

THE LOCUSTS

BY OLIVER O'CONNOR

EXT. RIVERSIDE - 6:00AM

A BRIDGE burns.

Either side of the river is miles of grassland.

Two young men lie passed out on the riverbank. One of them, AMARI (24), wears a tuxedo. The other, SID (20), is wearing only underwear and a singed trouser leg.

Besides them are a few empty bottles of whiskey.

AMARI wakes up, groaning, and looks at the burning BRIDGE.

AMARI

Sid, wake up.

AMARI hits SID.

SID slowly sits up holding his head. He's bleeding.

SID

Oh shit. What happened, man?

AMARI

I think we fucked up again.

They stand up and dust themselves off.

SID

Shall we try and find a way back over?

AMARI looks down the river.

AMARI

I don't think we should, mate.  
We've probably done something bad.

SID

What, do you mean worse than usual?

AMARI

Yeah, maybe. Where are your clothes?

SID

God knows, man.

SID picks up a bottle off the floor and drips the dregs into his mouth.

AMARI reaches into his pocket and withdraws a Polaroid photograph of himself and SID (clothed).

With them are two worried looking, half naked ladies and an angry OLD MAN, holding a machete to SID's head. The OLD MAN wears the tuxedo that AMARI is wearing now. They are standing next to a burning car.

AMARI  
(to himself)  
Oh yeah.

AMARI sniggers to himself and then puts the photo back into his pocket.

The smile on AMARI's face drops.

AMARI (CONT'D)  
Shit.

SID  
What?

AMARI  
Look.

On the other side of the river are three people approaching, carrying baseball bats. Their eyes glow RED. These are the 'Locusts'.

SID  
Is that --

AMARI  
-- Yeah I think it is.

SID  
We should go.

AMARI  
Yeah.

They walk away from the bridge down a path. At the start of the path is a SIGN that reads: 'MERRIDALE VILLAGE: 10 MILES (LOCUST RIOT ZONE)'

EXT. MERRIDALE STREETS - AFTERNOON - HOT

Merridale is a very small village.

The streets are plastered in newspapers and litter. The windows of the houses are smashed, and broken down cars are parked obscurely down the road.

Spray painted on the side of a house is: 'RIGHTS FOR LOCUSTS!'

SID  
 God. Look at the state of this  
 place. What a shit hole.

SID throws a rock through the window of a house and then  
 walks into a shop.

On the outside of the shop is a poster of an angry man with  
 glowing RED EYES that says: 'IS YOUR HUSBAND OR WIFE A  
 LOCUST?'

AMARI picks up a newspaper. It reads: 'CIVIL WAR RAGES ON: IS  
 THIS THE END OF BRITAIN?'

He tosses the newspaper aside.

SID emerges from the shop with a large CARDBOARD CUTOUT of  
 DONALD TRUMP with RED EYES, DEVIL HORNS and a RED TAIL.

SID (CONT'D)  
 Oi, remember this guy?

AMARI  
 Oh yeah, I do. I wonder where he is  
 now.

SID  
 Don't have a clue.

AMARI  
 Did you not find anything to drink  
 in there?

SID  
 Are you mad?

BANG. A gunshot blast. SID drops the CARDBOARD CUTOUT.

SID (CONT'D)  
 Aw, shit.

JILL  
 You there!

AMARI and SID turn around.

A short distance down the road is a pub called 'Jack 'N'  
 Jill's' Standing at the door is a tall, stocky woman,  
 pointing a shotgun at AMARI and SID. This is JILL (50).

JILL (CONT'D)  
 Don't move a fucking muscle!

SID  
Hey! Take it easy, man!

AMARI takes a step forward.

AMARI  
We're not locusts.

JILL  
What are you then?

AMARI  
Well - we're just bored. We're just  
looking for something interesting.  
Maybe a drink or two?

JILL lowers her gun.

INT. JACK 'N' JILL'S - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

The pub is average sized, with tables of all sizes scattered  
around the floor. It once would have served as a gastropub.

Three people: FABIO (39), TIA (19), and PAULINE (70), wait  
with baited breath, crouched behind a table.

The door opens. AMARI, SID and JILL enter.

JILL  
It was just a pair of drifters.

FABIO, TIA and PAULINE, breath a sigh of relief and stand up.

AMARI  
Hiya, how're you doing? I'm Amari.  
This is Sid.

FABIO and PAULINE give a slight smile to SID and AMARI. TIA  
is particularly interesting in SID.

JILL  
This is Fabio, Tia and Pauline.

SID  
Hiya.

JILL puts her shotgun down on the table.

JILL  
I hope you've got something worth  
trading.

SID shows a couple of packs of cigarettes.

SID  
I've got some fags. Could that get  
us something?

AMARI looks SID up and down.

AMARI  
(under breath)  
Where you been hiding them?

SID  
Shhh.

JILL  
Yeah they'll do.

JILL snatches them off SID.

SID  
I need some clothes too.

JILL looks SID up and down.

INT. JILL'S BEDROOM

JILL smokes a cigarette, looking away while SID gets dressed.

SID  
Oh yes, this is just perfect.

JILL looks at SID. He's wearing a SUIT.

JILL  
No, take that off, that was my --  
She stops and sighs.

JILL (CONT'D)  
Forget it.

INT. THE BALL 'N' CHAIN

AMARI looks around the pub. He sees a speaker behind the bar  
and then smiles a huge grin.

AMARI  
Have you got electricity in here?

INT. JACK 'N' JILLS - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

Music is heard playing from downstairs. JILL is shocked and darts out of the door.

INT. JACK 'N' JILL'S

*Smash It Up* by The Damned plays.

AMARI is entertaining everyone. He throws a knife up in the air and catches it in his mouth.

JILL enters from a door behind the bar and turns off the music.

JILL  
What the fuck is going on?

AMARI  
Calm down.

JILL  
Calm down? Get the fuck out of here!

TIA  
Jill, we're just having some fun.

AMARI  
Yeah, you guys could use a laugh instead of moping around in the dark.

JILL is angry.

FABIO  
He's right, Jen. Ever since Jack died we've just been sitting around doing nothing. What's the point?

On the wall is an old PHOTOGRAPH of JILL smiling, her arm is around a smiling MAN, JACK (30).

JILL  
(to AMARI and SID)  
You don't know what we've been through. You don't know how bad it's been for us.

PAULINE  
It's been really bad, Jill - for all of us.

(MORE)

PAULINE (CONT'D)  
But the locusts have gone now. It's  
been years. We can stop worrying.

Beat.

JILL  
(to AMARI and SID)  
On your way here, did you see  
anyone? Did you see any of **them**?

EXT. RIVERSIDE - 6:00AM - (FLASHBACK)

We close in on the RED EYES of the LOCUSTS beside the burning  
bridge.

(END OF FLASHBACK)

INT. JACK 'N' JILL'S

SID and AMARI look at each other. Then back at JILL.

SID  
No. No one.

JILL sighs, looks down, and then turns the music back on.

EXT. MERRIDALE STREETS - NIGHT - DARK

INT. JACK 'N' JILL'S - NIGHT

Empty bottles cover the tables.

Everyone has had a lot to drink. They are sitting around  
laughing and joking. JILL sits with them but she looks  
concerned.

AMARI  
-- And then he chased us for about  
ten mile with a fucking machete.

Everybody but JILL laughs. TIA puts her hand on SID's leg.  
They look at each other and smile.

JILL  
You both seem to cause a lot of  
trouble, don't you?

This sours the mood.



AMARI  
Trouble just seems to happen around  
us.

JILL  
So what you just move from town to  
town getting pissed?

AMARI sighs.

AMARI  
Well you've got to have a purpose,  
haven't you?

AMARI looks at JILL's shotgun that rests on the table. JILL catches him looking. He finishes his drink and stands up.

AMARI (CONT'D)  
You got a toilet in here?

FABIO  
Just over there.

AMARI walks towards the toilet.

SID  
I'll come with you.

SID gets up and follows AMARI. As AMARI walks past the speaker he turns up the music, and then looks back at JILL, who isn't happy.

EXT. MERRIDALE STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Light and music pours out of JACK 'N' JILL'S.

In the distance, three dark figures wielding baseball bats approach the pub. Their eyes glow RED.

INT. JACK 'N' JILL'S - TOILET

Loud but muffled music is heard.

SID and AMARI stand at the urinals. AMARI is contemplative.

In front of them is a poster of with a photo of a RED EYE. It says: 'DO YOU HAVE LOCUST TENDENCIES?'

SID  
What are you thinking?

AMARI shrugs.

AMARI  
They've got a lot of stuff.

INT. JACK 'N' JILL'S - CONTINUOUS

The LOCUSTS smash the door down.

JILL lunges for her gun but one of the LOCUST'S puts his baseball bat on it. She freezes.

INT. JACK 'N' JILL'S - TOILET

SID looks disappointed.

AMARI  
You like Tia, don't you?

SID  
Yeah. I do.

INT. JACK 'N' JILL'S

A locust whacks his baseball bat over TIA's head.

INT. JACK 'N' JILL'S - TOILET

AMARI  
We could stay for a while - if you want to.

SID  
We could, couldn't we? That'd be nice.

AMARI nods.

AMARI  
If that's what you want.

They both finish at the urinal. They zip up and walk out the door.

INT. JACK 'N' JILL'S - CONTINUOUS

The music still blares.

Walking out they see JILL laid out on the ground, blood all around her.

They then see that the rest have also been beaten to death.

The three LOCUSTS enter from the door behind the bar carrying food and supplies. One of them carries Jill's SHOTGUN. They turn off the music.

AMARI and SID both hide behind a table.

AMARI  
(whispers)  
Come on.

The three LOCUSTS look around pub for other supplies.

AMARI and SID slowly creep around to the bar.

SID's eyes focus on TIA, whose head rests on the table in a pool of blood.

AMARI (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
Help me with these.

AMARI carefully passes SID two bottle of WHISKEY.

SID  
(whispers)  
It's happened again.

AMARI  
(whispers)  
Shhh. I know.

SID peers his head over the bar to look at TIA. Her head raises slightly. SID's jaw drops in shock.

SID  
(whispers)  
What are we going to do?

AMARI takes a swig of whiskey.

AMARI  
(whispers)  
We're going to run. Make sure you don't stop, and don't look back.

SID  
(whispers)  
...Okay.

AMARI and SID both slowly look over the bar.

The three LOCUSTS are looking dead at them.

The one with the shotgun fires, blasting empty bottles off the bar, narrowly missing AMARI and SID.

AMARI

Let's go.

They jump from behind the bar, both with two bottles of WHISKEY in hand, and make a bee-line for the unhinged door.

A LOCUST tries to intercept their path but AMARI smashes him over the head with one of the bottles.

Shotgun blasts skim behind their movements.

They manage to get out of the door.

EXT. MERRIDALE STREETS - CONTINUOUS

They run down the road into the darkness.

AMARI

Don't stop! Don't look back!

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD

They carry on sprinting. SID carries a little.

EXT. RIVERSIDE #2

They reach another riverside with a BRIDGE.

They run onto it and stop. Look at each other, and then pour the WHISKEY bottles over the BRIDGE as they run to the other side.

SID withdraws a pack of matches and with shaking hands, tries to light one but fails. AMARI snatches them off him, lights one and then tosses it onto the bridge. It bursts into flames.

SID drops onto his backside. AMARI slowly sits down. They watch the BRIDGE burn.

SID

Is it too late to go back?

AMARI

Yeah.

FADE OUT.

