

Encapsulated - Episode 1 of 10

FADE IN:

INT. CUBICLE FARM - DAY

GERRY (55) is sitting at his desk, talking on the phone; there's the usual buzz of activity: hallway conversations, printers, phone calls, but nothing out of the ordinary.

GERRY

Ma'am, ma'am - I understand that... I know, but like I said, I'm not the actual collection agency - I'm calling on their behalf. You'll have to... Ma'am, you'll have to reach out to their billing department to make a payment... I know, but we only handle-

His MANAGER walks by and points at her watch.

MANAGER

(mouths)

Meeting in five.

Gerry nods, she walks away.

GERRY

I understand that this can seem frustrating. Would you like to speak with my supervisor?

His manager stops and looks at him with exaggerated disagreement. Gerry shrugs.

GERRY

Alright, I'll pass along the message.

(his manager, relieved, walks away)

Now, would you like me to connect you to the billing department?

Suddenly there's a loud scream.

WOMAN 1

Somebody help!

MANAGER

Stay with me - eyes on me!

GERRY

Yes, I'll connect you to them... you too, bye.

Gerry stands up to see what the commotion is about. His manager is in the hallway with another woman - they're, pressed against each other, face to face, both panicking.

MANAGER

How far down does it go??

WOMAN 1

This can't be happening, this can't be happening.

Gerry and the others step outside their cubicles. Their manager is scanning the hallway, her hand tracing the line of an invisible wall. The woman on the other side is frozen with fear. More voices are suddenly heard from all around.

MANAGER

There's some sort of force field!

WOMAN 2

Somebody call 911! NOW!

MAN 1

Hurry! He's losing blood!

MANAGER

Stay with me - we're going to get you out!

Confused, Gerry walks to the hallway and smacks into an invisible barrier.

GERRY

What on Earth...

MAN 1

Where's the ambulance??

MANAGER

It goes all the way down!

MAN 2

I'm on hold! Are there any exits on this side?

MANAGER

Can you crawl under it??

Everybody is marvelling in horror at the invisible wall that has abruptly split the office. Gerry glances to his left and notices that one of the men is missing a piece of his arm; the wall cut through it like a knife. Another one of the employees is trying to keep him conscious.

MAN 1

Stay with me! You're going to be alright!

WOMAN 1

This can't be happening, what's going on?

MANAGER

Somebody please, he's trapped!

In a daze, Gerry follows the manager's voice. There's a man trapped in his cubicle - the invisible wall runs right through it. He's in the corner, panicking. His desk is on the other side of the barrier. The manager is trying to calm him down.

MANAGER

Stay with us - can you climb out?

MAN IN CUBICLE

I was stretching. I never stretch, I was sitting right there.

GERRY

Can we move the desk?

Gerry glances down and sees that the tips of the man's shoes are soaked in blood.

MAN IN CUBICLE

I was sitting right there, just a minute ago. Right there. I should've been gone.

MANAGER

But you're alright, and we need you to focus.

She and Gerry push the desk through the wall - it glides through effortlessly. Shocked, they both press their hands against where the wall should be, and it's still there.

GERRY

What the...

MANAGER

Alright, you've got the desk - somebody help him!

Someone on the other side helps him scale the cubicle wall.

MAN IN CUBICLE

I would've been gone. What if I hadn't stood up? I was sitting in the same spot all day.

WOMAN 2

Grab my hand. That's it, now let's go sit down.

MANAGER

He needs to get to the hospital too, looks like
it caught his feet.

MAN 1

Where's that ambulance?? I'm losing him!

MAN 2

The line's jammed!

WOMAN 1

This can't be happening, this can't be happening.

Both halves of the office are reeling; as Gerry and the others stream outside, we realize that the entire business plaza has been split. There are office workers lining both sides of the wall, at once fascinated and petrified.

GERRY

(on his phone)

Please pick up. Please pick up. Honey? Grace?
Grace, if you're there, I need you to pick up,
I'm headed home right now, Grace, you wouldn't
believe what's - I can't, call me please, I love
you, Grace, please pick up.

EXT. BACKYARD POOL - DAY

GRACE (53) is swimming laps; her phone is buzzing inside the house. She leisurely steps out of the pool, dries off, and is startled by a loud noise, like a tidal wave.

She looks up and notices an airplane only a thousand feet overhead, which roars across the neighborhood. A few seconds later, a massive rumbling as it crashes.

Grace rushes inside and notices several missed calls from Gerry. She dials back right away.

EXT. OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY

Chaos is unfolding, hundreds of office workers are on the brink of insanity, a dozen or so have been cut up by the wall, and there's no ambulance in sight.

INTERCUT BETWEEN GRACE AND GERRY

GERRY

Grace! You're alive, thank God - please tell me you're okay!

GRACE

Gerry what's happening? Is it terrorists? A plane just crashed, probably a mile away, flew right over the house - shook everything.

GERRY

I don't, it's - nobody knows what's happening, but I just -

(breaks down sobbing)

GRACE

Did they attack the office??

GERRY

It's - it's, it's a wall. Like a - Grace, GRACE, there's a WALL. It's just THERE, and nobody can see it, and and, and people are stuck on one side and some of them lost their arms, or this one guy got cut in half, and another one got his back peeled off, and they're saying it's all over - planes falling out of the sky, car crashes, the news guy said it's happening all over the world.

GRACE

What do you- you mean, like, a wall of what? Of energy, or like a rock wall that just-

GERRY

It's a WALL, Grace! A WALL! I have NO IDEA what it is, and we can't see it, and there's NO WAY to get over it or around it.

GRACE

You need to come home, right now.

GERRY

Honey, people are DEAD! There are no medics, and nobody knows what to do, and-

Gerry's manager interrupts him.

MANAGER

They're saying it's not just one wall. Like, it's a grid, or a maze - but it's not just one, there are hundreds, probably thousands, maybe millions, just randomly EVERYWHERE!

GRACE

Gerry, you need to come home NOW!

GERRY

(walking away from the crowd)

I can't! Don't you get it, that I can't just drive around, otherwise I might hit one, and then I'm gone - car's fine, but I'm flattened.

GRACE

You're gone, car's fine? I don't, what are you-

GERRY

It looks like it only-

(he pauses and notices a tree that's been perfectly sliced by the wall)

It only touches anything that's ALIVE,

(he throws a rock through the wall)

but anything else can go through...

GRACE

So that means... so everyone on the plane... Oh Lord...
Okay, it's only three miles, if you walk quick,
you can - here, let's meet at Veteran's Park.

GERRY

What if it's walled off?

GRACE

Then we'll find another spot.

GERRY

What if WE'RE walled off, what if we can't-

GRACE

Gerry... do NOT-

GERRY

I didn't kiss you goodbye, and now we'll never
be, I mean, this morning might have been-

GRACE

It could disappear, just as quickly as it showed
up, and then we, we could-

GERRY

I'm so sorry, I love you Grace, I hope you-

GRACE

STOP!! OR SO HELP ME-

Now Grace is the one sobbing. She accidentally drops her
phone on the floor and screams out in frustration.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

...are advised to stay away from the barriers.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY BLOCK - DAY

Gerry slowly makes his way to the park. The city is in total anarchy.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

We can now confirm that at least 90 of the world's nations have been affected.

Gerry walks cautiously, afraid of hitting the wall. Some of the things he notices:

- Friends separated and pressed against the barrier
- Rows of trees that have been severed
- A dog trying to get back to his owner

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

It's being described as an invisible force field - well, more like a maze of force fields. There seems to be no way through or around them at this time, and they appear to stretch high enough to impact aircraft.

- Two policemen standing back to back in the middle of the road, diverting traffic - which is all but stopped
- People being hoisted down the sides of buildings
- Paramedics being swarmed with the injured.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

At a normal speed, walking into one of the barriers will feel like hitting a wall. Citizens are advised to use caution when going outside, and avoid operating any vehicles. Again, for the time being, it is safest to avoid the barriers until we know more about what's happening.

- People frantically digging holes to see if they can crawl underneath
- Birds with clipped wings staggering around
- Prayer circles forming spontaneously

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Local authorities are urging anybody with medical experience to administer first aid. We're still not sure how many barriers there are, but they appear to be creating isolated zones, and it's possible that your zone does not have any first responders on duty. Again, all citizens with medical expertise are being asked to assist first responders in treating the injured.

Gerry sees a crowd of people fighting over an ATM.

GERRY

You know it doesn't matter, right?

He walks over to them, since nobody heard him.

GERRY

You guys are wasting your time, we're the ones who are stuck, the money is-

MAN IN CROWD

They'll run out soon, asshole! But hey, don't come crying to me when you're strapped for cash!

GERRY

But it only affects living things! They can always bring more cash in! Hello? Anyone??

Ignored, Gerry walks away. Suddenly he has an idea and runs it by a young woman sitting on a bench.

GERRY

If there were a wall out here,
(gestures to an area with no people)
they would be all over it, right? Trying to get through, crowding around it? So if nobody's there, there must not be a wall.. Right?

WOMAN

Why's it matter?

GERRY

Because you can't go very fast if you're worried about the wall - but if my theory's right...

WOMAN

Knock yourself out - your life, not mine.

She smokes a cigarette, then chuckles at how frenetic everyone else is. Gerry tries jogging for a bit in a non-crowded area, doesn't hit a wall, then keeps going - but tentatively.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Local authorities are insistent that the best way you can help is by NOT becoming a casualty. Emergency resources are being taxed to their limits - again, please do your part to help by staying AWAY from the barriers.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Grace is walking slowly down the sidewalk. Several of her neighbors are out of their homes - the panic is nothing compared to what was happening downtown.

NEIGHBOR 1

I heard they're cropping up all over...

NEIGHBOR 2

First I heard of it...

NEIGHBOR 3

(on phone)

They both said the high school is fine, they're still together, I'm headed there now.

NEIGHBOR 1

Think it's aliens?

NEIGHBOR 2

Did anybody else see the plane go down?

NEIGHBOR 3

(on phone)

Yeah, I'll meet you all there. Love you too. Bye.
God I hope it's not... Does anybody know if the
east side got split??

Grace, at the edge of the block, sees a car slowly moving
down the road.

GRACE

Hey! HEY! Stop! It's not safe!

She runs to the car and bangs on the window - she realizes
that the driver is dead. She looks in the other direction
and sees a few college students marvelling at the edge of
the wall, which runs perpendicular to the road

GRACE

Come help! He drove right through it!

The students run over. One of them tries to open the
passenger door, the other tries the driver door. As they
struggle to get in, the third one talks to Grace.

STUDENT

Here, take this.

(hands her a roll of red duct tape)

If you see a wall - I mean, feel one - mark it,
so people can see.

GRACE

Is it just that one?

STUDENT

Around here, yeah, we're going to go look for more, see what we can find, help out.

The other two have stopped the car and are carefully extracting the driver. It looks like he's been crushed by a steamroller, his body is compressed and drained of life.

GRACE

(rummaging through her wallet)

Hey! HEY! I'll give you a hundred bucks to run ahead of me so I can make sure the path is clear.

STUDENT

I dunno, I don't want to risk-

GRACE

Five hundred! Six! Please, I need to get to Veteran's Park!

A bicyclist suddenly turns the corner. The students shout at him to stop.

STUDENT

Watch out! Stop the bike! NOW!!

The bicyclist looks at them with confusion and keeps pedalling. Suddenly he hits the wall, but the bike clatters through to the other side. The students rush over to help.

STUDENT

(to Grace)

Look - if you need to be there in a hurry, I would say, try following along the wall - I mean, you still might run into another one, but should be less risky, maybe?

While they give the bicyclist first aid, Grace approaches the barrier. She presses against it fearfully, retracts her hand, presses again, then starts walking alongside it.

BICYCLIST

I think my leg's broken... What the hell just...

STUDENT

You're going to be fine. Hey! Don't forget about marking with the tape!

Grace isn't listening. She traces the path of the wall, drops the duct tape without even thinking. Soon the students are out of range, her pace quickens.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY BLOCK - DAY

INTERCUT BETWEEN GERRY AND GRACE

Gerry is walking briskly through empty spaces - he hasn't hit a barrier yet. Amidst the chaos, he sees a man punching his arm against the wall in excruciating pain.

PEDESTRIAN 1

Somebody help me, I can't hold him!

MAN PUNCHING

Let me through!

He forces his whole body against the wall and shouts in agony as it presses against him.

PEDESTRIAN 2

Here, I've got his legs!

MAN PUNCHING

I want out! Let me through! Get your hands off me, I'm almost there!!

PEDESTRIAN 1

Holy shit!

The man's fist passes through and dies, like he's put it in a tank of acid. The pedestrians let go in shock, and the man rams his head into the wall.

Gerry looks away, the panicked crowd turns hysterical.

BACK TO GRACE

Grace is jogging along the edge of her wall. She sees a man up ahead yelling at a woman on the other side in Spanish. The man throws a rock at her, she dodges it and yells back.

Further ahead, a young boy is walking his dog.

BOY

Good job Bruno. Keep going until you hit the wall. Here you go!

(he gives Bruno a treat)

He lets Bruno run ahead until the leash is taut.

GRACE

Careful! He might not be able to see it either!

BOY

He hits stuff in our house a lot! My mom said it's faster this way! Come on boy! Let's go find dad's office!

A few yards behind him, his mother is walking briskly, following their path exactly.

MOTHER

(on phone)

Seventh and Broadmoor. No, not yet, we should be there in an hour. YOU'RE DOING GREAT, GUYS!

Grace isn't sure how to react or whether to join them; she finally decides to keep following the wall.

BACK TO GERRY

Gerry keeps walking, and notices a devastated young couple being taunted by an old man.

OLD MAN

Geez, what a TRAGEDY - this is the first time in HISTORY that love has been fucked by something out of your control. You POOR THINGS.

HUSBAND

I'm scared - I can't lose everything!

WIFE

We'll figure something out, maybe there's a gap.

OLD MAN

She didn't want you anyway. Ain't that right, jailbait? This wall's a godsend, no?

HUSBAND

But the house, my job, YOU!

PEDESTRIAN 3

Leave them alone!

OLD MAN

Piss off!

WIFE

It'll be okay - I'll always love you.

HUSBAND

I just want to hold you again!

OLD MAN

So good with words, Romeo. You get that one from a Hallmark special? Christ...

PEDESTRIAN 4

Dude, shut it! Seriously! Not the time.

OLD MAN

Oh boy, if it isn't the PC police, what's the matter, can't handle a little reality?

WIFE

We'll be together soon. I promise.

PEDESTRIAN 3

People like you make me sick.

HUSBAND

I promise I'll never leave you.

OLD MAN

People like YOU make me want to shoot up a school, God forbid you kids have to suffer.

PEDESTRIAN 4

That's it!

While the young couple laments, the pedestrians grab the old man and force him through the wall. A few others help out until he collapses on the other side, a lifeless mess.

BACK TO GRACE

Grace is starting to get into the heart of the city, moving from neighborhoods to office buildings. Suddenly she runs into a barrier and falls to the ground.

GRACE

Damn it! What are you looking at??

She notices a homeless man on the other side, sitting in an alleyway a few hundred feet off, his back pressed against another of the barriers.

HOMELESS MAN

Who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst out from the WOMB. When I robed it in a CLOUD and bound it with THICK DARKNESS?

GRACE

Can you see the wall? What are you talking about?

HOMELESS MAN

And I prescribed LIMITS for it, and set BARS and DOORS for it. And I said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and HERE shall your proud waves be STAYED.'

Grace, puzzled and a little scared, gets to her feet.

HOMELESS MAN

Who determined its measurements? WHO set the line upon it? Everything that is under the whole heavens is MINE.

BACK TO GERRY

Gerry, shaken by the deaths, is moved to see a father and son embracing each other tightly. Both of their faces are drenched with tears. The two of them, along with Gerry, are some of the only people who aren't lining the wall.

BACK TO GRACE

Grace is almost to the park. In the distance she hears a commotion, the revving of an engine.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Get the tires!!

A young woman on a motorcycle puts on her helmet and speeds away - she ignores the shouting of two police officers who are running after her.

POLICE OFFICER 2

There's too many, I can't get a clean shot!

BYSTANDER 1

She's gonna cross!

POLICE OFFICER 1

(over a megaphone)

Ma'am, please, for your own safety, do NOT try to cross the barrier!

BYSTANDER 2

Maybe she'll make a hole in it!

BYSTANDER 1

Everybody move back!

POLICE OFFICER 2

I can't watch.

The motorcyclist leans in, speeds up, and braces for impact. Up ahead, the crowd clears her path.

POLICE OFFICER 1

This is your FINAL WARNING! For your own safety, do NOT cross the barrier!

BYSTANDER 2

She's gonna make it!

CRASH! She plows right through the wall, her body crushed, instantaneous death. The motorcycle powers ahead for a few seconds, then slows down and spins out. Her corpse is stuck to the bike due to the pressure of the impact.

Immediately people stream to the spot where she passed, eager and hopeful. No gaps, the wall's still there. They begin clamoring and shouting, a small riot breaks out.

EXT. VETERAN'S PARK - DAY

Gerry finally reaches the park. One section has a barrier, the rest appears to be unaffected.

GERRY

Grace!!

He sees her, she breaks into a sprint.

GERRY

(staying in place)

We'll be separated, we'll be separated.

Grace gets closer.

GERRY

Don't get your hopes up. There might be a wall that nobody found yet, we'll be separated.

Grace is a few hundred feet away.

GERRY

This is it. I love you, I'm so sorry!

Grace runs into him. They embrace. For what seems like an eternity, the world seems to stop, the noise is gone.

GRACE

We're fine. We're fine.

GERRY

Don't let me go.

FADE OUT.