The Laundromat

By

Keaton Hargrove

INT. LAUNDROMAT - DAY

In a old laundromat, the paint peels, and cracks cover the white brick walls.

The orange tinted lights flicker.

A sound of a spinning quarter can be heard.

The laundromat is empty, except for one person. Alone, standing tense in front of a washing machine filled with clothes.

JAYCE, a "20" year old **Asian man** wears a dark blue hoodie. His hood on & a bit of his black hair peeking through the top. His eyes **wander.**

On the wall is an analog clock, which reads **"12:22."**

Jayce picks up the spinning quarter off of the top of the washing machine & places the quarter inside.

He presses "**start"** & the clothes spin around in a washing machine. On the small display screen, it reads, **"Time Remaining 22 Minutes."**

Jayce watches the clothes spin & listens to the loud thudding of his clothes hitting the bottom of the washing machine.

Jayce overhears what seems like the wind pulling the entrance door open. Someone quickly shuts the door & Jayce hears soft footsteps.

JAYCE (V.O.)
A voice in my head wonders why I come here.

Jayce **sighs**.

JAYCE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But it knows.

A quick **"flash"** of an **intrusive thought** appears of **Jayce** kicking the washing machine.

Jayce squints his eyes in pain, as if the **intrusive thought** hurt him. He overhears the soft footsteps strolling down the empty aisle. Jayce looks towards the aisle & sees a **ELDERLY MAN age "70"** wearing clear glasses, a brown coat, and carrying a white basket.

Jayce stares at the elderly man.

The elderly man hears a thud coming from Jayce's washing machine and glances over at Jayce.

The elderly man smirks & nods his head.

Jayce grabs his forehead tightly & closes his eyes.

INT. LAUNDROMAT - JAYCE'S HEAD - DAY

Now inside **Jayce's head**. Jayce envisions his encounter with the elderly man. Once again, the elderly man wearing his clear glasses, and **brown coat**. Slowly strolls down the aisle & hears the thud from Jayce's washing machine. He glances over at Jayce & both of them now share eye contact.

JAYCE
Freak you!

INT. LAUNDROMAT - PRESENT - DAY

Jayce still stands in front of the washing machine, while continuously gripping his head firmly.

The thumping of his clothing can still be heard. But it's not as loud as before.

JAYCE (V.O.)
It may be odd, but I relate to a washing machine. It cleans your clothes & doesn't stop spinning until the time runs out.

The washing machine continues spinning. We see the time left on the display screen **"5 Seconds."**

JAYCE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The only difference is my mind doesn't stop.

The washing machine **stops**. Jayce picks up his white basket & opens the lid to the machine. He begins placing all his clothes into the basket.

After placing all the clothes into the basket. He strolls to the dryers. He reaches a dryer, and beside it, is another dryer with clothes laying inside. Jayce opens the lid & places all his clothing into the dryer.

He places some quarters inside & then presses **start**. The

clothes begin moving around & the time remaining is **"33 Minutes."**

For a second, Jayce stares at the clothes as they move around. Suddenly, he closes his eyes.

INT. JAYCE'S HEAD - NIGHT

Inside Jayce's head. All that can be seen is darkness.

The **intrusive thought** of Jayce kicking the washing machine appears in the darkness.

But quickly, the thought dries away.

A loud voice appears in Jayce's mind. It says, **"freak-"** It quickly goes away.

JAYCE (V.O.)
For a moment I can just be aware.

Jayce takes a slow deep **breath in** & **out**.

INT. LAUNDROMAT - PRESENT - DAY

Jayce, still standing in front of the dryer, opens his eyes. His clothes done & now fully dry.

JAYCE (V.O.)
But once the drying ends, the cycle repeats itself.

The loud voice reappears in his mind and says, "**freak you.**"

Jayce opens the lid to the dryer & begins placing his clothes into his basket. The elderly man is still holding onto his basket. He strolls to the machine filled with clothing.

On the elderly man's wrist is a tattoo with the name, **"Angel."**

The elderly man lays his basket on the ground, opening the lid and slowly begins placing his clothes into the basket.

As the elderly man does so, he glances over at Jayce. He glances over at him again, and again. His clothes falling onto the ground.

INT. LAUNDROMAT - FLASHBACK - DAY

Inside the **elderly man's head**. He **envisions** the encounter

between him & Jayce. The elderly man smirks & nods his head. But notices Jayce gripping his head tightly.
The elderly man's smirk turns into worry.

INT. LAUNDROMAT - PRESENT - DAY

The elderly man closes the lid to his dryer.

ELDERLY MAN
Sir... Sorry to bother you. I don't mean to get into your business. But I've dealt with some head problems before. Depending on which I'm talking about.

Jayce confused.

ELDERLY MAN (CONT'D)
The Migraines, Headaches, or the horrible, horrible thoughts. Luckily I got some advice from a old friend. He told me, you can't control what comes. But you control whether you hold on to it.

Jayce places his basket on the ground.

JAYCE
What's that mean?

ELDERLY MAN
Nothing has meaning until you give it one.

The elderly man smirks at Jayce.

Jayce looks at the rest of his clothes lying in the dryer.

INT. DARK SPACE - NIGHT

Inside **Jayce's** head again. Suddenly, **"3"** thoughts appear side by side in Jayce's mind.

The first being the "**intrusive thought of Jayce kicking the washing machine.**"

The second, **Jayce gripping his forehead tightly.**

The last being Jayce saying **"freak you"** to the elderly man.

The three thoughts fade away.

JAYCE (V.O.)
I don't have control over what appears only control on whether I give my awareness to them.

INT. LAUNDROMAT - PRESENT - DAY

Jayce looks at the elderly man.

ELDERLY MAN
Hope it helps.

The elderly tilts his head down & smirks.

THE END