

Lucifer

By

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INT. LABORATORY - QUARANTINE ROOM - EVENING

A masked scientist, ZANIA (39), injects herself with a hypodermic needle, lies down on the bed, and falls asleep to her own labored breathing.

INT. RESEARCH ROOM - NIGHT

A squad of AGENTS storms into the room and fans out, seizing every piece of equipment they can find. One agent spots the quarantine room and touches a listening device to the door.

AGENT 4  
There's someone inside.

AGENT 3  
Open the door.

INT. QUARANTINE ROOM - NIGHT

Once inside, they find the comatose Zania lying on the bed and check her vitals.

AGENT 4  
She's alive, but she won't last much longer.

AGENT 3  
Take her to a hospital. The equipment's coming with us to Benedict.

AGENT 4  
Yes, sir.

INT. RESEARCH ROOM - NIGHT

Another agent tries to drag a heavy case across the floor and turns to his nearest squad mate.

AGENT 5  
Hey. Could you give me a hand with this?

The other agent complies but bumps into a tray of Petri dishes along the way. One such dish spills its contents onto the floor.

AGENT 5  
Careful there!

AGENT 2  
Sorry.

Together, they haul the case out of the room but step in the puddle on the way out, heedless of the now-crushed Petri dish's masking tape label: Lucifer.

UNKNOWN ASSAILANT'S POV

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

A blaring lockdown alarm and ghastly moans fill the air as panicked hospital staff race down the hallway, fleeing their unseen assailants.

DOCTOR 6 (V.O.)  
(frantic)  
No! No! No!

The unknown assailant rounds a corner to see another doctor pounding on a locked door...

DOCTOR 8  
(desperate)  
Open the door! Open the door!  
Please, open the door!

...and closes in on her as she turns around and screams.

END OF UNKNOWN ASSAILANT'S POV

BLACK

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

GABRIEL (18) stares at the TEACHER at the front of the lecture hall. He holds his phone in one hand, scrolling through post after post on the social media site, LM.

TEACHER  
Therefore, it can be assumed that  
Nero did this to, anyone? Anyone?

He stops on one post and types a reply.

TEACHER

Trick question. It can be assumed that he wasn't responsible for the fire at all. In fact, he was in, anyone? Anyone?

He rolls his eyes at the teacher and continues typing.

TEACHER

Antium. That's right. Nero returned to Rome to organize, anyone? Anyone?

He finishes typing, taps "Reply", and resumes scrolling.

TEACHER

Organize a relief effort. He paid for the removal of bodies and debris and then, anyone? Anyone? Anyone?

The teacher fixes his sights on him.

TEACHER

Ah, Mr. Siegfried.

Gabriel blinks, shakes his head clear, and jumps to his feet.

GABRIEL

(startled)

Yes, sir?

TEACHER

Can you please answer?

GABRIEL

(hasty)

Uh, he opened his palaces to give shelter to the homeless and arranged for food to be distributed to the survivors.

TEACHER

That's correct. You may be seated.

Gabriel sits back down, twitching only as he hears the teacher cough...

TEACHER

(recovering)

Sorry. I must be...never mind. Now, moving on...

...but then resumes scrolling through LM.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - VARIOUS - DAY

With his backpack slung on his back, NICK (18) exits the music and theater building and meanders throughout campus. All the while, he hums to himself and eats a burger.

Eventually, he reaches...

EXT. DORMITORY - DAY

...smiles to himself, sees Gabriel walk in through the entrance, and finishes the burger.

INT. STUDENT LOUNGE - DAY

Among the numerous relaxing students, HISAKO (18) sits in a lounge chair by herself, reading assorted news articles on her laptop. A small pile of textbooks rests next to her.

PENELOPE (19) walks into the lounge and sidles beside Hisako, peering at her laptop.

PENELOPE  
Whatcha doing, Hisako?

Hisako glances up at Penelope and adjusts her glasses...

HISAKO  
Oh, it's you, Penelope.

...then back to her laptop.

HISAKO  
Just reading the news. Crime waves,  
mass shootings, and...zombies or  
whatever. What's it to you?

PENELOPE  
Just checking in on dorm mates.  
That's all. You're really into that  
detective stuff, huh?

Hisako nods assent. Penelope stares at Hisako's laptop for a moment and cringes at the gruesome imagery but then regains her bearings.

PENELOPE  
You know it's all fake, right?

HISAKO  
Says who?

PENELOPE  
Says the president. That's who.

HISAKO  
Him? I trust him about as far as I  
can throw him.

PENELOPE  
Trust him or don't, he's the only  
one who dares take on the liberal  
elite. And those "zombies"? If  
they're real, they're all part of  
the plot.

HISAKO  
What plot?

Penelope leans her hand on the back of the chair, hovering  
beside Hisako.

PENELOPE  
I don't know. Just a plot. There's  
always a plot behind these things.  
I mean...

Hisako notices a darkened bite mark on Penelope's finger.

HISAKO  
Hold that thought. What happened to  
your finger?

Penelope looks down at her finger and stands upright.

PENELOPE  
Oh, this. Some asshole bit me last  
night. You know how it is, right?  
You look at them once and smile and  
suddenly, they think you want to go  
to bed with them, but nope.

Hisako closes her laptop, sets it aside, and stands up.

HISAKO  
You should get it checked out. It  
looks infected.

PENELOPE  
I'll be fine for now. If it gets  
worse tomorrow, I'll go see a  
doctor or something.

Penelope pauses...

PENELOPE  
Not that doctors are trustworthy,  
given their ties to the deep state,  
although I guess I could use a  
nap...

...and turns away, walking down the hallway. Hisako sighs,  
sits back down...

HISAKO  
(under her breath)  
Right. Fine. It's your funeral.

...and opens her laptop, watching as it logs her back in.

HISAKO  
(under her breath)  
Now, where was I?

GABRIEL  
Reading the news, as I recall.

She looks up to see Gabriel sitting in the lounge chair next  
to hers.

HISAKO  
Oh, hi, Gabriel.

GABRIEL  
I've told you before. Just Gabe  
will do.

HISAKO  
What? I can't be polite?

GABRIEL  
Not to the point where you sound  
like I'm a stranger to you.

Nick soon walks in.

NICK  
Heya.

GABRIEL/HISAKO

Hi, Nick.

He squats down between Gabriel and Hisako, his hands on his knees.

NICK

You done with your homework?

GABRIEL

Almost. I thought I'd stop by for a moment to take a break before my next class. How about you, Hisako?

HISAKO

Finished mine about an hour ago.

NICK

That's great. That means you can come and watch me sing at Max's tonight.

Gabriel and Hisako stare at him flatly.

NICK

(sheepish)

After I finish my own homework...yeah...

Nick leans back and sits down.

NICK

I wonder if Molly can come too.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

MOLLY (20) starts crossing the crosswalk in the parking lot. A tacky red car rolls in front of her and stops. The driver window lowers to reveal its grinning driver, KEVIN (20).

KEVIN

(flirty)

Heya, Moll.

Molly sighs.

MOLLY

(disinterested)

Hi, Kevin.

Kevin rests his arm on the rim of the window.



KEVIN  
So, what do you think?

Molly's eyes track back and forth along the length of the car.

KEVIN  
(smug)  
I know. I know. You want to know  
what it is, right? Oh, just your  
run of the mill...Archimedes Model  
T.

Molly shakes her head.

MOLLY  
Those things are so cheap. A  
kindergartner could override their  
security.

KEVIN  
Well, that can be easily remedied--

MOLLY  
To say nothing of their  
questionable EPA equivalent ratings  
and recent talks of converting the  
Amazon rainforest into a tree house  
city. Never mind what that'd do to  
the environment; is it even  
possible?

Kevin raises an eyebrow.

KEVIN  
(stupefied)  
You...know a lot about forests,  
don't you?

MOLLY  
I'm in environmental science. It  
comes with the territory.

Molly walks around the car and leaves Kevin to slump back in his seat. She pulls out her phone and sees a message from Nick.

NICK (TEXT)  
*Hey, sis. Still coming to open mic  
night?*

MOLLY (TEXT)  
*Of course. Are Gabe and Hisako  
coming too?*

NICK (TEXT)  
*Thought you'd never ask.*

INT. MAX'S - NIGHT

Amidst the lively crowd, Gabriel, Hisako, and Molly sit together at a round table. Nick stands on stage, singing while the house band plays behind him. When he finishes, the crowd cheers.

NICK  
Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.  
You've been a wonderful audience.

Nick skips off the stage to join Gabriel, Hisako, and Molly just in time for a small team of waiters to bring a humongous pizza almost as wide as the table itself.

M.C. (V.O)  
Hey, everybody. That was Nick  
Digger with "Cranberry Lemonade".  
Let's give him a big hand.

NICK  
(excited)  
Oh, yeah!

He tears himself a generous slice and crams as much as he can into his mouth. Molly pulls herself a smaller slice, folds it into a cube, and eats it all at once.

M.C. (V.O)  
And next, we've got the Wildberries  
performing their new single: "Wake  
Me With the Dead".

Gabriel gawks at Molly while Hisako simply eats her own slice as normal.

GABRIEL  
(stupefied)  
I don't think I'll ever get used to  
that.

HISAKO  
(nonchalant)  
Eh, her funeral, I guess.

Molly pulls off another slice, this time eating it normally. Nick tears off another slice, ignoring the pizza sauce on his face, but then, he sees somebody shambling from the restrooms.

NICK

Hey, guys, look over there.

Gabriel, Hisako, and Molly follow Nick's finger and see the shambling stranger.

NICK

I look kind of like him, don't I?

GABRIEL

With all that sauce on your face, I guess so.

Hisako nods.

HISAKO

Yeah. You might want to clean up a bit.

NICK

What? Now? I'm only gonna get messy again.

Molly narrows her eyes as she focuses more on the stranger, and then widens them as she watches him grab a passing waitress, causing her to drop her drinks.

WAITRESS

Hey! Stop! Let me go!

Molly turns back to her friends.

MOLLY

(concerned)

Guys, I think we should get out of here.

NICK

(with his mouth full)

Hmm? Why?

The stranger bites the now-screaming waitress, and chaos ensues. One staff member taps a hidden silent alarm button beneath the cash register.

MOLLY

(alarmed)

That's why!

Gabriel, Hisako, Nick, and Molly get up from their table and head for the exit, leaving the pizza behind. Nick steps back for a moment and hands a nearby waiter some money.

NICK  
Keep the change.

WAITER  
Thanks, sir.

The waitress falls to the floor, and the stranger begins eating her.

EXT. MAX'S - NIGHT

The four friends exit as customers scramble.

MOLLY  
Let's get out of here.

A squad of police officers arrive in their cars, lights flashing. They exit their cars and pass by the fleeing people.

INT. MAX'S - NIGHT

The officers bust into the restaurant, weapons drawn.

OFFICER 1  
Campus police!

No answer, only the messy squelching of the stranger eating the now dead waitress.

OFFICER 1  
Come out with your hands above your  
head now!

Still no answer.

The officers move in closer, ignoring the uneaten food on the tables.

OFFICER 1  
Hands above your head!

As the officers approach the restrooms, the stranger--a zombie--stops eating, stands up, lets out a ghastly moan, and shambles toward them.

OFFICER 1

Freeze!

The zombie doesn't comply.

OFFICER 1

I said freeze!

Still no compliance. The officer fires two shots into the zombie's torso, seemingly to no effect.

The zombie lurches toward the officer, grabs him, and bites him in the neck. By the time they finally shoot the zombie in the head, killing it, their comrade is almost dead.

Another officer steps in, grabbing a fistful of napkins and applying pressure to the downed officer's wound.

OFFICER 2

Let's get him to the hospital,  
immediately.

OFFICER 3

Yes, ma'am.

They carry the officer out of the restaurant, unaware that the dead waitress has turned into another zombie and is rising from the floor.

EXT. DORMITORY - NIGHT

Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick approach their dormitory to see some people trying to flee. Many are pulled back in by decayed arms or slip and fall to their deaths.

Behind the escapees, more zombies shamble out the building in pursuit. Hisako makes out one of these zombies as...

HISAKO

Penelope?

She steps closer to the approaching zombie but recoils as she sees it locks on to her and shamble toward her. Thus, she about-faces and guides Nick and Gabriel away.

Gabriel takes pictures of this macabre scene while Nick frantically texts for...

NICK (TEXT)

*Help! Zombies!*

MOLLY (TEXT)

*Head for the East Loop bus stop. If I'm not there in ten minutes, leave without me.*

NICK (TEXT)

*Make it five.*

Gabriel and Hisako see these messages in their own branches of the shared group chat.

HISAKO

You heard her, boys. Let's go.

GABRIEL

(mouthing)

Zombies?

EXT. CAMPUS - VARIOUS - NIGHT

All throughout campus, Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick watch as zombies attack and eat students and faculty alike who--for one reason or another--refuse or are unable to flee.

Elsewhere, Molly carries a heavy backpack full of assorted wilderness survival supplies as she too avoids the zombies throughout campus. One of these zombies--formerly Kevin--attacks her from around a corner.

EXT. EAST LOOP BUS STOP - NIGHT

A bus pulls into the stop and opens its doors. Immediately, the panicked people gathered there try to cram themselves in through the doors.

BUS DRIVER

All right. Calm down, everyone.  
Single file. There's plenty of...

However, upon seeing the approaching zombies, the bus driver closes the door and drives away, taking only a few passengers with him. The rest of the people scatter, but many of them are overwhelmed by the zombies.

Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick arrive soon after and watch the bus leave. Before the zombies can reach them, Molly swoops in and cuts the zombies down with a machete.

NICK

(relieved)

Perfect timing, sis.

She turns back to Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick...

MOLLY  
Here. Use these.

...and hands each of them a weapon: a baseball bat for Gabriel, a crowbar for Hisako, and an axe for Nick.

GABRIEL  
Where'd you get these?

MOLLY  
Army surplus store. Thought they'd  
come in handy someday.

NICK  
(amused)  
You always were a hoarder.

MOLLY  
(to Nick)  
I prefer the term...

A downed zombie tries to grab Molly's ankle, but she chops into its head, killing it.

MOLLY  
"Kleptovoyant". Now, come on. This  
way.

Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick follow Molly toward...

EXT. CAMPUS OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT

The panicked cries and ghastly moans of people and their zombie assailants echo through the air as Gabriel, Hisako, Nick, and Molly stop some distance away from campus under the light of a lamppost.

MOLLY  
Okay. I think we're safe for now.

Molly dismounts her backpack, crouches down, and unloads some of the supplies, including food, solar chargers, utility knives, medkits, water bottles, and more backpacks.

MOLLY  
I've packed enough supplies for all  
of us for a week of travel, but  
take care to ration them.

She looks at the others.

MOLLY  
Go on. Pick a bag and stock up.

GABRIEL  
Dibs on the blue one.

HISAKO  
I'll take the black one.

NICK  
Guess that leaves me with the red.

They all load up their backpacks and take up their weapons.

NICK  
Wait a minute. Where are we going,  
anyway?

MOLLY  
Away from here, of course.

HISAKO  
If I may, I suggest we head for  
Springfield.

NICK  
Springfield?

Gabriel checks his phone's map app...

HISAKO  
I was able to read a blurb about it  
shoring up defenses while I was  
looking through the news earlier  
today.

...and shows the results to Hisako, who nods.

GABRIEL  
That could take weeks.

HISAKO  
At the rate the zombies are  
spreading, anywhere else--

GABRIEL  
(still skeptical)  
Wait a minute. Zombies?

HISAKO  
Yes. Anyway, anywhere else will be  
swarming with them by the time we  
get there, so Springfield it is.



He pauses, then sighs.

GABRIEL  
Yeah, good point.

Nick shrugs.

NICK  
You know what? I think we could use  
the exercise.

Gabriel smiles.

GABRIEL  
You especially, right?

Nick chuckles and Molly nods...

MOLLY  
Then, it's settled.

...and hauls her backpack onto her back, her machete  
sheathed at her hip.

MOLLY  
Now, come on. We've got a long way  
to go and little time to get there.

The others follow suit...

MOLLY  
And watch your backs, or else,  
zombies might be chewing on them.

NICK  
Wish we had some pizza to go.

GABRIEL  
(chuckling)  
You already ate, like, a quarter of  
the one back at Max's.

NICK  
They make good pizza. Sue me.

...and they march down the street together.

REPORTER 1 (V.O.)  
(fading in)  
...within Somerset General  
Hospital, where a patient  
reportedly attacked doctors,  
nurses, and other patients by  
biting and scratching them.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Several terrified residents brace themselves against an assorted pile of furniture in front of the front door of their apartment. Ghastly moaning echoes from outside the door.

REPORTER 2 (V.O)  
Unconfirmed reports of these  
attackers appearing in apartment  
buildings, schools, gymnasiums, and  
other buildings have come in.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

United States President ROLAND BENEDICT (70) stands behind the podium, camera lights flashing intermittently as he speaks.

ROLAND  
I can understand the fear that you  
all must be feeling right now, but  
know that you're all Americans, and  
you have nothing to fear.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A disarmed security guard fumbles his keys as he stands by the door. Ghastly moans intensify as shadows on the floor close in on him.

REPORTER 3 (V.O)  
Emergency responders are working to  
contain these attackers, but early  
reports say that the situation is  
out of control.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

ROLAND  
Whoever these people are, they will  
be quickly and efficiently brought  
to justice.

EXT. TOWN PARK - DAY

A girl scout troop flees an unseen band of assailants, ghastly moans intensifying from all sides.

REPORTER 4 (V.O)  
Local authorities have advised all citizens to stay inside, lock their doors, and only leave when absolutely necessary.

One of the girl scouts slips and falls...

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

ROLAND  
Remember. Don't trust the fake news or the liberal elite. They're all just trying to scare you.

EXT. TOWN PARK - DAY

...looks back to an advancing squad of zombies...

ROLAND (V.O)  
I assure you, this is nothing to worry about.

and screams in terror.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

More zombies march towards a small encampment of people from all sides. The people open fire on them with assorted guns with mixed results.

ROLAND (V.O)  
I will admit, though, I've been getting reports of people getting attacked and eaten by other people. Lots of these reports, really.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Again, Roland stands behind the podium, camera lights flashing intermittently as he speaks.

ROLAND

Based on what my constituents at the border have told me, I can only conclude that these are members of Mexican drug cartels hell-bent on destroying us.

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - DAY

A preacher hides behind a statue of Roland and tries in vain to banish the swarming zombies, which are feasting on the audience.

ROLAND (V.O)

But don't be afraid. One day, this'll all go away, just like that. Just like, poof. Gone. And nobody will even notice

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

ROLAND

The fake news are lying to you. The liberal elite are lying to you.

EXT. OFFICE PARKING LOT - EVENING

Zombies swarm the lot, blocking several cars from leaving their spaces. Several workers get overwhelmed before they can get into their cars.

ROLAND (V.O)

Whatever they say about this attack, it's all a fraud. A hoax. A sham. They're all just trying to profit off of your fear.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

ROLAND

Now, me, on the other hand? I will never stop fighting for you. I will never stop fighting this threat. I promise you, I will face this threat head on, and I will win.

Suddenly, a horde of zombies breaks into the conference room and attacks the audience. The security guards escort Roland out.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Zombies swarm the White House and the surrounding area, killing, eating, and/or turning all nearby people into more zombies. One turns to the camera and attacks it.

BLACK

EXT. SPRINGFIELD - CITY WALL - NIGHT

A presidential convoy drives along the open road, approaching a high metallic palisade encircling the city ahead. It stops in front of the heavily guarded gate, and the occupants of each vehicle exit to be scanned by the SOLDIERS.

SOLDIER 1  
(to each scanned rider)  
Clear.

With each vehicle's occupants scanned, the convoy trickles through the opened gate.

EXT. CITY STREET - VARIOUS - NIGHT

The convoy travels through the small city, passing by many points of interest, including an apartment building, a cafe, a movie theater, a hotel, and a park.

Eventually, it stops as it comes to a crowded crosswalk.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

From the back seat, Roland leans closer to the DRIVER (41) in his seat.

ROLAND  
Why did you stop?

The driver points to the pedestrians pacing to and fro in the crosswalk.

ROLAND  
Really? A bunch of jaywalkers?

DRIVER  
Sir, they're in the crosswalk.  
They're not--

ROLAND  
(interrupting)  
Don't tell me what they are and  
aren't doing. Tell me why we're not  
at City Hall yet.

DRIVER  
But the meeting's not until--

ROLAND  
Don't give me excuses!

The crosswalk is now clear of pedestrians...

DRIVER  
Oh, look. They're clear.

ROLAND  
Well, don't just sit there. Drive.

DRIVER  
Yes, sir.

EXT. CITY STREET - MUSEUM - NIGHT

...and resumes driving along the street.

ALISTAIR (72) watches the convoy pass by as he walks along the street outside the museum. As he approaches another crosswalk, he meets a BEGGAR sitting on a bench with a paper cup in his hand.

BEGGAR  
Excuse me, sir. Could you please  
spare some change?

Alistair looks at the beggar and strokes his beard.

EXT. PAN PAN - BACK DOOR - NIGHT

The two stand near a dumpster behind the cafe, Pan Pan. The back door opens, and Zania carries a big plastic bag full of assorted leftover bread over her shoulder.

She stops before she can reach the dumpster and tilts her head, staring at Alistair and the beggar.

ZANIA  
Can I help you?

ALISTAIR

No, but you can help him.

Alistair steps aside, letting the beggar have Zania's attention.

ZANIA

I know what you're trying to do,  
but sorry. This bread's all bad  
now.

Alistair stares at the bag.

ALISTAIR

Oh, but it all looks perfectly  
edible to me. Surely, you can spare  
him one or two breads. Not only  
would you be doing the right thing  
by helping him in his hour of need,  
but you'd also boost your PR and  
increase customer loyalty. Plus,  
it'll help you reduce waste,  
thereby saving you money.

Zania puts the bag on the ground, opens it, and shuffles through it with her gloved hand. True to Alistair's word, all of the bread--while no longer oven fresh--is still edible. Then, she closes the bag...

ZANIA

All right. Here you go.

...and gives it to the surprised beggar...

BEGGAR

Are you sure?

ZANIA

Yeah. It's yours.

BEGGAR

(grateful)

Oh, thank you, ma'am.

...who takes it and slings it over his shoulder.

ZANIA

You're welcome.

Zania heads back inside but stops short of closing the door to peak back outside.

ALISTAIR

So, what do you plan to do with all that bread?

BEGGAR

I don't need this much. That's for sure. Just a bagel or two will do. The rest of it? Anybody wants some, they can have some.

ALISTAIR

Let me help you with that.

Alistair sticks his hand into his pocket, pulls out his wallet, and gives the beggar five one-hundred-dollar bills. The beggar's mouth hangs open as he nearly drops the bread bag while holding the money in his free hand.

BEGGAR

(amazed)

Are...are you...no way...! How can I...?

ALISTAIR

How can you thank me? By keeping your word.

The beggar nods...

BEGGAR

Thank you. Thank you so much, sir.

...stuffs the money into his pocket, and walks away, hauling the bread.

ALISTAIR

You're welcome.

Alistair smiles as he watches him leave, and then takes his own leave, putting his wallet back in his pocket and gripping his Celtic cross necklace.

Zania rolls her eyes at Alistair and closes the door...

INT. PAN PAN - KITCHEN - NIGHT

...and bumps into a passing COWORKER (19), causing him to drop a bag of flour on the floor. They both scramble to try to clean up the mess.



ZANIA  
 (frantic)  
 Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.  
 I wasn't paying attention.  
 Let me clean that up. No,  
 it's my fault--

COWORKER  
 (frantic)  
 Ah, oh dear. That's all  
 right. Here, I'll clean  
 that up. No, I'll do it.  
 No, no, I insist--

The SUPERVISOR (31) walks in on this and looks at Zania with  
 slacked, narrow eyes.

SUPERVISOR  
 (disappointed)  
 That's the third time this month,  
 Zania.

Zania stands up and brushes flour off of her apron.

ZANIA  
 I'm sorry. I really am.

SUPERVISOR  
 Sorry doesn't clean up this mess.

ZANIA  
 You're right. It doesn't.

She reaches for a nearby broom and dustpan, but the  
 supervisor stops her.

SUPERVISOR  
 (to the coworker)  
 You can take it from here.

COWORKER  
 Yes, ma'am.

The coworker grabs the broom and dustpan and sweeps up the  
 spilled flour.

SUPERVISOR  
 I took you in because you were at a  
 low point in your life, and I've  
 been extremely forgiving until now,  
 but this is your last chance.

She steps closer to Zania...

SUPERVISOR  
 Am I clear?

...who glances at the coworker sweeping up the mess and  
 sighs.

ZANIA  
Transparently.

SUPERVISOR  
Good.

The supervisor steps back and walks away, leaving Zania to her business throughout the cafe.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Molly leads Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick through a forest, glimpsing the sky to see traces of the sun beginning to set. She stops to look around and listens for any sign of zombies but finds none.

MOLLY  
I think we can stop here.

Nick sits down on a nearby rock.

NICK  
(exhausted)  
Finally. I was beginning to lose  
feeling in my legs.

Hisako sits down on the ground beside the rock while Gabriel takes off his backpack and flops onto his back.

HISAKO  
(less exhausted)  
Yeah. I could use a break too.

GABRIEL  
That makes all of us.

Molly continues looking around, and then sets down her backpack.

MOLLY  
We'll need firewood and some rocks.  
It'll be dark soon.

GABRIEL  
What about setting up a tent?

MOLLY  
No time. We'll have to make due  
with the foliage here. Besides, we  
can only stay one night.

She clears a nearby plot of dirt with her boot.

MOLLY  
Who's got the shovel?

Hisako sits up, digs into her backpack, and pulls out a collapsible shovel.

HISAKO  
Here it is.

MOLLY  
Thanks.

Molly takes the shovel, unfolds it, and starts digging a fire pit.

#### MONTAGE - BUILDING A FIRE PIT

- Gabriel gathers sticks and leaves and dumps them in the pit.
- Hisako gathers assorted rocks and arranges them in a ring around the pit.
- Nick hacks wood off of a fallen tree to make logs, singing to himself meanwhile.
- Molly rubs two sticks together, eventually making a spark.
- The four of them applaud each other as they watch their newly lit campfire burn.

END OF MONTAGE

#### EXT. FOREST - EVENING

Gabriel and Hisako sit around the campfire. Nick stands watch nearby, axe in hand. Eventually, Molly arrives with a dead rabbit in her hand.

Nick frowns at the sight.

MOLLY  
Don't worry, Nick. It didn't suffer.

Nick nods but sighs, and Molly passes by and sits down. She puts a cutting board on her lap and starts butchering the rabbit. Gabriel takes a picture of her with his phone while Nick starts swinging the axe around for play.

Out the corner of her eye, Hisako sees Gabriel writing a post on LM on his phone. Looking closer, she sees that the post has the picture he just took of Molly.

HISAKO  
What's that you're posting,  
Gabriel?

Gabriel stops writing and looks up to Hisako.

GABRIEL  
Ah, well...nothing in particular.

Hisako's eyes narrow softly.

GABRIEL  
(resigned)  
Okay. You caught me. I'm leaving a  
record.

HISAKO  
A record?

GABRIEL  
Yeah. Of our journey from college  
to Springfield.

She tilts her head.

HISAKO  
Why?

Gabriel shrugs...

GABRIEL  
Well, with the zombies after  
us...it got me thinking. We almost  
died back at college, and nobody  
would even remember us.

...looks to his phone...

GABRIEL  
I guess this is my way of making  
sure people do remember us. In case  
we don't make it.

HISAKO  
And here, I thought you only went  
into history because you wanted an  
easy A.

GABRIEL

Initially, but now...you get the picture.

...and taps "Post". Soon, the site confirms that his post is successful.

HISAKO

(contemplative)

Now that you mention it, I hadn't thought of that. People remembering me, I mean. I always just figured I'd live my life however I could. I mean, we're all going to die someday.

GABRIEL

Well, until then, we might as well help others live their lives, right? Isn't that why you went into criminal justice?

Hisako cannot help but crack a smile..

HISAKO

I guess that's one way to put it.

Gabriel nods.

Suddenly, Nick screams in agony, clutching his foot. His axe is buried in the ground nearby. Gabriel and Hisako leap out of their seats...

GABRIEL/HISAKO

(alarmed)

Nick!

...race towards Nick, and crouch down beside him. Gabriel looks closer at Nick's foot...

GABRIEL

(worried)

Nick, are you oka...?

...which is completely fine. He and Hisako look up at the guffawing Nick.

NICK

(laughing)

You should've seen the looks on your faces!

Hisako glares at him and slaps across the face. Gabriel follows up with a stomp to Nick's fingers. Together, they tackle Nick to the ground and pin him there, but this soon turns into the three of them laughing and joking.

Molly, now roasting the butchered rabbit on a crude spit over the fire, watches the spectacle and chuckles to herself. But then, she turns to the sound of rustling bushes nearby.

She stands up, ready to draw her machete.

From out of the bushes steps a starving, fear-crazed GUNMAN, his shotgun shaking in his hands as he aims it straight at Molly.

GUNMAN  
Gimme the food!

Molly lets go of her machete, showing the gunman her open hands.

MOLLY  
(reassuring)  
Easy there. Easy.

GUNMAN  
Gimme the food.

He twitches the shotgun's muzzle back and forth.

GUNMAN  
Step away from the fire, now.

Molly steps away, but then, Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick sit up.

NICK  
Hey, Molly, what's wrong?

The gunman jerks his shotgun toward Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick.

GUNMAN  
(terrified)  
Get back! You're not turning me  
into one of those things!

NICK  
(alarmed)  
What? No, wait! Stop!

HISAKO  
We're not zombies!

GABRIEL  
Please, calm down!

GUNMAN  
(terrified)  
I said get back! I'll blow your  
brains out! You'll never get me  
alive! I won't be like you! I'll  
die first!

Molly steps between the gunman and her juniors, hands raised to either side.

MOLLY  
Everybody, stop! It's all right.  
There's nothing to be scared--

Just then, a ghastly moan echoes through the forest. The gunman screams and fires an errant shot into the dark, and then pumps his shotgun. He snaps his gaze back and forth around the forest, then fires another shot in the dark.

Hisako glances between the campfire, the paranoid gunman, and three zombies appearing from amidst the trees.

The screaming gunman fires another shot, missing his target. He pauses, then drops the shotgun and scrambles into the woods, but he only gets a short distance before one of the zombies catches him and bites him in the neck.

Molly scoops up the shotgun, pumps it, and blasts the zombie's head to smithereens, then does the same to the other two zombies. Turning to the now dying gunman, she blasts his head with the shotgun's final shot.

NICK  
(appalled)  
Molly!

...turns to the aghast Nick.

MOLLY  
Sorry, bro, but I had no choice.

NICK  
What do you mean? You could've helped him.

MOLLY

How? A zombie bit him in the neck.  
Even if he had survived, he'd have  
become one of them.

Hisako nods assent.

HISAKO

She's right, Nick. There was  
nothing we could've done.

Gabriel nods slowly and puts his hand on Nick's shoulder.

GABRIEL

I'm sorry.

Meanwhile, Molly loots the headless gunman's corpse, finding  
only spare shotgun ammo. She then approaches her juniors...

MOLLY

Come on. We've gotta get out of  
here.

...passes by them, and starts packing up.

HISAKO

You heard her. With all the noise  
we've made and the fire still  
burning, more zombies are liable to  
come.

GABRIEL

You're right. Good point.

Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick walk over to their backpacks as  
well.

NICK

Wait.

MOLLY

What?

NICK

Can't we take the rabbit meat?

Molly takes the rabbit meat away from the fire, examines it,  
and shakes her head.

MOLLY

It's burnt now.



NICK  
(disappointed)

Aww.

They all pack up and douse the fire, switching to the lights of their phones and flashlights. Once done, they resume their journey through the forest.

INT. CITY HALL - COUNCIL ROOM - MORNING

JACK (53), the mayor of Springfield, sits at the head of the council room, flanked to either side of himself by Roland and LEO (52). Seated amidst the other desks are Alistair and Zania, alongside numerous other citizens.

ROLAND  
As you're no doubt aware, foreign drug cartels have sent their members to attack and destroy America. We don't know why, but they've appeared in such huge numbers that the military can barely contain them. Meanwhile, the liberal elite are doing everything they can to hide the truth.

Zania lurches forward in her chair, her fists clenched.

JACK (V.O.)  
In light of this, upon consulting with President Benedict and Mr. Myers, we've devised a plan to turn these cartels against each other.

Leo stands up and points to the display screen behind him, which shows an army of zombies wearing US military uniforms.

LEO  
Imagine an army that never feels pain, fear, hunger, exhaustion, pity, or remorse, and can copy itself endlessly. This army would make America goddamn invincible, but how the fuck could such an army even exist, you ask?

The display screen switches to a diagram of a neural implant inside a zombie's brain.

LEO  
Enter the Archimedes NeuraLink Implant. Right now, they're used to  
(MORE)

LEO (cont'd)  
 treat otherwise inoperable injuries  
 or disabilities, but military  
 versions...

It switches to a crude crayon drawing of a horde of remote controlled stick figure zombies attacking nondescript stick figure enemies of the US.

LEO  
 (mimicking the zombies and  
 their victims)  
 Raaah! Uuuuh! Gragh! Guwoh! Eek!  
 Save me! Uraaaaagha!  
 (normal)  
 Yeah. You get the picture.

Zania raises her hand...

LEO  
 Yes?

...and lowers it.

ZANIA  
 How do we know that these implants  
 of yours will work on  
 these..."cartels"?

Leo smiles.

LEO  
 Well, it just so happens that Mayor  
 Dawson is proof that these implants  
 work.

The display screen switches to a diagram of Jack with a comparison of his life before and after he received his own neural implant.

LEO  
 He was born blind, but thanks to  
 his own implant, he can see.

JACK  
 It's true.

Leo nods assent.

LEO  
 That's not all he can do, either.  
 Watch this.

He snaps his fingers twice, and suddenly, Jack jumps up onto his desk, dances to "Puttin' On the Ritz", and sits back down just as quickly. Most of the others in the room gawk at him, but Leo simply smiles.

LEO  
So, let's put it to a vote, shall  
we? All those in favor--

Zania raises her hand again...

LEO  
Yes, Ms. Kadesh?

...and lowers it.

ZANIA  
I have reason to believe that these  
people have actually been infected  
with a virus. I move for a  
provision--

ROLAND  
Motion denied.

JACK  
Now, now, Mr. President. Let's hear  
her out.

ZANIA  
Thank you.  
(to the council)  
...that would allow me to research  
and develop a cure for this virus.

Leo pinches his chin, and then nods to Jack.

JACK  
Very well. All in favor of the  
cure, raise your hands.

Zania alone raises her hand, and then lowers it.

JACK  
Okay. Now, all in favor of the  
implants, raise your hands.

Leo, Roland, and most of the other citizens raise their  
hands...

ROLAND  
The implants, it is.

...and then lower them. Alistair simply watches Zania, stroking his beard.

JACK  
...Very well. Plan approved. Moving on...

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

An irate Zania paces to and fro along the hallway, her hands behind her back. She looks up and stops herself short of bumping into Alistair as he leaves the restroom.

ALISTAIR  
I thought I recognized you, Zania.

She crosses her arms.

ZANIA  
(sarcastic)  
Alistair Taggart. What a pleasant surprise.

Alistair steps clear of the restroom door, letting another person pass by.

ALISTAIR  
You chose wisely, giving that leftover bread to the beggar...  
(amused)  
...although I must admit, I didn't expect you give him all of it.

ZANIA  
Don't patronize me. I saw you paying him.

ALISTAIR  
He promised to help others in need, so I figured that I'd help him.

ZANIA  
Yeah, like you could've helped me get through to the mayor.

Zania uncrosses her arms.

ZANIA  
He knows the truth. They all know. They won't listen.

ALISTAIR

(resigned)

I'm just as frustrated as you are,  
but you and I are only two people  
amidst a city of thousands. That's  
just how things are.

Alistair pauses to stroke his beard.

ALISTAIR

That is, unless you'd be willing to  
let me fund your proposed cure.

Zania shakes her head.

ZANIA

(distrustful)

You know, if I was as privileged as  
you, I'd have solved this myself,  
day one.

Alistair leers at Zania and steps in close to her.

ALISTAIR

(seething)

Don't lecture me about privilege. I  
grew up at a time when a  
cheeseburger cost fifteen cents and  
my father still couldn't afford  
one.

ZANIA

Bullshit. The last billionaire I  
trusted told me a similar sob  
story, and right as I was about to  
break through, he stabbed me in the  
back.

Alistair's fists clench at his sides as he steps closer  
still to Zania.

ALISTAIR

(enraged)

I am not that billionaire!

LEO (V.O)

(amused)

But you still are one.

Alistair and Zania turn to see Leo approaching. Alistair  
steps back and breathes an exasperated sigh.

LEO

Yeah, I know all about that stunt you pulled at Pan Pan. Gotta say, consorting with the lower class? That's crazy talk if I ever heard it.

Another person exits the restroom and scoots behind the oblivious Leo.

LEO

No wonder you're only the second richest person in the world, behind yours truly, of course.

ALISTAIR

No amount of money will save you when death comes for you, Leo.

LEO

Maybe not, but it does make life more enjoyable.

Zania rolls her eyes at Leo.

LEO

I mean, don't get me wrong. We do have you to thank for funding this city's security, and helping your fellow person's nice and all, but you can't just sit in your dingy little apartment and trade stocks all day. You gotta live a little. Throw a country club party. Fly a private jet. Something.

Leo turns around but stops himself short.

LEO

Oh, by the way, I'm hosting a demonstration of the implant process tonight. You wanna come?

Alistair sighs.

ALISTAIR

(resigned)

Might as well.

LEO

Great.

Leo turns but stops himself again.

LEO  
 (serious)  
 Oh, and whatever you see there,  
 don't even think about leaking it,  
 or else.

He then fully turns around and starts walking away...

ALISTAIR  
 (knowing)  
 If you're saying what I think  
 you're saying, why haven't you done  
 so by now?

...but stops in his tracks to look over his shoulder...

LEO  
 Why? You're boring. That's why.  
 Like I said, live a little.

...and then resumes walking.

INT. ABANDONED GROCERY STORE - DAY

Gabriel, Hisako, Nick, and Molly amble through the abandoned grocery store, finding only empty shelves, sky high price tags, nascent overgrowth, and broken doors and walls.

NICK  
 (under his breath)  
 Figures this place would be empty.

MOLLY  
 Then why did you suggest we come  
 here?

NICK  
 I thought we'd find something  
 useful here, like, oh, you know,  
 food.

MOLLY  
 Well, if nothing else, we can still  
 find supplies of some sort. Come  
 on.

Hisako sits down on an empty bench and sighs. Walking away from an empty display, Gabriel sits beside her.

GABRIEL  
 Hey, Hisako.

No response.

GABRIEL  
Is something on your mind?

Still no response.

GABRIEL  
Come on. You can tell me.

Finally, Hisako lifts her head to face Gabriel.

HISAKO  
My mind? At this point, I don't  
even know if I have a mind left.  
I'm tired, hungry, and always on  
the lookout for zombies, to say  
nothing of other people who might  
think we're zombies.

She pulls out her phone, wakes it up, and shows a long list  
of unanswered texts.

HISAKO  
And on top of that, we haven't  
heard a word from our families. So,  
now, what? Is all we have left each  
other?

Gabriel nods assent as Hisako shuts off her phone and puts  
it in her pocket. Meanwhile, Gabriel uses his phone to take  
a picture of the empty store.

HISAKO  
Are you listening?

GABRIEL  
Yeah. I understand.

HISAKO  
Are you just saying that to make me  
feel better?

GABRIEL  
No, I really understand. I mean, I  
don't even know if anybody will  
read my posts, and even if they do,  
will they ever act on them?  
But...somebody's gotta try.

He shuts off his phone but stops short of putting it in his  
pocket, noticing Hisako adjusting her glasses.



GABRIEL  
What is it?

His eyes follow Hisako's gaze to the restrooms.

HISAKO  
Maybe we could check that out.

GABRIEL  
Good idea. I might have to pee soon  
anyway.

Hisako cannot help but crack a smile as she and Gabriel get up to head for the restrooms. Gabriel tries to open one of the doors but finds it to be locked.

HISAKO  
Stand back.

Hisako steps forward with her crowbar and tries to pry the door open but is too weak to do so.

GABRIEL  
Here. Let me help.

Gabriel steps in and grips the crowbar as well, but the two of them together still strain against the door.

GABRIEL  
(straining)  
What? Is this door welded shut?

INT. RESTROOM - DAY

Finally, the door pops and locks open.

HISAKO  
(panting)  
Take that as a no.

Gabriel turns on his phone's flashlight and shines it throughout the ruins of the restroom. Unknown to him or Hisako, they pass through and snap a thin wire.

Suddenly, a hook drops from the ceiling and the door slams shut behind them.

HISAKO  
Okay. That's new.

Hisako pulls on the door but fails to open it. Then, she pulls out her crowbar and tries to force it back open but again is too weak.

Meanwhile, Gabriel wanders to a partly opened toilet stall, pushes the door open, sees a corpse sitting on the toilet, and jumps back with a scream.

INT. ABANDONED GROCERY STORE - DAY

Molly turns to Gabriel's barely intelligible voice.

GABRIEL (V.O.)  
(panicked, muffled)  
Zombie!

...and rushes to the restrooms. She busts through the door to the restroom to find...

INT. RESTROOM - DAY

...Hisako pushing Gabriel off of her.

MOLLY  
What happened?

Gabriel points to the opened stall, which Molly approaches with her machete drawn. She opens the door but halts upon seeing the corpse sitting still.

MOLLY  
Don't worry. It's just a dead body.

HISAKO  
Told you so.

GABRIEL  
(relieved)  
Phew.

Molly takes another look at the corpse...

MOLLY  
Wait a minute...

...tilts its head up, and recoils upon recognizing its face.

MOLLY  
(under her breath)  
Buzz...

HISAKO  
What was that?

MOLLY  
I know him.

EXT. ABANDONED GROCERY STORE - DAY

The group of four walks out of the store together.

NICK  
You see, Buzz taught her wilderness survival back when she was in high school. He offered to teach me too, but...well...

MOLLY  
He couldn't stand the mosquitoes.

NICK  
Come on, Molly. You know better than anybody how they carry germs and stuff. And hey, big fat guy like me?

Nick pokes his own arm with his finger, mimicking a mosquito. Molly, Gabriel, and Hisako all chuckle.

HISAKO  
I assume he trained you with firearms too?

MOLLY  
Yep.

GABRIEL  
So, what was he doing in the restroom there?

Molly looks down.

MOLLY  
I don't know. Nobody ever really knew what was going on in his head.

HISAKO  
I'm guessing that he used the store as a base of some sort, but the restroom door locked behind him and he couldn't get out, so he starved to death.

MOLLY  
(somber)  
Maybe...

They all pause.

HISAKO

That might also explain why there  
was no food in the store. One less  
mouth to feed, I guess.

GABRIEL

(appalled)

Hisako!

HISAKO

What?

GABRIEL

Read the room!

Nick and Molly leer at Hisako.

MOLLY

The shovel, please.

Hisako fishes into her backpack, pulls out the collapsible  
shovel, and hands it to Molly, who snatches it away and  
heads back inside the store.

MOLLY

Nick, come with me.

Nick complies.

EXT. ABANDONED GROCERY STORE - EVENING

Soon, Nick and Molly return to Gabriel and Hisako's  
position. Hisako reaches for the shovel, but Molly pulls it  
back.

MOLLY

Come on. Let's go.

EXT. EMPTY TOWN ROAD - EVENING

The students walk along the road, watching for danger.  
Hisako sees Nick lagging behind and stops to grab his wrist  
and pull him along.

EXT. ABANDONED APARTMENT COMPLEX - EVENING

In front of the derelict complex lined with shattered windows, the students pass through the open, dilapidated gateway to...

INT. ABANDONED APARTMENT COMPLEX - COURTYARD - EVENING

Gabriel, Nick, and Hisako sit around a fire pit crammed with crumpled paper, twigs, and leftover boards. Nick is trying to light a fire by rubbing two sticks together.

HISAKO  
Hey, Nick?

Nick stops.

HISAKO  
I just wanted to say I'm sorry if I  
offended you and Molly.

NICK  
As a matter of fact, you did.  
You're way too casual about death.  
You know that?

GABRIEL  
Come on, Nick. She didn't mean to.

NICK  
I know, but it still hurt.

Hisako rummages through her backpack, pulls out a pocket lighter, and hands it to Nick.

HISAKO  
Here. Use this.

NICK  
(surprised)  
Where'd you get that?

HISAKO  
Molly must've put it in my  
backpack.

Nick accepts the lighter.

NICK  
You know what? I'll call us even.  
Just watch your mouth next time,  
okay?

Hisako nods, then sees Molly approaching the entrance.

MOLLY

Hey, guys.

Molly walks in with her bloodied machete in one hand and a basket with several large bags of chips, protein bars, snack cakes, and other snacks in the other. She tosses the basket to Gabriel, Nick, and Hisako.

MOLLY

Before you ask, convenience store.  
Who's hungry?

The other students frown for a moment, but Nick's stomach gurgles soon after.

NICK

Oops.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD - CITY WALL - EVENING

A squad of soldiers stands guard outside the city. One of them spots a trio of zombies shambling towards them.

SOLDIER 6

Bogeys inbound. Three of them.

The lookout raises his gun, but the squad leader signals to hold fire.

SOLDIER 1

Leo needs one alive. Kill the others.

SOLDIER 6

Yes, sir.

SOLDIER 5

Wait. Which one are we to capture?

The soldiers scan the zombies again...

SOLDIER 1

The closest one.

SOLDIER 5

Understood, sir.

...and open fire on two of the zombies. Unfortunately, their body shots do little to impede them. Finally, one of the zombies falls due to a headshot.

As the soldiers take down the third zombie, the second tries to bite one of the soldiers but fails to breach her armor. Nonetheless, the soldiers struggle to kill it until a lucky headshot finally lands.

The soldiers then return their attention to the third zombie as it bites into one soldier's boot. Ultimately, they subdue it and prepare it for shipping.

SOLDIER 1

Now, be careful. We don't want any undue panic in the city.

SOLDIER 5/SOLDIER 6

Yes, sir.

EXT. ARCHIMEDES HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Leo stands in front of a sizable crowd of VIPs, including Zania, whose bike is chained to a nearby bike rack. Leo taps his foot with a flat grimace and crossed arms.

Finally, behind this crowd, Roland steps out of his limousine and hobbles toward Leo, waving at the crowd to clear the way for him. Eventually, he reaches the front door of headquarters, staggers backwards a step, and then nearly fumbles on top of Leo...

LEO

Whoa, whoa, easy there, Easy.

...who pushes him back.

ROLAND

Get off me, Leo. I don't need your help.

A bus arrives soon after, and Alistair steps out and takes his place in the crowd.

LEO

Well, look who decided to show up.

ALISTAIR

(sarcastic)

Good to see you as well, Leo.

Leo about-faces and steps toward the door, which opens automatically.

LEO  
Now, then, right this way,  
everybody. And don't forget to pick  
your jaws up from the floor.

Roland and the crowd follow him inside, through which, they  
pass...

INT. ARCHIMEDES HEADQUARTERS - LOBBY - NIGHT

A snack bar, a fireplace, a reception desk, and an abstract  
statue are among the many features of this room.

INT. LAUNCH BAY - NIGHT

A sleek private jet plane vaguely resembling an Archimedes  
car is docked herein.

INT. TESTING BAY - NIGHT

Eventually, Leo leads his guests through the cluttered  
testing bay until they stop beside a bench with a zombie  
strapped down to it, face down. A robot arm lowers a neural  
implant to the back of its head.

LEO  
Ladies and gentlemen, you're about  
to see the first of a new  
generation of super soldier.

Several of Leo's EMPLOYEES watch nearby as the arm  
surgically inserts the implant into the zombie's head. One  
of these employees holds a remote control for the implant.

Zania steps forward.

ZANIA  
Excuse me, Mr. Myers?

LEO  
Yeah?

ZANIA  
If I may, I'd like to take a tissue  
sample for analysis.

ROLAND  
No way. As president, I--



LEO  
(interrupting)  
Grant you permission, but remember.

ZANIA  
No leaks. I know.

Leo steps aside.

ZANIA  
And don't worry. I got my own  
supplies for this.

As Zania approaches the zombie, she pulls out a Petri dish,  
a scalpel, and a pair of tweezers from her other pocket.

Suddenly, the zombie breaks free of the bench and fumbles  
toward the nearest employee...

EMPLOYEE 1  
Look out! It's loose!

...who futilely tries to stop it with the remote control.

EMPLOYEE 2  
Don't kill it!

EMPLOYEE 3  
Hold it down!

The other employees grab assorted tools, including cattle  
prods, tasers, rope, and grabber claws, none of which prove  
effective at restraining the zombie.

Zania steps back and trips over a stray power cord, and the  
zombie homes in on her and bites her arm.

EMPLOYEE 2  
Kill it!

The employees pull the zombie off of Zania and beat it down.  
Eventually, one employee drops a heavy case on the zombie's  
head, crushing it.

Leo turns back to his audience and shrugs.

LEO  
(sheepish)  
Well, setbacks happen.

ROLAND  
Yeah, that's true.

Two soldiers step forward and help Zania up, checking on her arm.

SOLDIER 3  
Are you all right?

ZANIA  
Yeah. I've had worse.

SOLDIER 3  
You'll need to go see a doctor.

Zania shakes her head, shuffles away from the soldiers...

ZANIA  
Later. I need that sample first.

...picks up her Petri dish and tweezers, and pinches off a strip of mushed zombie flesh from the floor. She puts this piece of flesh in the Petri dish, seals it, and puts it in her pocket.

Leo, meanwhile, approaches the employees, some of whom have been bitten and scratched.

LEO  
What the hell was that?

EMPLOYEE 1  
Sir, with all due respect--

LEO  
Did you make sure that the remote was charged?

Zania walks away, clutching her arm and hiding herself away from the others as she leaves.

EMPLOYEE 1 (V.O.)  
Yes, sir. See? Right here.

LEO (V.O.)  
And was the implant securely in the zo--I mean, agent's brain?

EMPLOYEE 2 (V.O.)  
As securely as we could get it in there.

Leo's berating continues in the background while Alistair watches Zania exit the building. Checking a nearby clock, he too leaves.

Leo takes only passing notice of their exits as he finishes berating his employees and turns to his remaining guests.

LEO  
So...who's up for ribs?

EXT. ARCHIMEDES HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Zania dismounts her bike from the bike rack and gets on...

ALISTAIR  
Wait, Zania.

...but then stops, turning to see Alistair give her a phone.

ALISTAIR  
Here. Take this.

ZANIA  
Why?

ALISTAIR  
Just in case that bite gets worse.

Zania looks between Alistair and the Archimedes building. Finally, she takes the phone...

ZANIA  
(hesitant)  
All right. Thank you.

...and puts it in her pocket.

ZANIA  
Wait. What's the passcode?

ALISTAIR  
Four, seven, eight, nine, six,  
seven.

ZANIA  
Got it.

ALISTAIR  
Oh, one more thing.

Alistair pauses.

ALISTAIR  
I'm sorry about earlier today.  
Sorry for snapping at you and...and  
trying to force you to accept my  
aid.

Zania takes a deep breath...

ZANIA  
Yeah, never mind that.

...and pedals away. Alistair watches her leave before heading to the bus stop.

INT. ABANDONED APARTMENT COMPLEX - COURTYARD - NIGHT

A campfire burns in the fire pit. Nick sits in front of the fire, trying to roast a sealed bag of chips between two sticks. Gabriel and Hisako sit across from him. Molly patrols the area.

GABRIEL  
(trying not to laugh)  
Nick, you don't have to do that.

NICK  
I still want to. Besides, you never know what'll happen until--

The bag pops, spilling some of its contents into the fire. Gabriel and Hisako burst out laughing at the sight while Nick simply shrugs.

Catching his breath, Gabriel tries in vain to activate his phone even as he plugs it in to his charger.

GABRIEL  
(under his breath)  
Great.

HISAKO  
What?

He unplugs it and shows it to Hisako...

GABRIEL  
Battery's dead, and my charger's empty.

...who digs in to her backpack, pulls out her charger, and hands it to Gabriel.

HISAKO  
Here. My charger.

GABRIEL  
Thanks.

HISAKO  
You're welcome.

Gabriel plugs his phone into Hisako's charger and sets it aside, letting it charge. Then, he stares into the fire.

HISAKO  
Gabriel?

...snaps back to Hisako, who takes a deep breath and clasps her hands atop her lap.

HISAKO  
I just wanted to thank you for  
letting me vent earlier today.

Gabriel shrugs.

GABRIEL  
Oh, well, everybody's gotta blow  
off steam from time to time, right?  
And you looked like you were about  
to explode.

Hisako nods.

HISAKO  
(amused)  
I might've if not for you.

Nick watches the two of them smile at each other as he affixes a marshmallow on one of his sticks.

NICK  
So, when's the honeymoon?

Gabriel and Hisako cringe and scoot away from each other.

GABRIEL  
Wha--? Are you serious?  
That's not--

HISAKO  
Huh? What do you--no, no  
way.

Nick chuckles...

NICK  
Yeah, yeah. Whatever.

...and starts roasting his marshmallow over the fire. Molly arrives with a handheld flamethrower and sits between Nick and Hisako. The other students gawk at the flamethrower.

GABRIEL  
(awkward)  
Uh, what's with the flamethrower?

MOLLY  
Like I said, kleptovoyant.

Nick grabs the flamethrower...

NICK  
Maybe, I could use it to start the  
next campfire.

HISAKO  
You'd need fuel.

...and shakes it, hearing fuel slosh inside its tank.

NICK  
Sounds pretty full to me.

GABRIEL  
Hey, within the conversation...

Gabriel points to Nick's burning marshmallow, which Nick widens his eyes to, slaps onto the ground, and stomps out. He cannot help but shrug and smile as the others laugh.

INT. HOT ROCKETS BBQ - DINING AREA - NIGHT

Leo and Roland sit at the head of a table in the upscale casual steakhouse. Several of their guests cringe as Roland rambles on about an unnerving anecdote. Others simply eat their orders, taking only passing notice.

ROLAND  
And then, I said, "I'm  
automatically attracted to  
beautiful... I just start kissing  
them. It's like a magnet. Just  
kiss. I don't even wait. And when  
you're a star, they let you do it.  
You can do anything."

Roland laughs at his own story. Leo rolls his eyes at him.

ROLAND  
I know, right? Then, I was like,  
"Grab 'em by the pussy, you can do  
anything."

Leo jumps out of his chair.

LEO  
 (interrupting, singing)  
 Ten million bottles of beer on the  
 wall!  
 Ten million bottles of beer!  
 (to the guests)  
 Everybody!

The guests hesitantly sing along with Leo.

LEO/PARTY GUESTS  
 (singing)  
 Take one down!  
 Pass it around!  
 Nine million, nine hundred  
 ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred,  
 ninety-nine bottles of beer on the  
 wall!

Roland glares at Leo...

LEO  
 (singing)  
 Nine million, nine hundred  
 ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred,  
 ninety-nine bottles of--!

...pinches his ear, and drags him away from the table...

LEO  
 (in pain)  
 Ah! Ah! Ow! Hey! Not the ear! Not  
 the ear!

ROLAND  
 (to the guests)  
 We'll be right back after these  
 messages!

LEO  
 (to the guests, trying to  
 maintain bravado)  
 And a potty break!

...toward...

INT. MEN'S RESTROOM - NIGHT

Leo and Roland enter the restroom together, and Roland lets go of Leo's ear. Then, he grabs him by the collar with both hands and shoves him against a wall.

ROLAND  
Leo, what the hell are you doing to  
my party?

LEO  
(laughing)  
Your party?

ROLAND  
Yeah, my party.

LEO  
I'm the one throwing it, Einstein.

ROLAND  
Well, they're all here to see me,  
not you.

LEO  
(sarcastic)  
Oh, sure they are, Double Jerk.

ROLAND  
Double Jerk? I'm the president of  
the United States. Of course  
they're here to see me.

Roland pumps his hands into Leo's collar.

ROLAND  
And for the record, that puts me  
above you.

LEO  
(unfazed)  
Oh, does it?

ROLAND  
If it wasn't for me, you'd still be  
making toy cars.

LEO  
Oh, yeah? Well, if it wasn't for  
me, you'd be in prison, or worse--

Roland yanks Leo in close and glares at him.

ROLAND  
(enraged)  
I could put you in prison for  
saying that about me!



LEO

Then what are you waiting for,  
Roland?

Leo grins at Roland before the latter finally lets go.

LEO

Yeah, that's what I thought. Now,  
where were we? Oh, yeah.

Leo walks over to the nearest urinal, dusts himself off, and relieves himself. Roland sticks his middle finger up at Leo before he leaves the restroom.

INT. ABANDONED APARTMENT COMPLEX - COURTYARD - MORNING

Gabriel, Nick, and Hisako are asleep together under a makeshift awning. Molly, already awake, pinches her chin and lets her eyes rove between her companions, eking a smile.

Then, a chorus of ghastly moans reaches Molly's ear. She heads to the gateway, where she sees a crowd of zombies closing in.

She rushes back to her juniors and jostles them awake.

MOLLY

Guys, wake up! Zombies!

Gabriel, Nick, and Hisako scramble to their feet, snatch up their weapons and backpacks, and rally around Molly.

HISAKO

How many?

More zombies pour in from elsewhere in the courtyard.

GABRIEL

That many.

Nick chokes up on his axe...

NICK

(panicky)

Guys, if we don't make it--

...but then, his eye falls on the flamethrower.

NICK

Wait. I've got an idea.

He scoops it up, takes aim at the zombies at the gateway...

MOLLY  
 (alarmed)  
 Nick, stop! The zombies will just  
 keep--!

...and torches them. Unfortunately, the fire spreads across the apartment complex and consumes not only more zombies but also the building.

MOLLY  
 (horrificed)  
 ...coming...!

Molly, Gabriel, Nick, and Hisako fight their way through the zombies spilling in from the other end of the courtyard, also struggling to escape the fire.

NICK  
 (panicky)  
 I'm really sorry, guys!

GABRIEL  
 About the fire or the zombies?

NICK  
 Yes!

GABRIEL  
 Well, if we don't survive this,  
 apology not accepted!

As Hisako clobbers a zombie, she sees an opening in the side wall where it just entered. She signals this opening's position to her companions...

HISAKO  
 This way! Hurry!

...and stands guard, letting Nick and Gabriel through. Molly arrives soon after, cutting down a burning zombie along the way.

MOLLY  
 Go on ahead! I'll catch up!

Hisako complies, but Molly stops to see the flamethrower. With the last of its fuel, she fires a burst of flame to seal off the opening behind her, leaving the apartment complex to burn to ashes with the zombies still in it.

INT. CITY HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - MORNING

Alistair is sitting in front of Jack's desk while Jack sits behind it, a stack of papers piled beside him. A scented candle burns on the opposite end of the desk.

ALISTAIR

I understand that there are benefits to Leo's plan, but the risks are too high. You saw what happened.

JACK

Nothing good ever comes without risk. I mean, the Wright brothers risked their lives to give us powered flight, for one. Then, there's Oppenheimer with the atomic bomb, Edison with the light bulb...you get the picture.

ALISTAIR

Yes, but some risks aren't worth taking. For all we know, the zombies--

JACK

Don't use that word.

ALISTAIR

Why not? That's what they are, isn't it?

Jack stands up, pushes his chair back, and turns to look out the window, watching the people pass by in the streets outside.

JACK

Alistair, look around you. These people's morale is hanging on by a thread, and protection alone isn't enough. They can't wait for Ms. Kadesh's cure--assuming one is even possible--and they sure as hell won't want to leave the city with all those...things out there. I mean, where will they even go?

He turns back to Alistair.

JACK

They need something to give them hope.

ALISTAIR

Does that something have to be a lie?

JACK

Not a lie, a chance. For all of us to turn our fortunes around, to use our enemies' greatest strengths against them and get our lives back to normal.

Alistair clamps his hand on his necklace.

ALISTAIR

And when that "chance" proves to be futile, what then? What becomes of the people when they find that you denied them salvation?

Jack glances between Alistair and the stack of papers.

JACK

They'll judge me accordingly, I guess.

Alistair lowers his hand, unwittingly breaking his necklace loose...

ALISTAIR

I'll relay your decision to the city security.

...and dropping it on the floor as he stands up and trudges out of the office. Jack sees the necklace fall but stops himself short of calling to Alistair.

INT. PAN PAN - DINING AREA - DAY

A grizzled GENERAL (61) stands in line at the cafe alongside one of his soldiers, who has just stowed away her radio.

GENERAL

Has anyone responded?

SOLDIER 4

I'm afraid not. Have you heard from Mr. Taggart?

The general pulls out his phone and sees Alistair's text message.

GENERAL  
He said that his request was  
denied.

The soldier breathes a resigned sigh.

SOLDIER 4  
Looks like we'll have to make due  
with no escape convoy after all.

Another soldier approaches the general with his phone in  
hand.

SOLDIER 2  
Sir?

The general turns to him.

GENERAL  
Yes?

SOLDIER 2  
I've got something to show you.

The soldier shows him a post on Gabriel's LM account.

EXT. EMPTY TOWN ROAD - DAY

Gabriel, Hisako, Nick, and Molly trudge through the empty  
road. Soon, Hisako spots an abandoned laboratory.

HISAKO  
Hey, guys. Over there.

She points to the laboratory, urging the others to look at  
it.

GABRIEL  
What do you think we'll find in  
there?

HISAKO  
Food, medicine, weapons, and most  
importantly, shelter.

Nick turns to Molly.

NICK  
...Well, it's worth a shot.

MOLLY

I don't think so. After all the  
close calls we've had, I say we  
keep going on. Springfield  
shouldn't be much further--

NICK

Look, sis. I don't know about  
you...  
(growing louder)  
..but I, for one, am sick! And  
tired!  
(yelling)  
Of zombies!

He catches his breath and slackens.

HISAKO

I'm with Nick. I could use a break.

Molly looks around...

MOLLY

We'll take a short one.

...and starts for the laboratory. Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick  
follow.

EXT. ABANDONED LABORATORY - DAY

They approach the entrance, and Molly tries to open the  
door, finding it to be locked.

MOLLY

(under her breath)  
Of course.

She steps back.

MOLLY

Could one of you reach my  
lockpicking kit?

Nick steps forward, axe in hand...

NICK

Let me try mine.

...and hacks at the door until it shatters.

INT. ABANDONED LABORATORY - LOBBY - DAY

They all step through the shattered door and look around the ruined interior.

GABRIEL  
(joking)  
Putting all that pizza to use, huh?

NICK  
(playing along)  
That and a lot of pent-up stress.

Hisako smiles at the two as she and the others gather around in the lobby.

MOLLY  
Okay. Let's split up and look  
around for anything we can salvage.

Molly points toward one end of the hallway...

MOLLY  
Gabe, Hisako, you go that way.

...and then the other.

MOLLY  
Nick and I will go this way. We'll  
meet back here in thirty minutes.

GABRIEL	HISAKO
Got it.	Okay.

The pairs split up and head toward opposite ends of the...

INT. HALLWAY - EAST WING - DAY

Molly dismounts her shotgun from her back and readies it.  
Nick glances at his axe, lets his face light up...

NICK  
(under his breath)  
Hey...

...flips it around, and pretends to strum it as if a guitar.

NICK  
(laughing)  
Hey, Molly, look.

Molly looks at Nick and cannot help but crack a smile.

MOLLY  
Careful not to cut yourself.

She then turns to a supply closet with a serious look...

MOLLY  
Cover me.

...reaches for the door, and opens it, aiming her shotgun into the closet as the door opens. All that's inside is some sparse materials.

NICK  
Think we can use any of that?

The only usable items Molly can find in the closet are a used box of shotgun shells and an old PLB, the former she stuffs into her backpack and the latter she picks up and shows to Nick.

NICK  
What's that?

MOLLY  
A personal locator beacon, or PLB  
for short.

She dusts it off.

MOLLY  
Looks like it's active. Whoever  
used it must've been here  
recently...

Her eyes widen as she steps outside and puts the PLB in her pocket.

MOLLY  
Nick, I don't think we'll have much  
more time to rest here.

NICK  
(groaning)  
Not again...

INT. HALLWAY - WEST WING - DAY

Gabriel and Hisako walk together. Gabriel is recording the hallway on his phone while Hisako looks around.



HISAKO

Uh, Gabe?

Gabriel turns to Hisako, his phone filming her.

GABRIEL

Finally comfortable saying that,  
huh?

HISAKO

Why wouldn't I be?

Gabriel stops recording, shuts his phone off, and puts it in his pocket.

HISAKO

Anyway, your archive.

GABRIEL

What about it?

HISAKO

Can I add my own posts to it?

He smiles...

GABRIEL

I thought you'd never ask.

...pulls his phone out of his pocket, wakes it up, and texts Hisako his LM archive's login information. Hisako pulls out her own phone, records the information...

GABRIEL

And here, I thought you hated  
social media.

HISAKO

Only the toxic parts.

...and logs in to the archive. Gabriel approves this login attempt, citing it as a shared account. The two of them then shut off their phones and stow them away.

GABRIEL

Hey, Hisako, can you promise me  
something?

HISAKO

(turning serious)

No.

GABRIEL

Why not?

HISAKO

Because whenever two people make a  
promise, one of them ends up dead.  
We'll talk later, okay?

Gabriel nods assent. Hisako, however, spots something on the floor beside him.

HISAKO

Step aside.

GABRIEL

Huh?

HISAKO

Down at your feet.

He looks down and steps aside. Hisako crouches down and sees a faded trail of footprints on the floor.

HISAKO

Gabe, keep searching the hallway.  
I'll check where these footprints  
go.

GABRIEL

What? I'm not leaving you alone.

HISAKO

I'll be fine. If any zombies come  
in after me, get them.

Gabriel hesitates, and then walks down the hallway. Hisako follows the footprints to the partly opened door to...

INT. RESEARCH ROOM - DAY

She follows the footprints through this room until she reaches a desk. At its base is a crushed Petri dish with a faded strip of masking tape, whereupon is written the word:

HISAKO

(under her breath)

Lucifer?

BLACK

Heavy, labored breathing is heard through the blackness.

ZANIA'S POV

EXT. ABANDONED SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

Zania trudges through the street, looking for any sign of life. Eventually, she sees a young woman lying on the sidewalk, half dead.

As Zania kneels down to inspect the woman, she suddenly lurches toward her but stops herself short of biting her. The woman shuffles a short distance back.

A brief flash shows the woman replaced by a rising zombie.

INT. GOVERNMENT AGENCY BUILDING - EVENING

Several federal agents are gathered around a table of seized laboratory equipment. Zania steps forward and reaches for the agents but recoils upon seeing her hand rotting.

The agents turn to her, weapons drawn, but a brief flash shows them all replaced by shambling zombies.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

The pouring rain obscures Zania's vision, but she sees large cardboard box beneath a tree. She trudges toward the box, but the occupant inside shoots her in the leg with a pistol.

She collapses in front of a puddle, where she sees the reflected face of a zombie.

END OF ZANIA'S POV

INT. ZANIA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Zania jolts awake, eyes wide. She then eases down and sits up in her bed, rubbing her eyes clear of sleep. After glancing about, she looks down at the zombie bite on her arm to see that instead of becoming infected, it has partially healed.

She raises an eyebrow and clambers out of bed, her eyes fixed on the bite. Then, she glimpses first her myriad accolades on the far wall, and then the phone that Alistair gave her.

She picks up the phone, turns it on, enters the passcode, and finds its home screen to be all but blank. Then, she shakes her head and deactivates the phone.

She gets up from her bed, opens a mini fridge, takes out the zombie tissue Petri dish, and sets it down on her desk. Then, she readies a microbial identification kit and a microscope.

She glances between each and then takes out a scalpel, a pair of tweezers, and a pair of sterile latex gloves from her desk drawer. She pauses to scan the bite on her arm again.

#### INTERCUT - RESEARCH ROOM AND ZANIA'S APARTMENT

Hisako pries open a desk drawer and finds an old, dusty journal inside. Setting her crowbar aside, she takes out the journal, opens it on the desk, and starts reading under the lens of her phone, recording each page.

Now wearing the gloves, Zania cuts off a tiny piece of the zombie flesh. Then, she places it into a test tube, the latter of which she places inside a centrifuge.

Hisako continues to read the journal, which documents development of something called "Archangel". She pauses, then decides to read further.

The centrifuge stops running, and Zania opens it and extracts the test tube. Then, she draws some of its contents out with an eyedropper and squeezes out a drop onto a microscope slide. She then puts the test tube and its remaining contents into a makeshift microbe scanner.

As Hisako reads through the journal, she sees that Archangel was intended to be both a preventative and curative medicine, but its maker was pressured by a certain sponsor: Roland Benedict.

Zania looks at the sample on the slide and sees strange viral activity. She leans somewhat closer to the desk and adjusts the microscope's focus.

Reading more of the journal, Hisako sees that fearing that Roland would shut her down, Archangel's creator grew desperate to prove its effectiveness, so a virus was created from every known human disease in the world to test it.

Zania writes down her observations of the virus on the slide and then takes a look at the microbe scanner. It soon identifies the virus' makeup.

Hisako reads the results of numerous tests of the medicine, along with the virus' name: Lucifer. The final entry lists the creator's intent to test both the virus and the medicine on herself.

Zania's eyes widen in horror as she glances between the scanner and her notes.

INT. RESEARCH ROOM - DAY

Hisako closes the journal and sees one more name on the back cover: Dr. Zania Kadesh.

As she turns off her phone and stows it in her pocket, a zombie looms behind her and advances toward her.

GABRIEL  
Hisako, behind you!

She about-faces barely in time to avoid the zombie's grasp, holding the journal in one hand and her crowbar in the other.

Gabriel jumps in and pounds the zombie's head with his bat. Another zombie tries to grab him, but he clobbers it too.

The two find themselves surrounded by more zombies coming in from gaps in the lab walls. Just then, Nick and Molly arrive, axe flailing and shotgun blazing. Molly soon sees an opening.

MOLLY  
Over there! Go! Go!

Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick make it to the opening, but Nick stops to turn back and see Molly aiming her shotgun at another zombie but failing to fire.

Seeing that the shotgun is empty, Nick bolts back to aid Molly...

NICK  
I'm coming, sis!

...but doesn't see another zombie bite her leg before she kills it with her machete and limps toward him. The siblings go to rejoin Gabriel and Hisako...

EXT. ABANDONED LABORATORY - DAY

...and they all flee together.

INT. PAN PAN - DINING AREA - EVENING

Zania walks up to the front desk, where the supervisor meets her.

SUPERVISOR

Zania, what brings you here? You're  
not scheduled to work today.

Zania breathes a long sigh, and then forces herself to look  
the supervisor in the eye.

ZANIA

(downtrodden)

I quit.

The supervisor pauses.

SUPERVISOR

What?

ZANIA

I said I quit.

She pinches her chin.

SUPERVISOR

Oh, well, then, I'll take that as  
your two weeks' notice--

ZANIA

No. It has to be today.

She lets go of her chin and hesitates, but then nods.

SUPERVISOR

...all right. I can't say I'm sorry  
to see you go, but...I understand.

Zania nods assent and turns away...

ZANIA

Oh, before I go...

...but stops, then shakes her head...

ZANIA  
Never mind. Goodbye.

...and walks out of the cafe. Out of earshot from her, Alistair and the general are sitting across from each other at a table, discussing what to do about the city's impending doom.

ALISTAIR  
How much time is left?

GENERAL  
A day. Two at most.

Alistair clenches his fist on the table but then relaxes it.

ALISTAIR  
Prepare every escape vehicle you can find. The city must be fully evacuated by sunrise.

GENERAL  
Of course, sir. We'll have a vehicle ready for you especially.

ALISTAIR  
No. The people take priority. I'll personally help the evacuation as I'm able. Leave without me if you must.

The general raises his hand.

GENERAL  
Mr. Taggart, with all due respect, that's best left to the soldiers.

ALISTAIR  
But I can't just sit there and do nothing.

GENERAL  
You've done enough already. Rest assured, the convoy will be ready tomorrow.

Alistair sighs, nods...

ALISTAIR  
Very good.

...and gropes for his necklace, only to find it missing.

GENERAL  
What is it?

ALISTAIR  
My necklace. I must've dropped  
it...

He pauses, then jumps to his feet, yanks a one hundred dollar bill from his pocket, shoves it to the general...

ALISTAIR  
Keep the change.

...and storms out of the cafe.

EXT. ABANDONED FREEWAY - EVENING

Under the light of the sunset, Gabriel, Hisako, Nick, and Molly walk along the empty street leading to the fortified city of Springfield.

NICK  
Is this...?

Hisako checks her phone's map app and nods.

HISAKO  
Yep. This is it. The way into  
Springfield. Just a few more hours.

Nick grins and pumps his fist...

NICK  
All right! No more running, no more  
zombies...ha ha, I can already  
taste the pizza.

...and turns to Molly...

NICK  
You want me to cover the bill this  
time, Molly?

...but droops as he watches her sink to her knees in a daze.

NICK  
Molly? What's wrong?

She sheds her backpack, struggling to open it. Nick kneels down beside her and helps her open the backpack, prompting her to look at him. Gabriel and Hisako approach from behind.



MOLLY  
(weak)  
Nick...

Nick looks at Molly, seeing her face has sunken and faded in color.

MOLLY  
Kill me...

NICK  
What?

Molly gives Nick her shotgun.

MOLLY  
Kill me.

Nick looks down at the shotgun in his hands, then back at Molly...

NICK  
No...no, no, no, no, no...

...unaware that she has just slipped her PLB into his vest pocket and is trying to give him more of her supplies.

MOLLY  
(weaker)  
Just do it. Please. Any minute  
now...I'm just gonna be...another  
zombie.

NICK  
(tearing up)  
But, but...

Finally, Molly falls forward into Nick's arms. Nick, Gabriel, and Hisako see the infected zombie bite on Molly's leg.

MOLLY  
(dying)  
Please...let me  
die...as...myself...

Nick lets go of Molly, stands up, and steps back.

GABRIEL  
(under her breath)  
Do as she says, Nick.

Nick looks back to Gabriel...

GABRIEL  
 (yelling in anguish)  
 Do as she says!

...then back to the dead Molly and aims the shotgun at her head, but he lowers it and turns away, dropping the shotgun. Gabriel shakes his head and closes his eyes, but Hisako widens hers...

HISAKO  
 (worried)  
 Nick...?

...and points behind Nick, who turns to see the zombie formerly known as Molly rise up and grab at him. He jumps back barely in time to avoid the grab but then tries to step forward, only for Gabriel to restrain him.

NICK  
 (desperate)  
 Molly, stop! It's me! It's me!

Hisako rushes beside him, scoops up the shotgun...

NICK  
 No...!

...aims it at the zombie's head...

NICK  
 (desperate)  
 No!

...and blasts it to smithereens. A tear rolls down her cheek as she lowers the shotgun, turns away, and closes her eyes. Gabriel slackens his hold on Nick, who breaks free, drops to his knees, and wails over the dead zombie.

Gabriel trudges to his side, kneels down, and lets Nick cry on his shoulder.

The ghastly moans of more zombies ring in the distance, growing louder and louder. Hisako opens her eyes to the sound and snaps back to Nick and Gabriel.

HISAKO  
 (tearing up)  
 Come on, guys. We have to move.

GABRIEL  
 Give him a moment, for pity's sake.

HISAKO  
(sobbing)  
We don't have a moment. Come on.

Nick's crying subsides somewhat as he and Gabriel stagger to their feet...

GABRIEL  
(under his breath)  
I'm sorry, Nick. I'm sorry.

...and trudge away alongside Hisako.

INT. CITY HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Jack sits at his desk, and Leo and Roland enter through the door.

ROLAND  
You wanted to speak with us?

Jack nods.

JACK  
Have a seat.

Leo and Roland comply.

JACK  
President Benedict, Mr. Myers, I spoke with the general a moment ago. Those things attacking the city? They're not people.

Roland pauses.

ROLAND  
(subtly feigning surprise)  
What are they, then?

JACK  
People are calling them zombies. We still don't know where they came from, but they're not from the cartels. That's for sure. And what's worse, it's only a matter of time before they overrun the city.

ROLAND  
I know.

Jack pauses.

JACK

What do you mean you know?

ROLAND

It's just like when they attacked the White House. People gathered, zombies chewing at the walls...I was there, after all. I watched as the Secret Service got me out of there.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alistair walks down the hallway, his hands in his pockets, when he hears the chatter from inside the mayor's office.

JACK (V.O.)

...and your cabinet? The vice president? The attorney general?

LEO (V.O)

(dismissive)

The zombies got them.

ROLAND (V.O)

That's right.

He notices the door slightly ajar and sidles beside it.

ROLAND (V.O)

(amused)

You should've seen them, all crawling over each other like crabs in a bucket, trying to get in the convoy with me.

His eyes widen, and he pulls his phone out of his pocket, wakes it up, puts it to the door window...

JACK (V.O.)

Wait. Wait. Are you saying you just left them all to die?

...and records Jack, Leo, and Roland's conversation, making sure to stay out of sight.

ROLAND (V.O)

Yeah, and when I finally got out of there, all those people surrounding me? They were stifling. This time, Leo's got a private jet ready to go once the zombies come in. We'll be outta here in no time.

LEO (V.O)  
Of course, you're welcome to fly  
with us.

JACK (V.O.)  
But what about the people?

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Jack widens his eyes as Roland answers him.

ROLAND  
The people? I don't give a damn  
about the people. They're just a  
bunch of useful idiots.

Leo drums his fingers together.

ROLAND  
Everything I said and did: the fake  
news, the liberal elite, where the  
zombies came from... ha ha, they  
just ate it all up.

Roland sits back in his chair and relaxes.

ROLAND  
All I ever wanted from them was  
their vote, and now that I'm done  
with them, they're all gonna be  
zombie chow.

Jack pauses, and then shakes his head.

JACK  
(horrified and enraged)  
I can't believe this. I can't  
believe any of this.

ROLAND  
Can't believe what? That I'm a  
genius? I'm amazing?

JACK  
You're evil!

ROLAND  
I'm the president of the United  
States. Good and evil are what I  
make them.

JACK  
Not if the people have anything to  
say about that.

Jack gets up from his desk and starts for the door, but Leo snaps his fingers seven times, to the tune of "Shave and a Haircut."

Before Jack can reach the door, he stops and tries to look down at his hands. Then, he seizes up, falls backwards on the floor, and rattles as if having a seizure.

Leo lets a sadistic smile creep across his face as he watches Roland get up from his chair, strut over to the fallen Jack, and flick his finger at him as if firing a pistol.

ROLAND  
(smug)  
Jack, you're fired.

Jack stops rattling, dead.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alistair taps an icon, shuts off his phone, stows it in his pocket, and turns away from the door only to find himself face to face with a SECURITY GUARD...

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

...who enters the office, holding Alistair's hands behind his back. Leo grins and Roland hops back in surprise.

LEO  
Oh, Mr. Taggart. What a surprise.

The guard steps forward, nudging Alistair forward. He takes only passing notice of Jack's corpse.

GUARD  
I caught him just outside the  
office.

ALISTAIR  
I forgot my necklace.

The guard then gives Roland Alistair's phone...

GUARD  
He was using this.

...which Roland accepts.

ROLAND  
So, you were spying on us, huh?

Roland steps dangerously close to Alistair.

ROLAND  
I can understand you buying your  
way into politics, and I can  
understand you stooping down to the  
people's level for sympathy...

As he waves the phone in Alistair's face, it flashes its  
lock screen. Unnoticed by Leo or Roland is a notification  
that reads:

*Upload complete. Your video will be public in...*

ROLAND  
...but this? This is just crossing  
the line.

ALISTAIR  
Coming from the man who lied,  
cheated, and stole his way into  
office and is now set to murder all  
of Springfield's people.

The phone's screen goes black as Roland straightens up and  
stares at it in his hand. Then, he looks to Alistair.

ALISTAIR  
Go ahead. Kill me if you must, but  
know that the truth will endure.

ROLAND  
(smug)  
Oh, will it?

He stretches out his arm and drops the phone on the floor,  
but it simply plops there. Roland raises an eyebrow, picks  
up the phone and drops it again.

Grimacing, he crouches down, picks the phone up again and  
bangs it on the floor several times. Then, he stands up,  
stomps on the phone several times, and finally jumps up and  
down on it. Still, the phone endures.

Leo rolls his eyes, steps forward...

LEO  
(exasperated)  
Let me.

...picks up the phone, pops it out of its case, and then throws it on the floor, where it finally shatters. Roland smirks, glancing between Alistair and his shattered phone.

ROLAND  
You know what? Killing you wouldn't be enough.

He turns to...

ROLAND  
Leo, set up a gallows in the city square and broadcast me on live stream tomorrow morning.

LEO  
Consider it done.

Leo scampers out of the office, and Roland turns to the guard...

ROLAND  
(to the guard)  
And you, throw him in a detention cell for the night.

...and then points to Jack's corpse.

ROLAND  
He did murder this man, after all.

GUARD  
(hesitant)  
Yes, sir.

Alistair glares at Roland as the guard leads him out of the office.

EXT. CITY WALL - NIGHT

Within the city wall, Zania trudges toward the gate.

Meanwhile, a squad of soldiers stands guard outside the city wall. One of the soldiers spots what appears to be three people racing towards them, chased by a legion of zombies.



SOLDIER 3

How many?

SOLDIER 4

Three, sir. Headed this way.

They are Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick, exhausted but energized at the sight of the city.

HISAKO

I can see the city wall! Straight ahead!

NICK

Well, come on! Let's go!

Zania stops for a moment, looking back into the city, but then continues toward the gate.

The soldiers raise their weapons, but Gabriel waves his hands in the air.

GABRIEL

Don't shoot! We're not zombies!

The squad leader signals his subordinates to...

SOLDIER 3

Hold your fire. Civilians inbound.

The gate opens, and Zania steps out.

SOLDIER 3

Hey, what are you doing? Get back!

Ignoring the soldier's words, Zania walks out of the city and closes her eyes, ready for the zombies to seize and devour her. Instead, Nick rushes past her, spinning her around...

NICK

Gangway!

...followed by Hisako...

HISAKO

Excuse me!

...and finally, Gabriel grabs her by the arm...

GABRIEL

Come on!

...and drags her back into the city.

SOLDIER 3

All right. You're all clear. Open fire.

The soldiers shoot the oncoming zombies, and the gate closes behind them. Gabriel, Hisako, Nick, and Zania collapse onto the ground, taking heavy breaths, when several more soldiers arrive.

SOLDIER 6

All of you, come with us.

INT. QUARANTINE CELL - MORNING

Zania, Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick sit together in a set of folding chairs in the otherwise sparsely furnished cell. Nick and Zania bow their heads over their knees while Gabriel and Hisako hold hands.

A soldier finishes scanning them, seeing that they're all clear, and reports this to the general as he enters.

SOLDIER 3

They're all clear.

The general looks at Hisako...

GENERAL

So, you're the ones who've been posting about the zombies.

...who stands at attention, letting go of Gabriel's hand.

HISAKO

That's right, and we have vital information regarding their origin and how to deal with them. Is there any way we can reach Dr. Zania Kadesh?

ZANIA

That would be me.

Gabriel, Hisako, Nick, and the general turn to Zania as she looks up, barely able to face them.

ZANIA

You should've left me out there.

NICK

Huh? Why?

ZANIA  
 (downtrodden)  
 Because...I created Lucifer...the  
 zombie virus.

Nick widens his eyes, surges to his feet, and lunges at Zania, but Gabriel and Hisako restrain him.

GABRIEL  
 Nick, stop! She didn't release it!

Zania snaps out of her despairing stupor and straightens up...

NICK  
 I don't care! It killed my sister!

...but Nick breaks free of his restraints, grabs Zania by the collar, and hoists her to her feet.

NICK  
 (enraged)  
 Why, doc?! Why did you make the  
 virus?!

ZANIA  
 (straining)  
 To test the medicine!

Nick snaps out of his rage and drops Zania, leaving her to stagger back to her feet and straighten her shirt.

ZANIA  
 I was working on a panacea,  
 something that would wipe out all  
 human diseases for good. It was  
 called...

HISAKO  
 Archangel.

ZANIA  
 Yes. But before I could release it,  
 I had to know if it would work on  
 humans, and in lieu of volunteers,  
 I tested it on...

Zania's eyes widen.

ZANIA  
 (epiphanic)  
 ...myself.

Hisako nods assent.

HISAKO  
And that made you immune to the  
virus, didn't it?

ZANIA  
It must have.

Zania rolls up the sleeve of her jacket, revealing the  
healed zombie bite on her arm.

ZANIA  
A day and a half ago, a zombie bit  
me, but I was otherwise unaffected.

GABRIEL  
Which means that you're the cure.

ZANIA  
That's right. All I have to do is  
extract Archangel from my blood and  
then mass produce it.

Hisako reaches into her backpack, pulls out...

ZANIA  
Now, if only I had...

...Zania's journal, and hands it to Zania.

ZANIA  
Where'd you get that?

HISAKO  
Your old lab.

Zania takes the journal.

HISAKO  
I also found this.

Hisako shows her the picture of the crushed Lucifer Petri  
dish.

HISAKO  
From what I can gather, somebody  
accidentally dropped it during the  
raid on your lab.

ZANIA  
It must've been one of the agents.  
Then, he...

Zania freezes, then stuffs her journal into her jacket and  
starts for the doorway...

ZANIA  
(horrificed and enraged)  
Son of a bitch.

...but stops as Gabriel holds up his phone.

GABRIEL  
Hey, I'd hate to bring up more bad  
news, but...

His screen shows a post from Roland's LM account, announcing Alistair's imminent execution at...

EXT. CITY SQUARE - MORNING

A large crowd of people gathers in front of the stage in the city square. A display screen shows Roland's face off.

On the stage, Roland stands at the podium, with Leo and a squad of soldiers standing behind him. Alistair faces the crowd with his hands cuffed behind his back and a noose looped around his neck, ready to tighten on Roland's signal.

ROLAND  
My fellow Americans, this man,  
Alistair Taggart, has been found  
guilty of treason. We caught him  
snooping around in City Hall last  
night, tampering with sensitive  
data. He even had the nerve to  
murder your beloved mayor, Jack  
Dawson.

Out of Roland's field of vision, Gabriel, Nick, Hisako, Zania, and another squad of soldiers led by the general hurry backstage.

ROLAND  
And for what? To spread this hoax  
about zombies? About a virus? And  
profit off your fears? Well, not on  
my watch.

Roland raises his hand, ready to signal Alistair's execution.

ROLAND  
Today, that hoax, another lie of  
the liberal elite, ends with him.

Nick leaps onstage...

NICK  
You're the liar!

...alongside Gabriel, Hisako, Zania, and their escort.

NICK  
(to the crowd)  
The zombies are real, and the virus  
too!

GABRIEL  
Don't believe us? Check the stream  
right now!

HISAKO  
And feast your eyes on everything  
we three went through to get here!

Through the display screen, the general shows post after post of Gabriel's LM account, showcasing the students' journey, including the camper, the zombie escape, and Molly's death.

ROLAND  
See that? Fake news, every bit of  
it. There are no zombies. There's  
no virus.

Zania steps forward...

ZANIA  
(emboldened)  
Oh, yes, there is!

...approaches Roland...

ZANIA  
And you of all people should know!  
After all, it was no foreign power  
that released it upon our country;  
it was you!

...and jabs her finger at him.

ZANIA  
You sent federal agents to shut  
down my panacea research, and one  
of them--the first zombie--dropped  
a Petri dish containing the virus  
as he left!

She then turns to face the crowd...

ZANIA  
 (to the crowd)  
 And yet, despite that, I managed to  
 synthesize--no, become--the cure!

...lifts up her arm, and pulls her jacket sleeve, exposing  
 her healed zombie bite.

ZANIA  
 This bite mark on my arm is proof  
 that I'm immune! That the cure  
 works beyond all doubt!

The display screen continues to show Gabriel's LM account,  
 including Hisako's recordings of Zania's journal and the  
 fallen Petri dish of Lucifer.

ROLAND  
 (growing anxious)  
 More fake news, people. From people  
 who want to scare you. I...I'm on  
 your side. I--

Finally, the display screen switches to Alistair's video of  
 Jack, Leo, and Roland's last conversation together in the  
 mayor's office.

ALISTAIR  
 (under his breath)  
 But wait. There's more.

ROLAND (ON STREAM)  
 The people? I don't give a damn  
 about the people. They're just a  
 bunch of useful idiots.

Roland turns around to see the video playing...

ROLAND (ON STREAM)  
 Everything I said and did...

...and then back to the crowd, flailing his arms.

ROLAND  
 (desperate)  
 No! No! That's fake! It's  
 all fake! Don't...! Stop  
 watching that!

ROLAND (ON  
 STREAM)  
 ...the fake news, the  
 liberal elite, where the  
 zombies came from... ha ha,  
 they just ate it all up.

He snaps to Leo, who is wrestling with his phone.

ROLAND  
 (panicky)  
 Cut the stream! Cut it now!

ROLAND (ON  
 STREAM)  
 All I ever wanted from them  
 was their vote...

Leo looks back up to Roland...

LEO  
 (panicky)  
 I'm trying!

...and then, back to his phone, with which he resumes  
 wrestling...

ROLAND (ON STREAM)  
 ...and now that I'm done with them,  
 they're all gonna be zombie chow.

...unwittingly skipping the video ahead to the moment of  
 Jack's murder.

ROLAND (ON STREAM)  
 (smug)  
 Jack, you're fired.

Finally, the display screen shuts down...

LEO  
 (relieved)  
 There we go.

...but all is silent amidst the stunned, irate crowd. The  
 general turns to the other soldiers.

GENERAL  
 Release Taggart!

They undo Alistair's handcuffs and back him away from the  
 noose. Then, the general glares at the scuttling Roland,  
 grabs him by the collar...

GENERAL  
 As for you, "President" Benedict...

...and tosses him off the stage into the crowd.

GENERAL  
 (to the crowd)  
 Do with him what must be done! Feed  
 him to the zombies!

The people hoist him over their heads and carry him off to  
 the outskirts of the city.



CROWD  
 (chanting)  
 Feed him to the zombies! Feed him  
 to the zombies!

Alistair sees Leo sneaking off the stage, out of sight from the others, and then turns to...

ALISTAIR  
 Zania, do you still have that spare  
 phone?

Zania pulls Alistair's spare phone from her pocket...

ZANIA  
 Right here.

ALISTAIR  
 I need it back.

ZANIA  
 Uh, why?

ALISTAIR  
 Please.

...and hands it to Alistair...

ALISTAIR  
 Thank you.

...who turns it on and eyes the fleeing Leo in the distance.

Meanwhile, the general watches the crowd march away with the flailing Roland in tow, but then, he turns to the sound of distant gunfire. Through his walkie talkie, he hears...

SOLDIER 1 (V.O.)  
 Mayday! Mayday! Mayday! Checkpoint  
 Alpha to all--!

...which cuts out to garbled screaming and distant gunfire shortly followed by static.

EXT. CITY OUTSKIRTS - MORNING

The people continue to carry Roland through the street...

CROWD  
 (chanting)  
 Feed him to the zombies!  
 Feed him to the zombies!  
 Feed him to the zombies!  
 Feed him to the zombies!  
 Feed him to the zombies!  
 Feed him to the zombies!

ROLAND  
 (freaking out)  
 I'm Roland fucking  
 Benedict! I'm the fucking  
 president! I'm the truth!  
 I'm the justice! You can't  
 do this to me!

...but as they approach the city wall, they slow down...

CROWD  
 (chanting weaker)  
 Feed him to the zombies! Feed him  
 to the...

...stop at the sight of a massive horde of...

CITIZEN 44  
 (terrified)  
 Zombies!

...pouring through and over the wall, about-face, and flee  
 back towards the city square, leaving Roland behind. Roland  
 freezes and screams in terror as the zombies devour him.

EXT. CITY SQUARE - MORNING

The soldiers see the citizens returning to the city square,  
 zombies pouring in from all around, and the escape routes  
 quickly closing off.

GENERAL  
 Battle positions! Engage all  
 hostiles! Save everyone you can!

SOLDIERS  
 Yes, sir!

The soldiers move in to protect the citizens, opening fire  
 on every zombie in sight, but there are too many. What's  
 more, most of their shots are body shots, thereby failing to  
 stop the zombies' advance.

A soldier turns to Gabriel, Nick, Hisako, Zania, and  
 Alistair.

SOLDIER 7  
 You five, come with us to the  
 convoy.

Nick steels himself.

NICK  
No. We can help.

He turns to another nearby soldier...

NICK  
Do you still have our weapons?  
...who shakes her head.

HISAKO  
Wait. There's another way.  
Hisako turns to the general.

HISAKO  
Sir, tell your soldiers to aim for  
the zombies' heads. It's the only  
way to kill them.

GABRIEL  
Trust her. We have firsthand  
experience.

The general looks to his subordinates, nods, and then gives  
the order.

GENERAL  
You heard them, troops! Aim for the  
heads!

The soldiers comply, now proving more effective against the  
zombies, though still unable to hold them off forever.  
Eventually, the zombies reach the soldiers and the fleeing  
citizens, attacking some of them.

One zombie comes close to Nick...

SOLDIER 5  
Get behind me, son!

...but a soldier jumps in front of him and guns it down.

SOLDIER 5  
Go! Get out of here, now!

The soldiers move to escort Gabriel, Hisako, Nick, Zania,  
and Alistair away from the city square as more zombies close  
in on their position.

SOLDIER 3  
General, there's too many! We can't  
hold!

GENERAL

Get the people to the convoy. Save as many as you can. Whatever you do, Ms. Kadesh must survive.

SOLDIER 3

Yes, sir!

EXT. CITY STREET - VARIOUS - MORNING

All throughout the city, zombies spill in past the walls and out from some of the buildings. The soldiers fight on, defending the fleeing citizens as they escort them to the convoy.

Along the way, Nick picks up three fallen red and green flags, passes two to Gabriel and Hisako, and waves the third over his head.

NICK

Everybody, this way! Follow the flag!

Gabriel and Hisako follow suit.

NICK

Follow the red and green!

Many fleeing citizens rally to the flags, protected by the soldiers to the best of their ability.

EXT. CITY WALL - MORNING

Eventually, the convoy comes into view...

GABRIEL

I think that's the convoy! Straight ahead!

...but the way is barred by more zombies. As the soldiers fight their way through, one stray zombie grabs Gabriel and tries to bite him.

HISAKO

(terrified)

No!

She spears the zombie in the head with her flagpole and mashes its skull into paste.

HISAKO  
(berserk)  
You're not gonna get him too, you  
monster!

She slows down her assault barely in time to notice another zombie grabbing at her, and Gabriel yanks her away.

GABRIEL  
That's enough. Come on!

INT. ARCHIMEDES HEADQUARTERS - LAUNCH BAY - MORNING

Leo trots his way through the launch bay, approaching the private jet plane.

LEO  
(frustrated)  
I never should've trusted that old  
fuddy-duddy.

He looks around for a moment and then proceeds to the plane and climbs the stairs to the entry hatch. He grabs onto the door handle and lets it scan his hand print, but the rim of the window flashes red and a buzzer sounds.

LEO  
(confused)  
Huh?

After several more failed attempts--the last of which triggers the plane's panic alarm--he yanks his phone from his pocket, unlocks it, and flips through app after app for each of his companies--all of which have been bought out.

Meanwhile, zombies pour into the launch bay from every open gap and close in on the plane.

Finally, he sees a video message from Alistair.

ALISTAIR (ON PHONE)  
(triumphant whispering)  
You're fired.

He breathes a resigned sigh as the zombies swarm him and devour him.

EXT. CITY WALL - MORNING

At the convoy, numerous people are scanned. Those marked as not clear are forbidden from boarding the vehicles. Some people object despite showing clear signs of infection, while others throw themselves to the zombies.

Gabriel, Hisako, and Nick reach one convoy vehicle together, and a soldier scans each of them. Gabriel and Nick are clear...

SOLDIER 8

Clear.

...but Hisako is not.

SOLDIER 8

Not clear.

Gabriel grabs the scanner and glares at the soldier.

GABRIEL

No! We're not leaving her!

SOLDIER 8

Sorry, son, but she's infected.

GABRIEL

Scan her again!

HISAKO

Gabe, you heard her. Go on without me. Just go!

GABRIEL

(desperate)

Scan. Her. Again.

Hisako scans herself again, finding a stain on her glasses. Meanwhile, the soldier hesitates, and then scans Hisako again as she raises her glasses. This time, she's...

SOLDIER 8

Clear.

...and the soldier lets her, Nick, and Gabriel on board.

Zania and Alistair are scanned, cleared, and led on board another vehicle, which is attacked by several zombies.

Zania jumps out of the vehicle, charges at the closest zombie...

SOLDIER 10  
(alarmed)  
Ms. Kadesh, stop!

...and snatches a young boy away from it just before it can grab him. The zombie grabs Zania instead and tries to bite her, but she pushes it away. Then, a stray bullet hits the zombie in the head, killing it.

The vehicle starts moving, prompting Zania to run after it with the boy in her arms. She gives the boy to Alistair.

ZANIA  
Alistair, take him!

He helps pull the boy into the vehicle and straightens up to see Zania leap after it, barely making it back inside. A soldier then scans the boy.

SOLDIER 9  
Clear.

A third convoy vehicle is overwhelmed by zombies, its passengers dragged out and devoured. The remaining convoy vehicles take off through the advancing horde, guns blazing.

INT. TRANSPORT TRUCK A - MORNING

Amidst the gunfire and ghastly moans from outside, Hisako hears a faint buzzing noise in the distance.

HISAKO  
Hey, Gabe, do you hear a  
helicopter?

Gabriel listens for the now growing noise and looks out the window of the truck...

GABRIEL  
No, Hisako...

...and sees a squadron of helicopters flying towards the convoy.

GABRIEL  
I see a bunch of helicopters!

Nick looks out the window, digs into his backpack, pulls out Molly's PLB, and grins.

NICK  
(under his breath)  
Molly.

INT. HELICOPTER 1 - COCKPIT - MORNING

The PILOT sees the convoy as more and more zombies close in around it.

PILOT 1  
This is Angel 1. I have visual on  
the friendlies. All wings, you are  
clear to engage hostiles.

INT. HELICOPTER 2 - CABIN - MORNING

Another PILOT nods in acknowledgment.

PILOT 2  
Copy, Angel 1. Engaging hostiles  
now.

She raises her hand to signal the GUNNER...

PILOT 2 (V.O.)  
Fire at will!

...who spins the barrels of his minigun...

GUNNER 2  
(under his breath)  
Hasta la vista, baby.

EXT. FIELD OUTSIDE THE CITY - MORNING

...and opens fire on the zombies.

The other helicopters' gunners do likewise, and together, they kill many zombies and maim even more, widening the convoy's path through the zombie horde.

The convoy soon escapes the horde, the helicopters flying above them.



EXT. ABANDONED FUELING STATION - EVENING

The convoy and its helicopter escort are parked at the station, the soldiers refueling and resupplying their vehicles however possible from what they can salvage.

The survivors are gathered in groups under the soldiers' watch. Throughout the crowd, the beggar hands out assorted loaves of bread to any who will accept them.

BEGGAR

All right. Here you go.

Zania watches him at work, glances back at her mostly healed arm, and then turns to Alistair, who has just finished playing with a group of children.

ZANIA

Alistair?

He looks up...

ZANIA

After careful consideration, I've decided to accept your funding.

...and smiles.

ALISTAIR

Thank you, Dr. Kadesh.

Nick glances around the area, noticing the mixed expressions of the citizens. Many are sad, some are scared, and still others are just tired of all the chaos.

Beside him, Gabriel and Hisako lean on each other's shoulders.

NICK

Hey, everybody.

Some of the citizens straighten up and look at Nick.

NICK

Want to hear a song?

One citizen pauses, then nods.

CITIZEN 17

Sure. Which one?

Nick shrugs.

NICK

I don't know. What do you have in mind?

Gabriel and Hisako turn to Nick.

HISAKO

How about you pick, Nick?

GABRIEL

Yeah. Go for it.

Several of the other citizens look between each other, murmur amongst themselves, and then turn back to Nick...

CITIZEN 32

Sounds good to me.

CITIZEN 17

Mmm, yeah, why not?

...who cups his hand on his chin for a moment, then lowers his hand...

NICK

All right.

...takes a deep breath, and sings.

NICK

(singing)

*Amazing grace, How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.*

The other citizens perk up at Nick's singing.

NICK

(singing)

*I once was lost, But now am found,  
Was blind but now, I see.*

Gabriel and Hisako smile at each other, close their eyes, pull each other in, and kiss.

The general overhears Nick singing but remains focused on the road ahead. One other soldier paces past him on patrol.

NICK (V.O)

(singing)

*'Twas grace that taught My heart to  
fear, And grace my fears relieved;*

NICK/CROWD (V.O)  
(singing)  
*How precious did That grace appear  
The hour I first believed!*

BLACK

NICK/CROWD (V.O)  
(singing)  
*The Lord hath promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures; He will  
my shield and portion be As long as  
life endures. When we've been there  
ten thousand years, Bright shining  
as the sun, We've no less days to  
sing God's praise Than when we  
first begun.*

A round of applause rings from the crowd.

CITIZEN 17 (V.O)  
Hey, hey. Now, do "All Star".