

LIVERPOOL.
EARTH-2.

EVERYTHING
IS WRONG.



I THOUGHT THIS OTHER EARTH
WASN'T REAL. BUT I COUGH
ASH AND SCRAPE MY PALM ON
ROUGH BRICK. A STITCH IN MY
SIDE FROM RUNNING, RUNNING
AS FAST AS I CAN.

RUNNING FOR
MY LIFE.



NOT MY
LIFE.



HIS LIFE. JOHN
CONSTANTINE, THE
PROPER JOHN
CONSTANTINE.



THE ONE WHO DIDN'T RUIN
EVERYTHING HE'S EVER TOUCHED.
THE ONE WITH FRIENDS, WITH A
WIFE AND A HOUSE AND...

...AND PARENTS WHO
WEREN'T BURNED UP BY HIS
OWN STUPIDITY, HIS GREAT
AND GLORIOUS DEBUT IN THE
WORLD OF THE MYSTIC
BLOODY ARTS--

RUN,
JOHN.
DON'T
STOP!

MUM...
I CAN'T
GO ON... I'M
DONE...



YES.
YOU'RE
DONE.

NO, HE BLOODY WELL ISN'T,
I SAY. AND I PUSH OFF THE
BRICK, AND I THROW MYSELF
IN FRONT OF THE BASTARD
AND HIS CANISTER GUN...



AND I
TAKE THE
HIT.

IT'S ALL
I CAN
DO.

CRACK

MEANINGFUL GESTURES

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ONE HOUR EARLIER.

DAD...
MUM...

THAT'S...
THAT'S JUST
WHAT I WAS
GOING TO
SAY, GUV.

IT'S A
TRICK. IT'S
SOME KIND OF
TRICK.

THIS
CAN'T
BE...

BUT IT IS. THE AIR IS THICK WITH
HOPELESSNESS AND DESPAIR,
GENERATED BY SOME KIND OF
ALIEN TRANSMISSION...

...BUT THEY'RE HERE,
THEY ARE. EVERY-
ONE I EVER LOVED,
BEFORE I BROKE
MYSELF APART.

CHAS, THE ONE
FRIEND I COULD
ALWAYS RELY ON.

NOT JUST MUM AND DAD.
GAZ, MY MATE SINCE WE
WAS TEENAGERS.

AND MAUREEN, AW
GOD, MAUREEN...

I CAN'T EVEN HEAR
THEM SHOUTING. IT'S
ALL A DULL ROAR.
BLOOD IN MY EARS.

AND HE COMES
OFF THE SOFA,
CRYING BLOODY
MURDER...

...OF COURSE HE
DOES. WOULDN'T
YOU? I'M THE ONE
WHO SHOULDN'T BE
HERE. I'M THE ONE
WHO'S TWISTED,
WHO'S WRONG.



AND HIS HANDS CLOSE AROUND MY THROAT AND SOMHOW, SURELY, IT ALL LEAPS BETWEEN US, THE WHOLE OF OUR LIVES UNROLLING OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER

HIS FREE OF THE ONSETS, FREE OF THE ENDLESS STRUGGLE AND SACRIFICE AND BLOODY SCREAMING MADNESS

HIS STITCHED TOGETHER WITH CRUEL SCARS, WITH THE CHILL TOUCH OF THE ABYSS

HIS IN HURRY BLACK AND PILING UP, BAGGED AND FANFL AND WRONG

HIS ALL IN BRIGHT AGES, WARM AND LIVELY AND RIGHT

HIS SHOT THROUGH WITH ABLAZE, WITH CLEAN LAUGHTER, WITH SIGNS

HIS WITH DEATH AND DECAY AND SCREAMING CURSES

AND HE KNOWS ME

AND I KNOW HIM

AND I REALIZE, HIS LIFE IS ORDINARY AND HAPPY, HE IS LOVED

I'M THE ONE WHO CAN'T REAL