

All In The Mind

6 page Future Shock – full script

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Page 1

Amy, our protagonist, is a young lady in her mid to late twenties, casually dressed, with a short spiky haircut and a pretty face.

In this establishing shot she strolls down a busy high street, as people around her enthusiastically make their way to their destinations, criss-crossing behind and in front of her. She is enjoying the summer sunshine, oblivious to the commotion around her.

Amy is telepathic and can read minds. The thoughts of the people around her appear as different coloured caption boxes on the page.

NB There is very little dialogue in this story as almost everything is ‘thought’. To help the reader follow what is going on, the thoughts of any single character should always appear in the same coloured caption box.

Caption:

I WONDER IF SIMPSON IS GOING FOR THE VP JOB? THAT
SLIMY LITTLE -

Caption:

AND IF WENDY ASKS STEVE OUT THAT WOULD WORK REALLY WELL, COS STEVE IS BEST MATES WITH BRIAN AND BRIAN'S REALLY CUTE.

Caption:

AND THEN MUM'S BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY. NO, NO - MUM'S BIRTHDAY'S IN **MARCH**. SAM'S BIRTHDAY IS IN FEBRUARY. I'D BETTER CALL GRAN AND DOUBLE CHECK THAT.

Caption:

FEEL SO BAD... NEVER AGAIN. I SWEAR - **NEVER** AGAIN.

Caption:

I HOPE NO ONE LOOKS THERE. I MEAN TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS... SOMEONE'D ONLY EVER FIND IT IF THEY WERE ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR IT. **WOULDN'T** THEY? I WONDER IF ANYONE SAW -

Panel 2

Closer in on Amy, who goes about her business without paying attention to any of these thoughts.

Caption:

GOD IF YOU GIVE ME THIS ONE CHANCE I PROMISE I'LL BE A BETTER PERSON. JUST THIS ONCE!

Caption:

- SKIRT WAS ANY **SHORTER** IT'D BE A BELT!

Caption:

DAMN FLIES.

Caption:

IF I EVER CATCH THAT CAT CRAPPING IN MY BACK GARDEN AGAIN I WILL **LAUNCH** IT TO THE MOON.

Caption:

JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE FUSCIAS AREN'T FLOWERING -

Panel 3

Closer still as she stops suddenly in the street and looks around her, alarmed at the last thought she hears in this panel.

Caption:

TEST PAPER ON MONDAY, I'D BETTER MAKE A START ON -
OH LOOK A **SALE**...

Caption:

BEHIND HER BACK - WILL SHE EVER -

Caption:

THURSDAY

Caption:

DEAD. **COMPLETELY** DEAD. I'M SO GLAD SHE'S DEAD.
LITTLE BITCH DESERVED IT!

Panel 4

Amy filters out all the other thoughts so she can just hear what this one guy is thinking.

One of the characters on the street is a shady looking guy. He hasn't shaved in days, and wears a heavy, black leather jacket while everyone else is dressed in summer clothes.

Amy spots him.

Caption:

SHE SO **TOTALLY** DESERVED IT. NO WOMAN EVER SPEAKS TO ME LIKE THAT AND GETS AWAY WITH IT.

Caption:

I SHOWED HER!

Page 2

Panel 1

Amy follows the apparent murderer, continuing to listen to his thoughts.

Caption:

I CAN'T KEEP HER IN A SACK THOUGH. I NEED TO DISPOSE OF THE BODY PROPERLY. I WONDER IF IT'S A MYTH ABOUT ACID DISSOLVING EVERYTHING BUT THE FAT?

Caption:

WELL THAT'S NO USE - I'D STILL HAVE **HALF** OF HER LEFT OVER AFTERWARDS...

Panel 2

The murderer turns down a side street and Amy follows. It's much darker down here, as the tall buildings either side of the alley block out the sunlight. It's also grubby – there is rubbish and unidentifiable 'gunk' everywhere. A filthy stray cat walks across the middle of the panel, its scrawny tail standing high at the end of its taught spine. Amy is large in the foreground as we 'read' her thoughts:

Caption:

OH MY GOD. HE'S **REALLY** KILLED SOMEONE. HE'S NOT FANTASISING - HE REALLY HAS. WHERE IS HE KEEPING THE BODY? IF I CAN FIND OUT THAT MUCH I CAN CALL THE POLICE WITH AN ANONYMOUS TIP OFF OR SOMETHING –

Caption:

THIS IS **DISGUSTING** - HIS THOUGHTS - I'VE NEVER BEEN INSIDE THE HEAD OF SOMEONE SO AMORAL, SO INHUMAN, SO... BESTIAL.

Panel 3

The killer looks back, perhaps sensing that he's being followed, but Amy ducks behind a rubbish skip full of rotting refuse.

She panics, losing her focus, and in the background (in very small type) the thoughts of other people nearby begin to appear.

Caption:

IF IT'S NOT UNTIL NEXT WEDNESDAY THEN I CAN DO A WASH TOMORROW NIGHT INSTEAD.

Caption:

I WONDER IF HE STILL FANCIES ME –

Caption:

BUT I MISSED THE LAST EPISODE SO IT PROBABLY WON'T MAKE MUCH SENSE.

Caption:

IF ANGELINA JOLIE LIVED IN CLAPHAM -

Panel 4

Tight close-up of Amy, peering around the side of the skip.

Caption:

DID HE SEE ME? WHY DID HE TURN AROUND? WHY ISN'T
HE THINKING ANYTHING?
I CAN STILL SMELL HIS MIND... BUT HE ISN'T THINKING
ANYTHING.

Panel 5

Pull out to show the killer entering a heavy iron door at the end of the ever-darkening alleyway. Amy sneaks along the wall on his blind side, observing quietly. Beside the door is a small window. The wall of the building he has entered is filthy and covered in graffiti.

Caption:

I JUST NEED THE ADDRESS - THAT'S ALL - IS THAT A
WINDOW?

Panel 6

Amy looks in the window.

To her horror he is looking back out at her, an evil sneer on his face.

Caption:

I CAN HEAR YOU!

Caption:

OH GOD - OH NO. OH -

Panel 1

A tall, skinny bald guy in an old black suit appears behind her. He is wearing tiny, round-rimmed glasses, and his face is far more lined than should be humanly possible. It is his thoughts that we hear now.

Caption:

DON'T BE ALARMED, MY DEAR - YOU ARE AMONG
FRIENDS. PLEASE COME IN AND TAKE A SEAT.

Caption:

YOU'LL FIND YOU HAVE NO CHOICE I'M AFRAID.

Panel 2

The skinny old man follows Amy into the grimy, spartan room on the other side of the large iron door. Tears stream down her face as she tries to resist his will.

Caption:

HOW JOLLY **HEROIC** OF YOU – FOLLOWING A DANGEROUS
MAN LIKE FRANK ALL THE WAY HERE. OF COURSE YOU
COULD HAVE FOLLOWED FRANK'S BROTHER PHILIP TO
FIND THE TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS HE'D HIDDEN IN
AN UNUSED COAL SHED.

Caption:

THAT CATCHES THE **GREEDY** ONES YOU SEE, AND THIS
CATCHES THE ONES THAT WANT TO BE SUPERHEROES.

Panel 3

She sits on a wooden stool in the middle of the room. Skinny stands behind her, and Frank stands in front – his sadistic grin has not waned.

Amy:

WHO - WHO ARE YOU?

Caption:

WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS. I ALREADY TOLD YOU.

Caption:

WE ARE LIKE YOU. EXCEPT WE FULFIL A **FUNCTION**. WE
KEEP THOSE IN CHARGE AT EASE.

Panel 4

Frank bends down and smiles at her, baring his many white teeth just an inch or so from her face. She draws her head back, repulsed.

Amy:

THE GOVERNMENT?

Caption:

NO SWEETHEART, HE SAID THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE.

Panel 5

Skinny puts his hand on her shoulder. It doesn't reassure her in the least, although she has stopped crying now.

Caption:

YOU SEE – DESPITE WHAT YOU MAY HAVE THOUGHT ALL YOUR LIFE – AND I’M SURE YOU’RE FIGURING THIS OUT FOR YOURSELF BY NOW – YOU ARE NOT ALONE! THERE ARE MANY JUST LIKE YOU, WHO CAN DO ALL THE THINGS YOU CAN.

Caption:

AND THIS SCARES THE MEN WHO CONTROL THINGS. WE CAN HEAR WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK! YOU SEE – THEY CONSIDER THAT A BIT OF A... SECURITY RISK.

Caption:

AND THAT’S WHY WE MAKE THE OFFER...

Amy:

OFFER?

Panel 6

Small panel - a tight close-up of Skinny, smiling wanly.

Caption:

JOIN US, OR HAVE YOUR BRAINS SAUTÉED. IT’S WHAT WE IN THE BUSINESS LIKE TO CALL THE **OFFER** YOU CAN’T **REFUSE!**

Page 4

Panel 1

Skinny has walked part way around her now, but isn't looking directly at her.

Amy:

WHY? WHY ME?

Caption:

I THINK WE'VE ALREADY EXPLAINED THIS ONE, DEAR –
DON'T BE A BORE. YOU ARE ONE OF **MANY**. AN
ABERRATION IN THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS? PERHAPS
JUST THE NEXT STEP IN OUR LONG, TEDIOUS MARCH TO
GODHOOD. AND **WE** ARE HERE TO WEED OUT THE
TROUBLEMAKERS FROM THE **AMBITIOUS**.

Caption:

NOW WHICH WILL IT BE?

Panel 2

No thoughts in this panel, as Amy closes her eyes tightly in concentration.

Panel 3

Skinny smiles as he figures out what she's trying to do.

Caption:

OH - I SEE. YOU'RE TRYING TO USE SOME NOVICE MIND
TRICK ON US ARE YOU? IS IT SOMETHING YOU LEARNED
WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG?

Caption:

DID IT MAKE THE BULLIES **STOP**?

Caption:

DID IT MAKE THE HANDSOME BOYS **LIKE** YOU MORE?

Caption:

YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO US, LITTLE DARLING. WE'RE **MASTERS** AT THIS. AND YOU'RE JUST A NAUGHTY -

Panel 4

Frank bends over double in pain. Skinny looks down at him, not obviously concerned. Amy still has her eyes tight shut.

Caption:

HMMM... IMPRESSIVE.

Caption:

WELL YOU SEEM TO BE SKILLED ENOUGH TO OVERPOWER MY COLLEAGUE, BUT I THINK WE BOTH KNOW YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME. YOU COULDN'T EVEN MAKE MY NOSE ITCH IF YOU WANTED TO. GO ON - TRY HARDER GIRL.

Caption:

PRETEND I'M THE BOGEYMAN!

Panel 5

Skinny's head explodes, throwing brain-goo all over the room, and all over Amy.

Amy's eyes are now wide open and she sees the horrific injury she has caused the old man.

Amy:

AAAAAAAAARH

Page 5

Panel 1

Close-up of Amy. She is in a state of shock as she comes to terms with what has just happened. We can see the tracks of her tears on her cheeks as she gasps for air.

Amy:

OH MY GOD. OH MY GOD. I JUST MADE HIS HEAD EXPLODE.
OH MY GOD!

Panel 2

She puts her head in her hands as if about to sob.

Panel 3

A younger man, much more handsome than the other two and dressed in a sharply tailored suit complete with corsage, appears from thin air.

Amy looks up at him, startled.

Grey matter still drips down the grotty walls.

Young Man:

DON'T PANIC, AMY.

Young Man:

YOU'VE DONE WELL. YOU'VE PASSED OUR LITTLE TEST.

Amy:

A - A **TEST**?

Panel 4

The young man waves his hands like a stage magician.

Young Man:

YES... A TEST, AMY. THIS HAS **ALL** BEEN IN YOUR HEAD.

Panel 5

The young man turns to walk away, and as he does so the two thugs are suddenly standing again, both alive and well. They smile at Amy who is still seated.

Young Man:

WE CAN ASCERTAIN POWER LEVELS VERY EASILY YOU SEE, BUT WHAT IS FAR MORE **DIFFICULT** TO GAUGE IS WHAT SOMEONE WILL DO UNDER PRESSURE. THEIR TRUE **CHARACTER** YOU MIGHT SAY.

Young Man:

MOST BUCKLE.

Young Man:

WE LET THEM RUN OFF THINKING THEY'VE HAD A NARROW ESCAPE FROM SOME SECRET **CABAL**. THEY USUALLY LIVE THE REST OF THEIR LIVES TOO SCARED TO EVER USE THEIR ABILITIES AGAIN.

Panel 6

Close-up of the young man as he turns back towards Amy and smiles the smile of a salesman who is just finishing a well rehearsed pitch.

Caption:

**SO CONGRATULATIONS AMY - WELCOME TO THE PSYCHIC
COLLECTIVE!**

Page 6

Panel 1

Close-up on Amy, who isn't quite following all of this.

Amy:

HOLD ON A MINUTE... **WHAT** IF I DECIDE I DON'T WANT TO
JOIN YOUR PSYCHIC COLLECTIVE?

Amy:

WHATEVER THE **HELL** THAT IS...

Panel 2

Amy stands up from the chair. The young guy is obviously disconcerted by this unexpected reaction. Frank and Skinny shift about uneasily in the background, looking much less menacing than they did before.

Young Man:

UMMM – ER... SORRY?

Panel 3

Amy pokes the young man in the chest as she speaks.

Amy:

YOU'VE BROUGHT ME IN HERE **AGAINST** MY WILL,
TORTURED ME AND MADE ME THINK I BLEW UP AN OLD
GUY'S HEAD – AND NOW YOU THINK I'M GOING TO WANT
TO JOIN YOUR **SILLY** CLUB?

Panel 4

Amy walks off towards the door, leaving the three members of the 'Psychic Collective' stunned. Skinny tries to intervene but is lost for words.

(When Amy speaks she doesn't turn to face them).

Skinny:

BUT – AH – YOU SEE – WHAT IT IS...

Amy:

OH – AND **ONE** MORE THING

Panel 5

Amy closes her eyes in concentration, as she stands in the doorway, facing out towards the reader.

The heads of all three goons explode spectacularly in the room behind her, much like Skinny's did before - but this time it's not imaginary.

Caption:

I DON'T

Caption:

DO

Caption:

TESTS!

FIN