

## **THE GAP**

IT'S BLACK. And silent.

Then we hear the feint sound of the snickety-snick of a TUBE TRAIN. It grows louder and closer...

Fade in

## **INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNEL**

Lights on the front of the train appear, and grow rapidly closer, as the sound crescendos.

The lights GLARE at us, and the train goes past loudly with a flicker of bright lights and a blur of people.  
And then it's DARK once more.

## **INT. UNDERGROUND PLATFORM - RUSH HOUR**

The train rattles into a Tube station and slows to a stop. It's busy, and people hustle and bustle as a voice on the TANNYOY announces the train's destination.

We see various different angles of the rush-hour flow, commuters of all sizes, shapes and colours coming and going, some more rushed than others.

**P.O.V. CCTV CAMERA** which monitors the action from above, in a grainy grey/green hue.

TANNYOY

This train is ready to depart; mind the doors  
please, mind the closing doors.

The packed train shuts its doors and eases out of the station.

We now see the throng from the platform again, watching as they push and jostle: people involved in wherever they're going.

## **INT. UNDERGROUND ESCALATORS**

The commuters file up and down escalators, long crocodiles of people staring at the head of the person in front.

## **INT. UNDERGROUND TICKET HALL**

They swipe cards and tickets and pass through turnstyles, mostly expressionless faces going through the motions, on their way to or from wherever.

## **INT. UNDERGROUND PLATFORM**

The platform's less crowded now, less bustling.

**P.O.V. CCTV CAMERA** Spying on the emptier platform. A handful of people is scattered along its length.

AND THERE, at one end, on his own, is a MAN playing with a yo-yo. Flinging it up and down. Not casually, but with a purpose. Outwards, in different directions.

CLOSE ON the man: JAKE is 50/60 and has a gaunt, haggard face that makes him look older than he really is. His eyes are tired and empty-looking; he's a little hunched, a little grubby.

He flicks his yo-yo out ahead of him as he patrols the end of the platform. He never takes a step without first swinging his toy in the direction he's going.

Occasionally he jerks his head around, twitches, as if being watched or expecting someone/something to appear.

Further up the platform, 2 teenage girls sit on a bench, chatting. We glide up to them, eavesdropping:

GIRL 1

...and she said, he just completely vanished.  
Like, into thin air. Poof.

Her eyes go wide and her hand mimics something vanishing.

GIRL 2

What, he just vanished?

GIRL 1

Yeah, there one minute, gone the next.

GIRL 2

Yeah sure. He probably went round a corner or something.

GIRL 1

No no, she said there weren't any corners or anything, she went and checked it out, there was nowhere he could've gone!

GIRL 2

Seriously?

GIRL 1

Seriously!

GIRL 2

Nah no way... There must be a...

We pull away and leave them gossiping. Their hushed voices turn to distant whispers, a 'PSS PSS' that we can't understand but know as a whisper.

Then another TRAIN approaches with that SNICKER-SNACK, which blends into the whispers, until only the train's noise is audible.

It thunders along the rails and screeches to a halt. Doors open, people get on and off - including the 2 girls - and it continues into the next tunnel.

JAKE stands stock still and watches intently. When the train's out of sight, he carries on as before. A swing here, a swing there.

**P.O.V. CCTV CAMERA** We watch Jake as he yo-yos away. We flick to the tunnel entrance. And back again.

The sound of the train fades into the dark tunnel.

A VOICE, quite deep, serious, pensive, speaks over the relative silence:

VOICE 1

I've heard... stories... about 'The Gap'...

A second, different voice carries on, after the first but in no rush:

VOICE 2

The Gap? You mean on the Underground?

They speak as if talking to an unknown interviewer. Chatty, gossipy.

VOICE 3

(American) Oh yeah, I heard some weird things about the Subway. The Underground, I mean. Like, about The Gap?

We leave Jake and the station, and head down a tunnel, into another station. The voices follow us.

**INT. ANOTHER UNDERGROUND PLATFORM**

VOICE 4

The Gap. Between the train and the platform?

VOICE 6

Haha. Mind the Gap! Yeah, you can buy girls' underwear with that on the front!

We drift around the station platform, watching more people as they wait for the next train.

VOICE 7

Oh yeah man I heard some bullshit story about spooky shit happening in the Tube...

VOICE 5

(Russian) ...People haf been going missing...

VOICE 8

What, people falling down into the Gap and disappearing? Believe that you'll believe anything...

VOICE 1

... The Gap... Not *that* gap... A different gap...

As people mill on the platform, a recording comes over the tannoy:

TANNOY

Mind The Gap.

## **INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNEL**

We disappear into the blackness of the next tunnel, meeting the lights of the oncoming train and flying past in a daze of lights and snicker-snacks. It goes dark again, bar the odd flash of sparks.

VOICE 3

I was told, and this is like totally true, that there's this mysterious 'gap' down there that like swallows people up...

VOICE 2

Yes I heard a rumour along those lines...

VOICE 4

...Oh the ghost story about the hole?

It's still dark. We can hear the odd faint noise of a train on the tracks.

VOICE 6

Oh yeah there's this urban myth about a supernatural hole down in the Tube tunnels...

VOICE 2

...An urban myth...

VOICE 5

...A fairy story, a fantasy...

VOICE 7

...About this door or summin that you can't see, and people are just like walking through it n disappearing n shit...

VOICE 8

...It's a doorway....

VOICE 6

Some kind of portal. That appears at will.

VOICE 2

It just appears, but you can't see it.

## **INT. UNDERGROUND PLATFORM**

We finally appear in another station. There's a crowd of commuters on the platform, awaiting their train. We pass among them.

VOICE 6

Like, it's there, right there in the station, and all the people are going about their business, and it'll suddenly appear...

VOICE 4

...it has no fixed position...

VOICE 5

...It can move around...

VOICE 3

Oh yeah it moves...

VOICE 7

...an it's movin around n shit so you no idea where it is...

There's a station announcement:

TANNOY

The next train is the District Line service calling  
at all stations to Upminster...

VOICE 1

...There's no pattern.

VOICE 5

Is very hard to know where it is

VOICE 2

They say it moves position...

VOICE 6

...it can just appear and disappear, open and  
close where it likes...

VOICE 4

Totally unpredictable.

The sound of the train mingles with the voices.

VOICE 7

...an' you'll just be like walking down the  
platform an' suddenly this door appears outta  
nowhere and...

VOICE 8

It swallows you. Yes of course.

VOICE 3

It sucks you in and you just, like, vanish.

VOICE 2

...and you disappear and never come back.

Now the train is emptying and filling with people, the platform clearing mostly.

VOICE 4

...and if you step through it, you're gone...

VOICE 5

Lost forever.

VOICE 1

Gone.... to who knows where?

VOICE 2

And nobody knows how it got there, or why.

We see JAKE again, watching. The train departs and Jake continues as usual, his yo-yo going before his every move.

The sound of the train fades and the whispers continue.

VOICE 6

It's some kind of ancient curse...

VOICE 4

...from, from Victorian times...

VOICE 3

From the middle ages, like from the time of Merlin?

VOICE 5

Somebody has disturbed a tomb, when they are building the Underground...

VOICE 7

It's some voodoo shit, y'know, this curse...

VOICE 1

The portal is a curse triggered by someone in the British Museum when they opened a sarcophagus...

VOICE 4

... an Egyptian mummy?...

VOICE 2

Something Egyptian, you hear lots of stories about mummies and curses...

VOICE 6

...Or it was created during the Great Fire of London... Cos so many people died...

VOICE 2

Yeah I heard it was near Pudding Lane. Near Monument...

VOICE 4

Monument would be a good place for it I suppose...

VOICE 3

...I bet it's at Temple... It's gotta be at Temple, I mean all that Dan Brown stuff with like, symbols and stuff?

VOICE 1

Or it could be a *spy* thing.

VOICE 7

...Ha! Yeah some crazy James Bond shit, like they had that car with the cloaking device...

VOICE 1

A new top-secret technology that allows agents and high-ranking public servants to teleport around the city in the blink of an eye...

VOICE 7

... Shit man imagine, you could get places just like that (clicks fingers)

VOICE 8

Yeah a teleport, that only the super-rich know about.

Jake approaches a LIFT in the station, the doors closing on him.

## **INT. UNDERGROUND LIFT**

Jake presses one of the buttons.

VOICE 6

Nobody knows where it goes.

He stares out the window as it goes up.

*Suddenly a dozen or so grey soul-less beings appear next to Jake in the lift, silent, lost, drained of colour, staring blankly ahead.*

VOICE 2

Where do they go, the ones who disappear?

*The ghosts fade and vanish.*

VOICE 1

Several hundred people are reported missing in London every week...

VOICE 5

Many many people, disappear, nobody has clue where.

VOICE 4

I'm sure there's a lot of people lost who are never found

VOICE 8

Oh yeah thousands of people go missing in London all the time...

VOICE 3

Yeah like I heard 3,000 people a year go missing?

VOICE 7

Maybe there's a reason they disappear, y'know?

VOICE 2

Perhaps they go somewhere. When they pass through The Gap.

The lift doors open and Jake exits. [It's perfectly normal, no sign of supernatural beings.]

VOICE 5

I don't know where they go...

He turns towards the spiral stairs. A sign says '102 Steps'. He slowly descends, yo-yo first.

## **INT. UNDERGROUND STAIRWELL**

VOICE 6

I reckon it's a portal to Hell...

VOICE 8

They say it's a portal...

VOICE 5

A portal?

VOICE 1

Like some kind of... *Gateway*...

VOICE 7

...To another dimension...

VOICE 4

A parallel Universe...

VOICE 6

A totally different dimension, a different world...

VOICE 3

It's like, the *real* underground. You know, *the Underworld*...

VOICE 8

Hades...

VOICE 1

A Godless place.

VOICE 8

They say God's omnipresent, but maybe he can't see that far underground...

VOICE 3

It's like, the Devil is snatching people, out of the sight of God?

Jake approaches the bottom of the steps now, one person passing him on the narrow inside, bemused.

*This passer-by suddenly turns into a grey wraith, (like the ones before), open-mouthed and drooling, a lost soul traipsing up and down the stairs. He passes, and becomes a normal person again.*

VOICE 2

Maybe they're disappearing for a reason?

VOICE 6

Maybe they were meant to go, maybe it was their time...

VOICE 8

Perhaps it's the Reaper taking people on the sly cos he can't get them by other means.

VOICE 7

I've heard it's people who are gonna commit crimes...

VOICE 4

...People who have lost their way... Lost their direction in life...

VOICE 3

Oh yeah, like guys who, their life has no purpose?

VOICE 7

So many peeps just, y'know, get up, go to work...

VOICE 4

Drifters.

VOICE 7

...sit at a desk all day n photocopy shit, go home again, go to bed...

VOICE 2

I see a lot of people like that... Just blank faces...

VOICE 5

Yes, you haf to have a goal...

Jake reaches the bottom and continues, yo-yo as ever before him.

VOICE 6

I've heard there's a guy...

VOICE 7

...This guy whose life goal is to find The Gap...

Jake pauses, looks around, squints, as if tracking The Gap, sniffing it out...

VOICE 8

Oh yeah whassis name...?

VOICE 6

The old guy, with the yo-yo!

VOICE 2

There's a creepy old guy with a yo-yo who's apparently looking for the Gap.

Jake enters the platform

## **INT. UNDERGROUND PLATFORM**

VOICE 4

They say he got sucked into it once

VOICE 6

That he's the only person who's been through it  
and returned...

VOICE 1

It didn't quite get him.

The familiar sound of a train approaching starts to subdue the whispers, and the Tube rolls along the rails into the platform.

VOICE 5

No-body is sure why...

Jake stops and faces a set of doors, staring.

VOICE 7

He got lucky, man.

People get off, people get on. Jake steps on as well. The doors shut.

## **INT. UNDERGROUND TRAIN**

We're on the train with Jake and the other commuters.

VOICE 2

Perhaps he wasn't meant to go.

VOICE 7

Maybe suddenly his life found a purpose?

The Tube pulls away and into the darkness. It surges through the blackness, jolting from side to side. The whispers merge into the snicker-snacks...

TANNOY

The next station is \_\_\_\_\_, where the  
platform is shorter than the train. Travellers in  
the rear carriage wishing to alight should  
proceed to the next carriage and do so there.

Jake looks uncomfortable. He doesn't seem to like the enclosed space, itching for the doors to open again.

VOICE 4

I thought they found it once?

The train slows down and finally stops.

VOICE 2

They found it at the end of a platform?

VOICE 6

Yeah at one place where the platform is shorter than the train...

Jake gazes at the open doors, but doesn't go through.

VOICE 1

If the train's longer than the platform...

VOICE 3

It's cos they thought they'd found the Gap...

Jake looks towards the back end of the platform, where it may have been bricked off. He glares at it, like an old adversary.

VOICE 7

Yeah they're sure they saw someone vanish down one end, so they went n blocked off like the whole area...

VOICE 6

They called in an exorcist and everything...

VOICE 2

They had the area blessed

VOICE 1

...but to no avail...

The doors close and Jake looks back to the platform ahead.

VOICE 5

The Gap just moved to somewhere else...

The train moves off.

VOICE 8

It's not like there's a shortage of stations...

*Suddenly all the commuters (save Jake) turn to grey ghosts, all bolt upright, all facing the platform; all have far-off, hopeless expressions, deep, tired eyes. They are silent.*

We stay amongst the lost souls, dead quiet as we rattle and scrape along the tracks, into the next tunnel. The lights give off an eerie glow.

Nobody turns their heads, they all gaze forwards, glum, sad faces.  
This is their Tube hell.

The voices fade in and out between the snicker-snacks. Slower now, more deliberate, thoughtful:

VOICE 2

I wonder what happens if you step into The Gap...

VOICE 6

I've heard you never come back, once you've passed through...

VOICE 1

...a one-way ticket...

VOICE 8

Game over.

VOICE 4

There's nothing on the other side, just darkness...

VOICE 3

It's just totally black. Like, nothing...

VOICE 1

And you can't see in, and you can't see out. It's just... a void.

VOICE 4

A void. Like, a gap... Just a huge vacuous... hole...

VOICE 7

Nah it's like a bottomless pit

VOICE 5

A burning inferno...

VOICE 8

Hell.

VOICE 6

There's like several levels, like Dante's Inferno,  
and you pass down through them all...

VOICE 5

My hell would be going to work every day, for  
eternity...

VOICE 2

Same thing every single day

VOICE 4

Day and night, just non-stop

VOICE 8

Commuting. Forever.

VOICE 3

Like, in an endless loop...

VOICE 1

Going round... and round... and round...

VOICE 5

Never getting to your destination

The lights flicker a few times, and the apparitions become real people again,  
suddenly a little more colourful and lively.

VOICE 7

Man that's some bad nightmare.

VOICE 6

Just going from station to station and never  
stopping...

VOICE 8

No purpose.

The train approaches the next station and slows down.

VOICE 1

Pointless. Direction-less.

VOICE 4

Drifting...

VOICE 2

Non-stop.

VOICE 6

Through the nothingness...

VOICE 8

A never-ending jourey through a nowhere-land.  
Through a void.

The train stops, people get out, including Jake.

### **INT. UNDERGROUND PLATFORM**

VOICE 6

Round and round through a void, a... gap!

He walks to the back wall and waits for the rush to pass.

VOICE 5

...The Gap...

VOICE 3

Yeah, that's The Gap they talk about.

Jake starts to fling his yo-yo again on the relatively empty platform.

VOICE 2

Maybe that's the real Gap.

VOICE 4

The gap between the platform...

Jake strolls towards a quiet end of the platform, swinging his trusty yo-yo ahead of him firmly.

VOICE 8

Between the platform and the train...

VOICE..

(Imitates tannoy) 'Please mind the gap'

The voices come fast and chaotic, lots of whispering voices building to a crescendo.

VOICE.  
Please mind the gap

VOICE..  
Mind the gap.

MANY VOICES  
Mind The Gap

VOICES  
...between the train and

VOICES (CONT'D)  
...between the platform and the

VOICES (CONT'D)  
...train... platform...

MANY VOICES  
Mind.. Mind... mind...

Just then JAKE'S YO-YO FLIES OUT IN FRON OF HIM AND DISAPPEARS.  
THE END, AND HALF OF THE CHORD, VANISH INTO NOTHINGNESS.

DISAPPEAR.

The thread is taut out in front of Jake, at about 45 degrees, but the end is not there. Swallowed up by an invisible hole.

VOICES  
Mind the gap mind the gap mind the gap...

Jake's face is one of relief, horror, adulation.  
He gazes, eyes wide, speechless.

TANNOY  
Mind The Gap.

We pass through an invisible rectangular portal in front of Jake, and disappear into blackness...

FADE OUT.

