

*

Yes, we pigeon hole those with a different view very quickly don't we?

WICKY

Yep. You even sound like him. Hasn't had a covid jab because he wants to 'control what goes in to his body.' And what goes in to his body is a lot of beer. A LOT.

(CONTINUED)

*

KAI

Well at least you see the
worthlessness of it (all)...

Wicky cuts him off by running over to something he sees. It's a drone.

WICKY

A drone! I have always wanted a drone!

*

KAI

Oh the irony. Why?

Wicky is incredulous.

WICKY

It flies!!!

*

Kai shakes his head

KAI

Perhaps you should pay a little more
attention to your friend.

*

*

He points to a camera in the ceiling. Wicky suddenly grins.

WICKY

Weasel? Mate, he duct taped his phone
to a rocket on bonfire night.

*

He starts laughing. Kai is not amused.

KAI

Why?

*

WICKY

To prove the earth is flat. The only
thing he proved is his phone insurance
didn't cover taping it to a firework.

*

Wicky laughs. Kai explodes is genuine rage.

KAI

And I suppose you have proof that it
isn't flat have you? Cleaner! Have all
the answers do you cleaner man!!

*

Wicky is left open mouthed and gently amused. Kai wheels his
trolley away really quickly so the squeak goes really
quickly. Wicky smiles and shakes his head.

*

WICKY

Daft bugger.

9

INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT - LATER

9 *

Wicky is cleaning in a different spot. He is startled by
Kai's reappearance.

*

KAI

No one here needed to get shot.

*

WICKY

Mate, all due respect. I need to get
on now, I think we've established a
complete lack of common ground...

Kai is insistent

*

KAI

No one in this building needed to get
shot!

*

Wicky sighs.

WICKY

Who told you that, one of the lizards
in the royal family?

*

KAI

Go ahead sneer, that's what the sheep
like to do.

WICKY

Sheep sneerer? (beat) Just a bit of
word play... go on.

*

KAI

It was an avoidable situation but the
sheep get distracted by baubles. I
would have been prepared.

WICKY

How can you prepare for some desperate
goons robbing the shops you work in!
You can't plan for every disaster...

*

KAI

I wouldn't have been robbed.

WICKY

No you would have hidden in a freezer.

*

KAI

Try! Try robbing me!

WICKY

Oh come on...

*

KAI

Go on, try it...

(CONTINUED)

Wicky smiles, he'll go along with it for fun. He ducks down and comes up with a brush held like a pistol.

WICKY

Hand over the coffee machine!

When he looks up his grin drops from his face. Kai is holding a Glock pistol inches from his face. He has a murderous look on his face. *

KAI

Check mate. Sheep.

*

WICKY

Oh... no...

In this moment Wicky determines he is an actual mad man and he bolts. Running at speed down the aisle. Kai gives chase. There is some hilarious choreographed chase sequence stuff with Wicky barrel rolling over electronic devices and desperately scrambling under and over shelves. *

*

9A

INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

9A

*

The chase moves from the shop floor to the warehouse, as Kai gives chase looking to all intents and purposes like a trained assassin. Wicky disappears out of shot and the camera stays with Kai. He rounds a corner and finds himself in the aisle with the chest fridge freezers. He opens one and puts his gun inside, two-same when he opens the third wicky pops up like a jack in the box and starts wrestling the gun from his hand. In between screams he shouts... *

*

*

WICKY

Why did you check the third? What about the 87 percent?!

*

*

KAI

I knew you would head here. I predicted it! I planned!

*

He raises his gun menacingly.

WICKY

Please! Don't! I'm too young!

*

KAI

You're not that young!

*

WICKY

I'm too young to die!

*

KAI

People wouldn't think it was that big a tragedy. You've had a good innings... *

(CONTINUED)

WICKY

This isn't how it ends!. I can't be
shot in a chest freezer!

Kai realises Wicky is genuinely panicking. He holds up the
gun.

*

KAI

Oh! It's not real!

*

WICKY

I said...I Can't be...

Wicky stops.

WICKY (CONT'D)

What?

*

KAI

It's not a real gun. I'm sorry.

*

The two men are virtually holding hands.

WICKY

What the fuck!? You odd little man.
You bloody odd little man!

*

KAI

I only meant to scare you. I'm sorry.

*

He puts the gun to his head and pulls the trigger. He shrugs
apologetically. We pan back to see the extent of how
ridiculous the image is.

WICKY

Can I get out of the freezer?

*

KAI

Yes, I'm so sorry. Let me help you.

10 INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. STAFFROOM - NIGHT

10 *

Kai brings Wicky a cup of tea.

*

KAI

It won't be very nice, they buy cheap
tea bags.

*

WICKY

My grandmother always used to say 'if
it's wet it's wet.' Now I've said it
out loud I've realised it's
meaningless.

*

KAI

I'm sorry if I scared you.

(CONTINUED)

WICKY
Mate, why have you got a fake gun.

KAI
A deterrent. Part of my project.

WICKY
You're so up tight. Sit down!
Where is your tea?

KAI
I save mine.

WICKY
What do you mean?

KAI
Every time I'm due a break I save the
bag.

Wicky smiles.

WICKY
Why don't you just nick a whole pack?

Kai points at an ominous security camera and Wicky nods his
understanding.

WICKY (CONT'D)
And they'd begrudge you a few tea
bags?

KAI
Of course, We are just the pawns of
the game. Raddison is a psychopath.

Wicky nods to the manager's door.

WICKY
The manager?

KAI
Yes. She runs this place like a
security facility.

WICKY
She did seem, whats the word I'm
looking for... A bellend. Yes, that's
it, bellend. Ever been in there?

KAI
The office? No! Sackable offence.

WICKY
She can't sack me... come on. There's
beers in there. Trust me. I have a
gift.

Kai is open mouthed. he points at the camera. Wicky dunks a biscuit in his tea and puts it all in his mouth. He wanders over to the camera, takes a cloth from his pocket and covers the camera. He raises his eyebrows at Kai and skips over to the managers office. (Or smooshes a dunked biscuit into it?)

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11 INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. MANAGER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

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Wicky pops up in to view from under the manager's desk with two beers. Bingo. Wicky offers Kai a beer. He takes it but doesn't drink. He stares at the place Wicky got it from.

KAI
I can't believe it.

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WICKY
Bit old fashioned mate, women drink beers these days you know. The tattoo'd milf would do 7 pints as a warm up before she left her house. She called them her gullet stretcher. In many ways, a repellent human being.

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KAI
It's a Minichill 420.

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WICKY
Eh?

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KAI
It's the mini fridge I'm looking at. And it shouldn't be in here. That coffee machine, that clothes steamer, the, juicer... the intimate razor.

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We see the items placed around the room. Wicky has the razor in his hand. He immediately drops it.

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WICKY
Intimate?!

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KAI
This is all stolen from the shop floor, and she's in charge of the audit. God knows what she's squirrelled away at home. The hypocrisy is tangible.

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WICKY
Grass her up! Ring head office!

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KAI
What's the point? She's in the same boat as the rest of you. She'll get hers...

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Kai has gone over and is staring at the roster. A pic of Dolly features on it but has a red pen through her face. Kai seems transfixed by it.

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WICKY
Poor old Dolly eh?

*

KAI
Depends what you mean. She was just a cog in the clock.

WICKY
What clock?

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KAI
You wouldn't understand. I can't believe she has beer on the premises! It's strictly forbidden... and look at this... This is a mini grill from the shop floor... we're not even allowed to eat cold food in the building. I can't believe she is grilling.

Wicky looks fascinated.

WICKY
Power corrupts mate. (beat) Come on then.

*

KAI
What?

WICKY
Pop that beer and tell me your theory. You can't get in trouble if he's not supposed to have it.

He takes the beer but puts it behind him.

KAI
I'm saving it.

*

WICKY
I'm not drinking alone!

Wicky opens his beer for him.

KAI
Not in here.

*

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Several microwaves are spinning at once. Kai sits down with a baffled Wicky.

KAI
They block radio signals.

*

Wicky taps his nose.

WICKY
Got it. So what are we planning for?

KAI
The collapse. It's coming...

WICKY
Before we go any further can I run a
few things by you?

KAI
Yes?

What follows is a quickly cut serve and volley between the
two men.

WICKY
9-11? Did it happen?

KAI
Yes.

WICKY
Did the Americans do it themselves?

KAI
Of course not.

WICKY
Lord Lucan? Has he had his teeth filed
down and is he alive in Brazil and
living in the forest like a monkey?

KAI
What is this?

WICKY
Please, just answer. Moon landings?
Did they happen?

KAI
Yes!

WICKY
Good, that was a deal breaker for me.
JFK?

KAI
He was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald.

WICKY
Bingo.

KAI
Who was an alien.

WICKY

Ha! I knew it.

KAI

I'm not a conspiracy theorist! Look.

*

He holds up his wallet.

WICKY

Whats that?

KAI

All my covid vaccinations. And for the record of course the earth is not flat.

*

Wicky looks at the evidence and frowns, this man can't be written off as a lunatic.

KAI (CONT'D)

An 'event' is coming. A global catastrophe.

*

WICKY

What sort?

KAI

It's unclear what they've decided. It could be nuclear war, disease, famine...

*

WICKY

And who are your sources?

KAI

I can't reveal them but they are reliable.

*

WICKY

Well when I tell my friends and family about the coming armageddon I'll be naming my source...

KAI

What do you mean?

*

WICKY

I'll be saying. The worlds about to end... a man who stacks the shelves at the electronics warehouse told me...

Wicky looks at him knowingly; it's an insane thing to say.

KAI

You do what you want. I only told you because you bothered to speak to me. Dolly and the others never did me that courtesy.

*

(CONTINUED)

WICKY

Can't be a lot of fun living up there.

KAI

Up where?

WICKY

Up in that head.

He walks out of the room. Wicky feels bad.

13 INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. SHOP FLOOR - NIGHT

13 *

Kai stacks and doesn't notice Wicky approaching him from behind.

WICKY

You seen these?

Kai turns around and wicky is standing with two electric scooters.

KAI

Did you take them off their stand??

WICKY

I did. I've always wanted a go on one.

KAI

But?

Wicky nods at the ceiling camera. He has tied a rag around it. Kai smiles.

14 INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

14 *

A warehouse sequence. Wicky and Kai blast around the store in slow motion. They laugh, race, dodge obstacles. I'm basically imagining the 'raindrops keep falling on my head' sequence from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance kid... In the unlikely event we can get clearance on that track.

15 INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. STAFFROOM. LOCKER AREA - NIGHT

15 *

A contented Wicky and Kai lean against the lockers in the staff area. The scooters discarded nearby. They drink one of the manager's beers each.

WICKY

And what about food and drink?

KAI

I have saved enough water to survive for 36 months. Food, I have been investing in these.

(CONTINUED)

He pulls a silver wrapped food bar from his pocket.

KAI (CONT'D)
Complete nutrition. They used them on
the space programme.

Wicky smiles.

WICKY
Are you kidding?

KAI
I don't kid. That will be enough for
me to live on until radiation levels
reduce and that will allow me to do
short journeys in a hazmat suit.

WICKY
Which you have?

KAI
I do. It was the most expensive item.
I had to do weeks of over time for
that bastard.

He smiles, as does Wicky. Kai is gradually relaxing.

WICKY
But the initial event will wipe us all
out wont it?

KAI
It will wipe those of you who follow
government advice to hide under an
upturned sofa.

WICKY
Oh yeah! Those protect and survive
adverts from the 80s!

It would be great to have the broken TV play this at some
point. In between scenes.

KAI
Yes... almost like the government
don't want us to survive isn't it!
Good luck not breathing in radio
active particles through your sofa you
bloody lemmings.

WICKY
Bloody hell mate, you're talking like
you've built a bunker.

Kai stares at Wicky for a beat and in that moment Wicky
realises that Kai has built a bunker.

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WICKY (CONT'D)
What?! Where??

Kai is smug.

KAI
Allotment. Under my potting shed.

Wicky laughs incredulously.

WICKY
How? How the hell does someone build a
bunker?

KAI
Research. Time. Judicious purchase.

WICKY
Where is it?

Kai goes cold.

KAI
It is only big enough for one.

WICKY
I don't want to live in your bunker
you daft sod.
(sees Kai's hurt face)
I mean I don't want to survive the
apocalypse!

KAI
What? Why?

WICKY
Well I don't imagine many people will
have built a bunker.

Kai scoffs.

KAI
No, I don't imagine they have!

WICKY
So there aren't going to be any
survivors.

KAI
Very limited.

WICKY
So what's the point?

KAI
What do you mean?

WICKY

Well what are you going to do? Wander round in your hazmat suit not meeting anyone? Life is about other people, relationships, friends, parties,... booze. Booze with friends! No interaction, no relationships, no one to talk to, laugh with. What sort of life is being alone? Wandering through a scorched earth alone. Who wants to live like that?

Wicky looks up and a tear is rolling down Kai's cheek. In this moment wicky realises he has just described Kai's day to day life. Kai, wipes it away, pulls himself together and stands.

KAI

I better get on.

WICKY

Yes of course. Kai?

KAI

Yes?

WICKY

What did you want the name badge for?

KAI

I read that after a few months of isolation you can lose sense of who you are.

He takes Dolly's badge out of his pocket. He has made a new label saying Kai. He pats it. Wicky feels desperately sorry for him. A beat. Kai walks away.

16

INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. SHOP FLOOR - NIGHT

16

*

Wicky is bringing his equipment near the exit as he has finished his work. Kai comes over.

KAI

Are you going?

WICKY

Yep. All clean, your manager will be pleased.

KAI

Not about his missing beers.

WICKY

Ah well, fuck her eh? We stuck it to the man

Kai smiles.

KAI
I bought you this.

He hands him a silver wrapped snack bar.

WICKY
Space bar? Thanks! I'll enjoy that
under my sofa just before I perish.

Kai smiles.

WICKY (CONT'D)
Hey after I've been home and had a
snooze I'm going up the White Horse if
you fancy a pint? You could meet
Weasel and put him right on a few
things.

Kai is overwhelmed by this offer. So much so that Wicky
wishes he hadn't offered.

KAI
Oh. No I... I have things to do.
Sorry. Thank you. Thank you though.

WICKY
Going up the allotment?

Kai nods and smiles. Wicky turns and starts to walk away. He
stops at the door.

WICKY (CONT'D)
What happens if you're wrong?

KAI
Wrong?

WICKY
What if there is no end of days. What
if you just have to keep living.

Kai shrugs.

KAI
I'm not wrong.

WICKY
Yep. Look after yourself.

A moment and Wicky leaves.

17 **EXT. ELECTRONICS STORE. SHOPFRONT - DAWN** 17 *

Wicky has stopped his van. He reaches in to the back and pulls out a drone. (that he's nicked?) He flies it in to the sky and it soars over the town. *

17A **EXT. ALLOTMENT - DAWN** 17A *

We cut to the drone's pov, it shows beautiful trees, a river, a pretty town. We cut to an allotment. Kai looks up at a noise he's heard. The drone. It hovers above him and after a beat he slips quietly in to the potting shed. *

18 **INT. ELECTRONICS STORE. MANAGER'S OFFICE - NIGHT** 18 *

The manager walks in. All of the stolen items have been piled on the table. A big hand written notice reads "STOLEN" on them. She looks baffled. A door opens and behind her a suited supporting artist, clearly from head office walks in, she looks horrified. The camera finds the staff pic of Dolly, she is smiling. *

END.