

Introduction

The internet can be a grim place – surely you don't need someone like me to tell you that. Videos, live streams, works of art, posts, and pages about disturbing events that have happened in our reality are nothing but a Google search away. Underneath the no-commentary longplays and TheFastLaneTruck racing videos exists a vast ocean of eerie content that'll surely get you thinking, and just might - keep you up at night.

Welcome back to Disturbing Things – your one stop shop for bite-sized eerie finds that I've recently discovered online. This is episode 12, so if this is your first exposure to this series, feel free to head over to the playlist in the description for hours of further content to envelop yourself into.

-fade-

Without further ado, it's time, once again, to dive into five more, hand-picked, and Disturbing Things from Around the Internet.

-full fade-

Let's set the mood.

-music drop for segment 1-

Everywhere at the End of Time

On the internet, there exists an album by the name of *Everywhere at the End of Time*. It was created in 2016 by a musical artist named James Leyland Kirby, also known by his stage name – *The Caretaker*. While I'm aware that on this show, I primarily cover real-world disturbing events, I wanted to discuss this piece of art since it perfectly encapsulates the disturbing reality of over 44 million people that are alive today.

As you might've guessed by now, the album is an artistic expression of the numerous stages of dementia and how it slowly overtakes the mind, sending it spiraling into a wormhole of forgetfulness, twisted by a reality that they stray further and further from recognizing.

The six-hour album itself starts off ordinary. It's cheery, calm, and invokes a sense of comfort. As the hours pass and it progresses, Leyland subtly morphs not only the overall tone, but each chord progression and tune into something that hardly resembles what you were listening to a mere half-hour earlier. The six stage descriptions from this YouTube video further exemplify the troubles that dementia patients face, too.

Stage one is described as *the first signs of memory loss. It's a stage that's most like a beautiful daydream. The glory of old-age and recollection. The last of the great days...*

-play segment-

Stage two encapsulates denial. *More effort is made to remember so memories can be more longform with a little more deterioration in quality. The overall personal mood is generally lower than the first stage and at a point before confusion starts setting in.*

-play segment-

Stage three approaches the metaphorical inflection point. It's described as the stage where *some of the last coherent memories exist before confusion fully rolls in and the grey mists form and fade away. Finest moments have been remembered, but the musical flow in places is more confused and tangled. As we progress, some singular memories become more disturbed, isolated, broken, and distant. These are the last embers of awareness before we enter the post-awareness stages.*

-play segment-

At the two hour and eight minute mark, the album takes a stark tonal shift as it begins to exemplify the post-awareness stages. The spot where reality becomes a bleak, confusing mess and where little seems to make sense. It's described as the point *where serenity and the ability to recall singular memories gives way to confusions and horror. It's the beginning of an eventual process where all memories begin to become more fluid through entanglements, repetition, and rupture.*

-play segment-

Stage five. *More extreme entanglements, repetition, and rupture can give way to calmer moments. The unfamiliar may sound and feel familiar. Time is often spent only in the moment leading to isolation.*

-play segment-

And stage six... *One without description.*

-play segment then fade to black-

I lost my great grandmother to dementia just a few years ago, so this album really resonated with me. As a child, I remember her being full of life, always willing to go the extra mile to evoke a sense of union and love, whether it was through her cooking, her stories, or even her presence at family gatherings. She was always someone that welcomed us with open arms when we'd go visit her.

-slight pause-

She lived alone. My great grandfather had passed when I was very young so unfortunately, memories of him are vague. But, I do remember him as being hardworking and an honest man.

Over the years, I didn't fully understand it, but I slowly began to notice that something was off. One year we had gone to visit her and she didn't quite remember myself or my siblings. It's a strange feeling when a family member addresses you with the respectful, but offputting "*and you are?*" line that I'm sure most relatives of dementia patients are accustomed to. And then I realized what it was. Slowly, through subsequent visits, I began to notice things – like sticky notes, explaining basic tasks like remembering to shut off light switches. To close the front door. To turn off the water. How to flush the toilet. Family photos were labeled, and her once lively personality had slowly faded away. She was trying. She was trying so hard to be her, but this condition simply wouldn't let her.

-fade-

Bottom line – *Everywhere at the End of Time* is a disturbingly bleak looking glass into the human mind. While it isn't creepy footage, or a disturbing phone call, this single piece of art is one of the most real, artistic expressions of a human condition that I've ever encountered. Life is fragile, and beautiful, and

few things have stuck with me more than this... If you have a story about a friend or relative that you'd like to share, feel free to leave it in a comment. While they might've forgotten due to circumstances out of their control, they surely won't be...

-fade-

America Sings

Going to Disneyland is one of the most classic large trips you can take. The magic of being engulfed into a fantasy world, combined with the sheer anticipation of hopping on fully themed attractions that, at least temporarily, take you out of reality and put you in the front seat of an entirely new world is a feeling unmatched by any other place on earth.

With that, when you visit a place like Disneyland, you go in with the absolute expectation that you'll have a great time, with no hiccups or accidents along the way. Unfortunately, though, that's far from reality as – there have been numerous incidents resulting in death that've happened over the years.

One of which occurred on a now defunct ride by the name of America Sings.

-fade-

In mid-1964, a ride debuted in the Tomorrowland region of Disneyland park. It was an animatronic show that utilized a rotating stage mechanism, taking ridegoers through various acts that represented decades ranging from the 1900s to the 21st century. It worked by utilizing six subsections that contained different stages with solid walls between them. The outer stages were stationary, and after an act was finished, the lights would go out, the center platform would rotate, and the show would resume, so on and so forth. It turned out to be a hit, and focused on showcasing the advancement of technology through a highly unique presentation.

After being shut down in 1973, it underwent a refurbishment and relaunched in June of the following year as *America Sings*, a ride centered on showcasing decades of *music*. Initially, all seemed to be fine, and America Sings was mostly received well.

-pause-

A mere *nine days later*, however, that reception would quickly change as an incident would occur – tarnishing the rides' reputation for the remainder of its short life. On July 8th of that year, an 18 year old cast member by the name of Deborah Gail Stone was working the ride as a hostess. She was tasked with greeting ridegoers to the left of the introductory stage through a microphone as they got settled into their seats. All seemed to be fine, until around 10:30pm that night. She was working one of the last groups to enter the ride, and after carrying out her typical tasks, the ride rotated as usual. The catch here, was that this time, she approached the rotating stage too closely and was crushed between the walls that separated them. It's been reported that she either fell, stepped backwards, or tried to jump stages, however any potential reason for her doing so was nonexistent.

It was noted that an audible scream was heard during this, however nobody in the audience fully understood the gravity of the situation. The show continued as usual.

In the back end, another cast member had heard her scream and rushed to help, however by then it was too late. By 11:00pm, she was pronounced dead.

As a result of this, the ride was immediately shut down and litigation was opened against Disneyland, which unfortunately only resulted in a small settlement for her family. According to a 1974 article in the *LA Times*, only three days would pass before the ride would reopen. The company allegedly installed temporary safety lights that would alert the ride operator if anyone stepped into a new “danger area”, and they were given until July 25th of that year by state officials to implement a permanent safety device to prevent something like this from happening again.

Eventually, the stage walls were replaced with ones that would breakaway if anyone were to fall into the same predicament Stone had, and that failsafe remained in place until its permanent closure in 1988.

-pause-

Today, a version of this ride still exists at Walt Disney World. It’s the Carousel of Progress, updated for the modern era. While this version remains, its legacy will forever carry the connotation that it’s design had taken someone’s life before they could even think to react...

The America Sings Incident exemplifies the importance of safety in theme park rides. While we expect them to be completely safe, this is far from reality as engineers and designers can overlook things – imperative things – that could be as serious as life or death...

-full fade-

Night at the Coffee Stand

In 2012, a man had killed himself by the name of Israel Keyes.

He was a serial killer, an arsonist, a bank robber. One of the worst types of people you can imagine with over four confirmed victims, and potentially many more.

The reason he killed himself was because he was caught after a failed kidnapping and ransom attempt over 18-year-old Samantha Koenig of Anchorage, Alaska. This is his ransom photo proving that she was alive, to which in exchange, he had demanded \$30,000.

-slight pause-

The thing was, in this photo, Samantha Koenig wasn’t alive at all...

Let’s back up.

On the 1st of February, 2012, Koenig was working at a local coffee booth. She can be seen on this CCTV footage where everything seems fine. About two minutes into it, however, we can observe someone approach the window, to which she reacts with unease. Afterwards, we can see her hastily shut the lights off, before carrying out what’s presumed to be his demands in the moment.

-play a bit of footage-

After some back and forth, she opens the register and can be seen removing the cash to give to the man...

He then demands that she kneels, before he enters through the window... and a few minutes later, he proceeds to escort her out of the trailer, to which she was never seen again.

-fade-

As it turned out, her final moments were... grim. Later that night and back at his home, it was reported that he sexually assaulted her, robbed her of everything she had, killed her, and placed her corpse in a shed. Even more bizarrely, the day after, he took off to New Orleans where he went on a two-week cruise with his family. The entire time, she was left there and was never found.

-pause-

Two weeks later, and he returns from his trip. Her body's still in-place, and so Keyes decides to retrieve her, dress her up with makeup, and sew her eyes open for a photo with a recent issue of the Anchorage Daily News newspaper. He did this to invoke the belief that she was still alive, and like we established prior, he put a \$30,000 price tag on her. In the meantime and in reality, he would proceed to dump her body in Matanuska Lake, a few miles north of the city.

-pause-

Keyes was later caught, however it wasn't where you'd expect. As it turned out, he'd taken off towards the mainland US, utilizing Koenig's bank card for cash withdrawals as if nothing happened. Because of this, police were able to follow his trail, and eventually tracked him down to a Cotton Patch Café in Lufkin, Texas. It was the morning of March 12th when Texas Ranger Steven Rayburn would perform the arrest, and afterwards, Keyes was promptly sent back to Alaska where he eventually confessed to not only this act, but numerous others.

As it turned out, he operated meticulously, planning his murders ahead of time. He allegedly killed far from his home, and claimed to admire other serial killers like Ted Bundy.

-play snippet of confession-

By December of that year, though, he would be found dead in his jail cell. He had allegedly slit his wrists and attempted to strangle himself, leaving behind his own corpse, and various notes and drawings made in blood under his cell bed.

-fade-

Samantha Koenig was just an ordinary person working at her job as we all do. She didn't sign up for this. She didn't provoke anyone. And she sure as hell didn't deserve the fate that she was given. What she thought would be just another night at work, had devolved into a surreal night of hell. A night of hell that led to an injustice, and there's nothing that anyone can do to ever bring her back...

-fade-

[The Incident on Highway 125](#)

-play car commercials with crash safety ratings-

Vehicle reliability and safety ratings are some of the most imperative stats that a car can have. We see it touted all the time with numerous buzzwords like “*best in class*”, and “*five star safety rating*”, if you’re in the states and you’re watching commercials, it’s everywhere. While that’s so, when you operate a vehicle, you go in with the expectation that it’ll mechanically hold up, with no major life-threatening issues materializing along the way. Much like theme park rides and oversights caused by human error, this, too, is far from reality.

On August 28th, of 2009, a California highway patrol officer named Mark Saylor was out on a drive in a Lexus sedan with his wife Cleofe, brother in law Chris, and daughter Mahala. They were heading northbound on California State Route 125, towards Mission Gorge Road in Santee. While the circumstances outlined appeared to be ordinary, little did they know that their vehicle would lead to this venture being their last.

At around 7pm, a phone call was made to 911. It was from Mark, and he could be heard pleading for help since his vehicle had malfunctioned. He lost braking power, and pleaded that his car was accelerating out of control. Have a listen:

*-[The following audio is **DISTURBING**. To skip, head to XX:XX] // play call-*

As a result of the malfunction, everyone in the car lost their lives that night.

The worst part about it, is that the car wasn’t even theirs. It was a loaner given to them by a nearby Lexus dealership. It was reported that the vehicle had reached a top speed of 120 miles per hour, before crashing into a Ford Explorer and jumping off an embankment at the Mission Gorge Road intersection at the end of Highway 125. Witnesses claimed that the vehicle was thrown nearly 100 feet into the air before crashing into the ground and bursting into flames.

-pause-

After the incident, it was reported that the driver of the Explorer had suffered minor injuries, and was promptly treated at a nearby hospital. For the family, it was believed that the accelerator had become stuck due to an engineering oversight in Lexus models that included rubber floor mats. It’s unclear whether or not he attempted to force the car into neutral or turn it off, however considering the circumstances, it’s more than likely that he had, to no avail.

After a myriad of other incidents related to this, Lexus eventually rolled out numerous recalls from the span of 2009 to 2011 – most of which being related to the accelerator pedal. The sheer amount of issues and affected vehicles are staggering, too.

On November 2nd, 2009, 3.8 million cars were recalled for faulty floor mats. Later that month, it was amended to include the brake override. By January, another was made for faulty accelerator pedals. In February, even more were recalled for brake glitches and faulty brake tubes. And yes, we’re still at the top of the list. By the end of it, over 5.2 million vehicles were serviced due to numerous other recalls that they’d put out later that year, and in hindsight it’s safe to say that anyone driving a Lexus model from 2009 to 2011 were rightfully on edge.

The families of the victims eventually filed numerous lawsuits against Toyota, and by the end of it, they eventually came to a 10-million dollar settlement. No matter how you slice it, though, no amount of money can bring someone back from an engineering failure that they had no control over. They didn't deserve to die that day, and his final 911 call will forever remain cemented into Internet history as one of the most disturbing real-world examples of a simple weekend drive that shouldn't have ended the way it had...

Would You, Could You, On a Train?

On the 29th of September, 2016, an incident would occur on a commuter train traveling through the Hoboken Terminal in New Jersey. At 7:23am, Pascack Valley Line train #1614 would depart the Spring Valley Station in New York, headed southbound for the Hoboken station. One way, the trip takes about an hour by train, and this method of travel is quite popular during the morning rush hour.

The ride itself was mostly okay, and nothing seemed to be awry. That would quickly change, however, when the train would approach the Hoboken terminal around 8:45am. Strangely, where the train was normally intended to stop, it maintained it's full speed, eventually crashing through the buffer stop at the end of the rail, before coming to a stop near the terminals public waiting area. Over 114 people were injured in this crash, and one had lost their life.

After investigation, it was revealed that the train had no failsafe in place – lacking an automatic braking system which would have proactively slowed the train and prevented an incident of this magnitude from occurring. Furthermore, after looking into the train engineers, it was later revealed that it was likely caused by engineer fatigue due to their undiagnosed sleep apnea. Because of this, NJ Transit was later required by the National Transportation and Safety Board to revise their safety management systems in order to properly screen and treat crew members for sleep disorders...

It's a tragic situation all around that could've - and should've been prevented. What passengers thought would be an ordinary commute to work, and just another Wednesday, ended up morphing into this surreal situation - that felt like nothing short of a nightmare...

-fade to black-

But, our story doesn't end there. Let's back it up to the previous night.

-music drop-

There exists a tv station in Central New York by the name of WKTU. They're what you'd expect from a local news station, regularly broadcasting regional updates and public access TV – you know the drill. Strangely, during their 6pm broadcast on the 28th of September, an emergency alert was shown depicting something... peculiar. Take a look:

-play video-

*Civil authorities have issued a Hazardous Materials Warning for the United States, effective until September 29th, 2:16AM. **Would you, Could you, on a Train?***

Interesting. While this message is bizarre in itself, it's timing is striking. Not only did the system appear to be hacked, but of *all things*, it referenced a Dr. Seuss quote about a *train*.

Immediately after this, WKTV had put out numerous statements. From their Twitter:

If you were watching our 6 PM newscast you saw a "Hazardous Materials Warning" message. There is NO such warning. It was a technical error.

And later that night from their website:

CENTRAL NEW YORK - If you were watching our newscast around 6:17PM or at 10:38PM, you may have seen a "Hazardous Materials Warning" crawl across your screen.

There is no such warning. The message was an automated test which was not intended for public display.

This message originated from FEMA as a test and had the National Location Code in it. Tests should not have that code as it is automatically re-transmitted.

We have contacted New York State Broadcasters Association who administers the Emergency Alert System in New York. We are working with FEMA to resolve this.

Our apologies for the confusion this may have caused.

In total, there wasn't one, but *two* of these alerts. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to find footage of them separately, however it's safe to assume that they were either the exact same, or very similar. Interestingly, though, if we pick apart their wording, WKTV was largely pinning the blame on FEMA, the government disaster relief program. A day later, though, after the crash had occurred, they released yet *another* statement following up on that claim:

"FEMA replied that they did not send this out. They will launch a full investigation into how their codes were hacked. WKTV seems to be the only target of this hack. For now, we have disabled the codes in our decoder that trigger this alert. If there is a real National Alert, we will still receive it from the local radio stations we are assigned to monitor. WKTV will cooperate fully with FEMA, providing information about our hardware, software and internet access, and will provide log files from our devices. This information will be helpful to FEMA to track down the source of this hack ... We're in contact with the NYS Broadcasters Association and FEMA."

-fade-

Oddly, around the same time that this was happening, other videos began to crop up showing strange alerts that had happened in places around the United States. While these are indeed strange, and do hint at the possibility of a systemwide hack, the incident that occurred on WKTV was the *only one* of its kind to include this unusual Dr. Seuss quote. Unfortunately though, to this day, the origin and motive of why this happened, or who did it... has remained unsolved.

-pause-

Of all the entries I've covered thus far on Disturbing Things, this is one of the most bewildering. Understandably, since this occurred, conspiracy theories have cropped up all over the internet theorizing on the potential of the train operator being complicit, and entertaining the idea that the crash

was somehow planned by some external party. While I don't subscribe to these, what I do find highly unusual is the timing, and I don't think I'll ever be able to shake that...

The Hoboken train crash is a tragedy that should not have happened, and the circumstances surrounding it, all because of the events that played out the night before, will forever leave people thinking, theorizing, and engulfed within its cloud of mystery...

-full fade-

Closing Remarks

An audible simulation, a real-life accident, a disturbing plea for help, an abhorrent scene caught on camera, and an eerie broadcast alert. *[show them]*

The world can be a depressing, creepy, and disturbing place, and aforementioned topics encapsulated that. Tonight, you and I dove into five Disturbing Things from Around the Internet. I hope you all enjoyed this, and if you have any further submissions for this series, feel free to submit them to the show's inbox at dtfaisubmissions@gmail.com.

-pause-

Thank you all for watching. I'll see you soon, I love you all, and goodnight.