

**THE EPIC JOURNEY**

1x01 - *The Pilot Part I*

By  
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TEASER

EXT. FENCHURCH UNIVERSITY - MIDDAY

*Right Here, Right Now* from Fatboy Slim slowly kicks in as young men and women walk past corridors via a wall made of glass.

PAN AROUND slowly, revealing to be high up looking down on FENCHURCH UNIVERSITY COURTYARD, packed to the brim with many different University Students of shapes, sizes, race and age.

Four buildings surround the courtyard, each different in design.

Descend slowly, the music building up and focus on the centre of the courtyard - where several dancers are standing still - waiting their time.

Four slim athletic women in similar costumes sit behind a thin man - ready to strike.

And KICK in - they begin to dance, the lead man performing ever increasing speeds of music to the music.

Walking past is a young 18 year old male with wavy blonde hair speaking into a mobile phone, with a wry smile on his face. This is NOLAN KEMP, and he turns to watch the dancer - but his concentration is on the phone call.

The dancer continues as Nolan continues his call - when someone BUMPS into him.

Nolan looks to see a long scruffy haired taller guy his age raises his hand in apology quickly - this is MAXWELL TEE, and he looks harassed as he walks through the crowds of people into the MAIN BUILDING in the lower right of the courtyard.

Back to Nolan, and he backs away, managing to not bump into anyone else as he stares at the upper right building of the courtyard.

It's the STUDENT UNION, indicated by the logo above it, and the camera lowers to see a black-haired girl around Nolan's height biting her lower lip and looking out the glass from inside...and she's on the phone. This is MELLONY CAREY-BROTH, and she's staring at Nolan.

She gives him a wave through the crowd - and he returns it.

The dancer continues to dance, then:

CUT TO:

INT. BRUCE UNIVERSITY IT BUILDING FIRST FLOOR - DAY

Practically hovering over the laser printer, wanting to go faster is a frustrated Indian man in his early-mid forties. This is VENKAT ALI, and with every second the annoying frustration within continues to build.

Walking past him is a round guy in his late fifties in a security guard's uniform leaning over a banister looking down onto the dancing in the courtyard.

This is KINGSLEY MITCHELL, and he watches the dance in the bewilderment that only those out of touch with modern music can muster.

Glancing to his left - he looks down to a room on the lower floor seeing a room full of other security guards watching the dancer. He LAUGHS to himself, shaking his head.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BUILDING ENTRANCE AREA - SAME TIME

Maxwell walks in, craftily dodging the crowds while looking upwards to see stairs heading up to the main lecture theatre. He glances at his watch and turns to his left to see:

A CANTEEN. Chock-a-block. Rammed with as many people in it as possible.

The thought of going in crosses his features - but he decides not to bother venturing in.

The camera moves into:

INT. CANTEEN - CONTINUOUS

It's less a canteen, and more an actual cafe. Bursting with students all nattering away about anything other than the work they're doing at the moment.

The one table though, is being disturbed by a harassed looking young man in jeans and a shirt; showing people a photo of someone; but no-one recognising whoever is on it. This is CLEVE VIELE.

He walks past the queue which contains a skinny lanky blonde 18-year-old, ASTON FALTON who's waiting to be served. He smiles briefly at the girl standing in front of him - but she blanks him off.

And behind the counter, two Dinnerladies are serving the students.

The one is a woman who looks close to retirement, and if her face is anything to go by - she hates her job. This is MAUDE WALSH.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDENT UNION - SAME TIME

Mellony waves to her boyfriend through the window and turns away to walk further into the building.

She heads down some stairs and walks into:

INT. UNIONISATION - CONTINUOUS

UNIONISATION is the University's Bar, and it's around a quarter full at the moment. Mellony scans her eyes around the place and finally finds who she is looking for, and rolls her eyes.

Her friend DIANE STEELEY is sat at the bar, trying to tell a slightly drunkern third year student in DAVE BOSELEY that she isn't interested. Mellony just smirks and walks up to the bar next to Diane and talks to the barmaid, LAVERNE KINNOCK - who seems to relish the chance to actually serve someone.

Mellony says her good-byes and hangs up, smiling.

CUT TO:

EXT. FENCHURCH UNIVERSITY - SAME TIME

Nolan hangs up and watches the dancer for a few moments. Walking past the dancer is a slightly dishevelled blonde young woman who seems to be in a rush (and carrying too many books in the process).

Not looking where she's going, she accidentally BUMPS into Nolan, and drops her books to his feet. This is DENI WISE

Laughing to himself, he helps her pick them up.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

1 - Nolan helping Deni pick up her books.

2 - Mellony butting in and telling Dave that Diane's not interested.

3 - Dave then DOWNING a glass of something strong.

4 - Maude looks out, watching the dance through the window.

5 - Kingsley standing on the top of the steps of the main IT building, looking at the courtyard area. Aston waits nearly being served by her.

6 - Venkat getting frustrated and nearly HITTING the printer, but shows some restraint. (Only some, though.)

7 - Cleve looks lost, shaking his head as a University Security Guard walks up to him, frowning.

8 - And on the third floor of the main building, Maxwell gets out of the lift - and watches the dancer for a few moments.

9 - The song reaches it's climax - and the dancer FREEZES at the end of the song.

10 - Then the sky above him CRACKLES with orange lightning.

CUT TO:

EXT. FENCHURCH UNIVERSITY - SAME TIME

The crowd jump slightly, seeing the lightning just, and BURST INTO A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

However, the Dance looks upward - very confused. The thought passes extremely quickly though, and takes a bow -

- before ANOTHER strike suddenly STRIKES HIM!

This one doesn't stop however, coming from unknown origin from the sky, it SURGES through him as his body SHAKES in different directions!

Then the sky CRACKS open!

Unseen forces and lightning fly in RANDOM directions! A sudden WAVE of energy BLASTS towards the Science building - taking a CHUNK out of the side!

Total chaos. Energy SHOOTS from the ground, building up to a spherical SHOCKWAVE that flies everywhere!

Nolan and Deni suddenly FLY backwards, landing hard on some people then cut to:

INT. MAIN BUILDING THIRD FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Maxwell suddenly JUMPS back - glass FLIES behind him and CARRIES him across into an empty exhibition hall!

The walls CRACK through the force and he SLIDES across the ground! He manages to stop as he notices the wall starting to give way; and his only reaction is eyes starting to widen in fear -

- before the floor COLLAPSES, tilts over and sends him hurling down into the second floor! Then CUT TO:

INT. UNIONISATION - SAME TIME

It looks like an massive EARTHQUAKE. The supports crack - and debris SMASHES in front of the exit.

Mellony GRABS Diane, dragging her one way - but brick and mortar get in the way. She pulls her back, slamming into a drunk Dave who falls to the ground.

Several other Union-goers in front of the girls try to get out, but are suddenly CRUSHED by debris! Mellony suddenly freezes for the moment, but is SNAPPED out of it as Laverne grabs the both of them OVER the bar and hiding underneath it!

That's when the lights GO OUT.

CUT TO:

INT. CANTEEN - SAME TIME

Amounts of glass flying everywhere.

Cleve hides behind an upturned table, seeing the dead body of the security guard next to him.

Elsewhere, Aston narrowly avoids being crushed to death by some falling ceiling - and Maude manages to scramble ahead.

Aston gets forward -

- to see the whole roof COLLAPSE onto the serving area - crushing the girl that blanked him - and even Maude.

He stops and watches for a few moments - then TRIPS up over a body lying down!

CUT TO:

INT. IT BUILDING - SAME TIME

Kingsley RUNS, seeing computer screens EXPLODING and people crying over dead friends while others lie dying.

He walks past a seemingly traumatised but unharmed Venkat who's shivering like CRAZY in fear. Kingsley takes a deep breath and goes back to the stairs, glancing to the security guard room -

- and it's CRUSHED, seeing bodies of at least two of his colleagues dead.

He stumbles back, managing to keep himself from falling down the stairs. He looks forwards to see Nolan and Deni LEAP into the building - missing the rain shelter at the front of the building by milliseconds! Then PAN TO:

EXT. FENCHURCH UNIVERSITY - SAME TIME

Above the dancer - a darker orange sphere appears above him. A crack in the blue sky increases, showcasing a darker orange landscape.

Suddenly small spheres of white light come SHOOTING out of the crack and FLY in other directions.

A SERIES OF SHOTS:

1 - Nolan and Deni get up - but are suddenly HIT in the back by the white spheres! Knocking them on the floor.

2 - Kingsley runs down the stairs - is HIT by another floating white light and sends him BACK up the stairs, passing one HITTING Venkat so hard, it knocks him unconscious.

3 - A blast of white light goes THROUGH the table guarding Cleve, and sends him crashing onto broken tables and chairs.

4 - One sphere goes into the rubble by Aston - and another knocks him right in the chest!

5 - Maxwell is CLINGING onto the remains of the third floor for DEAR LIFE, but is THRUST downwards after a sphere hits him in the face!

6 - Another sphere plunges itself into the chest of Dave, while three strike Mellony, Laverne and Diane - still hiding and fearing the worst. END series and CUT TO:

EXT. FENCHURCH UNIVERSITY - SAME TIME

There's only a few people left alive outside now - or are badly injured. The dark orange sphere PULSATES -

- then RELEASES! Blasting through all the buildings in the area of the University! It strikes those still alive - ripping the life out of them instantly.

Crowds and crowds of people die upon contact...almost cleansing the area of life.

The sphere dies. And all that's left is an eerie silence as the lifeless body of the Dancer collapses onto the ground.

Above him, the orange crack in the sky emits a dull windy, onimous leak of darkness.

BLACK OUT.

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

INT. IT BUILDING ENTRANCE AREA - MINUTES LATER

Dust and rubble are slowly beginning to settle. Lifeless bodies fill everywhere undisturbed.

Until a loud COUGHING sound is heard from somewhere. A slight trace of movement.

CLOSE UP ON: A hand, moving slightly as dust and rubble are now disturbed. Fingers twitch as the hand pushes down on the ground to lift up NOLAN; who's now in a coughing fit.

It dies down quickly as he surveys his surroundings - squinting and shaking dust off himself. His mind trying to process everything -

- he turns sharply, grabbing his mobile and quickly pushing a button on speed-dial.

NOLAN

(frantic)

Come on, come on, come on, come on, come on...

(phone to ear)

Pick up, pick up. Please Mel, just pick up. Please be okay. Please be -

PHONE (O.S.)

(beep)

The number you have dialled cannot be reached at the moment.

He looks at the phone. Hangs up. Shakes it and tries again.

The same thing happens again. He looks at the screen - no signal. This triggers a strange near hypoventilating breathing as he struggles to get to his feet.

NOLAN

Uh...hello? HELLO?

He looks to the traces of light from outside - the sky is an alien orange glow.

NOLAN (CONT'D)

(shaking head)

What the hell?

He frantically looks around again.

NOLAN (CONT'D)

(calling out)

HELLO? HELLO? Is there anyone there?

A few steps backwards, and notices a dead body, and has to fight the urge to vomit.

NOLAN (CONT'D)  
What the...

He TURNS sharply, thinking he's heard something when he spots movement - someone's still alive!

NOLAN (CONT'D)  
Hello?

He moves towards them, quickly.

NOLAN (CONT'D)  
Are you okay?

The figure (female) slowly pushes herself upwards, seeing Nolan - it's DENI.

DENI  
W-what happened?

She notices that there's a dead body towards her, and she FLINCHES. Scrabbling to her feet as quickly as possible and backing away.

DENI (CONT'D)  
H-he's dead!

She looks around, noticing all the bodies - and having the exact impulse as Nolan to throw up.

DENI (CONT'D)  
Everyone's...

NOLAN  
I know.

DENI  
(shakes head slowly)  
How did -

A HIGH SCREAM comes from above them! They turn and quickly head up the stairs to:

INT. IT BUILDING OPEN FIRST FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

And STOP when they witness Venkat holding a piece of metal towards a shaken Kingsley - who's holding his arms out trying to calm Venkat down.

VENKAT  
Getaway from me!

KINGSLEY  
Look sir, please calm down.

All this achieves is a more tense stance from Venkat, and a tighter grip on the piece of metal in his hand.

VENKAT

J-just keep the hell away from me!

KINGSLEY

Look, we're all caught in the same situation here - and technically it's still my job to ensure the safety and peace of the University. So let me tell you sir, that I'm not going to keep the hell away from you until you lower that weapon.

And it's this time that he notices Nolan and Deni watching the scene from beside the stairs.

Venkat follows his gaze - and JUMPS in fright.

Without thinking, Nolan leaps over a broken computer desk to stand in front of Venkat. Nolan extends his arms in a calming many, remaining his composure.

NOLAN

Look, Mr -

VENKAT

A-Ali. Mr. Ali.

NOLAN

Okay, Mr. Ali. Do you have a first name that I can call you by?

VENKAT

(meekly)  
Venkat.

NOLAN

That's a nice name, Venkat. But I gotta make this quick: put down the metal bar, please. Let the security guard...

KINGSLEY

Kingsley.

NOLAN

(nods)  
Kingsley, take the bar and we can go and can work together find out what happened and how to get out of here, okay?

Venkat shakes his head - looking upset.

VENKAT

This is all perfect, just perfect. I spend more time here than I should, you know that? Working on a Computer Science project that I'm mentally incapable of doing, finding that the machine that gives you credits to print won't accept any of my pound coins and the PRINTERS TAKE FOREVER TO PRINT -

He SWINGS the metal bar - STRIKING the printer that he was waiting for with a loud SCREAM before dropping the metal bar.

VENKAT (CONT'D)

(beat; quietly)  
I hate this place.

Kingsley quickly runs towards the bar and THROWS it away, cautiously keeping an eye on Venkat in case he does anything else.

NOLAN

Are you okay now?

Venkat just nods quietly.

Deni slowly walks to the side of Nolan, while Kingsley gets inbetween Nolan and Venkat. He stops and suddenly notices that he has a cut on his head.

KINGSLEY

Is everyone okay?

NOLAN

Strangely without a scratch.  
(to Deni)  
You?

DENI

Yeah, I-I'm fine.  
(beat)  
And uh, thanks for the saving my life back there. I might have to thank you too many times.

She laughs nervously and weakly, despite the situation.

VENKAT

Are we the only survivors?

KINGSLEY

I-I don't know, maybe. I need to  
have a look around to see if  
anyone is...

He seems strangely distant and zones out for a few moments,  
not before snapping out of it. Deni turns and walks up some  
more steps, trying to look over the rubble of the front  
entrance.

KINGSLEY (CONT'D)

And finding out a way out of here  
and into the town.

Stay fixed on Deni, trying to look - but all there is, is a  
strange orange glow from the sky.

NOLAN (O.S.)

Does anyone have a working phone?  
Can anyone get a signal?

KINGSLEY (O.S.)

There's no signal on mine.

VENKAT (O.S.)

My phone broke.

NOLAN (O.S.)

Crap! I need to know if my  
girlfriend's okay!

KINGSLEY (O.S.)

We need to see if there's any  
more survivors in this building  
first.

Deni's eyes narrow.

DENI

Err...excuse me?

She turns, getting the attention of the other three.

DENI (CONT'D)

Does anyone know what we actually  
survived?

No-one answers.

CUT TO:

INT. UNIONISATION - SAME TIME

Emergency lights begin to FLICKER, showcasing several  
unlucky people that didn't make it.

Behind the bar, the shell-shocked expressions of Mellony, Laverne and Diane creep their heads from above the bar, trying to figure out what happened.

A beat. Laverne manages to get around, looking around at the place, noticing the body of one of the bartenders.

LAVERNE

Max?

She shakes him. No response. She rolls him over, trying to get a pulse - but nothing. She then notices the wide open glassy stare.

This shocks her, and she turns back, noticing a lot of people in the same way.

LAVERNE (CONT'D)

What happened?

Diane looks around, trying to figure it out as well.

DIANE

I-I don't know, but we can't get out. The main exit is blocked.

Behind them, Mellony is trying to ring out on her phone - to frustrating consequence.

MELLONY

I can't get through to Nolan's mobile - it keeps saying there's no signal and that it can't be reached, but-but it's just a minute away! What the hell is going on?

DIANE

It's an earthquake.

(breathes)

Definitely an Earthquake. And Nolan will be fine 'cause he's someone who can take care of himself. He'll be fine, don't worry. He'll be fine...

(convincing herself;  
beat)

Fenchurch never has any Earthquakes! What was that?

LAVERNE

Shut up! Let me think!

She glances around as Mellony makes her way around.

MELLONY

What about fire exits?

Poor Laverne's mind is around fifteen different things at this present moment in time.

She runs around -

- There's rubble blocking the fire exit.

LAVERNE

They're screwed.

She glances around trying to think, when Mellony suddenly begins to CLICK HER FINGERS, an idea clicking through her head.

MELLONY

My cousin used to work in a bar -  
can't we climb out the cellar  
where they have the beer barrels  
go down?

LAVERNE

We won't be able to climb that -  
and it's padlocked.

MELLONY

Who has the key?

LAVERNE

Someone who isn't here.

A cry in frustration from Diane in the background.

DIANE

This is it. This is it...I'm  
going to die. I'm going to die  
and I'm going directly to hell  
because I'm a bad person.

Mellony runs up to her friend, bringing her in for a hug.

MELLONY

We'll get out of this, don't you -

But Diane MOVES out of her way, avoiding her.

DIANE

No, you don't get it. I'm a bad  
envious person and I need to  
admit something before I die.

(breathes)

I've got feelings for your  
boyfriend since you've gone out  
with him, I've been jealous of  
you two and have hated you and  
myself for it.

(MORE)

DIANE (CONT'D)

Now I'm going to die a depressed  
green-eyed cow who has horrible  
feeling toward her best friend.

Beat.

MELLONY

Oh, I've known that for months!

A long tense moment passes.

DIANE

WHAT?

LAVERNE

(walking in between  
them)

Will you two please calm down! Do  
you really think that this is the  
time to discuss unimportant  
things like this? We need to find  
a way out. And now!

Laverne walks out, walking towards the front door way  
rubble, trying to see if there's a way out. As she starts  
to move a few pieces away, Mellony walks towards her while  
Diane steps over Dave's body and lies against the bar.

Mellony picks up a piece, then throws it to the side.

MELLONY

(whispering)

Look, sorry about that - but it  
got her to not panic about dying  
for at least one second.

Then an off-screen from Diane suddenly RINGS out.

Mellony and Laverne turn to see -

- DAVE begin to stir and open his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. CANTEEN - SAME TIME

Aston SHOTS up into frame, breathing sharply and looking  
incredibly pale. He glances around again as the reality of  
what's happened suddenly hits him.

He checks himself for injuries, then looks around - seeing  
the carnage in front of him.

THEN he notices the orange glow from beyond the rubble  
covering what's left of the windows.

He gets to his feet, beginning to move around and slowly walking towards the pile of rubble to see where the glow is coming from

WHEN

He JUMPS as he notices CLEVE slowly begin to move.

ASTON  
Are you okay sir?

Aston offers a hand to pull him up - but Cleve SHRUGS him off instantly, dusting off his T-Shirt and getting to his feet.

CLEVE  
(hassled)  
I'm fine - thanks.

The enjoyable banter is broken when Cleve checks his pockets for something that he's not finding and switches to panic.

CLEVE (CONT'D)  
Crap, where is it?

He starts to check the floor, sweeping his hands against dust and debris looking for whatever it is.

CLEVE (CONT'D)  
I must've dropped it  
when...whatever the hell that was  
happened. Crap. Crap. CRAP!

Then he STOPS suddenly. Looking toward the body of the security guard that was approaching him.

ASTON  
What are you looking for? If I  
may ask, that is...

Growing frustrated by the milestone, Cleve scratches his head and slowly PUSHES the body of the security guard, trying to look underneath him. Obviously it's something that Cleve is uncomfortable doing.

CLEVE  
A photo. Err...it's a-um, a photo  
of someone I've been looking for.

ASTON  
Who?

Cleve FINDS it, breathing a huge sigh of relief - turning to Aston and showing it to him.

CLEVE  
Do you recognise -

ASTON  
Ooh, she works at the Union Bar,  
a barmaid.

ANGLE ON THE PICTURE: It's of a young man with his arm  
around an instantly recognisable Laverne.

CLEVE  
(slightly excited)  
Where is this Uni Bar?

ASTON  
You're not a student?

CLEVE  
Do I look like one? Just where's  
this bar then?

ASTON  
It's through the Union building -  
but it's underground and judging  
by the Earthquake I seriously  
doubt there's any way in there.

Cleve stares at the photo.

CLEVE  
Still going to try and find her.

ASTON  
(panicky)  
Look! We are the only survivors  
so far of...

Trailing off, he turns around - noticing strange flashes  
and cracks in the sky from the orange glow.

Slowly, the two of them begin to walk towards the rubble,  
starting to climb it, when -

- MOVEMENT. They both turn to see a hand starting to brush  
things away. Cleve and Aston run over and start to move  
some of the rubble to reveal the top half of MAUDE.

Her lower body and left arm are trapped underneath heavier  
pieces of ceiling.

ASTON (CONT'D)  
Ma'am - are you okay?

CLEVE  
Ma'am?

Aston pays no attention and tries to talk to Maude.

MAUDE  
How...how?

ASTON  
Shh...can you tell me your name?

MAUDE  
M-Maude. I just s-serve food to students...

Aston nods.

ASTON  
I know, I know.  
(glances down)  
Can you feel your arm or your legs?

Maude looks down, and her face suddenly TWITCHES.

MAUDE  
I can.

ASTON  
Okay, you've still got feeling down there then...

CLEVE  
Do you know what you're doing?

ASTON  
I-I'm not sure, we haven't covered this fully yet.

CLEVE  
You're learning to be Doctor?

ASTON  
(sombre beat)  
I guess I'll have to say that I was now...

A sudden loud ROARING sound comes from behind them! They both turn to the rubble blocking the view outside.

ASTON (CONT'D)  
What was that?

CUT TO:

INT. IT BUILDING FIRST FLOOR STAIRWELL - SAME TIME

Deni, Venkat and Nolan sit by a staircase situated at the back of the building, waiting for someone.

DENI

I was going to finish my assignment that was due later today.

VENKAT

Maybe we can fill out the Deadline Extension for because of mitigating circumstances.

He suddenly laughs a little to himself, which is joined in by a small burst of giggling from Nolan and Deni.

It doesn't last long though however, as the reality of the situation hits again, when Kingsley bursts into the stairwell.

KINGSLEY

(downbeat)

I couldn't find any other survivors.

And that depressing sinks in before:

KINGSLEY (CONT'D)

But what I think we should do is get through the other buildings and see if anyone's survived them.

NOLAN

Including the Union?

KINGSLEY

(nods)

We can cut through the Main building, the Union and then the Science Building - keeping an eye out for ways out of here.

VENKAT

Why don't we just walk out through there?

He points towards the courtyard area.

KINGSLEY

Because whatever that thing is still there, and more things could come out like those white...ghost things.

DENI

Ghosts?

KINGSLEY

They're what forced you to the  
ground when you were running in!  
One hit me and sent upwards...

VENKAT

(remembering)

...And one hit me.

This doesn't appear to really improve Venkat's mood,  
however.

KINGSLEY

And I don't want to be around to  
see whatever the hell  
that...thing spits out next?

And there's a gloomy shared look between the two of them.

CUT TO:

INT. CANTEEN - SAME TIME

Aston and Cleve clamber up and get a view of the outside.

ANGLE ON THEIR FACES.

They notice something LEAP across them at height - and all  
that's evident is a shadow that flies across them.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BUILDING SECOND FLOOR - SAME TIME

And something LANDING somewhere forces MAXWELL awake! He  
looks up, noticing he was lying face down on what's left of  
the floor above.

He tries to get his bearings -

- and a ROAR emits from NEARBY.

HE SHOOTS UPWARD, beginning to worry.

MAXWELL

(gulp)

Oh balls...

And on that:

BLACK OUT.

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**