

INTO THE RED SKY

by

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EXT. BEACH, BRIGHTON - DAY

ANNA (30) stares at the sea. Wind in her hair. Seagulls cry. She looks up and down the empty promenade. An OLD MAN limps into view, cane clacking. Stops. Looks her over. Anna smiles.

ANNA
You'd think it was just another
typical English summer, eh?

The Old Man looks up at the clouds. Holds his cap on his head against the wind. Scowls at Anna. Clearly offended. Walks on.

ANNA (cont'd)
Wait, I didn't mean--

He's gone. Anna sighs. Watches him limp away.

EXT. HIGH STREET - BRIGHTON - DAY

Anna stalks past quiet shops, taking in those around her. A BOY cries as he waits for a bus with his MOTHER, who comforts him, tries to hide her tears.

A SHOP ASSISTANT stands in a window, tears streaming. A pub's open door reveals BAR DRINKERS all sitting silent, forlorn.

Anna huffs frustratedly. Stops in the middle of the street. She looks up, takes a deep breath. EXHALES HARD into the sky. A SAD-LOOKING COUPLE walks past, staring at Anna. A SHOP OWNER sweeps his doorstep. Anna feels his cynical gaze.

ANNA
Trying to change its course. Maybe
we can stop it.

She blows into the sky again. He's nonplussed.

SHOP OWNER
Stop it? You're loop-the-loop.

ANNA
Why are you sweeping?

He scoffs. Goes back to sweeping. From the next store, the still tearful Shop Assistant approaches Anna. Follows her gaze up into the sky. Anna keeps blowing.

ANNA (cont'd)
Give me a hand?
(off the Shop Assistant's look)
If we all try... maybe there's
still a chance for us.

The Shop Assistant notices a few people watching.

SHOP ASSISTANT

Who?

ANNA

All of us.

The Shop Assistant looks around; goes to speak, stops. Turns her head up, sheepishly blows into the sky. Anna smiles.

ANNA (cont'd)

I'm Anna.

The Shop Assistant looks at her, surprised.

SHOP ASSISTANT

Kayla.

They both keep blowing. The Shop Owner appears at their side. Starts blowing up at the sky with them. Offers Kayla a hand to shake. Sheepish.

SHOP OWNER

Terry. Next door.

They shake hands. Keep blowing up at the sky.

Now there's five of them. Now ten; twenty. All blowing up at the sky. A police car arrives. Two OFFICERS get out.

POLICE OFFICER 1

What's, er... what are you doing?

Anna explains. The Police Officers look up. A car honks as it passes. Anna and some others wave. Anna smiles at the Police Officers joining in. Blowing emphatically into the sky.

TWO KIDS stop, playing music on a portable speaker. The Police Officers look them over, turn back to the sky and keep blowing. The music is turned up. Everyone blows incessantly at the sky. Introducing themselves to one another.

As dusk falls, Terry goes into his shop, angles the display lights onto the street. The crowd grows. Cars park, lights on. Food is shared. The sun sinks, an orange glow spreads.

SHOP ASSISTANT (KAYLA)

What's that? Is it... working?

ANNA

Keep going. Don't stop!

Anna and Kayla exchange a smile. They all keep blowing. People drink, chat, eat; move to the music as they blow.

Anna looks around; smiles at all these strangers sharing in a special moment. Blows into the sky as it turns red above her.

FADE TO BLACK.