

Re(t)con

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FADE IN:

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Two THUGS, male, twenties, horse-play in the parking lot. There are no other people around.

A guy, late teens, skate-punk type in a hoodie (let's call him HOODIE) rides into the parking lot.

Both thugs immediately take notice of him.

THUG 1
Who this asshole?

THUG 1 barks at him while THUG 2 balls his fist and bucks at him. Hoodie walks past them unfazed.

THUG 1 (CONT'D)
Yeah, that's what I thought.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

No customers in the store just the CLERK, who intently watches a nightly special. He doesn't even notice Hoodie when he walks in and beelines straight for the burritos.

Hoodie places the burrito in the microwave and sets the timer for five-minutes.

He stares out the window at the thugs. Thug 1 stares back at him, then gives him the finger.

At the register the Clerk, annoyed by the outside noise and noise from the microwave turns up the t.v.

ON SCREEN:

MICHAEL BRIM, a middle-aged t.v. Host who oozes a charm with every word, talks straight into the camera. He sits at a giant table with a cup of coffee and a book.

REPORTER
Their dangerous, their powerful,
and they are not on our side.
'The Universes Lil Bastards'
(laughs)
You're the expert here what is
this? Why the phenomena?

Michael holds up the book '*The Universes lil bastards*' and then hands it to another DR.JACE LOVEBROTHER early thirties, impish , very astute, and brimming with smugness. sits across from him.

MICHAEL

By the way, folks if you're just tuning in, I am here with leading child psychologist, Dr. Jace Lovebrother. So Jace, really, what is your take on all of this?

DR.JACE

Thank you Michael.
(holds up the book)
The conspiracy theory to end all conspiracy theories. It's quite the page turner. Anonymous author. Tales of a world taken over by powerful children. I get the appeal. It's quite the fantasy.

MICHAEL

You mean theory?

Dr. Jace pours himself some water and shifts in his seat.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

So, you don't think there's any merit in this book? I mean thirty children have gone missing, left their homes to join this crusade. If, nothing else, this is a scary situation.

DR.JACE

Yes, but have we really seen anything? Odds are we won't. As far as I can tell this is a prank gone 'viral'. After a week it'll blow over.

MICHAEL

Interesting. Just like that, you believe?

DR.JACE

I do. I truly do.

MICHAEL

There is talk that this book is a foreshadowing of things to come. Of things that have already happened and no one remembers-

DR.JACE
Shadow history. And it is as
ridiculous as it sounds.

BACK TO SCENE:

The clerk shakes his head in disbelief as he turns to see Hoodie at the counter. The clerk moves a little unnerved by the Hoodie.

CLERK
Yeah?

Hoodie motions to the microwave. The clerk rings up the burrito. Hoodie watches the t.v. In amusement.

CLERK (CONT'D)
You believe all that? 'Universe's
lil bastards' Bastards all right.
Just look at 'em.

As Hoodie is about to respond the t.v. Changes to cartoons.

CLERK (CONT'D)
Jesus, kid I forgot you were here.

A BOY, about eleven, sits behind the counter out of view and watches the t.v. He has a notepad and color pencils.

The clerk walks over and grabs the remote and changes it back to the special report. The two men still talk on the t.v.

CLERK (CONT'D)
Sorry, my son.

Hoodie is nowhere to be seen. The Clerk looks around the store. Not a soul except his son.

Two of the Thugs come into the store. He notices them immediately. He smiles while and reaches for his gun box under the register.

They peruse the aisles and grab things as they walk. They toss the product from one aisle to the next until they reach the counter.

The clerk starts to ring up all the items.

Thug 1 notices the little boy and bends down to talk to him.

THUG 1
How goes it little man?

The boy just keeps drawing.

THUG 1 (CONT'D)

Mind?

The boy shakes his head 'no' and hands over his notebook to Thug 1. He begins to flip through the pages, the drawings bring a smile on his face.

THUG 1 (CONT'D)

Not bad little man.
Who's this? Superhero?

BOY

(angrily)
His names Kai and he can destroy
all.

THUG 1

Yeah? How?

The little boy has disappeared. Thug 1 walks over to the counter. The clerk is still ringing up the items. He notices his son's notepad.

CLERK

Always drawing that one. I can't
believe he even let you look at it,
won't even show me.

THUG 1

He's good. Playing hide and seek
right now. Shouldn't he be in bed,
though?

CLERK

Tell me about it. My wife is
working late and he didn't want to
stay with anyone...for some reason
he wanted to come with me tonight.

The Clerk looks up and see's Thug 2 has a gun pointed in his face.

THUG 1

Take it easy. No one has to get
hurt here. Just give us the money.

The Clerk opens the register and starts to empty it.

Thug 2 flips through the notepad until he comes across a drawing that makes his face go white.

He pulls his gun out and points it at the clerk.

THUG 1 (CONT'D)
What the hell is this?
I will shoot you dead. What the
hell is this?

Thug 1 shows Thug 2 the notepad. He has the same horrified reaction.

THUG 1 (CONT'D)
Where's that kid?

The Clerk looks over and notices his son is gone, he looks down and notices his gun box is gone as well.

CLERK
I...I...don't know.

A gun CLICKS ready to fire. Except, it's not the thugs, it's the boy, hidden behind the aisles and he is serious about shooting that gun.

Hoodie appears behind the little boy. Startled the little boy falls back and BANG the gun goes off.

Hoodie reaches down and picks up the gun. He steps from behind the aisles and is gun to gun with the Thugs.

In a blink SHOTS fire. The Thugs grab their shoulders that now have holes in them.

Police SIRENS are heard in the distance. The thugs run out.

The boy is down as blood gushes from his stomach.

Hoodie picks him up and carries him to the counter.

CLERK (CONT'D)
Kai?

The clerk cradles his son in his arms. The SIRENS are getting closer.

CLERK (CONT'D)
No...no..no. Please God no.

Life starts to leave Kai's eyes. Hoodie rests a hand on the clerk and urges him to step back.

Hoodie bends down over Kai, whispers in his ear, and places a gold necklace around his neck.

The timer BEEPS on the microwave. Hoodie grabs his burrito.

Kai gasps for air.

With a nod Hoodie leaves just as the police show up.

CLERK (CONT'D)
Hey, wait. Hey, What'd you do?

Two POLICEMEN rush into the store. They head straight for Kai who appears to be in shock.

POLICEMAN
(into receiver)
We're gonna need an ambulance at 23
Rubik rd. We have a wounded child
on site.

One of the policemen tears open Kai's shirt to reveal a lot of blood but no wound.

POLICEMAN 2
Sir, are you alright?

The policeman checks the clerk for any injuries. The clerk pushes his off and sits down behind the counter. He sees his son's notepad on the floor and picks it up.

DR.JACE
(on the t.v.)
'Always the hero, never the saved.'
That's the first line of the book.

The clerk can't believe his eyes as he leafs through the notepad.

MICHAEL
(on the t.v.)
Sounds, like a bunch of kids
demanding to be special little
snowflakes in a world that has no
time for such things. If we are
meant to take this seriously, why
the gull? Why the warning? Why not
attack?

ON THE PAGE:

everything that happened tonight. The thugs, the stickup, the gunshot that was supposed to kill him.

DR.JACE
(on the t.v.)
Haven't they? Children can be a
mighty weakness but also admirable
foes. Underestimation is the key to
manipulation after all.

The clerk looks at Kai still in shock. The policemen do all they can to snap him out of it.

The clerk puts down his son's notepad then picks up Kai. He carries him out of the store to his car then pulls off.

Policeman 1 picks up the notepad and wouldn't you know it there's Hoodie followed by hundreds of other kids.

DR.JACE (CONT'D)

(on the t.v.)

In the face of truth...the real face...what are we willing to believe? If it's this, then I am inclined to believe that whatever comes next will be astronomically different from anything we've ever seen before. A war like no other and we are on the losing end of it.

(beat)

But, again this is just a book.

FADE OUT.

THE END