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It's Alive! It's Alive!

A timed exercise screenplay

by Des Holden

The kitchen is monochrome. The floor and work surfaces pale, the cabinets painted white. John leans back and watches Virginia slowly spin.

(Virginia) "Where am I? Where have you taken me?"

John opens a cupboard and takes out a kettle, two mugs and tea bags. He fills the kettle and plugs it in.

(John) "Tea?"

(Virginia) "What is this place? Am I dreaming?"

John ignores the questions and the lack of answer. He pours boiled water on the teabags. He opens a cupboard and adds milk from the fridge. Another cupboard hides a bin. He waves his hand over the sensor and it opens. He drops the teabags in.

(John) “Here you are. Tea. Would you like sugar?”

Virginia takes the cup, sniffs the contents and then sips. She puts the cup back down then tries a couple of the cupboard doors herself, pulling back as they softly close the last inch by themselves.

(John) “You are in my house. My kitchen to be precise. We are in old town, just near the hospital. In Eastbourne England. It's 2018. I've brought you to the future.”

Virginia continues to play with the cupboard door, experimenting with the range it will close itself. John picks up a remote control and points it at the docking station for his phone. Music fills the room from the ceiling speakers. Classical. Virginia starts to spin again.

(Virginia) “You have a gramophone. Is it in a cupboard?”

Virginia starts to work her way round the units, opening each and bending to peer in. She opens one housing the washing machine, which starts its spin cycle.

“AAAHHHhhh! It's alive! It's alive!” (Virginia screams).

(John) “Virginia. Virginia! Calm down. Please. I've brought you here for a reason.”

He puts a hand on her elbow and she pulls back. He points to the table in front of the glass doors into the garden and the two chairs.

(John) “Please. Come and sit down and let me explain. You're not in any danger here. You'll understand in a minute. It's in 1800 that your problems are about to begin.”