

Death By Network

By

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Alan Masterton (C)

INT. HOUSE - 3PM

FADE IN

Stairs left to front door with stuff lying about, kitchen to right, living room ahead, computer just as you walk in.

FRED, 14, fat, trainers, baggy jogging bottoms, baggy sports top, trainers with untied laces, big specs.

Fred kicks his trainers off slouching down out of jersey.

FRED
Hiya Mum, home now.

SHEENA, 44, Fred's Mum, white t-shirt, long skirt & slippers.

SHEENA
How was your day?

Fred sighs, then snaps.

FRED
Fine!

SHEENA
Don't speak to me like that, I brought you up to respect your elders.

FRED
Sorry.

SHEENA
Anymore and you're grounded.

Fred runs away upstairs.

INT. FRED'S BEDROOM - 3.10PM

Bed, chest of drawers, wardrobe, TV, clothes all round floor, poster above bed.

At that moment Fred's mobile receives a text from an unknown number.

TEXT MESSAGE READS
Tomorrow after school, your for it.

Fred scans his eyes round bedroom as he looks he's filling up then all of a sudden bursts in to tears.

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FADE OUT

INT. LIVING ROOM - 6PM

FADE IN

Dinner table, settee, TV, laminate flooring.

Fred, is lying on the settee with TV remote in hand.

Sheena walks through with her tea.

SHEENA

That's your tea ready.

FRED

Not hungry.

SHEENA

Don't care, you need to eat.

Fred scuffs across living room to get to kitchen then walks through with his tea.

Fred stirs food round plate with his fork.

SHEENA

Hey, young man, gonna eat your tea.

FRED

Nope.

SHEENA

Why not?

FRED

Like I said, I'm not hungry.

SHEENA

So!

Sheena begins to raise her voice.

SHEENA

Eat your tea.

FRED

No!

SHEENA

Eat your tea.

FRED

No!

SHEENA

Eat your tea.

FRED

No!

Sheena loses patience so shouts.

SHEENA

Eat your fucking tea now!

Fred runs away upstairs in tears.

BILL, 52, Fred's dad.

Bill walks from the kitchen to the living room and sits down.

BILL

That's a bit harsh ain't it.

Sheena points at Bill and shouts at him.

SHEENA

Don't you start.

INT. FRED'S ROOM - 8PM

Bed with poster across window.

Fred is on his laptop having online chat.

Fred opens his page to find he has been sent loads of hate mail. He has loads of abusive comments, even 1 death threat.

FRED

This is too much for me.

He turns his lap top off and puts it away.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - 10.40

School building, grassy verges, concrete ground.

Teenagers standing in groups talking to each other as Fred is being left out standing idle watching on.

JOHN, 14, uniform.

BOB, 14, tracksuit.

Craig, 14, tracksuit.

3 teenagers approach Fred.

CRAIG
Hey scaff.

Moment of silence.

BOB
Aw, whats wrong, does wee scaff no
want to talk.

Moment of silence.

JOHN
I think we'd better do something
about wee scaff.

CRAIG
I know, lets bogwash him.

Fred try's do run off but Bob grabs him by the scruff of the neck, hold's him up to get punched in the face a few times by John & Craig. Leaving Fred with a few black eyes. They take him to the toilet and flush his head down the toilet.

JOHN
Now someone piss on him.

Craig and bob proceed to urinate on Fred. The bell rings.

CRAIG
Just you wait until lunch.

John, Bob & Craig proceed off to class leaving Fred all bruised and battered, covered in blood & urine.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

MR THOMPSON, 33, Headteacher, suit and tie.

It's now 11.30am, Mr Thompson walks in to toilets.

MR THOMPSON
What in the blue has happened here?

FRED

If you did your fucking job right
and watched the screen that video
camera shoots you'd know.

Moment of silence.

MR THOMPSON

Actually, you do smell a bit
foosty, go home and have the rest
of the day off.

INT. OFFICE - 11.45

Leather swivel chair, desk with laptop on social network.

Mr Thompson walks in to office, picks up telephone and calls
Sheena.

MR THOMPSON

Yes, hello is that Fred's mother.

FADE OUT

INT. HOME - 11.50AM

FADE IN

Fred's Mum standing at telephone, Fred walks in.

SHEENA

That was Mr Thompson.

Fred ignores and walks upstairs embarrassed.

SHEENA

He want's to see me and your Dad's
away to work, I've got to go to the
school. Go for a bath, ye stink.

EXT. CAR PARK - 12 NOON

Cars parked outside car park with main road at front.

Sheena walks in to school collecting visitor badge on the
way.

INT. HT OFFICE - 12.20PM

Office with chair at either side.

Mr Thompson escorts Sheena into his office.

MR THOMPSON

Just to say anything you tell me
will be treated confidentially.

SHEENA

Understood.

MR THOMPSON

Let me just pull a file up. So how
are you today.

SHEENA

How the fuck do you think?

MR THOMPSON

Pardon, can't stand for such
language.

SHEENA

Well there's nothing you can do
because you said it's confidential.

MR THOMPSON

OK, I'll forgive you that time but
just calm it with the lingo.

SHEENA

Continue.

MR THOMPSON

His grades have been getting worse,
have you noticed any changes at
home.

SHEENA

Well, he's no been eating his meals
and I took a look in his phone when
he was sleeping and found death
threats.

MR THOMPSON

Some serious stuff.

SHEENA

I think someones not been doing
there job properly. Do you even
watch those video cameras if there

(MORE)

SHEENA (cont'd)
real, coz I canny see a single
monitor active.

MR THOMPSON
Yeah, it's right over the-

Mr Thompson points to a monitor which is switched off.

SHEENA
Aye, just as I though, lazy bastard
dizny want to put monitor on in the
morning when he arrive.

Sheena lifts her handbag and stands up.

MR THOMPSON
Sit down.

SHEENA
Naw, I've seen enough.

Sheena storms out the room and slams door behind her.

INT. SHEENA'S CAR - 12.40PM

Windscreen wipers wiping rain off windscreen as Sheena
drives home in a bad mood.

INT. BACK HOME - 1PM

Computer with yellow sticky label on it from Fred. The
message reads: Mum, I can't take anymore, by the time you
read this I may be dead. I'm killing myself because this
world is too good for me and nobody likes me. I have no
future ahead so no ambition was necessary. Please don't
blame your self I'm not worth the tears. So one last time
Mum till I see you on the other side love you Mummy, Fred.

Sheena reads this and begins to fill up and runs up stairs
to find Fred naked and dead in a pool of his own blood with
cuts over his body and Sheena walks over to him sits down
and cries

FADE TO BLACK