

Natters
(A Dead Shambles Prologue)
by Chris Raven

ALEX REEVES' NATTER-POSTS

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 5:30pm

I'm on the bus, on my way home, but something's wrong. I left work early, because of the riots. Police sirens all the way home, lots of people about.

Linda Hawthorne @GroovyDiva 5:35pm

I know. I'm home too now. And glad for it. You take care, be careful out there Hun.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 5:37pm

You too Hun, stay safe.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 5:42pm

I can't believe it; a group over there are fighting. I've seen others break into a shop. Any excuse some people. People on the bus seem very jumpy.

Linda Hawthorne @GroovyDiva 5:45pm

I know it makes me sick too. There's people getting hurt out there and all some people can think of is what they can get out of it.

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 6:45pm

Tell me about it, there's some right &\$@£&*@"^ out there tonight.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 6:50pm

LOL, I've got the language filter on man, you're talking £%^*@&%\$.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 6:00pm

I'm off the bus now, walking up my road. Deserted, I still hear police sirens. Someone is screaming. There's an eerie vibe about. Here's my door.

Linda Hawthorne @GroovyDiva 6:05pm

That's good Hun, get yourself in and lock that door.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 6:10pm

Thanks Linda, is Tami back yet.

Linda Hawthorne @GroovyDiva 6:28pm

She'll be home soon, just spoke to her on the phone.

Linda Hawthorne @GroovyDiva 6:56pm

Tami's home now, but some idiot bit her.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:08pm

OMG Linda, WTF. Is Tami alright? Did you hear? It's now an official emergency.

Linda Hawthorne @GroovyDiva 7:34pm

Sorry, was dealing with Tami, yes I know. It's all very scary.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:38pm

I don't want to know what's happening out there. It looks like all hell has broken out. How's Tami?

Linda Hawthorne @GroovyDiva 7:41pm

She seems feverish, keeps being sick. Called for an ambulance, but they can't come out. Might try and take her to the district general.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:42pm

OK, try and get a cab or something, it's pretty mad out there.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:58pm

Linda, STAY IN!!! The radio's saying keep away from hospitals. Hope Tami's feeling better.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:03pm

The news has just announced a national emergency and we are being advised to stay indoors.

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 7:10pm

Hi Alex, I got that message from the tube too. WTF! Riots again? This county's gone to pot.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:13pm

Not riots mate, something else is going on. Where are you? Are you safe? Friend of mine's GF was bitten by some @&%\$&*. Can you believe it?

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 7:18pm

What? For real? ^\$£% man, some people are just *\$%£@.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:24pm

I keep checking my window; a car was speeding down the road 20 minutes ago, almost out of control. People just run past looking really scared.

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 7:28pm

Oh dude, this is getting serious man.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:32pm

What's up?

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 7:34pm

Same as you man, strange %\$&£ going on outside.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:36pm

Something's being announced on the radio.

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 8:05pm

Oh man, this is getting really freaky. We're to keep away from hospitals now. WTF?

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:47pm

The radio is repeating the stuff about rioting and advising people to keep away from the hospitals. They say that's where the rioting is worse.

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 7:49pm

I know, I heard.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:51pm

We're being advised to secure our homes now, and seal ourselves in.

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 7:55pm

Referring you to my last message dumb %£@f (LOL).

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:56pm

Very funny %&£@ face (LOL). I've already drawn the curtains and switched off all the lights.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 7:57pm

£&%%!

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 8:03pm

What!

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 8:05pm

It's Linda; she was going to take Tami to the hospital.

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 8:07pm

Oh %^\$.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 8:12pm

She's not replied yet, hope she didn't go.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 8:44pm

Still no changes, all quiet mostly, then a sudden noise. I heard a car alarm and then a scream, someone running past. Things like that mostly.

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 8:55pm

Hay dude, it's really eerie out here. My local shop is deserted.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 9:00pm

What are you doing outside you plonk!

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 9:05pm

Need supplies. I've nothing in and we may have to stay indoors for a while.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 9:07pm

Oh man, you be careful.

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 9:08pm

It's OK; there's some people at the back of the shop.

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 9:10pm

LOL, bit dim. They're just standing there looking into space the %£%\$%%^£\$^.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 9:25pm

Did you get your stuff man?

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 9:35pm

Hay dude! Felix man?

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 9:32pm

OMG! Just took a quick peek outside the window again. The police sirens had stopped and then I heard a commotion. People are running around again.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 9:37pm

Someone fell, the others didn't see. Young woman I think. She got up limping, must have hurt herself. Three other people come up behind, following.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 9:41pm

Couldn't quite see from the window, I think they attacked her. I heard her screaming and then silence.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 10:07pm

No she's OK. She got back up, wandering back the way she came. She looks dazed and confused. I'll get her attention; get her in here to safety.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 10:15pm

I got her attention. Wish I hadn't. She's not right, keeps on banging on the window. I hope it doesn't break.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 10:19pm

She heard me banging the window and turned to face me. Half her face and her neck all bloody and disfigured. She's still trying to get in.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 10:38pm

There are two out there now. I've turned off the radio and boarded up the window the best I can.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 10:50pm

I've been sitting here in silence, hoping the things outside will go away. Not banging on the window anymore, but there's four of them now.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 10:53pm

I've secured my place the best I can. I have about a week's supply of food here. I'll just have to wait it out here until help arrives.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 10:56pm

Every now and then I hear a shuffling outside and sometimes some moaning and groaning, but I'm too afraid to look.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 11:26pm

We're in a state of national emergency. I risked turning on the radio again. Everywhere's in Chaos and nobody really knows what's happening.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 11:31pm

The broadcast's saying that there's a pandemic, mass hysteria making people feral. People are being attacked and getting killed.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 11:37pm

We've been advised to stay put or go to nearest police station. Not sure how safe it is for me here now. The moaning outside's getting louder.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 11:41pm

I may have to risk another peek from my window.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 12:25am

Ombhg U;m outsidec nouw rinnigfg Tey gortc iin.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 12:45am

Its dark now, no street lights, a little moonlight. I've lost them I think. They broke in. I had to run. What's that?

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 12:50am

They're all around; small groups of them moving slowly. I'm still hiding; they've not seen me.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 01:06am

I hear gunfire. Will wait for a chance, then try and make my way towards it, hopefully meet up with other survivors.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 01:21am

The gunfire's stopped now, sounded like automatic fire, maybe it's the Army or the Police. Still not clear, I can't move without being seen.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 01:27am

They seem to be the slow though; maybe I can outrun them. Maybe I can get to the police station before they catch me.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 01:55am

I didn't make it. Made a dash for it, but there was too many of them. Ducked behind some bins, they're between me and the police station now.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 02:18am

I climbed into recycling bin, been hiding in here a while, full off paper, warm and comfortable, a bit smelly. I will get some rest and wait for rescue.

Alex Reeves @AlexReeves 03:25am

I can see someone creeping about; I think they are trying to make it to the police station. There's some one else making a dash for it. The first one's off too now. Both are running my way. I'm going to try with them, safety in numbers and all that. Here goes.

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 04:35pm

Hay dude, are you there? I made it back home, but lost my phone. I'm on my PC now. Are you OK?

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 04:44am

Dude?

Felix Young @TheDudefromStrood 04:55am

Dude?

The end?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chris Raven is a forty-odd year old south Londoner who has contributed a number of short stories to the [Indie Collaboration](#)'s series of free anthologies. He has also contributed illustrations to other author's works and has been coordinating a shared writing project with other new writers called 'Tall Stories'.

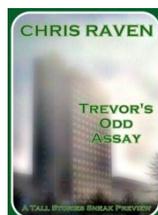
Some of Chris' work includes:



Dead Shambles, A two act stage musical comedy-horror about zombies, designed for a large cast amateur dramatic company (Pub: 16/01/2014).

Available on [Kindle](#) and in [Paperback](#) on Amazon.

Also available on [Nook](#) and in various other formats on [Smashwords](#).



Trevor's Odd Assay, a short story and a prequel to 'A Latte' to Go' (Pub: 21/12/2013).

Available on [Nook](#) and in various other formats from [Smashwords](#).

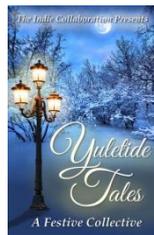
Some of Chris' other short stories can also be found in the following free anthologies:



Marley and the Nose Gnome in Snips, Snails and Puppy Dog Tales: A Children's Story Collection by [the Indie Collective](#) (Published 15/04/2014). Available on [Smashwords](#), [Barnes & Noble](#) and [Amazon Kindle](#)



A Late to Go in Kiss and Tales: A Romantic Collection by the Indie Collective (Pub: 02/2014). Available in February 2014 on Smashwords & Amazon.



The Case of the Shiny Red Gift Box in Yuletide Tales: A Festive Collective by the Indie Collective (Pub: 01/12/2013). Available on Smashwords, Barnes and Noble & Amazon.



The Visitor in Tales from Dark Places: The Halloween Collection by the Indie Collective (Pub: 29/10/2013). Available on Smashwords, Barnes & Noble & Amazon.