

DEAD

Screenplay
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EXT. CITY - DAY

Montage of a post-nuclear holocaust city.

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RYAN (V.O.)

Most of my world is gone. As a final solution to the zombie problem, the government launched nuclear weapons to destroy the creatures. They failed.

Zombies trudge across the landscape.

RYAN (V.O.)

Now, what humanity survived the holocaust slowly succumb to the zombie infestation.

Zombies attack and eat a human, making a bloody mess of him.

RYAN (V.O.)

Those of us who are left fight to survive until the rescue choppers can find us and take us away from the heart of hell on earth.

EXT. CORN FIELD - DAY

A group of FOUR POLICE OFFICERS trudge through the field. They are led by NOLAN PARKS. Behind him, RYAN CREST and TYLER WERTHER carry their colleague, JAMES QUINT.

Each man carries his SERVICE REVOLVER on his belt and an AUTOMATIC WEAPON strapped to his back. Ryan has a HANDHELD RADIO on his belt.

Ryan and Tyler lower James to the ground and rest. Nolan turns to them.

NOLAN

What are you doing? Pick him up. Let's go.

RYAN

Nolan, we've been carrying James for the last twenty miles straight. Either we get a break, or you carry him.

NOLAN

James was bitten by a zombie. If we don't find somewhere that has the ingredients for the Solanum antidote, we'll have to kill him.

TYLER

You don't have to treat us like we're completely ignorant.

JAMES

I don't think I'd like dying that much.

RYAN

You're not dying.

NOLAN

I'm not carrying him. That's a job for you subordinates.

RYAN

Grow up. There's nothing left. Who cares who's in charge?

NOLAN

I do! I am in charge here, and if you don't pick him up and follow me, I'm leaving you here.

TYLER

Ok.

RYAN

No problem.

JAMES

Fine by me.

Nolan looks like he is going to blow a blood vessel.

NOLAN

You will follow my orders!

RYAN

Or what? Tell your daddy on us?

Nolan glares at Ryan.

NOLAN

I know a lot of influential people, Mr. Crest. They will handle you.

RYAN

I know a lot of the influential people you know are dead. Either wiped out by that bomb or eaten by zombies.

James lurches momentarily.

TYLER

What is it?

JAMES

I'm fine. I still have time. It's only been a couple hours.

NOLAN

Not time enough. If we don't get moving, you'll run out of time.

RYAN

With a bedside manner like that, you really should have been a doctor.

NOLAN

Didn't want to, but you're right.

James reaches for Tyler's hand.

JAMES

I can move.

TYLER

You sure?

NOLAN

He said he can move. Let's
move.

Ryan and Tyler take James' arms and move through the field.
Nolan leads the way.

Around them, the corn begins to sway unnaturally. A soft
crunching noise like footfalls crushing leaves sounds. The men
look around.

JAMES

What was that?

RYAN

I don't like it.

They keep walking and peer through the stalks. The faces of
zombies begin showing through.

TYLER

Zombies!

NOLAN

This way!

Nolan runs away from the approachers. Ryan and Tyler drag James
with them. Ryan stops suddenly.

RYAN

Nolan, stop!

Nolan runs right into a zombie and bounces to the ground. The
zombie leans over him with a groan, reaching. Nolan scrambles
away and back to his feet.

NOLAN

A different way!

Ryan points.

RYAN

This way.

NOLAN

Look, I am in charge and I will decide which way we're going.

TYLER

Is this really the time to argue?

RYAN

No. Which way do you want to go, Mr. Parks, sir?

Nolan looks around. Behind Ryan and Tyler, a zombie emerges and reaches for James.

NOLAN

I believe we'll go...

RYAN

Would you please make a decision?

TYLER

I don't care. Let's go.

NOLAN

You can't do that. I'm still in charge.

RYAN

Watch us.

The zombie grabs James as Ryan and Tyler run. James screams. They come to a quick halt.

RYAN

James!

They run back to him, but other zombies emerge around him.

JAMES

Run! Go!

CRUNCH! A zombie bites into James' head.

RYAN

Let's go!

Ryan takes off and Tyler follows. Nolan looks after them and follows.

NOLAN

Hey! I did not decide on this direction.

RYAN

Shut up, Nolan!

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Ryan, Tyler, and Nolan emerge from the field and run past a lake. They stop for a moment looking behind them. No pursuers.

NOLAN

Well, we got out of that.

Ryan decks Nolan. Nolan flies a few feet, skidding to a stop on the ground.

RYAN

You just about got us all killed!

NOLAN

Job hazard.

TYLER

And what was James, huh?
Necessary casualty.

NOLAN

He saved us, right?

RYAN

He should've had to. You got him killed.

Nolan gets up and gets in Ryan's face.

NOLAN

When we get back to where I
have some respect, I'll have
you written up for assault.

Tyler reels back and decks him this time.

TYLER

Then write me up too.

NOLAN

You'll regret that.

RYAN

Shut up, Nolan, just shut up!
Everyone knows you're in your
little position of leadership
because your daddy was the
mayor. Well guess what, daddy's
boy? Your daddy's dead along
with everyone else! It's just
us. You can give orders all
you want. I'm done with you.

Ryan walks away. Tyler gives Nolan a dirty look and follows
Ryan. Nolan wipes the blood from his mouth and gets to his feet.

He follows them.

NOLAN

This doesn't change anything.

Nolan remains at a distance behind Ryan and Tyler.

TYLER

You ok?

RYAN

No. There's been too much death
lately to lose someone else.

TYLER

I know. I lost my wife and two children when they dropped their surprises on our heads. Why wouldn't they give us warning?

RYAN

More necessary losses, I heard. Another page from the book of Nolan, I guess. They figured if we left, the zombies would follow. Stupidity in my opinion.

TYLER

(nodding to Nolan)

What about him?

RYAN

I'm not acknowledging him. Walk faster.

They speed up their walk. Nolan sighs and tries to keep up. Ryan looks back. He smiles.

RYAN

He really should participate in our gym times.

TYLER

Oh well.

RYAN

What do you think, Tyler? Is there anyone else out there?

TYLER

I hope so. I'd hate to grow old with you. No offense, dude, I'll save your ass any day of the week, but you just won't ever do it for me romantically.

Ryan laughs.

RYAN

I've only been in love once.
I'd've done anything for her.
Well almost anything.

TYLER

Seriously? You were in love?

RYAN

She couldn't handle me being
on the force. That's the almost.
I wouldn't change my mind about
being a cop. She never spoke
to me again.

TYLER

You think you know a guy, and
he zings you.

RYAN

I've got my secrets.

TYLER

Whatever.

They stop for a moment, looking ahead. A small house sits ahead
of them. Nolan finally catches up.

NOLAN

Why are you guys walking so
fast?

TYLER

Think anyone is there?

RYAN

Not sure whether I want there
to be or not.

TYLER

I hear you.

NOLAN

I say we go to the house.

RYAN

Shut up, Nolan.

Ryan and Tyler walk towards the house with Nolan in tow.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

KATIE ROMERO walks through the house carrying a bottle of alcohol and a towel.

She walks into a living room where DEREK WALKER, a man in an EMT uniform, sits on the floor next to a woman, ERIN GREENE. Erin is beaten pretty badly with scratches all over her. She appears to be resting.

KATIE

Will this work?

DEREK

Yes, that's perfect.

Derek takes the towel and alcohol.

DEREK

Mind if I tear this?

KATIE

Go ahead.

Derek tears the towel into strips and pours alcohol on one of them.

KATIE

Chris is still looking to see
if we have any water leftover.

DEREK

Well, we can't cure her without
it.

Derek holds the towel ready over some of Erin's cuts. He touches her head.

DEREK

Ms. Greene? Hey, are you in
there?

Erin stirs and looks at him.

ERIN

Where are we?

DEREK

At the home of Chris and Katie Romero. I'm going to clean up your wounds, ok?

ERIN

Okay.

DEREK

This might sting a little.

Erin nods. Derek rubs the towel lightly over her cuts. She winces.

CHRIS ROMERO enters followed by another EMT, OSCAR PENZ.

CHRIS

I've checked everywhere, and we're completely out. I was planning on heading over to the lake today to get some.

DEREK

We're going to need it soon.

OSCAR

How is she, Derek?

DEREK

Fading. She took a lot of their poison.

CHRIS

What happened exactly?

OSCAR

We had heard that the police station was overrun, and we were heading that direction to help when we saw Ms. Greene here, on a street corner being attacked.

DEREK

You can see they got her pretty good before we pulled her out. There were three of us in the ambulance.

OSCAR

We were carrying her back when we saw the creatures had beaten us to the ambulance. The man we left at the rig was eaten.

DEREK

We ran as fast as we could, and ended up here. We didn't know if anyone would be here or not, but zombies want food, not houses, so getting out of sight was our main priority.

Erin winces again as Derek continues to clean her wounds.

ERIN

Damn, that hurts.

DEREK

Mr. Romero, do you have everything else you need for the anti-toxin?

CHRIS

I believe so. Just need water.

DEREK

When can we go?

CHRIS

Whenever you're ready, I suppose. I can get the containers.

DEREK

Good.

KNOCK, KNOCK. Everyone looks at the door.

OSCAR

Sh.

Oscar inches his way to the front window.

OSCAR

There are three men outside.

CHRIS

Who are they?

OSCAR

Human, by the looks of them.

CHRIS

Derek, get Ms. Greene into the den. Katie, go with them.

Derek lifts Erin off the floor and carries her into the den. Katie follows.

KNOCK, KNOCK.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ryan, Tyler, and Nolan stand on the porch.

NOLAN

If you don't get an answer, break it down.

RYAN

Real smart, Nolan. How do we lock it if we bust it open?

NOLAN

How should I know?

The door unlocks and opens. Oscar stands at the door.

OSCAR

Who are you?

RYAN

We're police officers. Our precinct was overrun.

OSCAR
Any other survivors?

Ryan glances to Nolan.

RYAN
Not anymore.

OSCAR
One moment.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Oscar turns to Chris.

OSCAR
I'm okay with them if you are.

CHRIS
These days any human is our
friend. Let them in.

Oscar opens the door.

OSCAR
Come in.

Ryan, Tyler, and Nolan enter.

TYLER
Thank you.

Chris puts out his hand to Ryan.

CHRIS
I'm Chris Romero.

Before he can shake Ryan's hand, Nolan pushes his way to Chris's hand and shakes it.

NOLAN
Nolan Parks. I'm in charge of
this detachment.

OSCAR
Detachment?

NOLAN

That's right.

CHRIS

I thought you were the only survivors.

RYAN

We are.

Ryan pushes Nolan out of the way, and shakes Chris's hand.

RYAN

I'm Ryan Crest, and this is Tyler Werther. We were driven out of our building when the zombies came, and despite what Nolan told you, he is not in charge of anything.

NOLAN

I am too.

TYLER

He's really more of a mental patient.

OSCAR

I see.

NOLAN

I am not!

OSCAR

I'm Oscar Penz. Lost my ambulance to the creatures.

TYLER

I know how that goes.

CHRIS

Well, my house is yours. We have three others with us. They're in here.

Chris leads Ryan and Tyler into the den where Derek has Erin lying on a couch. Katie is not in the room. Derek stands at their entry.

CHRIS

Ryan, Tyler, this is Derek Walker. He was with Oscar in the ambulance.

DEREK

And this is Erin Greene. She was attacked by the things and is an advanced stage of illness with the Solanum.

RYAN

Do you have what you need to cure it?

CHRIS

We need to make a run to the lake for water.

TYLER

We can certainly help with that.

CHRIS

Hey, Derek. Where's Katie?

DEREK

Bathroom.

RYAN

You have a bathroom?

DEREK

Not really. We more or less dug up the floor of the bathroom since we don't want to risk an outhouse. It stinks like hell, but there's an outside vent, and lots of air freshener.

RYAN

I see.

TYLER

How long have you been without running water?

CHRIS

Since the bombs fell last week. We've been getting water from the lake and boiling it.

DEREK

We were just about to get some.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Oscar stands next to Nolan. Nolan leans against a wall with his arms crossed.

OSCAR

So just how disturbed are you?

NOLAN

Oh, shut up. I'm not some freak.

OSCAR

I never said you were. You know, I knew a guy like you once. He was part of our EMT class. Thought he knew everything and was God's gift to everyone. You know what happened to him?

NOLAN

Oh, let me guess. Some kind of morality story, so he died?

OSCAR

No.

NOLAN

No?

OSCAR

No, he was expelled from the EMT course after he killed a patient because he thought he was right, and the doctor next to him was wrong. Sure, he tried to use his clout to get back in, but once his father heard the truth, he sent the kid elsewhere.

NOLAN

Oh God, I knew I heard your name before.

OSCAR

Yes, and I see Nolan Parks hasn't changed a bit. Still a spoiled brat.

NOLAN

Get off it, Oscar. So I couldn't save lives that way. I'm still in public service.

OSCAR

With no respect from your colleagues. You have to give it to get it. And to get it, you have to consider that someone else might have an answer you don't.

NOLAN

I don't think so.

Nolan turns away from him. He pauses and turns back.

NOLAN

So was it you?

OSCAR

Me what?

NOLAN

Who turned me in. Did you do it?

OSCAR

The doctor turned you in. I just confirmed what he said.

NOLAN

Why didn't you say it was an honest mistake? Why didn't you back your buddy up?

OSCAR

Because that would have been dishonest, and though we were paired up, you were never my buddy. I knew the EMT group did not need anyone with your attitude. I was happy to see you go, and proud to have been a part of it.

Nolan lunges for Oscar, but Oscar stops the charge, holding Nolan's arms in place calmly.

OSCAR

Grow up, Nolan. At least for now. I don't want to deal with you.

Nolan walks

INTO THE DEN

where Ryan and Chris continue chatting.

CHRIS

We have containers for the water in the kitchen.

RYAN

Sounds good.

Nolan steps in.

NOLAN

Ryan, have you mentioned the runs yet? I'd really like to get that signal up.

Ryan turns to Nolan with an incredulous look. He looks at Tyler for a moment. Tyler shrugs.

TYLER

I'd forgotten about it. I'm surprised he came up with something worthwhile.

RYAN

It's all about saving his own ass. I'm not surprised.

DEREK

What runs?

Oscar walks in behind Nolan and stands.

TYLER

I don't know if you've seen a news report on this or not, but it seems most of the zombie activity is localized to North America: United States, Canada, Mexico.

As Tyler continues with his explanation, Katie walks out of the bathroom. Ryan looks over at her. She looks at him. Their eyes lock. Shock crosses both of their faces.

TYLER

As a result, with what military the North American countries have left, they are doing flyovers of the country in helicopters to see if there are any survivors. We were waiting in our precinct for such a pick up when it was attacked.

DEREK

How do we tell them we're here?

TYLER

We brought a roof sign with us. Ryan?

Tyler looks at Ryan. Katie breaks the moment and walks over to Chris. Ryan looks back to the group.

RYAN

Huh?

TYLER

The sign?

RYAN

Right, we were hoping we could get this sign up before the water run, just in case there is a run overheard.

DEREK

Erin needs the cure now.

RYAN

It will only take a moment.

OSCAR

How do you know this helicopter will even come here?

Ryan takes the radio from his belt.

RYAN

This is one of our department's top of the line handheld radios. It's always on, but has a standby mode that shuts it off unless there's a signal. I doubt we'll hear from anyone, but it also has GPS. With any luck, that GPS feature will help to pinpoint us and we'll get some attention.

CHRIS

Wait a minute. Where would this helicopter take us?

NOLAN

A lot of people are going to South America. It doesn't matter which country.

RYAN

The idea is to hold off the zombies at the Panama Canal. It's the only place where there is a full break across the continent.

KATIE

Will we ever come back?

CHRIS

Oh, Katie. Guys, this is my wife, Katie. Katie, this is Tyler, Nolan, and Ryan. They're the ones who were knocking.

KATIE

Yes. Hello, Ryan.

RYAN

Hi.

CHRIS

Sorry, I interrupted.

KATIE

It's okay. So will we?

TYLER

Come back? Hard to say. I'm sure it will happen someday. These zombies can't live forever. Or at least we hope not.

NOLAN

Ryan, give me the sign.

RYAN

Why?

NOLAN

I need to supervise the hanging.

RYAN

Ok.

Ryan reaches into his pack, and retrieves a large tarp with a target on it.

NOLAN

Mr. Romero, show me a way to your roof.

TYLER

We'd better help him.

RYAN

If it's all the same, I'd like to sit out for a moment. Don't want to deal with him for a few minutes.

TYLER

Well, I sure don't want to be left alone with him.

Tyler turns to Oscar.

TYLER

Oscar, you game?

OSCAR

Sure. Why not?

Tyler and Oscar leave the room. Derek has turned back to Erin. Katie looks at Ryan and walks out of the den. Ryan follows.

Derek strokes Erin's hair. She opens her eyes and looks at him.

ERIN

What are you doing?

He jerks his hand back, embarrassed.

DEREK

I'm sorry.

ERIN

Don't be. It felt good. Keep going.

Derek strokes her hair again.

DEREK

How are you feeling?

ERIN

I'm getting tired, but I don't know why.

DEREK

It's the poison. That virus they carry trying to turn you into one of them.

ERIN

You won't let them, will you?

DEREK

No, of course not.

ERIN

You'll take care of me?

DEREK

I'll never leave you.

Erin smiles and closes her eyes.

DEREK

Erin, I want you to stay with me.

ERIN

I can't.

DEREK

You must.

ERIN

Maybe you could tell me a story.

DEREK

I don't know any stories.

ERIN

Sure, you do. Just tell me about yourself.

DEREK

Like what?

ERIN

Anything.

DEREK

When I was a kid, I was in this Christmas play of Mary and Joseph and stuff, and I was playing the innkeeper. Hated it. I liked the girl playing Mary, so I wanted to be Joseph, and since Eddie was the teacher's kid, of course, he got to be Joseph. Well, the night of the performance came, and I had it all worked out. I figured I would make my point dramatically. Eddie and Kathryn came to my door as Joseph and Mary. Kathryn goes, "Excuse me, sir. Do you have a room? I am with child and about to give birth." I told them, "Sure, Mary can come up and sleep in my room, but as for you, Joseph, you can piss off!"

Erin laughs. Derek smiles.

DEREK

Needless to say, they never allowed me to play the innkeeper or anything else again.

ERIN

I could see why.

DEREK

Well, you know, if I see what I want, I tend to go for it.

ERIN

What happened to Kathryn?

Derek shrugs.

DEREK

You know how the story goes. Mary ended up with Joseph, and the innkeeper didn't even make the Bible.

ERIN

Well, I think Mary missed out.

Derek smiles.

IN THE KITCHEN

Katie stands next to the counter. Ryan walks in behind her. She glances at him.

KATIE

Of all the people to walk through my door, you're the last one I expected.

RYAN

How are you?

She chuckles.

KATIE

How do you think? The world is coming to an end.

RYAN

That's not what I meant.

KATIE

Figure it out, Ryan. You always could figure me out.

RYAN

I know. You know I had to.

KATIE

I know. I don't want to open this wound.

RYAN

But I have to ask you why. You never spoke to me after you heard I joined the force. You wouldn't ever give me a reason why you didn't want me to.

KATIE

But you never wanted to trust me enough or love me enough to just do as I asked.

RYAN

But you never told me why.

Katie turns away from him. A tear drifts down her face.

KATIE

I couldn't tell you then.

RYAN

Why not? One day you were ok, and suddenly, you wanted me to change my whole life.

KATIE

Ryan, my uncle died the week before you told me you wanted to join the police force. He was a beat cop who was doing a routine stop. The guy behind the wheel hit him with a forty-five caliber pistol in the face. Sure, they caught the guy, but that didn't bring back Frank. He was my mother's brother, and we were closer to him than any other relative. We were always so proud of his job, and when I first heard that you were thinking of joining the police, I was happy. Then, after Frank died, I couldn't bear the thought of

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

losing you. Not like that. I hoped that if I threatened to leave, you would change your mind, but you didn't. I thought if I just let you go, you would come back, but you didn't.

RYAN

I never forgot you. I thought about you every day, but I didn't know what to do.

KATIE

I couldn't think of you. I tried not to. I got married not thinking of you.

RYAN

Katie, are you really happy with him?

Katie looks at him, stunned.

EXT. HOUSE - ROOF - DAY

Nolan stands on the corner of the tarp. The others works to attach it to the shingles of the house with clips. Nolan holds several clips, but does nothing.

NOLAN

Okay, let's get this thing attached, so we can get out of sight.

TYLER

Hey, Nolan, why don't you take some of those clips and get your corner down?

OSCAR

You're wasting your breath.

NOLAN

I am in charge.

CHRIS

You keep saying that, but no one seems to care. Who are you trying to convince?

TYLER

Us.

OSCAR

He's always been like that. He'd rather kill someone than admit that he isn't doing right.

CHRIS

Really?

OSCAR

He's done it before.

TYLER

You knew him?

OSCAR

I've got some stories to blow your minds.

NOLAN

Shut up, and get over here. You need to tack down this corner.

OSCAR

I think whoever has the tacks for that corner has to put it down.

CHRIS

I second that.

TYLER

I third it. Thanks Nolan. You're a real team player.

Tyler, Oscar, and Chris all head down the roof to go back inside a window or however they got up there.

NOLAN

Hey, come back here. I don't work. I supervise.

TYLER (O.S.)

If it blows off, you don't get rescued.

Nolan narrows his eyes.

NOLAN

Bastards! This is insubordination!

Nolan kneels down and starts tacking his corner down, mumbling under his breath a string of obscenities.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Katie and Ryan remain in the kitchen. Katie leans against the counter with her arms folded.

KATIE

How can you ask me that?

RYAN

It's a reasonable question.

KATIE

No, it's not. I married him. I am happy with him.

RYAN

So are you happy because you want to be or because you have to be.

KATIE

I don't have to be anything.

She turns from him.

RYAN

You didn't answer the question.

Katie appears to be very conflicted. A noise erupts on the stairs. Katie turns to it and rushes out of the kitchen. Ryan looks after her, frustrated.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Katie looks towards the stairs. Chris descends with Tyler and Oscar.

KATIE
Did you get that sign up ok?

CHRIS
Sure, no problem.

Ryan enters.

RYAN
Where's Nolan? Did you throw
him off?

TYLER
No, unfortunately, he's doing
fine. We left him to pull his
own weight.

RYAN
I'll bet he's upset over that.

TYLER
Little bit.

Derek enters.

DEREK
Are you done?

OSCAR
Yes.

DEREK
Can you get the water now?

TYLER
Yes. Chris, where are the
containers for the water?

CHRIS
In the kitchen.

RYAN
Can you show me?

CHRIS
Sure.

Chris leads Ryan and Tyler out of the room.

DEREK
So how long should it take
for them to get to the lake
and back?

KATIE
Five or ten minutes at the
most once they get out there.
How is she?

DEREK
Fine for the moment.

KATIE
Can you start on the cure
without the water?

DEREK
I can get the ingredients
together. I'll just need to
know where everything is.

KATIE
Chris is actually better in
the kitchen than I am. He
knows better where everything
is.

DEREK
Really? Wow, there's a jolt to
stereotypes everywhere.

Katie laughs.

KATIE

I know. He brings home the
bacon and cooks it too.

Chris returns with Tyler and Ryan. They put eight jugs on the
floor. Ryan glances up the stairs.

RYAN

Nolan, come on! We're going out.

Nolan walks down the stairs, exaggerating a look of tired.

NOLAN

I wore myself out up there.

TYLER

You didn't work any harder
than the rest of us, and I
mean that.

NOLAN

It's not my place to lug water.

CHRIS

Shall I come?

OSCAR

No, you and Derek stay here.
We'll go for the water. Come
on, Nolan!

NOLAN

This is ridiculous.

RYAN

So are you. Oh, here.

Ryan takes the radio off his belt and hands it to Katie.

RYAN

Would you put that on the
kitchen counter for me? I
don't want to run into any
trouble out and lose it.

KATIE

Ok.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The troupe of four walks across the front yard. Their weapons remained strapped to their backs.

NOLAN

Step lively, men. The sooner we get there, the sooner we get back.

RYAN

Shut up, Nolan!

Tyler looks to Oscar.

TYLER

So what's with Derek and the girl? What's her name?

OSCAR

Erin? Oh, he's definitely taken an unprofessional liking to her. He won't tell you, but he carried her in his arms almost the entire distance from the city to here.

TYLER

Wow.

OSCAR

You're telling me. We made good time. I'm still waiting for his adrenaline to wear off.

RYAN

When did you get there?

OSCAR

Only fifteen or twenty minutes before you did. It seems we were all guided the same direction. But the trip from the city was a long one. And she was hit by a lot of zombies.

TYLER

How close is she to the coma?

OSCAR

Closer than Derek will admit. I worry because if she lapses, he may have to be restrained to do what we have to do.

Ryan and Tyler nod.

NOLAN

We could just club him if he interferes.

The other three give Nolan a dirty look and continue onward.

NOLAN

What?

In the distant corn field, zombies emerge and walk their direction.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Chris stands with Katie in the kitchen.

CHRIS

What's going on? You don't look so good.

KATIE

Well, you know. A lot of strangers in the house. The world is coming to an end. Our world anyway. I'm not exactly having a good day.

CHRIS

Yeah, it sucks. I know. I remember your face when we first looked at this house. You lit up like a Christmas tree.

KATIE

It just felt like our dream house. Everything was supposed to be perfect. Now we're going to lose it all. What else is going to break down?

CHRIS

That's why we tried to stay. That doesn't seem possible now, though.

Katie nods.

KATIE

A lot is changing.

She looks away from him, troubled.

CHRIS

What?

KATIE

Chris, are you happy with me?

CHRIS

What? Of course.

KATIE

Seriously. I mean, we got married after dating for two weeks. We moved out to the middle of no where after four months. We've only been together for a year and a half. We barely know each other.

CHRIS

Where is this coming from?
I'm never been unsure of us.
I loved you from the minute
you walked into the men's
bathroom by mistake. I still
think you followed me and
lost where you were.

She smiles.

KATIE

No, it was an emergency, but
seeing you ... doing your
thing, I figured it out.

CHRIS

It was love at first sight.

KATIE

I think it was because you
had your hands on your noodle.

CHRIS

You did catch me in an awkward
situation.

KATIE

No more awkward than that
fabulous surprise party at
your parents.

CHRIS

Ah, the one where we were doing
it on the couch when everyone
sprang out of the woodwork.

KATIE

I still think you planned that
one.

CHRIS

Ah, no. I didn't.

KATIE

But you did send your brother to our house to get your book on faucet repair. With a key to the front door.

CHRIS

If I knew you were parading around the house naked, I would have come myself.

He winks at her.

KATIE

Yes, well. I was going to take a shower and forgot that I'd washed every towel we had. It was a little walk to the other end to get them.

CHRIS

I just think you like showing off.

KATIE

Not as much as you.

CHRIS

Can I help it if you like to watch?

She smacks his arm. He grabs her and pulls her close. They kiss.

IN THE DEN

Erin is on the floor, her breathing is labored. She doubles over in pain. Derek kneels beside her.

DEREK

What is it?

ERIN

Just a pain in my gut. It hurts so bad.

DEREK

Try to relax. It won't be long.

ERIN

Till what?

Derek pauses for a moment.

DEREK

Till we can get you the cure.

ERIN

I know what you were thinking.

Erin lies down and turns away from him. A tear rolls down her face.

ERIN

Tell me something...honestly.

DEREK

Anything.

ERIN

Would you do it?

Derek opens his mouth, but no answer comes out.

ERIN

Would you?

DEREK

I don't want to think about that.

ERIN

You would have to, you know.

DEREK

It's not going that far.

ERIN

You know if it does, you'll have to.

Derek looks away from her for a moment. He turns back.

DEREK

I know I should be able to. I know I should have that wonderful medical apathy that allows me to view you as a subject, not a person. I know that I am wrong to feel an attachment to you, but I can't help it. Why do I feel this way? I don't even know you.

ERIN

You don't want to know me. And you sure don't want to be attached to me. Do you know what I did for a living?

Derek shakes his head.

ERIN

I worked the streets. My dad left when I was born, and my mom committed suicide when I was thirteen. On my side of the tracks, I found my way into gang life...and then gang rape. My soul is dead, Derek. I like you too much for you to end up with me.

DEREK

My dad was a preacher. He taught me that there is hope for anyone's soul, no matter what they've done.

ERIN

People like me don't deserve hope.

DEREK

For someone like you, hope is all there is, even when it seems lost. Your life wasn't your fault. Let this be a second chance. I promise if we get out of here alive, even if you don't want to be with me, I'll make sure you never work on the streets again.

ERIN

I can't let you do that.

DEREK

You can't stop me from saving you. And if I save you, then you owe me.

ERIN

Oh, and that's it, is it?

DEREK

No one crosses the innkeeper.

Erin smiles.

ERIN

If you insist.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Oscar, Tyler, and Ryan are all leaning into the lake filling their containers.

NOLAN

Hurry up, now. Hurry up. After yours are filled, you need to get mine.

RYAN

Fill your own damn containers.

TYLER

I swear I'm going to kill him.

OSCAR
You'll have to get in line.

TYLER
We're going to have to hurry.
Look.

Tyler points across the lake to where several zombies are emerging, walking their direction.

NOLAN
Not good. Not good. Not good.
Hurry!

OSCAR
Fill your containers! Now!

Nolan gets down and starts filling. The water bubbles in. Ryan finishes his and grabs Nolan's other container.

The zombies grow ever closer. The water bubbles into the containers. Oscar and Tyler are ready.

RYAN
Go!

Nolan finishes. Ryan caps off his container and gives it to Nolan. Ryan grabs his containers and runs. Nolan follows huffing.

Oscar and Tyler reach the house.

OSCAR
I'm going back.

TYLER
Right behind you. Oscar!

Oscar turns to him. Tyler tosses him his service revolver. Oscar catches it.

TYLER
Use it wisely.

OSCAR
Thanks.

Oscar runs back out. Tyler pounds on the door.

TYLER

Chris! We've got your water!

Tyler draws his weapon from his back and takes off as Chris opens the door. He sees Ryan closing in, Nolan far behind him, and zombies coming fast. He grabs the containers and totes them inside.

Oscar passes Ryan and heads to Nolan. He reaches out with his free hand.

OSCAR

Give me one of your containers,
Nolan. Come on.

Nolan throws both of his containers at Oscar, knocking him to the ground and takes off. The revolver flies from his hand.

Tyler reaches Ryan, and Ryan hands off one of his containers. Nolan passes them both, heading for the house.

RYAN

What the hell?

Ryan and Tyler look back to find Oscar slowly coming back to his feet, zombies closing in.

TYLER

Oh shit!

Tyler and Ryan run back for Oscar. Ryan pulls his weapon. The zombies begin to encircle Oscar's position, pinning him in and Ryan and Tyler out.

Nolan reaches the porch and looks back. He sees Ryan and Tyler have left Ryan's containers on the ground and are going to help Oscar. Nolan points to them, out of breath.

NOLAN

Good men ... go ... rescue.

Oscar grabs Nolan's containers and takes a few steps. A zombie lunges for him and trips him. They are on him.

Ryan and Tyler open up on the front line of zombies, taking them down.

Oscar looks to Tyler and Ryan only yard away.

OSCAR
Get out of here!

The zombies tear Oscar to pieces, hungrily. Tyler and Ryan head back for the house, grabbing Ryan's containers as they go.

With a bloody mouth, a zombie looks after Ryan and smiles.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Ryan and Tyler run into the house. They put down their containers and weapons and breathe heavily. Nolan looks up.

NOLAN
Where's Oscar?

Ryan's eyes blaze.

RYAN
You son of a bitch!

Ryan tackles Nolan, punching him repeatedly. Chris, Tyler, and Derek charge in and pull him off.

DEREK
What's going on?

RYAN
He killed Oscar!

TYLER
This won't solve anything.

RYAN
You saw what he did!

TYLER
I know what he did, but there's a bigger problem.

CHRIS

What?

TYLER

They're coming.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Zombies converge on the house, walking ever closer.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

The men move large pieces of furniture in front of the doors and windows. Couches are propped up. Cabinets are moved around. If wood and nails are possible, have at it.

They all stands in front of the front door, furniture or wood locking it immovably closed.

CHRIS

Will that hold?

RYAN

It has to.

Katie runs in.

KATIE

Derek, she's getting worse.

DEREK

Chris, we've gotta finish the cure.

Derek grabs a container of water and carries it into the kitchen. Chris follows. Tyler and Nolan walk into the den.

Katie makes to follow, but Chris grabs her and takes her into the living room.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Ryan leads Katie to stand by a wall. He stands very close to her to speak in hushed voices.

KATIE

Ryan, please.

RYAN

Don't speak. Just listen to me. I was an idiot to let you go, and I think all this led me here to give us a second chance.

KATIE

I'm married.

RYAN

It doesn't matter. Love knows no boundaries. If this is meant to be, you can leave him. Please don't deny me. You know you're not completely happy with him. You're wondering what would have happened if we had stayed together. Don't you wonder sometimes?

KATIE

Sometimes...

RYAN

You know how we were. You know how well we fit together. You remember those nights when we both slipped away from our parents to be together?

Katie nods, her expression troubled.

RYAN

The images haunt me every day, cursing what I'd lost. Images of our bodies intertwined, making love.

Ryan runs a finger lightly from her face down to her waist as he talks.

RYAN

Memories of all the times I
felt you moving beneath me
are flooding my mind. Every
time I look at you, I
remember every moment we spent
together not only dates and
dinners, but every intimate
time. Tell me you remember
them.

KATIE

I do.

Ryan leans in to her, only inches from her face. She tilts her
head as he holds inches from a kiss.

RYAN

Tell me you missed me.

KATIE

I missed you.

RYAN

Did you regret losing me?

KATIE

I should have called. I
was stubborn.

RYAN

I was too. But now I know
more than ever how much I
love you.

KATIE

And I love you.

She moves the final few inches and completes the kiss. They
break and stare into each others' eyes.

RYAN

I want to know you again.

KATIE

Ok.

RYAN
Upstairs. About five minutes?

KATIE
Ok.

RYAN
Better if we go separately.

KATIE
Yeah.

RYAN
Wait in here for a moment.

KATIE
Ok.

Ryan exits the living room. Katie breathes, her heart clearly racing.

KATIE
Oh, what am I doing?

AT THE STAIRS

Ryan zips out of the living room to the stairs where Tyler stands, looking at him.

TYLER
What the hell are you doing?

RYAN
Where's Nolan?

TYLER
Annoying Chris and Derek. You didn't answer.

RYAN
Nothing.

Ryan tries to walk by Tyler, but Tyler holds him back.

TYLER

You can't lie to me. I've known you too long to let you go with that. I also heard what you were saying in there.

RYAN

You were eavesdropping?

TYLER

It didn't start intentional, but what you're doing is wrong. This man accepted us into his house.

RYAN

What am I doing wrong?

TYLER

You can't be serious.

RYAN

I love this woman. I always have. I lost her once. I'm not losing her again. I'm going to remind her of everything we had together, and when I do, she'll be mine again. To hell with Chris whatever.

Ryan takes a few steps up the stairs.

TYLER

What's wrong with you? I've never seen this side of you. You've always been the good one. The Ryan I've know for so long would never do this to anyone.

RYAN

What am I doing wrong? I'm trying to reclaim what was mine. Whoever that guy in there is, he doesn't deserve her. She was mine first, and I'm going to keep her.

Ryan gets close to Tyler.

RYAN

And if you say anything to stop her from coming to me, I swear to God, I will never forgive you for it. All I really need right now is for you to make sure no one comes upstairs until we come back down.

Ryan and Tyler stare each other down for a moment.

TYLER

You know what? Fine. If you want to screw up your life, that's fine. Just don't come running to me when you realize how badly it's turned out. Ok?

Ryan rolls his eyes and walks up the stairs. Tyler walks

INTO THE LIVING ROOM

and finds Katie sitting on the couch.

TYLER

Hey, I was going to see how the cure was coming along. You mind sitting with Erin for a moment?

Katie snaps up, her eyes almost glazed over.

KATIE

What? Oh sure. No problem.

TYLER

Something on your mind?

KATIE

No, I'm fine. Just a lot going on.

TYLER

I imagine so.

Katie gets up and walks past the stairs, glancing up momentarily. She continues onward and walks

INTO THE DEN

where she finds Erin lying on the floor. Erin turns her head to Katie as she enters.

KATIE

Hey.

ERIN

(weakly)

Hey. I've been wondering what happened to you.

KATIE

Oh, I'm around. How are you holding up?

ERIN

Not good. Not bad. I'm still alive for now.

Katie nods. Erin looks at her for a moment.

ERIN

Can I ask you something?

KATIE

Sure.

ERIN

Do you think it would be crazy to fall in love with someone here?

Katie shifts, uncomfortably.

KATIE

I don't know.

ERIN

Maybe it is.

KATIE

Why do you ask?

ERIN

Derek's been good to me. Better than anyone has ever been to me. I'm probably just out of my mind.

KATIE

Maybe not. I mean, I'm in a worse fix than just liking someone.

She leans in close to Erin.

KATIE

My life is completely screwed up. I have my husband in the kitchen with your Derek, but that guy Ryan was my first real boyfriend. I lost my virginity with him, and we didn't really have an ending. He wants to get back with me.

ERIN

Do you want to?

KATIE

Yes. No. I don't know.

ERIN

Twenty-four hours ago I would have said go for it, but now...

KATIE

What?

ERIN

Personally, I want security. If I were married to someone, I wouldn't care who came through that door, I would want to be assured that if anything happened, I would have someone by my side no matter what. You might be in love with Ryan. You might even want to sleep with him. But you're also married to Chris, and if a guy is that devoted, that means something. I've never had any guy even suggest it.

KATIE

Oh.

ERIN

That's just me. You do what you gotta do, but don't lose sight of what you have.

Erin coughs several times.

KATIE

Are you okay?

ERIN

I think s- Oh no.

KATIE

Erin!

Erin's eyes roll back into her head. She goes limp. Katie backs away from her. She runs down the hall and

INTO THE KITCHEN

where Derek is stirring a dark liquid in a saucepan.

KATIE

Something's wrong with Erin!
She just passed out.

Derek hands the saucepan to Chris.

DEREK

Finish this. Bring it as soon
as you're done.

CHRIS

Sure.

Derek bolts out of the kitchen. Tyler and Nolan follow. Katie
backs out with them.

AT THE STAIRS

Katie looks up to the second floor. Derek, Tyler, and Nolan are
disappearing into the den.

Katie steals a glance toward the kitchen. She runs up the
stairs.

Moments later, Chris walks out of the kitchen, saucepan in hand.
He walks down the hall and

INTO THE DEN

where Derek has Erin's head in his lap.

DEREK

Erin! Come on, talk to me.

Derek looks up to see Chris.

DEREK

Set it down. I don't have any
syringes, so I'll need to
dump it down her throat.

NOLAN

How much does it take?

DEREK

I can't believe with all the
grief you put us through in
there that you don't know.

CHRIS

I've never used it. Is there
enough?

DEREK

Oh yes. More than enough. It only takes about a half cup of it, but that still four ounces to get down her.

TYLER

Is there still time?

DEREK

The chances of it working diminish the further through the coma stage we get. Since she just passed out, there's still time. You guys and your stupid sign. I should've gotten the water myself when I wanted to.

TYLER

The sign was necessary for our rescue.

DEREK

I don't see any helicopters yet. That means you had time.

Derek scoops a small amount of the cure from the pan. He tilts Erin's head back and dumps it slowly down her throat. He looks down her throat as it goes down.

CHRIS

Is it going down?

DEREK

Yeah. She's swallowing reflexively. I'll just have to take it slow. I just don't have time for it.

CHRIS

She'll be fine.

NOLAN

What if she isn't fine?

TYLER

Shut up, Nolan.

NOLAN

No, we have to think about this. If she's not fine, then we have to kill her.

CHRIS

Nolan, I don't think this is the time for this.

NOLAN

This is the perfect time for this. I'm sorry you pussies don't want to face reality, but if your little girlfriend there wants to bite my head open, then someone's going to have to blow hers off.

DEREK

The reason you're not a doctor is painfully clear. Shut up.

NOLAN

I will not shut up. Why won't anyone deal with this like an adult? I'm going to be ready.

He brings out his gun and checks it.

NOLAN

If she so much as moves a way I don't like, I'm going to-

A hand decks Nolan in the face, spinning him around. He falls to the floor in a heap. Chris steps back shaking his hand. Tyler walks over to Nolan and picks up his gun. He looks at Chris.

TYLER

Thank you.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ryan walks around the room. There is a double bed in the center with nightstands on either side. Ryan walks to a photograph on one of the stands.

INSERT THE PICTURE

A color photo of Chris and Katie. She leans on his shoulder. They are both smiling. The background looks like it was a professional photo.

END INSERT

Katie enters. Ryan puts the photo back down. He turns to her and smiles.

In silence, they walk towards each other. In an instant, they wrap their arms around each other in an embrace.

In an instant, his shirt is off. In another instant, hers follows. He sits on the bed. She sits in his lap, the kissing never ceasing.

He buries his face in her breasts. She throws her head back in ecstasy. He fumbles for her bra clasp. She brings her head back down.

Her eyes lock on the picture of her and Chris on the nightstand. His face smiles at her. In a flash, she sees his face in the picture frown at her.

Her face changes from pleasure to worry. Ryan releases her bra clasp. She backs away from him, holding her bra in place.

KATIE

No. I can't.

Ryan looks at her, dumb-struck.

RYAN

What?

KATIE

I can't do this.

RYAN

Why not? I thought you loved me.

Katie reaches behind her and reclasps her bra.

KATIE

Love isn't the problem, Ryan. My feelings for you haven't changed since you left, but that's the problem. They haven't changed. They haven't grown; they haven't lessened. They haven't done anything.

He stands and reaches to take her in his arms.

RYAN

So we can pick up where we left off.

She avoids his grasp.

KATIE

No, we can't. I met someone else. Whether you like it or not, I did. He loves me. He cares for me. And my feelings for him have changed since we broke up.

RYAN

They have?

KATIE

Yes, they grew. They grew beyond what we ever had.

Ryan sits on the bed dejected.

RYAN

Oh.

Katie picks up her shirt and puts it back on.

KATIE

Ryan, when I saw you again, my heart leapt for joy. I forgot where I was and what I was doing. I wanted nothing more than to remember what we had together. Trouble is, I forgot what I have. You asked me if I am happy with Chris, and my answer is yes - a resounding yes. I love you, and I think I always will, but I've chosen someone else to spend my life with, and I'm going to stand by it.

Ryan nods. Katie walks towards the door.

RYAN

What if he dies?

KATIE

What?

RYAN

If Chris died, would I have a chance?

Katie looks at him, her jaw dropped in shock.

KATIE

I can't believe you just- Do you have any idea how insensitive that was? Especially considering how close we are to death? Look outside if you've forgotten!

Ryan nods.

RYAN

Right.

Katie shakes her head. A look of total incredulousness on her face.

KATIE

You know, if you hadn't asked me that, and God forbid, Chris did die out here, you would have been the frontrunner to take care of me. But now...

She looks away still with that incredulous look.

KATIE

Oh, my God. I'm just- I can't believe I ever- I can't believe I almost- Oh, you have a good life there, Ryan.

Katie exits. Ryan remains where he is - shirtless and staring at the floor.

OUTSIDE THE BEDROOM

Katie closes the door and leans against it. She closes her eyes. A tear rolls down her face. She takes a deep breath. She opens her eyes, staring at the ceiling. She wipes her eyes and proceeds down the stairs.

INT. HOUSE - DEN - NIGHT

Derek has two fingers on Erin's neck. He looks at his watch.

DEREK

She still has a strong heart beat. If she turns, her heart rate would be almost non-existent.

TYLER

Will she make it?

DEREK

Time will tell.

Katie enters. Chris looks over to her.

CHRIS

Hey, where have you been?

Tyler watches them curiously.

KATIE

Come here.

Katie pulls Chris out of the den.

DEREK

Couple problems?

TYLER

I hope not.

AT THE STAIRS

Katie stops with Chris.

CHRIS

Everything all right?

She throws her arms around his neck. He is momentarily stunned, but returns the hug in turn.

CHRIS

What's all this?

Katie cries on his shoulder. He pulls her back to look at her.

CHRIS

Hey, what's going on?

KATIE

I love you so much. You know that?

CHRIS

Of course.

KATIE

I'm sorry.

She collapses on him again. He hugs her for a moment.

CHRIS

Sorry? For what?

KATIE

I should have told you when he got here, but I was afraid of what you might think. It's Ryan Crest. The cop?

CHRIS

What about him?

KATIE

We went out in high school. We more than just went out. We were exclusive for most of high school and awhile after. I left when he went into the police academy. But when I saw him today, I didn't know what to do. I didn't want you to be suspicious, but...

She cries on his shoulder again.

CHRIS

But what?

KATIE

(face still buried)

But you should have been.

Chris pulls her out and looks at her.

CHRIS

What happened?

KATIE

I got swept up in my memories. We kissed. He invited me upstairs.

Chris releases himself from her.

CHRIS

Oh, my God.

KATIE

Nothing happened. I promise. I stopped. I remembered us and what we have. I hated myself for even thinking about it.

CHRIS

Tell me something: who talked whom into it?

KATIE

What?

CHRIS

Who suggested that it should happen?

KATIE

He did.

CHRIS

And that's the truth?

KATIE

I wouldn't lie to you. I'm not lying now. I had to tell you because you deserve to know.

Chris nods. A door opens upstairs.

KATIE

He's coming.

Chris steps over to Katie and puts his arm around her. She leans against him. Ryan descends the stairs. At the bottom, he looks back and forth between Chris and Katie.

CHRIS

Tell me something, Ryan.

RYAN

Yes?

CHRIS

Did you want to sleep with my wife?

RYAN

She told you, did she?

CHRIS

Yes, she did.

RYAN

Then why are you asking me?

Ryan moves to walk past him, but Chris stops him.

CHRIS

When I hear a story, I want to know both sides, now would you mind telling me what I want to know?

RYAN

Sure. Whatever. Yeah, I wanted to sleep with your wife. He have a history together. She probably told you that too.

CHRIS

Yeah, she told me that. So the fact that she is my wife made no difference to you?

Ryan looks away, as if formulating a good answer for this very, very loaded question.

CHRIS

That's what I thought. As we are kind of in a crisis of humanity here, I'm going to let this go, if you'll remember one thing for me.

RYAN

What?

Chris reels back and punches Ryan in the face. Ryan goes down holding his nose. Chris shakes his hand in pain.

CHRIS

You know, that's really starting
to hurt.

Chris puts his arm around Katie and looks her in the eyes.

KATIE

You're not going to hit me, are
you?

CHRIS

Oh no.

He leads her up the stairs.

CHRIS

I just need a little personal
reassurance.

She laughs and holds him as they walk up the stairs.

IN THE DEN

Derek and Tyler lay Erin on the couch. Derek looks at her.

DEREK

I don't know what it is, but
I don't think I'll ever be
the same.

TYLER

Well, I hope you get out alive
then. I hear Venezuela's nice
this time of year.

Derek laughs.

DEREK

I've seen a lot of people hurt,
and a lot of people die. Most
of them as I'm trying to keep
them alive. Although I can't
stop people from dying, I can
usually do something to make
myself feel like I tried. This
is the first time I feel
completely powerless to do
anything.

TYLER

Maybe it's the first time you've
noticed.

DEREK

Maybe, but that doesn't help.

Derek turns away from Erin. He looks to be on the verge of
tears.

DEREK

I just don't want her to die,
man.

TYLER

I was wondering if there was
a human in there somewhere.
You're worried.

Derek nods.

DEREK

Hell yes. She's in the coma
stage. There's a fifty percent
probability that she'll become
one of them, and that I'll
have to kill her.

TYLER

You?

DEREK

If she turns, I want to do it.
No, I don't want to do it, but
I have to. If it happens.

TYLER

Sure. Of course. I wouldn't
let Nolan do it at any rate.

Ryan stumbles into the den. He holds his nose.

RYAN

Does anyone know where to find
a towel or something?

Tyler looks at him. He laughs.

RYAN

What are you laughing at?

TYLER

So, how'd it go?

A loud thump sounds upstairs. They all look up. Tyler looks back
to Ryan.

RYAN

How do you think it went?

TYLER

Yeah, something about the
husband that gives him an
advantage over the interloper.
Can't put my finger on what
that is.

RYAN

Shut up.

DEREK

How long have you guys been
working together?

TYLER

I've known broke nose here since the academy. We went through the whole thing together, got assigned to the same department, and have been each other's partner now ever since. Didn't know him before then, and he kept a few things to himself. His relationship with Chris's wife before they were married, for instance.

DEREK

You put the moves on Katie?

Ryan nods.

DEREK

Chris is getting a workout tonight, isn't he?

TYLER

Oh yeah, Ryan, Chris also wiped out Nolan.

He points to Nolan, still crumpled on the floor. Ryan laughs and then halts quickly, holding his nose in pain.

TYLER

There's toilet paper in the bathroom for that nose problem.

Ryan walks toward the bathroom.

RYAN

He bloody Nolan, too?

TYLER

Nope, but I'd rather he be out. At least you're hospitable.

RYAN

Good point.

Ryan enters the bathroom. Erin moans. Derek and Tyler look at her. Ryan pops his head out, toilet paper in hand.

Erin swings her feet off the couch. She leans over, her head hidden behind her hair. Derek walks towards her.

TYLER

Derek, be careful!

Derek holds out his hand to gesture Tyler to be silent. He kneels before Erin.

DEREK

Erin? Are you ok?

Erin takes a couple of deep breaths. Silence. Tyler raises his weapon. Derek runs his hand over Erin's head, swiping her hair out of her face.

Erin looks up at him, her eyes meeting his. Derek smiles.

DEREK

Hi.

She suddenly squints her eyes and opens her mouth wide, pulling her arms back. Derek jerks back to his feet. Tyler trains his weapon on her.

Nolan stirs and looks at Erin sitting up, mouth open, arms stretched. His vision blurs as he awakens.

Erin's movement morphs into a yawn. Derek smiles. She brings her arms down and looks at Derek quite naturally. Erin speaks softly, like she just woke up (go figure).

ERIN

Sorry, hi.

DEREK

You're ok.

ERIN

I think so.

Nolan's vision comes back. He sees Erin rise from the couch. Derek takes a step backward. Her arms are high around her. He reaches to his belt and draws his pistol.

Erin throws her arms around him. He hugs her tightly in return.

ERIN

Oh, my God, I was so scared.

DEREK

Me too, Erin. Me too.

They break the hug and share a kiss. A shot rings out. Erin's body jerks. Derek pulls away from her. Her vision glazes over. Her body falls to the floor.

Derek looks over to Nolan, who lowers his pistol. Tyler and Ryan stare at him, gape-mouthed.

NOLAN

I knew you didn't have the balls
to kill her. Damn zombies.

With a furious roar, Derek lunges at Nolan, knocking him to the floor. His pistol clatters away. Derek pummels him.

DEREK

You bastard! She was fine! She
was cured! She wasn't supposed
to die! She was supposed to
spend her life with me!

Derek wears out with each passing word until he finally stops. He rolls off Nolan and lies on the floor, bawling in rage and agony.

Nolan continues to cringe on the floor and Tyler and Ryan stand over him. Nolan looks at them, wide-eyed.

NOLAN

What? I didn't know.

Tyler and Ryan only look at him silently. Finally, they look at each other.

RYAN

Nolan, why don't you be a good little asshole and go over there and sit in the corner until we figure out how to feed you to the zombies.

Nolan doesn't move. He looks fearfully from Tyler to Ryan. Ryan kicks him.

RYAN

Move!

Nolan crawls into a corner of the room and sits against the wall, his legs pulled up against his chest.

Chris and Katie run in, their hair a disheveled mess.

CHRIS

What happened?

They survey the room. Erin is dead with a bullet through her head. Derek is curled up in a fetal position crying. Nolan is huddled in a corner. Tyler and Ryan turn to them.

KATIE

It didn't work?

TYLER

Oh, it did. That only made it worse when Nolan shot her in the head.

Chris and Katie only stare silently, disbelieving.

INT. HOUSE - DEN - LATER

Katie sits on the floor, her arm around Derek, comforting. Nolan stays in the corner. Ryan sits near Nolan. Chris and Tyler are out of the room.

Ryan watches Katie. She looks up at him for a moment. She looks away. Ryan looks to Nolan.

RYAN

Well?

NOLAN

Well what?

RYAN

You proud of yourself?

NOLAN

Shut up.

RYAN

Maybe we can still have you
tried for murder.

NOLAN

I made a mistake, okay?

RYAN

If it had only happened once,
it might be. If you weren't
such an asshole all the time,
it might. But you see, ever
since we left the station,
you've been nothing but a
problem. You got James killed.
You got Oscar killed. And
now you killed Erin yourself.
What I can't help but notice
is that if we had tossed you
to the zombies when we left,
you'd be the only one dead,
and we'd have three more
people whose lives were
worth saving here with us.

NOLAN

What do you want me to say?

RYAN

Nothing. You can't say anything
to any of this. You screwed up,
and as far as I'm concerned,
there is nothing you can do to
make it right. Can you give me
one reason why you deserve to
live?

Nolan looks away.

NOLAN

Then why don't you kill me?

RYAN

I have this little morality problem I'm trying to lick.

Katie humphs without looking up. Ryan shoots a look her direction, but she doesn't look at him.

RYAN

Anyway, I'd rather make you suffer. You realize you have nothing at this point, right? Everyone that put you where is dead. Dead or out of power. If we get out of here, you'll never make it in a normal department. I think watching you fall flat is much more enjoyable than just killing you.

Nolan closes his eyes. A tear rolls down his face.

Chris and Tyler enter. They walk to Ryan who stands. They all speak in hushed voices so Derek can't hear.

CHRIS

We put Erin's body in the garage. The car sure isn't going anywhere.

RYAN

Sounds good.

TYLER

How's the idiot?

RYAN

I think we finally broke him.

TYLER

It's about time.

Nolan gets up and storms out of the room. Chris turns to follow, but Tyler stops him.

TYLER

Let him go. He can't do any harm.

A voice issues from the kitchen.

VOICE (V.O.)

Attention. Is anyone monitoring this frequency?

Everyone stares towards the kitchen, shocked. They run out.

IN THE KITCHEN

everyone enters. Ryan's police radio sits on the counter. Ryan picks it up.

KATIE

I thought we wouldn't hear anyone.

RYAN

I didn't think we would.

VOICE (V.O.)

Attention. Is anyone monitoring this frequency? Second call.

Ryan puts the radio to his mouth and depresses the send button.

RYAN

My name is Ryan Crest of the city police department. Identify. Over.

COLLINS (V.O.)

This is Warrant Officer Collins of the United States Army. What is your situation? Over.

RYAN

I am in a house with five other people. Need evac. Over.

COLLINS (V.O.)

Will provide evac tomorrow based on GPS information. Is your location signed? Over.

RYAN

Affirmative. Sign on roof. We are surrounded by zombies. Advise. Over.

COLLINS (V.O.)

Estimate zombie infestation. Over.

RYAN

Standby.

Ryan looks at everyone else.

TYLER

I haven't heard anything out of them for awhile.

CHRIS

Hey, that's right. You think they're still out there?

Ryan walks to the front door of the house and looks out the peephole. A fisheye view of the front lawn shows only darkness.

RYAN

Can't see anything. It's too dark.

Derek points to a window in the living room, blocked by a piece of furniture.

DEREK

We can look out the window, right?

TYLER

(wary)

I don't know. They might be waiting for that.

KATIE

Are they smart enough to do that?

RYAN

We can't be sure either way.

DEREK

Well, let me look. I don't have anything to lose anymore.

KATIE

Don't talk like that.

DEREK

It gives me comfort.

TYLER

Wow, some comfort.

Derek walks

INTO THE LIVING ROOM

to the furniture covering the window. Derek, Ryan, and Tyler pull the piece from the window like a door with no hinge. Derek looks out the window.

OUTSIDE, the lawn is dark. The moon hides behind the clouds.

DEREK

I still can't see any-

The moon comes out. The yard is covered with zombies. What might have been grass is actually zombie bodies lying all over the yard resting.

DEREK

Oh my God...

An arm shoots through the window, shattering the glass. It grabs Derek by the shirt and drags him toward the window. Derek yells.

Ryan, Tyler, and Chris pull Derek from the window, but the zombie's grasp holds him tight. Another zombie breaks through the window with his head.

A barrage of automatic bullets fly between the men and erupts the zombie's head. They whip around find Nolan behind them with his automatic weapon.

NOLAN

Thought I'd try to contribute.

Nolan walks past them, aims the weapon out the window and fires. A shriek emits from a zombie, and Ryan, Tyler, Chris, and Derek fall to the ground when the hold releases.

RYAN

Let's get that window covered.

NOLAN

Right.

Nolan walks out of the corner, but his arm is grabbed by a zombie. He yells. Ryan grabs Nolan's weapon as another zombie arm reaches through the window and grabs his other arm.

Ryan fires causing one zombie to let go only to have another take its place. Tyler joins Ryan with his own weapon. They each fire at the zombies holding Nolan in place, but for every one they dispatch, another takes its place.

RYAN

(to Chris and Derek)

Get ready to push that back into place.

A zombie arm wraps around Nolan's neck and drags his upper torso outside. Nolan's body struggle against them. A sickening crunch breaks the air. Nolan's body goes limp.

Ryan and Tyler run to the piece of furniture and the four of them push it against the window as Nolan's feet pass out of it and another zombie peeps through.

They slump to the floor. Ryan throws his weapon to the floor.

TYLER

Who'd've thought the guy would try to redeem himself before he died?

COLLINS (V.O.)

Crest. Report on zombie situation.
Over.

Ryan runs to the radio and presses the send button.

RYAN

Checked zombie situation. Caged
in. Change count. Now four
other people. Over.

COLLINS (V.O.)

Understood. We will contact
you to review the situation
when we're in the area. Over.

RYAN

Roger. We'll be waiting.

COLLINS (V.O.)

We'll be there in three hours.
Collins Out.

Ryan puts the radio back on the counter.

RYAN

Now we wait.

INT. HOUSE - DEN - MORNING

Chris and Katie sleep in each other's arms on the couch. Derek
sleeps in the chair. Tyler and Ryan sit side by side, both quite
awake, facing the couch.

TYLER

Still brooding over her?

RYAN

A little. I can't blame her,
though.

TYLER

Any thoughts on how we could
possibly reach that chopper?

RYAN
Nothing pleasant.

TYLER
What do you have?

RYAN
I'm going to keep thinking about
it.

Ryan looks at his watch.

RYAN
Anytime now.

COLLINS (V.O.)
Crest. Come in. This is Collins.

RYAN
And there he is.

Tyler goes around the room waking everyone up. Ryan depresses
the send button.

RYAN
Collins, this is Crest. State
your location. Over.

COLLINS (V.O.)
We're almost on top of you. I
can see your sign now. Over.

The sounds of a helicopter issues from outside.

RYAN
We hear you. Are you able to
land? Over.

COLLINS (V.O.)
It looks like your front yard
is swarmed, but your back yard
is completely empty. Plenty
of room if you move as soon as
we touch down. Over.

Ryan looks at Tyler.

RYAN

The backyard is empty?

TYLER

I guess all the action out front kept them from the back.

RYAN

Yeah, I never thought to check.

CHRIS

Can we leave?

RYAN

Let's go.

(to Collins)

We're heading to the back door.

We'll be ready. Over.

COLLINS (V.O.)

Affirmative. Collins Out.

Ryan puts the radio on his belt. Chris leads the group through the house to the back door. Derek looks out a window.

DEREK

Sure enough. It's clear.

Ryan turns to them.

RYAN

Whatever happens, I want Katie, Chris, and Derek to head for the chopper first. Those creatures might try to come around and get at us. If that happens, I'm going to do my duty and make sure the rest of you get away.

KATIE

You're not coming?

RYAN

I don't know. If I have to
distract them, it may be at the
sacrifice of my own life.

KATIE

You can't do that.

RYAN

I can, and I will.

KATIE

But-

RYAN

Katie, don't worry about me.
You have Chris, and you always
will. Remember that.

KATIE

But I don't want you to die.

RYAN

But I want you to live.

Ryan kisses her. She responds to his kiss. They break the
embrace.

RYAN

I'll always love you. And I'll
die for you today.

Ryan looks at Chris.

RYAN

Sorry, Chris. Dying man's last
request.

CHRIS

It's okay. Good luck to you.

Chris and Ryan shakes hands.

DEREK

Here comes the chopper.

RYAN

Let's go.

Derek holds him a moment.

DEREK

Let me help you. I have nothing to live for.

RYAN

No.

DEREK

You can't decide my life for me.

RYAN

You are medically trained. This world needs people with your skills. You need to live to cure others so they can live. You're too valuable to waste in grunt work. Chris and Katie have to go because they're a couple. Easier to create more little people when you have couples. You three are important.

TYLER

And I'm not?

RYAN

My good man. We're the only cavalry they have.

TYLER

Let's do it.

They shake hands one last time.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ryan opens the door and the five of them step out into the sunlight. They stand in the background looking upward. The dust stirs around them from the wind created by the helicopter blades. The sound is deafening.

The zombies start coming around the house at them.

RYAN

Tyler! They're coming!

Ryan and Tyler draw their weapons and shoot into the coming onslaught.

RYAN

Run!

Katie, Chris, and Derek run for the chopper (hiding off screen). Several zombies break from the group and head that direction.

TYLER

Ryan! They're going for the bird!

Ryan and Tyler fire at the zombies breaking from the group, but there are too many. Ryan blasts a path through the middle of the hoard. He gets the attention of the zombies breaking away.

RYAN

Come on, you bastards! Catch me if you can!

Tyler gets surrounded by zombies. He runs out of ammo. He tries to run for the chopper, but the zombies wall him in. They tear him to pieces.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

Inside the cabin, COLLINS turns to them.

COLLINS

Is that everyone?

DEREK

Ryan is still alive.

CHRIS

But not for long.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ryan's gun runs out of ammo. He waves at the chopper and runs away from it.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

A tear runs down Katie's face.

KATIE

Take off.

Collins pulls back on the stick.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The sound of the chopper dies away in the background as it flies off. Ryan turns and shields his eyes from the sun. He smiles.

RYAN

Good-bye, Katie. Good luck.

Ryan turns around. Zombies surround him. Ryan opens his arms as if to embrace them. They converge on his location.

Through Ryan's eyes, the closest zombie lunges for him.

BLACK SCREEN

Ripping. Crunching. Silence.

THE END