

Voices in the Air

written by

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BLACK SCREEN

ANTHONY (V.O)
Do you ever think about what
happens after we die?

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

ANTHONY is lying in bed.

ANTHONY (V.O)
What do we leave behind after we're
no longer here. Realistically for
most people there's going to come a
time when no one is left to
remember us. What happens then?

He sits up in bed, rubbing his eyes. Bright light is
streaming in through the window.

ANTHONY (V.O) (CONT'D)
I don't know if it's the increased
isolation, or just something about
getting older, but I've been
thinking about it a lot.

He gets up and starts going about his morning routine. He
puts the kettle on to boil, and washes his face in the
mirror.

ANTHONY (V.O) (CONT'D)
I'm scared about dying and having
nothing to show from my time here.

INT. FLAT LIVING ROOM - DAY

ANTHONY is sitting at a table on the phone. There's a guitar
and on a stand behind him and a keyboard on the table. He's
holding a hand-written note in his hand.

ANTHONY
Yeah I'm all good. Just trying to
write some songs.
(listens)
Fine, I guess. Bit of a mental
block right now.
(listens)
Yeah yeah, I know, I know. I
actually found this note in the
back of one of the drawers here.
Must have been left by some
previous tenant.
(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

(listens)

Well, I think it's lyrics... or poetry of some kind.

(listens)

No I don't think so.

(listens)

Okay, it says "from my hospital bed, I heard a bird hit the window. It fell from the third floor onto the grass below. The dull thud woke me up, from my sleep"

His voice slowly slips away as we transition into ANTHONY singing the words while playing guitar:

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

(singing)

THE DULL THUD, WOKE ME UP FROM MY SLEEP
HOW MANY MORE OF THOSE WAS I GONNA HAVE?
MY FAMILY ARE ALL HERE TO WITNESS MY FINAL DAYS
THE BIZARRE HUMAN RITUAL OF DEATH
I'M NOT A PERSON ANYMORE
I AM JUST A SYMBOL
OF THE THING THAT HAPPENS TO US ALL

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

We see ANTHONY playing on a keyboard, assumingly adapting this song he was just playing. The action is silent.

ANTHONY (V.O)

I'd be satisfied having had an impact on one persons life. To give someone the feeling I've gotten from other people's work. That would make my time here worth it.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. FLAT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A new group of people are sat around the flat living room. 3 people in their mid-20s, the flat is different in small ways - the couch has a few different cushions, the layout has been altered slightly, but it's clearly the same flat. We'll call these people NATALIE, EMILY and DAN.

DAN

You had any luck with the writing?

NATALIE

Gah, it's always a slow process.
Just struggling for inspiration.

EMILY

I'm ready to kick off my acting
career in your short film.

DAN

I think you only keep us around in
the hope Nat will cast you in a
film.

EMILY

I can already see my name written
top-billed on the poster.

NATALIE

I'll cast you but exclusively in
supporting roles.

EMILY puts on a theatrical look of total shock.

EMILY

You wouldn't dare!

NATALIE

Watch me. There will be animals
billed high than you. Bart the
Bear... then Emily.

DAN

You gotta start somewhere.

EMILY

(joking)

You'll be sorry when I'm the
world's greatest movie star, an
inspiration to thousands.

DAN

Only thousands?

NATALIE

Oh, that reminds me.

Natalie disappears out the room quickly.

EMILY

Okay, maybe more like a local hero.

DAN

The world's greatest movie star in
Gorgie, Edinburgh.

Natalie comes back into the room, holding a disk in her hand.

NATALIE
This was left by the previous
tenant.

EMILY
What is it?

NATALIE
It's a CD. It's says "to whoever
lives here next". I was waiting on
you guys getting here before
listening to it.

DAN
What if it's some weird sex thing?
Like he's recorded himself jerking
off.

NATALIE
Is that a thing guys usually do in
audio format?

DAN
Could be an extremely specific
fetish.

EMILY
Do you have a CD player?

Natalie pulls a CD player out a drawer.

EMILY
Wow, what fucking year is it?

NATALIE
Shut up, I've had this for years.

NATALIE opens the CD player lid and places the CD in. She
presses play. There's silence for a few moments before a song
starts playing.

It's just some piano chords at first, before the vocals come
in. We recognise it as the song played by ANTHONY earlier.

DAN
He just left this here?

NATALIE
Shhhh!

NATALIE is listening intently to the song. We hold on her face listening to the words. We reach the second verse and the songs continues further than the last time we heard it.

DAN
This is cheery.

NATALIE
Shut up!

ANTHONY (ON THE CD)
(singing)
BUT I LIVED A GOOD LIFE
I DID EVERYTHING I WAS SUPPOSED TO
BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING
MISSING
SOMETHING A FEW FEET OUT OF REACH
CURSING THE LACK OF TIME LEFT TO
FIX IT

We hold on NATALIE's face - She looks genuinely lost in the words - before...

CUT TO BLACK

INT. FLAT - DAY

We start on a TV screen, a movie is playing. The scene on screen depicts someone lying in bed, with others crowded around them - a family gathered to say goodbye to someone before they die. The film cuts to black with a title card "Voices in the Air", then followed by "Directed by Natalie Casey".

A couple are sitting on a couch adjacent to the TV, watching the movie play out. This is MAX and DANA. It's the same flat as previously, with some minor arrangement changes again.

A song starts playing over the credits, which we recognise as the song playing on Natalie's CD player.

DANA
I'll be back in a sec.

Dana gets up and slips out of the room. Max sits forward in the chair listening to the song. After a few moments, Dana comes back.

MAX
You recognise this song?

Dana listens for a few seconds.

DANA
No, I don't think so.

Max pulls his phone out.

MAX
(at his phone)
Hey Google, what song's playing?

Nothing is found. He tries again. Still nothing.

MAX
That's weird.

DANA
Check IMDb, there's probably a song
credit.

Max clicks around on his phone screen for few moments,
pulling up the film's IMDb page.

MAX
It has an original song called
"Reflection", which I'm guessing is
what that is, but no credited
artist.

DANA
Huh.

They listen to the song for a few moments. It's the same
rough version Anthony recorded with a few small string
embellishments, but otherwise it's the exact same song.

ANTHONY (ON TV)
(singing)
CAUSE NOTHING'S MEANINGFUL
UNLESS WE MAKE IT MEANINGFUL
AND NOTHING MATTERS
UNLESS WE DECIDE IT MATTERS
LIFE IS BRIEF
AND IT FIZZLES OUT
BUT I GUESS
I GUESS IT'S ALL WE HAVE

MAX
It's pretty good.

DANA
(shrugs)
Not really my thing, the recordings
a little too rough for me. You want
to order some food?

Max is still mostly focussing on the song as the instrumental outro plays.

MAX

Eh, yeah sure. I'll have whatever you're having.

DANA

Great.

Dana leaves the room. Max looks back at his phone again and searches "Voices in the Air song". The top result is a Reddit post titled "Anyone know the song over the end credits of Voices in the Air". He clicks the link, and scrolls through the comments. All the replies say something to the effect of "I don't know".

He clicks back, and clicks through some of the links below. A couple of interviews with Natalie, but no mention of the song. Another few threads on various sites of people asking the same question, but the same responses each time.

Dana comes back into the room.

DANA

I've ordered Chinese, I've got you...

MAX

(not listening)

Dana, look at this.

He shows her the Reddit thread.

DANA

What am I looking at?

MAX

No one knows where this song comes from.

She scrolls through some of the comments.

DANA

No one even recognises the voice?

MAX

I guess not.

DANA

Someone must know who it is.

MAX

You'd think that.

Max grabs the controller and rewinds the credits back to the start.

MAX
Could you pass me that notepad
over.

Dana reaches and picks up a notebook and pen sitting on the TV stand. She throws it to him.

Max opens the notebook on an empty page and hits play on the remote. He starts to scribble the lyrics down onto the page.

Dana moves across the room and sits down on a chair facing Max. She watches him frantically scrawl down the lyrics, smiling slightly.

DANA
It's really cute when you get all
obsessed like this.

Max looks up and smiles.

MAX
It's interesting isn't it, a song
that no one knows.

DANA
Yeah, it is.

Max keeps writing, Dana keeps watching him. As the song ends, Max tears the page out of the notepad and holds it in the air.

MAX
I got it.

He opens a drawer on the television stand and throws the paper in.

MAX (CONT'D)
Now we have a record of it. Maybe
someday we'll figure out what it
is.
(he looks at Dana)
Want to watch something else?

Dana stands up and walks over to him. They kiss.

DANA
Sure.

They slide back on the couch. We hold on them sitting together, their arms wrapped around each other before...

CUT TO BLACK