

NOT THE END

By

Chris Mitchell

Several cars have been parked in a haphazard line on the beach. A large, makeshift banner proclaims: "End Of The World Party!!!" Faint chatter and pop-punk music can be heard. A crowd of TEENAGERS are spread across the beach, drinking and laughing. Some are gathered around a small bonfire in the sand. Others are perched on car roofs.

A teenage girl - DANI (18) introvert, unsociable - approaches across the beach and hovers uncertainly on the periphery of the party. Her mobile starts to ring - "Mum Calling". She hesitates, thumb hovering over the keypad.

Another girl sees her and slips down off the car roof - SAM (19), extrovert, punk. Her friends glower in Dani's direction as Sam hurries to greet her.

SAM

(Hugging Dani)

You made it!

(Breaks the hug)

How were your folks? They freak out?

DANI

Don't know. I haven't been home.

SAM

(Uncertainly)

Oh. You okay?

DANI

No. I don't know. Are any of us?

SAM

I'm doing pretty good. Take more than the apocalypse to bring me down. Come and get a drink with me. Gotta live life 'til we die, right?

Dani follows Sam over to a cooler and grabs a beer. Sam's friends move away as Sam and Dani climb onto the car.

SAM (cont'd)

Fuck them I say. Fuck everybody else.

They sit and watch the party play out around them. The music swells until it's all we can hear. Dani watches the teens drinking and laughing, leaping over the bonfire. Sam gets pulled into the fray. She sways on the spot with the music, drinking her beer. Dani watches from the sidelines, amused.

(CONTINUED)

Sam turns and beckons her into the centre. Dani shakes her head, grinning. Sam laughs and takes her hand, pulling her into the dance circle.

Dani and Sam sway with the music, losing themselves in the throng, drifting apart and back together again. As the music slows, their eyes meet through the crowd. Something passes between them, a sort of sad understanding.

Sam turns and makes her way away across the beach, towards a path that leads up to a cliff. Dani follows her.

2

EXT. CLIFFTOP - DAY

2

Dani treads carefully up the cliff path after Sam. She stumbles as a sudden, long tremor shakes the ground. Some distant whooping and cheering comes from down on the beach. Dani continues on upwards, faster now. Her phone rings once again - "Mum Calling". She rejects the call.

Sam stands alone by the cliff edge, looking out over the beach party. Dani joins her hesitantly.

SAM

Should have a countdown or something. Like New Year's.

(Sighs)

Nineteen years of bullshit and now this.

She takes a sip from her beer. Hesitates.

SAM

It's not too late if you wanna go.

DANI

No, I'll stay. Better view.

SAM

... Kinda feels like we were just getting started.

DANI

It's not over. Not yet.

Her hand slips into Sam's as they gaze towards the horizon.

SAM

Looks just like a sunrise, doesn't it?

They hold hands and stare out from the cliff as a bright white light blossoms across the ocean.