



THE SEA  
BY  
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Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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**THE SEA**

**PRE-SHOW**

**'PLASTIC', 'MAN ON THE MOON' AND 'DWELL IN THE DARK (MOSES SUMNEY) PLAY (ON LOOP)**

**HOUSE LIGHTS UP**

**ACT ONE**

**SCENE ONE**

**HOUSE LIGHTS DOWN. NO LIGHTS ONSTAGE**

**PEACEFUL, EARLY MORNING FOOTAGE OF STRATFORD, WALTHAMSTOW, TOTTENHAM**

**'EVERLASTING SIGH' (MOSES SUMNEY) PLAYS FOR DURATION OF CLIPS**

## **SCENE TWO**

### **STAGE LIGHTS FADE UP AS 'A' ENTERS**

A- I went to the theatre. To watch a play. I do this quite a lot. The plays are sometimes quite good. But mostly I don't like them. I like plays in general. Just not a lot of them.

I go to lots of different types of plays. Some are about love and death and gender and happiness and politics. It sounds like I don't like theatre, but it's not like that. I do like theatre. I like plays in general. I like being in the theatre. When a play is on, that is. If I went to the theatre when there weren't plays on, that would be odd. So I like going to plays, being in the theatre. (FACE UPSTAGE) It's exciting to be so close to the drama and action. I feel you don't get that in film because people are a long way away. In the theatre, the actors are right in front of you. And you can see and feel what they are thinking right in front of you. I know it's not real, because it's a play. But it still feels real.

### **LIGHTS FADE DOWN**

### **0-0.22 OF 'LONELY WORLD (M SUMNEY) PLAYS- QUICK FADE**

### **LIGHTS FADE UP AS SOON AS THE MUSIC ENDS**

Sometimes I don't go to the theatre, so I go for a walk in the evening. I don't think it's very English. Apparently in Spain it's common after supper to just go for a walk in the middle of your village or town. I didn't know that before. We don't do that. Most people watch TV here. I don't watch TV. I don't have a TV. I never bought one. So I just walk. Sometimes near where I live. Sometimes far away. Sometimes I walk for an hour. Sometimes for two. Sometimes not very long at all. I don't really get tired either way. I don't have a lot of things to do, so walking is a good thing to do.

I don't see many people. I mean there are people but I don't know them so I don't talk to them. That's the rules. Don't talk to strangers. Watch It. I don't really talk to anyone when I'm out walking. I don't talk much in general.

I don't talk a lot because I don't like the pre-conversation you have to go through when you haven't met before. With people you've met before, conversation happens quickly. But with people you haven't met, it's boring when you have to chat about stuff you both agree about and no-one cares about. I sometimes can't be bothered. Normally I can't be bothered. Conversations are hard work when you aren't talking about something you care about. I don't have the energy for it. I feel like sentences are like slot machines; sometimes you get the right combination of words, if you try. But sometimes, you don't. You really have to try. It's a lottery, a slot machine, to get the right words. And after a while, you keep getting the words in the wrong order, so you give up. That's like a slot machine.

Like-

### **LIGHTS SNAP DOWN**

**B'S VOICE PLAYS OVER SPEAKERS-** 'Hello, how are you? My name's Jess. I really do like your scarf! Where did you get it from? O, that's wonderful. I like the colours. Mind you, you need a scarf in weather like this!'

### **LIGHTS SNAP UP**

A- I don't like that. I don't mean anything I say when we talk about things like that. So I don't do it. I don't talk to anyone when I'm walking. It feels like I don't see anyone either. I guess it's because

when you don't talk to anyone you feel like you didn't see anyone because don't remember interacting with anyone. So I walk alone.

**LIGHTS FADE DOWN.**

**0.31-0.39 OF 'LONELY WORLD (M SUMNEY) PLAYS AND FADES**

**LIGHTS FADE UP AFTER MUSIC ENDS**

### **SCENE THREE**

Sometimes I don't walk or talk to anyone and I just stay in my apartment. Then I don't know what to do, so often I do nothing. Which I think is fine. Often I am very tired. I find the walking tiring sometimes. Because I can't really be bothered to do anything apart from walk, so I get tired with how little I am doing. Then I go to sleep very quickly because there are no things on my mind. So I am calm and fall asleep very quickly.

I think sleep is a good solution because on the days when I just stay in my apartment, it's not that I don't want to do anything. There's so much I want to do and I think that's the problem. There's too much to do and so much to get done but so much to do so I can't do any of it. I try to do one thing but realise either it's not what I thought it was going to be or I realise there's something else I should really be doing so I don't do that and then I keep going with the same process of wanting to do something. So. Going to sleep is a good solution because it means that I don't get stressed about wanting to do stuff.

### **LIGHTS FADE DOWN**

#### **0.53-1.20 OF 'LONELY WORLD (M SUMNEY) PLAYS AND FADES**

#### **LIGHTS SNAP FADE UP AS SOON AS THE MUSIC ENDS**

And then I wake up in the morning and I am still a little bit sleepy and I look at my schedule. Sometimes it's free and I have nothing that I have to do for that day. And I think about what I should do with myself for that day. With all that free day. And I think. Well. What do other people do with their free days. Their days. Then I realise I don't know because I am not other people. So I stop thinking about that. Then I think about the time from when I wake up until when I get back into bed again. And when I'm half asleep and I think that being in bed when it's cold outside my bed and being warm is good. So I think about getting out of bed and spending my day walking around would just be like a filler until I get back into bed. So I think maybe I should just stay in bed. I've got nothing else I need to do. And it seems that being in bed is better than being out of it.

So that's what I do. I stay in bed. All day. I sleep for a lot of it. Sometimes all of it. So then when it gets to night time again, sometimes I sleep on through that as well. Sometime I lie awake, doing nothing. Sometimes I lie awake, staring at my computer. I watch a mixture of videos. I watch political videos, like interviews and reports and covered up atrocities. Sometimes I watch videos of other people fucking each other. Sometimes I watch whatever the internet tells me to watch. I don't have strong preferences.

### **LIGHTS SNAP DOWN**

#### **1.27-1.50 OF 'LONELY WORLD' (M SUMNEY) PLAYS AND FADES**

## **SCENE FOUR**

### **FILM OF ARSENAL STADIUM**

#### **LIGHTS SNAP UP AS SOON AS CLIP ENDS**

The other day I went for a walk and ended up in a main square somewhere. I didn't recognize it. But I didn't feel lost either. I just wasn't sure exactly where I was. I looked around for some indication of where I was, but couldn't see anything particular.

Then I saw a woman with brown curly hair and a blue coat running. She looked very excited. I looked around to see if something had happened. Then when I turned back, she was right there in my face. She threw her arms around and gave me a hug. She shouted my name. I said nothing. When she stopped hugging me, she stood back and looked at me. She said my name again. Loudly. She talked about how it was a long time since we'd seen each other and asked how I was. She asked about my sister and what she was doing. She told me that I'd lost weight. She told me she liked my shoes. She told me to come over and talk to her friends. Her friends were all sitting at a table in a café, chatting to each other. Loudly. I'd never met her friends before.

I sat and the woman introduced me to all her friends. They all said hello and told me they'd heard of me before, through her. One of them said he liked my scarf. I agreed that it was cold. I sat there and answered all their questions. They spoke about their interests and the coffee, which they said was good. I bought some and tasted it. The woman told me about herself and I listened. She told me she had had a career change and that had had a big impact on her life. I spoke to them all for a while and then I left.

I did not know who the woman was but enjoyed the café.

#### **LIGHTS SNAP DOWN**

#### **0-0.17 OF 'BUZZIN FLY' (TIM BUCKLEY) PLAYS AND FADES**

## **SCENE FIVE**

### **FILM OF SHOWER PLAYS DURING SCENE**

### **LIGHTS SNAP UP AS SOON AS CLIP ENDS**

I went home and cleaned. I often feel good when things are clean, but sometimes it becomes very dirty and when it's dirty, I sometimes accept the dirt as part of how things are.

Similarly, when I spend days in bed, I don't get up to wash but I don't think that means I am dirty because I haven't got dirty from anything. So how can I be in need of washing?

Once I didn't wash for so long, my teeth got a thick layer of grime on them and I couldn't wash it off when I tried to. I had to scratch it off with my nail.

### **LIGHTS FADE DOWN**

## **SCENE SIX**

### **FILM OF ARSENAL STADIUM**

#### **LIGHTS FADE UP AS SOON AS CLIP ENDS**

Sometimes I go to football matches and watch the game. I don't really like football; I don't dislike it, I just don't like it enough either. It's like films. There's nothing wrong films, but I just like plays more. So I don't dislike football. But I just don't like it either. I am in the greyzone.

I go to football matches because there are lots of people there and so I think to myself that if all the people are going to a football match and all of them like it, then surely I can too. That's what people are doing, what people do, so I should as well. It's like fashion.

#### **0-0.28 OF 'I NEVER ASKED TO BE YOUR MOUNTAIN' (TIM BUCKLEY) PLAYS**

#### **LIGHTS FADE UP AS THE MUSIC ENDS**

## **SCENE SEVEN**

Sometimes I never get dressed. Getting dressed feels final and certain. It feels like I know what I'm doing when I get dressed. And I don't like that. Getting dressed is so decided and definite and sometimes I don't feel like it.

### **LIGHTS SNAP DOWN AND UP**

But obviously, I get dressed when I go to the football. You have to. You're going to football. And so is everyone. Everyone! So it's easy to get dressed for that because everyone's getting dressed for that. You don't need to think about it because everyone else is doing the same. All the people. Everyone. So many people. Thousands of people. Did you know that Wembley Stadium can hold 90,000 people? 90,000! That's a lot of people. And they all have separate lives and then they are all the same when they join together and we all do the same thing. It's like church.

### **LIGHTS FADE DOWN**

**1.40-1.56 OF 'LADY MIDNIGHT' (LEONARD COHEN) PLAYS AND FADES**

**LIGHTS FADE UP AS SOON AS THE MUSIC ENDS**