

‘A Twisted Mind’

By Richard Kelly

There was a buzz of excitement in the air at Lake Compounce amusement Park. It was a hot and sunny day and this had attracted masses of people to the amusement Park. " what should we go on first?" Zach asked his parents.

"I don't know, there is so much to see" answered his mother Elizabeth.

"let's just sit down for a minute, I'm a little tired after that car journey" said Oliver, Zach's Father. They had drove over three hours to this amusement park for Zach, he had improved his grades so much over the past few weeks Elizabeth and Oliver thought this would be the perfect way to give him a bit of a treat for his good work. "Ok them well I'm going to go to the toilet while ye wait here" Zach said to his parents. Zach turned away from his parents and walked into the crowd and he knew that all his planning had worked. Zach had that look in his eyes, the look of menace. Zach had planned all this from the day his parents gave him an ultimatum. All zach had done in the past few weeks was a complete act. The improvements in his grades, the improvements in his attitude. It was all and act that Zach was putting on so that he could get payback with his parents. And as he walked through the crowd he knew that this was going to be the only chance he would get to make his parents really suffer, so he better do everything right. His plan was to go missing in the amusement park and force his parents into paying a ransom to get him back.

Elizabeth looked into the crowd of people scanning the faces. "What are you looking at?" her husband asked. But she didn't answer, she wasn't paying attention to him she kept focused on the crowd. "Lizzy" Oliver called "What are you looking for?" "Oh sorry" she said "it's just zach has been in the toilet a really long time". She was becoming worried and her husband could see this. He took a step out of the shade into the

blistering sun, it illuminated him. He was not a big man but there was something about him that emitted control. He carried himself with poise; this could be seen with the look on his face, focused but still relaxed and his watchful pale blue eyes. Oliver brown was Forty four years old but he had knowledge well beyond his years. He was dressed in a simple t-shirt and shorts, as opposed to his usual dark suit and tie. He was a good husband and father. He put his arm on her shoulder "He's ok, I'm sure there is just a big line at the toilet". "You're probably right" she said still looking but then she went and sat down beside her husband.

Zach was no looking for somewhere to hide, he was trying to get as far from his parents as he could, trying to make it harder for them to find him. He dashed through the crowd glancing at the different buildings trying to interpret if they would be a good hiding place but he wasn't sure, he wasn't sure about anything, he even doubted if he could pull his plan off or if he would fail. "I need to hurry up" he thought to himself, then in the distance he caught sight of the clock tower "a good hiding place" he whispered to himself. "An even better place to keep a look out from" he realised. Zach forced his way through the crowd and to the clock tower. "they won't find me here, they won't even think to look up here" he thought.

Twenty minutes had now passed since Zach had went to the toilet and Elizabeth was convinced that something was wrong. "I'm ringing him" she said. "Yeah it'd probably be a good idea" Oliver said as he looked into the crowd. Elizabeth rang Zach and Oliver stood there looking at her, waiting for her to start talking. Elizabeth took the phone down and pressed redial. "Well?" asked Oliver. "There was no answer, I'm trying him again" she said. Again she got the same thing when she rang Zach, until they could only get through to his voicemail. "Something's wrong " she

said. "What will I do?" asked Oliver.

"Go get some help, a security guard or something, just go get some help!" Elizabeth snapped. Oliver ran to the security guards office while Elizabeth remained trying to ring her son, but this was to no avail, his phone had been turned off. Oliver arrived back to Elizabeth quickly with the security guard. "Our son is missing" she cried. Oliver got her to calm down and went back to the security guards office with the security guard and his wife. Elizabeth was very agitated about the whole situation, she could barely keep herself upright, she was in no state to be out in the crowd looking for Zach, she was better off to be inside looking for him on the security monitors. After a very daunting few hours of looking for zach , oliver arrived back to the security office. "Did you find him?" Elizabeth asked.

"No" he said. He walked over to Elizabeth who was sitting at the security monitors "could you see him on the security cameras?" he asked...

"no and its getting really late now" Elizabeth said. Unexpectedly Elizabeth's phone beeped, "who is it?" Oliver asked...

"it's a message from Zach" she said rising to her feet. Elizabeth opened the message and the look of concern on her face turned to sheer fear. Oliver saw how the expression on her face changed as she read the message "what is it?" he asked, but she didn't answer him, she just handed him the phone and turned away. Oliver read the message out aloud, "I have your son, I want 50 grand left under the clock tower or your son is dead". He felt numb, the security guards took the phone and the police were notified. Oliver hugged his wife "it's going to be ok, we're going to find him". It was announced over the intercom that there was a missing child in the park and the whole place was put on lockdown, the police were securing the park and in the crowd looking for Zach or any suspicious behaviour.

Zach heard the announcement, he snickered "Fools it'll teach them to try and threaten me, a correctional facility, how daft are they? This will teach em". Zach was

furious with his parents, they told him a few weeks ago that if he didn't stop getting into trouble and start to improve his school work that they would have no other choice than to send him to a correctional facility. That just didn't sit well with Zach. Zach now huddled in a corner in the clock tower, got up and looked through a corner of the window. He saw all of the police men and security guards looking around the park. "I was right, this was the perfect place to hide" he thought to himself. Then as swift as a cat he stopped looking, he thought one of the security guards saw him. "I know" he said "I'll send them another message"

Elizabeth and Oliver were now in the crowd looking for Zach, they were stopping tourists and families asking if they had seen their son, but it was useless, Zach hadn't been seen by anyone. Elizabeth's phone beeped again. She took out her phone and an eerie message read "tick tock tick tock".

"I'm going to the security guards with this you keep looking" she said to Oliver. Elizabeth ran through the crowd looking for a member of security and she saw one, she ran towards him holding the phone out in front of her, "I got another message" she said as she handed him the phone. He read it, he looked at Elizabeth and she looked back at him. "ok we're going to need a dummy bag of money, we need to follow the kidnappers orders to make sure your son is safe" he said. Elizabeth nodded "do you think we will find him" she asked..."yes we will" but she knew by the look in his eyes that he wasn't confident in what he had just said.

It was starting to get late and the light was fading fast, soon it was going to be dark and almost impossible to find Zach. The crowds of people were still in the park, no one was allowed to leave. Zach sat in the clock tower shivering, he thought to himself

how funny it was that his parents thought he was missing when really he was fine, and laughed about the whole thing. "Maybe they'll learn from this now" he said to himself "I'm not going to a correctional facility" that is what he kept telling himself, that he wasn't going to a correctional facility but he knew if his parents ever found out that he would probably end up in one. Zach felt hungry now, he hadn't eaten all day and food was the one thing that he didn't plan. " Maybe if I just sneak down to get something no one will see me" he thought, but he decided against it, "it's too risky" he said, " I didn't come this far just to fail and get caught out, no im going to stick this out" Zach was determined now and the thing that drove him most other than getting revenge on his parents was that maybe now they might take more time to spend it with Zach. Zach saw himself as the victim because his parents were always working, he thought they never wanted to spend time with him "maybe this will change that" he thought "maybe".

Down in the security office they were putting together a dummy bag of money for the ransom. One of the security guards explained the plan to Elizabeth. "Ok the plan is we're going to make a swap, your son for the money"...

"Ok do you think that will work?" Elizabeth asked.

"We're counting on it" he said, "and you are going to have to be the one who puts the bag under the clock tower, because if one of the guards does it the kidnapper might feel threatened" he explained.

"Ok" Elizabeth said trying to be brave, but she couldn't be brave, she was terrified, all she could ever do was put on a brave face, she always counted on her husband to be the brave one. Oliver arrived back with one of the security guards, they wanted the keys to the clock tower. They thought if they went up there they might get a better view of the theme park. The

security guard rummaged through a drawer and took out a bundle of keys. "Ok lets go" he

said to oliver walking out the door. Oliver looked at Elizabeth "I'll be back soon" and he walked out the door.

Zach was inside the gallery of the clock tower and he heard footsteps going up the stairs. He was convinced that he was going to get caught. Zach knew he needed to do something to stop him getting caught. He started to head but the wall trying to knock himself out. He wanted to make it look like the kidnapper knocked him out and locked him in the clock tower. His head started bleeding but he kept head butting the wall until he collapsed

onto the floor. He heard voices outside the door. Oliver and the security guard were outside the door trying to unlock it. The security guard opened the door and oliver walked in with him, they saw zach on the floor and oliver ran over to him and started shaking him frantically "Zach wake up, wake up" he was shouting. The security guard went on his walkie talkie...

"we found him, we're in the clock tower, get paramedics up here now". Zach started to make groggy noises and he started to moan "my head", he was acting as if he had been knocked out.

"Its ok Zach, doctors are on the way". Elizabeth arrived less than a minute after they had announced that they found zach. She was out of breath "Is he ok? Zach are you ok?" she asked. It was all a rush. Paramedics arrived up to the clock tower moments later and started to

examine Zach, they gave him oxygen and pit him on a stretcher. Elizabeth ran alongside Zach as he was wheeled to the ambulance on the stretcher. "it's ok, you're going to be ok Zach". The medics put Zach in the back of the ambulance and rushed away, sirens blaring.

Oliver came up behind elizabeth and said "look what the medics found in zachs pocket". It was Zachs' mobile phone, the same phone used to sent the ransom messages. "He planned this Lizzy"...

..." No he didnt why would he?" but she knew it was true, Oliver pulled her towards him

saying "he needs to be punished Lizzy, this is the last straw".

When Elizabeth and Oliver arrived at the hospital Zach was asleep, the doctor told them that he had been knocked out by blunt force trauma to his head.

Elizabeth asked Oliver "then who knocked him out?", Oliver replied...

..."He must have done it himself, he must have done it to make his story plausible, all I know

Lizzy is that he sent those messages, there was no one else inside the clock tower and the door had been locked from the inside, the security guard said it". He looked disgusted, he was

sick and he felt betrayed that his own flesh and blood would do something like this. Zach

woke up after an hour or so, his parents were by his bedside. "We know what you did Zach"

his mother said, "but, but"...

..."No buts" his father snapped "this is the last straw, you are finished". Zach looked at his

mother for help but she looked away, Oliver took her by the hand and walked her out the

door. They were glad that this whole ordeal was over, but they were filled with pure disgust

and anger. Now there was no changing it, Zach was going to a correctional facility for what

he had done, he knew he screwed it up this time but sorry was not going to help him in any

way.

