

# Somethin' Buried

by  
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PRELUDE

FADE IN:

CGI - (Approximately 6500 B.C.) A wooden box floats through space near to the Earth then, suddenly caught in the Earth's gravitational field, it begins on a new trajectory - towards Earth. We see a brief burst of light as the box enters the upper layers of Earth's atmosphere.

FADE OUT:

CUE TITLE  
SEQUENCE:

"SOMETHIN' BURIED"

ACT I

Present day

FADE IN:

EXT. BACK GARDEN - AFTERNOON

ADRIAN WILCOCK is having a nightmare about being buried alive. In it he lies inside a hole in the ground and soil is thrown continuously onto him. He is wearing PJ bottoms and a white T-shirt. He is powerless to move, all he can do is scream between fighting for breath and a gradual suffocation. The soil keeps being shovelled by an unseen person.

ADRIAN

Help! Let me out! Help me!  
Please...no, no, no! Let me out! LET  
ME OUT!

CROSS FADE  
(WHITE):

INT. BEDROOM - MIDDLE OF NIGHT

ADRIAN wakes up startled, sitting bolt upright in bed. Next to him, still asleep, is TAYA McAULEY, his girlfriend. He is sweating, his breathing heavy. He looks around the room, gradually getting re-orientated, then a voice comes through the night air, echoes of his nightmare.

THE BOX

(muffled whisper)  
Let me out!  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE BOX (CONT'D)

I know you can hear me - please!  
Please, let me out. I've been  
waiting here for so very long...let  
me out...let me out...

ADRIAN is afraid, still thinking that he's dreaming.

THE BOX (CONT'D)

(louder whisper)

Adrian...I know you can hear  
me...please, let me  
out!

At the sound of his name, ADRIAN gets out of bed and makes his way down the hall. Like in the dream, he is wearing PJ bottoms and a white T-shirt. He appears to be in a trance-like state.

EXT. BACK GARDEN - MIDDLE OF NIGHT

Grabbing a shovel on his way, ADRIAN begins digging a hole in the back garden. As he works, the box continues to talk to him, gradually becoming less muffled.

THE BOX

Finally, you've heard me, Adrian.  
I've been whispering for years...all  
those long, long years. It's when  
everything grows still that  
I'm heard best. Three others have  
heard me before you, but they were  
afraid to unearth me. But not you,  
Adrian, not you. Trust me, you'll  
be rewarded for this...I'll see to  
that.

ADRIAN

(dreamily/ trance-like)

Yes...rewarded.

Finally, ADRIAN unearths a wooden box, clutching it to his chest, breathing heavily from the digging.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

(suddenly clearer in his  
thoughts)

What kind of reward are we talking  
about here?

THE BOX

Anything you desire! Anything at  
all! Just let me out of this box  
and it's yours...

ADRIAN unhooks one of the latches, but pauses before undoing the second one. He looks uneasy, unsure. He shivers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE BOX (CONT'D)

What is it, Adrian? You hesitate.

ADRIAN

Erm...I don't know, I'm suddenly cold...

(pausing for awkward moment)

How do I know I can trust you?

THE BOX

In all my long years I have never lied...you are standing on the edge of something huge, Adrian, do you realise that? Don't procrastinate...seize the opportunity!

ADRIAN

I don't know, maybe I should sleep on it.

THE BOX

(quietly, more an aside)

Then you will sleep, my friend.

ADRIAN begins walking back to the house.

FADE OUT:

ACT II

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

TAYA McAULEY wakes. It's Saturday morning. She turns happily to look at her boyfriend beside her, but is disappointed that he's gone. She is not too concerned, however, because she thinks he must have gone to play Squash with a work colleague, MICHAEL. She gets up - humming happily to herself - and makes her way to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

TAYA stops singing abruptly when, upon entering the kitchen, she finds ADRIAN asleep on the floor, curled up in the foetal position, holding the box tightly to his chest. His clothes are covered with dirt. His gumboots are neatly together on the floor next to him, with muddy footprints on the kitchen lino leading up to them.

On the kitchen table, seen only briefly at this stage, are a stack of bridal magazines.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYA rushes to ADRIAN's side, shaking him to try and awake him.

TAYA  
(alarmed)  
Honey, are you alright?

ADRIAN does not wake from his unnatural sleep. Deeply concerned, she tries to take the box away from him. It's at that point, he begins to murmur and wake. Before ADRIAN awakes, as she touches the box, it speaks to her.

THE BOX  
(crass/vulgar)  
Hello, beautiful. I could be committed to you, sweetheart. Show you all my love.

TAYA considers this briefly - it perplexes her - then her attention returns to her boyfriend. She quickly blocks out the memory of that voice, preferring to believe that she was hearing the voice in her mind and it wasn't real.

TAYA  
Honey, are you alright? What are you doing sleeping on the floor?

ADRIAN  
(disorientated)  
Eh? I...

TAYA  
You're all covered in mud! Have you been out in the garden? What's going on? You weren't there beside me, I though you were playing Squash with Michael.

ADRIAN  
What happened?

TAYA  
That's what I'd like to know.

ADRIAN gets up off the floor, still holding onto the box. He studies it for a second, then seems to recall something.

ADRIAN  
We need to get clean.

TAYA  
We?

ADRIAN looks down at the box he's holding.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ADRIAN  
The box...and me.

TAYA looks perplexed and concerned.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. WORKSHOP - MID-MORNING

ADRIAN is wearing clean clothes and has a clean face. He is in the process of cleaning the box, which is half-clean, half-caked in mud, using a small scrubbing brush.

THE BOX  
Have you decided to let me out of  
this box,  
Adrian?

ADRIAN  
Well, I'm not sure...

A few items in the workshop begin to swell in size, as tension increases in the room.

THE BOX  
You can't go through life like this  
- unsure, hesitant....Go on, be a  
man, make a choice. You have all  
these deep desires beneath the  
surface, eating you alive, but you  
spend your days masking their  
existence. For example, take your  
girlfriend...you know her greatest  
desire is to marry you...but you're  
not sure, are you?

ADRIAN  
Quiet! Shut up!

THE BOX  
I'd go so far as to say, you'll  
never marry her. You tell yourself,  
you're not the marrying sort,  
but that's not it...Do you know the  
real reason you'll never marry her?  
You're afraid...you're afraid that  
she's a brighter light than you...

ADRIAN  
Enough!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE BOX

...afraid she'd eclipse you and you'd become a lesser man, a has-been.

ADRIAN

Enough, I said!

THE BOX

What's wrong, Adrian, did I touch a nerve?

ADRIAN

I can quite easily bury you again, you know.

THE BOX

(mimicking Adrian)

"I can quite easily bury you again...".Yes, I do know, and that would be a real tragedy.....  
 Seriously, though, you and I shouldn't fight, why spoil a perfectly good friendship? You are destined for greatness, and I can help you achieve it.

ADRIAN

Really? You consider me a friend?

THE BOX

Oh, yes, Adrian. To me you're a saviour. You're the one who found me, rescued me. I promise you my complete loyalty. I don't talk to just anybody, you know. Only to you, my friend. I'm sorry about before, I get a little cranky sometimes, being locked in this box and buried for so long. Will you forgive me?

ADRIAN

I suppose so.

FADE OUT:

INT. LOUNGE - MID-MORNING

TAYA is sitting, drinking a coffee and reading a bridal magazine. The phone rings. She picks up the cordless.

TAYA

-Hello?

{Hi Taya}

-Hello, Michael. How are you?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYA (CONT'D)

{Fine thanks, and yourself?}

-Good.

{How's the job?}

-Oh, I can't complain. It pays the bills, you know, Of course I'd rather be a kept woman.

{So that boyfriend of yours still hasn't popped the question then?}

-No, he hasn't gotten round to it.

{Sorry, to hear that, I'm sure he will...one day}

-Thanks, I hope so. I'll go and get him for you.

{OK, Taya. Thanks.}

TAYA walks from the lounge to the workshop, as she approaches she hears ADRIAN apparently talking to himself.

ADRIAN

Not anymore - I'm ready...This one's all seized up. There you go!

THE BOX

Just give the word...and I'll come out!

INT. WORKSHOP - MID-MORNING

TAYA opens the door to the workshop and finds ADRIAN looking inside a slightly opened box. An unnatural green light spills from inside the box. Because of her disturbance, ADRIAN slams the lid of the box closed, as though caught doing something wrong.

ADRIAN

(surprised/ashamed/  
embarrassed)

Taya!

TAYA

It's Michael on the phone for you.

TAYA hands ADRIAN the cordless phone. She looks at him for a moment, deeply concerned, but unsure how to deal with the situation, then leaves him to his phone call.

ADRIAN

-How's it going, Michael?

{Good, thanks, mate}

-How can I help you?

{Wow! What's the hurry - don't you want to chew the fat with your old pal?}

-Sorry, Michael. Just busy with something, that's all.

{Yeah, yeah, I know.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Anyway, just wanted to jack  
up a time for our squash game}

-Oh, er...I don't think I can play  
Squash today.

{Adrian, Peter and Giles are  
coming. You're the fourth man. You  
can't let us down.}

-What about, Brendon? He enjoys a  
game.

{No, he's out of town. It's got to  
be you.}

-It's just that we've-

Looking at the box

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

-I've got somethin' to do today  
{Come on, mate, this is not like  
you}

-Alright, alright. 3pm?

{You're a gem! I'll book the court.  
Thanks, Adrian.}

-Thanks, Michael

{See you later}

-Yep. See you later.

ADRIAN clicks the phone off. Looking back at the box on the  
workshop desk.

THE BOX

Will you let me out now, finally?

ADRIAN

I just need to think.

THE BOX

And you're leaving me to go and  
play games with your friends.  
C'mon, Adrian, where's the love?

ADRIAN

(confused again)

I'm sorry.

More items in the workshop begin to swell. ADRIAN flees the  
workshop. He leaves the door ajar. He leaves the cordless  
phone behind on the desk.

INT. LOUNGE - MID-MORNING

ADRIAN sits opposite TAYA on one of the armchairs. He is  
visible shaken from his dilemma over whether to open the box  
or not.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYA

What's going on, honey? You're shaking!

ADRIAN

I don't know, I'm confused.

TAYA

Who where you talking to, in the workshop?

ADRIAN

(alarmed)

You heard us?

TAYA

I heard you, nobody else.

ADRIAN

Oh. I was thinking out loud, that's all.

TAYA

You never could lie to me...now tell me what's going on?

ADRIAN

I'm not lying!

TAYA

I know you better than that, Adrian.

ADRIAN

Okay, okay...how can I put this?  
(pauses/thinking)

If you found a jenie in a bottle, would you release him and claim your wishes?

TAYA

Could you be less cryptic?

ADRIAN

If you could have anything you desired, would you take it?

TAYA

Yes, I would...so long as it didn't hurt anyone.

ADRIAN

And what if the jenie turned out to be the devil himself?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TAYA

You're making no sense.

ADRIAN

What if claiming what you truly desire costs much more than you could ever afford?

TAYA

And what do you truly desire?

ADRIAN

(pausing, unsure if he should share)

Greatness. I want to be somebody. To escape the mediocrity of my life.

TAYA

You *are* somebody. *Our* life is not mediocre!

ADRIAN

No, I'm not talking about us. Just me.

TAYA

So I don't fit into your plan for greatness. Is that what you're saying?

ADRIAN

He spoke about you, about your greatest desire.

TAYA

Who did? What desire?

ADRIAN

Nevermind.

TAYA

No, Adrian, not this time. You always shut me out. Exclude me. It was you who wanted to live with me, remember. You asked me! It was you who wanted to share your life with me, why don't you try connecting once in a while?

ADRIAN

(angry)

This is not about you. It's not about getting married. It's about an old box I dug up in the garden. Okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TAYA

Yeah, what is it with that box?  
It's barely left your side since I  
saw you with it this morning?

Suddenly realising that's what he must have been doing last night.

TAYA (CONT'D)

Is that your jeanie in the bottle?  
Some relic from out of the garden?

ADRIAN

He called to me.

TAYA

(remembering, but not  
wanting to)  
It spoke to you?

ADRIAN

He speaks to me alone. He promised.

TAYA

Honey, you're scaring me.

Suddenly, the box speaks to ADRIAN from the other room.  
ADRIAN turns his head to listen.

THE BOX (O.S.)

When you go out, she'll try to  
steal my away. Maybe I'll show her  
my favour and not you!

ADRIAN

(pausing, then suddenly  
jealous)  
I need to go out, later - I  
couldn't get out of it...

TAYA

Playing squash? But you love  
playing squash!

ADRIAN

Not anymore...and when I'm gone, I  
want you to leave my things  
alone...no tidying up in my  
workshop, you understand? And don't  
touch my box!

TAYA

You're changing, Adrian, and I  
don't like what I'm seeing...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ADRIAN

Just do what I tell you!

FADE OUT:

ADRIAN is carrying a sport's bag and getting into his car. He drives off, not looking very happy. TAYA is sat in the lounge, reading. Suddenly, the phone rings from the workshop. She gets up and enters into the workshop - the door has been closed - answering the phone.

TAYA

-Hello?

{Hello, Taya, it's Pauline from the Agency}

-Oh, hi, Pauline.

{I wondered if you'd be interested in doing an afternoon shift tomorrow}

-Erm...probably not, we're looking at open homes.

{Oh really, you thinking of buying?}

-We're just looking at the moment, but one day we'd like to.

{Oh well, thanks anyway, and good luck with the house hunting}

-Thanks...and thanks for ringing, too, I know I don't take much work, but I appreciate the call.

{No worries. Bye}

-Bye bye.

She clicks the phone off. Then, looking down at the box on the desk, it suddenly speaks to her.

THE BOX

Let me out....and I'll tell you how you can win his heart.

TAYA

You talk!?

THE BOX

Oh yes, I was talking long before you were even born!

TAYA

But how? You're a box?

THE BOX

I am not a box. I'm inside the box. Now let me out and I'll show you wonderful and beautiful things... I'll give you everything you desire...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

TAYA  
I don't know...

FADE OUT:

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT. LOUNGE - AFTERNOON

(O.C.) Sound of CAR PULLING UP THE DRIVE

TAYA is sat in the lounge as ADRIAN arrives home from his game of squash. He plods grumpily through the lounge - grunts something - and heads towards the workshop.

TAYA  
It's nice to see you too, darling.

INT. WORKSHOP - AFTERNOON:

ADRIAN opens the door to his workshop and goes in. He heads straight to the desk and, more specifically, the box which is still on the desk.

ADRIAN  
I'm sorry I had to leave...stupid  
game of Squash.

The Box is silent.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)  
Hello? Are you in there?

ADRIAN begins to tap the box.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)  
What's wrong, friend? Can you hear  
me? Why aren't you talking to me?

Getting anxious, then a dark thought arise in his mind.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)  
Has somebody released you? Did she-

ADRIAN doesn't complete the sentence. The room turns a dark, broody red colour as his mood darkens.

CROSS FADE  
(RED):

INT. LOUNGE - AFTERNOON:

TAYA is still seating in the lounge when ADRIAN burst through the door, holding up the spade. He has the look of a crazy man and she is terrified and shocked.

ADRIAN

I told you not to touch the box!  
What did he promise you?

TAYA

I...I...I didn't-

In Silhouette we see ADRIAN smashing TAYA over the head, repeatedly, and drops of blood splashing.

ADRIAN

You said we were friends! You said  
you'd only talk to me! That we - we  
- we would achieve great things,  
you and I!  
(screaming)  
I believed you!!!

TAYA's lifeless body falls to the floor. ADRIAN turns his head to the voice coming from the workshop.

THE BOX

Adrian, my boy - now you are ready  
to let me out of this box!

FADE OUT:

LONG PAUSE - FADE IN:

EXT. BACK GARDEN - MORNING (Some days later):

ADRIAN walks along the lawn, pausing to consider what appears to be a normal patch of lawn. He looks totally drained and expressionless. His head is bowed.

The camera pans down - to a cross section of the ground below his feet - where we see both TAYA and the box buried in pockets in the soil.

FADE OUT:

ROLL TITLES: