

OUT OF ORDER

Written by

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INT. MOVIE THEATER LOBBY - NIGHT

EDDY (mid-40s), unfashionable and overweight, stands at the bustling concessions counter. He steps away, clutching two hot dogs, an extra-large bucket of popcorn, and a huge drink.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Eddy ambles down the corridor, devouring a hot dog.

He opens a screening room door, politely holding it for a mother and her young son. Eddy smiles at the boy as he follows them inside.

INT. SCREENING ROOM - NIGHT

In the dim auditorium, adults and children are engrossed in the family movie on the screen.

Eddy sits alone in the front row, slouched and disinterested. He lazily eats popcorn, sips his drink, and lets out a grumbling BELCH under his breath.

His eyes gradually flutter closed, and he starts to snore.

Suddenly, his hand jerks to his chest, accidentally knocking his drink into his lap. Startled awake, he jumps up, spilling popcorn everywhere.

EDDY  
God damn it!

Eddy glares at his drenched crotch. Annoyed, he leaves, using his sleeve to wipe his wet trousers.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Eddy strides down the deserted passageway, dabbing at his groin. He pauses before entering the customer toilets, eyes drawn to a flickering emergency exit sign above a door at the far end of the corridor.

INT. TOILETS - NIGHT

Eddy steps up to a hand dryer, positioning his damp trousers beneath it. Despite pressing the button multiple times, it remains unresponsive. Trying the dryer beside to it proves equally futile.

Suddenly, amid his efforts, water pipes in a cubicle marked 'Out Of Order' start GURGLING and CLANGING. The locked door SHUDDERS, dislodging the sign, which falls to the floor.

The pipes abruptly fall silent.

Without warning, foul sewer sludge ERUPTS from under the cubicle door, spreading rapidly toward Eddy.

EDDY  
Jesus Christ!

The putrid stench makes him retch. He backs against the wall, using his sleeve to cover his nose. His face contorts in disgust as the sludge laps against his shoes.

He pauses, noticing something at his feet. Tentatively, he picks up the sludge-smearred 'Out Of Order' sign. His expression darkens as he stares at what's written on the back of it.

The pipes resume CLANGING, and both hand dryers simultaneously ROAR to life, blasting hot air.

An energy surge causes the ceiling lights to flare intensely before BLOWING OUT, leaving a few flickering bulbs.

Eddy races to the exit, slipping and sliding through the sludge, becoming thoroughly coated. He pulls the handle, but the door is locked.

The cubicle SHAKES violently, and the hand dryers ferocity escalates, sounding like tortured SCREAMS.

Sweat drips down Eddy's forehead as he bangs on the door and twists the handle desperately.

EDDY (CONT'D)  
Somebody help me!

The pipes and dryers cease in unison. Silence fills the room.

The cubicle's lock disengages and the door slowly CREAKS open. A presence stands within, shrouded in shadows.

Eddy freezes in terror as a lanky, hunchbacked figure in butcher's attire, covered in sludge, emerges.

The BUTCHER's face is obscured by muck, save for his demonic, bloodshot eyes fixated on Eddy.

Reaching into his filthy apron pocket, the Butcher produces sizable, rusty shears.

Panic-stricken, Eddy futilely tries to force the door open.

The Butcher charges at him, shears SNIPPING.

Eddy feebly retreats into a corner, clutching the 'Out Of Order' sign.

EDDY (CONT'D)  
Please, no!

He closes his eyes, trembling.

EDDY (CONT'D)  
Oh God, I'm sorry! Please forgive  
me.

INT. SCREENING ROOM - NIGHT

The lights are turned up and the audience has left. Eddy lies unconscious near his previous seat, his clothing clean and dry, but his shirt unbuttoned.

Suddenly, his eyes snap open, and he takes a deep breath, his chest rising abruptly.

A female paramedic, identified by her name tag as MICHELLE kneels beside him. On the other side, a male paramedic named PETER crouches with defibrillator paddles in hand.

Eddy sluggishly attempts to sit up.

MICHELLE  
Sir, please try to remain still.

Her reassuring hand rests gently on his shoulder.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
You've just suffered a significant  
cardiac arrest.

She carefully eases him back down, and Peter places an oxygen mask over his mouth and nose.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The screening room door swings open, and the paramedics wheel Eddy out on a gurney. Urgently, they navigate towards the wide-open emergency exit at the end of the corridor.

Outside, an ambulance waits with its vibrant emergency lights and dazzling headlights streaming through the open doorway. The exit sign above flickers intermittently.

As they approach, the sign stops flickering and goes dark. The door slams shut with a resounding THUD. The handwritten 'Out Of Order' sign is taped to the back of it.

Eddy sits up anxiously, eager to understand what's happening. Michelle peels off the sign, flips it over, and scrutinizes its reverse side.

MICHELLE  
(to Eddy)  
You pleaded for forgiveness.

She leans in closer, placing the sign onto his lap.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
But some sins are beyond absolution-  
-and can not be forgiven.

She signals to Peter, who forcefully pushes Eddy back onto the gurney and rips the oxygen mask from his face.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
There's a special place reserved  
for people like you.

Peter grabs the gurney, propels it forward with a sprint, and gives it an almighty shove.

Eddy grips on tightly as he hurtles down the corridor.

The gurney gradually slows, coming to a stop beside the customer toilets. Eddy stares at the door, his face contorted with terror.

The door bursts open with the deafening SCREAMS from the hand dryers. The Butcher looms in the doorway, mockingly making snipping motions with his fingers.

Eddy attempts to flee, but the Butcher lunges and grabs his arm, yanking him off the gurney with brutal force.

Sprawled on the floor, he scrambles desperately, but the Butcher swiftly seizes his ankle. Eddy's fingers scrape against the floor as he's dragged into the toilets, disappearing from view.

EDDY (O.S.)  
No! Please, no!

Eddy's CRIES of suffering rip through the air, followed by a piercing HOWL of unbearable agony.

Suddenly, an eerie stillness descends, swallowing all sound. The silence is broken by the GENTLE GURGLE of a toilet flush.

Teetering on the edge of the gurney, the 'Out Of Order' sign loses balance and falls to the floor, revealing its reverse side.

The sign was written on the back of a Missing Person poster featuring the photograph of a young boy.

INT. SCREENING ROOM - NIGHT

As 'The End' appears on the cinema screen, credits roll and ambient lights gradually brighten. The audience begins to leave, rising from their seats and exiting the auditorium.

A lone figure remains seated in the front row.

Eddy sits slouched in his chair, one hand pressed to his chest. His drink remains un-spilt in the cup holder, and the popcorn bucket rests on his lap.

With a vacant and unblinking gaze, Eddy stares at the screen, his face etched with excruciating agony, frozen in a mask of eternal suffering.

**THE END**