

3: 46 PM

Doppelgänger

A paranoid programmer believes that his code has opened the door to the parallel universe and his life's in danger from his doppelganger.

Written by Dave Krunal and Abhishek Gurjar

Email - davekrunalfilmmaker@gmail.com

Version 0.5

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SCENE 1 INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

A computer programmer ADAM (32) stands threateningly with a hammer raised in the air. Unsure and nervous, he steps towards the kitchen, takes off his sweat soaked beanie, drops it on the floor and slides it aside with his foot. He takes a step into the kitchen. The blinds behind the kitchen sink are shut halfway allowing a small stream of light into the room.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

The kitchen sink is full of plates and cutlery. Water drips from the tap onto the dishes below.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

POV. UNIDENTIFIED BEING breathes behind the fridge. It peeks from the side to watch Adam, hammer still raised stepping into the kitchen. Adam spots the movement from behind the fridge and hurls the hammer at the being. The creature ducks behind the fridge as the hammer hits the wall behind him.

ADAM (O.S.)

Fuck!

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

POV. Adam, now puffing in frustration, stands behind the kitchen wall. He looks around for another weapon but there isn't anything of use in arms reach. He nervously peers into the kitchen. Nothing. As he takes a step forward the same hammer hurtles towards him and hits him on the shoulder, sending him to the floor.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Adam lies on the floor just outside the kitchen.

ADAM

Fuck you! I know you're in there!

Silence. The doorbell rings. Adam jumps off the floor sprints to the house entrance. The digital clock on the kitchen counter is cracked with the time stuck at 3:46 PM.

CUT TO:

SCENE 2 INT. ADAM'S ENTRYWAY - SAME TIME

Adam opens the door. Standing in the doorway is Adam's best mate DAVE (30). Dave, unlike Adam, is neatly dressed. The complete antithesis of Adam. Dave scans Adam. Frazzled hair, clumsily put together an outfit and bloodshot eyes from many a restless night.

DAVE

You look - SHIT.

Adam launches himself into Dave's arms for a hug. Dave is clearly uncomfortable with his mate's public display of emotion.

ADAM

%#\$%%%^

DAVE

Perhaps we should move inside?

ADAM

Sorry. Sorry. I'm just... please... Come in

Adam walks to the living room as Dave shuts and locks the door behind him.

SCENE 3 INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Dave follows Adam into the living room, stepping over piles of rubbish. The room is littered with pizza boxes with half-eaten pizza, beer bottles, adult magazines and tissues.

ADAM

So.. how you're holding up the lockdown?

DAVE

Not bad... How about you?

ADAM

%#\$\$^&&%\$\$

DAVE

I shouldn't be here. You know that right?

ADAM

Yes... I know and... And thanks for coming...

ADAM

(mutters)

Shouldn't have - shouldn't have
done it.

DAVE

(concerned)

Is everything ok?

ADAM

Well, I've been spending a lot of time on
the dark web lately. It's kind of a
new world to explore you know?
Without boundaries.

Dave grabs his cup of water and looks at it strangely. He watches Adam take
a drink of water and does the same.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You might think I'm crazy but -
just look - don't think that I'm a
nutter or anything. You HAVE to
believe me.

DAVE

Adam! Just fucking tell me what
happened.

Adam's eyes well up. He takes a sip from the water bottle.

ADAM

It happened three days ago. I found
a random chat room on the dark web.

Adam scratches his neck.

ADAM (CONT'D)

For - for all that - you know -
kinky stuff that I'm into.

DAVE

Don't tell me you're back into that
creepy porn crap again.

ADAM

Schoolgirls... man... They are fucking HOT

DAVE

Fuck man!

ADAM

It's a... It's a gateway. It's like a path you know. And that's why I
called you. Please... please listen to me.

DAVE

I can't believe you're
still into that shit again!

ADAM (SCREAMS)

LISTEN TO ME. WILL YOU?

Dave relaxes.

ADAM (CONT'D)

(trembles)

Sorry... This is... This is not about PORN OK. I was browsing the
sites and then I just got curious. Cause
once I started clicking I can't
stop. One thing led to another and...

And... I ended up using our machine learning repo code.

DAVE

(sternly)

You are not supposed to -

ADAM

(sighs)

I know. I know. It's an experimental code. But this is not about code.
Trust me. Please listen to me.

Dave places his cup on the table.

ADAM

There was this guy - I mean
I found this one guy. He said hello
to me.

DAVE

And?

ADAM

He has the same profile photo as I do. Well, apart from some subtle
differences.

DAVE

So what?

ADAM

Sorry to confuse you but it's not about the profile photo. It's about...
It's about time.

DAVE (confused)

What are you talking about?

Adam jumps to his feet and grabs a hold of David's arm frustrated at David's
flippancy. Adam glares into Dave's eyes.

ADAM

3:46

Dave stares at Adam

ADAM

3:46 PM

DAVE

As in time?

ADAM (EXCITED)

Yes.. exactly

DAVE

What about it?

Adam gets up from the chair and walks towards the wall and points at the clock.

ADAM

Check this out

Dave processes Adam's comments.

ADAM (CONT'D)

When the channel between the
parallel and the real world bridged
it zapped out all the electricity.

Adam runs around the room and points at all the clock. We see that they are all
frozen at 3:46 PM

ADAM (CONT'D)

Look! 3:46 PM

Look! 3:46 PM

Look! 3:46 PM

Adam runs toward Dave and sits close to him

ADAM (CONT'D)

Even the devices are fucking fried. Can you believe it?

DAVE

Hang-on. STOP. STOP. What's the point you are trying to make?

Adam looks at the kitchen and then at Dave like he is about to reveal the big secret.

ADAM (WHISPERS)

Didn't you get it yet? They can travel using electricity. He went there... in the kitchen.

DAVE

Who is travelling?

ADAM

My doppelganger.

DAVE

What? Your doppelganger?

ADAM

The kitchen. He lives there.

Adam looks at the kitchen and he sees something. He gets paranoid and jumps off the chair. Dave is shocked by his behaviour.

ADAM

THERE THERE HE IS. COME OUT YOU FUCKER.

Dave tries to handle Adam but he is paranoid. Adam continues to shout while looking at the kitchen.

ADAM (CONT'D)

(cries out erratically)

Come on out you fucking weirdo! I'm
SCARED OF YOU...

Dave grabs Adam by the collar and calms down. Adam stands motionless in stunned silence.

DAVE

ADAM. LOOK AT ME. There's no fucking twin of yours in the kitchen. It's all in your head.

Adam grabs Dave by the collar. Adam's eyes are wild.

ADAM
(pleas in a panic)
He's under the kitchen sink. You gotta get rid of him.

Dave shoves Adam aside, grabs a beer bottle and storms towards the kitchen leaving Adam in the living room.

DAVE (O.S.)
Don't fucking move!

Adam shakes with fear as he watches Dave disappear towards the kitchen.

CUT TO:

SCENE 4 INT. ADAM'S KITCHEN - SOON AFTER

Dave walks carefully into the kitchen, empty beer bottle in hand. He stops at the entrance and flicks the light switch on and off. The kitchen remains in darkness, water from the tap still dripping onto the dirty plates below. With the lights blown he looks around the silent kitchen. Nothing. He carefully approaches the kitchen sink, kneels down and wraps both hands around the bottom cupboard handles. He takes a deep breath and swings the doors open.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

POV. Cupboard below the sink. Dave sticks his head closer towards the cupboard. Dave's eyes scour the cupboard until they stop, fixated on something in the cupboard. He smiles and shuts the cupboard door.

CUT TO:

SCENE 5 INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - SOON AFTER

Dave returns from the kitchen smiling. He approaches Adam who sits on the lounge fidgeting.

DAVE
Nothing. No one is there.

Adam buries his head in his hands and runs his hands through his hair.

ADAM

It's all screwed up.

Dave tosses the beer bottle next to Adam and collapses onto the same lounge. Adam looks up.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I think... I'm fucking losing my mind. Do you think I'm crazy?

Adam grabs a cigarette pack from the table.

DAVE

You should get out more. When was the last fucking time you stepped out the house and water your dying Hydrangeas? Of course not. It's just that... sometimes go out in the fresh air and smoke.

Adam takes out a cigarette and searches the table for a lighter.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Your brains gonna turn to mush stuck in a house like this.

Adam searches his pockets for a lighter.

ADAM

And my code? And what about what I witnessed? You think it's all just smoke and mirrors?

DAVE

Forgot about the code for now. It works. I know it works.

Dave takes out a cigarette and a lighter from his pocket. Adam sticks his cigarette in his mouth.

ADAM

Since when did you start smoking?

Dave smiles and stretches his hand over to Adam's face to light his cigarette. Adam sits in stunned silence glaring at Dave's wrist. There is a barcode imprint on Dave's wrist. As Dave continues flicking the lighter Adam's mouth opens. The cigarette falls from his mouth to the floor. Dave realising his mistake pulls his arm back with force. Adam throws himself off the chair and trips over some pizza boxes landing on his back.

DAVE

Since when did I start smoking? Well, ever since we found the cure for lung cancer.

ADAM

What? What do you mean? There is no cure yet...

DAVE

It is. In our world.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You're not him. You're not -

Dave lights his own cigarette.

DAVE (2)

(calmly)

Absolutely hooked. Can't get these things where I'm from.

ADAM

You fucking killed him!

Dave(2) stands as Adam crawls back. Dave takes a step towards Adam.

DAVE

That's what amazes me about your kind.

ADAM

Get the fuck away from me!

DAVE

They tell you these things will kill you yet your kind continues to use them.

ADAM

Stay away! Please.

Dave (2) tuts as he steps on Adam's right hand. Adam lets out an almighty cry in

pain. Dave tilts his head as Adam quietens down.

DAVE

I promise you I'll make this as
clean as possible. Don't want to go
on adding to all this mess.

Dave (2) places a knee on Adam's neck and reaches for a tissue. Adam chokes and throws his left hand at Dave(2). Dave(2) unfazed places the tissue on the floor beside Adam and lays his cigarette on it. Dave (2) presses his knee on Adam's neck for a little while longer until Adam stops moving. Dave(2) stands, dusts himself down and picks up his cigarette. He walks to the sofa, picks up Adam's cigarette and sprints to the kitchen. His movements are rigid and otherworldly.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S KITCHEN - SOON AFTER

POV. Cupboard under the sink. The doors open and Dave(2) reaches his hand towards the cupboard. A hand reaches out to Dave(2)'s revealing a similar barcode on the wrist. Dave pulls the person out.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S KITCHEN - SOON AFTER

The sun seeps through the kitchen blinds. Dave looks at his new guest. It is Adam(2) with a thick moustache, white singlet and swept-back hair. Adam (2) shivers and scans the room. Dave (2) hands Adam (2) Adam's cigarette. Adam (2) copies David(2) and sticks the cigarette in his mouth.

10.

10.

Dave (2) smiles and raises the lighter to Adam (2)'s cigarette. Adam (2)'s worried expression turns to a sinister smile. The clock on the kitchen top flicks to 3:47 pm as the lighter ignites.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.