

BLACKOUT

(DRAFT 5 - 12/10/2015)

Written by
Daniel Webb

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

ALICE (27), stands at the top of an empty residential street, nervously waiting in her work clothes. She uses a pocket mirror to sort her hair and apply some lipstick quickly.

Looking ahead, she starts to walk. Suddenly, she de shifts to the left and bumps into a guy coming the other way. ADAM walks into the drive as well. He's the same age as her, looking suave in his suit.

ADAM

Alright?

ALICE

All right!

Not knowing what else to say, Alice walks away. Adam turns into a drive, to his house. Watching him, Alice turns into her drive - next door to him.

INT. ALICE'S FLAT - CONTINUOUS - MONTAGE

Alice closes the door behind her, dumping her bag and coat, with a huge sigh. She wipes the lipstick off her mouth with her hand, not caring to smudge it.

In the doorway, Alice takes her bra off under her clothes, pulls it out through her sleeve and drops it to the floor, breathing a sigh of relief.

She then unclips her skirt and pulls off her socks, before heading to the kitchen.

Alice flops onto the sofa and flicks the television on, face squashed against the pillow, her eyes drift off into nothing.

Now wearing her shorty pyjamas, Alice boils pasta and pours it into a bowl. She then squeezes an entire tube of ketchup on top of it.

Alice eats her meal, alone, with a glass of wine.

Alice plays a video game, feet up on the table.

Alice watches crappy TV, mimicking the words and pretending to narrate.

Alice sits on the toilet, humming to herself while playing on the iPad.

Alice brushes her teeth, making faces at herself in the mirror.

INT. ALICE'S FLAT - NIGHT

Alice lies in bed. She can't sleep. She tosses and turns but no luck. She looks at her digital clock, it's not on.

Alice flicks her phone on and scrolls onto a porn site, with a small sigh. She watches the porn, bored out of her mind and frustrated.

There's a KNOCK at the front door. Alice drops the phone on her face in shock. She waits for a few moments, there's nothing else. Thinking she is hearing things, Alice cautiously continues.

KNOCKING again. This time Alice sits up. KNOCK KNOCK. Carefully she gets out of bed, and goes to her bedroom door, phone still in hand. There is a silhouette outside.

Alice nearly falls over in shock.

ALICE
(murmuring)
Hello?

ADAM
Sorry, Alice. Can I come in?

She opens the door slowly, Adam is on the other side, wearing a pyjama top and short bottoms, with no shoes on.

ALICE
Adam? Oh. Erm, sure.

Mumbling thanks, Adam walks past Alice into the hallway. Alice closes it behind her and turns to him.

ADAM
Did I wake you?

ALICE
Can't you sleep?

ADAM
The power is out.

Alice flicks the light switch. Nothing.

ADAM (CONT'D)
I went to check if the outdoor fuse had blown, and the door locked behind me.

ALICE

Most people are sleeping at this
time of the night, you know.

There's a long and awkward silence between them.

ADAM

Do you mind if maybe we could...
hang out... till the power is back
on?

ALICE

Uh...

ADAM

God, no. Stupid. You were sleeping
anyway. You probably want to get
back to bed.

ALICE

No, no, erm... come through.

Alice gestures to the lounge, Adam smiles and walks past her.
Adam enters the lounge and sits on the sofa, he looks cold.
Alice nervously comes and sits on the sofa, the complete
opposite side of Adam.

ALICE (CONT'D)

...Cup of tea?

Adam smiles, waiting for her to catch up.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Right, kettle. Water then? Juice?

ADAM

(laughing)

I can't see anything.

ALICE

Candles, right, yes.

Alice gets up and finds a candle. She returns to the coffee
table and lights it. Adam sniffs the air.

ADAM

Is that... apple blossom?

(grinning)

You have scented candles?

Long pause.

ADAM (CONT'D)
My favourite is the little crappy
lemon one from Ikea.

ALICE
Mmm, so good!

There's an awkward silence between them again.

ALICE (CONT'D)
You know... when I was younger, and
there was a power cut... my Dad
used to get the candles out and
we'd all sit around playing
Simpsons Cluedo.
(beat)
There's some quite gratifying about
when the power goes out. Puts life
back to a simpler moment when there
were no video games or television
or Internet or Facebook. Sitting
around playing a game together was
a social activity. Brought people
together.

ADAM
(smiling)
So, do you have any board games?

ALICE
(sad realisation)
No... I don't any more.

Quiet again.

ALICE (CONT'D)
How about... some music?

Alice turns some light indie music on, on her phone.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Sorry it sounds so tinny and shit.

With a grin, Adam picks up the phone and grabs a nearby empty
vase off a shelf.

ADAM
These are meant to have flowers in,
you know.

ALICE
Funny.

Adam puts the phone into the vase, and the music amplifies round the room.

ADAM
Boom. Physics.

Suddenly, the app changes on the phone. The website she was on loads up, and loud porn noises instantly fill the room.

ALICE
Jesus!

She snatches the vase off him, and pulls the phone out. Adam stands up and walks out the room. Alice nearly dies, she's so embarrassed.

ALICE (CONT'D)
(calling out)
My phones been hacked again. I need
to get this fixed.

Behind the door, Adam is trying not to laugh. Once composed again, he returns.

ADAM
Don't know what happened there.

ALICE
(smiling)
Come on. We can find something to
do.

MONTAGE BEGINS, ALL IN SLOW MOTION:

Alice and Adam raid the freezer, the ice cream is melting. They sit and eat it with a large spoon each.

They play solitaire together on the table, with real cards.

Both make paper airplanes. They have made a landing strip out of tea light candles. Adam throws his and it lands perfectly on the table. Alice throws her, it lands on the fire and bursts into flames, they run towards it to put it out.

Alice makes shadow puppets on the wall.

Adam is drawing, looking at Alice. He holds up a drawing of her, it's awful. She laughs.

They both blow up balloons, wincing at who is going to make theirs pop first. Adam's does.

Finally, Alice and Adam are both set cross legged on the floor, with a pile of Lego between them. Each are making an interesting looking vehicle.

ADAM

And voila!

ALICE

What is it?

ADAM

It's a futuristic, uber advanced ice cream truck, obviously. What do you have?

ALICE

I'm making a spaceship!

Adam looks round the room, at all the geeky merchandise.

ADAM

So are you more of a Trekkie, or a Star Wars girl?

ALICE

Geek is in at the moment.

She looks down at his socks, Star Wars.

ALICE (CONT'D)

You're a secret nerd!

ADAM

You're comfortable in who you are. It's good to have a passion.

ALICE

Yeah, but...

(beat)

Just because I like playing video games doesn't mean that every once in a while I like to put on a dress and go somewhere nice.

ADAM

Then why don't you?

She doesn't answer.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Well, just because I wear a suit every day doesn't mean that sometimes I don't want to just slob out and play video games all day.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

(beat)
There's so much pressure nowadays.

ALICE

How so?

ADAM

Okay, take for instance, a date.

ALICE

A nice walk is all I ever need. Or just a nice film.

ADAM

I never really got the cinema date thing. Why choose to get to know someone by sitting silently next to them in a dark room all evening?

Alice looks around the room, grinning at her comment.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Don't get me wrong, I love going to the cinema. But I sort of like going alone. It's a nice sort of quiet. Locking yourself away and escaping for a little while. If I go with a date, they seem to want me to impress them with my post-movie-review. Look, I love talking about films as much as the next guy, but you don't always have to be a critic. I once said to a girl that they overused the chiascuro effect in one of the scenes. I don't even know what the hell that means. Sometimes I can enjoy something just because I liked it. People seem to always seek out flaws, I try to look for a positive in every situation.

This gets a small smile from Alice.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You don't have to be so shy all the time, Alice. Life isn't that scary.

ALICE

Says the guy so scared of the dark, he's here.

ADAM

I can leave if you want me to?

ALICE

No. I... I'm sorry, I over-think things. My Dad used to tell me it must have been fate why they called me Alice. He said I often got lost in my own thoughts. Always over wondering about things. He used to say that one day I'd lose myself in thought and tumble down a rabbit hole.

ADAM

Used to?

Alice says no more. Adam looks at her for a while, but she won't look at him.

ALICE

You spend your whole life trying to look nice and presentable, for the world, for people, when really, all you're doing is hiding what you really look like. Do you ever wonder...

ADAM

What?

ALICE

What do you think it would be like to be blind? The world in constant darkness. When my Dad lost his sight... his life was then nothing more than a blackout. I think about that a lot.

ADAM

I've heard that blind people see the world. They just see it in a different way from us. Look...

Adam blows out the candle, darkness surrounds them.

ALICE

I can't see anything now.

ADAM

Touch my face.

ALICE

What? No.

ADAM

Just do it.

He picks up her hand and puts it on his face.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Can you see me now?

Adam puts his hand on Alice's face back. She flinches at first, then enjoys the feeling of his hand on her face.

ALICE
(bravely)
Will you... dance with me?

ADAM
I don't dance.

She takes her hand away, followed by him.

ALICE
(getting annoyed)
Of course you don't.

ADAM
Don't be like that. We've done everything you wanted to tonight.

ALICE
I was just coming up with ideas to try and make this whole thing way less awkward.

ADAM
It's only awkward because you want it to be awkward.

ALICE
What's that supposed to mean?

ADAM
You put me on this pedestal, whenever you see me. I want company, just as much as you. I'm just me.

ALICE
You have plenty of company, Adam. What about that girl who was up and down last week?

ADAM
Were you spying on me?!

ALICE
No. I just... noticed.

ADAM
That's my Mum!!

ALICE
(getting upset)
Well, she looks damn good then!
(beat)
Why are you here, Adam?

ADAM
(shouts)
Because I'm unhappy, and I'm trying
to fix it, and it's not working.

Adam leaves the room, leaving Alice alone. She hears the front door shut. A tear rolls down her cheek.

EXT. ALICE'S FLAT - NIGHT

Alice sheepishly opens the door, Adam is sat on the door step outside, shivering. She sits down next to him, closing the door behind her.

ADAM
What is it that you want?

ALICE
What I want... I want...
(beat)
When something goes bump in the
night... I want someone to be
there, to help me bump back.

Adam shivers a smile, Alice puts her arm round him to keep him warm. He rests his head on her shoulder.

ADAM
Please tell me you remembered a key
for the door, Alice.

She looks at him with panicked, wide eyes.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Alice and Adam walk through the park together, bare footed and cold. She links on to his arm, holding him for warmth. Adam looks at her, and walks forward. He starts to dance, really awkwardly.

ALICE
What are you doing?

ADAM
You dared me!

ALICE
Come on then, put effort into it.

Adam does so, but somehow gets even worse.

ADAM
There's no music.

Alice starts to dance with him, energetically. She feels his shoulders loosening and begins to dance too. Their footsteps are the only noise in the blank and dark, quiet park.

Slowly, over their dancing, as they get into it - music starts to swell up. For a moment, they both lose themselves in their own little private dance, no one else in the world is watching.

Finally, the music calms down and withers away - leaving just the silence of the air with them again. Their dance has calmed and they stand arm in arm with each other.

Alice lies down on the floor and stares up at the stars. He follows her. They gaze together at the clear sky.

ALICE
I know you have a spare key, by the way. You keep it in the flower pot by your door.

ADAM
(grinning)
Stalker.

ALICE
(with a big happy sigh)
No texting, TV, power, no distractions. It's how you get to know if someone is worth getting to know.

ADAM
(whispering)
This isn't easy for me either, you know. I'm just as scared as you.

Alice and Adam lock into each others hand, look at each and smile. Alice takes a deep breath and looks up to the stars.

CUT TO BLACK. THE END.