

Early risers draft 2

written by

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INT. PRODUCTION LINE ON FACTORY FLOOR - MORNING

A conveyer belt pushes along cardboard boxes with a corporate logo 'Elite+' on their sides as the factory hums.

Two workers stand on opposite sides of the conveyer belt, rhythmically placing empty plastic packaging into open boxes.

BENJI (27) and DANNY (22) are wearing branded overalls and beanies, their individuality stripped. Benji is a gruff looking man with a twinkle in his eye. Danny is a tall, gaunt man, run down by life.

Danny stands opposite Benji on the production line, OFF SCREEN.

The pair are zoned out, disengaged as they pack.

A childish yet menacing tone plays from a sound system above. They look up to the speaker as it announces, briefly breaking them out of their monotonous spell. A monotone, clinical woman's voice speaks.

SPEAKER (O.S.)

Attention all workers.
In replacement of on floor
managers, use of bathroom requests
must be resubmitted and approved by
our new automated system.

Benji looks up at Danny with exhaustion, fed up.

SPEAKER (CONT'D)

In order to be approved you must
provide access to your online data
via Elite+, or you may be denied.

Thank you valued team members.

He turns back to his work, swallowing the news. He pauses for a moment and stops. He shakes his head, getting riled up - this is wrong.

BENJI

Another day in paradise ey'.
That'll be Scott gone. He was a
decent manager. Well far' as
managers go.

How long d'you reckon it'll be
before we're replaced?

Not that a machine could ever match
the two slickest packers this side
of the factory.

Benji looks up with a weak smile on his face and pretends to
shoot his finger at Danny, winking as he does, blowing on his
finger and holstering it when done.

BENJI

Won't be long till I'm stood here
joking around with a computer
screen haha.

At least it might laugh at my jokes
ey'?

Benji shakes his head, not believing his own words.

BENJI

Ha, yeah maybe.
But that's it Danny isn't it?

What's the cost of that laughter?

It'll make me feel good for a
second. Might even make me feel
like a comedian every day I'm in.

Make me think "cor I I don't half
wish Danny made me feel this funny
".

That's all it takes though.

Benji gestures back and forth between the two as he speaks.

(MORE)

BENJI (CONT'D)

A moment of pleasure for me,
convenience, becomes loss in
livelihood for you.

There's a pause for a moment between the two as they continue
to work.

BENJI

And why not?

Why wouldn't they replace the pair
of us in fact?

It's already happening all around
us. Not just Scott, but everywhere!

We've got truck drivers being
replaced with robots. Automated
phone lines talking to angry
people. For fucks sake we've even
got A.I rappers and algorithm based
art.

I mean come on it's clear the cost
of our lives already mean nothing
to the so called powers that be!

Benji has stops packing, using his hands to underly his
points.

BENJI

And I know just what you're
thinking.

(in a mocking tone)

"So we're doomed then are we Benji?
Doomed to live under heel and be
slowly replaced?"

No.

Not at all. *Never.*

What I'm saying is let's learn from
our mistakes.

Be the one's to flatten the curve
of history. Make tomorrow our own!

(MORE)

BENJI (CONT'D)

not let these corporations take
advantage of us for the sake of
ease!

You know, prevent rather than
react!

Change things before its too late!

An alarm starts going off, signifying a jam in the production
line. Benji glances up at it in distain, gesturing to it with
a middle finger.

BENJI

And I know, *I know*. You're thinking
"Here's Benji going on another one
of his bullshit rants". But just
look around you, I'm being serious
for a minute! Really *look!*

You've got these corporations,
millionaires rising higher and
higher. Profits. Buildings. Power.
Elevating themselves above us all.

Escaping the rising tide which
isn't far behind, leaving us to
sink.

All the while we're being shoved
down lower and lower by those same
people.

And sooner or later we're all gonna
be drowning in one thing or
another.

Debt or regret.
Regret that we didn't do something
sooner.

Unless we rise up and make the
change.

Swim or die Danny.

Benji stares at Danny. He looks down at the conveyer belt and
sees the packaging jammed up and falling off.

Benji smiles at Danny and gestures to the chaos as he revels in it.

SPEAKER

Employees, please return to work.
Please return to work.

BENJI

Because you can see what happens
when we put our hands up and make a
stand for ourselves?

They need us more than we do. All
it takes is for us to make the
first move. Time to take a dip.

SPEAKER

Return to work immediately.
You will be penalized if production
does not resume.

Benji takes off his work beanie and throws it to the ground.
He takes one final look around, taking in the chaos, basking
in it.

He grabs his bag and leaves, full of confidence as he does
and EXITS the factory floor.

END