

FLUTTERS

by

Simon Parkin

Studio 106
106 Coleridge Street
Hove
East Sussex
BN3 5AA

07792 574458

BLACK SCREEN

THE HARSH SOUND OF TRAINS AND STATIC ELECTRICITY
FLICKERS AND CRACKLES IN

Flashes and flickers reveal:

INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - NIGHT

CHLOE, 26, stares out of the train window. Her image is reflected in the glass. Chloe is fragile and not used to feeling like this. She is wrapped up in a thick black coat and scarf but she has a bright, wooly hat pulled down in an attempt to hide her wet eyes from the other passengers. The train lights flicker again.

FLICKER AND CUT TO BLACK SCREEN

TITLE: FLUTTERS

EXT. CITY TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

A busy train empties on to the platform. In the middle of the crowd, Chloe walks off the train and through the station.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

Chloe walks down the street carrying a backpack. She looks to the ground. When she passes streetlamps they flicker off. Chloe doesn't seem to notice.

EXT. PORCH TO A BLOCK OF FLATS - NIGHT

Chloe walks up to the door and punches a number into the keypad.

Nothing happens.

She tries again but it still won't work. She turns around and sees a NEIGHBOUR arriving at the door. He is in his forties and dressed for the cold. He is patient but rushed after a busy day at work.

NEIGHBOUR

You alright there, Chloe?

CHLOE

Oh, hi. No, this door is playing up again.

NEIGHBOUR

Really? Usually works first time for me... Let's have a look.

He punches his code in and the door CLICKS open.

NEIGHBOUR (cont'd)

Must be the cold or something. Here you go...

He holds the door open for her and she walks in. He follows.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

CHLOE

Thanks Steve.

She opens up her postbox and pulls out a big pile of post. She carries it up the stairs.

NEIGHBOUR

You ok Chloe?

CHLOE

(sadly)

Yes, I'm fine thanks Steve.

INT. SMALL FLAT - NIGHT - DARK

The door opens and Chloe walks in. She switches the lights on. They flicker on and flash off again. They turn on again but continue to cut out intermittently.

Chloe puts her heavy backpack on the table with the post. She takes her coat off, fills the kettle and switches it on, kicks her shoes off and flicks the TV on.

She goes back to the kettle but finds that it has not boiled. She checks the lead and switches it on again but it still won't work.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL FLAT - NIGHT

Chloe pours water from a pan on the gas stove into her mug.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL FLAT - NIGHT

Chloe settles in front of the TV on the sofa, cradling a steaming mug of tea. The TV flickers and lines distort the screen. She picks up the remote control and jabs at a few buttons but to no avail. She gets up and slaps the TV on its side which makes the screen go black.

She gently SCREAMS and stamps away from the TV.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Chloe is sitting in bed reading by the light of a small bedside lamp. She bookmarks her book and goes to turn off the lamp.

A moment before she turns it off the light goes out. The light turns on again as her hand moves away from the lamp.

She tries again but finds that as her hand gets close to the lamp the lightbulb flickers off.

C.U - CHLOE'S FACE

Chloe stares at her hand with furrowed eyebrows.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL FLAT - NIGHT

Chloe, in her pyjamas, sitting on the sofa, starts up her laptop and peers at the screen looking worried.

POV CHLOE - LAPTOP SCREEN

Chloe types into Google:

'AFFECTING ELECTRICITY'

Strange websites pop up titled:

'STREET LAMP INTERFERENCE'
and 'TECHNOKINESIS'

C.U - CHLOE'S FACE

Chloe looks confused.

POV CHLOE - LAPTOP SCREEN

She finds a website from a tabloid newspaper story called:

'DEBBY - SHE'S ELECTRIC!'

INT. SMALL FLAT - NIGHT

She leans in to take a closer look. The screen suddenly FLASHES with a loud POP and Chloe jumps back as it flickers to black.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL FLAT - NIGHT

Chloe picks up the phone next to her and dials. EMILY answers. Emily doesn't suffer fools and this scares some people; not Chloe though.

EMILY (V.O)
(tired)
Hello?

CHLOE

Hi Emily it's me.

EMILY (V.O)

(clears her throat)

Chloe? Hey, how's it going?

CHLOE

Oh, is it late Emily? Have I woken you up?

EMILY (V.O)

That's okay Chloe. What's the problem? You sound terrible.

CHLOE

Oh, I just got back home and everything's going wrong, the electricity in my flat's gone haywire and the front door works for everyone except me and I think I'm losing it...

EMILY (V.O)

Woah Chloe... calm down.

CHLOE

Oh it's just been a hard day that's all. How are things with you?

EMILY (V.O)

Chloe, just slow down.

Chloe breaths in deeply and lets out a huge sigh.

CHLOE

Em, something really weird just happened with my bedside lamp.

EMILY (V.O)

What?

CHLOE

Well... I know this sounds stupid but every time I wave my hand close to it it turns itself off. What's wrong with me Em?

EMILY (V.O)

Chloe, nothing's wrong with you. It's just a faulty lamp that's all. Where did you get it from?

CHLOE

From that electrical shop on Samson Road

EMILY (V.O)

Dodgy Dave's? Well there's your answer right there girl!

Chloe giggles.

EMILY (V.O)(cont'd)

Remember when I bought that hairdryer from there and sparks started coming out of it?

CHLOE

That's because you poured cider on it Emily!

EMILY (V.O)

Well I can't be blamed for faulty workmanship can I?

Chloe giggles again. She looks more relaxed.

EMILY (V.O)

Where've you been anyway Chloe?

CHLOE

(sadly)

I was at my Mum's.

EMILY (V.O)
Of course. How did it go?

CHLOE
(sadly)
You know... it was... as
expected.

EMILY (V.O)
You're not going back to work
tomorrow are you?

CHLOE
I... I hadn't thought that
far ahead to be honest.

EMILY (V.O)
Chloe. You need some time
off.

CHLOE
(unsure)
Yeah... (PAUSE) maybe I could
go back there?

EMILY (V.O)
To your Mum's? That would be
a good idea.

CHLOE
Yeah... there's no reason to
go... but it feels like the
right place to be, you know?

EMILY (V.O)
(crackly)
Yeah, I know. How was
the...(static)...anyway...

Emily's voice breaks up.

CHLOE
Em...? Hello...?

Chloe sighs, closes her eyes to cry and hugs the
receiver to her chest.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY

Chloe stares out of the train window. Her image is reflected in the glass.

TRAIN DRIVER (V.O)
(filtered, monotone)
Ladies and gentlemen this is
a passenger announcement we
apologise for the
inconvenience but this train
will be delayed by
approximately 20 minutes due
to an electrical fault.

Chloe rolls her eyes.

TRAIN DRIVER
(cont'd) (V.O)
(filtered, monotone)
Any passengers changing at
the next station please wait
on platform two for
approximately 40 minutes...

THE TRAIN DRIVER'S VOICE FADES OUT.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

The train cuts through the land, away from the last few houses of the city and into the green of the countryside.

EXT. SMALL TRAIN STATION - DAY

Chloe walks off the train on to an empty platform.

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - DAY

Chloe walks down the quiet, country lane carrying her backpack.

EXT. SOLITARY COUNTRY HOUSE - DAY

Chloe arrives at the door, picks out a set of keys from her backpack and lets herself in.

INT. COUNTRY HOUSE LOUNGE - DAY

Chloe opens the door and walks in. She sits down on the sofa. It is covered in cellophane. She looks around at the cardboard boxes piled up and the bare walls with rectangles where picture frames have once been. She gets up and runs her hand over a few of the boxes.

POV CHLOE - BOX LABELS

She scans the boxes and sees labels that read:

'BOOKS' and 'ORNAMENTS'

She sees one that reads:

'CINE-PROJECTOR'

INT. COUNTRY HOUSE LOUNGE - DAY

She takes that box from the pile, sits down and opens it up. She takes the cine-projector out, dusts it down and finds several rolls of film next to it.

CUT TO:

INT. COUNTRY HOUSE LOUNGE - DAY - DARK

The curtains are closed and Chloe is watching a film on the cine-projector, projected on to one of the bare walls. She occasionally laughs as she watches the film.

POV CHLOE - CINE-PROJECTOR PROJECTION ON WALL

She sees images of people playing around for the camera. A man and woman doing a silly walk. A small girl playing in a paddling pool with a hose pipe.

INT. COUNTRY HOUSE LOUNGE - DAY - DARK

The film ends and the tape FLUTTERS round the spool. Chloe changes the film cassette and starts another film. She starts to look sad.

CHLOE
(longingly)
Mum

POV CHLOE - CINE-PROJECTOR PROJECTION ON WALL

This time Chloe sees a woman with a small girl in her arms, patting her dry with a big towel and smiling at the camera. The film cuts to the same woman standing by a small lamp, waving her hand in front of it and giggling as the light turns off and on again.

C.U - CHLOE'S FACE

Chloe looks confused.

POV CHLOE - CINE-PROJECTOR PROJECTION ON WALL

The next scene on the film shows the woman walking past a big black and white TV and lines of static washing across the screen as she does so.

INT. COUNTRY HOUSE LOUNGE - DAY - DARK

Chloe leans forward and opens her mouth in amazement.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE GRAVEYARD - DAY - DUSK

Chloe is walking through the graves with a small bunch of flowers. She stops at one grave that has a few other fresh flowers on it and kneels down next to it.

C.U. - GRAVESTONE

The inscription reads:

"OUR DEAR MUM - ZOE DEMINGER - 1945-2010".

Chloe runs her hands over the inscription and places the flowers next to the others.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - NIGHT

Chloe stares out of the train window. Her image is reflected in the glass.

The carriage lights flicker and Chloe looks up at them.

She looks back at the window and smiles.

As the carriage lights continue to flicker, in place of the reflection of Chloe in the window, the image of Chloe's smiling Mum appears.

PAUSE

FLICKER TO BLACK SCREEN

Begin CREDITS