

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

THE ONLY WAY

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He then grabs one of the boxes and puts it on the coffee table. He opens it, pulls his collection of vinyls out and brings it close to a bookshelf.

WE HEAR SOMETHING BUZZING ENTERING THE WINDOW, AND THEN IT STOPS.

He then organises his vinyls very carefully, but not slowly.

Taro crawls back to the coffee table and flattens the box to then throw it away. As he looks down, he sees a scary creature. Taro is still frozen with fear, but also annoyed. "Okay. Fuck. Now I have to deal with this too..." he thought.

Taro quickly looks around and sees the empty cat's bowls. Then takes some steps back, without losing eye contact with the creature. He then grabs a bowl and disgustingly walks back closer to the coffee table.

POV SHOT OF CREATURE LOOKING AT TARO DISGUSTED AND SCARED.

Taro decides it has to be done fast and now, just like when ripping the Band-Aid off quickly to feel less pain, and traps the creature under the cat's bowl.

Taro is checking if he can feel anything move under the bowl. He also gets closer with his ear, trying to hear if he managed to catch it.

He quickly has a look around to see if something is flying around.

Everything feels quiet.

Taro looks down at the pet bowl and realises he has to find a way to bring him out of the house. He knows that if he lifts the bowl to try to kill it, the creature would fly away.

He quickly looks around to see if he can find anything to slide under the pet bowl, but nothing useful seems to be around him. But he then sees his vinyl collection.

Taro tries to leave the pet bowl slowly to get closer to the shelf, but the bowl starts shaking strongly, almost like something enormous inside is trying to fly away. He then quickly puts his hand back on it and hardly pushes it back on the table. Shivers down his spine with disgust.

Taro wants to reach the closest vinyl on the shelf, but he's quite far away. He tries to move the coffee table with one hand, always applying a lot of pressure on the bowl, but it's too heavy to be moved. He then slides the cup towards the edge of the table, holding the cup with two hands, and slowly lets go of one of the hands, to try to reach the vinyl, but

it's still too far. He then tries to swap hands, but it doesn't make much of a difference.

He realises he needs both of his hands free to have a chance to reach it.

Taro then decides to swap his hand with his foot, being very careful to hold it with balance and strength, avoiding the bowl from either slipping or breaking.

He stretches as much as he can. His hand is about to reach it.

Taro manages to touch it, but can't properly grab it on the first attempt.

He then tries to stretch even more, but his second touch makes the vinyl fall, bouncing on a piece of furniture, and falling on the floor.

MUSIC STARTS

The vinyl reaches the floor, causing the vinyl disc to slide outside the album sleeve and keep rotating away.

The record stops spinning, but way too far for him to reach.

MUSIC ENDS

Taro stays still, almost frozen, in a very uncomfortable way, swallowing his disappointment.

He looks at the shelf again and tries to reach another vinyl, but he won't even be able to touch it.

He decides to carefully come back to his original position, but the bowl slides unexpectedly, almost like the creature felt there was less pressure on its cage. Taro manages to hold the balance and grabs the bowl firmly with his hands.

Taro looks at the album sleeve. He then takes his shoes and socks off.

He decides to try to grab the vinyl sleeve with his toes, but unfortunately, this just pushes the sleeve further away.

Taro lets go of every single muscle of his body, lying with his face on the floor, always holding the cat's bowl.

He then crawls back up again.

Taro slowly and carefully scans the room around him, looking for a different solution.

He looks outside the window, hoping someone will pass by. After a few seconds, he sees a person walking with a dog.

Taro cautiously but quickly swaps his hands with his foot again and gets closer to the window.

Taro tries to call him for help, but the guy can't hear him because he's using earphones.

The guy stops to change the song on his phone, while Taro is banging on the window behind him

The dog sees or smells something, and suddenly pulls the leash so hard that lift the owner from the ground and gets pulled away. Taro has no time to react.

Nobody walks by anymore. He starts feeling hopeless and sits down.

Taro annoyingly grabs one of the small plants next to the window and briefly reads its plant care tag. He then turns his head briefly towards the living room, like when you feel like you saw something with the corner of your eyes, and turns his head back to the care tag.

Taro then turns his head again, and, surprised, he sees the cat.

The cat is there. Looking at him for a couple of seconds, then walking slowly away out of frame.

Taro has no time to react again, if not just feeling increasingly disappointed.

He suddenly has cramps in his hand. It hurts. Taro swaps hands, but the frustration keeps increasing. His stomach is rumbling. He checks the time.

Taro managed to reach the album sleeve.

He anxiously slides it under the cat's bowl, trying not to leave any gaps and checking nothing is escaping.

Everything went smoothly, surprisingly.

Taro takes a breath of relief.

He then grabs the bowl and the album cover and attentively walks towards the front door.

6 **EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

Taro opens the door, and it's still windy. He walks outside, secretly proud of what he's holding, but still visibly disgusted.

Taro lays the creature outside, always holding one hand on the bowl, and takes some small steps back, just in case the creature would dash towards him.

Taro quickly lifts the cat's bowl, but just to reveal that there's nothing there.

He then quickly checks under the bowl, but nothing is there either.

Taro then grabs the album cover and notices there's a hole in it, bigger than his eye.

SLAM! The front door suddenly slams shut behind him.

Taro rushes towards the door and tries to open it, but it's closed.

He then anxiously checks his pockets, but he can't find his keys.

He then remembers. The keys are in the kitchen.

Taro starts panicking. He tries to keep it cool, but instead he blows up. Anger takes control.

Taro takes the bowl and throws it on the ground.

A beat.

TARO  
(screaming)  
Fuuuuck!

Taro pulls his hair back and closes his eyes, trying to slow his breath down.

He then sits down.

**CUT TO:**

7 **INT. HOUSE - DAY**

We hear keys entering a door lock.

The door opens.

IS IT TARO?

WE HEAR HEAVY ANXIOUS BREATHS

We see footsteps rushing towards the living room. Then someone else follows.

PRESENT DAY.

JESSICA, one of Taro's new flatmates, freezes. Her breath stops.

JESSICA  
(quiet, breaking)  
No..

SLOW ZOOM OUT REVEALING THE CAT'S FUR IN FOREGROUNND

LUKE, the second flatmate, steps closer, trying to understand. Worried.

Jessica breaks.

Silence, except for her crying.

She drops to her knees, while Luke tries to hold her.

JESSICA (cont'd)  
(crying)  
No, no, no...

TARO WALKS IN SHOT BEHIND THEM

JESSICA (cont'd)  
(crying)  
Please, no, don't do this to me...  
Please

TARO  
I'm sorry, I tried to...

Jessica loses it when she hears his voice

He can't finish the sentence.

Jessica turns her head towards Taro and BARKS:

JESSICA  
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

Taro is shocked, traumatised by Jessica's voice. It's deep and filled with evil, but real.

TARO  
I didn't do...

JESSICA  
(crying)  
Why did you leave her alone...

Luke doesn't know how to react.

Taro doesn't know what to say.

He then turns to Taro.

LUKE  
... you should leave.

Taro steps back and leaves.

WE HEAR A FAINT WEIRD BUZZING AGAIN.

Luke looks around.

He sees it. We don't.

He stares at it. No fear.

Luke takes one of his shoes off and slowly steps closer,  
confident.

He raises it.

A beat.

**OVER BLACK:**

A SMACK

**THE END**