

## "The Peripherals" Treatment

Minute	TOD	Setting	Description (A character's first appearance is in BOLD)
<b>Act I</b>			
1	<b>Dusk</b>	EXT. Rainy bus station	20 yr. old (Joel Williamson) exits a car and thanks the Old People who are dropping him off. The Old Lady in the car apologizes for not being able to take Joel further. Joel thanks them for getting him out of the rain, before he turns and walsk towards the station.
2			Joel approaches the ticketing kiosk and asks when the next bus for Los Angelos is leaving. <b>Kelly</b> , the twenty-something year old ticketing agent, says the next bus leaves at eight am. Joel asks if there are any other buses heading west before that. Kelly informs him that all buses have left for the night. Kelly tells Joel that there's a hotel up the street. Kelly sees Joel check his money and tells him he could wait in the station.
3			Joel finds a empty seat and sets his backpack in the adjacent seat. He then surveys the bus station and the other awaiting passengers. Most seem to be waiting like him, but there are a couple of people who seem to be using the bus station as shelter against the rain.
4			Joel is sitting in front of a TV that hangs near the ceiling. The local news is reporting on local mundane issues for the most part, but there is one international story that catches Joel's eye: It is a story about missing plutonium that has been missing for a few months. Joel starts to nod out.
5	<b>Night</b>	Continuous - INT. bus station waiting area	After falling asleep, Joel's eyes flutter open and he notices a <b>Old Homeless Women</b> sitting a few seats away, in the row facing the one in which he sits. His eyes close again as he nods off again. When Joel opens his eyes again the old homeless woman is sitting closer to him. Joel nods out again.
6			When Joel opens his eyes for the third time, he sees that the old homeless is being chased off by <b>Timothy Jackson</b> , and older homeless veteran. Timothy hands Joel something that the old homeless woman had taken from his backpack.
7			Timothy warns Joel that, even though this may be a small town, there are still crooks here like everywhere else. Joel thanks Timothy by offering his some of the food he had in his backpack. Timothy accepts and the two strike up a conversation.
8			Timothy and Joel engage in small talk af first. Joel is enjoying their conversation until Timothy starts sounding a little paranoid. Timothy starts by saying that someone is following him and he believes that someone is in the bus station somewhere. When Timothy gets up to look for his pursuer, Joel pretends to have nodded out again. Timothy leaves Joel and goes on a mission to find whoever is following him.

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9	Night	Continued - INT. bus station waiting area	Joel wakes up to Timothy tapping him on the shoulder. Timothy claims to have found the person following him, as Joel tries to ignore him. Timothy sees the disbelief in Joel's eyes and tells him that he's right to not believe him. Timothy tells Joel that no one is following him and explains that he had skipped his medication. He explains that he's taken it and the paranoia is fading.
10			Joel accepts this and the two strike up a conversation again. This time Timothy starts to tell Joel about his time in the army and about the things he saw when he fought in Viet Nam.
11			Soon Timothy begins to talk about the strange things he heard while in Viet Nam. He eventually starts to talk about this legend he heard while overseas. Joel is fascinated, as Timothy begins to talk about the myth of the Peripherals, a race of beings who exist in a parallel dimension. Timothy tells Joel that since he first heard this tale, he's looked into the legend further and found that it exists all over the World. He tells Joel that in some cultures, the Peripherals were simple cannibalistic version of mankind, while in others they were divine creature. As divine creature, Timothy explains, the Peripherals were created by God to keep a balance between the number of people on the planet and the resources that mankind could harvest in any given period. Timothy even points out that in the European version of the story the Black plague was the work of the Peripherals. Timothy explains that although there were far fewer people than there are now, mankind had gone well beyond its ability to take care of itself and was under threat of going extinct. Timothy points out that though there are over 7 billion people now, mankind has the ability to feed, house, cloth all of them. Timothy then explains that he fears even though we could take care of all of the people on the planet now, greed has made it so we don't and this too counts as mankind living outside of its means. When Joel asks why God just doesn't allow the Peripherals to kill the greedy rich, Timothy simply says "God works in mysterious ways".
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16			Joel realizes he's hungry, so he excuses himself from Timothy, so he can grab something from the vending machines. While Joel is fighting with the vending machine which will not drop his snack, <b>Billy</b> , the 50 year old bus station janitor walks up to assist Joel before striking up a conversation. Billy first questions whether Joel and Timothy are friends. Joel tells him no, so Billy goes onto tell Joel to be weary of Timothy. Billy tells Joel that Timothy is crazy. Joel explains that he saw that side of Timothy and that Timothy had taken his medication and it seemed to calm him down. Even with Joel vouching for him, Billy seems unconvinced of Timothy's sanity, so he warns Joel a second time.

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17	Night	INT - Bus station manager's office	Billy approaches a door with a sign that reads "Manager" on it. Billy opens the door where he finds <b>Luke</b> , the 60 year old bus station manager sitting behind his desk. Luke looks through out of his office window at Joel and asks Billy if he warned Joel about Timothy. Billy says 'yes' and Luke makes some comment about Timothy, asks Billy if the station is buttoned down for the night. Billy tells Luke it is and leaves the office closing the door behind him. Luke closes the blinds on his windows and sits in his chair to take a nap.
18		INT. bus station waiting area	On his way back to where Timothy awaits, Joel passes <b>Milly</b> , a thirty-something year old woman who is seemingly arguing with her boyfriend and yelling about why she is leaving. Joel also passes a twenty-something couple ( <b>Rachel</b> and <b>Mike</b> ) who seem to be completely in love and oblivious to everyone else in the bus station.
19			When returning to his seat, Joel passes the old homeless lady, who seems embarrassed. Joel offers her one of the snacks he's purchased, she accepts and eats it greedily. Joel then goes back to his seat and rejoins Timothy, who is looking around the bus station. When Joel asks Timothy what's going on, Timothy tells him that the stories he told Joel about the Peripherals were real and that he's seen them. He also informs Joel that one is in fact inside the bus station. Timothy indicates a figure standing in the shadows that Joel hadn't notice before or even seen come into the station.
20			Timothy points out how none of the other people in the station seem to notice this figure either. He points out how they all seem to be looking everywhere but in the direction of this mysterious newcomer.
21			Timothy then tries to give Joel a crash course in how to avoid detection by the Peripherals. He explains that, if he's crazy, Joel doesn't have to worry about ever seeing him again after tonight, because they're heading in different directions. He tells Joel to just listen to him for the next few minutes and do as he says then he will leave Timothy alone for the rest of the night. Timothy explains that the way to avoid detection by the Peripherals is to have a safe memory. Timothy explains that the safe memory masks the fact that a person who is "onto" the Peripheral, which does not want to be detected, even though they have superhuman strength.
22			While Timothy is instructing Joel on how to avoid detection, the odd misfigured person/Peripheral in the shadows seems to sense that someone is talking/thinking about it. It starts to move around the bus station, sticking to the corners of the room and the shadows (like the part of the bus station where the flourescents lights are out or flickering).

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23		INT. bus station waiting area	<p>While Timothy and Joel avoid looking directly at the Peripheral, Timothy picks up the pace of his instructions, as he keep his eyes on the Peripheral. When the Peripheral zeros in on Joel and Timothy, it starts approaching them. When it first starts its approach, Joel remains skeptical, but as it draws nearer, Joel notices that everyone seems to make a point of turning away from it. Timothy says "That's its power of suggestion". Even this Joel tries to question, but as the lights directly above the Peripheral turn off as it passes beneath them and back on once it is past the light, Joel becomes a believer. Timothy tells him to come up with a safe memory. As the Peripheral seems to grow more agitated, Timothy asks Joel what his safe memory is and Joel says he used Timothy's own safe memory, because he couldn't think of one. Timothy shows Joel a key to the locker in which he's hidden a book that has information about the Peripherals.</p> <p>Timothy realizes that the two of them are in danger, so he takes drastic measures and attracts the Peripheral to himself by looking directly at it. At first the Peripheral continues walking towards Joel and gets close enough for Joel to feel its breath on his neck. Joel however takes his cues from the other passengers and looks away just as they all seem to be doing. the Peripheral then focuses on Timothy who is moving towards the men's bathroom. The TV flickers off then back on as the Peripheral passes it.</p> <p>The Peripheral moves into the men's bathroom and the other passengers all resume whatever they were doing before the Peripheral started its search.</p> <p>Joel takes several deep breaths and tries to muster up the courage to go to the men's bathroom to see if he can help Timothy.</p>
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<b>Act II</b>				
31	Night	INT. bus station waiting area to bus station men's bathroom	Joel approaches the men's bathroom and can hear the struggle that is taking place. He gathers his courage and runs into the men's bathroom (the lights are flashing on and off), to see the Peripheral hunched over Timothy. From the back, the Peripheral looks like a shabbily dressed man, but its skin looks scaly and it has claw-like nails. Though Timothy is stabbing the Peripheral repeatedly, the Peripheral seems mostly unphased as it slashes Timothy's stomach.	
32		Night	INT. bus station men's bathroom	As Timothy slumps to the ground and the Peripheral takes a few bites from Timothy's body, Joel slips into a janitor's closet inside the men's bathroom and pulls the door almost shut. Joel stops short of closing the door, because it squeaks, freezing the Peripheral in its tracks. Before the Peripheral can turn around, Joel thinks fast and throws something outside the men's bathroom to trick the Peripheral.
33				As the Peripheral turns, the lights continue to flash on and off and this pattern follows the Peripheral as it heads into the waiting room of the bus station. In between light flashes, Joel can see the reflection of the Peripheral, but he still does NOT get a clear view of the creature. The Peripheral takes one last look at Timothy, as if considering going back to feast some more, then thinks better of it and heads out of the men's bathroom to investigate the noise that Joel had made with the thrown object.
34				Joel runs over to Timothy, who is still breathing. Timothy motions to the dagger that has fallen on the men's bathroom floor. "Take it" Timothy says. "It's blessed. And the get the key." Timothy then dies. As Joel looks at the trails of blood that the Peripheral tracked out, he notices that the red (human blood) continues to stain the floor, while the black (Peripheral blood) evaporates into thin air.
35				As Joel follows the evaporating blood trail of Peripheral blood out of the door, his gaze eventually lands on Mike (of the young couple). Mike starts screaming "Help!"
36				Rachel and Mike tell Billy about the stabbing in the men's bathroom, so Billy goes in to investigate their claim. When he sees Joel, with the bloody dagger in his hand, his military training kicks in and Billy tackles Joel, as Rachel screams. Mike jumps on Joel to help Billy restrain him. Soon enough all of the passengers, Kelly (the ticketing agent) and Luke (the bus station manager) have all entered the bathroom to see Joel fighting and screaming about the Peripheral.
37				Luke takes control of the situation and reaches for his radio, which doesn't work. He then tries his cell phone which is also not working. Luke then asks the other passengers to check their phones and, if they are getting a signal to call the police. No one's phone works and Joel tries to point out that the Peripheral is causing the interference.

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38	Night	INT. bus station men's bathroom	Luke tells Billy to figure out a way to restrain Joel, while he goes to the office to call it in on his land line. Billy and Mike drag Joel out of the men's bathroom, while Joel is screaming about the locker key that Timothy wanted him to have.
39		INT. bus station waiting area	While Milly consoles Kelly and Rachel, the old homeless lady moves away from the group to a corner of the room. On the TV is a news report about the mounting tensions between India and Pakistan.
40			When Luke fails to return after a few minutes, Billy gets up to find out what is going on, but stops when the TV and the lights flicker on and off before shutting off completely. The only light comes from the moon and street lights outside the bus station.
41			Everyone is frozen, when they hear the whimpering of the old homeless lady. She is saying "What have I ever done to you?" and "What do you want with me?" When the others look at her and start to approach her, she starts to scream as blood streams over her face. A pair of claws come from the shadows over the old homeless lady's shoulders and drag her into a darker part of the room. She screams for a while longer, then the sound of gurgling is heard, then silence.
42			Joel is vindicated, but it doesn't feel good, as he tells the others to untie him. He tells them that he was looking for the key to a locker in the station, which has a book about the Peripherals. Joel tells them he believes it may even explain how to kill the Peripherals.
43		INT. bus station men's bathroom	The group moves to the men's bathroom to search for the key. Milly finds the key in a men's bathroom stall, but is snatched up into the drop ceiling. Milly drops the key (Joel grabs the key) as she disappears above the ceiling tiles (screaming the entire time), only to come crashing through the ceiling. Milly has been slashed to pieces and is dead. All of the others run out of the men's bathroom.
44		INT. bus station waiting area	Mike, Kelly and Rachel try to leave the bus station, but witness an arriving car. Everyone (except Joel) runs into the manager's office because the couple in the arriving car are attacked by two other Peripherals outside the bus station. Mike, Kelly and Rachel then head to the manager's office, while Joel searches for the locker to get the book. Joel tells Billy to take them to the manager's office and that he'll meet them there. Billy hands Joel the dagger. Joel finds the locker and retrieves the book, but can hear something getting closer to him.
45		INT. bus station manager's office	Joel finds everyone is in the manager's office. They've discovered Luke (station manager's body).
46	INT. bus station manager's office - store room	The group realizes they are not safe in the manager's office. They decide to go into the store room inside the manager's office.	

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47	Night	INT. bus station manager's office - store room	Billy opens a door marked "storage room" inside Luke's office. There is no drop ceiling inside the store room, so they all go into the closet. The store room contains a safe so the ceiling is concrete, but they cannot lock the door from inside. They find candles in the store room and Joel begins to read the book by candlelight.
48			The book details various legends from around the World about the Peripherals. Some stories call them demons, while others call them servants of God. The reason for the Peripherals existence range from
49			culling humanity, as a way to manage the resources available to humanity to a simple means to humble humanity when it becomes too full of itself. Someone will ask "Why do monsters always attack regular
50			people and not the assholes who are ruining the planet?" The book will also mention that the Peripherals can be harmed, but noone has found a way to kill them yet. The book will also speculate that the
51			Peripherals can only exist in our World until a balance has been restored. Thereafter, the Peripherals are sent back to their own dimension until an imbalance is reached again.
52		The group hears the dead body of the manager being devoured by the Peripheral, so they barricade the door.	
53		INT. bus station waiting area	Eventually Rachel suggests they all run out and head for the doors and take their chances outside. Mike (her boyfriend) says that he believes that to be a bad idea, but Rachel is the dominant one and eventually gets her way.
55			The group inside watches as another new driver and new passenger of a truck get attacked by Peripherals. Mike says "See. Look what would've happened if we went out there."
56			They all hear a hissing, kind of a giggling sound from the darkness of the bus station, as the Peripheral inside grabs Mike. As Mike is being dragged into the dark, he screams. "This is all your fault!".
57			Joel and Kelly, who stayed near the manager's office see Billy grab Rachel and run into the men's bathroom and Joel starts reading the book again. Billy pulls Rachel into the janitor's closet in the men's bathroom and locks the door.
58	INT. bus station, janitor's closet	While Billy gathers his supplies, Rachel starts to ramble on about getting out of this situation alive. She starts talking to herself, saying that she's got to figure out a way "to get that thing to go after those two other people, so she can make a run for it." Billy constructs Molotov cocktails to burn the Peripherals.	
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<b>Act III</b>			
60	Night	INT. bus station manager's office - store room	Joel goes through the book again, trying to find anything that might help them survive. Kelly asks him "Is this a survive the night type of thing?" Joel tells her : "No. This is a man could be on the next extinction list
61		INT. bus station manager's office - store room	Joel tells Kelly that the book says that the Peripherals could be God's way of clearing the planet for whatever is to take man's place.
62		INT. bus station waiting area	Billy sets one of the Peripherals on fire, but it phases back to its dimension. Joel reminds Billy that they can move back and forth from our dimension at times.
63			The Peripheral phases back into our dimension and chases Billy. Joel and Kelly run back into the store room. Billy yells for Rachel to unlock the janitor closet door, but she refuses.
64		INT. bus station men's bathroom janitor's closet	Rachel screams as Billy screams while he is being killed. Rachel then screams more as Billy's blood flows under the door. Eventually the Peripheral drags Billy's body away from the door.
65			Rachel loses it and starts plotting ways to get the Peripheral to go after Joel and Kelly.
66			Joel keep scanning through the book in hopes that he can find some way to either kill the Peripheral or some way to keep the three of them alive. He starts to notice a pattern to all of the appearances of the Peripherals. It seems that in every instance when the Peripherals visited our dimension, their visit heralded a coming disaster. The disasters from the past never looked like the fault of mankind and technically there weren't in many instances, but the extent of the damage that could have been mitigated was a direct or indirect result of human cruelty. For example, the Black Plague could have been wiped out sooner, had it not been for ignorant religious beliefs held by the biggest church of the day.
67			Rachel formulates her plan and decides she must be strong to enact her devious plan. She opens the closet door and peers into the men's bathroom. Rachel distracts the Peripheral by throwing a glass bottle at the manager's office, so she can sneak out.
68	Night	INT. bus station waiting area	The distraction works as the Peripheral eating Billy runs to the manager's office and starts banging on the door to get in. Rachel thinks about leaving , but can see the Peripherals outside waiting to ambush any unlucky travelers who might show up this night. Backing away from the window, Rachel falls over the bodies of Billy, Mike and the Old Homeless Woman. In her struggle to get up, Mike's body pins Rachel to the floor. When the Peripheral returns, it does not see Rachel in the pile of bodies. When the Peripheral goes to the broken exit doors to howl a warning to the Peripherals outside (to stay away), Rachel frees herself from Mike's dead body and runs for the janitor's closet, grabbing one of the Molotov Cocktails that Billy made. The Peripheral chases her and almost catches her until Rachel reveals the Molotov cocktail and hurls it at the feet of the Peripheral.



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69	Night	INT. bus station men's bathroom	Once inside the janitor's closet again, Rachel believes she is safe until the Peripheral drops down through the drop ceiling. To her surprise, the Peripheral doesn't attack, it just slowly starts to walk towards Rachel, who backs up. Eventually, Rachel is backed up against the door, so she opens the door to the flames of the Molotov cocktail she threw moments ago. The Peripheral then reveals that it has the last Molotov cocktail, so Rachel starts to run. As she runs past the fire, the Peripheral hits her with the other Molotov cocktail, which sets Rachel on fire. On fire, Rachel runs into the bus station parking lot, where the other Peripherals simply stand over her burning body for a few moments. The Peripheral inside the bus station gloats about its victory over Rachel. Joel and Kelly see what has happened and run back into the store room.	
70		INT. bus station waiting area	Having seen the Peripheral rejoice in Rachel's gruesome death, Joel tries to convince Kelly that the two of them cannot try to wait it out. He explains that the Peripherals only have a certain amount of time in our dimension. Joel tells Kelly that the time varies, and because the Peripherals know this, they try to kill and eat, as fast as they can. Joel also speculates that the Peripherals will try to kill them even if it can't eat them, so they need to get away from the bus station.	
71		INT. bus station manager's office - store room		Joel continues to try to convince Kelly that the Peripherals will not let them live. Joel explains that they need to figure out how to get away from the bus station.
72				Joel fashions a spear out of a broom Kelly finds in the closet. Joel gives Kelly the knife.
73		INT. bus station waiting area		Joel and Kelly go into the bus station waiting area, as they try to escape. Everything is eerily quiet and the fires have all gone out, so the only light comes from the moon and distant street lights. Joel and Kelly encounter the dead bodies of those killed already as they make their way to the bus station exit.
74				Joel and Kelly encounter more dead bodies and then they hear the twisted laughter of the Peripheral.
75		Night	INT. bus station waiting area	When Joel decides to run out of the bus station, he notices the other two Peripherals waiting to ambush them. These Peripherals sense that Joel has seen them, so they come out of hiding, but they do not come any closer to the bus station. The inside Peripheral walks up on the couple.
76	Joel and Kelly attack the inside Peripheral. Joel stabs it with his spear. The Peripheral warns the outside Peripherals not to interfere. Kelly starts stabbing the inside Peripheral in the back and gets knocked out by the inside Peripheral. Kelly eventually regains consciousness.			
77	Joel and Kelly start to get the best of the inside Peripheral. Joel notices that the dagger is more effective at hurting the Peripheral, so he pulls it from the Peripheral's back and starts stabbing it repeatedly.			
78	Fighting together, Joel and Kelly kill the inside Peripheral. When this Peripheral dies, the lights and the TV in the station come back on, but not for long as the outside Peripherals approach the station.			

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78	Night	INT. bus station manager's office - store room	Joel and Kelly hide in the store room again.
79			While the outside Peripherals search the manager's office for them, Joel and Kelly try to set up the rigging that Billy had made to hold the door shut. The outside Peripherals soon realize where Joel and Kelly are and they try to open the door.
80			With Billy's door locking rig doing most of the work, Joel and Kelly are able to keep the Peripherals out for a while.
81			Eventually, Billy's locking rig fails and all four fall back. The Peripherals fall back into the manager's office, while Joel and Kelly fall back into the store room. Joel and Kelly arm themselves, as the Peripheral prepare to attack. Just as the Peripherals attack, they phase out of our dimension and back to their own.
82	Dawn	INT. bus station waiting area	The lights and the TV in the bus station turn back on, as the Sun rises over the horizon. Joel and Kelly can now see the true carnage from the night before. Joel grabs Timothy's notebook, as well as his backpack. Before they leave, Joel notices a news report on the TV that is talking about a nuclear bomb that has been detonated in Mumbai, India, killing tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands.
83			Joel decides not to stay around, because he doesn't believe he could explain what happened and not sound insane. Kelly decides to go with Joel, because she agrees with him.
84	Day	EXT. State Road	Sometime later, Joel and Kelly are riding in a eighteen wheeler (hitchhiking).
85			Joel is tense and staring out the window. Eventually, the driver gets Joel to loosen up and when Joel faces the driver, he sees something that reminds of the Peripherals out of the corner of his eye.
			Joel turns, but not in time to see what he thinks he saw. Joel then looks through the trucks side view mirror to see what was walking along the road. It turns out to be a limping veteran, hitch hiking.