

**INTERCONNECTED**

'Kayla'

Written by

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## **SC1 WEBCAM VIEWS**

[AS EACH CHARACTER ENTERS THEY APPEAR ON THEIR OWN PORTION OF THE SCREEN. THERE'S AN OFF-SCREEN CHAT WINDOW WHICH MOST OF THE REST OF THE VILLAGE IS USING TO COMMUNICATE, AND OUR CHARACTERS LOOK AT FROM TIME TO TIME]

[AS WE OPEN, NAMITA AND BETTY ARE ONLINE, NORMAN AND JOE ARE NOT]

### **NAMITA:**

[MODERATOR OF THE GROUP. BRITISH ASIAN, MIDDLE-AGED, MOTHER TO A TEEN BOY]

Just a little more housekeeping to take care of guys, don't forget the lecture this evening on the increases in animal populations in the region. We've got someone from the local wildlife trust to give us a presentation at 8pm, so I'd like to see as many of us there as possible. (GLANCES DOWN OFF-SCREEN TO AN UNSEEN CHAT FEED). Yes, Darren, there will be a Q and A afterwards, but I'm not sure he'll know much about your rat problem.

### **BETTY:**

[WHITE BRITISH OAP, CURTAIN TWITCHING GOSSIP OF THE GROUP]

Can I add something, Namita? (DOESN'T WAIT) I noticed the kids in the park are playing too close together again. Must we remind you all that they have to keep the six feet separation at all times? That Morgan boy in particular keeps tackling the others when they're playing football, and getting too close.

### **NAMITA:**

(RESIGNEDLY) Thank you Betty. It's in the F.A.Q. for the chat, as always.

### **BETTY:**

Yes, well it seems that some people just aren't reading that, so it doesn't hurt to repeat it. I know *your* boy does as he's told, though.

[JOE LOGS ON]

**JOE:**

[WHITE BRITISH THIRTY-SOMETHING, DEL-BOY WITHOUT THE CHARM]

Heads up quarantine-ees, just found out Bobby's got some more bin bags in. Grabbed a few already for myself of course, but you might want to get yourselves up there before they're all gone, eh?

**NAMITA:**

Thanks Joe, put something on the forum too, would you?

**BETTY:**

Oh good, it's about time. It's been three weeks since the last collection and my wheelie-bin's completely overflowing. I'll have to call Margaret and tell her. She's just been piling her rubbish up in the garden and it does keep blowing into mine.

**NAMITA:**

[LOOKS DOWN AT THE CHAT FEED]

Hang on a second. (PAUSES, READING) OK, we have a report of a missing child. Kayla Hughes, aged seven. (READING) Last seen leaving home to visit the shops at ten this morning, wearing blue jeans, green t-shirt and a green puffy jacket. She had a Jack Russell dog with her. (TO THE CAMERA) Anyone know the Hughes family?

**BETTY:**

Not very well, they live down the bottom of the village. Keep to themselves a lot.

**JOE:**

Everyone keeps to themselves a lot, love, it's the law.

**BETTY:**

I meant even before this.

**NAMITA:**

(REACTING TO THE CHAT FEED) OK, we've got someone volunteering to give them a call and check in, thanks Babs. Oh, and a lot of folks willing to go out and search for her, that's awesome guys, thank you.

**JOE:**

I've got some torches if people want? It'll be dark soon so you might need them.

**BETTY:**

At a good price, I bet.

**JOE:**

Well, I did have to buy them myself, I can't just go giving stuff away now can I?

**BETTY:**

A little girl's missing, and you're trying to make a profit?

[BETTY AND JOE START ARGUING,  
OVERLAPPING EACH OTHER]

**NAMITA:**

Don't make me mute you both, behave. Joe, will you lend the torches out if we need them later? Please?

[NORMAN SIGNS IN. HE LOOKS LIKE HE HAS  
SOMETHING TO SAY BUT WON'T INTERRUPT]

**JOE:**

(ABASHED) Alright, love. (QUOTING) "We all have to do our part."

**NAMITA:**

Thank you, Joe.

**NORMAN:**

[WHITE BRITISH MID TWENTIES CONSPIRACY  
THEORIST]

You heard about this kid gone missing? I figured it was only a matter of time.

**NAMITA:**

Yes, we were just discussing it...

**JOE:**

(TIRED OF NORMAN'S NONSENSE) What are you on about now, Norman?

**NORMAN:**

Well I've been hearing rumours for a while now...

**JOE:**

Of course you have.

**NORMAN:**

(IGNORES HIM) Rumours of a new research program, you know the vaccine's been taking longer than they promised, right?

**NAMITA:**

This again? We had that doctor on last month who explained all that. It keeps mutating like the common cold. A vaccine's always going to be one step behind.

**NORMAN:**

Yeah, but some people never seem to catch it, right? Naturally immune or something. We've had, what, three waves of it now, and I reckon we've all had it at least twice. Except for a few 'special individuals'.

**BETTY:**

You know now that you mention it, I think I have seen that Hughes girl, Kayla was it? out playing with her dog almost every day. If she'd been sick, I'm sure they'd have kept her indoors.

**NORMAN:**

That's what I'm saying, she's been nabbed for the experiments. Figure out why she's immune.

**NAMITA:**

That's enough, Norman. You know I don't like blocking people, but if you keep spreading fake news like that I'll have no choice.

**NORMAN:**

Go ahead Namita, half the group's got me muted already. The truth will still come out.

**BETTY:**

Are they really going to kidnap a little girl to find a cure?

**JOE:**

Of course not, love. This government couldn't even arrange the lockdown until it was too late, you think they're smart enough to pull this off?

**NAMITA:**

That's hardly helpful, Joe. (CHECKS CHAT FEED) What is helpful is that the search party's already gathering outside the old pub. If anyone wants to help out, head up there now, OK?

**BETTY:**

And keep six feet apart.

**NAMITA:**

(SIGHS) Yes, of course.

**JOE:**

I've got a megaphone here somewhere, I'll see if they need it.

[JOE SIGNS OFF]

**NORMAN:**

Well if it's not the government then who is it then?

**BETTY:**

It's usually a family member, isn't it? Probably the dad. I've seen him from time to time, he never says 'Good Morning' to me.

**NAMITA:**

That's hardly a sign of anything, we're all under a lot of stress at the moment.

**NORMAN:**

Or there's just some nutter out there, remember that kid in America? Got locked up in some guy's basement for decades before she got out?

**BETTY:**

Houses around here don't have basements, though.

**NORMAN:**

It's just an example, Betty. We can't rule anything out these days.

**NAMITA:**

Can we keep the speculation to a minimum please? The poor parents must be out of their minds.

**NORMAN:**

Unless they did it.

**BETTY:**

Oh no, I can't believe that.

**NORMAN:**

You just said it's normally a family member! Practically accused the dad!

**BETTY:**

Yes, but that sort of thing doesn't happen around here, does it? Not in a nice town like this one.

**NAMITA:**

Let's park this for now, it's not helping anyone. (CHECKS CHAT FEED) Does anyone have anything else to talk about? (SLIGHTLY STRAINED) Anything?

**BETTY:**

Does anyone know anything about the shortages? I wonder what we might run out of next.

**NAMITA:**

Not particularly, I'm afraid.

**NORMAN:**

I've heard a few things, but for my money the most reliable indicator is whatever Joe stockpiles, there's going to be plenty of! I hear he's still got a couple of dozen loo rolls in his shed!

[GENERAL LAUGHTER]

**NAMITA:**

Now, now. He's just trying to make sense of all of this in his own way.

**NORMAN:**

And a few quid.

**BETTY:**

The odd thing is, he stacks the shelves in the supermarket on Charles Street. If anyone knew what was in short supply you'd expect it to be him.

[JOE SIGNS IN]

**JOE:**

Good news, quarantine-ees! They found that girl already!

[GENERAL RELIEF AND JOY ALL AROUND]

Turns out her dog ran off and she got caught on some barbed wire trying to catch it. She's fine, a bit hungry and scared, but just a few scratches. I offered her mum a couple of sticking plasters but she wasn't keen for some reason.

**NAMITA:**

Oh that is good to hear, Joe, thank you! You see, Norman? Nothing sinister at all. Again.

**NORMAN:**

Yeah, well, maybe not this time.

**JOE:**

Oh, and Bobby's out of bin bags. Told you they wouldn't last long, eh?

**NAMITA:**

Well I don't know about the rest of you, but I could use a cuppa after all that.

**NAMITA (CONT'D):**

I'll sign off for a bit, but don't forget it's Kid's Story Time at six. Neil's promised to read us all a funny story about a man going shopping for milk. Now you lot all behave while I'm gone, OK?

**BETTY:**

I'll keep an eye on things for you, Namita.

[NAMITA SIGNS OFF]

I've got a couple of things I wanted to mention...

[EVERYONE ELSE SIGNS OFF]

I keep seeing food being thrown out when it's only just past the 'best before date'...

[FADE OUT]