

Irrational Circumstance

by
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WGAE

FADE IN

INT. UNIVERSITY CLASS ROOM - DAY

DR. JO ARDEN, 30's, stands at the front of the room facing a packed classroom.

A slide appears on the wall behind her; it's a hand drawn picture of a deranged ape-like creature, massive razor-sharp teeth protrude from it's gaping mouth.

JO

The Pogo of African legend was believed to eat men alive, then kidnap and rape their women. That is until the early eighteen hundreds, when we discovered the ferocious Pogo was actually--

The next slide shows a Gorilla munching on a plant leaf.

JO (CONT'D)

The vegetarian Gorilla.

The next slide is another hand-drawn picture, this one of an angry white bear.

JO (CONT'D)

The elusive and deadly White Bear of China was thought to be a myth, until 1869 when--

The next slide shows a Panda Bear.

JO (CONT'D)

We discovered it was really just the anti-social Panda.

Next slide, a few hand-drawn sea creatures.

JO (CONT'D)

The Kracken and Scylla turned out to be giant squids.

The next slide appears to be that of a Cyclops skull.

JO (CONT'D)

Anyone want to venture a guess what this is a picture of?

Several students timidly raise their hands.

JO (CONT'D)
I'll give you a hint, it's not a
Cyclops skull.

Everyone lowers their hands except ALEX, who looks as if he's
about to burst.

JO (CONT'D)
Alright Alex, enlighten us.

He stands.

ALEX
When ancient people unearthed this
skull, they said it proved the
legend of the Cyclops, although
some scholars believe the skull
actually gave rise to the Cyclops
myth, and as proof many point to--

JO
Alex, focus.

ALEX
Sorry Dr. Jo. Anyway, centuries
later when scientist finally got to
study the skull, they found out it
was that of a dwarf elephant, and
the eye socket was really a sinus
cavity.

MARCIE YELLS out;

MARCIE
Gross.

VERONICA and ALICE GIGGLE. TRAY winks at WAYNE and CARTER.

TRAY
Guess that makes it a sn--

JO
Tray, don't even think about
finishing that sentence.

He grins, everyone else LAUGHS.

JO (CONT'D)
Bones thought to prove the
existence of dragons, turned out to
those of a giant serpent. The point
is, don't assume. Just explore the
possibilities, and leave yourself
open.

Pete raises his hand.

JO (CONT'D)

Yes Pete.

PETE

So, do you think Big Foot is really a Gigantopithecus?

JO

Could be.

(To Class)

A Gigantopithecus is a long extinct giant ape.

PETE

Believed to be extinct. How many species have we discovered that we thought had been extinct for centuries?

JO

Touche. It could be. It could be a bunch of apes escaped from a traveling circus, or it could be aliens wearing an ape mask.

Everyone, including Pete, LAUGHS.

PETE

Touche.

JO

That's the point, of this class, of my work, of life in general. Just leave your self open and--

In unison, the class CALLS out;

CLASS

Explore the possibilities.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS

BEVERLY STONE and STEVE DANIELS: both 30ish, wearing dark suits; struggle to keep up with Jo, who strides across campus.

BEVERLY

Doctor Arden, if we could just--

Jo stops, and wheels around to face them.

JO
Just what? Have coffee and chat?

BEVERLY
Yes.

JO
Because you have a Criptid you want
me to find?

STEVE
If that's what it is? All we know
is--

JO
Who the Hell are you people?

BEVERLY
I told you, I'm Beverly Stone and
this is Steve Daniels, we work for--

JO
The Department of The Interior?

STEVE
Yes and we need--

JO
Better cover stories.

BEVERLY
Excuse me? Doctor Arden, I assure
you--

JO
Save it Bev, you two are Feds
alright, but you're from the
Department of the Interior like I'm
the Queen of England. Now who the
hell are you people?

Beverly and Steve try, unsuccessfully, to stare Jo down.

JO (CONT'D)
Oh don't even, you two are about as
intimidating as hemorrhoids.

She glances at her watch.

JO (CONT'D)
Look, my next class starts in ten
minutes, so talk or walk.

Beverly looks over at Steve. He thinks a second, then nods.

BEVERLY

We're F.B.I.

JO

Uh huh.

BEVERLY

But we are working with The
Department of The Interior.

JO

What the Hell is going on?

STEVE

Nothing as nefarious as it seems, I
assure you.

BEVERLY

About a week ago, a family was
hiking on the back side of Granger
Ridge when--

JO

Their little girl wandered off. I
heard about it on the news, Sandra
something.

STEVE

Susan Harper.

JO

The rescuers found her a couple of
days later.

STEVE

It wasn't the rescuers that found
her.

JO

Uh huh, then who, or what, did?

STEVE

We aren't sure.

BEVERLY

But whatever it is, it's friendly.
There wasn't a scratch on the
Harper kid.

STEVE

She said it looked liked one of her
mommies' Care Bears.

JO

Uh huh. So, if I understand you correctly, you want me to spend my entire break, driving around one of the largest Parks in the country, looking for a Care Bear.

STEVE

That a problem?

JO

Look, I get it. Most people think cryptozoologists are just a bunch of crackpots, who spend our days searching for Big Foot or The Loch Ness Monster, but--

BEVERLY

We're not one of them.

STEVE

Doctor Arden, Jo, there is something out there. Now maybe it's an undiscovered species of Ape or Bear, or maybe it's just someone's lost pet.

BEVERLY

But don't you want to be the one to find out?

JO

Not really, but I so appreciate you thinking of me.

She starts to walk away.

BEVERLY

Dr. Arden please, if you'd just--

Jo turns to face her.

JO

Look, I don't mean to sound rude, but I really am late for class.

BEVERLY

I understand your apprehension, but you're the best in your field.

JO

Uh huh, in other words you're desperate.

(MORE)

JO (CONT'D)

Look, not only do I have about two hundred term papers to read, but I also have to proof--

BEVERLY

Dr. Arden I realize you're very busy, and this is short notice, but--

-

JO

The answer is no, I am sorry, but no.

Beverly opens her mouth to speak.

JO (CONT'D)

If I jumped every time someone asked me to come checkout an usual sighting, I'd never get any work done.

STEVE

But there's a difference between their requests, and ours.

JO

Ah, let me guess, yours is real.

STEVE

No, ours comes with a sizeable donation to your department.

JO

How sizable?

Steve hands her a piece of paper; with wide, surprised eyes, Jo reads the number, then smiles at him.

JO (CONT'D)

When do we leave?

STEVE

Two stipulations.

JO

Let me guess, you want a confidentiality agreement. Not a word to a soul, about what may, or may not be out there, or that we were even ever out there at all.

STEVE

I can see this isn't your first time at the rodeo.

JO
And your other stipulation?

STEVE
We'll provide everything but the crew, so if you could get a few students together and--

Jo frowns.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Is that a problem?

JO
Three days before Spring Break? Why would that be a problem?

STEVE
No crew, no trip.

JO
I suppose that would mean no donation either?

STEVE
I'm afraid so.

Jo nods as she contemplates her options.

INT. JO'S CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Jo stands at the front of the room; the class is packed, Tray stands.

TRAY
So, you want us, to give up our entire vacation, to look for a smurf?

JO
I realize this is asking a lot, and there's no guarantee that there's even anything out there.

PETE
But the government thinks there is.

MARCIE
Right, like we can trust them.
(To Tray)
Baby, I've already booked the room, and I bought--

She holds an imaginary bathing suit in the air.

MARCIE (CONT'D)

This?

TRAY

What's that?

MARCIE

What I had planned on wearing to the beach.

TRAY

Sorry Dr. Jo, but she's booked the nude, I mean room.

The boys GIGGLE.

JO

It's alright. If anyone is interested, I'll be in my office, if not have a great break, and I'll see all of you in a week.

Feeling like her world is crumbling around her, Jo grabs her briefcase, and strides out the back-door. Everyone stands, and starts gathering their books, Pete stomps over to Tray.

PETE

You're such an asshole.

TRAY

What'd you say fa...

PETE

Faggot?

TRAY

I didn't say that.

PETE

But you thought it.

TRAY

Now you people are going to tell me what I can think?

He starts to walk off, but turns back.

TRAY (CONT'D)

And for the record, I don't give a crap that you're gay, I hate you because you're an ass-wipe.

He starts to walk off again, Marcie and the others follow.

PETE

They're going to fire her.

They all look back at Pete.

MARCIE

Dr. Jo?

PETE

Yeah. Buddy of mine works in the office, said with budgets being cut, Dr. Jo's classes, and a whole bunch of others, are being scrapped.

ALEX

But, if we agree to help?

PETE

The funds keep flowing.

TRAY

They're blackmailing her?

ALEX

That sounds about right for the Government. You know I heard that when--

MARCIE

Ah, Alex this is important, we really don't have time for one of your conspiracy rants right now, OK?

(To Pete)

So? How can we help Dr. Jo?

INT. JO'S OFFICE

Jo sits at her desk reading papers; Pete steps in, Jo looks up.

JO

Pete?

PETE

I'd like to go.

JO

I appreciate that but--

PETE
How many do you need?

JO
At least four, preferably five.

PETE
Oh.

JO
I'm sorry Pete, but I really do
have a lot to do, and...

PETE
Sure.

He starts to leave, Jo looks back down at the paper she was reading.

PETE (CONT'D)
Dr. Jo.

Her sad, defeated eyes look up; Alex, Tray, Marcie, Veronica, Alice, Wayne and Carter all stand behind Pete.

PETE (CONT'D)
I think we've got too many.

JO
Thank you, all of you.

MARCIE
Ah, you can thank us, by not making
us get up at the butt crack of
dawn.

Everyone LAUGHS.

EXT. PARKING LOT - EARLY MORNING

Beverly and Steve stand beside a bus talking to WILLIAM CABLE, 40's. Jo and GAIL COFFEY, 30's: each carrying a small bag; rush towards them.

JO
Sorry we're late.

WILLIAM
Not a problem, just finished
loading the students.

Jo listens carefully, but hears nothing; she gives William a quizzical look.

BEVERLY
William's not just our driver.

JO
Oh? Do I want to know?

WILLIAM
(Deadpan)
Well I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you.

JO
And who needs all that hassle and mess before a long drive.

WILLIAM
Not to mention all that paper work, you know how many forms I'd have to fill out?

Jo GROANS, and nods agreeingly.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Let's just say, I'm on loan to the F.B.I., from another three letter agency that you've probably never heard of.

JO
Security, or clean-up?

WILLIAM
Whatever needs to be done.

JO
Should I be concerned?

WILLIAM
Not in the least.

JO
I'm going hold you to that Mr.--

William offers her his hand.

WILLIAM
William Cable, friends call me Bill.

Jo shakes his hand.

JO
Nice to meet you Bill, I'm Doctor--

William, still holding her hand, nods.

WILLIAM
Joella Arden.

Jo, not releasing his hand either, smiles.

JO
Jo, please.

They stare at each other a moment; Gail grows impatient, and finally CLEARS her throat.

JO (CONT'D)
Sorry, this is Gail Coffey, my
assistant.

GAIL
Nice to meet you all.

WILLIAM
Likewise.
(To everyone)
Guess we should hit the road.

William offers Jo his hand, she takes it, and steps onto the bus. Gail, believing she's next, holds out her hand, but William doesn't even notice it; he walks right past her outstretched hand, and follows Jo onto the bus.

Embarrassed, Gail drops her hand, and starts to climb the steps. Steve rushes over, and offers her his hand. Gail flashes him an appreciative smile, takes it, and climbs the steps. Beverley gives Steve an approving smile.

INT. BUS - LATE MORNING

Beverly and Steve sit up front chatting with William.

Jo sits with Gail; every once in a while her eyes meet William's in the rearview mirror, and they smile at each other.

Gail catches them making 'goo goo eyes' at each other, and smirks at Jo; who feigns innocence, then glances out the window. Gail grins, and shakes her head.

Veronica and Alice huddle together and GOSSIP
Wayne and Carter are each stretched out napping
Pete is listening to music on his I-phone
Alex is typing away on his tablet
Tray sits in back patiently listening to Marcie, who leans
against his chest, BLABBERING away incessantly.

AFTERNOON

Beverly is up front talking to William
 Steve lies in a seat a few rows back napping
 Marcie has her head on Tray's chest, both are asleep
 Pete, Alex, Wayne and Carter are also napping
 Veronica and Alice still GOSSIP and SNICKER

Gail is fast asleep with her head resting on Jo's shoulder,
 while Jo looks out the window, at the spectacular scenery;
 majestic mountain ranges that rise out of the seemingly
 endless forests.

Jo glances down at a sleeping Gail, and smiles, then looks
 up, and catches William staring at her in the mirror; first
 he's embarrassed, but Jo smiles, William relaxes and smiles
 back.

EXT. BUS - LATE AFTERNOON

The bus approaches a large tunnel, it slows slightly, then
 disappears into the darkness; the taillights dim, then are
 consumed by the blackness.

EXT. NATIONAL PARK - DUSK

The bus pulls into the parking lot, stops, then the door
 swings opens, and William climbs down. He looks around, then
 glances back inside, and nods.

Jo climbs down the stairs, William offers her his hand; they
 grin at each other as she takes his hand, and steps off the
 bus. They continue to smile at each other as Gail climbs off
 the bus, unassisted.

WILLIAM

If you ladies will just step to the
 side--

He gestures to the luggage compartment.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

We'll unload in just a moment.

Jo gives him an appreciative, and flirtatious smile, then she
 and Gale walk away as the students start to pile off the bus.

GAIL

I think someone has an admirer.

JO

Nonsense.

GAIL

Uh huh, he didn't offer me his hand, either time, and it wasn't me he kept stealing glances at.

JO

Oh Gail you're imagining--

GAIL

It figures, you get a hunky admirer, and I'll probably get poison ivy.

Jo glances back; William is watching her. He winks. Jo quickly faces forward, and grins.

Marcie steps off the bus.

MARCIE

What is this place? Ah, I don't see the hotel. Excuse me, but where is the--

Tray walks over to her.

TRAY

Babe, Professor Jo said we'd have to rough it.

MARCIE

I just thought that meant we were staying at the Howard Johnson's or something.

VERONICA

But, we're not like camping camping, right?

ALICE

Camping? Like outside, with tents, and going to the bathroom in the woods? Oh, Hell no.

Jo walks over.

JO

Relax ladies.

ALICE

But Professor Jo.

(WHISPERS)

What if, well something, you know, crawls up there?

VERONICA

Then try something different, and
close your legs for a change.

Tray and boys SNICKER.

ALICE

Whore.

The guys all say OOH.

VERONICA

You're just jealous, because you
couldn't get a guy to go down there
if you stuffed it full of steak,
and tied it closed with a hundred
dollar bill.

ALICE

You cun-

JO

Ladies.

TRAY

And she uses that term loosely.

JO

You are so not helping.

VERONICA

(To Tray)

Tiffany told us you had a small--

MARCIE

You bitch. You're going to bring
his whore ex into this!? How about
if I tell everyone--

William's loud, military style WHISTLE cuts her off, everyone
is instantly silent.

JO

I'm impressed.

William winks, then points towards a path that leads into the
forest.

WILLIAM

Cabins, this way, now.

He leads everyone towards the path.

MARCIE

When he says cabins he does mean--

Tray wraps his arm around her shoulder.

TRAY

(Cuban accent)

Cabins, we don't need no stinking cabins.

(Romantic)

Just think of it babe, you and me under a sea of stars. Nothing but moonlight, the beating of my heart and the--

He licks her neck.

TRAY (CONT'D)

Throbbing of my loins.

Marcie shoves his arm off, then she rushes over to Veronica and Alice, and walks with them.

As they approach the path, Alice stops and, suddenly frightened, stares at the woods, where the shadows are growing long, and dark figures seem to lurk.

MARCIE

Alice what's wrong?

Everyone looks back at them. Alice, not quite sure, shakes her head, and, fearfully, takes a step back.

ALICE

I, I don't want to go in there.

William gives Alice a warm smile.

WILLIAM

Come on darling, it's just a short walk, ten minutes top.

Alice stares ahead, and shakes her head.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Hey, I won't let anything happen to you, I promise. Besides, you're bringing up the rear, if there is something in there, it's going to kill us first, leaving you plenty of time to get away.

This seems to comfort Alice, and she relaxes.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Good.

As he turns his eye catches Jo's; a quick grin, and a wink, then his face turns serious, and he leads them into the darkening forest.

A nervous Alice, flanked by Marcie and Veronica, follow. A NOISE behind them. Terrified Alice spins around, her nervous eyes scour the empty parking lot. Marcie and Veronica turn her around, and walk her into the woods.

Behind them, something large darts across the parking lot, then disappears into the bushes.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

William and Jo lead the group down the path; Marcie is once again walking with Tray, who has his arm around her.

MARCIE

How much farther is it? My feet are killing me?

TRAY

Babe, we've only been walking for a few minutes.

MARCIE

Eh, carry me.

TRAY

Seriously Marcie?

MARCIE

Please, my feet are throbbing.

William grins back at Tray.

WILLIAM

Might want to think twice about that one son, seems pretty high maintenance to me.

MARCIE

How dare you? Who do you--

Movement in the bushes; William gestures for everyone to be still as he listens. Alice grabs hold of Veronica; they fearfully cling to each other as everyone's frightened eyes scour the bushes and trees.

Something large moves through the underbrush, rapidly approaching. William, Steve and Beverly pull out their pistols and aim, the others step behind them. The bushes RATTLE, then RANGER MATT BAKER, 20's, steps out.

WILLIAM

Matt? Damn boy, we almost shot you.

William, Steve and Beverly holster their weapons.

MATT

You're running kind of late,
thought maybe you got lost.

WILLIAM

Nope, just took longer than I
thought.

He gives Marcie, Alice and Veronica a dirty look.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Didn't anticipate stopping at every
single rest area.

VERONICA

And who had to stop for chili dogs?

ALICE

Then spent thirty minutes in the
restroom?

WILLIAM

Sorry about that, funny thing, the
noises coming out of the truckers
in there, was more interesting than
anything that came out of either of
you the whole trip.

Everyone LAUGHS; incensed Alice and Veronica glare at William, then turn their young, lustful eyes towards handsome Matt. They smile flirtatiously as they step closer, one on either side, and cozy up to the hot ranger.

ALICE

What's your name?

MATT

Ranger Matt Baker, ma'am.

Veronica and Alice grin flirtatiously at the straight-faced Matt as everyone follows William down the path. Veronica and Alice each take one of Matt's arms, they cling to him as they lead him down the trail.

VERONICA

So, Ranger Matt Baker ma'am, don't you get lonely, being out here all by yourself.

Matt faces forward, and tries not to smile.

MATT

I'm not alone, ma'am.

ALICE

Who are you out here with?

VERONICA

Are they your partner partner, or just your partner?

Jo looks at Gail and shakes her head.

GAIL

Land sharks.

They both LAUGH; something large lurks in the bushes watching them.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

William stands in the center of 'camp': which consists of four rustic cabins; talking to Matt, and RANGER KEITH HARVEY, 20's. Jo steps out of one of the cabins, and walks over to them.

WILLIAM

Everything OK?

JO

Define OK. If you mean, listening to the endless chatter of infatuated young ladies, then yes, everything is OK.

(Smiles at Matt)

Seems you've made quite an impression.

Matt rolls his eyes.

MATT

Great.

He nods at Keith.

MATT (CONT'D)
 Professor Jo, this is Keith Harvey.
 He's my partner, not my partner
 partner.

Jo LAUGHS, and shakes Keith's hand.

JO
 Nice to meet you.

Keith nods.

WILLIAM
 (To Jo)
 If you're not in a hurry to get
 back to the mindless chatter, how
 about I buy you a cup of coffee?

JO
 Best offer I've had in a long time.

William offers her his arm.

WILLIAM
 Now that, I find hard to believe.

She takes his arm with a smile, and he escorts her across
 camp towards the cabin marked 'Mess Hall'.

INT. RUSTIC CABIN - SAME

Six cots line the wall, there is no other furniture in the
 room. Pete, Alex, Wayne, and Carter all lie in their bunks.
 The front door opens, Tray walks in, and over to his cot.

He yanks off his shirt, then starts to pull his pants down,
 but stops, and gives Pete a teasing look.

TRAY
 Now don't get too excited over
 there.

PETE
 I'll try to control my desire, for
 gherkin.

Tray LAUGHS, then slides off his pants; wearing only boxers,
 he climbs into his bed. Alex sits up.

ALEX
 Where's the restroom?

TRAY
Any tree that looks appealing, bro.

ALEX
Great.

CARTER
Why don't you take Pete with you?
Bet he's good with cock in the
dark.

He ROARS with laughter; Tray glares at him, and SNAPS his fingers.

TRAY
Hey, not cool.

Carter gives him a sheepish look, then turns to Pete.

CARTER
Sorry man.

Pete nods. Tray hops out of bed, and grabs his pants.

TRAY
Come on, Alex.

Relieved, Alex smiles.

ALEX
Thanks Tray.

He climbs off his cot, and quickly gets dressed.

TRAY
But this doesn't mean we're going
steady or anything.

INT. MESS HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Jo and William sit in the kitchen sipping coffee; the door to the mess hall is open, and the darkened room is visible behind him.

WILLIAM
So, you're divorced?

Jo grins, and picks up her coffee cup.

JO
Well, I'd really love to tell you
all about it, but then I'd have to
kill you.

Williams LAUGHS.

WILLIAM

Touche.

Out of the corner of her eye, Jo sees Something in the mess hall move. William notices her reaction, and is instantly on 'high alert'; he looks behind him, then all around.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

Jo stares into the darkened mess hall, then shakes her head.

JO

Nothing, must have been a trick of the light, or maybe I'm more tired than I thought.

William, not convinced, looks around again.

WILLIAM

Why? What'd you see?

JO

I don't know, I thought I saw something move?

William, sure something is wrong, leaps to his feet, spins around as he draws his gun his gun, and peers into the dark mess hall.

WILLIAM

What was it?

JO

I don't know if it was even anything, but it kind of looked like--

Again, something large moves in the darkness; Jo nervously looks up at William.

JO (CONT'D)

That.

William motions for her to get behind him. Jo nods, slowly stands, and steps behind William, who has his gun ready. Together they creep towards the all too quiet mess hall.

EXT. WOODS - SAME

Alex timidly walks through the trees, then glances back at Matt and Tray, who stand about ten feet back in a clearing.

MATT
Just relax Alex, you're perfectly safe.

A LOUD screeching sound splits the still night; Alex SCREAMS.

MATT (CONT'D)
It was just an owl, Alex.

TRAY
Yeah, so don't piss yourself.

Alex flips him off, Tray LAUGHS.

INT. RUSTIC CABIN TWO - MOMENTS LATER

Marcie, Veronica, Alice and Gail all lie in their cots; Gail keeps an eye on Marcie, who grins like the Cheshire cat, and stares at the door, as if waiting for something, or someone. Finally a KNOCK, Marcie springs from her bed.

MARCIE
I'll get it.

She races towards the door, but Gail steps out of bed, and blocks her path.

GAIL
Guess again.

She points towards Marcie's bunk; Marcie angrily STOMPS back to her cot.

MARCIE
(MUTTERS)
Not like it's for you anyway.

Gail stops at the door, and glances back at Marcie.

GAIL
I'm old Marcie, not deaf.

Marcie fakes a smile, and climbs into her cot; a very impatient person BEATS on the door.

GAIL (CONT'D)
Tray, if you don't go back to your cabin right now--

She yanks the door open, and SCREAMS in terror; three zombies stand there, their ravaged face frozen in grotesque, fleshless grins. Gail, assuming it's a joke, CHUCKLES.

The three girls climb out of their cots; Marcie takes a step towards Gail, while Alice and Veronica huddle together by the back wall.

GAIL (CONT'D)

Very funny boys. Great masks by the way, where did you--

She reaches out to touch one of the zombie's 'masks'.

MARCIE

Ah, Ms. Coffey I wouldn't--

Gail, still assuming this is a practical joke, smiles at Marcie as her fingers brush the 'mask'.

GAIL

Why? Is the mean ole zombie going to--

The zombie grabs her hand, yanks it into it's mouth, and bites off her fingers; Gail HOWLS in agony, and clutches her bloody hand to her chest.

MARCIE

Ms. Coffey!

She rushes to help Gail, while Alice and Veronica hold each other and SCREAM. Marcie looks around for a weapon as the other two zombies grab Gail by the arms. Marcie see a walking stick, she scoops it up.

MARCIE (CONT'D)

Duck Ms. Coff--

Gail SHRIEKS in fear, and pain, as one zombie takes a bite out of her cheek, the other one feeds on her neck.

MARCIE (CONT'D)

No!

She swings the stick, and smacks the zombie feeding on Gail's neck. It lets go of Gail, and she falls to the floor. The zombie faces Marcie, while the other one pounces on top of Gail and feeds on her. Gail's SCREAM'S get weaker then cease.

MARCIE (CONT'D)

You son of a bitch.

The zombie rushes Marcie, she rears back the walking stick, and swings with all her might; it slams into the zombie's lower jaw, knocking it off. The jawbone sails through the air, SLAMS into the wall, and SHATTERS on the floor.

MARCIE (CONT'D)
Choke on that mother--

It charges Marcie, but with no lower jaw it can't bite her.

MARCIE (CONT'D)
Go to Hell.

She stabs the walking stick into it's eye; the zombie staggers back, Marcie leaps forward, and rams the stick through the zombie's head, and out the other side. The zombie's once again dead corpse drops to the floor.

MARCIE (CONT'D)
(To Alice and Veronica)
Let's go.

With wide, petrified eyes they stare at the zombie feeding on Gail; it looks up, it's blood smeared face stares at them. Alice and Veronica SCREAM. The zombie slowly stands.

MARCIE (CONT'D)
Screw this, you want to stay here
and be eaten fine, but--

She yanks the stick out of the dead zombie.

MARCIE (CONT'D)
If they want to eat me, they can
buy me dinner first, like anybody
else.

She races across the room, the zombie runs towards her; Marcie smacks it in the head with her stick. The zombie stumbles backwards, Marcie hits it again, and the zombie drops to the floor.

MARCIE (CONT'D)
Let's go.

She races out, but Alice and Veronica are too scared to follow; they just cling to each other, and SCREAM as the zombie slowly stands, then shuffles towards them.

INT. BOY'S CABIN - SAME

Gail, Alice and Veronica's SCREAMS split the night; Pete, Wayne, and Carter leap from their cots.

PETE
What the hell was that?

WAYNE
Sounded like Alice and Veronica.

They race to door, Carter grabs the door handle.

PETE
Careful, we don't know what's out there.

CARTER
Good point.

He grabs Pete by the shoulders, and forcibly 'switches' places with him.

CARTER (CONT'D)
Careful dude.

Pete smirks at him, then slowly cracks open the door; he stops, and waits a moment. When nothing happens Pete opens the door a little more, and peeks outside.

CARTER (CONT'D)
Well?

Pete smiles, then a look of absolute terror as the door slams into him. Carter SCREAMS like a girl, and leaps back. Pete LAUGHS, and swings open the door to show Carter there's nothing really there.

CARTER (CONT'D)
Funny, butt muncher.

PETE
Need to change your panties before we go?

Wayne LAUGHS, Carter flips him off, then steps outside.

INT. MESS HALL, KITCHEN - SAME

William, gun ready, leads Jo to the mess hall entrance. He stops; his hands feels along the wall, finds the light switch, and flips it on.

Jo GASPS as the overhead fluorescent bulbs kick on, and illuminate the five zombies lurking in the mess hall.

WILLIAM
 (Whispers)
 Back up.

They silently start to back-up, but it's too late; the zombies smell them, and race across the room. William aims his gun, and FIRES; the bullet slams into a zombie's head, and it's corpse drops to the floor.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
 I'll be damned, it works.

He SHOOTS again, but misses.

JO
 What works?

WILLIAM
 You don't want to know, just run.

They sprint to the back-door, Jo yanks it open.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
 Go.

JO
 But--

He shoves her out, and takes another SHOT; the bullet hits a zombie in the forehead. It's once again dead corpse falls to the floor.

WILLIAM
 Yes!

He runs out.

WOODS

Alex, zipping his pants, races out of the bushes, and joins Tray and Matt, who has his gun drawn and ready.

ALEX
 What the hell? Were those screams?

They HEAR William's three gun SHOTS.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 And those were, gun shots? What's going on? I thought this thing was supposed to be friendly.

Something in the bushes moves; Tray steps in front of Alex to protect him, Matt aims his gun. They wait a moment then start to relax; suddenly something races out of the bushes. The men leap back in fear, then relax when they see it's Marcie.

TRAY

Marcie.

Matt, gun ready, keeps watch as Tray races to Marcy; he wraps his arms around her, and pulls her close.

TRAY (CONT'D)

You OK babe?

Her frightened, and bewildered, eyes look up at him.

MARCIE

I'm not sure.

MATT

What's going on back there?

Tears spill down Marcie's cheeks.

MARCIE

Zombies.

MATT

Excuse me?

Steve and Beverly: guns drawn and out of breath; race out of the trees, and jog over.

STEVE

You heard her.

MATT

You all been smoking something you ain't been sharing?

A zombie leaps out of the bushes behind Beverly, and grabs her by the shoulder.

MARCIE

Look out!

Beverly spins around, jams her gun under the zombie's chin, and SHOTS. The zombie's head EXPLODES.

BEVERLY

Any more questions?

Matt looks around.

MATT

Are we being punked by George Romero or something?

Marcie SNAPS her fingers;

MARCIE

Snap out of it, we're under attack by zombies, so just deal with it dude.

TRAY

Kind of hot babe.

JO

Keep it in your pants, Tray.

She and William walk out of the trees and join them.

STEVE

How many did you see?

WILLIAM

Three that I didn't put down.

BEVERLY

So, there are at least six left.

MARCIE

They killed Gail.

Jo GASPS, then sadly shakes her head.

MATT

Did she turn yet?
(Shocked at himself)
What the hell am I saying?

Marcie gives him a look; he nods.

MATT (CONT'D)

Right, deal.

JO

Veronica and Alice?

Marcie sadly shakes her head.

JO (CONT'D)

Oh sweetie, I'm sorry.

ALEX

What about Pete, and the guys?

Marcie shrugs and starts to cry, Tray pulls her to his chest.

JO
We have to go back for them.

WILLIAM
Jo they're probably--

Jo's glare cuts him off.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Right, no man left behind.

Jo nods.

BEVERLY
Bill, I'm not sure about this.

WILLIAM
Well I am. Steve and I will go back
for the others, you take them and
head for--

JO
No.

WILLIAM
What do you mean, no?

TRAY
Which part didn't you get, big guy?

WILLIAM
I take it back, you too deserve
each other.

Tray LAUGHS.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Now--

JO
We don't split up.

WILLIAM
Safety in numbers?

JO
Well that and--

WILLIAM
In horror movies, when people split
up, they die.

JO
I know it sounds ridiculous, but--

WILLIAM
Jo, we've just been attacked by
zombies, at this point, I think
ridiculous is a relative term.

BEVERLY
He makes a good point.

PETE
Let's just hope horror movie rules
don't apply, I'm gay.

Tray reluctantly raises his hand.

TRAY
We have sex.

Marcie solemnly nods her head in agreement. Alex guiltily
raises his hand.

ALEX
I smoke pot.

TRAY
Get out.

ALEX
What?

JO
And this, is why we told you
children to behave?

TRAY
Seriously, this is why? You all had
this exact scenario in mind, when
you said that.

JO
Prove we didn't.

Tray LAUGHS.

EXT. CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

Pete, Wayne and Carter walk across camp; their eyes survey
the carnage for signs of zombies, but all they see are
puddles of blood, and bits of torn flesh and bone.

PETE
Where do you think everyone is?

CARTER
Duh, either gone, or in some
zombie's belly.

PETE
They wouldn't leave without us.

CARTER
Want to bet?

PETE
Yeah. I'm going to look around.

He starts to walk off.

WAYNE
Pete.

Pete stops, and looks back.

WAYNE (CONT'D)
Be careful man.

PETE
You too, Wayne.

As he walks towards the mess hall, Pete sees an axe stuck in a tree stump. He yanks it out, slings it over his shoulder, and continues towards the mess hall.

WAYNE
Tough guy.

CARTER
Yeah for a fa--

Wayne shoves him hard.

WAYNE
Screw you, Pete could kick your ass
in a fight.

CARTER
You mean lick it.

WAYNE
In your dreams. Come on, let's go
check on the girls.

He walks towards their cabin, Carter stands still.

CARTER

Screw that, I'm going to--

WAYNE

Check on the girls with me, or I'll
tell everyone about that time at
Summer Camp, when you and Bobby--

Carter glares at Wayne, then storms past him. Wayne grins, and follows Carter towards the girl's cabin.

EXT. TREE LINE - MOMENTS LATER

Jo, Steve and the kids hide in the bushes, and stare out at an old barn, that sits in the middle of a large, deserted pasture. Jo and Steve study the landscape to make sure it's safe, then Jo gives the 'all clear' signal.

William, Beverly and Matt race out of the bushes, and sprint across the pasture. They make it to the barn, flatten themselves against the side, then, eyes vigilant for movement, slowly make their way towards the door.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

The door slowly CREAKS open; William, Beverly and Matt quietly slip into the old barn. A pick-up truck is parked in the middle of the barn, between an old tractor and a fairly new bobcat.

BEVERLY

(Whispers)

Don't suppose you have--

Matt grins, holds up the keys, and RATTLES them. Beverly smiles, and reaches for them.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

Well, I can see certainly why the
girl's have such a crush on--

William shoves Beverly out of the way as a zombie leaps off the tractor. It hits Matt in the chest, and knocks him to the ground. The zombie pins Matt to the floor, then leans forward to bite his face.

MATT

Ah, guys a little help.

William grabs the zombie by the shoulders, yanks it to it's feet it, then hurls it across the room. The zombie bares it's teeth, GROWLS at William, then lunges for his throat.

Beverly FIRES twice; both bullets hit the zombie in the forehead, and it drops to the ground..

MATT (CONT'D)

Would it sound creepy, if I said that was really hot?

Beverly LAUGHS, then shakes her head.

BEVERLY

You ain't right. Now, let's get the Hell out of here.

MATT

Damn, I just love a bossy woman.

Beverly grins, and SMACKS him on the back.

BEVERLY

Then brother, you just hit the motherload. Now, get your ass in that truck, boy.

MATT

Yes ma'am.

They walk to the truck. William smirks, shakes his head, and follows.

EXT. WOODS - SAME

Jo, Steve and the kids hide in the bushes watching the barn; Alex holds a tree branch as a club.

MARCIE

What's taking so long?

JO

They've only been gone a few minutes Marcie.

MARCIE

Feels like hours.

JO

I know sweetie.

MARCIE

Why is this happening, Dr. Jo?

JO

I don't know sweetie.

MARCIE

Do you think this is punishment
from God for--

JO

No, I don't. Look Marcie, I don't
know why this is happening, but I
guarantee you, it is not
punishment.

MARCIE

How do you know?

Jo wipes the hair out of Marcie's eyes.

JO

Because Marcie, in our darkest
hour, God is always there. No
matter who you are, no matter what
you believe, or what you do, God is
always there for you.

This comforts Marcie; she smiles. Tray watches, and feels
helpless. He notices Alex holding the branch like a baseball
bat.

TRAY

What the hell are you going to do
with--

MARCIE

Tray!

Despite being terrified, Alex tries to remain calm.

ALEX

Drop and roll, Tray.

TRAY

Huh?

JO

Tray look out!

Tray turns as a zombie leaps at him, Alex YELLS;

ALEX

Drop and roll, dude!

Tray drops to the ground; Alex swings the branch. It slams
into the zombie's head. Stunned the zombie staggers back,
then charges at Alex, who rears the branch back then, with
all his might, swings it like a baseball bat.

It slams into the zombie's head, and knocks it to the ground. Alex bashes the branch into the zombie's head over and over, until it cracks open. Tray steps over, and puts his hand on Alex's shoulder to stop him.

TRAY

Thanks bro.

Alex nods, and drops the branch.

JO

They're coming!

Everyone turns to see the pick-up speeding across the field towards them. Steve hears something, and glances back.

STEVE

Oh crap.

Zombies swarm out of the trees, and race towards them.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Run!

He and Jo follow the kids as they sprint across the pasture towards the pick-up. The zombies chase after them, quickly gaining on the exhausted group.

William sees the zombies closing in, and floors it. The truck speeds past Jo and the others, then whips around, and races towards Jo; mowing down any zombie in its path, before the truck SCREECHES to a stop next to Jo, Steve and the kids.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Hurry.

He and Jo help the kids into the back of the pick-up, then they hop in.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Go!

The truck takes off; Steve, gun drawn, keeps watch. Jo sits on the floor, one arm around Marcie, the other around Alex. Tray kneels beside them, both try to comfort Alex and Marcie.

INT. RUSTIC CABIN TWO - SAME

Wayne and Carter quietly step into the cabin, shocked, they gape at the blood and guts that cover the floor.

CARTER

Shit, let's get out of here.

They HEAR a faint whimpering sound. Wayne walks towards the noise, then, realizing he is alone, stops and looks back at Carter, who shakes his head no.

CARTER (CONT'D)
You're on your own bro.

Disgusted, Wayne gives Carter a dirty look, then quietly creeps across the room. The whimpering SOUND gets louder.

CARTER (CONT'D)
What is it?

WAYNE
You want to know so bad? Get your
ass over here.

Carter shakes his head.

WAYNE (CONT'D)
Pussy.

Carter flips him off, but stands his ground. Wayne steps past the bed, then sees two women hiding under a blanket; they seem to be huddled together, and trembling in fear.

CARTER
They OK?

WAYNE
I think so.

He reaches for the blanket.

WAYNE (CONT'D)
You guys alright?

He yanks the blanket off, then SCREAMS; Veronica and Alice, both zombies, huddle on the floor. Veronica inhales their scent, then licks her lips.

WAYNE (CONT'D)
Run!

He turns to get away, Veronica and Alice leap off their feet, slam into Wayne's back, and knock him to the ground.

CARTER
What the fuck!?

Veronica and Alice begin to feed on Wayne.

WAYNE
Carter, please, help me!

Carter watches in horror as the girls devour Wayne alive; he SHRIEKS in agony. Carter slowly backs out the door. With considerable effort, Wayne reaches out his hand.

WAYNE (CONT'D)
Carter, please.

CARTER
Sorry buddy.

He starts to rush out the door, but bumps into Gail, who's now a zombie.

CARTER (CONT'D)
Ms. Coffey, thank God you're... Oh
shit, you're a--

Gail grabs Carter by the throat, yanks him forward, and sinks her teeth into her neck. Carter SCREAMS, and struggles to get away.

EXT. MESS HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Pete, axe held ready, slips around the side of the building, then stops in his tracks; a dark figure lurks at the other end of the building. Pete quietly backs up, but steps on a twig, it SNAPS.

The figure turns, then rushes towards him. Pete turns to run, but a zombie stands right behind him; it reaches for Pete, but before he can swing his axe, the figure SHOTS it's gun twice.

Both shots hit the zombie, and it drops at Pete's feet. Pete looks up as Keith, gun in hand, jogs towards him.

PETE
Damn Keith, I've never been so glad
to see anyone in my--

A zombie leaps out of the darkness, and sinks it's teeth into Keith's neck. Pete SCREAMS.

PETE (CONT'D)
No!

Keith raises his gun to his chin.

PETE (CONT'D)
Keith, don't!

KEITH
Don't forget to take my gun kid.

PETE

Please--

He FIRES; the bullet rips through both his and the zombie's skulls, killing them both. Their bodies drop to the ground. Pete stares a moment, then obediently picks up Keith's gun.

EXT. CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

A pick-up truck: William, Jo, Alex and Marcie sit in the cab, Matt, Steve, Beverly and Tray kneel in the bed; speeds into the compound. William HONKS the horn several times.

Pete, four zombies on his tail, races out of the mess hall, and sprints towards the pick-up. One of the zombies lunges forward, to grab Pete's shoulder.

TRAY

Pete, drop and roll!

Pete drops to the ground, and rolls out of the way; Beverly and Steve open FIRE. The zombies fall to the ground.

TRAY (CONT'D)

Now Pete!

Pete springs to his feet as a group of zombies stumble out of the woods. Pete races for the pick-up as the zombies charge. Pete leaps onto the bumper, Tray yanks him into the cab. Beverly SMACKS the roof of the truck, and it takes off.

TRAY (CONT'D)

Wait, where's--

He sees Carter and Wayne, now zombies, stagger out of the girls cabin.

TRAY (CONT'D)

Damn it.

Marcie slips her arm around Tray's waist; he turns, buries his face in her hair, and clings to her.

TRAY (CONT'D)

I've known those guys since...

MARCIE

I know sweetie, I know.

Marcie holds him close, and reassuringly, rubs his back. The others, feeling his pain, watch sympathetically.

INT. PICK-UP - LATER

William drives, Jo sits in the middle, Steve sits next to her, the others are in back. Beverly and Matt kneel by the window.

JO

Maybe we should just find a safe place, and settle in for the night. I'm sure we're all exhausted and--

BEVERLY

No, I say we keep going.

JO

But where? Do we even know where we are?

Steve looks at Matt, who seems puzzled.

MATT

What are you looking at me for?

STEVE

Ah, this is your park.

MATT

Yeah, about that. I'm a temp.

JO

You're a what?

MATT

A temporary, I fill in during busy times, or when--

JO

Thanks, I know what a temp is.

MARCIE

You mean, like a receptionist?

MATT

No, I'm a real ranger. I'm just filling in for Lee, who's out on maternity leave.

MARCIE

Awe, what did she have?

Everyone gives her an annoyed look; she shrugs.

MARCIE (CONT'D)

What?

WILLIAM

(To Matt)

Dare I ask, how long have you been here?

MATT

Second day.

WILLIAM

Great.

MATT

And at night, well it all kind of looks the same. Maybe when the sun comes up--

ALEX

If we live that long.

BEVERLY

We're so screwed.

Matt's eyes scour the landscape for something familiar; he sees a mountain in the distance.

MATT

There are some caves down the road, ten, maybe fifteen more miles. I'm pretty sure I can find them.

BEVERLY

Pretty sure?

MATT

I'm sure I can, and they should be easy enough to defend. We could hunker down there for the night, while we plan our next move.

Steve looks over at Beverly, they stare a second; he shrugs.

STEVE

If we have to face these things, I'd rather do it during the day.

William glances down at the gas gauge.

WILLIAM

We've got just under a quarter of a tank.

BEVERLY

The caves it is then.

INT. CAVE - LATER

Steve and William stand guard at the entrance of the cave, the others sit on the ground a few feet away.

ALEX

So, what are we talking about?

MARCIE

I thought we'd already established that, they're zombies.

ALEX

Duh, but what kind?

MARCIE

Ah, the kind that eat people.

ALEX

Obviously. But, were they bio-engineered, or created by brain parasites, or some mutated virus? Or they could have been created by an advanced form of neurogenesis, or gene splicing. Yeah, some kind of alien organism our Government is splicing with--

WILLIAM

I'm guessing you don't date a whole lot.

Alex sheepishly grins, William winks.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

I bet all that information comes in real handy.

ALEX

You think?

WILLIAM

Yeah, I do. Why don't you try and remember as much as you can about these things?

Jo smiles, and walks over to William.

JO

That was very nice of you.

WILLIAM

I have no idea what you're talking about.

JO
Got it, don't want to ruin the
tough guy image.

WILLIAM
Jo, I really do like you, and it'd
just break my heart if I had to
kill you.

Jo LAUGHS.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
I mean I'd do it, I just wouldn't
be happy about it.

They both LAUGH; their laughter subsides, and they stare into
each others eyes a brief second, before Steve, who stands
less than two feet away, CLEARS his throat.

STEVE
Ah, you two do realize I'm here,
right?

WILLIAM
Oh we realize it, we just don't
care.

Steve LAUGHS; Jo grins, and playfully smacks William.

JO
Oh, you're awful.
(To Steve)
We'll try to control oursel--

A zombie leaps into the cave, slams into Steve's back, and
drives him to the ground.

JO (CONT'D)
No!

Steve SHRIEKS as the zombie tears open his back, and feeds.
Jo rushes to help him, but William grabs her arm, and pulls
her back.

JO (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing? We
have to help--

Beverly opens FIRE; her bullets tear into both the zombie and
Steve. Their bodies drop to the ground.

JO (CONT'D)
No!

She leans her head against William, he wraps his arms around her. Everyone just stares a moment, waiting to see if either of the dead bodies get up. When neither does, Marcie walks over to Beverly.

MARCIE
Are you alright?

Beverly, who can't take her eyes off Steve's dead corpse, absently nods.

MARCIE (CONT'D)
You did the right thing.

BEVERLY
Tell that to his wife.

MARCIE
I will. If we ever get out of here,
I'll tell her what you did for her
husband, just promise me one thing.

BEVERLY
What?

MARCIE
If one of those things bite me,
you'll do that for me too, please.
Don't let me turn into one of those
things.

Tray steps over.

MARCIE (CONT'D)
Promise me you won't let me become
one of--

BEVERLY
I won't, I swear.

MARCIE
Thank you.

Tray slips his arm around Marcie's waist.

TRAY
You OK babe?

She nods, he pulls her into his arms, and holds her. Suddenly furious, William storms across the cave, grabs Matt by the collar, lifts him off the ground, and slams him against the wall.

WILLIAM
What the hell is going on!?

MATT
How the Hell should I know?

WILLIAM
Because--

Jo races over.

JO
Bill, stop it.

WILLIAM
He knows something.

JO
How do you know?

WILLIAM
Because, someone has to know what's
going on.

MATT
Sorry man, it's just my second day.

Jo puts her hand on William's back.

JO
Bill please, Let him go.

William sets Matt on the ground, then steps back.

WILLIAM
Look Matt I, well I didn't--

MATT
It's OK, we're all about ready to
snap. You just beat me too to the
punch.

Marcie SCREAMS; they turn to see Veronica and Carter stumble
into the cave. Beverly, Matt, Pete, and William all aim their
guns.

MARCIE
Don't!

She run towards them, but Tray grabs her arm.

MARCIE (CONT'D)
What the hell's wrong with you?

TRAY

That's not--

Veronica and Carter sprint across the cave towards Marcie.

BEVERLY

Look out!

She aims, but doesn't have a shot. Carter reaches for Marcie, Tray shoves her out of the way, and Carter grabs Tray instead. Tray tries to squirm free, but Carter wraps both arms around him, and pulls him close.

MARCIE

Tray!

Carter rears back his head to bite Tray's shoulder, Pete FIRES his gun. The bullet zips past Tray's face, and hits Carter in the center of his forehead. Carter's body drops to the ground.

While everyone gapes at him in surprise, Pete FIRES two more shots. Veronica's once again dead corpse drops to the ground.

TRAY

Damn boy, not bad.

WILLIAM

Not bad, if I do say so myself.

JO

And that's coming from a man who works for an agency we've never even heard of.

TRAY

How the hell did they get here so fast?

MATT

Well, we have been here a few hours.

Beverly looks at her watch.

BEVERLY

Two hours, seven minutes, and it took us an hour and forty minutes to get here.

(To William)

How fast were you driving?

WILLIAM

Forty-five, fifty most of the way.

BEVERLY

So that means the zombies can move--

She thinks a moment, while she calculates.

STEVE

Yeah we get it, the zombies can haul ass.

MARCIE

But I thought they were supposed to be kind of, slow and sluggish. I mean, they're dead, right?

JO

Well, these seem to move pretty quick.

TRAY

These are more like the zombies in Resident Evil or the Dawn of the Dead remake, than the ones in Night of the Living Dead, or any of the earlier zombie movies.

JO

Well, look who turned out to be a closeted geek after all.

Marcie CHUCKLES.

ALEX

Look, I find this as fascinating as everyone else, but could we get the hell out of here, now. I'm not feeling real safe.

Beverly's eyes scour the cave, and entrance.

BEVERLY

Our hideout has been compromised.

ALEX

Well that, and our guide seems to have taken off. That can't be a good sign, right? Your guard just taking off, and leaving you stranded in the middle of nowhere.

Everyone looks around; Matt is gone.

WILLIAM

The truck.

Gun ready, he races to the entrance, the others quickly follow.

EXT. DIRT ROAD

William and Beverly lead the others down the rocks to the road, which is deserted. They look up and down, but the truck is no where in sight.

WILLIAM

Great.

He notices the others' frightened faces turned towards him for guidance, and instantly goes into 'leader' mode.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

OK people, we got two options. One, we can wait out the night here, or--

ALEX

I say we get the fuck out of here.

Tray and the others gape at him

ALEX (CONT'D)

What? Yes, dorks smoke weed, fight, and curse. And you know what else? I'm not a virgin.

Tray gives him a skeptical look, Alex shrugs.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Well, not totally.

BEVERLY

Great, you're a fouled mouthed, druggie, with herpes, congratulations.

(To the others)

I say we wait here, it'll be dawn in few hours, and--

A zombie leaps off a rock, slams into Beverly's back, and sinks it's teeth into her neck as it drives her to the ground. Beverly SCREAMS, the zombie bites into her back, and rips off a chunk of flesh.

ALEX

Gross.

William and Pete SHOOT, hitting both Beverly and the zombie. Marcie SCREAMS, Tray wraps his arm around her, and holds her close. William and Pete, guns ready, survey the perimeter.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Uh, I vote we go, now.

TRAY

Yeah, that kind of works for me too.

MARCIE

Yeah, me too. Can we go, NOW, please?

JO

Of course, but which way?

WILLIAM

Does anyone know the park?

ALEX

Isn't that the point?

TRAY

Oh don't start that conspiracy crap again, you sound like Rush Limbaugh, or one of those other right-wing, nut jobs.

ALEX

Dude, zombies ate your two best friends. Do you really think this is the right time be to be making fun of my conspiracies, seriously?

TRAY

Maybe Jesse Ventura was right after all.

JO

(To William)

You're agency.

William holds up his hands.

WILLIAM

Wow, we're strictly security, that's all. We may do some not very nice things, but--

ALEX

But, you know how they think?

WILLIAM

We've all seen the X Files kid.

ALEX

Think about it. Tell me this isn't
the perfect place for the
government to conduct some secret--

MARCIE

Could we debate why this is
happening, I don't know, when we're
frigging safe?

JO

I second that.

Pete looks up at the sky, then points down the road.

PETE

That way's South.

WILLIAM

Very good.

TRAY

And we want to go South because?

PETE

That's the highest point in the
park, we'll be able to see
everything, and maybe--

He holds up his cell phone.

PETE (CONT'D)

Get reception.

MARCIE

If there's anyone left to even
call, how do we know--

JO

We don't, so we just have to assume
the outbreak, or whatever it is, is
contained within the park.

WILLIAM

Would make sense.

They hear NOISES in the distance.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

And South it is.

He leads the small group down the road.

EXT. ROAD- DAWN

As the sun slowly begins to rise, William, Jo, and the kids drag themselves down the road towards a lake.

TRAY

See babe, we're almost there.

MARCIE

What are the odds of you carrying me the rest of the way?

TRAY

About as good as the ones you gave me on prom night, and with the same results.

(To Alex)

So, you were saying?

ALEX

What are zombies?

TRAY

Isn't that the point? We don't know.

ALEX

No, I mean literally, what are they?

WILLIAM

Dead people?

ALEX

Which are?

PETE

Meat?

WILLIAM

Huh?

PETE

Humans are animals. So a zombie is just a dead animal, right?

TRAY

I guess, but, what does this mean?

PETE

It means we're being killed off by a ravenous pack of glorified spam?

Tray LAUGHS.

TRAY
You ain't right man.

PETE
But am I wrong?

William, Tray, and Pete keep their guns ready, and eyes alert as the group slowly approaches the lake.

ALEX
It means the sun and heat of the day should slowly roast them.

PETE
Are you saying, we should wait until late afternoon, then what? Eat them, before they eat us?

ALEX
No, it means by mid-day they should be nothing but maggot ridden, putrefied meat.

MARCIE
I'm not eating maggots.

ALEX
You guys don't get it.

PETE
Yeah we do. They don't abide by the laws of physics or whatever, so what are we going to do? Sue them?

WILLIAM
Isn't this one of the biggest parks?

JO
The biggest in the country, and the most dangerous.

WILLIAM
Zombie outbreaks a regular occurrence here?

JO
Funny, it's just that the park is so remote, and some of the terrain so rugged, there are more hiking deaths here in one year, than most parks have in ten.

ALEX
Perfect place for an experiment.

WILLIAM
Kid, you're scaring me.

They walk up to the shore; William and Pete stand guard, while Tray escorts the others to the edge of the lake.

ALEX
I mean, think about it.

TRAY
I don't want too.

He stands guard as Jo, Marcie and Alex kneel down; the kids drink while Jo, a far sad off look on her face, washes her face and arms.

WILLIAM
Jo?

JO
This is all my fault.

WILLIAM
How you figure?

JO
I'm one of the most respected
cryptozoologists in the world.

WILLIAM
Well, the last I checked, that
didn't turn people into flesh
eating zombies.

JO
If I hadn't been so, damn desperate
to save my job.

PETE
Ah, your job, and the jobs of two
other professors, three assistants,
and the rudest receptionist to ever
grace the halls of ANU.

JO
Thanks Pete, but an urgent last
minute trip, to discover a cryptid
I'd never even heard of?

TRAY

You mean, you've never heard of the mythical Care Bear of the Great Northwest?

JO

Smart-ass.

MARCIE

What I want to know is, who the hell Matt really works for. I mean, is he really--

A zombie leaps out of the water, wraps its arms around Marcie, pulls her close, and sinks its teeth into her face. Marcie's muffled SCREAMS fill the air, then she and the zombie disappear beneath the water's surface.

TRAY

Marcie!

He races out into the water.

TRAY (CONT'D)

Marcie!

JO

Tray, get out of the water!

William rushes in after Tray, who desperately searches as he CALLS out;

TRAY

Marcie!

WILLIAM

Damn it, she's gone.

He grabs Tray, and tries to drag him out of the water, but Tray yanks his arm free.

TRAY

I won't leave without her.

He spins around, and walks right into the waiting arms of a zombie. The zombie sinks its teeth into Tray's neck, Tray SHRIEKS in agony.

JO

Tray!

William and Pete open FIRE; bullets tear into Tray and the zombie, then their bodies sink beneath the surface. William's eyes scour the water for signs of movement.

JO (CONT'D)

William.

He looks over at her.

JO (CONT'D)

Get out of the damn water, do you
want to get eaten too?

He races to the shore as ripples appear on the water, then
the tops of the zombies' heads break the surface as they
slowly approach.

ALEX

They're walking on the bottom.

The zombies' rotted and chewed faces slowly rise out the
water, as they walk closer.

WILLIAM

Run!

They race back the way they came, but stop dead in their
tracks as zombies pour out of the woods, coming at them from
all directions.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

(To Pete)

How many bullets?

PETE

It's a glorified hammer at this
point, you?

WILLIAM

Enough.

His eyes meet Jo's; she tearfully nods. He turns to Pete, who
also nods.

ALEX

Beats the hell out of being eaten.

PETE

How the hell would you know?

He and Alex give each other weak smiles.

WILLIAM

Jo--

JO

My timing always did suck.

The zombies slowly descend. William solemnly raises his gun to Jo's temple; a HORN blares as an RV comes racing down the road. The driver plows over zombies as he veers the RV off the road, and towards William and the others.

PETE

Who the heck is that?

ALEX

Who the Hell cares?

WILLIAM

I'm with him on this one.

He SHOOTs at the approaching zombies, then he and the others race towards the RV, which SCREECHES to a halt. The side-door flies open, and RUTH JACOBS, 68 and holding a shotgun, leaps out. She FIRES, and blasts a zombie's head to bits.

RUTH

You all don't be shy, come on over.

She FIRES again for cover as William and the others sprint towards her.

WILLIAM

We appreciate--

RUTH

Formalities later darling--

She FIRES; another zombie falls. Ruth PUMPS another round into the chamber.

RUTH (CONT'D)

You all just go on in, and make yourselves at home.

Another BLAST of her gun.

INT. RV

Jo leads Pete, Alex then William onto the RV;

ERNEST JACOBS, 70, sits in the driver's seat.

WILLIAM

Appreciate the ride.

Ernest gives him a weak smile, then nods towards the back; where PHIL, 28, and his brother BRIAN, 22, sit with CRAIG, who has his arm around his crying wife, VALERIE, both late 20's.

ERNEST

Now, you all just sit anywhere
you're comfortable. Ruthie and I
don't stand on no formalities.

Ruth SLAMS the door closed, and locks it.

RUTH

You all might want to sit down, and
hang on, old Martha--

She pats the RV's wall.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Well, she don't give the smoothest
ride under the best of--

Suddenly zombies SLAM into the side of the RV; they BEAT and
claw at the walls, and windows. Glass SHATTERS as several
zombies slam their hands through the windows.

VALERIE

They're getting in, they're getting
in!

Craig holds a near hysterical Valerie closer. William and
Pete race to the windows, and, using their empty guns as
clubs, beat at the zombies arms.

Jo and Alex break off legs from the kitchen table, and rush
to help fight off the zombies.

RUTH

(To Ernest)

What the hell are you waiting for
old man!? Move your ass!

Ernest slams on the gas, and the RV lurches forward. The
zombies fall away as The RV speeds off down the dark,
desolate dirt road.

Everyone is silent except Valerie, who quietly SOBS into
Craig's chest. He kisses her head, strokes her hair, and
gives the others an apologetic look.

CRAIG

She's had a rough night.

PETE

Yeah well, it's not exactly how we
expected to spend our break.

Valerie sits up, and wipes her eyes as she regains her
composure.

VALERIE
This is your Spring Break?

PETE
Yeah, we're helping Dr. Jo--

He nods at Jo, she smiles.

PETE (CONT'D)
Well, guess it doesn't really
matter now. It was just supposed to
be a fun--

VALERIE
Field trip?

PETE
Yeah, the field trip from hell.

VALERIE
Yeah, well I can do you one better.
This is my honeymoon.

PETE
No shit?

VALERIE
No shit kid.

PETE
Well, you win.

RUTH
Oh dear, I'm so sorry.

VALERIE
Thank you Ruth.

CRAIG
Well Val, we wanted something
nontraditional.

VALERIE
Oh God, my mother was right.

CRAIG
(Impersonating her mother)
Break tradition, and the gates of
Hell will open, releasing the
plagues upon all mankind. But it's
your life, do what makes you happy.

VALERIE

Sorry everyone, I guess this would have never happened if we had just gone to Niagara Falls, like mother wanted us too.

PETE

Eh, I'm just glad it's not the homo's fault this time.

Everyone LAUGHS. Ernest glances in the rear-view mirror.

ERNEST

I ask you a question?

PETE

You saved my life, I suppose you're entitled.

ERNEST

Reckon so. Are you one of them, homosexuals?

Jo, William and Alex get defensive, but Pete motions for them to be still.

PETE

Yes sir, I am.

ERNEST

Something I always wanted to ask one of you people.

JO

Now you look here, Mr.--

ERNEST

Jacobs, Ernest Jacobs, and this lovely lady is my wife Ruth.

Ruth smiles politely and nods.

JO

Look, Mr. Jacobs, we appreciate--

PETE

Thanks Dr. Jo, but I got this.

(To Ernest)

Well Ernie, you got the full attention of one of 'them' now. So, what is it you've always wanted to ask?

ERNEST

What is it with you people and the weather? Always causing hurricanes and earthquakes.

Pete's eyes meet Ernest's in the mirror; Ernest, still stone-faced, winks. Ruth GROANS, and shakes her head, the others LAUGH.

PETE

Damned if I know. I tried to cause a hurricane once, all I managed to do was make it rain in Topeka.

Everyone LAUGHS. The LAUGHTER slowly subsides, and an awkward silence settles over the room. Jo notices blood on Valerie's hand.

JO

You're hurt.

She reaches for Valerie's hand, but Valerie snatches it away.

VALERIE

It's not my blood.

She wipes her hand with her sleeve, then sets her hand in her lap, and lays the other on top. Alex studies her; face pale, clothes dirty, there's dried blood on the sleeve, and her hand is hidden under the other.

CRAIG

We met another couple camping.

VALERIE

They seemed like such nice people, newlyweds like us. We ran into them on the ridge, then...

The RV stops, all eyes face forward.

RUTH

What's wrong Ernie?

Everyone stares out the windshield at the fork in the road; both paths disappear into absolute darkness.

RUTH (CONT'D)

He didn't say anything about a fork in the road.

Alarmed, Jo and William glance at each other.

ERNEST
Nope, just said to follow the road--

WILLIAM
Who?

ERNEST
Why, that nice young man we run
into.

JO
A ranger?

ERNEST
Yup, Michael, Mitch--

Ruth SNAPS her fingers.

RUTH
Matt, that was it. Such a sweet
boy.

WILLIAM
Where'd he go?

ERNEST
Said he was going to go back, and
search for others.

JO
And he told you to take this road
out?

RUTH
Told us to just follow this road,
and it'd lead us straight to the
Southeast exit

ERNEST
Said all the other exits had been
closed.

RUTH
Something about an accident, or was
it a toxic spill.

ERNEST
I'm pretty sure he said a fire.

Ruth CLAPS her hands together as she remembers.

RUTH
Cause by the tanker that jackknifed
on forty, that's it.

ERNEST

You know, now that I think about
it, he might have said--

A zombie SMACKS the windshield; Valerie SCREAMS, everyone jumps to their feet, and stares out in horror. The zombie SMACKS the windshield again as more zombies shuffle out of the trees, and drag their rotting corpses towards the RV.

Unnoticed, a zombie silently crawls in through broken back window.

RUTH

What do we--

Ernest jumps into the driver's seat.

ERNEST

We get the hell out of here, that's
what.

He straps in as the zombie in back slowly stands.

ERNEST (CONT'D)

Buckle up, it's going--

He glances in the rearview mirror, and sees the zombie.

ERNEST (CONT'D)

Look out!

The zombie races at Alex.

JO

Alex!

Pete yanks Alex out of the way, then William hits the zombie in the face with his gun; the zombie staggers back. William WHACKS it in the face again.

The zombie SLAMS into the wall. William swings again, the zombie grabs the gun, and yanks it out of William's hand.

WILLIAM

Oh shit.

The zombie lunges at William; a BLAST from a shotgun, and the zombie's head explodes. It's corpse drops to the floor as Jo lowers Ruth's smoking shot gun.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Impressive.

JO
You ain't seen nothing yet.

VALERIE
That was great, you were like Bruce
Willis only--

Zombies' arms CRASH through the window behind her. Valerie SCREAMS as the arms grab her by the shoulders, hair and face, then rip her out through the broken window.

CRAIG
No!

He leans out the window; from the darkness comes Valerie SHRIEKS of agony as the zombies feast on her.

CRAIG (CONT'D)
Valerie!

William and the others race to pull him in.

WILLIAM
Get away--

Zombie arms reach in, grab Craig, and yank him out the window; he HOWLS in agony, Valerie SCREAMS in pain, then all is eerily quiet.

RUTH
(To Ernest)
Drive Ernest, drive! For the love
of God, why aren't you moving?

Ernest stares at the fork in the road.

ERNEST
But, which way?

Zombies BEAT on the walls and windows, then start to rock the RV.

RUTH
For once in your life Ernest, just
do something!

More windows SHATTER as arms reach through;

ERNEST
But which---

William, Jo, Pete, Phil, Brian and Alex try to beat back the zombies.

WILLIAM
Right Ernie, go right!

EXT. RV

The RV takes off; it plows over the zombies in front of the grill as it veers right, then speeds down the dirt road. A few zombies try to cling to the RV, but fall off. Zombies chase after them, but soon the taillights disappear.

INT. RV - LATER

Ernest drives, while William helps navigate from the passenger seat. Pete and Brian sit in the captains chairs chatting, while Phil and Alex relax on the Sofa. Ruth and Jo are in the kitchen making lunch.

ERNEST
And I don't care what you say
Ruthie, I ain't pulling over for
lunch.

Ruth, knife in hand, takes a step towards him.

RUTH
Want to bet, old man?

JO
Give him hell, Ruthie.

ERNEST
Ruthie I'm telling you, we ain't
going to--

RUTH
Now you look here, Mr. Jacobs.

ALEX
Uh oh, someone's in deep sh,
Shellack now.

RUTH
And you ain't just whistling Dixie
neither. There's no way we're going
to try and eat lunch while--

Glass SHATTERS, and shards rain down on her, as a zombie drops through the skylight, and lands on Ruth's back.

ERNEST
Ruthie!

He slams on the breaks; The zombie sinks it's teeth into Ruth's shoulder. She SCREAMS, and desperately tries to shove the zombie away, but it clings to her, and gnaws on her shoulder

Jo and William aim their guns, but don't have a clear shot. Ruth SCREAMS, and struggles, but the zombie holds tight, and keeps eating.

Pete and Phil race over, to pull the zombie off; it snaps it's bloody teeth at them, and GROWLS. Pete and Alex leap back, and the zombie goes back to eating Ruth, who SHRIEKS in agony.

ERNEST (CONT'D)

Kill her! Dear God, don't let her suffer, please, please, please.

William and Jo open FIRE; bullets tear into Ruth and the zombie, killing them both. Ernest collapses onto the floor, Jo hands William her gun, then Kneels down, takes Ernest in her arms, and tries to console him.

William turns to the boys; instinctively they walk over to the 'bodies', and drag them to the door.

LATER

William is driving, the boys all sit up front. Ernest sits on the sofa holding a glass of scotch, Jo sits beside him.

JO

You need anything?

ERNEST

I'll be alright, but thanks.

She gives him a weak smile, and pats his leg.

WILLIAM

Hey Ernest, this compass working?

ERNEST

Sure is, had everything checked out before Ruthie and I, well...

JO

Bill, what's wrong?

She and Ernest walk to the front.

WILLIAM

It says we've been heading East.

ERNEST
Then East we're heading.

WILLIAM
Then why is the desert in front of
us?

ERNEST
Ain't it's--

They all stare out the windshield; up ahead the road just stops. The pavement, and the lush green scenery, give way to endless miles of barren desert.

EXT. RV - STOPPED

William, shotgun ready, steps off the RV, and surveys the area, His eyes scan mile after mile of nothing but sand. Finally satisfied it's safe, he motions to Jo, who leads the others down the steps..

WILLIAM
So, we're sure this isn't a
mechanical malfunction?

ERNEST
Ruthie, God rest her soul, always
insisted we take old Martha to
Roscoe's garage, and get her a good
once over before we took her on
long drives.

WILLIAM
(To Jo)
And you're sure the desert's to the
West?

JO
Bill I told you, I researched the
park thoroughly before bringing the
kids out here.

WILLIAM
I don't doubt you Jo, it's just--

She gestures towards the desert.

JO
There it is.

WILLIAM
Right where it shouldn't be.

They all stare out at the never ending miles of sand.

PETE
They said global warming was
speeding up.

JO
Not that fast.

William looks back down the road, then out at the desert.

PETE
So? Which way?

William takes a tentative step out onto the sand, Jo grabs his arm.

JO
Bill don't.

WILLIAM
Why not?

JO
I don't know, it just doesn't feel
right.

WILLIAM
And what about this park from hell
does feel right?

Jo looks around, then it hits her.

JO
There's no wind.

WILLIAM
Huh?

He looks around, the air is perfectly still.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
So?

JO
And where's the oppressive heat?
Have you ever been in a desert?
It's like stepping into dry sauna,
the heat hits you like--

The head and torso of a zombie drops out from the under-carriage of the RV, and grabs Phil by the ankles. He looks down, sees the bony hands, and SCREAMS. With a hard yank, the zombie knocks Phil off his feet, and drags him under the RV.

Everyone spins around, and aims their guns, but, with no clear shot, all they can do is helplessly watch.

PHIL
Help me, oh God, someone help me!

BRIAN
Phil!
(To Bill)
Don't let him suffer, please.

William nods, and raises his gun.

WILLIAM
Run.

The others race into the desert; William FIRES his gun, then dives to the ground. The bullet strikes the gas tank, and the RV EXPLODES. William hits the sand, and covers his head as flaming bits of metal shoot into the sky, and rain down.

Jo races over, kneels beside William, and helps him sit up.

JO
Are you OK?

William gives her a thumbs up; the zombie's arm falls from the sky, and lands in his lap. They both SCREAM, and leap to their feet.

WILLIAM
I'm not hurt, but I might need to change my shorts.

Everyone CHUCKLES..

PETE
So, what do we now?

William shrugs, then looks up at the bright blue sky.

WILLIAM
Well, it's a nice day for a walk at least.

ALEX
And, do we walk back into the zombie infested park, or out into the barren wasteland?

WILLIAM
You're a real optimist.

ALEX
Yeah, mom always called me her
little ray of doom and gloom.

William LAUGHS, then ruffles Alex's hair.

WILLIAM
Come on, kid.

He drapes his arm over Alex's shoulder and walks him out into the desert, Jo walks with Ernest, Pete and Brian bring up the rear. As the boys chat, their eyes meet, and, despite recent events, the attraction is undeniable.

PETE
I'm really sorry about your
brother.

BRIAN
Thanks. He really liked you, said
you were funny.

PETE
Do you?

BRIAN
Think you're funny? I guess.

PETE
Like me I mean.

BRIAN
You don't waste a lot of time of
small talk and stuff, do you?

PETE
Figured with the whole zombies
trying to kill us thing, why waste
time?

BRIAN
Good point. Yeah, I like you.

PETE
Then, how about when this is over
we--

Two zombies leap out of the ground; one in front of Brian, the other behind. He SCREAMS as they grab a hold of him, and drag back under the sand. Everyone sprints to the pavement, then they all stare back at the desert.

ALEX
The park was pretty.

PETE
So was Brian.

William drapes his arm over Pete's shoulders.

WILLIAM
Sorry kid.

ERNEST
It should have been me.

JO
Don't say that.

ERNEST
Why not? It's true. I'm old, used
up, but he had so much to live for.

PETE
So do you Ernie.

ERNEST
Best part of me died with Ruthie.

William SMACKS him on the back.

WILLIAM
Then I guess we're just stuck with
the worst parts, now let's get
moving old timer.

Ernest gives him a weak, but grateful, smile.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Now, let's get moving.

He heads down the road, the others follow.

LATER

William, gun and eyes alert, leads them down the road; which
curves around a massive boulder, then gently slopes down the
mountain, towards a large meadow.

ERNEST
Now I hate to admit it, but the
boy's starting to make sense.

PETE
Bet you don't hear that too often.

ALEX
Up yours.

PETE

Buy me dinner first.

They make their way past the boulder; above them the wind RUSTLES the bushes on the cliff.

JO

Not to hurt your feelings Alex but--

ALEX

I know, you always thought I was kind of a goofball.

William's eyes scour not only the road ahead, but the bushes and rocks above them.

JO

No.

PETE

Just your cockamamie conspiracy theories.

ALEX

Bite me.

PETE

I told you, buy--

Above them something very large moves; the bushes RUSTLE and shake. William and the others leap away from the rocks, their eyes never leaving the bushes.

ALEX

I don't see--

A loud CAW, then a massive bird shoots out of the bushes, and flies away.

ERNEST

Guess we're all just a little on the jumpy--

A zombie dives off the cliff, slams into Ernest, and sinks its teeth into his neck. Ernest stumbles, then falls onto his back. He SCREAMS and struggles as the zombie gnaws on his throat.

JO

Ernie!

Everyone aims their guns, and shoot; but they are all out of bullets. The SOUNDS of flesh being ripped from the bone, and greedily consumed, mixes with Ernest's muffled CRIES.

PETE

We have to do something!

Pete raises his gun, and holds it as if it were a baseball bat.

PETE (CONT'D)

Get away from him you mother fu--

He swings his gun; it SMACKS the zombie in the head, and knocks it to the ground. It leaps to it's feet, and bares it's teeth at Pete; the others descend on it. Pete joins in, and they BEAT the zombie until it's head CRACKS open.

Exhausted, they stop, and stare at the, once again, dead zombie, their eyes drift to Ernest; whose dead, vacant eyes stare up at them.

ALEX

What do we do?

JO

Bill?

PETE

We can't let him, you know?

JO

He deserves better Bill.

William sadly nods, then kneels down.

WILLIAM

Rest in peace old timer, give
Ruthie a kiss from us.

He closes Ernest's eyes, then stands. He raises the butt of his gun high over his head, then, with all his considerable strength, SLAMS it down.

LATER

William leads Jo, Alex and Pete through the pasture.

PETE

Ah, what the hell is that?

He points ahead, everyone turns to look. They GASP, then gape ahead in both shock and fear.

About a half mile down the road, the lush scenery, in fact the entire park just ends at a wall, that seems to have no beginning or end. It's white, and stretches as far as the eye can see; right, left and straight up to heaven.

JO
Is that a wall?

PETE
To keep something out, or us in?

ALEX
Uh huh.

They all turn to William for guidance.

PETE
So? What do we do now?

WILLIAM
Feel like investigating?

Alex glances back at the road down the mountain; several figures are rapidly making their way down the path.

ALEX
I sure as Hell don't want to go
back that way.

Pete looks back, and sees the approaching zombies.

PETE
I say we go, quickly.

WILLIAM
Jo?

JO
I have a bad feeling about this
but, well, I'd sure like some
answers. We go.

WILLIAM
Sure wish I hadn't left my bazooka
at home.

He leads them towards the wall.

JO
I hope that was a joke.

ALEX

I don't know, I wish we had four bazooka's, a few AK-47's, and a tank.

THE WALL

William, Jo and the boys stand staring up in amazement at the sleek, white, and seemingly endless wall.

PETE

So this means... wait, what the hell does this mean?

ALEX

It means we were never in the park.

APPLAUSE. They turn to see Matt, followed by two armed security guards, step out of a hidden door in the wall.

MATT (O.S.)

Very good.

He walks over to the them; the door closes, then disappears into the wall.

MATT (CONT'D)

But then, I figured you'd be the one to figure it out.

WILLIAM

Want to enlighten the rest of us?

MATT

I suppose it can't hurt anything now.

PETE

Meaning you're going to kill us anyway?

MATT

My, but aren't we the paranoid one?

PETE

Seriously dude?

MATT

Alright, I suppose you do have valid reasons not to trust me, but I assure you, I have no plans, nor need, to kill you.

JO

Then just what are you going to do
with us?

William listens as he studies the wall, then sizes up the
guards.

MATT

You've passed all the tests, so
now, you're free to go.

PETE

You're going to let us go?

ALEX

Why not? Who are we going to tell?

MATT

It's not who you'll tell--

ALEX

It's who'll listen that will make
us look nuts.

PETE

Then it can't hurt to tell us.

MATT

I suppose you're right.

He gestures to the wall and surrounding park.

MATT (CONT'D)

Allow me to formally welcome you to
the IC Testing Facility.

ALEX

What's the IC?

PETE

You mean, even the King of
conspiracies hasn't heard of this
place?

(To Matt)

Damn, you people must be good.

ALEX

Bite me.

Pete grins at 'the cute' guard.

PETE

I'd rather bite him.

He winks flirtatiously, and licks his lips, but gets no reaction whatsoever from the guard.

ALEX

Slut.

PETE

Well, I'm trying, but ole stone-face over there ain't making it easy.

He blows kisses at the guard, who doesn't even flinch.

JO

You mean isn't, and try to focus.

PETE

Sorry.

(To Matt)

Please continue.

MATT

Thank you. Now, Dr. Arden, to answer your question, we are a government funded research facility, studying the behavioral and psychological effects of what we call IC's, or irrational circumstances.

PETE

What the hell for?

ALEX

Because if you can break a person, you not only gain access to their secrets, but you also have the opportunity to reprogram them.

MATT

It's a crude, unscientific way of phrasing it, but you have the basics down.

JO

But--

MATT

What's the purpose? Why subject people to such horrific, and potentially fatal tests?

JO

I would have said cruel, misguided,
and reminiscent of Mengele or
Himmler.

MATT

With one glaring exception.

PETE

You don't have their cute accents?

MATT

We don't have their hate, and
everything we've done--

JO

You've done for the glory of the
Fatherland?

MATT

You truly don't see the difference
between genocide and--

JO

Kidnapping, torturing and
killing... Wait if all this was
fake, then--

MATT

None of this was fake. It was a
simulation yes, but I assure you,
everything you went through was
quite real.

ALEX

Then, Tray, Marcie and the others
are--

MATT

Really dead? Yes, I am sorry. I
hope it brings you some comfort to
know that they gave their lives in
the service of their country, and
their sacrifice will--

JO

Sacrifice? What sacrifice? You
killed them.

MATT

Semantics.

JO

You unfeeling bastard.

She raises her gun, and aims it at his head.

JO (CONT'D)

Now, you get us the hell out of here, or--

MATT

You'll shoot me with an empty gun?

They all give him questioning looks.

MATT (CONT'D)

Seriously? Everything you've been through, and you're surprised we have surveillance cameras?

Jo smirks then lowers her gun. Matt gesture to the wall.

MATT (CONT'D)

Now, how about I give you all the three dollar tour?

PETE

But I still don't understand the point. Why are you testing the behavioral and psychological effects of, what'd you call them? IC's?

WILLIAM

You're looking at it backwards kid.

JO

We weren't the subjects of the tests at all.

ALEX

My God, it's a weapons test.

JO

But, surely even our government wouldn't be dumb enough to release this. Unless, they had a way of controlling them.

MATT

Well, let's just say we've developed--

William pulls out a knife, grabs Matt by the neck, spins him around, using him as a shield, and presses his knife to Matt's throat.

The guards train their weapons on William, who presses the knife harder, blood trickles down Matt's neck.

WILLIAM

Now back--

MATT

Oh calm down. I already told you we planned on releasing you, so I really don't see what all the fuss is about.

PETE

Seriously? You don't see why we might be, well, hesitate to believe anything you fucking say? I mean, you did kidnap us, and kill our friends.

MATT

I'm only going to ask you once, be a good boy, and let me go.

WILLIAM

Or what? You'll have your men shoot us both? I don't think so.

MATT

I'm loyal, I'm not an idiot. Please look behind you.

WILLIAM

Huh?

William, Jo, Pete and Alex glance back at the street, and gape at the hundreds of ravenous, rotting zombies that are approaching.

MATT

You still don't get it, do you?

He pushes William's knife aside, and takes a step away.

MATT (CONT'D)

You aren't in charge.

The zombies close in.

MATT (CONT'D)

You never were.

The zombies are only ten feet away.

JO

Bill?

WILLIAM

(To Matt)

What do you want?

A gloating grin stretches across Matt's face as he pulls a small remote control out of his pocket.

A zombie reaches for Alex; Jo slams the butt of her gun into it's head, and it stumbles back.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

(To Matt)

God damn, what the hell--

PETE

Bill!

He wheels around to see a zombie has it's hands around Jo's throat, while Pete and Alex beat at it's back.

WILLIAM

(To Matt)

Look, you win, OK? Just please don't--

Matt CLICKS the remote; the zombies instantly freeze in place. The boys pry the zombie off Jo, then they all gape at the zombies, frozen mid-attack, like a bunch of grotesque mannequins.

ALEX

I'll be damned, they're Stepford Wives.

JO

I'll keep an eye out for Katherine Ross.

PETE

I just love her, she was so great in Voyage of The Damned and Tell Them--

WILLIAM

Uh guys, it's not over, remember bad guys with guns.

ALEX

Sorry.

(To Matt)

We won't interrupt again, promise.

MATT

Thank you, and they aren't exactly
Stepford wives. These are actually
bio-engineered, artificial--

William grabs Matt's head, and twists it so hard that his
neck SNAPS.

The guards aim their weapons; Jo swings her gun, it collides
with one guard's gun, and it flies out of his hand. Jo swings
again, hits the guard in the head, and knocks him to the
ground.

The other guard aims at Pete, who stands helplessly staring
down the barrel of the gun. William scoops up a gun off the
ground, and aims at the guard, who suddenly freezes in place

PETE

Huh?

He stares at the guard, who's now a mannequin, then glances
over at Alex, who holds the remote.

PETE (CONT'D)

Thanks, wait, you mean he's...

He studies the guard's face. Alex walks over.

PETE (CONT'D)

I just can't catch a break today.
Either they get eaten, or well--

He nods at the guard, Alex SMACKS him on the back.

ALEX

Look at it this way Pete, at least
you found out before you had sex
with another thing that requires
batteries.

PETE

Yeah, besides he'd never fit in my
toy drawer.

JO

Ah boys, focus.

PETE / ALEX

Sorry Dr. Jo.

William nods at the remote in Alex's hand.

WILLIAM

You mind?

Alex hands it to William, who studies it a moment, then presses a button; the door in the wall slides open.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Anyone feel like doing a little exploring?

He leads them to the door, then motions for everyone to be quiet while he peeks inside, and looks around.

JO
Well?

WILLIAM
Looks clear. You guys wait here, and let me check it out.

Pete glances back at the horde of frozen zombies.

PETE
Oh sure, take your time.

WILLIAM
Just want to make sure the coast is clear.

JO
Be careful Bill.

He nods, then slips in. Jo and the boys look around, their eyes are drawn to their former classmates, now rotting zombie statues.

JO (CONT'D)
I am so sorry.

PETE
Dr. Jo don't, if it weren't for you-
-

JO
You'd be enjoying Spring Break someplace warm, sipping margaritas, and making out with a hot guy named Antonio?

PETE
When you put it that way, it kind of is your fault. Damn you Dr. Jo, now I'll never meet Antonio.

JO
I ever tell you, you're a pain in the ass kid.

Movement behind her, Jo spins around then jumps in surprise as William pokes his head out.

WILLIAM

Sorry.

ALEX

Is it safe?

PETE

More importantly, is there a way out?

WILLIAM

I don't know about that, but I didn't see any guards.

PETE

That's good enough for me, let's get the Hell out of here.

WILLIAM

Works for me kid.

He slips back inside, Jo and the boys quickly follow. The door seals behind them.

INT. IC MAIN FACILITY, CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

William, Jo, Alex, and Pete quickly walk down a narrow, dimly lit hallway. They stop at a door, again all eyes turn to William.

WILLIAM

Seriously guys? Do I have to make all the decisions?

Jo smirks, then smacks a button on the wall; the doors slide open revealing a massive air vent. It rises from the basement, far below, all the way to the top floor, which is also too far away to be seen.

William and the others step into the room, and look around; a catwalk leads around the vent to a bank of elevators, a set of stairs, and several doors. The door closes, and SEALS behind them.

PETE

(Looking around)

How big is this place?

He leans over the railing and glances down, then looks up; the shaft seems to go on forever in either direction.

PETE (CONT'D)

Shit.

ALEX

Um, speaking of which. Do you think they have a bathroom I could use?

PETE

Seriously Alex?

ALEX

What? Is it rude to use your captors' toilet without asking, or something?

CORRIDOR - LATER

The door to the long corridor slides open; William leads Jo, Alex and Pete in. At the far end is a large, steel door.

ALEX

Is that the exit?

WILLIAM

Sure looks it.

PETE

Well, we've been walking for over an hour so--

An alarm SCREAMS, and red lights in the ceiling flash.

WILLIAM

Shit.

The SOUND of footsteps racing towards them.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Run!

He, Jo, and the boys sprint towards the door. William glances back; armed guards stream into the hall.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Hurry!

The guards aim their weapons.

GUARD

Stop.

William reaches for the door handle.

GUARD (CONT'D)
Stop or we will--

William yanks open the door.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

William: perfectly groomed, and wearing a freshly pressed suit; reaches into refrigerator, takes out the orange juice, then closes the door.

Jo, also dressed for work, stands at the table scooping eggs and bacon out of a frying pan, and on to the plates.

JO
Boys, lets go.

She walks to the sink, and sets the frying pan in.

JO (CONT'D)
Get moving, Carol will be here in
ten minutes.

William carries the juice to the table, then sits down. Jo walks over, and just stares down at him, as if waiting for something. William opens his newspaper, then feels Jo staring at him.

WILLIAM
OK, what did I forget now?

She waits for him to remember, he doesn't.

JO
Milk?

WILLIAM
Shoot.

He starts to stand, Jo puts her hand on his shoulder.

JO
I'll get it.

WILLIAM
Sorry hon.

She walks to the refrigerator.

JO
That's alright, apparently I have
to get my own coffee this morning
anyway.

WILLIAM
Sorry babe, I'm--

JO
All focused on the Baldwin case, I
know. I'm just teasing you.

Pete and Alex, dressed for school, walk in.

WILLIAM
Well it's about time.

The doorbell RINGS.

ALEX
I'll get it.

He walks towards the door.

JO
(To Pete)
Carol's early, why don't you just
make a couple of egg sandwiches to
go?

She takes the last of the toast out of the toaster, then carries the plate to the table, where she and Pete makes sandwiches. Alex stops in front of the door.

ALEX
Hey Mom, don't forget I--

JO
Need twenty dollars for the field
trip. Check your backpack.

ALEX
That's why I love you mom.

JO
That's why you love me?

He flashes her a big cheesy grin.

JO (CONT'D)
Open the door, goofball.

The doorbell RINGS again.

ALEX
Someone's awfully impatient this
morning.

He yanks open the door.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Hold you're horse--

A zombie grabs Alex by the shoulders, yanks him forward, then sinks its teeth into his neck; Alex SCREAMS and struggles, but the zombie holds him tight, and feasts on his neck and shoulder.

JO

Alex!

She runs to Alex.

PETE

Mom no!

The zombie tosses Alex aside, then lunges at Jo; William SLAMS a fire extinguisher against the zombie's head, and it stumbles back a few feet. It HISSES then rushes at William;

Pete SMACKS it with a golf club, then William HITS it with the extinguisher; the zombie stumbles out of the house. William and Pete shove the door closed, pushing Alex's now dead body outside. William quickly locks the door.

JO

No, Alex is--

She lunges for the door, William grabs her.

WILLIAM

Alex is Gone Jo.

The SOUND of breaking glass as zombies SHATTER the windows.

PETE

Dad!

Zombies start to climb in the broken windows, as more RAM into the front door with such force cracks appear in the wood.

WILLIAM

Upstairs, now!

JO

But what about--

PETE

Mom!

The first zombies make it through and race towards them, as more zombies crawl in. William, Jo, and Pete sprint up the stairs.

MASTER BEDROOM

Jo, Pete, then William race in. William SLAMS the door closed, and locks it, while Jo searches the closets for zombies.

WILLIAM

Pete, give me a hand.

He and Pete drag a massive bureau over, and put it in front of the door. While Jo checks the bathroom, William and Pete drag the other bureau over, and set it on top of the first one.

JO

I guess we should be safe in here,
at least for a little bit.

WILLIAM

Jo--

JO

Me too, but right now, getting Pete
out of here has to be our focus.

WILLIAM

You're right.

Zombies SLAM against the door, startled they all jump.

PETE

What do we?

The zombies BEAT and SCRATCH on the door; William, Jo and Pete look at each other then, as if sharing one thought, race to the window, and peer out at the apocalyptic scene;

Several homes are on fire, others have their doors and windows busted out, and cars have been abandoned in the street. Zombies kneel on the ground, feasting on the dying, while others chase down, and kill the few survivors left.

Tears fill Jo's eyes as she watches; the SCREAMS of her friends, the SOUNDS of breaking glass, and the car ALARMS are too much; she turns away.

WILLIAM

Jo--

Zombies RAM against the door so hard the frame starts to splinter.

JO

Go away! Leave us the Hell alone!

William holds her, she starts to cry; the zombies RAM the door again.

JO (CONT'D)
Go back to--

She sees the frightened, lost look on Pete's face, and instantly goes into 'mama bear' mode. William studies the street for an escape route; Jo gets an idea.

JO (CONT'D)
(To Pete)
Do you have your lighter on you?

PETE
Why would I have a lighter?

William pinches Pete's cheek.

WILLIAM
To light your funny cigarettes
with?

Pete gives them a guilty look, then digs around in his pocket, and pulls out two lighters.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Two? Damn boy, how many joints do
you smoke at once?

PETE
Always carry a spare, just in case.

Jo grabs the lighters.

JO
Never thought I'd be glad I had
druggie for a kid.

PETE
Mom.

She winks.

LATER

Jo walks around the room emptying bottles of perfume, after-shave, and cologne onto the carpet, then she splashes some on the walls.

WILLIAM
Ready?

She nods, then walks to the window. William and Pete slide the bureau away from the door, then race back to the window, where Jo holds a can of hair spray and a lighter ready.

William and Pete climb out the window, and onto the porch's roof just as the door BURSTS open, and the zombies, led by Alex, race in.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Jo hurry.

The zombies race across the room.

PETE

Mom!

JO

(To Alex)

I'm sorry baby.

She FLICKS the lighter, SPRAYS the can, and a BURST of fire SHOOTs across the room; the stream of fire hits Alex and the other zombies. They are set ablaze, and the flames rapidly climb down their rotting corpses to the carpet.

PETE

Mom, let's go!

A sea of fire shoots across the carpet, and climbs the walls. Tears streak down Jo's face as she watches.

WILLIAM

Damn it Jo.

Frustrated, anxious, and scared, he and Pete reach through the window, grab Jo, and drag her out.

STREET

Their house now totally consumed by the flames; William and Jo, both armed with makeshift flamethrowers, lead Pete across the yard and to the car, which is parked in the driveway, on the other side of the house.

Several zombies race out of the front door, and charge straight at Pete; Jo and William aim their cans and shoot. Streams of fire shoot across the yard, and engulfs the zombies.

PETE

Mom!

Jo spins around, a horde of zombies approach from the street; she shoots, the flames hit a few zombies, but then stop. She shakes it, and tries again, but nothing happens.

JO

William?

She turns to him just as his can goes empty too.

WILLIAM

Run!

William, Jo and Pete sprint to the car, and yank open the doors as zombies quickly close in from every direction. They jump in the car, and SLAM the doors closed as the zombies close in; they BEAT and POUND on the windows and roof.

Tires SQUEALS, then the car speeds backwards, mowing down any zombies behind them. Several zombies leap onto the hood and roof; the car speeds up, then slams on it's breaks, coming to a dead stop, and knocking them off.

The car takes off, plows over the zombies, then races away; as the car zips through the suburban nightmare, zombies leave their dying meals to race after the fresh meat.

A few survivors race out of their homes, sprint to the street, and desperately run after the car. William stops, but zombies stream into the street, chase the survivors down, and rip them to pieces. William's car speeds off.

INT. CAR - LATER

William drives, while Jo and Pete stare out the windows; they cruise down a highway that cuts through seemingly endless miles of cornfields.

PETE

Dad, where are we heading?

WILLIAM

As far away as...

He trails off, his eyes meet Pete's in the rearview mirror, and they stare at each other a moment; a glimmer of recognition.

PETE

Bill?

Jo realizes who they are as well.

JO
Dear God, what have they done to us
now?

PETE
Another test?

JO
But Alex...

William slams on the breaks, the car SCREECHES to a stop.
William glares ahead, and BEATS on the steering wheel.

WILLIAM
God damn it, God damn, God damn it!

Jo and Pete just stare ahead.

PETE
Should we get out?

WILLIAM
Does it matter?

EXT. CAR - STOPPED - MOMENTS LATER

A few feet ahead of the car, the road and scenery come to an abrupt end at 'the wall'. William, Jo, and Pete get out of the car as 'the door' opens; an elderly DOCTOR, a few assistants, and a team of security personnel step out.

The doctor leads them over to William, Jo, and Pete; he stops a few feet in front of them. The doctor gives them an approving smile then APPLAUDS; the assistants APPLAUD as well.

DOCTOR
You've all done very well.

PETE
So, this mean we passed your
frigging test?

William puts his hand on Pete's shoulder.

WILLIAM
Easy son.

DOCTOR
Oh that's quite alright, the boy
did splendidly today. He's earned
the right to speak.

PETE

Why thank you, you sanctimonious,
arrogant, cock-sucking motherfu--

William squeezes Pete's shoulder hard.

WILLIAM

What happens now?

DOCTOR

Nothing, you're free to go.

PETE

Gee, where have I heard that
before?

DOCTOR

Your apprehension is quite
understandable, but I assure you,
we have no further use for you.

PETE

That sounds, kind of ominous
actually.

DOCTOR

I suppose it does, doesn't it? But
it certainly wasn't meant to be.
We've learned quite a bit from you,
and are very grateful for your,
shall we say, participation in
these tests.

PETE

What do you do? Figure out how we
survived, then program the zombies
accordingly.

DOCTOR

We must learn, and have contingency
plans for every possible scenario.

PETE

You mean, stack the deck.

DOCTOR

Peter, you're looking at this the
wrong way?

PETE

Look Doctor Death, you killed my
friends--

DOCTOR
Collateral damage I'm afraid.

JO
Collateral damage?

She charges at him, meaning to slap him, but William grabs her. The guards have their guns trained on Jo, the doctor gives them a dismissive wave, and they lower their weapons.

DOCTOR
(To the guards)
Now let's just take it easy, they are our guests, after all.

PETE
Guests? In that case, I want a Margarita the size of Rhode Island, a couple of cabana boys, and a limo out of this frigging nightmare.

DOCTOR
I'll see what I can do.
(To Jo)
And Dr. Arden, your anger is quite understandable, but I assure you, it's entirely misplaced.

JO
So you didn't orchestrate...

She waves at her surroundings.

JO (CONT'D)
All this.

DOCTOR
Oh no, the IC is my baby.

JO
So, if you're the one who ordered these baboons to kidnap us, exactly who should my anger be directed at? Meryl Streep?

PETE
I just love her, did you ever see--

William puts a hand on Pete's shoulder, and shakes his head.

DOCTOR
(To Jo)
Try blaming those responsible.

JO

Oh, you mean like college students,
park ranger, retirees.

DOCTOR

Terrorists, rogue nations, arrogant
little pissants with nuclear
capabilities--

JO

So, you're doing this to keep us
safe?

DOCTOR

Exactly.

JO

How? By killing us?

DOCTOR

All you think about are the lives
that will be lost, what about the
lives that will be saved?

JO

Oh spare me.

DOCTOR

Over two hundred thousand people
have died in the Afghani and Iraqi
wars, and why? All to find Osama
Bin Laden. What if we could have
just dropped a team of zombies into
the Pakistani Afghani border, and
let them take care of things? Think
of all the lives we would have
saved.

JO

What about all the collateral
damage?

PETE

What about people turning? How do
you control--

DOCTOR

First.

He holds up the remote.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

With proper programing collateral
damage is not possible.

(MORE)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

They will only kill those they're programmed to. And as for people turning, as you've said, these just are glorified Stepford Wives, no one gets turned.

PETE

But Carter and Veronica, I saw--

DOCTOR

Good work, if I do say so myself. We had models of each of you made. We just had to ah, wait for the proper moment, shall we say.

William lunges at him; several guards step forward, and COCK their guns.

JO

Bill!

William stops.

DOCTOR

You're starting to try my patients young man.

WILLIAM

You really going to let us go?

DOCTOR

We've learned all we can from you, and there's nothing to be gained from killing you.

PETE

Being as we have no proof, and absolutely no idea where we are, not to mention we'd sound like raving lunatics.

WILLIAM

If we even remember.

JO

You mean, we might not even remember?

DOCTOR

Some do, some don't, some just have partial memories, or glimmers, as we call them.

PETE

Some? How many people have you done this too? And how many things other than zombies do you test on people?

DOCTOR

As many as we have too I'm afraid.

JO

Will we remember each other?

DOCTOR

Perhaps. If means anything, I hope so.

PETE

That don't mean sh--

The doctor presses a button on the remote, and everything goes dark.

FADE OUT.

THE END