

THE LAST MESSAGE  
(Version 2)

By

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INT. JACK'S BEDROOM - DAY

We see shots of a large empty quiet flat. There is no sound but that of a man turning the single pages of a book.

The man is ADAM, a man in his early 30'S with a shaggy beard and a jumper and hoodie, his bedroom is well presented and minimal with nothing but a computer on a desk and a bed. He goes over to his window, a single fly flies around his bedroom and he opens the window and as he does we hear the deafening apocalyptic sounds of turmoil outside. He then closes his window after the fly leaves the bedroom and we're left again with the silence.

Briefly the man pauses before walking to his bedroom door and then turning back to his bed. The computer whirrs up, really loudly, the fan almost deafening in the silence. The man looks at his computer disheartedly and then hears a message tone and suddenly smiles.

CUT TO TITLES

INT. RILEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Text appears on screen saying 2 months earlier.

A woman wakes up in her bedroom beautifully decorated with a succinct woman's touch. The woman is RILEY, she has long dark hair and is wearing a hoodie and jogging bottoms. She is going round the house doing various household tasks such as loading the dishwasher, loading the washing machine and putting clothes out in the garden on the airer.

RILEY (V.O)

Before the online world came to an end..  
We'd already long stopped connecting.

The world had changed from what it was only  
twenty years ago, where it was people  
meeting in bars, at work or at your local  
coffee shop.

It'd changed to people swiping, poking,  
liking and sharing pictures and videos.  
All just interacting without interaction.

We'd all been so obsessed by our online  
presence, none of us bothered to appreciate  
the importance of someone's physical  
presence.

The entire world was devastated with losing access to the internet, but to me and a lot it only meant we were forced to connect again.

The loss of the internet connection... Meant we all had to go out and search for a physical connection again.

And that's where Adam came in...

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Adam is working in an office, smartly dressed with a shirt and tie. answering phone calls and typing away. He seems chuffed with himself, every so often only pausing to squeeze his stress ball.

RILEY (V.O)

Adam was the man of my dreams. Sweet, quiet, caring. The kinda guy who would do anything for anyone.

Adams phone bleeps and he gets a message saying on a dating app he has a match.

RILEY (V.O)

That's why I sent him a match.

Adam goes into his messages and starts typing. The text of what he's writing appears on screen. He's hesitant to type writing messages... Deleting them, rewriting them... He doesn't know just how to say Hi! Typing enuendos, chat up lines and all manner of things... Till he just writes Hi!

ADAM (V.O)

You can meet the woman of your dreams and lose them these days all just by mistyping just a few keys.

Riley understood my worries... She got me... She sensed my "awkward charm" as she called it and made me feel comfortable in my own skin.

Helped me feel comfortable with not pretending to be this corporate shill.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

We see Adam in his bedroom, typing at his computer. We see him typing with the clock beside him changing time getting later and later.

The power suddenly goes out and Adam is plunged into darkness.  
Adam lights a candle and his face illuminates and he blows it out.

ADAM  
Fucking power cuts!

RILEY (V.O)  
We'd sit and talk for days about all  
different things, such as...

ADAM (V.O)  
Our favourite films...  
Television Shows...  
Games...

INT. RILEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Riley sits typing at her computer in her bedroom. Suddenly we hear a buzzing of a fly, it flies around and as we pan to an electric fly killer; we hear the buzz of the fly being killed. Riley's bed is well made, hinting she hasn't slept in it yet.

RILEY (V.O)  
Football Teams...  
Economics...  
History...

ADAM (V.O)  
We were just getting to know each other...

RILEY (V.O)  
Adam thought that the cold war... Was a war  
in winter. (laughs)

ADAM (V.O)  
Riley thought that Fugly meant someone was  
friendly but Ugly...  
(pause)  
...so sweet.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUS STATION - DAY / INT. TRAIN - DAY

Adam sits at a bus station messaging Riley online whilst Riley is sitting on a train looking out the window whilst messaging. Adam's bus drives up and then is about to leave and suddenly Adam notices it and jumps up, thinks about running for it. Runs a few steps and hesitates and stops to see it drive off. Adam then upsettingly decides to walk to work as he does; he sees a couple laughing in a café but looks away, envious.

RILEY (V.O)

We messaged for days, both of us nervous to ask the other if and where we should meet. We knew we both lived close, well within thirty miles but both were just too chicken shit to ask the other.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Adam is sitting in his chair, he's vigorously squeezing his stress toy and sweating. Talking to himself in an angry manner.

ADAM

Ask her out!  
Ask her out!  
Come on! Stop being such a douche bag!  
Just do it!

There is a power surge and all the lights go out and suddenly turn back on.

DAVID (O.S)

Oh my! The internet's gone down.

SARAH (O.S)

It's alright it'll be back up in a minute.

MARK (O.S)

Hope this place doesn't shut down on us.

Suddenly a group of people start running behind Adam all in one direction yelling and screaming. Adam is confused but shrugs it off and returns to his computer.

Adam starts typing on the messenger, do you want to meet up? Then again deletes it and rewrites it as a chat up line. Becoming aware of himself, he panics and gets up from his chair and paces back and forth. Till he hears a bing. And his screen flashes up from Riley. "I think we should meet!"

Adam sits back in his chair, swirls it round in a circle and then throws his stress toy in a ball in a nearby bin.

RILEY (V.O)

I was so happy when Adam replied and told me how he'd been dying to go out with me.

You always know, when you know...  
But you always worry. You know?  
(chuckles)

I was so lucky as well. As the internet went down the very next day and if we'd never sent that last message. We'd have never been able to meet.

The world had been turned on its head and just ended in a matter of seconds. But mine and Adam's life had just begun.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE (DOORWAY) - DAY

Riley gets out of her car and walks up to Adam's house. She's wearing a dress and has a bottle of wine. Adam opens the door and they pause for a second before hugging and kissing each other on the cheek in a warm embrace.

RILEY (V.O)

When you go to meet your future husband,  
you never know how it's all going to first  
go...

What is moving too slow, or moving too  
fast...

When you know you're going to spend the  
rest of your lives together.

INT. ADAM'S KITCHEN - DAY

Adam is in the kitchen making a cup of tea. He's shaking as he's so nervous.

ADAM (V.O)

Jeez, I'm so nervous but I've got to remember.

This is the first of many cups of tea I'm making for my future wife. I'm allowed to mess up. It's allowed to go wrong.

Everything can only get better from here...

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Adam walks into the living room to see Riley sitting on the sofa and puts down the cup of tea. He's shaking almost with nervousness. As he puts it down the tea spills from his trembling. Riley looks to the side and then picks up a coaster, it's a coaster which looks like a miniature record. She puts the coaster under her cup of tea, Adam notices, smiles and takes a sip of his tea awkwardly.

RILEY

It's crazy all this stuff with the internet going down.

ADAM

Yeah.

RILEY

If we hadn't sent those last messages, we wouldn't have met.

ADAM

I know. It's funny how one little decision can change your whole life. Like, if I hadn't sent that message, we wouldn't be here

There is a long awkward pause, where Adam and Riley are both so shy in person neither knows what to say.

RILEY

This is awkward isn't it?

Adam smiles and tries to make a joke of the situation.

ADAM

Yeah. That's my... awkward... charm for you.

Riley smiles.

RILEY

It certainly is.

Riley shifts to one side on the sofa and gestures for Adam to sit beside her.

RILEY (V.O)

Adam was shy, the first time we met.  
But he had no reason to be, he was lovely...  
He was kind, fun and spontaneous.

Adam gets up and puts on a record and plays it and Riley and him dance.

RILEY (V.O)

Adam had just been in a lot of terrible  
relationships and it'd ruined his self  
confidence.

But he was the best of people.

CUT TO:

EXT. MONTAGE - DAY/NIGHT

Adam and Riley have a montage of them going on various dates.  
Having loads of fun. Adam's smiling.

Adam comes in waving a large letter suddenly yelling.

RILEY (V.O)

But that's not to say, we didn't have our  
arguments.

But we always made up and that just made our connection stronger.

Adam and Riley sit beside each other and Riley puts her head on Adam's shoulder.

ADAM (V.O)

The internet going down and the world  
ending, meant everything stood still...  
Life could stand still...  
And we could appreciate what was most  
important...  
Human connection... With Riley.  
And our son Peter.

Adam and Riley have a baby and are walking a pram down the road. Seeing people  
and talking to them. They get keys to a house and hug. Then they're sitting on a  
couch with their little boy.

RILEY (V.O)

As I sit here, all these years ago now I remember when the internet went down and how the world changed during that time. And what could have been missed if I'd just not sent that last message.

ADAM (V.O)

All that we could have lost.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Adam is sitting in his chair, he's vigorously squeezing his stress toy and sweating. Talking to himself in an angry manner.

ADAM

Ask her out!

Ask her out!

Come on! Stop being such a douche bag!

Just do it!

Suddenly all the power goes out in the office and then suddenly turns back on.

DAVID (O.S)

Oh my! The internet's gone down.

SARAH (O.S)

It's alright it'll be back up in a minute.

Adam stands up from his chair and sees a group of people running all in one direction in a panic.

ADAM (V.O)

But that's not what happened...

The world ended that day...

And not just mine...

Everyones...

All these years we'd been connecting through clicks, likes, shares and subscribes...

We were all seeking connection...

But never truly finding it.

And I never found it. Because I never sent...

CUT TO:

INT. JACK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Adam sits at his desk from the opening scene.

ADAM (V.O)  
...that last message.

He now has shaggy beard and a jumper and hoodie, his bedroom is well presented and minimal with nothing but a computer on a desk and a bed. He goes over to his window, a single fly flies around his bedroom and he opens the window and as he does we hear the deafening apocalyptic sounds of turmoil outside. He then closes his window after the fly leaves the bedroom and we're left again with the silence.

ADAM (V.O)  
I never got to meet Riley, as I never took  
the chance when it presented itself.

I never got to love.  
I never got to live.  
I never got to grow old with her.

As I never took the chance...

Briefly the man pauses before walking to his bedroom door and then turning back to his bed. The computer whirrs up, really loudly, the fan almost deafening in the silence. The man looks at his computer disheartedly and then hears a message tone and suddenly smiles.

RILEY (V.O)  
But who's not for second chances, ay?