

'CHUGGERS'

By

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INT. CLOTHES SHOP CHANGING AREA - DAY

Brian is stood outside the woman's changing rooms. Leanne emerges from a booth wearing a blue satin dress.

LEANNE

What do you think?

BRIAN

It's lovely. They've all been lovely. Can you not just pick one?

LEANNE

(pre-occupied)

I think I might try that silk blouse again.

BRIAN

Look, Leanne, I think I'm going to go home. We've been shopping for hours.

Leanne sighs.

LEANNE

Alright. If you really want to go, fine. I'll see you at home.

Brian and Leanne kiss.

BRIAN

We'll have dinner when you get back. Order something in maybe?

LEANNE

Sounds good.

Brian exits.

EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

Brian is walking down a busy high street. He is approached by a charity worker wearing a bib and carrying a clipboard.

CHUGGER#1

Excuse me Sir, can I take a moment of your time? I'm with the World Wildlife Fund--

BRIAN

--I'm sorry, I've got to... be somewhere.

(CONTINUED)

CHUGGER#1
OK Sir, you have a nice day.

BRIAN
(uneasily)
Thank-you.

Brian continues walking.

CHUGGER#2
Hello there Sir. Are you aware
there are over eleven million
homeless kids on the street today--

BRIAN
--I'm afraid I've got a really
important appointment to attend--

Another chugger approaches.

CHUGGER#3
--Did you know there are more than
one hundred types of cancer?--

BRIAN
--I think my phone's going--

Yet another chugger approaches.

CHUGGER#4
--Your money really makes a
difference--

BRIAN
--I... I don't speak English!

Five chuggers encircle Brian.

CHUGGER#5
--All we're asking for is twenty
pence a day--

CHUGGER#1
--The form takes just two minutes
to fill in--

CHUGGER#1/2/3/4/5
(simultaneously)
--And you can even keep the pen!

Brian screams, breaks out from the circle and runs down the
high street.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Brian rushes in to his house, slamming the door behind him in a panic. His son, Neil, aged around 15, is sat on the couch playing a video game.

NEIL

Hey Dad.

BRIAN

Son!

Brian bear hugs Neil.

NEIL

... What's the matter?

BRIAN

It was horrible! Horrible!

NEIL

What was horrible?

BRIAN

Chuggers Neil! They're everywhere!

NEIL

...Chuggers?

BRIAN

Charity workers! Those clipboard wielding bastards!

Neil, unfazed, returns to his video game.

NEIL

(unconcerned)

Where's Mum, by the way?

BRIAN

Oh my God! ... Your Mother!

The doorbell rings. Brian rushes over and opens the door. Leanne is stood on the step. She stares into the middle distance in a state of shock.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Leanne! (Embracing her) You're alive!

Leanne walks in in a 'zombie-like' state and sits on the couch.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Neil, go get your Mother some water.

Neil sighs and heads into the kitchen.

LEANNE

I just... didn't see them coming. It all just happened so fast.

BRIAN

Who? What did they look like?

LEANNE

I was... (she sobs, then) innocently sending a text on my phone.

BRIAN

(dramatically)

You were a sitting duck.

LEANNE

Before I knew it, I had my credit card out and I was filling out these forms that they'd thrust in front of my face.

Neil re-enters with the water.

NEIL

So what was the charity?

Leanne pulls a leaflet out of her handbag with a shaking hand and passes it to Brian.

BRIAN

"Riversdale Donkey Sanctuary".
Donkeys?! *Fucking donkeys?!*

Leanne weeps.

LEANNE

I know!

BRIAN

It's OK Leanne. It'll be OK. We're going to get through this. Together.

Brian hugs Leanne, still weeping. Neil rolls his eyes.

FADE OUT

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

The next day. Neil enters wearing his school uniform. Brian is sat watching the television while eating breakfast.

NEIL
Hey guys, what's going on?

BRIAN
Chuggers! I told you!

NEIL
What?

[INTERCUT - ON TELEVISION]

News reporter sat behind a desk.

NEWS REPORTER
...The Prime Minister today described it as an 'epidemic' and has vowed to do everything in his power to tackle the situation.

INTERCUT - KITCHEN - MORNING

BRIAN
They're going global! Plotting world domination. They're even trending on Twitter.

[INTERCUT - ON TELEVISION]

NEWS REPORTER
We cross live now to our International correspondent Rebecca Goodman in Brazil with something quite out of the ordinary.

EXT - CROP FIELD - DAY

REBECCA
I'm standing in a completely isolated area in outback Ipuacu - an area which locals say was, until recently, devoid of the large and unusual marking you can see on the field behind me.

A 'copter cam' shows a crop circle in the shape of the UNICEF logo.

(CONTINUED)

REBECCA

Of course, this is the second time in just twenty-four hours that this normally serene location has hit the news after the video shot in a nearby village became an overnight internet phenomenon. We once again stress to our viewers that the following footage is not suitable for those of you with a nervous disposition.

Footage appears parodying the video from the movie 'Signs' where an alien is seen out the window of a child's birthday party. Instead of an alien, we see a 'chugger'. After the footage, we cut back to the news reporter in the studio.

NEWS REPORTER

Chilling stuff and right now we're joined by sociology expert Prof. Alan Osteen. Alan, who exactly are these 'chuggers', what do they want and what can be done to avoid their intricate traps?

ALAN

Well, I'll tackle each question individually. Firstly, 'chuggers' - or 'charity muggers' - is the collective term for street fundraisers. You may well have seen them. They're usually awkward, gangly types that will relentlessly pursue innocent pedestrians. What they want, I'm not sure - but if I were to speculate, what it appears that they want is your *time*, primarily. But also your money. They're very savvy in their approach. They trick their "victims" with their politeness. Lastly, the best way to avoid them is simply to give them a wide berth - maybe pretend to be on your phone or just look busy in general.

NEWS REPORTER

OK Alan. For now, thank-you. Right now, we're showing an artists impression of what you might want to look out for--

A crude drawing of 'Shaggy' from 'Scooby Do' appears in the top left hand corner of the screen.

(CONTINUED)

NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)
--Finally on this piece, Chief Constable Scott Lovett has released a statement suggesting that the public should take to the streets in an emergency only and that entering a conversation with these individuals - even outside of their work - is ill advisable. Now, Tom Myers with the weather...

Sound fades out.

INTERCUT - KITCHEN - MORNING

NEIL
This whole thing is ridiculous!

Neil picks up his school bags and heads toward the door.

BRIAN
Where do you think you're going?

NEIL
...School?

BRIAN
Oh no! You're not going anywhere.

NEIL
You're joking, right?

BRIAN
I'm deadly serious! What if you came across one of these chuggers?

NEIL
I'll say, 'I'm sorry, I have no time'.

BRIAN
Oh and it's that easy is it?

NEIL
Yes!

The doorbell rings. Brian and Neil look at the door and then one another. Brian walks up to the door and spies through the peephole. We see Brian's perspective - on the doorstep is a 'chugger'. Brian, traumatised, turns his back against the door.

(CONTINUED)

NEIL
Who is it?

BRIAN
(whispering)
Get my gun!

NEIL
What?!

BRIAN
My gun - get my gun.

NEIL
No!

Brian sighs and then runs to the understairs cupboard and brandishes a sawn-off shotgun.

NEIL (CONT'D)
Dad, what the hell are you doing?

BRIAN
Stand back Neil!

Brian aims the gun at the door.

INTERCUT- EXT. DOORSTEP - MORNING

The chugger knocks on the door. Not getting an answer, he walks over to the lounge window. Suddenly, a loud shotgun blast shatters the wooden door. The chugger, alarmed, and then runs down the street. Brian crashes through what's left out of the door and shoot his gun in the air.

BRIAN
And let that be a warning to the
rest of you!

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Neil is sat on the couch still in his school uniform. Leanne is in the armchair still looking traumatised. Outside, Brian is barricading the doors and windows. Neil walks over to the barricaded lounge window.

NEIL
Dad, is this necessary?

BRIAN (O.S.)
Absolutely!

(CONTINUED)

NEIL
Dad?

BRIAN (O.S.)
Yes.

NEIL
Do you know the way you've
barricaded all of the doors and
windows?

BRIAN (O.S.)
Yeah?

NEIL
And, do you know the way you've
done all of this from the *outside*
of the house?

BRIAN (O.S.)
...Yeah?

NEIL
Well, how do you expect to get back
in?

BRIAN (O.S.)
(Long pause, then)
Shit.

Neil rolls his eyes.

EXT. DOORSTEP - AFTERNOON

On the other side of the wall, Brian puts down his tools.

BRIAN
Alright, I'll have to go get the
axe from the outhouse.

NEIL (O.S.)
Whatever.

Brian walks over to the shed at the front of the house. Suddenly, he stops and squints into the distance. We see a shot of around fifty 'chuggers' ambling over in Brian's direction. Brian's eyes widen. He runs back to the house and bangs furiously on the barricaded door.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Neil is now lying on the couch watching cartoons. We hear Brian furiously banging on the door from Neil's perspective.

BRIAN (O.S.)
Quick! Neil! Let me in!

Neil lethargically lifts his head and looks in the general direction of the door. Leanne, conversely, rushes over in a state of panic. Neil rolls his eyes and walks toward the door. On the outside, we hear Brian screaming and the chuggers reeling off their scripted spiel. Leanne and Neil wrestles off the planks that cover the door. Brian eventually spills through and lands face down in the hall. Leanne and Neil bat away the chuggers with some of the loose planks. The chuggers disperse and Neil closes the door before turning around to see his Dad lying helplessly on the ground with his Mum, Leanne, crouched down beside him.

LEANNE
Brian, are you OK?

She gets no response.

LEANNE (CONT'D)
Brian! Talk to me!

Leanne rolls Brian over onto his back to reveal Brian's body covered completely with charity badges and stickers. Brian eyes are rolled to the back of his head, corpse-like. Leanne sobs uncontrollably.

LEANNE (CONT'D)
No! No! No!