

The Book Keeper

Written By
Andrew Lightfoot

INT. MARKET STREET-DAY

The entire length of the street is congested with an audience of people. Many of the wear oddly shaped and horribly coloured clothing.

Many stalls flank the sides of the street, only the biggest and the noisiest of which gain the most attention.

Standing in the group in front of a large purple tarp like stall is NANE (28), a tall and scrawny dark haired man. He eyes wide behind triangle shaped glasses as he watches puffs of yellow smoke erupt from an oversized flask.

The SALESMAN, a large gray neared man with disturbingly short shorts, speaks out with enthusiasm to the crowd.

SALEMAN

I guarantee ladies that one drop of my new tongue master potion will have your children spelling like an expert!

(Pointing to a woman)

Perhaps your boy will like a taste test ma'am!

The women nods quickly and nudges her son onto the stage. The boy runs up and stops next to the salesman.

SALEMAN

Thatta boy!

He dips a ladle into the potion and draws out some liquid that fizzes and pops. The boy looks uncertainly at it.

SALESMAN

Now I know it looks scary but I assure you it is absolutely safe!

Hesitantly the boys open his mouth. His eyes locked onto the liquid.

As soon as it touches his lips a massive BAND erupts from the stage, gray smoke fills the space where the boy was.

The crowd freezes in suspense as the announcer holds up a hand. He looks to the back of the stall.

Gradually the smoke depletes, the boy now at the back of the stall lying on his back gets up and walks over beside the salesman. His face blackened and his hair singed.

The salesman plants an arm on his shoulder.

SALESMAN

Now my boy, spell electro-
encephalographic

BOY

E-L-E-C-T..

A BURST OF APPLAUSE fills the air then people rush forward to purchase the potion.

Nane still standing where he is turns and walks off down the street, passing stall after stall.

He looks over at one as he walks. A man is standing by his wife onstage. Necklaces of all types are hanging on hooks all around them.

The NECKLACE SALESWOMAN places a necklace around the woman's neck.

NECKLACE SALESWOMAN

Now this is the perfect one for any
woman that you hate...observe.

The necklace tightens around the woman neck and causes her to collapse. Her husband kneels down quickly and tries to take it off, but can't.

The crowd looks on in shock.

The saleswoman calmly leans over and touches the green gem on the necklace. Instantly it loosens. The crowd APPLAUDS.

The husband smiles when his wife stirs awake.

Nane continues on down the street through the jungle of people.

He spots another stall with many very realistic human statues and quickly turns away.

He moves on suddenly finding himself facing a stall with black ribbon like curtains. In front of him lies a table with many black books, their leathery covers are left blank.

The BOOK KEEPER, an extremely old and hunch backed man hobbles over to the table. His pale, clammy hands waves over the books.

BOOK KEEPER

Looking for a good book are you?

NANE

Not really looking for one but...

BOOK KEEPER

Well look no further, this..

(Picks up a book)

...is the last book you'll ever need.

It's the type that puts the reader in the story.

Nane looks at it questionably.

NANE

It doesn't even have a title.

The book keeper opens the book and ruffles the pages. All are left blank.

BOOK KEEPER

There are no words in it either, but that doesn't make it a book does it?

NANE

Well no, obviously not.

BOOK KEEPER

Pick a story.

NANE

What?

BOOK KEEPER

Pick a story, anyone you would like
but be warned you must read it!

The book keeper waits excitedly as Nane tries to think up
a story.

NANE

Ummm...horror?

The book keeper opens up the book and shows the pages to
Nane, they are full of words.

NANE

Wow!

The book snaps shut and is placed into Nane's hands

BOOK KEEPER

You must buy it now!

NANE

What? No...I have no money to buy
this!

Nane puts the book back on the table, the book keeper
looks shocked. He places both hands on Nane's shoulders
and shakes him.

BOOK KEEPER

Do you know what those books are boy,
what they can do?! You absolutely
must read it, if you don't you...

Nane quickly backs out of the reach of the man
frightened.

NANE

I think I'd better go now.

BOOK KEEPER

Don't, you must read this book!

Nane turns around and hastily walks off into the crowd.
The book keeper turns to the book with an evil grin.

BOOK KEEPER

Have it your own way then.

He takes out a black knife and runs the blade across the cover.

The pages glow an eerie green momentarily before returning to their normal color.

INT.FOREST-DAY

Nane walks down a wide dirt pathway that runs through the middle of a very thick forest. He approaches a large tree.

He lifts up a small camouflaged lid and taps the green button that it hides. A MECHANICAL VOICE breaks the silence.

MECHANICAL VOICE

Please insert your home owner's card.

A little slit opens up just underneath the button. Nane takes out a coin shaped device and moves it close to the slot.

A blue lights emits from the device and takes the shape of a card, then slides smoothly into the slot. It DINGS

MECHANICAL VOICE

Welcome home mister Sertierre

A circular shaped platform lowers itself to the ground right in front of Nane. He steps on and soon after is carried up.

The treetops look like a sea of grass that stretches out to the horizon. Many birds fly over this immense forest in peace.

Accompanying the birds in the air are thousands of houses all at different heights. Bowl shaped hover bases with a bright blue glow at the bottom keep them in the air.

INT. NANE'S HOME-BEDROOM-NIGHT

The interior of the room is extremely dark, the light from the stars and moon outside the window are the only sources of light.

Nane's sleeps quietly in his bed until his whole room shakes violently, items fall from the shelves and smash on the ground. He stirs awake just when a flash of green light whips past his windows. He rushes over and looks outside, nothing.

NANE

What in the hell was that?

A thunderous BANG comes from downstairs followed by two sets of footsteps. They come up the stairs.

Breathing hard Nane frantically turns on a lamp and grabs the closest thing he can for a weapon, a small metal sculpture.

The footsteps get louder and closer until they are right outside the bedroom door.

NANE

Who's there?

The door smashes open, Nane's eyes flash open in horror. He watches as an extremely tall SKELETON leans down and enters the room.

Most of the skeleton's bones are visible through a filthy and torn up robe. Held in one of its bony hand is a giant club like staff. Thorns stick out from every inch of it.

Following the giant skeleton into the room is the grinning book keeper!

BOOK KEEPER

I warned you didn't I?

NANE

What! What they hell is this, why are you in my house?

The skeleton limps forwards towards Nane.

BOOK KEEPER

I told you that you had to read the story.

NANE

This is all about not reading a...

BOOK KEEPER

No, this is about not finishing what you have started. Now I'm afraid it's going to have to finish you.

The skeleton reaches out to grab Nane and gets the small sculpture in the skull, it does nothing.

NANE

This is a dream, this has to...

BOOK KEEPER

I assure you this is no dream.

Nane cowers as much as possible against the wall before being jabbed in chest by one of the skeleton's fingers.

Nane's eyes flash green and then his body freezes.

EXT. STREET MARKET-DAY

The street is once again very busy with its usual noises and sights.

A hooded figure begins to open up the stall with the very realistic human statues. He turns to the crowd with a grin. It's the book keeper.

BOOK KEEPER

The statue stall is now open!

He pulls a rope that immediately opens up the front part of the stall revealing all of the very realistic human statues.

Amongst the group is Nane, still frozen.

INT.BOOK-DIRT ROAD-DAY

The grounds is covered with thick dark mud, every tree within sight are leafless show no signs of life.

High up above black clouds refuse to let any bit of sunlight in.

Suddenly Nane breaks out over the crest of a hill panting heavily and running at full speed. Following him are thousands of zombies.

THE END