

Coma

By

Stephen Brown

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ste_spike@yahoo.co.uk
Blyth, Northumberland
ENGLAND

FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The picture of paradise. As far as the eye can see; white sand and a clear blue ocean. The sunlight glistens on the water like crystals. It's almost too perfect.

JO(female, 30s) and SIMON(male, 40s) lie in each others arms. They gaze out into the ocean with a tranquil smile.

Jo is almost as beautiful as the location. Her slender body and dark features give her an exotic look. She glances to Simon.

JO(V.O.)

Thank you.

Simon smiles with a hint of modesty. He understands her even though her lips didn't move. He speaks in the same way.

SIMON(V.O)

It still needs some work,
but...you're welcome.

He holds her tighter.

EDDIE(V.O)

Thirty seconds, doctor.

Simon closes his eyes, a sadness washing over his face.

SIMON(V.O)

A lot of work.

Simon opens his eyes and gazes at Jo closely, taking in every part of her face.

JO(V.O.)

I'm not going anywhere.

A crystal clear teardrop falls from Simon's eye, the same colour as the ocean.

He closes his eyes again and looks down.

FADE TO: WHITE

INT. LAB - DAY

Simon's eyes flash open.

He lies on a bench, wires attached to his temple...

...they lead to a large computer. On the computer screen is the previous scene, Jo staring out of the monitor with sadness.

EDDIE(male, early 20s), wearing a medical white coat, pulls the wires from Simon.

EDDIE

You're pushing it doctor, that was close.

Simon stands up, ignoring Eddie.

He walks to the monitor, running his fingers down the screen. He smiles, meeting Jo's gaze.

EDDIE

You know what would happen doctor, you know the risks.

Simon turns to face Eddie with reluctance.

SIMON

Of course I know the risks. What was the problem this time?

Eddie joins Simon at the computer and types on the keyboard. The image on the screen fades, replaced by a long list of binary code.

EDDIE

The same as always...power. You could run a small country on the power you use for just ten seconds of this.

Jo lies on a bench behind them. Her eyes closed and a peaceful smile on her face. Wires come from her temple in the same way as they did with Simon.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A large, white room. A huge desk separates Simon and CHARLES(male, 50s).

CHARLES

Do you have any idea of the cost of this Simon? Unless you can find some sort of commercial use for this, I'm gonna have to pull it.

SIMON

What are you talking about? This is something that allows a comatose to be visited by her loved ones. In a location of their own choice.

Charles shakes his head and opens a folder, scanning through the papers held within.

CHARLES

(reading)

July...three million.
August...three and a half million...September...five million--

He looks up at Simon with a hint of sympathy.

CHARLES

Do you want me to go on?

Simon shakes his head, a thousand yard stare.

CHARLES

I understand what you're trying to do Simon, I honestly do. We just don't have the money for this...it'll bankrupt us.

Simon nods and stands up, tears well in his eyes.

He walks out of the room, leaving the door open.

Charles looks to the door, his eyes betray his shame.

INT. LAB - NIGHT

Cardboard boxes fill the room.

Eddie carries one to the door and stops, turning back to face -

Simon sits by Jo's bench, smiling down at her. His hands fiddle with a small, silver box.

EDDIE
You coming?

SIMON
Give me a minute will you?

Eddie nods, turning back to the door and walks out.

EDDIE
You got it.

Simon runs his fingers gently through Jo's hair.

SIMON
Your mum says you'd be really
pissed with me if you saw the state
of the house. You know me though,
I've never been too organized.

He laughs softly as recollection registers on his face.

SIMON
You used to call me your nutty
little professor, remember?

He holds the box up and looks at the dial. It's a timer, on zeros. He presses a button a few times until it shows ten minutes.

He stands and walks to the computer hard drive, attaching the box to the side.

Simon stares at it for a moment...then walks to his bench.

He lies down and attaches the wires to his temple. Closes his eyes.

COMPUTER SCREEN

Jo sits alone on the beach.

By her side something flickers, becoming stronger. It's Simon, she looks to his flickering shape with a smile.

Finally, the flickering stops. He's there and takes her hand in his.

JO(V.O.)
How long this time?

SIMON(V.O)
I'm not going anywhere.

Jo frowns with confusion.

JO(V.O.)
You fixed it?

Simon smiles, putting a finger to her mouth.

SIMON(V.O)
Shh, I'm not going anywhere that's
all that matters.

She hesitates, then a smile washes over her face.

A BRIGHT WHITE FLASH consumes the screen.

INT. LAB - NIGHT

A huge sonic boom engulfs all of the computer hardware.

The monitor is just static.

On the benches, Jo and Simon both arch their backs. They gasp for air then fall back, silent. Motionless. Dead.

INT. LAB CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Eddie stops, his eyes widen.

He drops the box and turns. Running back towards the lab.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Simon stands up and offers Jo his hand. She takes it and stands with him.

They walk along the shore, into the distance.

Simon wraps his arm around Jo's waist as she rests her head on his shoulder.

FADE OUT.