

EXT. HOUSING ESTATE LOCATED SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND.

THE MILKMAN walks up to a front door, placing a pint of milk on the doorstep. He then walks to the front door of the neighbouring house, placing milk on their door step before leaving.

A couple of hours pass.

The NEIGHBOUR living in the second house opens his front door to collect his milk. He looks to his neighbouring house, where THE OLD MAN lives, only to notice he hasn't picked up his milk. He thinks nothing of this and heads back inside.

This continues to happen for several days as THE OLD MAN's front doorstep begins to pile up with numerous pints of milk.

One day his NEIGHBOUR picks up his milk and notices the pints of milk on THE OLD MAN's doorstep and begins to worry. He then goes inside to speak to his WIFE.

INT. NEIGHBOUR'S HALLWAY.

NEIGHBOUR
(Calling to wife) Darling!

WIFE
Yes Dear?

NEIGHBOUR
Have you spoken to the Old Man next door recently?

WIFE
No, why?

NEIGHBOUR
His front door is covered in milk bottles.

WIFE
Well maybe he's put the empty ones back outside to be collected and they haven't been yet.

NEIGHBOUR
They're full. He hasn't touched a single one of them.

WIFE

Oh. Well I'm sure there's a perfectly good reason for that.

NEIGHBOUR

(Looking at the milk bottle in his hand) Yes. Yes, I'm sure there is.

EXT. SHOT OF BOTH HOUSES.

The next day THE MILKMAN arrives to place the milk on each doorstep again. This time as he places the milk on the NEIGHBOUR's doorstep, he is greeted by him.

NEIGHBOUR

Good Morning!

THE MILKMAN

Oh Hi! Good morning Sir! How are you today?

NEIGHBOUR

I'm quite alright thank you, and yourself?

THE MILKMAN

I'm very good thank you Sir! Anyway, I best get this milk delivered before everyone wakes up with no milk. Have a lovely day!

THE MILKMAN turns to walk off but is stopped by the NEIGHBOUR

NEIGHBOUR

Have you seen the Old Man that lives next door recently? It's just that, as you can see, he hasn't come to collect his milk for some time now.

THE MILKMAN

I can't say that I have. There's many that don't bother to collect it anymore. Lazy Buggers if you ask me. Just makes the place look downright ugly.

NEIGHBOUR

What? Not even when he pays his bill?

THE MILKMAN

No. He pays by direct debit like a lot of my customers.

NEIGHBOUR

Oh right. But like i say, he is old. Do you think maybe he...?

THE MILKMAN

I'm sorry Sir, I don't quite follow what you mean.

NEIGHBOUR

Well, you know what they say about keeping an eye on your elderly neighbours. In case they. Well. You know.

THE MILKMAN

In case they need a hand in the garden?

NEIGHBOUR

(Chuckles) No.

THE MILKMAN

In case they need a hand bringing the shopping in?

NEIGHBOUR

No. In case they--

THE MILKMAN

--In case they can't work the TV?

NEIGHBOUR

No for god's sake! In case the old bastard's croaked!

There is a long moment of silence as they both look at each other. Both looking rather embarrassed by what had just gone on.

NEIGHBOUR (CONT.)

(Clears throat) Don't you think that's a possibility?

THE MILKMAN

Hmm. It's certainly possible. If he is an Old Man like you said.

The NEIGHBOUR's face develops a worried expression.

THE MILKMAN (CONT.)

I mean, I just thought he didn't like milk and it was his way of protesting against my deliveries.

NEIGHBOUR

Surely if that was the case then he would have just cancelled his subscription?

THE MILKMAN takes a long moment to think.

THE MILKMAN

Hmm, I don't know. There are some freaks out there who will do anything these days to cause drama.

The NEIGHBOUR looks at THE MILKMAN. Confusion etched across his face.

THE MILKMAN (CONT.)

Anyway, I must head off. Have a wonderful day Sir!

THE MILKMAN turns and walks away, leaving the NEIGHBOUR stood in his doorway.

The NEIGHBOUR then walks towards THE OLD MAN's front door and knocks several times, but there is no answer. He then walks towards his living room window and he sees THE OLD MAN slumped in his chair motionless. The NEIGHBOUR then bangs on the window with no response. He then rushes back to his house.

INT. NEIGHBOUR'S HALLWAY.

The NEIGHBOUR dials 999 for EMERGENCY SERVICES.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency. Which service?

NEIGHBOUR

Ambulance service please.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Hello ambulance service. What seems to be the problem?

NEIGHBOUR

Oh hi, I wonder if you can help me. I'm a little concerned about my next door neighbour. He's an old man you see. For the last week or so, he hasn't picked up his milk from outside his house. It's just piling up on his doorstep.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

(Long Pause) Right.

NEIGHBOUR

So that's it. I'm seriously worried about him.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Are you sure he just doesn't like milk?

EXT. SHOT OF BOTH HOUSES

An ambulance arrives outside the OLD MAN's house. The paramedics step over the numerous bottles of milk to knock on the front door. The NEIGHBOUR watches on in panic.

PARAMEDIC

Hello! Sir! Are you there?

There is no response from the inside.

PARAMEDIC (CONT.)

Sir if you are okay then please come to the door otherwise we will have to force entry!

There is still no response from inside.

PARAMEDIC (CONT.)

Okay Sir, we are coming in!

The Paramedics break down the OLD MAN's front door and rush inside. They wake the OLD MAN who was napping in his living room.

OLD MAN

(Startled) What the bleeding hell is going on?

PARAMEDIC

We had a call from your neighbour. He was concerned that something might've happened to you.

OLD MAN

What? Why would he think that?

PARAMEDIC

The milk bottles that have been left on your doorstep.

OLD MAN

What are you talking about?

PARAMEDIC

You have several bottles of milk that have been left untouched for weeks on your doorstep.

The OLD MAN peers past the PARAMEDIC to see the milk bottles on his doorstep.

OLD MAN

Shit! I must have forgotten to cancel my subscription.

PARAMEDIC

(Confused) Why would you want to cancel your subscription?

OLD MAN

You see, I went to the Doctor's the other week.

INT. DOCTOR'S SURGERY SEVERAL WEEKS EARLIER

DOCTOR

So, the cramps, the flatulence and the diarrhoea. The cause of all of this is lactose intolerance.

OLD MAN

You're joking?

DOCTOR

I'm afraid not. From now on you are going to have to avoid all dairy products. Unless you want to continue to feel the way that you are feeling.

OLD MAN

Oh no. But I love my cereal and brew in the morning. Can I not even have a little bit?

DOCTOR

I'm afraid not. If you continue to consume these food products they will be absolutely terrible for you.

OLD MAN

Oh that is a shame.

There is a brief pause between the two as the OLD MAN takes in the bad news.

OLD MAN (CONT.)

Hang on a minute.

DOCTOR

What?

OLD MAN

I just remembered, I had a coffee in the waiting room. That can't have been any good for me can it?

DOCTOR

No, most certainly not. If I were you I would expect some of those symptoms again very shortly.

The OLD MAN looks at the DOCTOR as he explains this before a moment of silence. In this moment the OLD MAN lets out some wind, before smiling awkwardly at the DOCTOR. A few moments after this wind is let out, the DOCTOR begins to gag due to the smell.

EXT. DOCTOR'S SURGERY

The OLD MAN walks out of the DOCTOR's Surgery and begins talking to himself.

OLD MAN

I must remember to cancel my milk
subscription.

He then begins to walk home. End of Script.