

Phil and the Kettle

By

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INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

PHIL (20's) sits hunched over at the table as he writes on a piece of paper.

PHIL (VO - LETTER)

I have resorted to pen and paper in an effort to reach you. The situation regarding the kettle has only grown worse since we last spoke.

Phil suddenly stops and looks across the room at the kettle with suspicion.

PHIL (CONTD)

Yesterday my laptop blew up.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Phil's laptop is plugged in and charging on the kitchen table while Phil trods around the kitchen.

He takes the kettle and fills it with water. When he sits in back down and flicks it on - - -

- BANG! Phil's laptop explodes, catches fire, and cackles and spits melted components.

Phil stands in shock...

...then he turns and looks at the kettle.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

PHIL (VO CONTD)

It's already got into the electrical circuits.

He looks at the kettle again, did it just move?

PHIL (CONTD)

Nothing is safe. I've resorted to using no electronic items whatsoever. I switched the heating off at the mains...

Phil gives the kettle another ominous stare.

(CONTINUED)

PHIL (CONTD)  
...In case the bastard tries to fry  
me in my sleep.

Phil rubs his hands together and pulls a blanket round him.

PHIL (CONTD)  
It took my phone too.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Phil grabs some milk from the fridge, some sugar, some  
coffee, flicks the kettle switch on.

The kettle boils, Phil starts to pour the water.

He stops when he hears a rattling noise from inside the  
kettle.

- Phil opens it up to reveal

...his PHONE submerged in the boiling water of the kettle.

Without thinking he reaches in to grab it and burns his  
hand.

PHIL  
Aargh! You fucker!

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

PHIL (VO CONTD)  
It's cutting off all access to the  
outside world. It wants me alone in  
here, with nowhere to hide. Greg,  
it seems you were right when you  
said my over-reliance on coffee  
would come to no good. Please get  
back to me soon, I need your help.  
I don't know how much more I can  
take.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Phil sits huddled on the couch, wrapped in clothes and  
blankets.

He tries to read a book by candle-light.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Surrounded by candles, Phil takes a shower.

A cold shower.

He flinches and shivers as he gets under the cold water.

EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT

Phil stands outside the kitchen window looking in.

He pops his head up and looks at the kettle. Then ducks back down again.

He springs back up, looking again at the kettle.

No movement.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Phil goes back in the kitchen and takes off his scarf and hat.

He walks into the kitchen and sitting there on the table, next to the kettle is...

...a cup of coffee. Freshly made. Steam still rising from it.

PHIL

What the...?

Phil opens the fridge, sees the milk.

He goes over to the cupboard, sees the coffee and the sugar.

PHIL

How?

No reply from the kettle.

Phil eyes the cup of coffee with caution.

PHIL

What is this? Poison? You're trying to kill me you bastard!

The kettle remains silent.

(CONTINUED)

PHIL

Well two can play at that game.

He grabs the cup of coffee, opens the kettle lid, and empties the cup into it.

PHIL

There you go, you bastard. Choke on that!

Phil throws the cup down and frantically runs up the stairs to his bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Phil lies in bed, clutching the covers up around his chin.

From downstairs can be heard...

...the whistle of a kettle boiling.

Phil closes his eyes and mumbles something into himself - possibly a prayer.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Phil tentatively approaches the kitchen.

He sees the kettle.

He sees the fresh cup of coffee that waits for him.

Opening the kettle lid, Phil sees nothing but clean water. None of the mess from last night remains.

PHIL

What are you doing to me? Why are you doing this?

The kettle remains stolid.

PHIL

What do you want!? Tell me what you want! What is it? Anything!

A noise comes suddenly from the other room - the television.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Phil enters to see that the television has turned itself on.

The channel starts to change of its own accord.

Flicking through the channels it comes to a halt on one in particular, just as an advert is starting.

ADVERT VOICEOVER

...comes the latest in quality kitchenware. The Kettle-Mate is the ultimate in kettle maintenance. One application lasts for weeks and will leave your hot drinks tasting better than ever, and will have your kettle feeling great. Our patented ionization technology ensures minimal sediment and impurities in your water, while easing the load on your kettle's heating pads.

Phil watches in astonishment.

He looks back at the kettle. It sits there impassive.

He looks back at the television.

ADVERT VOICEOVER

...the Kettle-Mate. Go ahead, your kettle will love you for it.

As the advert ends, the channel starts to change again.

Flicking through the channels, it finally comes to a halt... on the same advert.

ADVERT VOICEOVER

...the Kettle-Mate is the ultimate in kettle maintenance...

Phil runs out of the room and upstairs.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Phil lies in bed, all wrapped up.

From downstairs can be heard -

- The television - playing the Kettle-Mate advert. There is a gap between the ads, as the channel is changed to find another showing of the same commercial.

(CONTINUED)

- The whistling of the kettle.

Phil closes his eyes and prays.

EXT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Phil, haggard and bloodshot eyes, looks at the product on the shelf.

- the Kettle-Mate.

A SHOP WORKER walks by -

PHIL

Excuse me, I'm thinking about buying this for my kettle. Does it really work?

WORKER

Uhm, sure. You just pop it inside and it cleans your water and cleans your -

PHIL

No, but, does it make it stop all the...

The worker looks at Phil, not knowing what he's trying to say.

PHIL

...you know, does it make it stop... you know...?

The worker looks a little bit spooked.

WORKER

Stop what, sir?

PHIL

... the mind-games?

WORKER

Uhm...I have to go, my boss needs me.

INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS

Phil sits on the bus with the Kettle-Mate box clutched in his arms.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Stomping into the kitchen, Phil seems more hopeful than before.

The kettle sits there waiting for him.

PHIL

I got it. Look, I got it. See? This is what you wanted. Yes, and why not? Why shouldn't you have the ultimate in kettle maintenance? That's not too much to ask, is it?

The kettle opts for silence again.

Phil frantically unwraps the Kettle-Mate and starts to assemble it.

PHIL

Here we go...not long now.

He fits the application as instructed in the manual.

Finished, he stands back to look at the kettle.

PHIL

Now, how about we test it out? I think I'll have a coffee.

Phil reaches for the milk, then the sugar, then the coffee.

When he turns to switch on the kettle, he sees that -

- it's already switched on.

Phil smiles.

PHIL

Not bad.

A sudden whistle comes from the kettle as it boils. Possibly a reply to Phil's compliment.

The kettle boils and Phil pours his coffee.

He takes a drink.

(CONTINUED)



PHIL  
Aaahhh. Lovely. Truly the best  
coffee I've ever tasted. Good job,  
kettle.

The kettle chooses to stay silent, but you can tell that  
it's beaming with pride.

Suddenly, a KNOCK at the front door.

INT. FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Phil opens the door to the postman.

POSTMAN  
Sign for this please.

Phil takes the form and signs it. He receives his package.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He sits down at the table, with his coffee, and opens the  
envelope that came with the package.

PHIL (TO KETTLE)  
Looks like it's from Greg.

He opens the letter - it reads -

**Concerning the kettle,**

**UNPLUG THE FUCKING THING!**

**Greg.**

Phil rips open the package to find... a new kettle.

He looks from one kettle, to the other.

One kettle, to the other.

One kettle, to the other.

EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

The dustbin lid flies open -

- and the old kettle is thrown in.

The dustbin lid slams shut again.

(CONTINUED)

Moments later it opens again -  
- and in goes the Kettle-Mate too.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Phil plugs in the new kettle.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Phil switches the tv and all the electrical items back on.

INT. BOILER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Phil switches the heating back on.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Phil takes a shower.

A hot one this time.

He stands under the steaming water and breathes a sigh of relief.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Phil, freshly showered and looking vibrant, sits down and watches his tv.

He finishes a coffee and gets up to make another.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He gets the essentials - coffee, milk, sugar.

He boils the kettle.

PHIL

God, I'm glad that's over.

Phil looks at the kettle.

PHIL

Hah, why am I talking to a bloody kettle? You can't understand me, can you? You don't want to hurt me... you're not alive...

(CONTINUED)

Phil makes his coffee.

As he walks back into the living room...

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...He sees the advert on the television -

- The cup of coffee slips from Phil's grasp.

- It tumbles through the air.

ADVERT VOICEOVER  
...the ultimate in quality  
kitchenware....

- Coffee flies everywhere as the cup hurtles toward the ground.

- Phil looks at the advert in terror.

ADVERT VOICEOVER  
...will leave your hot drinks  
tasting better than ever...

- A bead of cold sweat runs down Phil's face and his lips begin to tremble.

- The cup hits the ground with a CRASH and fragments of ceramic shatter everywhere.

ADVERT VOICEOVER  
...your kettle will love you for  
it.

THE END