

The Librarians

by

Leon Cambray

INT. LIBRARY - EVENING

A library bookshelf among several others in a brightly coloured library has a clear gap, one book missing central on the shelf.

An uncomfortable HISSING SOUND gradually rises up.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

CHARLOTTE, (mid 20s) sits in bright, colourful clothes sits on a sofa going through a BOX OF OLD THINGS.

She pulls out a few old toys, a unusual hat, and puts them onto a table.

RYAN, (21) wears a flannel shirt over a graphic tee, and wearing glasses leans in the doorway, holding two mugs of tea.

He raises an eyebrow at the hat on the table and nods his head to it.

Charlotte side-eyes him then puts it on, making a pose, getting a small snort-laugh out of him.

Charlotte laughs at the sound slightly, and tosses the hat across to the other side of the sofa

He takes a sip and joins her in the room, placing the other mug in front of her, picking up the hat, and making himself comfortable one leg crossed under himself on the sofa.

Charlotte smiles fondly at him, then goes back to investigating the box.

Ryan puts the hat on and does jazz hands.

Charlotte doesn't look up, and dips her hands further into the box, pulling up a BOOK, a copy of "We're Going on a Bear Hunt", with a library sticker on the spine. She opens it, and sees that it was taken out in 2006.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

The Library's lights are turned off.

The same empty book space is slightly filled, when the book next to the gap falls, leaning across the gap. Something runs past, and the book is upright again.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ryan keeps making dumb faces with the hat on, being ignored.

He makes a face, and shuffles closer to look at the book.

Charlotte continues staring at the book, looking concerned.

CHARLOTTE
I have to return it.

RYAN
Huh?

Char shows the library log, the book was taken out in 2006.

Ryan scoffs.

Charlotte looks up at him.

Ryan shrugs.

RYAN
What? That's 18 years ago now...

CHAR
And? I'm fixing this. Now.

INT. LIBRARY - MORNING

A TEENAGER walks up to the reception desk, which is littered with flyers, and missing posters.

TEENAGER
Um sorry, do you have this one...

They show a picture on their phone

TEENAGER
It's my little brother's
favourite...

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ryan reaches to hold Charlotte's hand, making an effort to be comforting.

Charlotte pulls her hand at the last second to stand up, back facing to Ryan. She starts looking at the book, running a hand across the cover.

CHARLOTTE
Some kid right now is missing an
amazing story.

She places the book down and purposefully walks out of the room. Ryan calls after her.

RYAN
It's just a book. You gotta move
on.

Still on the sofa, Ryan looks at the book thoughtfully, and picks it up.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

The teenager stands as a slightly obscured LIBRARIAN types behind a desk.

LIBRARIAN

Oh dear... Someone's racked up quite the fine on that one.

The librarian smiles like a vulture, when someone offscreen coughs, and they snap round to look at them.

LIBRARIAN

SHH!

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Ryan walks into the library, the book tucked under one arm, with a library card peeping out the top of it.

He begins looking around, through the kids section and past the shelf missing one book.

Into the adults section, gazing at the science books and then reaching the reception desk, at the back of a short line. Something seems to focus on the book in hand.

He shifts awkwardly.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Charlotte walks into the room, scanning it over looking for something, and stops.

She looks at the table, her purse open, with a NOTE, next to her laptop. She storms over to it and reads. "Thought I'd fix your problem -R. X"

She looks a mix of angry and relieved, grabbing her laptop restlessly, only to see google open with a page for the local library. She goes to close the tab, then notices an article lower on the page.

"13th local student goes missing near local library"
Scrolling the article there is a comment "another? And let me guess they also had a book out too long #libraryabduction"
"How many kids go missing till its considered a pattern?"

CHARLOTTE

Shit!

She snaps the laptop shut.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Ryan taps his hands on the book, eyes wandering in boredom. He pulls out his phone.

There are multiple missed calls from "Char" but he scoffs and opens google. He begins to look up a library fine website and as the line moves forward, opens the page of information and plugs in the date. Something watches him.

It comes up with an exorbitant amount - thousands.

Ryan is next in line.

He snaps the book shut, it echoes in the silence. A hiss sound creeps from somewhere. He looks around, uncomfortable, the book under his shirt and speeds back the way he came.

He rounds a corner and spots a returns bin and puts a hand to his head, embarrassed by his own stupidity. He walks to it and tosses the book in.

As the book THUDS inside, Ryan is suddenly nowhere to be seen, the only evidence, a library card for Charlotte tucked inside the book in the bin.

INT. LIBRARY - EVENING

A tall librarian faces the shelf, looking at the empty bookshelf, and smiles, they then reveal a library card out their pocket, for Charlotte.

Shadowy figures of more librarians walk to surround the first, a hissing noise seeps out of their grinning mouths

EXT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Charlotte stomps towards the front door of the library, hair tied up, holding a map and a crowbar. Charlotte glances, confused as a clattering sound comes from somewhere. She goes to look through a window, and it begins to creak open when she leans on it.

INT. VOID - ???

Ryan stands hand out to dispense the book, same position as before, and stands and looks around a brightly lit void-like room.

There is a analogue clock on the wall with the words next to it "Your Time-Out ends in: 9,460,800 minutes." it ticks down. On the other wall there are "WANTED" a photo of each of them, and a variety of children and adults alike.

The room is littered with children's and adult's clothes as if the bodies wearing them have simply vanished, leaving them slumped against the walls.

Ryan pulls his phone out, no signal.

He opens the calculator, and puts in the number, and starts crunching numbers. He drops the phone, the display shows 18 years.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Charlotte makes her way in, the library is dark, the wind blows.

A book lies on the floor near the entrance, which flips open to a popup seemingly of Ryan with the words "silence in the library" scrawled in red ink around it.

She stares at it, and crouches down. She goes to close the book.

She stops when she hears the door behind her slam, and stands up.

Looking around in a shaft of light she can see the book return bin, with the book sitting on top of it, propped up, as if it is mocking her.

She makes a break for it, tripping up. Strange hissing almost like laughter occurs as she yelps.

On a nearby shelf, books begin falling off, pelting her while she tries to dodge.

Charlotte keeps being buried, then struggles, throwing her backpack out the pile slightly. She goes to scream, only for silence, cut off as a shadowy librarian stands over her

LIBRARIAN

SHH!

INT. VOID - DAY

Ryan paces, the timer is much lower, and he has facial hair now. He looks at the clock again, then stops, he walks towards it. Then pauses, and looks at the side.

He takes it off the wall, and looks at the back, grinning he turns back the clock experimentally, the timeout number increases then he starts to wind it down.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Charlotte looks up at the figure walking towards her and scrabbles to get out of the books. She picks one up and try throwing it, the figure easily dodges it, and keeps moving.

A ticking sound emanates from near the book bin, and Ryan

appears, he takes stock, looking around then stops, seeing the figure advancing to Charlotte and runs, grabbing the figure, , tackling them to the ground.

Charlotte looks over as she gets out the pile, only to see him mouthing "GO" while from the shadows more librarians begin to group around him.

Charlotte scrabbles up, then realises she doesn't have the book, and frantically sorts through the pile, moving away books like "A series of unfortunate events".

Ryan gets fully surrounded and disappears once more. Just as Charlotte finds the book, lifting it up triumphantly.

INT. VOID - ???

Ryan turns around only to see the same void space, the timer reset. However the clock this time is a digital one, and has a note on it. As he walks closer he spots a note "Nice try."

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Charlotte looks down at the book, and the librarians crawling on all fours, and looks at the shelf, and then to the other areas of the library, and runs away from the shelf, the librarians scatter.

She walks quietly this time, looking between shelves to see the librarians congregating, and sneaks to the shelf the other side. She sidles, running shelf to shelf until she reaches the bookcase behind.

She removes books on the shelf backing the gap, ducking when a librarian looks at the shelf. Having cleared a shelf, she anxiously pops back up, and cautiously places the overdue book through the gap.

With a sigh of relief, she sits back against the shelf, and takes a deep breath. Then she looks around, librarians are still prowling the library, she grimaces, and steps out, being immediately grouped on

INT. VOID - ???

Ryan in the void room sits, older, back to the wall, and hangs his head in his hands.

Charlotte's hand taps him on the shoulder and he looks up, and goes to speak.

THE END