

# **STORM**

Written by

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(shooting draft)

1 INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

1

Open on a futuristic TV screen featuring the U.S. Department of Social Health seal. We see in bold letters: "OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT"

We enter full screen as a GOVERNMENT PRODUCED PSA plays:

ANNOUNCER

We welcome you on this historic day  
to the launch of the Federal  
Relationship Compatibility Act."

EXT. VARIOUS OUTDOORS - DAY

Several happy couples frolic and embrace in various settings.

At the bottom of the screen text appears that reads:  
"PARTICIPATION REQUIRED BY LAW." It remains on screen  
throughout the PSA.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

With our advanced algorithm, you'll  
be prevented from all heartache and  
trauma, as your paired with, or  
reassigned, to your ideal partner,  
allowing you to live a life of love  
and harmony.

1A EXT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

1A

A woman with a futuristic smart tablet matches with a man on a government enforced dating app. She's happy with the results.

ANNOUNCER

Our advanced algorithm compiles all  
of your information, to ensure you  
match ONLY with a partner of 98% to  
PERFECT compatibility.

1B EXT. PINIC TABLE - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

1B

An elderly overweight man checks the dating app only to find out he's received zero matches.

ANNOUNCER

If zero matches occur during the  
allotted 12 month period-

1C EXT. STAIRCASE - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 1C

A young man checks the app. He's disappointed to see that he's been labeled "INCOMPATIBLE".

ANNOUNCER

-We'll help you transition into a government approved permanent single lifestyle facility-

1D EXT. GOVERNMENT APPROVED LIFESTYLE FACILITY - DAY 1D

A young woman dressed in gray government issue clothing and carrying minimal belongings arrives at the curb. She seems happy, like she's starting a new adventure.

ANNOUNCER

-Where you'll be welcome to live your truth.

1E EXT. GRASSY FIELD - DAY 1E

A couple frolics hand in hand as the government logo appears in front of them on screen.

ANNOUNCER

Here's to a happier you!

End PSA.

2 INT. BLAKE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 2

LIGHTNING!

Text: 364 DAYS LATER

Blake's living room is filled with moving boxes. Outside a storm is raging.

3 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT 3

BLAKE, early 20's, sits in his bathtub with his government issued smart tablet desperately attempting to find a match on the dating app before time runs out.

DATING APP VOICE

Welcome back to your federal approved relationship generator.

A profile photo of his face pops up on the app.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
 You have 17,552 incompatibles and  
 zero matches.

The profile of a cute young woman appears on the tablet.  
 Blake taps on her photo. The algorithm begins calculating.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
 Calculating compatibility.

Their compatibility stops at 21.9%. Blake sighs.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
 Incompatible. Not a match.

He taps on another profile.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
 Calculating compatibility.

So far so good. He gazes at the woman's profile pic and  
 smiles.

It stops suddenly at 38.4%.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
 Incompatible detected. Not a match.

He tries another. A spunky looking young woman with a  
 mischievous smile.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
 Calculating compatibility.

It stops at 6.3%. The screen turns red and alarms sound.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
 EXTREME FUTURE INCOMPATIBILITY  
 DETECTED. CEASE FURTHER  
 COMMUNICATION IMMEDIATELY OR WE  
 WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE-

He quickly exits out of her profile. The alarm stops.

A profile of a beautiful young woman appears on his tablet.  
 He gazes into her eyes. It's like she's smiling back at him.

He hesitates, trying to enjoy the moment before she  
 disappears forever.

He takes a deep breath and taps on her photo.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
Calculating compatibility.

Their compatibility percentage begins to rise.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
Calculating compatibility.

Blake is taken aback. Could she be the one? His heart is racing.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
Calculating compatibility.

They reach 97% compatibility and-

An announcement from "BURGER BUSTER" appears on his screen:  
"Your order has arrived."

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Blake's startled and DROPS the tablet into the bathtub.

BLAKE  
No!

He scrambles to retrieve it from the water, but the screen has turned off.

The knocking at the door continues as he shakes the device, desperately trying to turn it back on.

SUDDENLY! The device FLASHSES back on sending a jolt of electricity through his body just as lightning strikes outside.

Blake is knocked unconscious underwater.

4 EXT. BEACH - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

4

Blake emerges from the ocean gasping for air.

He takes in his surroundings disoriented and confused: *sunny sky, seagulls, a sandy beach smattered with beach goers, towels and umbrellas.*

People begin to stare. A MOTHER covers her CHILD's eyes.

Blake realizes he's naked.

A wave rushes over him.

5 INT. INDOOR SWIMMING POOL - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 5

Blake resurfaces in an Olympic size pool.

TWO SWIMMERS race vigorously past him in the adjacent lanes. Their COACH shouts from the sidelines. A THIRD SWIMMER rapidly approaches from behind in Blake's lane.

COACH  
Go! Go! Go! Faster!

The coach notices Blake.

COACH (CONT'D)  
Hey! What are you doing? Get out of  
the damn pool!

Blake DUNKS just as a swimmer faces over his head.

6 EXT. FRAT HOUSE - SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS) 6

Blake resurfaces in the pool of a boisterous backyard frat party.

A couple of BROS immediately smack him in the face with pool noodle.

He wades past SORORITY GIRLS and obnoxious drunk FRAT DUDES then scrambles out of the water.

He covers his crotch and timidly tries to make his way to an exit, trying to draw any attention to himself.

A group of FRAT BROS cheer on the ALPHA FRAT DUDE as he chugs an entire keg.

FRAT BROS  
(chanting)  
USA! USA! USA!

He finishes and the group of frat bros lose their minds. They chest bump in celebration.

An overstimulated FRAT DUDE chest bumps Blake as hard as he can.

FRAT DUDE  
WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

Blake goes flying into a nearby snack table, FACE PLANTING into a bowl of punch.

7 EXT. BACKYARD - KID'S BDAY PARTY - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 7

Blake lays face down in a inflatable kiddie pool. We see his naked butt.

He lifts himself from the water just in time to see a bunch of KIDS with super soakers and party hats charging towards him.

Blake scrambles to escape as the kids follow close behind yelling and screaming. Additional kids show up at every turn.

Blake runs right into a group of parents by the BBQ.

An ANGRY DAD looks up from the grill.

ANGRY DAD

HEY!

Blake slams on the breaks and heads back the way he came towards the kids.

Water balloons whiz past his head "Saving Private Ryan" style.

Kids jump out of nowhere with squirt guns.

He sees a Slip 'n Slide and goes for it! He dives and glides, SPLASHING into the pool of water at the end of the runway.

8 INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - EVENING (CONTINUOUS) 8

Blake lifts his face up out of a bowl of soup. He realizes he's at fancy restaurant seated with CLASSY DINERS.

A FANCY LADY sees Blake, chokes on her drink and SPRAYS it in his face.

9 EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 9

A CRANKY OLD MAN sprays Blake in the face with a garden hose.

CRANKY OLD MAN

GET OUT OF HERE, YOU COMMUNIST!

Blake realizes he's on someone's lawn. He scrambles away, dodging an array of garden gnomes.

10 EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DUSK (CONTINUOUS) 10

Blake runs down the street.

LIGHTING!

He looks up just as RAIN pours down on his face.

11 INT. GYM - SHOWERS - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 11

Blake finds himself beneath a steaming hot shower. Two naked OLD MEN shower next him naked.

Blake dashes out of the locker room-

12 INT. GYM - LOCKER ROOM/HALLWAY - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 12

-And into the hallway where an oblivious JANITOR mopping the floor dumps a bucket of soapy water into the air.

Blake collides with the SPLASH.

13A EXT. STREET CURB - AFTERNOON (CONTINUOUS) 13A

A vehicle zooms past splashing Blake with gutter water. He's left cold, shivering and exhausted on the curb.

He's caught off guard by sound of a woman shivering.

Blake whips around defensively. What now?

To his surprise the bright eyed YOUNG WOMAN from the app is standing next to him. She too is soaked, naked and freezing. This is NATALIE.

She notices Blake and scrambles to cover herself.

She wipes the hair from her face. The two lock eyes and they realize they recognize each-other. Not a word is uttered. Their faces say it all as they silently bond over their bazar situation.

A digital omnipotent voice breaks through the sky.

DATING APP VOICE  
Calculating compatibility.

They look up startled, then back at each-other confused.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
Calculating compatibility.

They continue staring at each-other, both full of fear and hope.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)

Match!

Blake is in shock.

Commencing relationship simulation.

14 ENTER SIMULATED FLASH FORWARD SEQUENCE. 14

A glitchy digital glimpse of their potential future life together plays out in front of their eyes.

We see flashes of the two meeting, their courtship, emotional and intimate moments as the app lists off all of the traits required for an approved relationship.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)

Communication - match! Trust -  
match! Partnership - match! Love -  
match! Love - match! Honesty -  
match! Happiness - match! Loyalty -  
match! Interests - match! Goals -  
match! Safety - match!

We ultimate see two soul mates sharing an amazing life together.

13B END SIMULATED FLASH FOWARD SEQUENCE 13B

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)

Compatibility 100%. Relationship  
success! Proceed at will.

The two remain standing naked on the curb. They continue staring into each-other's eyes. It suddenly feels as if they've known each-other their whole lives.

Blake clears his throat.

BLAKE

Hi-

DATING APP VOICE

ERROR! FUTURE INCOMPATIBILITY  
DETECTED!

LIGHTNING!

RAIN!

They look at each other confused.

The ground begins to rumble. Everything around them begins shaking and glitching out of control.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
 RECALCULATING COMPATIBILITY.  
 RECALCULATING COMPATIBILITY.

LIGHTNING!

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
 INCOMPATIBLE! NOT A MATCH!

Blake is devastated and confused. The two stare at each-other. What now?

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
 CEASE FURTHER COMMUNICATION  
 IMMEDIATELY OR WE WILL BE FORCED TO  
 TAKE LEGAL ACTION. NOT A MATCH!

PANIC! They look into each-other's eyes realizing this is it.

DATING APP VOICE (CONT'D)  
 RESTORING TO DEFAULT SETTINGS.

They hug and brace for impact.

CRAAAAAAASH!

A FLASH FLOOD consumes them both.

15 EXT. UNDER WATER 15

Blake and Natalie are torn from each-other's arms tossed around aimlessly.

16 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS) 16

Blake reemerges from his bathtub gasping for air. His heart is racing.

Blake realizes he's back in his bathroom. He scrambles to locate the tablet device in the tub water.

The screen is dead. He shakes it. Nothing.

Disappointment settles in.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK!

He grabs a towel and climbs out of the tub.

17 INT. HALLWAY LANDING - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS) 17

Blake sets the smart tablet on the landing and walks away.

18 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS) 18

A defeated Blake takes a seat on the couch, his delivered food in hand.

The news plays on TV.

NEWS REPORTER 1 (O.S.)

And what a night it's been so far!  
We're just about ready, with only  
minutes left on the clock.

NEWS REPORTER 2 (O.S.)

That's right! And spirits are high  
tonight as thousands of couples  
have gathered, not only to ring in  
the New Year, but also to celebrate  
the official close and finalization  
of the government Relationship  
Compatibility Act.

NEWS REPORTER 1 (O.S.)

And what a success it's been!

INT. HALLWAY LANDING - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

The smart tablet suddenly glitches back on. Natalie's profile reappears on the screen.

DATING APP (V.O.)

(glitchy)  
Recalculating compatibility.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Blake hear's the app turn on from the living room.

DATING APP (O.S.)

Recalculating compatibility.

He sits up, shocked.

The app beeps as the algorithm calculates their compatibility.

Blake's heart races in anticipation.

INT. HALLWAY LANDING - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

DING DING DING!

"100% compatibility" appears on the smart device screen over Natalie's profile.

DATING APP (V.O.)

Match!

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Blake's face lights up.

DATING APP (O.S.)

This relationship has been approved  
by the federal jurisdiction.

He races out of the living room-

INT. BEDROOM CLOSET - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

-And BURSTS open a closet door and grabs a suit and tie.

19 INT. HALLWAY LANDING - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS) 19

-And races down the hallway, now fully dressed, towards the bathroom. He grabs the smart tablet as he races past.

20 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS) 20

Blake jumps back into the bathtub, smart tablet in hand, and PLUNGES underwater.

***The following sequences take place in rapid succession at break neck speed.***

21 EXT. OCEAN - MORNING (CONTINUOUS) 21

Blake resurfaces from the ocean. The people on the beach stare at him - the mother covers her child's eyes.

He ignores everyone and immediately retreats back underwater.

22 INT. INDOOR SWIMMING POOL - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 22

Blake resurfaces from the Olympic size pool.

He quickly takes in his surroundings: the two swimmers in adjacent lanes, the coach yelling at them, the swimmer approaching fast from behind. GOOD!

He PLUNGES back underwater and-

23 EXT. FRAT HOUSE - SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS) 23

-He resurfaces in the crowded frat party pool. He shoves his way out of the water passing the group of frat dudes.

FRAT DUDES  
(chanting)  
USA! USA! USA!

The overly stimulated frat dude turns towards Blake ready for a chest bump.

FRAT DUDE  
WOOOOOOOOOOO!

Blake dunks and the frat dude SLAMS into a random SORORITY GIRL holding a drink.

RANDOM GIRL  
WAAAAAAAAAAH!!!

Blake beelines for the snack table, grabs the bowl of punch and DUNKS his head.

24 EXT. BACKYARD - KID'S BIRTHDAY PARTY - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 24

Blake springs to action from the kiddie pool!

The army of kids charges hurling water balloons and spraying their squirt guns. The angry dad follows close behind.

ANGRY DAD  
HEY!

Blake dodges water balloons.

An OBNOXIOUS KID jumps into frame ready to squirt Blake with a super soaker. Blake stiff arms him.

He finally reaches the slip 'n slide and goes for it, gliding across.

SPLAAAASH!

- 25 INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS) 25  
Blake lifts his face out from the bowl of soup. He turns to the startled lady in eager anticipation. He nods prompting her to get this show on the road.  
She chokes and SPRAYS her drink in his face.
- 26 EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 26  
The cranky old man with the hose SPRAYS Blake in the face.  
CRANKY OLD MAN  
Get out of here, you millennial!  
Blake vacates the property and heads for the street-
- 27 EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON (CONTINUOUS) 27  
Where he stops and looks up at the clouds just in time for-  
LIGHTING!  
Rain pours down his face.
- 28 INT. GYM SHOWERS - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 28  
Blake rushes out of the steamy showers and into the hallway-
- 29 INT. GYM LOCKERS - DAY - EVENING (CONTINUOUS) 29  
-Where he collides with the janitor's SPLASH.
- 30 EXT. CURB - AFTERNOON (CONTINUOUS) 30  
A vehicle zooms past leaving Blake drenched in gutter water.  
He wipes his face and regains his composure. Will she be there? He almost doesn't want to look. He slowly turns to see and-  
Nothing.  
His heart sinks.  
Beat.  
He sighs in defeat.

A second vehicle ZOOMS past.

SPLAAAAAASH!

Blake can't believe his eyes. Standing next to him completely drenched, and now clothed, is Natalie.

She looks up at him. Her face lights up. Blake beams.

He finally introduces himself.

BLAKE  
Hi, I'm Blake.

NATALIE  
(smiling)  
Natalie.

DATING APP (V.O.)  
ERROR! INCOMPATIBLE. NOT A MATCH.

Their smiles fade.

DATING APP (V.O.)  
CEASE FURTHER CONTACT IMMEDIATELY.

The ground begins to RUMBLE.

Blake and Natalie look at each other. PANIC!

LIGHTNING!

The wind swells up and all dialog becomes inaudible.

The two desperately try to communicate but the storm is just TOO POWERFULL. It's clear that there is nowhere to run.

DATING APP VOICE  
RESTORING TO DEFAULT SETTINGS.

They stare into each other's eyes. They are helplessly at the mercy of the storm.

Blake brings Natalie in close and the two hold each-other tight as the rain and wind beats down on their faces.

They take one last look at one another, then shut their eyes bracing for impact.

CRAAAASH!

A flash flood consumes them both.

31 EXT. UNDER WATER 31

Blake and Natalie are torn apart under rapid waters.

32 INT. APARTMENT - BATHROOM - EVENING (CONTINUOUS) 32

Blake BURSTS up from the bathtub gasping for air.

He briefly takes in his surroundings, takes a deep breath then determinedly DUNKS.

He springs back up. Nothing happens.

He attempts it a second time. Nothing.

He tries multiple times, almost to the point of drowning.

He frantically fishes through the water for the smart tablet. He pulls it out of the tub water and hits it multiple times, desperately trying to turn it back on.

The screen is dead. Blake is defeated.

From outside we hear the sound of fireworks and celebration. It's midnight. His allotted 12 months are over.

33 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 33

Blake dumps the water damaged smart tablet into the light blue packaging it came in and takes it outside.

34 EXT. APARTMENT ALLEYWAY - DUSK 34

The storm has settled into a light drizzle.

A defeated wet haired Blake carries the light blue package to the trash bin.

Fireworks and the sound of celebrating are going off in the background.

He opens the trash bin lid and glances down at the destroyed device.

NATALIE

Blake?

Standing across from Blake next to a different trash bin is NATALIE.

She's carrying an identical blue package containing her destroyed tablet that she's about to throw away.

The two lock eyes.

Natalie's face lights up.

Fireworks.

Lightning.

Blake smiles.

FADE TO BLACK.