

The End of Nights

By Dr Elwyn Ritchie

TREATMENT

MARSIN and ANNA are celebrating their engagement news at ANNA's fathers place, the Lighthouse Pub.

HORACE converted the old lighthouse into a pub when ANNA was a child but it's now a shadow of its former self, the once white paintwork dull and tired and the encircling path overgrown.

Talk soon turns to ANNA's obsession with conspiracy theories and aliens and HORACE informs them if "the shit ever hits the fan" to meet at the Lighthouse Pub.

Later, a light like a second sun appears in the sky. ANNA runs to the lighthouse lantern room hoping to take a photo of a UFO; instead she discovers a secret cannabis garden.

HORACE says Jazz music helps the plants grow, and relates a story about how a Spanish friend saw the devil after smoking yesterday. They smoke and MARSIN passes out in a pool of liquid fertiliser.

The radio informs them the light in the sky is a star called Betelgeuse that recently exploded. Later ANNA comments on a blue flower, HORACE says it's a blue lotus that was left yesterday following a business meeting regarding beer pricing.

The following night riled by ANNA's incessant talk of conspiracy theories, MARSIN says he "wishes she was a member of the Illuminati". ANNA jokes "like JayZ and Beyoncé" and does a Rockafella hand signal.

Later annoyed by MARSIN's attitude ANNA gets high smoking "El Diablo" weed and researches how to join the Illuminati. ANNA breathes smoke onto the computer monitor and somehow is able to send a message to Royalty.

The following day; after a conversation about how cats carry a parasite that can affect behaviour, ANNA is shocked to discover 100 million pounds has been deposited into their account. The bank confirms the money is legitimate and ANNA recalls the message she sent the night before, concluding she accidentally joined the Illuminati.

They go out to enjoy their riches and on the way are informed by an enigmatic TAXI DRIVER that the supernova in the sky is affecting people's behaviour for the worse, he also makes MARSIN question the known laws of physics.

After a disastrous shopping trip at Obsidian Star Jewellery, MARSIN and ANNA go for a meal at Tequila BrainCells. In the toilet MARSIN gets in a dispute with a WELL DRESSED MAN, sporting a Van Dyke beard. The WELL DRESSED MAN angers MARSIN when he splashes him in the face with urine following a vigorous penis shake.

Later the WELL DRESSED MAN reappears to apologise and presents the table with a bottle of wine, he also gives ANNA a blue lotus flower.

A WILD EYED CHEF breaks up the conversation when he appears from the kitchen. He tells the customers the truth about their food before knocking out the owner. As the owner is pulled through the kitchen door the WELL DRESSED MAN applauds, telling patrons not to worry before disappearing into the kitchen.

After the night was completely ruined by a man dying in front of them, MARSIN and ANNA return home and switch on the news. They are reporting celebrities thought to be dead have been performing live on stage.

Allegations of fraud have been made against Syco entertainment owner Simon Cowell. Mr Cowell comments "does that sound like Syco entertainment to you?"

The following day MARSIN sets out to buy a new car from a luxury car dealership. He meets the WELL DRESSED MAN again and is accused of not being a genuine buyer and too scruffy for a test drive. The WELL DRESSED MAN informs MARSIN he's also there for a test drive but the salesman is missing.

MARSIN enters the office building to discover the salesman's clothes with a pair of prescription glasses on top. When MARSIN brings up the idea of phoning the police the WELL DRESSED MAN steals the Ferrari. MARSIN checks surveillance tapes and discovers the owner was apparently abducted by aliens.

On the way to the shops for food MARSIN is panicked when a Jumbo Jet seems to be landing on the road, fortunately the jet

follows the motorway into the distance. MARSIN arrives at the shopping centre, a riot is underway and people are looting the shops. The WELL DRESSED MAN reappears and encourages MARSIN to join the riot, MARSIN manages to escape.

On the way home MARSIN has to stop for fuel and again meets the WELL DRESSED MAN, now draped in gold and designer sunglasses. When the WELL DRESSED MAN enters the shop the fuel pumps stop working, he leaves with a pornographic magazine. Upon entering MARSIN discovers that the cashier is missing under identical circumstances to the car dealer. An earthquake tremor shakes the petrol station, MARSIN pays cash and leaves.

That evening after watching the news MARSIN and ANNA decide to get away on a luxury holiday, with tickets booked they leave the room and miss a news report on TV about navigational problems grounding flights, another earthquake shakes the house. ANNA and MARSIN sleep in the living room waiting for a taxi.

In the morning, the TV is reporting that according to WikiLeaks 100% of all news for the past 100 years has been faked. MARSIN and ANNA are unaware of these broadcasts until a report about Captain ZOGG and the Intergalactic Star Police catches their attention.

MARSIN assumes ANNA is watching another conspiracy documentary and changes the channel; breaking news about Captain ZOGG then interrupts the broadcast. MARSIN confused as to reality changes the channel to the 24 hour news and is confronted by a report about 100% of news being fake, the power goes out.

MARSIN and ANNA try to listen to their car radio; however the poor reception only relates stories regarding illegal aliens of the human variety. The battery goes dead and MARSIN and ANNA are none the wiser, they decide to make for ANNA'S fathers place, the Lighthouse Pub.

Coincidentally they encounter the same TAXI DRIVER again, and ANNA and the TAXI DRIVER smoke some weed. When the TAXI DRIVER brings up the subject of Illuminati money, ANNA is convinced she sees his eyes contract like a reptile so she warns MARSIN.

Terrified they make their escape, but following an accident they're captured by Captain ZOGG and taken aboard his ship.

MARSIN and ANNA wake to discover CAPTAIN ZOGG is the TAXI DRIVER and demand an explanation. ZOGG says he will keep it simple before relating a very complicated explanation. It transpires that among others, ZOGG is also SHANI, KRONOS, the DEVIL and GOD. His voice becomes distorted and he says he will explain further, all goes black.

MARSIN and ANNA say they feel weightless; all they can see are swirly coloured lights that follow their eyes. MARSIN questions if they are in another dimension, they realise they're in isolation tanks when the lids slowly open.

GOD informs them he has been supervising their training session, "no win scenario 5A level easy", in the "Moral Fibre and Character Development Simulator" at the "Institute of Political Science". Due to "hackers" the program was cut short, but as paying customers they are being compensated with a better training scenario.

Subsequently they are on a moon of a gas giant, orbiting as part of a freak alignment of moons and asteroids; from their perspective the alignment strongly resembles a cat's eye staring down from heaven. The moons are connected by an electromagnetic aurora that forms an ethereal pyramid beneath the eye.

All of a sudden a loud booming voice emanates from nowhere shaking the mountain tops, "Worship me!" with blank expressions they bow to the planetary alignment in the sky performing the "Rockafella" hand sign.

It finally transpires MARSIN and ANNA are in hospital with a serious toxoplasma infection. HORACE is watching over them with tears in his eye. He relates a story that they never left his lighthouse following their celebration, he blinks three times and a tear falls, his pupil contracts like a lizard.

A golden light in his pupil grows brighter and brighter, its intensity overwhelms the screen. The light subsides as the camera rises directly above the Lighthouse Pub; its encircling path resembles an eye. Hundreds of blue lotus flowers are growing in concentric circles, the Lighthouse is in pristine condition and its golden light illuminating the night sky.