

INTO THE SMOG

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. ABANDONED CITY STREET - DAY

The air is thick with a green smog, swirling and choking the life out of the once-bustling city. The buildings loom like silent sentinels, their windows shattered and dark. The street is eerily empty, devoid of any signs of life.

DAVID (50's) walks slowly down the centre of the street, his face obscured by a gas mask. His footsteps echo in the silence, the only sound in this desolate landscape. He wears a long coat, its edges frayed and dirty, flapping slightly in the toxic breeze.

David pauses, looking around. The green haze makes it hard to see far, but it's clear there's no one else here. He adjusts the straps of his gas mask, ensuring it's secure. His breathing is heavy, the sound amplified by the mask.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DAY

David approaches a dilapidated house, its door hanging loosely on its hinges. He knocks softly, the sound barely audible in the thick air. After a moment, the door creaks open, revealing MARY, (50's) and FRANK, (60's) their faces gaunt and eyes hollow.

David reaches into his coat and pulls out a bag of fresh vegetables. He hands it to Mary, who takes it with trembling hands, her eyes welling up with tears of gratitude.

MARY

(voice muffled by her own mask)

Thank you... thank you so much. But please. Please, look after her.

Frank steps forward, his expression one of solemn determination. He gestures to the back of the house, where a young woman, their DAUGHTER, stands hesitantly. She is in her twenties, her face pale but resolute.

FRANK

(voice heavy with emotion)

She will be safer with you. She has no life here with us.

David nods, understanding the gravity of the situation. He extends his hand SALLY, who takes it after a brief hesitation.

Together, they turn and walk back into the green smog, leaving Mary and Frank standing in the doorway, watching them disappear into the haze.

EXT. ABANDONED CITY STREET - DAY

David and Sally walk through the green smog, their figures barely visible in the haze.

INT. DAVID'S SHELTER - DAY

The shelter is a small, makeshift space, sparsely furnished with the bare essentials. The walls are lined with scavenged materials, and a single flickering light bulb casts a dim glow.

David and Sally enter, and she looks around, taking in her new surroundings. David sets down his bag and turns to her.

DAVID
(voice muffled by the
mask)
We will build a new life here.
Together.

Sally nods, her expression a mix of fear and resignation.

INT. DAVID'S SHELTER - NIGHT

A rough and scruffy looking PRIEST (70's) stands before David and Sally. The room is dimly lit, and the atmosphere is sombre. The PRIEST holds a worn book, his voice raspy as he speaks the words of the ceremony.

He sways from side to side. Clearly drunk.

PRIEST
(voice heavy with
weariness)
Do you, take this woman to be your
lawfully wedded wife, to have and
to hold, in sickness and in health,
for as long as you both shall live?

David nods, his eyes meeting Sally's.

DAVID
I do.

The PRIEST turns to Sally. He burps, he's almost sick, but manages to just hold it together.

PRIEST

And do you, take this man to be
your lawfully wedded husband, to
have and to hold, in sickness and
in health, for as long as you both
shall live?

Sally hesitates for a moment, then nods.

SALLY

I don't have a choice.

PRIEST

Good enough for me.

The PRIEST closes the book and looks at them both.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

By the power vested in me, I now
pronounce you husband and wife.

David and Sally stand together, their hands clasped. The
PRIEST steps back, leaving them to their new life together.
The room is silent, save for the faint hum of the light bulb.

INT. DAVID'S SHELTER - DAY

David leads Sally to a small, enclosed area at the back of
the shelter. They both wear their gas masks, the air still
thick with the green smog.

INT. VEGETABLE GARDEN - DAY

David opens a door to reveal a hidden vegetable garden. The
space is filled with makeshift planters, each one carefully
tended. The plants are vibrant and healthy, a stark contrast
to the desolate world outside.

Sally looks around, her eyes wide with confusion and wonder.

SALLY

(voice muffled by the
mask)

So, this is how you do it?

David gestures to the plants, his voice stern and harsh.

DAVID

This is MY food. But if you always
do as I say. It can be yours too.
But always, this is MINE!

Sally steps closer, examining the vegetables with a mix of curiosity and disbelief. She reaches out to touch a leaf, her fingers trembling.

SALLY

I've never knew they just came out
of the ground like this.

David watches her, a hint of pride in his eyes.

DAVID

It's not so simple. In the old
world it was called farming. My
father taught. And when you provide
me with children. I shall teach
them too.

Sally nods slowly, pain in her eyes.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DAY

David returns to the dilapidated house, carrying another bag of fresh vegetables. He knocks softly, and the door creaks open to reveal Mary and Frank once again. Their faces light up with relief at the sight of the food.

DAVID

(voice muffled by the
mask)

For the exchange.

Mary takes the bag, her hands trembling with gratitude.

MARY

Thank you... Is she ok?

David looks past her, his eyes searching for someone.

DAVID

Tell your other daughter to step
forwards.

Mary and Frank exchange a worried glance. LILLY, only 15, steps forward hesitantly. She is scared, her eyes wide with fear.

LILLY

(voice trembling)

I don't want to go.

David kneels down to her level, his voice gentle but firm.

DAVID

The human race is dying. We need to rebuild, to survive. Only I can help.

Lilly looks to her parents, seeking reassurance. Mary and Frank nod, their expressions pained but resolute.

FRANK

You have to go. If you stay here, you'll die.

Lilly hesitates, then slowly nods, tears streaming down her face. David stands and extends his hand to her. She takes it reluctantly, and they turn to leave.

Mary and Frank watch as their second daughter is led away, their hearts heavy with the weight of their decision.

INT. DAVID'S SHELTER - NIGHT

David and Lilly stand before the same rough and scruffy PRIEST. The room is dimly lit, and the atmosphere is heavy with sorrow. The PRIEST holds his worn book, his voice raspy as he begins the ceremony.

PRIEST

(voice heavy with weariness)

Do you, take this girl to be your lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for as long as you both shall live?

David nods, his eyes meeting Lilly's.

DAVID

I do.

The PRIEST turns to Lilly, who is visibly trembling.

PRIEST

And do you, take this David to be your lawfully wedded husband, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for as long as you both shall live?

Lilly hesitates, her voice barely a whisper.

LILLY

I... Want to go home.

The PRIEST closes the book and looks at them both.

PRIEST

By the power vested in me, I now
pronounce you husband and wife.

David tries to grab the hands of Lilly, but she snaps them away.

INT. DAVID'S SHELTER - NIGHT

The shelter is quiet, the only sound the faint hum of the light bulb. Sally and Lilly sit together in a corner, speaking in hushed tones. Their gas masks rest beside them, their faces pale and tired.

LILLY

(whispering)

I can't stay here. The way he looks
at me. Makes my fucking skin crawl.

Sally looks at her sister, her expression serious.

SALLY

(whispering)

We can't just leave. We need to
learn how to grow food first. It's
the only way we'll survive out
there.

Lilly's eyes fill with tears.

LILLY

(whispering)

But I can't stand it here. You know
he's going to rape us. That's why
we're here.

Sally takes her sister's hands, squeezing them gently.

SALLY

(whispering)

We must learn how to farm. That's
the word he used. Farm. Once we
know how to grow food. Then we can
leave. We've got to be strong until
then.

Lilly nods slowly, wiping away her tears.

LILLY
(whispering)
If he puts a child inside of me. I
won't keep it.

INT. DAVID'S SHELTER - BEDROOM - DAY

David brings both sister's into his bedroom. Bare naked walls and floor. A single fold out bed in the corner.

DAVID
The world needs to be repopulated.

The two sister's share a look.

David takes a hold of Sally, laying her down onto the bed. He climbs on top of her, glancing back at Lilly. Who's frozen to the spot.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Watch and learn. It'll be your turn
soon enough.

INT. VEGETABLE GARDEN - DAY

David kneels in the small vegetable garden, carefully pulling vegetables out of the ground. Sally and Lilly stand nearby, watching intently. They both wear their gas masks, the green smog still thick in the air.

David holds up a freshly harvested carrot, showing it to the sisters.

DAVID
(voice muffled by the
mask)
Have you ever seen something so
beautiful?

Sally shakes her head, her eyes focused on the David's movements.

SALLY
(voice muffled by the
mask)
There's got to be a way he does
this. It's not magic. It's a skill.
And we need to know how.

Lilly watches, her fear slowly giving way to determination.

LILLY
(voice muffled by the
mask)
Watch everything he does. That's
all it'll take. We just copy him.

David continues to harvest the vegetables, the sisters observing closely.

INT. DAVID'S SHELTER - NIGHT

Sally and the Lilly sit together in a corner, speaking in hushed tones. Their gas masks rest beside them, their faces pale and tired.

LILLY
I won't lay with him.

SALLY
And the food?

Lilly nods, confident.

LILLY
I've seen enough.

SALLY
You really think so?

LILLY
Yes. I can do this.

SALLY
I hope you're right. We'll starve
if we get this wrong.

LILLY
(serious)
I won't give him any children. I
won't.

Sally nods.

SALLY
Then I'll lay with him again
tonight.

Lilly reaches out, taking a hold of Sally's hand she gives it a squeeze. Grateful.

EXT. VEGETABLE GARDEN - DAY

The next day, David is in the vegetable garden, pulling more vegetables out of the ground. The air is still thick with the green smog, but he works diligently, focused on the task at hand.

As he bends down to pull another carrot from the soil, he senses something behind him. He looks over his shoulder just in time to see Sally and Lilly rushing towards him, shovels raised.

SALLY
(voice muffled by the
mask)

Now!

The sisters swing their shovels with all their strength, striking David. He stumbles, trying to defend himself, but the sisters are relentless. They continue their attack until David collapses to the ground, unmoving.

Breathing heavily, the sisters stand over him, their shovels still in hand. The garden is silent, save for their ragged breaths.

SALLY (CONT'D)
We can't stay here.

LILLY
No.

SALLY
We need to move. Take everything.
Leave nothing.

The sisters quickly gather the vegetables and supplies, ready to leave the shelter and face the uncertain world outside. Together, they step into the green smog, their future now in their own hands.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END