FLICKER

Ву

Simon Colligan

EXT. - CAFÉ - DAY

Central large city, a man is in a café eating lunch - he is late forties to early fifties, with grey hair, but grey five o'clock shadow. He is eating quickly, has a napkin in one of his hands, and is periodically wiping away juice and or sauce from his chin. He is looking around him, with moderately hurried glances, but he is not concerned, he is simply rushing his food a little. He is moderately overweight, but nothing out of the ordinary, merely mid-life spread.

After finishing his food, he gets up, still chewing, and nods to the chef, and gives him a 'hands up'. Leaves the café at a pace and, follows the foot path round the corner - checks the meter, gets in and starts the engine up. He sets off, and turns immediate left, going past the café he has just been in. He is looking around him, but again without any great concern. He winces and clutches his heart. He carries on driving, going past the café, and on towards a set of traffic lights. His eyes suddenly widen. As he approaches the traffic lights he slams his brakes on, and is thrown forward. His head collides with the steering wheel. His head is looking towards the right. His eyes are open, and his mouth is open. The horn is sounding. People on the pavement and around the traffic lights begin to stop and to look over. A crowd being to gather.

ONLOOKER #1

Oh... Someone better call an ambulance. He don't look so good.

ONLOOKER #2

Is he OK?

ONLOOKER #3

(Not seen)

He looks like he needs a doctor.

ONLOOKER #1

Did someone call an ambulance? He looks like he needs one.

INT. CAFÉ - DAY

On the opposite side of the road there is another eatery. In it there is a family of five having their lunch. It is a normal chaotic family eating procedure, with the KIDS being mildly disobedient, climbing on the chairs etc, looking out of the window. The MUM is trying to control the situation, and encourage the kids to eat. The DAD is trying to get on with his lunch and trying to look moderately supportive of his wife. The KIDS are all boys (JACK -ten, RYAN - five, and THOMAS two), and the older boy notices that there is something going on across the road

JACK

Hey look. What's happening over there? Why's all them people gathering?

Clambers up to a standing position on the seat:

RYAN

(Looks up from eating)
What's they doing? DAD? What's they doing?

DAD

Uh? I dunno. Look come on, get on with your food. Sit down, JACK, RYAN, sit down now.

Feeding two year old, look across to her children and then to the scene across the road

MUM

Come on kids, it's nothing, on with your food. Sit down RYAN. JACK please, you too.

INT. EMERGENCY SERVICES CALL CENTRE

In an emergency services call centre, a call is taken, by one of the call centre workers

CALL CENTRE OPERATIVE ...You suspect that he's had a heart attack? Ok, can you just tell me where you are? What's the name of the street?

EXT. OUTSIDE OF HOSPITAL - DAY.

Two ambulance drivers GEOFF (driver) & MALCOLM are putting

their seat-belts on, starting the engine up and begin driving off

MALCOLM

Looking at a map

Yup. It's on Gilbert Street, you know? Just past Pine Street.

GEOFF

Yeah, I got that, we can go up erm...,

MALCOLM

Marlborough, straight up is probably your quickest.

GEOFF

Yeah, straight up and left...

MALCOLM

Pulmonary cardiopath, apparently this one.

GEOFF

Yeah. So Ronaldinho, yeah, he was leaving so much space behind him, that he was inviting Man U in. He should have been tracking back and he never done it once - people like him, you know, he undermined everything that they were trying to do.

MALCOLM

Yeah, but they should never have had

(CONT'D)

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

three up front, that was pointless.

GEOFF

But the never did have three up front, Ronaldinho was an attacking mid, he should have been hanging back a bit, he keeps on thinking he's a striker...

MALCOLM

But he is a striker mate.

GEOFF

But not in that game, he was playing a attacking mid position but just badly. Let's say you had Gerrard in that position, he would have taken up positions deeper and tracked back a bit, so you didn't have so much space behind. It was all that space that Man U took advantage of.

EXT. INSIDE THE CAR

Back in the car, the man's head slips a little. He is loosing colour. The is some spittle dribbling from his mouth

RYAN

Look, Mummy - there's people there.

DAD

I think Windermere is our best bet, JACK and RYAN really enjoyed it here last year, and that place we stayed at was top.

MUM

Yeah, I know. JACK, please! But I'm not sure about their baby facilities, it's fine when they are old enough, but it was difficult with RYAN last year and we're going to have the some problems with THOMAS that we had last year. RYAN, be good please.

JACK

D'you reckon he's dead? Dad! Do you reckon he's dead?

DAD

No JACK, now just stop and have your food, stop being silly.

RYAN

Is he dead? How did he die? Did someone kill him?

JACK

Yeah someone stabbed him. Bam. Right in

the heart, an' now 'es DEAD.

MUM

JACK, stop it - you know that's naughty, it's not a nice way to talk.

DAD

Stop it JACK, be good boy.

RYAN

He's dead.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A man and a woman are in an office. The woman is JILL. She is the wife of the man in the car. She is with her boss ROB. They are having her yearly appraisal. The office is lit with natural light, and there is a heavy wooden theme to the fixtures and fittings

ROB

SO you're fairly happy with the way things have gone over the past year?

JILL

Yeah, fairly, but I do feel that maybe I need some more new challenges.

ROB

You're still not interested in any promotion?

JILL

No, I just, I don't know about management.

ROB

What is it that you don't like about management?

JILL

It's just that I've done this job for a number of years now, and if I move into management, then I'll lose a lot of what I learnt, and a lot of the skills that I've built up, you know it'll be more

like staff, dealing with staff, a nd budgets and stuff like that, and that's not really what I'm into.

ROB

So what else would you like to do then?

JILL

Well, I'd like to specialise...

ROB

...what, get on the inspectorate...

JILL

Well yeah, that's were I keep my skills isn't it?

ROB

Yeah, but it's a long time to qualify for that, it's two or three years and quite a lot of hard work, it's not easy...

JILL

But that would give me something to aim for, something where I'd really be using what I have, building on it, I've already got a good foundation for it.

ROB

But there's no guarantees even after all the additional...

JILL

But I'm ok with that - as long as you are.

ROB

Well I'd be happy to give you the recommendation, I'm fairly sure you could cut it, if it's what you'd want to do - wouldn't be my cup of tea.

JILL

I like the technical bits, you like the people bits.

ROB

Yeah, I kinda like people, I like working with them and building them up. You won't make many friends in the inspectorate you know.

JILL

Yeah, I got all the friends I need, it's the work I like more than the people...

EXT. INSIDE THE AMBULANCE

Back in the ambulance, MALCOLM and GEOFF continue.

(CONT'D)

MALCOLM

...yeah, left here, and then right further up that street, where the station is.

GEOFF

Yeah, I got it...

MALCOLM

...but Wenger ...

GEOFF

Wenger mate, is a waste of space, him and that Marchinello bloke, whatever his name is, not that I give a toss, and that Benitez, the lot of them, they're a waste of space, they should all...

MALCOLM

Wenger is one of the best managers - left here - that's in the premiership, he's...

GEOFF

Get off mate, what twelve, thirteen years, or more is it, and how many trophies has he got? He did the double and then nothing after that he hasn't built the squad up, he's let it go to pieces, look once Viera went, once he

lost Henry, and he never replaced them he was out of it, he was believing his own press, that he had the magic touch, he never had the magic touch, he got good players, then he started believing his own press mate, he lives on fantasy planet...

EXT. INSIDE THE CAR

Back to the man in the car. His head dips slightly, he is further losing consciousness

INT. CAFÉ - DAY

With the family in the café

MUM

JACK. I'm not telling you again. JACK. Did you hear what I said? I'm not going to tell you again. This is the last time.

DAD

JACK, you heard your MUM.

RYAN

Can you see all the people there? Why are they there? Are they looking at that man?

INT. OFFICE - DAY

The man's wife

JILL

I need a goal, and that's what it'll give me, something to go for, a new lease of life.

EXT. AMBULANCE

Ambulance

GEOFF

He's a knob, mate, I'll tell you, a complete waste of space.

INT. CAFE

Café

JACK

...they're going to watch 'im die, he's croaked it.

INT. AMBULANCE

Back in the ambulance

GEOFF

... he's a dipstick...

INT. INSIDE THE CAR

Back in the car. The man's eyes are beginning to close, the screen flickers, the sound of the horn begins to fade, the man's eyes finally close, the screen flickers, and goes to blank. The horn is still in the background, fading...

THE END