

The Heart of the Penthouse

By

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Theme: 'Competition'
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1 INT. FLAT

DOMINIC WALLS (42), kind and mysterious, tosses and turns in his bed, having a nightmare. He sweats heavily and reaches for something in front of him.

He bolts up and looks around him and then up at his ceiling and breathes a huge sigh of relief.

He glances at his clock: four o'clock p.m.

In the background a television plays:

TV ANCHOR
Not long London! Who is going to
Paradise? Which lucky three will be
randomly selected!?

Dominic grunts and groans:

DOMINIC WALLS
TV off.

The TV turns off.

Dominic blinks at the blinds and they slowly open.

TITLE: London, 2049.

2 EXT. LONDON

Flying vehicles land on skyscrapers. Huge holographic messages in words appear:

- PARADISE AWAITS 3 LUCKY PEOPLE TODAY!
- BECOME A HERO? ENTER THE VR.
- MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON AWAITS HIS LUCKY 3. (A small man appears, MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON (90s), handsome, charming and full of energy despite his age.)
- NEW YEAR'S PARTY? LET'S CELEBRATE WITH A PARTY ON THE MOON.

3 INT. FLAT

A small pigeon lands on his window sill and Dominic manually opens the window and puts out a few bird seeds for it.

The bird coos happily and flies away.

The holographic messages get bigger -

Dominic turns from the messages and blinks again.

His blinds shut.

He turns to his laptop and gets bombarded with messages and mail about 'PARADISE AWAITS, COULD IT BE YOU?'

He shuts his laptop, gets dressed and heads out.

4 INT. CORRIDOR

Dominic's phone buzzes. A message from one of his chat conversations titled: 'PARADISE IS BS'

A new message from a user named 'TIM': 'What's everyone up to on the most BS day of the year?'

Dominic replies: 'Work'

A few more messages appear all saying 'work' also.

Dominic laughs.

5 EXT. LONDON

Dominic walks past hundreds of people waiting, fixated on their smartphones or laptops all of whom have their e-mail inboxes open, awaiting messages.

A wife prays with her wheelchair-bound husband.

Another man looks directly ahead at the biggest, widest and by far the tallest building in the city. He opens and closes his eyes, and touches his head, almost as if trying to mind-read the thoughts of the building. A glowing sign reads MR LANDON'S LORD OF LONDON PENTHOUSE. Below this, is a countdown timer. 5 minutes.

6 EXT. TECH INTERNATIONAL

Dominic strides past a huge advertisement about Paradise, displaying information about a FEMALE (90s) in paradise with the quote 'Paradise is wonderful. I'm so alive here and will be --'

7 INT. TECH INTERNATIONAL - LOBBY

Empty.

8 LIFT

He goes to the lift and presses 'TOP FLOOR'

9 TOP FLOOR

Deserted. The blinds are shut, but lights turn on as he goes further in.

He takes out a laptop from one of the hundreds stacked and connects a cable from his phone to the laptop.

Dominic can just make out the distant shouts of excitement from the hovercraft outside the building.

Dominic types in a code to encrypt his data and then loads up a file on Mr Landon Lord of London.

He gets up and goes to the Xpress Coffee machine.

BEEP.

Dominic stops in his tracks. Panic.

He turns to his laptop and phone.

BEEP.

He hurries back over to see.

'YOU HAVE MAIL.'

He opens it.

ON THE SCREEN:

'YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR PARADISE. YOU WILL BE PICKED UP VERY SHORTLY.'

Dominic squints at the message and then to his phone, and then grabs it, and rushes to the lift.

10 LIFT

He hurriedly slams on 'ENGINE ROOM'

The lift drops and the door opens in a darkened room.

11 ENGINE ROOM

Dominic rushes past computer servers meters high.

He stops and pants in a corner.

The lift opens in the distance.

He quickly types a text message on his phone with trembling hands to himself: '2049. December 31st, 5p.m. CHOSEN. PARADISE. S9402'

Something approaches.

He presses SEND and hides the phone under the server by him.

Something enormous blocks out the light.

Dominic is blinded --

12 INT. PENTHOUSE

Dominic stirs and slowly opens his eyes.

He's in a small room with a velvet red carpet. No doors. A large television on the wall in front of him. A small table with three crystal glasses of liquid.

He looks to his left and sees SOPHIA SKY (30s) in a very expensive business suit passed out on the floor.

MARCUS HOPE (70s) also wearing an expensive suit passed out.

He watches as the other two gingerly get up.

SOPHIA SKY
Paradise!

Dominic drops to the floor, panting and hyperventilating.

MARCUS
Oh chap, calm yourself. We're in
Paradise!

Dominic shakes his head and runs to the walls of the room, panicking and searching for a door.

Sophia squeals with delight.

DOMINIC WALLS
Help me find a way out!

Sophia laughs.

SOPHIA SKY
Why would you want to find a way out
of Paradise!?

Marcus looks up at the television screen.

MARCUS
TV ON.

Static shows on the television for a second, and then:

A small man appears, Mr Landon Lord of London, but he's
nothing like the advertisements. He's extremely frail,
lacking energy and looks evil.

Marcus and Sophia are taken back by this unexpected demeanour
of their apparent idol.

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
(On the TV)
Congratulations. You have made it to
Paradise, almost.

Sophia and Marcus look at one another confused.

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
(ON THE TV)
You three have been selected. Only one
of you can make it --

Marcus frowns.

MARCUS
What do you mean?

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
(ON THE TV)
Do not interrupt me!

SOPHIA SKY
But the advertisements!?

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
I lied.

Mr Landon laughs evilly.

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
(ON THE TV)
All of you have been selected here for
a reason.

MARCUS
Where's Paradise?!

Mr Landon laughs even louder.

SOPHIA SKY
'Selected!?'

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
Not random. Chosen. Picked. Decided. I
pick three *unlucky* people every year
to come to my penthouse and play a
little game, a competition. Only one
person can go to 'My Paradise'.

Dominic Walls turns away from the TV and continues to search.

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
Drink from the glasses. Let the
competition begin.

Marcus and Sophia rush over and gulp their drinks.

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
I'd drink up Dominic.

A small hissing noise.

Dominic clutches his throat as he watches Marcus and Sophia
unfazed by the gas entering the room.

Dominic sways, grabs the glass and drinks.

The pain of the gas stops --

Sophia and Marcus fall to the floor.

They both look like they suddenly caught a fever, sweating.

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
Oh, wonderful. A feast. A feast!

Dominic falls to the floor, sweating uncontrollably. His
vision blurred, his eyes wide. He shakes.

A wall falls away to reveal a door.

Another wall falls.

A door opens.

The walls fall away, revealing even more doors.

Marcus heads through the nearest door, leading to blackness.

Sophia hurries through an open door, leading to blackness.

Shaking and trembling, Dominic goes through another door.

13 CORRIDOR

Dominic hears Sophia scream from behind him.

Dominic freezes, and the ominous and evil face of Mr Landon appears on a television screen.

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
(ON THE TV)
I've been watching you. Your little
group got my attention.

Dominic rushes past the television, but it reappears in front of him, ahead of a door.

Marcus screams from somewhere.

Dominic hears odd loud breathing.

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
(ON THE TV)
Go ahead, open it, there's no going
back.

Dominic looks back, but a huge wall blocks his path.

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
(ON THE TV)
Paradise awaits the winner.

Mr Landon giggles.

Dominic takes a deep breath, staggers and opens the door.

14 THE HEART OF THE PENTHOUSE

Dominic's senses burst. His eyes wide, he collapses to the floor, he holds his ears, closes and opens his eyes as his sweat runs into them.

Dominic slowly looks up as a huge glop of slime falls on him.

The breathing comes from an enormous CREATURE in the centre

of the room. Its long, slimy pale tentacles float around and move towards Dominic who screams in horror.

The creature's body rises and shows its full force of eight tentacles as it floats in mid-air. Its large mouth opens and closes, the breathing increases, excitedly.

A huge hologram of Mr Landon appears.

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
(hologram)
You've met the Organic Orgasmic
Octopus Organism, the '0000!' as I
like to call him.

Dominic seems to want to shut his eyes, but he can't.

The tentacles linger around Dominic.

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
(hologram)
The 0000 feeds off fear.

Dominic looks from the 0000 to Mr Landon terrified.

MR LANDON LORD OF LONDON
(hologram)
Is there nothing more powerful and
exciting than manipulating others?

Mr Landon clicks his fingers and a timer appears next to him.
It shows 11:59 p.m.

The tentacles get closer.

15 EXT. LONDON

The time displays 11:59 p.m.

Fireworks burst into the sky as the time clicks over into the New Year.

CROWD
0000!

Claps and cheers from the crowd.

16 INT. THE HEART OF THE PENTHOUSE

The tentacles descend around Dominic as he's lifted off his feet and then thrown into the mouth of the creature.

MR LONDON LORD OF LONDON

0000!

All goes black.

17 INT. FLAT

Dominic tosses and turns in his bed, having a nightmare. He sweats heavily, he reaches for something in front of him --

He bolts up and looks around him and breathes a huge sigh of relief.

He stares at his clock: four o'clock p.m.

He gets out of bed and then stops, stares from his turned off TV to his blinds and frowns.

He goes to the blinds and manually opens them.

He takes several steps back horrified at what he's seeing outside. He opens and closes his eyes several times.

An odd splattering noise of something falling onto the floor from behind startles him.

Frozen on the spot, his eyes slowly move towards the ceiling.

He screams.

THE END.