

Bildserie

„WHITE CASTLE“

Annemarie Hahn & Konstanze Schütze

Am Drive-in eines Schnellimbisses filmt sich eine wartende Kund*in und berichtet, teils singend in der Form eines Tik-Toks, von ihrer bevorstehenden Bestellung. Als Betrachtende sehen wir den Beitrag aus der Perspektive des längst online verbreiteten Hochformat-Videos. Die Protagonist*in scheint routiniert in ihren Handlungen zwischen Broadcasting und Bestellung.

Drive-ins sind nur für diejenigen Personen einfach zu bewältigen, die das kulturelle Skript dieses Ortes bereits kennen. Die Protagonist*in performt eine ihr bestens vertraute kulturelle Praxis. Dieser Eindruck wird dadurch verstärkt, dass sie intendiert, etwas Neues zu tun, nämlich Chicken Rings auszuprobieren, die wie Onion Rings sind, aber eben aus Chicken bestehen. Das abgesicherte Skript der Drive-in-Bestellung (warten, sich dabei filmen, posten, bestellen, das Drive-in verlassen, essen) wird aber durch den Bestellvorgang jäh unterbrochen.

Der Bestellautomat, bzw. die Person hinter dem Bestellautomaten (wir können zunächst nicht sicher sagen, ob es sich um eine computerisierte Form oder eine Person handelt), hält unverhofft und plötzlich einen Vortrag in der typischen Form eines Internet-Wutausbruchs, der sich wie ein Gewitter über die Unbeteiligte ergießt. In einem einzigen Wortschwall löst die Rede das Chicken aus der marginalisierten, objektivierten und unsichtbaren Rolle der Menschheitsgeschichte und installiert eine menscheitsgeschichtliche Generalperspektive vom Huhn. Der normalisierte Akt, Chicken Rings in einem Drive-in zu kaufen, markiert die Menschen als Hühner-mordende Barbaren – so das unverhoffte Narrativ des verzweifelten Vortrags.



12 PC CHICKEN RINGS
ONLY \$3 99

20 PC ONLY \$6 49

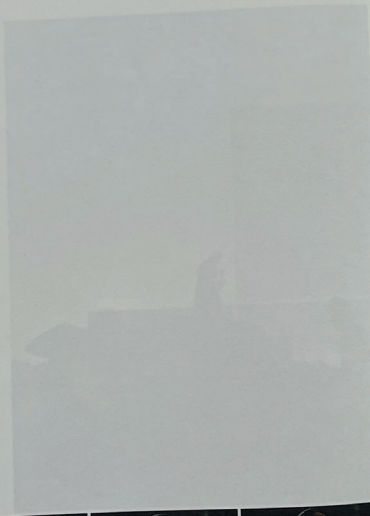
OPEN AT 8AM

INT. L.A. LOFT. DAY

Narrator is heckled by The Fly as she preaches.

NARRATOR

Better yet, rebrand it for every niche and every season until
it all turns into one. One long dog day.



CUT TO

INT. CUSTOMER 1'S CAR - WHITE CASTLE. NIGHT

In 16:9 aspect ratio, WHITE CASTLE CUSTOMER 1 tells us what's up with her.
The song "Credit In the Straight World" by SSION plays.





CUSTOMER 1

Hey guys just chilling in my new Beemer. It's mine, I own this. Me, White Castle drive-through is taking forever and it's fuckin' hot. I just want a couple of fuckin' sliders.

I want some fuckin' french fries. I think they have waffles here. They literally have like the most random shit at White Castle.

(MORE)



CUSTOMER 1 (CONT'D)

They have like waffles, they have chicken rings. It's like onion rings made of chicken. That's cool. People are making fun of me.

Oh my god.





Hey guys just chilling



I own this.



It's like onion rings
but made of chicken.



People are
making fun of me.

EXT. WHITE CASTLE DRIVE-THRU. NIGHT. CONTINUOUS

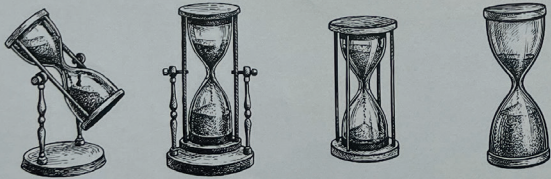
The aspect ratio returns to standard. White Castle Customer 1 is lit by the fluorescent glow of the White Castle menu board. The voice that speaks through the intercom is highpitched, comforting, and assertive - this is MARK's voice.

MARK (O.S.)

HI, WELCOME TO WHITE CASTLE My name is Mark I am 38 and a Sagittarius.

The Fly buzzes by White Castle Customer 1's awkward facial expression.

WHITE CASTLE CUSTOMER 1 Hi Mark, um can I get two cheese sliders and two of the crispy -



MARK (O.S.)

We zoom into the intercom.

MARK (O.S.) (CONT'D)

HELLO CUSTOMERS! I want to acknowledge all your concerns. You are heard and loved here.

HOWEVER. I am very troubled by the fact that some of you believe that you have quote/unquote "been waiting an ETERNITY for your order" - this is a hyperbolic statement and metaphor. Because of the nature of social media and the metaphor. Because of of misinformation on the internet, I think some of you have GRAVELY MISJUDGED what the notion of "ETERNITY" means, so while this next batch of burgers are still cooking in the steamer, I want to give my hyperbolic metaphor of the notion of "ETERNITY."





Hi. Welcome to White Castle.



My name is Mark and I am 38



and a Sagittarius

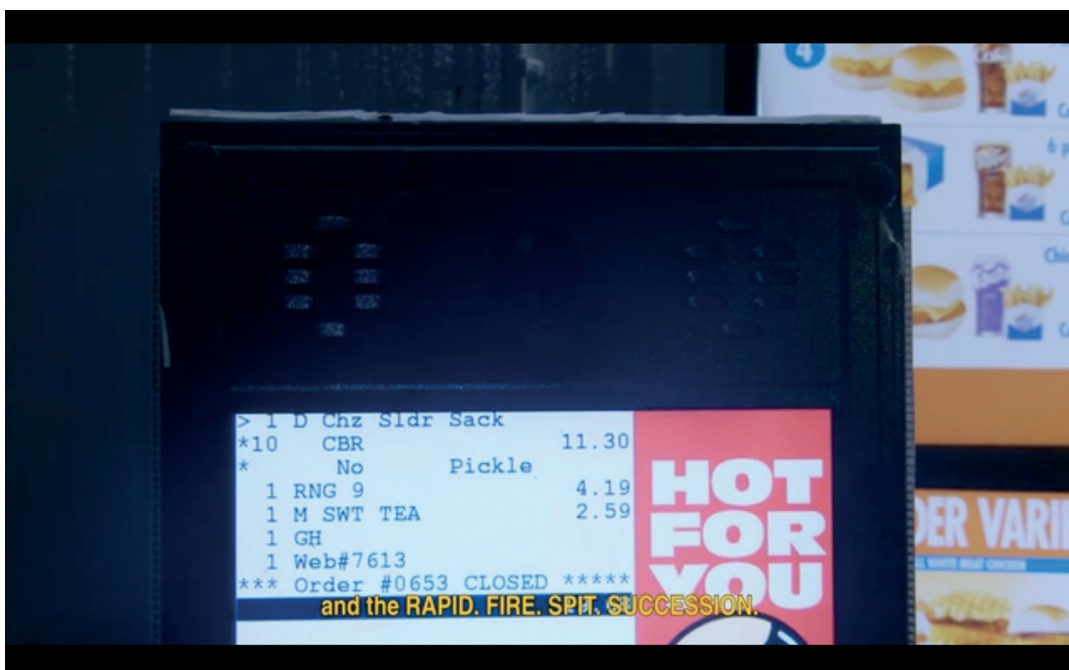
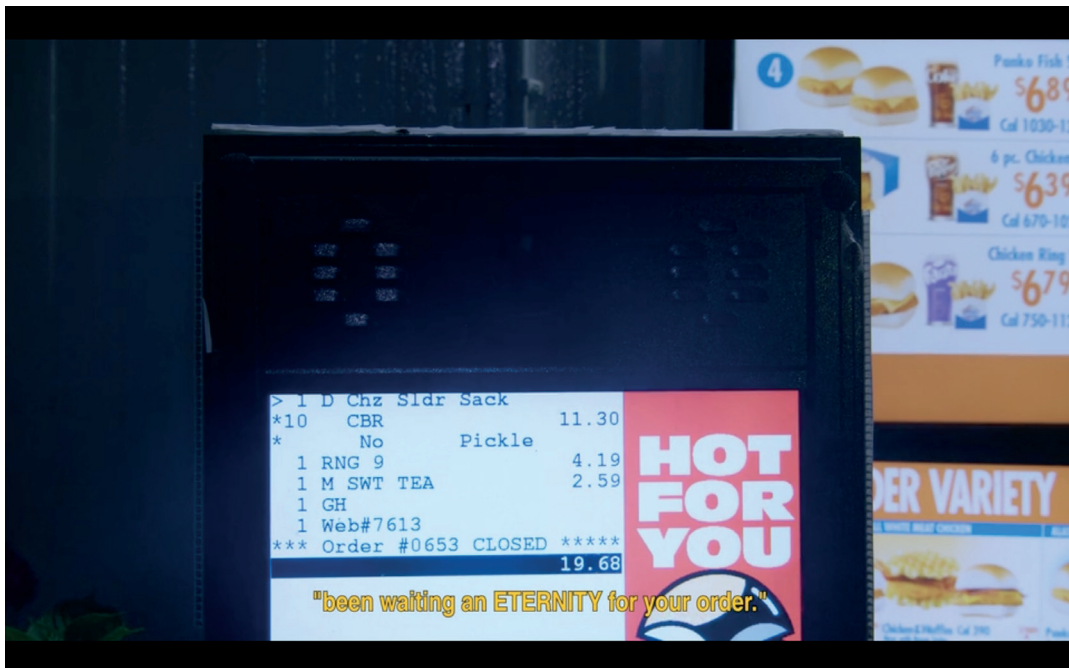
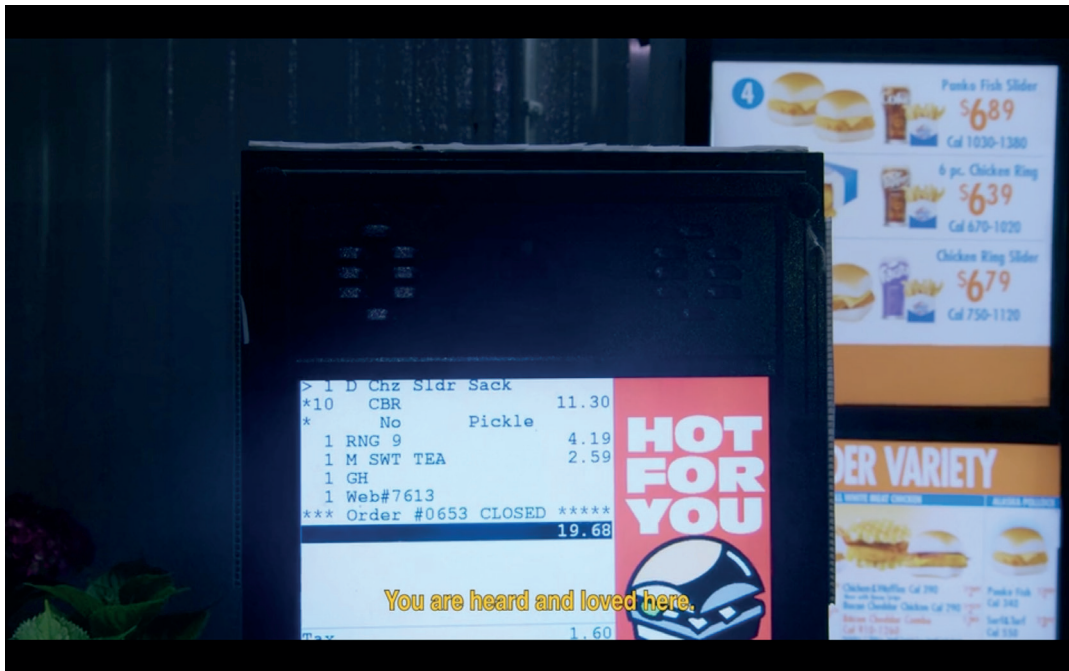
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MARK (O.S.) (CONT'D)

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WHITE CASTLE CUSTOMER 1

OK. Um, Can I also add a strawberry -

MARK (O.S.)

Plus, I have your food in my hand so I am more/less the God of White Castle right now - and who gets to argue with GOD? YUP YOU GUESSED IT - NO ONE.



WHITE CASTLE CUSTOMER 1

Yeah. Can I also add a fudge dipped brownie on top of...

MARK (O.S.)

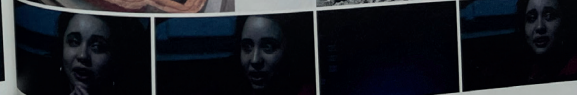
We are sitting on a free-floating rock that is quote/unquote "RAPIDLY" spiraling in the Milky Way galaxy towards the theoretical CENTER - a Black Hole that's going to swallow EVERYTHING - EVEN TIME ITSELF. Let me telescope back and say it like THIS - timeline wise - the death of Cleopatra is closer to the MOON LANDING than it is to the birth of the Egyptian empire. LET THAT SIT IN.

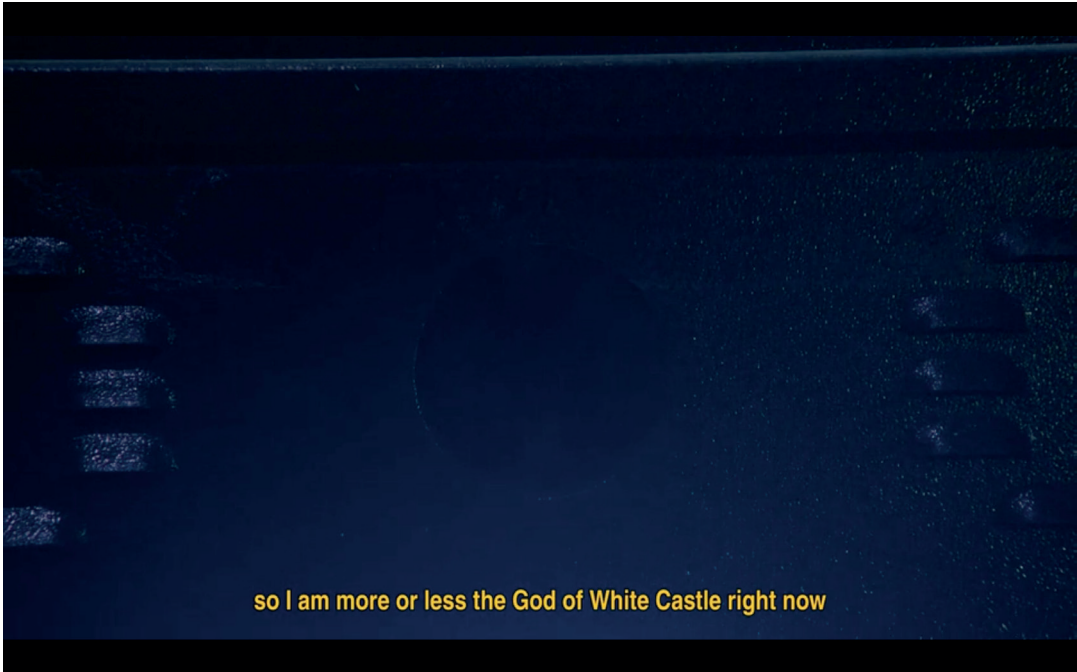
WHITE CASTLE CUSTOMER 1

OK. Um, I also wanted to try the chicken-

MARK (O.S.)

THEY HAD IT ALL WRONG - TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE. Time is what you make of it. The invention of the clock was the origin of wage labor, but only some people had access to time. They controlled it and manipulated time.





so I am more or less the God of White Castle right now



a black hole that's going to swallow



LET THAT SIT IN.

INT. WHITE CASTLE. BEHIND THE COUNTER.

We see money changing hands, those hands gloved and serving food and moving plastic bags to other hands.

MARK (O.S.)

Isn't that how they snatch your time and space up under you and your time off of work and make you pay - and repay - your debt to society - just to have a place to sleep - like you asked to be here?

Like you signed something.

(MORE)



MARK (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Like you signify something that's the thing that says you and that what says you possesses you and that therefore has you in its possession and proceeds to rent you out?

EXT. WHITE CASTLE DRIVE-THRU. CONTINUOUS

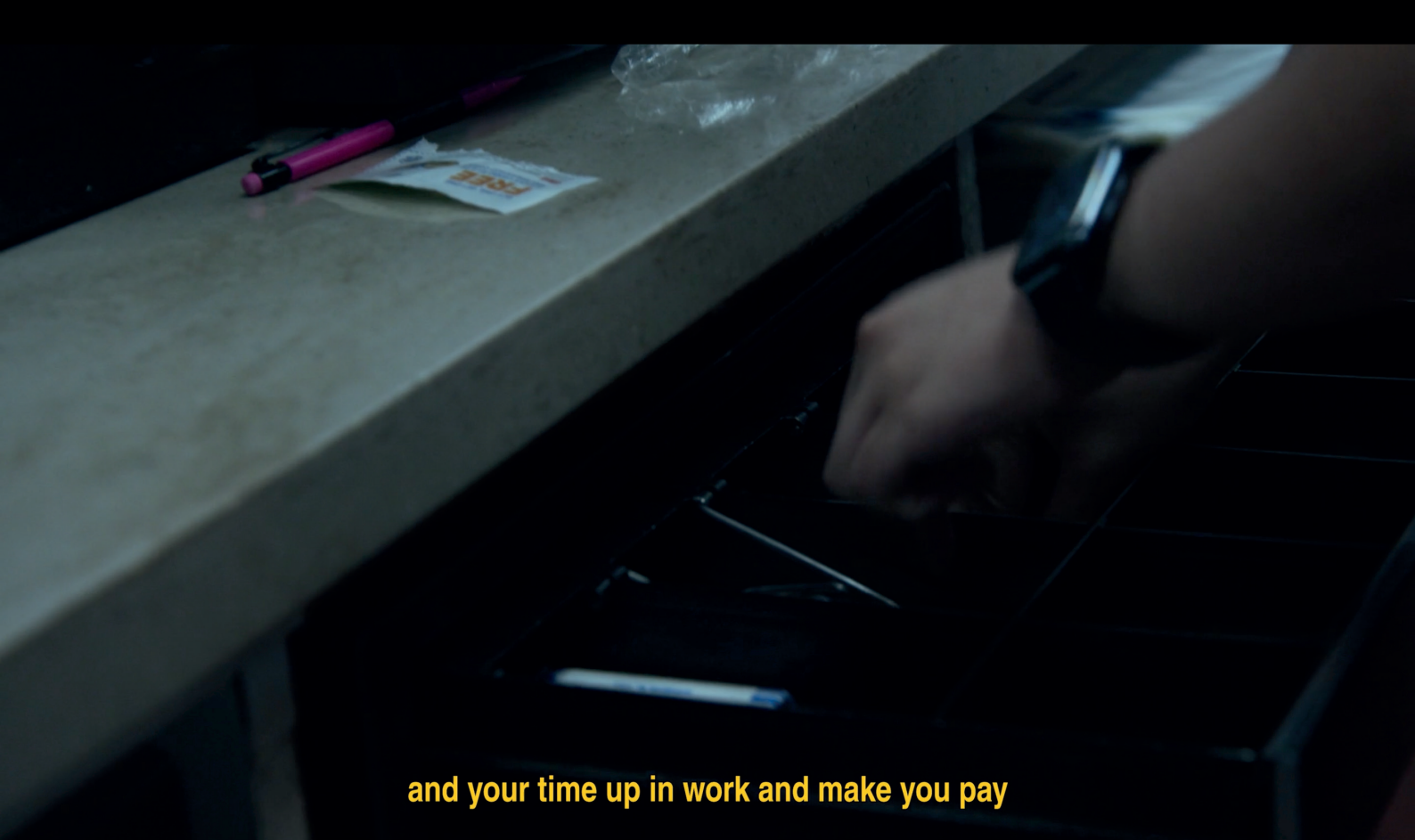
WHITE CASTLE CUSTOMER 1

Mark, can I get my order? Or can you call?

Arizona man accused of faking own kidnapping to evade work

By Associated Press and Brent Corrado
Published 5 days ago | Updated 8 hours ago
Associated Press





and your time up in work and make you pay



Mark, can I get my order?

MARK (O.S.)

Everything is rented. Consider that before the free market a tree represented simply shade and oxygen, "truth" even. Capitalism looks at a tree and thinks "how do I make money off of this?" White Settler colonialism gave birth to the industrial revolution which sowed the seeds of why we have drive-though restaurants in the first place - the white settler colonialist of YORE thought "I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO RAISE THIS CHICKEN AND THEN TURN IT INTO A SANDWICH MYSELF - OMG LIKE, THAT TAKES SO MUCH T I M E - HOW DO I SPEED THIS PROCESS UP?!"



And the tree was happy.



WHITE CASTLE CUSTOMER 2 looks confused in her car. Friend in passenger seat shakes his head in mild annoyance.

WHITE CASTLE CUSTOMER 2

MARK (O.S.)

(MORE)

What about our order? Has that been put in?

There are 32 BILLION chickens killed a DAY on planet earth. 32 BILLION! Future beings will no longer find dinosaurs - in a million years the last lasting fossil records will be CHICKEN BONES. Future archeologists will find like a KA-TRILLION-BILLION chicken bones everywhere and be like "WHAT THE FUCK?!?!?! THESE PEOPLE WERE GODLESS SAVAGES."

Handwritten text on a pink sticky note: APOCALYPSE TELEOLOGY ESCALATOLOGICAL WORSHIP





There are 32 billion chickens



What the fuck did chickens ever do to anybody?"

MARK (O.S.) (CONT'D.)

WHAT THE FUCK DID CHICKENS EVER DO TO ANYBODY? and no it's not that chickens are the FUTURE DINOSAURS - in terms of the genetic link and blah blah blah they are quite literally THE PRESENT DINOSAURS!

WHITE CASTLE CUSTOMER 3 listens patiently. Someone honks behind him and he throws his hands up, surrendering.

WHITE CASTLE CUSTOMER 3 It's not my fault.

MARK (O.S.)

LET ME LEAVE YOU WITH THIS. In terms of "THE ETERNAL" an entire eon on Earth ON A COSMIC SCALE isn't even a milli-fraction of second.





the present dinosaurs.

White Castle Customer 3 drives off. Mark speaks to no one.

MARK (O.S.)(CONT'D) This is all happening in the blink of an eye. Next time you are at a restaurant - waiting on a burger - remember that in terms of the cosmos and the eternal.

REVEAL CLOSE UP Mark speaking through his headset.

MARK (O.S.)(CONT'D) WE ACTUALLY DON'T EVEN EXIST.

NUMBER 325 YOUR ORDER IS READY.

Derange-
-ment
of
scale

CUT TO

INT. WHITE CASTLE.

The song "Sugar in my Pocket" by Younger Lovess plays. We see Mark's TikTok in 16:9 ratio. Mark scoops ice, poses, and serves - this is what he does on the clock.





This is all happening in the blink of an eye.



We actually don't even exist.

FREEZE FRAME.



INT. LA LOFT. NIGHT

Narrator continues her rant. The grand finale, she gives us her concluding thoughts, which while anxiety inducing for us, gradually disperse into shards that cut up her own line of thinking. She spirals and then finds her way back to us.

NARRATOR

The humans occupied 0.04 percent of the history of the planet and ready to mingle. The Earth has moved on without them. She's single that should prevent it. As with any disaster driven by the ones that should prevent it. Many humans found this comfort in a perverse nostalgia at The End.

They clawed their faces, raked their hair, debating at which point they turned wrong and yet refusing to have it any other way. Tightly smiling the way public "apologies" for national atrocities quickly become expressions of national pride. Acting like, mmmh.



