

Two

written by

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INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ANNE RANDAL, (40's) sits comfortably in a chair reading. A lamp illuminates the modest room. She looks from the book to the surrounding windows in the room, then back to the book.

The house is quiet. She looks at the safety bar wedged against the front door. Anne returns to reading. Loud BANGING on the door startles her. She drops the book.

The BANGING continues. Anne moves slowly to the door. The door rattles against the force of the POUNDING. Anne peers through a window near the door.

OUTSIDE THE DOOR:

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

A diseased sick MAN, (30's) with discolored bulging blue veins throughout his face and yellowish eye color, pounds on the door with his fists. Drool drops to the ground from his mouth.

INSIDE HOUSE:

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Anne leans against the door. She is terrified and shrieks at the man.

ANNE  
(fear)  
Go away!

The POUNDING on the door continues, but somewhat weaker now.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Stop it!

MAN (O.S.)  
Let me in! I saw the light from the window!

ANNE  
Leave us alone!

MAN  
I'm starving! Give me some food!

Anne thinks quickly. Her next words may save her life.

ANNE  
 (desperate)  
 I have a gun! Go away or I'll use  
 it!

The POUNDING on the door continues.

MAN  
 Anything, please! Help me!

ANNE  
 The gun's in my hand!

A young boy's voice from the second floor of the house makes Anne's eyes widen with worry.

IAN (O.S.)  
 Mommy, who is that?

ANNE  
 Ian, stay upstairs! Don't come down  
 here!

INT. LAB - NIGHT

SUPER: OCTOBER 2020

Doctor PAUL RANDAL, (50's) donning a mask and specimen gloves through an examination plastic box, dressed in jeans and a lab coat, looks into a microscope.

MICROSCOPE LENS:

Cells collide with one another. A moment later, certain cells begin to absorb others.

BACK TO PAUL:

Paul picks his head up from the lens, frustration on his face. He removes the gloves and puts them in a sterile container, then writes on a pad. Paul slams the pen down on the pad in anger.

HENRY (O.S.)  
 Hey, it isn't the pen's fault!

Doctor HENRY FORRESTER, (60's) beard and a mustache wearing a mask and lab coat, stands behind Paul holding two cups of coffee. He gestures one cup to Paul.

HENRY (CONT'D)  
 Make sure you wash up before you  
 grab yours.

PAUL  
I had gloves on.

HENRY  
(suggestive)  
Still...

Henry sets a cup down on an examination table. Paul walks to a sink and washes his hands. He rejoins Henry, removes his mask, picks up the cup and drinks from it.

HENRY (CONT'D)  
Any development with the vaccine  
introduction into the cell sample  
yet?

Paul sighs.

PAUL  
It just prolongs the spread of  
Omega T-13 by days in a person's  
cells...

He takes another sip of his coffee.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
It's not a cure.

Henry removes his mask and drinks from his cup.

HENRY  
Well, we knew it wasn't a  
cure...but the vaccine can buy an  
infected person more time...giving  
us more time to develop a cure  
without the death count rising  
higher than it's been lately.

PAUL  
(antsy)  
You can say it, you know...thirty-  
seven million people to date.  
Thirty-seven men, women and  
children...wiped out.

Henry eyes Paul a moment, studying his facial mannerisms.

HENRY  
When was the last time you slept?

PAUL  
(sarcastic)  
When did this whole thing start?

Henry smiles at Paul.

HENRY

Go home to Anne and give her a hug,  
kiss Ian for me. You've been here  
for sixteen hours today, every day.  
Take tomorrow off and spend it with  
your family.

Paul knows he's exhausted but his pride overrides his reason.

PAUL

Tell that to the families of the  
thirty-seven million dead.

HENRY

You're no good to me this way...you  
can barely keep your eyes open. Go  
home.

Paul knows Henry is right. He finishes his coffee, pats Henry on his shoulder as a *thank you, friend* gesture. Paul removes his lab coat and walks towards an exit door. He stops and looks into a separate room. A sheet covered body lies on an examination table.

BODY:

A pale hand with bulging blue veins and yellowish fingernails hangs out from underneath the sheet.

BACK TO PAUL:

Paul stares at the body a moment longer. Fear is etched on his face.

INT. PAUL'S CAR - NIGHT

Paul closes the door to his car. He attaches his seat belt, then turns on the ignition. The car radio gives a chilling report.

NEWSCASTER (O.C.)

As the United States enters day  
thirty in the grip of the global  
Omega T-13 super virus, dubbed the  
Doomsday virus, The World Health  
Organization released an accurate  
list of symptoms an infected person  
may have.

(MORE)

NEWSCASTER (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
 Dark blue swollen veins throughout  
 the body, yellow colored finger and  
 toe nails and eyes, and an  
 insatiable appetite for food. World  
 leaders...

Paul shuts off the radio. He grips the steering wheel with both hands. Waves of frustration and anger crash over him.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Paul exits his car. A voice that SHOUTS at him startles him.

MARK (O.S.)  
 (hostile)  
 Here's your goddamn hammer back!

MARK, (40's) clean shaven, blonde in a flannel shirt and jeans, stands defiant in the street in front of Paul's home. Mark throws the hammer towards Paul. It lands on the lawn.

MARK (CONT'D)  
 Now you'll stop asking me for it,  
 right?!

Paul sighs.

PAUL  
 (annoyed)  
 I haven't asked you for it in over  
 a year, Mark!

MARK  
 It's always been like this with  
 you! Anything I ever borrowed from  
 you, you hounded me to give it  
 back! You're a pain in the ass!

PAUL  
 Then don't borrow things from me!

Paul and Mark exchange a look of contempt between them. Mark starts pacing. Paul reads his body language.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
 What's this really about, Mark?

MARK  
 (frustrated)  
 Look, what's the word on a cure for  
 the virus?

PAUL  
There is no cure, Mark.

Mark grows agitated.

MARK  
The news said that the CDC was  
working 'round the clock on a cure!  
You work for them, so you know  
something!

PAUL  
I work WITH the CDC, not FOR them,  
and there's no cure.

MARK  
So what do you and those doctors do  
all day in your lab?! I see you get  
home late from my window...you're  
gone all day! You had a month since  
it started to find a cure! What  
gives?!

Paul's aggravation gets the better of him.

PAUL  
(combative)  
We're working as hard as we can! I  
want a cure as bad as you do!  
You've no right to show up at my  
house and scream at me!

MARK  
Connie's sick...she caught it! I  
need the cure!

Paul is stunned. Words escape him except...

PAUL  
Jesus Mark, I'm so sorry.

MARK  
I don't need sorry, I need the  
vaccine!

PAUL  
Mark, listen to me...

From his front door behind him, Anne SHOUTS to Paul.

ANNE  
(worried)  
Paul, please come inside!

Paul acknowledges her, then looks back at Mark, and calms himself.

PAUL  
Just...go home Mark. Wear a mask  
and gloves around Connie and keep  
everything disinfected.

Paul begins to walk to his house. Mark shouts to Paul.

MARK  
Hey! I wasn't done! Don't walk away  
from me!

Paul reaches for the slightly open door but Anne stops him. She hands him a can of disinfectant.

ANNE  
Spray the door and the doorknob.

Paul looks at Anne, puzzled. She motions towards the door. Paul sprays the door thoroughly. After a moment of waiting, Anne opens the door. Paul instinctively turns to look for Mark, but he's gone and so is the hammer. Paul cautiously enters his home and closes the door.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Paul double locks the front door, then sets the safety bar against it. Anne watches Paul with uneasiness, as if thinking *has the world come to this?* She hugs her husband.

ANNE  
(anxious)  
I'm glad your home.

Paul looks at Anne and sees her worry. He tries to calm her.

PAUL  
What's got you worked up?

ANNE  
An infected person was hitting the  
door before...

Anne frantically points to the door.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
That hasn't happened before!

Paul shows concern.



PAUL  
They didn't get in?

ANNE  
No...no, but Ian heard the whole  
thing from upstairs!

Paul walks to a window and looks through it.

PAUL  
I didn't see anyone around the  
house except Mark.

ANNE  
It was hours ago.

He turns back to Anne.

PAUL  
There's no one here now...

Paul sits on a couch, exhausted. Anne sits beside him.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
And you and Ian were always safe.  
I'd be impossible for someone to  
break in here.

ANNE  
(cautious)  
That lunatic Mark keeps coming to  
the house more and more since the  
epidemic started.

Paul rubs his face and head trying to find relief from his  
stress.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
It's like he blames you for  
everything that's happened.

PAUL  
He's just scared, Anne...Connie  
contracted the virus...so if she  
comes here, don't let her inside.

ANNE  
I haven't heard from my sister in  
ten days, now Connie's sick. This  
isn't a way to live, Paul.

Paul interrupts Anne.

PAUL

Mark's been an asshole since we've known him, and he's the last person I want to talk about. How are you?

Anne looks into her husband's eyes with worry.

ANNE

They stopped the home learning at Ian's school today.

PAUL

What?

ANNE

Too many remaining faculty got sick...they had to close the school.

PAUL

How many?

Anne pauses because she hates the answer she has to give Paul.

ANNE

(somber)

The last eight teachers...including Mrs. Kline.

Paul digests the awful news.

PAUL

She's Ian's favorite. It'll break his heart when we tell him.

ANNE

I don't want to tell Ian, Paul.

PAUL

Anne, we have to...no secrets from him. We promised each other.

ANNE

It's not a secret...we just don't tell him. I didn't even tell him the truth about the sick person that came here tonight!

Anne grabs Paul and hugs him tight.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Paul, please...he's eight, and he's been through so much already.

(MORE)

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Why add another thing? Let him  
think Mrs. Kline's okay.

Paul debates his wife's request a moment in his mind.

PAUL  
He's going to ask about her when he  
turns on his laptop and there  
aren't any classes.

ANNE  
(concern)  
We'll tell him anything other than  
she's dying.

IAN, (8) excited and cute with a genuine smile of fun, runs  
into the room and hugs Paul.

IAN  
(thrilled)  
Daddy!

PAUL  
Hey pal! You feeling okay?

IAN  
Yep! Mom let me in the backyard for  
half an hour today!

Paul looks at Anne with surprise.

ANNE  
What? We have a fence, I was with  
him, and he deserved it, right?

Anne tickles Ian. He giggles.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Ian cleaned his room and helped me  
with dinner, which is in the fridge  
for you.

Paul's eyes widen at the thought of a home cooked meal. He  
rises from the couch.

PAUL  
Can't wait to eat some real food  
and not packaged crap from the lab.

He walks to the kitchen. Anne looks at Ian.

ANNE  
Want to get ready for bed? It's  
pretty late.

IAN  
(disappointed)  
But Daddy just got home. I wanna  
spend time with him.

ANNE  
He'll tuck you in, okay? Read you a  
story?

Ian smiles at his mom's promise.

IAN  
Okay!

Ian runs to his bedroom. Anne walks towards the kitchen.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Paul sits at a table devouring his dinner. Anne sits next to  
him.

ANNE  
I'm worried about Mark.

Paul talks with his mouth semi full of food.

PAUL  
He's angry because of Connie.

ANNE  
There's something about him lately,  
like he's upped his craziness.

PAUL  
If you're that worried about him,  
call the police...maybe they'll  
straighten him out.

Anne sighs as some frustration builds inside her.

ANNE  
The police haven't been through our  
neighborhood in weeks, Paul. They  
stopped patrolling. Only the army  
has stopped once on our street.

PAUL  
(surprised)  
When?

ANNE  
Two weeks ago. They were checking  
to see if anyone was sick.

PAUL

Why didn't you tell me about that?  
Was Ian scared? Did they come  
inside the house?

ANNE

No one came in, two jeeps parked on  
the street, and a lieutenant asked  
me through a bullhorn. Ian spotted  
them first. He told me they were  
outside. I told you when it  
happened.

PAUL

Have they come back since?

ANNE

No, or I would have told you so.

Paul can see Anne's annoyance growing.

PAUL

What is it?

ANNE

(cautious)

I'm not sure how I feel, Paul.

She pauses.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I know you're trying to save what's  
left of the world with your  
research...and that there's a  
bigger picture than our  
family...but I'm running things  
here alone!

Anne's tone gets louder.

ANNE (CONT'D)

This isn't easy, Paul! There's a  
lunatic down the block showing up  
here, the only thing on tv is about  
this virus...so Ian can't even  
watch it, and I'm tired of hearing  
about what it's done to the world!  
We're like prisoners in our own  
homes...always looking over our  
shoulders for someone sick!

Paul goes to hug Anne but she is defensive.

ANNE (CONT'D)

A hug isn't going to help, Paul!  
When you're here, your not really  
here...and I want to be mad about  
that, but you're doing work that  
needs to be done!

Anne is upset and frustrated.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I wish none of this happened!

Paul holds his wife's hand, trying to ground her emotions.

PAUL

I wish the same thing...but it is  
happening.

Ian shouts from his bedroom.

IAN (O.S.)

Dad, I'm ready!

Paul and Anne look to his voice in acknowledgement. Paul  
looks at Anne and points in Ian's direction.

PAUL

(conviction)

That's why I stay late at the lab  
every night...why I need to find a  
cure for this virus. For you and  
Ian to have a world left to live  
in.

Anne nervously smiles, a mixture of belief and fear. Paul  
kisses her, then stands and walks out of the room.

INT. LAB - DAY

Paul looks at a computer screen. Henry walks into the room.

HENRY

I finished the autopsy on our  
friend in the other room.

PAUL

(distracted)

And?

HENRY

Omega T-13 is a predator, a  
complete killer.

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

It attacks the respiratory and nervous systems of a victim all at once, basically rendering them helpless in a week or two, allowing the virus to work on the other vital organs...

Paul interrupts Henry, not looking at him.

PAUL

(annoyed)

And during the infancy stages of the infection victims begin to develop swollen veins and yellowish discoloration...we know this, and verified these findings with the French SPF-DMI health office in Paris.

Henry looks at Paul with a smug *wait till you hear this* look.

HENRY

But, the autopsy did show me something new...

Paul looks away from his computer at Henry with curiosity.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Follow me.

The two men walk across the room to an examination cube. Henry turns on the surrounding lights that circle the cube.

HENRY (CONT'D)

(proud)

Look at the two specimens on the stand.

Paul peers into the transparent cube. Two petri dishes sit side by side. Both are not labeled.

PAUL

(puzzled)

Why aren't they labeled?

HENRY

Just look.

Paul looks at the specimens again. One is diseased looking while the other has very little deterioration.

PAUL

One tissue sample has advanced infection from Omega T-13, and the other must be a healthy cadaver sample that you just introduced the virus to.

HENRY

How about both samples acquired two months ago, and the left one was treated with our serum. I added a few modifications from my autopsy findings.

Paul looks astonished.

PAUL

(shocked)

Two months...and still that healthy?

Henry nods his head yes. Paul is overjoyed. He hugs Henry, then releases him quickly, offended.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Wait, you've worked on this for awhile, and not one word to me about it?

HENRY

(proud)

I had to be sure. I couldn't show you a half-cocked theory that failed, right?

PAUL

You sneaky, brilliant son of a bitch.

HENRY

Now it's not a cure, but this discovery buys us time for more research.

PAUL

(excited)

It's something we can report to the CDC and WHO! It's HOPE

SUPER: DECEMBER 2021



EXT. MARK'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY

Mark stands next to an overgrown grave. Tears swell in his eyes. He cleans away some of the debris. A stone marks where Connie is buried. Mark wipes his eyes and walks to the side of the house.

EXT. MARK'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Mark leers with anger at Paul's house. He notices Paul in the window.

EXT. PAUL'S NEIGHBORHOOD - LAWN - DAY

A dead, infected person lies on a front lawn of a house across the street from Paul's.

WINDOW IN BACKGROUND:

Paul stares at the body through the window.

BACK TO PAUL:

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Anne joins Paul at the window. There's worry in their eyes.

ANNE

(concern)

We're really low on food, and there isn't any cell phone service anymore. Our phones are useless...I haven't heard from Melissa...I wanted to talk to my sister.

Paul continues to look across the street, transfixed.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Paul?!

PAUL

(disheartened)

It was supposed to give us more time.

ANNE

The vaccine works, right?

PAUL

For Omega T-13...before it mutated.

Mark's SHOUTS from outside the house startle Paul and Anne.

FRONT LAWN:

Mark stands in front of Paul's house.

BACK TO PAUL:

Anger forms on Paul's face. He walks to the front door. Anne stops him.

ANNE

Don't go out there, Paul! Ignore him!

Paul looks at his wife with an intense stare she hasn't seen before. It scares her.

PAUL

(anger)  
I'll be fine!

Paul puts on a face mask and gloves. He grabs a baseball bat from a closet, removes the safety bar from the door, unlocks it and exits.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - DAY

Paul holds the bat firmly as he stands by his door and locks eyes with Mark.

MARK

Oh, there he is...FINALLY!

PAUL

You have ten seconds to get out of here, Mark!

MARK

(taunting)  
Or what? You'll kill me! Like you killed Connie!

Paul pauses a moment, faced with that grim possibility.

PAUL

Again...I'm sorry about Connie, I really am...and I don't want to hurt you...but if you come any closer...

MARK

(upset)

You doctors and scientists...you already killed so many people, with your promises of a cure! You never delivered! It was all bullshit!

PAUL

(defensive)

You're wrong, Mark! I worked night and day to get rid of this goddamn thing! I wanted to help people!

Mark pauses a moment, wrestling with anger and desperate need.

MARK

Give me the vaccine. I don't want to get sick...like Connie.

Paul stares at Mark in disbelief.

PAUL

(denial)

I don't have any of the vaccine in my home! We gave any samples we had to the CDC!

MARK

Are you kidding me?! You're going to lie to my face right now!

PAUL

I'm not lying, Mark! What makes you think I'd have it?!

MARK

I'm supposed to believe that you didn't keep a stash of it for yourself...for Anne and your son?!

PAUL

Yes, you are! What kind of doctor would I be if I did that and withheld the vaccine from someone who needs it?!

Mark stares at Paul with contempt.

MARK

(anger)

I don't believe you! I'm going to look for myself!

Mark moves towards Paul in an attempt to get into Paul's house. Paul raises the bat, threatening Mark. Mark stops, not sure if Paul would use it.

PAUL  
Not another step!

MARK  
What kind of doctor are you?!  
You're supposed to help people!

Paul screams at Mark.

PAUL  
I don't have any!

Mark, even with his rage, realizes he can't win this standoff with Paul. He begins to back-up away from Paul.

MARK  
(spiteful)  
I'll never forgive you for this!  
You'll get what's coming to you!

PAUL  
Get out of here! Don't come back  
here again!

Mark slowly walks back to his house, occasionally turning back towards Paul with a hateful glare.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Paul re-enters the house and locks the front door, applying the safety bar. He puts the bat down.

ANNE  
(worried)  
I heard through an open window...he  
wanted the vaccine we have?

Paul has a moment of guilt about his lie to Mark. He quickly dismisses it.

PAUL  
Well, he's not getting it...

Paul looks Anne in her eyes and holds her arms lovingly.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
It's for us...only us.

Paul leaves the room. Anne looks towards outside the house with fear.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Paul sits alone in a modestly decorated room. A small box sits on his lap. He opens it and carefully removes a small vial with a liquid inside. Paul handles it gently.

FLASHBACK:

INT. LAB - DAY

Paul sits at a desk. He closes a folder in front of him. Henry stands a few feet away from him. Both men look frustrated. The lab looks vacant.

PAUL  
(disheartened)  
When is the power to the lab being  
turned off?

Henry looks at his watch.

HENRY  
In another fifteen minutes.

PAUL  
All our work, our time...it ends in  
fifteen minutes.

HENRY  
It's easy to feel guilty, Paul. I  
felt like I failed the human race  
too...but we had no idea Omega T-13  
would mutant as many times as it  
did in one year. It was unheard of.

PAUL  
It isn't guilt, Henry...it's  
feeling useless.

HENRY  
(supportive)  
What we did here wasn't useless. We  
made a vaccine that gave sick  
people a little more time to say  
goodbye to families. Instead of a  
week or two of life, we gave them  
two months. That's something.

PAUL  
 (frustrated)  
 We couldn't create a vaccine to  
 keep up with it! It was always one  
 step ahead of us!

Henry sees he isn't making Paul understand the value of their work. He looks at his watch and knows he doesn't have much time before the power to the lab goes off.

Henry walks into another room. Paul is left alone with his thoughts. A moment later, Henry returns holding a small black case. He places the case on a table and opens it.

CASE INTERIOR:

Four vials of the vaccine are inside the case. Paul removes two vials and closes the case.

BACK TO HENRY:

Henry attempts to hand the vials to a puzzled Paul.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
 What are you doing?

HENRY  
 You take these and bring them home.

Paul is stunned by Henry's gesture.

PAUL  
 I can't...WE can't keep any of  
 this!

HENRY  
 Listen to me, we sent more than  
 enough of the vaccine to the CDC.  
 These...

Henry holds up the vials.

HENRY (CONT'D)  
 Are ours, Paul. The government is  
 closing us down in a couple of  
 minutes. That means we've lost,  
 Paul.

Paul interrupts him.

PAUL  
 No, no way!

HENRY

You're smart, Paul, I've seen your genius first hand. Read the writing on the wall. There aren't enough people left to aid in our research. Hell, there aren't enough healthy people left to keep the power on.

Henry holds the vials out to Paul.

HENRY (CONT'D)

It's about survival now. We have EARNED these!

Paul stares at the vials. His mind races with debate, to help others before himself or protect his family. After a moment, Paul takes the vials from Henry.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Okay, now go straight home from here, stop for no one...that's how it spreads.

PAUL

(anxious)

Human contact within a two foot proximity...saliva, sweat, blood, skin contact.

HENRY

Stay indoors, and guard those vials with your life.

Henry stares into Paul's eyes.

HENRY (CONT'D)

It's going to get worse now.

PAUL

Worse? How?

HENRY

All this fear and death will cause people to become animalistic...desperate for anything.

Henry puts the case into his bag and closes it. Paul puts his vials into protective sleeves, then carefully wraps his two vials in a towel and puts them in his bag. Paul looks around the lab.

PAUL

I'll give one last look around.

Paul exits into another room. Henry looks in Paul's direction to make sure he can't see him. He slips an envelope into Paul's bag and zips it closed. Henry SHOUTS to Paul.

HENRY

Come on, Paul, we only have another minute!

Paul returns and grabs his bag.

PAUL

(sincere)

Thank you Henry, for everything you did.

HENRY

Like WE had a choice, Paul.

Henry smiles and hugs Paul.

HENRY (CONT'D)

We'll see each other again.

Henry and Paul exit the lab just as the lights go out.

FLASHBACK ENDS:

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - ONE WEEK LATER

Paul, Anne, and Ian eat at a table.

PAUL

That market nearby had barely anything left. I took what was left.

IAN

(concern)

Are we going to starve?

ANNE

Of course not, honey. Your dad and I wouldn't let that happen.

PAUL

Have you seen anyone in the neighborhood?

Anne motions to Paul with her eyes, as if to say *don't upset Ian with this kind of talk.*

IAN

Are we looking for someone sick?



ANNE  
No, just anybody, honey.

Anne tries to deflect Ian's questions.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Hey, when you're done eating we'll  
go upstairs and play a game in your  
room, okay?

Ian gets excited.

IAN  
Dinosaurs and aliens?

ANNE  
Sure!

Ian begins to eat faster. Paul gives Anne a disapproving look. She answers him with a *what* stare.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Paul, with his winter coat on, stands a few feet from the house, deep in thought. Anne joins him.

ANNE  
You warm enough?

Paul doesn't answer her. Something is on his mind.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Paul?

Paul doesn't turn to look at Anne.

PAUL  
The winter seems more cold than  
before. Guess that's because there  
aren't enough people left  
generating any body heat.

Anne gets frustrated.

ANNE  
What's wrong?!

PAUL  
You keep lying to Ian. He needs to  
hear the truth about what's going  
on.

ANNE

Why, Paul?! I'm trying to keep him SANE! Should we tell him there's a nutcase living down the street...and that there's no more food...and that we're all trapped in our houses in a giant prison called the world?!

Paul snaps at Anne.

PAUL

If you lie to him, and he doesn't understand this world...he won't survive it! The truth gives him a chance!

ANNE

He's seen the truth, Paul! Until the TV crapped out, he heard...he saw the news on all of it! All he has to do is look out his bedroom window and see the body across the street! He knows, but I don't want to keep reminding him of it until it's all he ever thinks about!

Paul looks into Anne's eyes and sees her anxiety. He hugs her.

ANNE (CONT'D)

(upset)

I don't want him to be us.

PAUL

(sympathetic)

I'm sorry...

Paul realizes it's gotten colder in the yard.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Let's get inside.

The two walk to the front of the house.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Paul and Anne walk towards their front door. Someone weakly CALLING for Anne from the street draws their attention.

GARY

Anne...Anne...

They see GARY, (40's) Melissa's husband, walking slowly towards them. He's infected with the virus. Paul instinctively holds Anne back from him.

ANNE  
(scared)  
Gary! Where's Melissa!

ON GARY:

Gary can barely stand up. His yellow eyes are almost swollen shut and his blue face is a roadmap of bulging veins. Gary tries to turn his body but falls to the ground.

BACK TO PAUL AND ANNE:

Without caution or logic, just instinct, Anne breaks free from Paul and races towards Gary. She stands near him.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Where Melissa, Gary?!

Gary summons the strength to point his finger in the direction he came from. He collapses to the ground, dead. Anne's eyes follow it to her sister's body lying on the sidewalk. Without hesitation, Anne runs to her.

ON PAUL:

Paul screams at Anne.

PAUL  
Anne, stop!

BACK TO ANNE:

Anne reaches Melissa. She is infected. Anne cradles her in her arms.

ANNE  
Please don't die, Melly! Don't  
leave me! Melly!

Melissa takes her last gasp and vomits on Anne. A crying Anne suddenly remembers the virus. She looks at the vomit, then at Anne, then down the street at Paul.

ON PAUL:

Paul's eyes well with tears. There's a numbness in his voice as he cries out to Anne.

PAUL  
 (sorrow)  
 No Anne...no...no...please no.

Paul looks down at Gary's dead body. He knows Anne's future.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY

SUPER: January 2022

Paul holds Ian's hand as they cross the yard to a garage. They pass a large fire pit with ash in it. Pieces of Melissa's clothes are trapped between the surrounding rocks. Paul and Ian stop at an open window in the garage.

PAUL  
 (anxious)  
 Anne, we're here, honey?

There's a moment of silence from the garage. Paul's facial expression is one of *oh god, are we too late?*

IAN  
 Mommy?

ANNE (O.S.)  
 (weak)  
 Hi baby...you okay?

IAN  
 Yeah...I used my coloring books today.

ANNE (O.S.)  
 Oh, that's great, honey. I'll bet it beautiful.

Paul can hear Anne beginning to cry. Paul wipes tears from his eyes. He notices Ian looking at him and tries to compose himself.

PAUL  
 We found more food inside a house a few miles away. Everything was new.

ANNE (O.S.)  
 That's good, now I can stop worrying about you two.

Anne violently coughs. It startles Ian. He grips Paul's hand tighter.

IAN  
 Mommy, are you gonna get better?

Anne pauses.

ANNE (O.S.)  
 I...don't know, baby. Daddy gave me  
 some medicine, so we'll see, okay?

Ian looks at Paul with doubt.

IAN  
 I don't like you in the garage,  
 Mommy.

ANNE  
 I know, but I can't get you or  
 Daddy sick, honey.

PAUL  
 Ian, do your dad a favor, okay? Can  
 you go over by the fence there a  
 minute?

Ian looks at the fence, then back at the garage.

IAN  
 (sad)  
 Bye Mommy...I love you.

ANNE (O.S.)  
 (heartache)  
 Bye honey, I always love you.

Ian steps away. Paul leans closer to the garage window.

PAUL  
 (playful)  
 Still lying to him?

ANNE (O.S.)  
 Wouldn't you?

PAUL  
 I would...I understand why you did  
 it.

ANNE (O.S.)  
 (sarcastic)  
 I only have to be dying for you  
 to...

Anne coughs violently.

ANNE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

To get it.

Paul chokes back some tears.

PAUL

I see a lot of things differently since you got sick, Anne. You carried our household while I worked day and night...always there for Ian.

Paul wipes the tears from his eyes.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I wasn't here to help you...and now it's so hard knowing that you're....

ANNE (O.S.)

(hopeful)

Stop, Paul. We know what's going to happen to me, but I need you to keep Ian alive...and safe. He...

(coughs)

He needs to make it through this. Promise me, Paul.

PAUL

Anne, don't...

ANNE (O.S.)

Promise me!

The words struggle to form in Paul's mouth.

PAUL

I promise.

ANNE (O.S.)

Good...I love you Paul.

Before Paul can answer her, Anne pushes her wedding ring through a small opening in the window screen. It falls to the ground. Paul picks it up with his gloved hand. He stares into the window.

ANNE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Never forget your promise, Paul.

Anne violently coughs. Paul looks at Ian. The two share a worried glance.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - GARAGE - NEXT DAY

Paul and Ian stand near the garage. Paul holds Ian's hand.

GROUND:

A plate full of old food sits untouched by the garage door.

BACK TO PAUL AND IAN:

Paul and Ian walks to the garage window. After a moment, Ian calls to Anne.

IAN  
(hopeful)  
Mommy, we came back to talk to you.

There is no answer. Ian begins to worry.

IAN (CONT'D)  
Mommy...answer me!

Anne doesn't answer. Paul kneels down next to Ian and tries to hug him. Ian wiggles free and runs to the garage door.

IAN (CONT'D)  
Mommy!

Paul quickly chases after Ian and stops him from opening the garage door and infecting himself.

IAN (CONT'D)  
No! I want Mommy!

Paul holds Ian tight even though he struggles.

IAN (CONT'D)  
Mommy!

After a moment, Ian stops fighting Paul. He knows his mother is gone. Ian sobs in his father's arms.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY - ONE MONTH LATER

Paul enters Ian's bedroom. Ian looks out his window with a worried face. Paul notices that Ian's room is neat. Ian never keeps it that way. He opens a toy chest, then closes it.

PAUL  
Your room looks great, buddy. How come you haven't been playing with your toys?

IAN  
Don't feel like it.

PAUL  
They're gonna get awful lonely in  
that box if you don't play with  
them.

Ian turns to his father.

IAN  
Their not real, Dad.

Paul smirks, but senses something is bothering Ian.

PAUL  
So what's wrong?

IAN  
I miss Mommy, but...

Paul puts his arms around Ian and hugs him.

PAUL  
I miss her too.

IAN  
(frustrated)  
Dad, that's not the only thing  
wrong.

Ian points out his window and Paul's eyes follow his finger.

HOUSE IN NEIGHBORHOOD:

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Two infected men fight over food they stole from a house they left. The both fall to the ground and are not strong enough to stand again. The men barely struggle for the food anymore.

BACK TO PAUL AND IAN:

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Paul moves Ian away from the window.

PAUL  
(reassuring)  
They can't get inside, Ian.  
Everything's locked.



IAN  
Are you sure, Dad?

Paul stares out the window, anxiety on his face.

IAN (CONT'D)  
They come around a lot. I see them  
through the windows.

PAUL  
I see them too, buddy.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Stay here a minute.

Paul steps away from Ian a moment, then returns with  
binoculars. He hands them to Ian.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Look at the men on the lawn.

Ian puts the binoculars to his eyes.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
You see what makes them sick?

IAN  
Yeah, they got blue faces and lines  
on them...and their eyes and  
fingers are yellow.

PAUL  
The lines are their veins...

IAN  
Eww.

PAUL  
That's how you can tell if a  
person's sick, and you stay away  
from them...you understand?

IAN  
Yeah, I get it, and their always  
hungry too.

Paul looks at his son with admiration.

PAUL  
You've been paying attention,  
that's good.

Ian lowers the binoculars from his eyes and looks at Paul.

IAN  
Mommy looked like that, right  
Daddy?

PAUL  
Yeah, she did, honey. Remember,  
Mom's at peace though, and she's  
always with us...

Paul taps Ian's chest.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Right here.

IAN  
Will the sick people keep coming  
here?

Paul hugs his son as he stares out the window, dread on his  
face.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Paul empties the contents of his bag. He finds Henry's letter  
and reads it.

HENRY (V.O.)  
Paul, when you read my letter you  
and I will have ended our research  
together. It will also mean we  
didn't find a cure for Omega T-13,  
God help us all. We tried, Paul, we  
really did, and you must remember  
that during the worst that is yet  
to come. There is a place I began  
to build with the help of others  
before the government collapsed and  
society fell called "Haven". It's a  
compound in Burton, Geauga County,  
near Cleveland, about five hours by  
car, where everyone inside doesn't  
have the virus. There's a school, a  
church, housing with home-cooked  
meals... and the start of a new  
life waiting for you, Anne, and  
Ian. Everything runs on solar  
energy and gas generators. I hope  
you come, Paul...I miss my friend.

Paul smiles and puts the letter in his pocket.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Ian looks confused as Paul patiently stares at him

IAN

Why are we going to Haven, Dad?

PAUL

Haven has healthy people there, Ian. Nobody is sick there, and it has other kids and a school, plus food and nice people.

IAN

I don't wanna leave my house.

PAUL

It's scary, I know. I'm scared too, but we're not safe here. Remember those sick people we saw...

Ian nods yes.

PAUL (CONT'D)

They'll keep coming, and we might get sick too.

IAN

What about Mommy? Can we take her too?

Paul feels his guts renched during this talk with Ian. He hasn't processed Anne's passing yet.

PAUL

No, buddy, we can't. Mommy was sick and she's still infected.

Ian's eyes are somber.

PAUL (CONT'D)

If we bring Mommy...we'll die too.

Ian struggles not to cry, instead showing bravery.

IAN

Daddy, we should go to Haven, right?

Paul nods his head yes and gives Ian a hug.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Paul, with gloves and a mask on, enters and walks to the rear of the garage. He stops when he sees a sheet covering Anne's body tied with rope. A somber look covers his face. He regroups and begins picking through items. Anne's hollow voice startles him.

ANNE (O.S.)

Paul....

Paul turns quickly and sees Anne standing behind him covered in the sheet. He trips and nearly falls backwards into some boxes.

ON ANNE:

Anne slowly walks towards him.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Why did you let me die? Why didn't  
you save me?

BACK TO PAUL:

Paul's shock changes to logic and he closes his eyes, calming himself. He opens them and sees Anne's body in the corner of the garage where it was. Unnerved by the hallucination caused by his guilt, Paul quickly returns to searching the garage.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Paul closes and locks the garage door. He spray paints "No" on the door, puts the can away, and touches the door with his hand...a final goodbye.

EXT. MARK'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Paul and Ian exit their home and walk to a car in the driveway. Paul looks around for anyone else, then opens the car door and helps Ian inside. He closes the door, then opens the trunk of the car and puts supplies inside it. He closes the trunk.

A hammer hits Paul in the middle of his back. Paul drops to the ground in pain. Mark stands over him holding the hammer.

MARK

(furious)

You thought I'd let you go! Leave  
to murder someone else!

Mark swings the hammer into Paul's thigh. Paul grabs it in pain. He quickly looks at Mark's face and hands for infection, but there isn't any. Ian turns and looks out the rear window of the car.

IAN  
(upset)  
Daddy!

INSIDE CAR:

INT. PAUL'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Ian reaches for the door handle to exit the car.

BACK TO PAUL:

EXT. PAUL'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Paul SHOUTS to Ian.

PAUL  
Stay in the car, Ian!

Paul looks back at Mark. Mark removes an empty vaccine vial from his jacket and shows it to Paul.

MARK  
(enraged)  
I found it in your trash can! You lying bastard! You had it all along! I begged you for it...for Connie!

PAUL  
(protective)  
I had to keep my family safe! I needed it too!

Mark grunts with anger and raises the hammer to strike Paul again. Paul trips Mark and pulls him into the car bumper. Mark SMASHES into it and falls to the ground. Paul stands and kicks Mark in the stomach. He limps to the car door, opens it, and gets in.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Ian, head down! Cover it with your arms!

Ian does as his father tells him to, but he is scared. Paul turns the car on and puts it in reverse.

EXT. MARK'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Paul's car taps Mark as he stands, knocking him down again. Mark hits the side of the car with the hammer. Paul's car pulls into the street from the driveway and speeds away.

Mark stands, grimacing in pain. He stares with hate at the fleeing car. Mark looks down and sees Henry's note, which fell out of Paul's pocket during the fight, on the ground. He picks it up and reads it. After a moment Mark sinisterly laughs, then SHOUTS at the car that disappeared.

MARK  
(maniacal)  
Haven....Not for you! Not for you!

EXT. STREET - DAY - LATER

Paul's car stops at congestion of other cars in the middle of the street. He turns the car off and steps out. Ian climbs out as well. Paul motions to him.

PAUL  
Stay near the car, okay?

Paul walks to the cars. He searches for anyone alive from a distance, but only finds dead bodies of infected people mixed in with the cars. He walks back to Ian.

EXT. REAR OF CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Paul closes the trunk. He stuffs items into Ian's backpack.

PAUL  
We can't get through there, we'll have to go on foot. We'll only take what we need to make it to Haven.

IAN  
What about another road?

PAUL  
I'm sure there all like this one.

Paul checks Ian's backpack, then puts it on him. He slings his backpack over his shoulder then picks up a duffle bag.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
You ready?

Ian has a eureka moment.

IAN  
Wait, Dad, I forgot Ballbuster!

PAUL  
Who?

IAN  
Open the trunk!

Paul opens the trunk. Ian finds a ten inch action figure and removes it.

IAN (CONT'D)  
I couldn't go without him. He can  
keep us safe.

Paul shakes his head and smirks at his son's innocence.

IAN (CONT'D)  
You remember Ballbuster, Daddy?

PAUL  
No, sorry I don't.

IAN  
You gave him to me when I was five,  
on my birthday.

Paul looks at Ian. He's embarrassed and ashamed for forgetting a present he bought his son, not proud of being an absentee father to Ian. Paul goes to close the trunk and sees a tire iron. He removes it and closes the trunk.

IAN (CONT'D)  
What's that for, Dad?

PAUL  
Protection.

INT. GROCERY STORE AISLE - DAY - LATER

Paul and Ian sit on the floor in an aisle of a deserted convenience store. They eat crackers and chips. Other food boxes are sprawled out on the floor. The store has been ransacked. Paul checks a map.

PAUL  
We should be at Haven in a few  
days.

IAN  
Daddy, I'm tired. We walked a lot.

PAUL

Okay, close your eyes for a few minutes. I'll keep watch.

Ian puts the cracker box down on the floor and lays his head on his backpack next to him. Paul continues to look at the map.

PAUL'S VIEW:

The map page becomes blurry.

BACK TO PAUL:

Paul's eyes are heavy. They flutter, then close, as he nods off. The store's door chime RINGING wakes Paul. His surprised, wide eyes scan the aisle Ian and he are in. He hears someone walking.

Paul wakes Ian and covers his mouth with his hand. He motions to Ian to be quiet. Paul quickly puts Ian's backpack on him. The footsteps go to another aisle. Paul grabs his bags and helps Ian to the front of the aisle.

He looks around, then into the next aisle. A WOMAN sits on the floor gorging herself on food. Paul reminds Ian to be quiet again, and the two make a run to the front door. Ian accidentally kicks a can on the floor and it SMACKS into a counter.

ON WOMAN:

INT. AISLE - CONTINUOUS

She looks in the direction of the noise. Her blue face is covered in bulging veins with mustard colored eyes and fingertips. The woman stands and runs to the front of the store.

BACK TO PAUL AND IAN:

INT. GROCERY STORE FRONT DOOR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Paul and Ian escape the store. Paul wedges a piece of wood into the sliding glass door so it won't open. The woman closes in behind them and slams her body against the door glass. Paul and Ian watch in horror from outside. The woman stares at Ian, hallucinating.



WOMAN

I'm sorry, baby! I wouldn't scare you! I'm so hungry...and it hurts all the time! I want to hold you again, Billy!

Paul and Ian walk quickly from the store. The woman sobs as she slides down the glass and to the floor.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry...I'm sorry!

EXT. STREET - DAY - LATER

Mark walks away from his car parked behind Paul's, with a knapsack over his shoulder and the hammer in one hand. He moves in the same direction Paul and Ian went with an unrelenting stride.

INT. BAR - DAY - LATER

Paul slowly opens the front door to a dark dive bar. The tire iron is in his hand while the other one holds Ian's. There's a long bar and stools in front of it with a few pool tables and bar tops and chairs. NICK, (50's) t-shirt and jeans with a mobility cane on the bar in front of him. He hears the door open and tilts his head towards it.

NICK

(friendly)

Hey there, come on in!

Paul and Ian are apprehensive. Nick motions to them.

NICK (CONT'D)

Get in here, I won't bite ya.

Paul and Ian slowly walk in but stand near the door as Paul props it open, beaming light into the bar.

PAUL

I'm sorry, I wasn't sure anyone was in here.

NICK

No worries, I got company now.

Ian sees the stick on the bar.

IAN

(curious)

Are you blind?

Paul pulls on Ian coat as if say *you don't ask that question.*

NICK

Sure am.

PAUL

Again...sorry, he shouldn't have...

NICK

Asked an honest question? I got no problem with it. You're a straight shooter, buddy. What's your name?

Ian looks at his Dad for approval to say his name. Paul quickly looks at Nick for signs of disease but finds none. He nods to Ian in approval.

IAN

I'm Ian, and this is my Dad.

Both Nick and Paul chuckle.

NICK

Mine's Nick, and hi, Dad?

PAUL

Paul. We don't mean any harm to you.

NICK

Hope not...there isn't much I could do about it anyways. Besides, murderers and thieves don't bring their kids along when they're gonna act up, right?

PAUL

We were just running low on food and was hoping to find something in the kitchen.

NICK

Say no more...I hide my food already, so anything back there...

Nick points to the kitchen door.

NICK (CONT'D)

Its yours to take. There's also warm beer and soda in a fridge behind the bar about twenty steps from where I'm sittin'.

IAN  
 (surprised)  
 Wow! How'd you know how many steps  
 it was?

NICK  
 When you're blind, you pay a lot  
 more attention to things, smells,  
 sounds, and steps.

PAUL  
 We're going to check the kitchen  
 now.

NICK  
 Have fun.

Paul and Ian walk cautiously at a distance around Nick and through the kitchen door. Nick reaches over the bar and grabs a bottle of beer. He pops the cap off on the bar and drinks. Searching NOISES can be heard from the kitchen.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY - LATER

Mark looks into the window of the store. He sees the woman slumped down on the floor. Mark finds the door wedged shut and removes the wood. He enters the store and looks down every aisle, looking for Paul and Ian.

Frustrated, he finds a rack with maps on it. Mark grabs one on Cleveland. He opens it, scans it with his eyes, smiles and points with his finger.

MAP :

An area marked Burton, Geauga County.

BACK TO MARK:

Mark spits on the spot on the map, then with a sinister smirk, smears it with his finger.

MARK  
 You're not getting away from me,  
 murderer. I'll get you.

Mark folds the map and sticks it into his pants pocket. He turns to leave but sees the dying woman stir on the ground. She begins to moan.

WOMAN  
 My baby, he took Billy from me...

Mark approaches the infected woman and kneels down close to her. The woman's eyes are swollen shut and she can barely breathe.

MARK

Where did he go with Billy? Tell me?

The woman's shaking hand points in the direction Paul and Ian left. Mark's demeanor changes to anger, almost disgust for the woman.

MARK (CONT'D)

Did you help them?

WOMAN

I'd always help my Billy...I love him.

The woman coughs and begins to hyperventilate. Mark raises the hammer in his hand over the woman and brings it down three times on her.

MARK'S FACE:

The woman's blood splatters across Mark's face.

BACK TO MARK:

Mark stands and wipes off the blood. He exits the store while the woman's body lies still.

INT. BAR - DAY - SUNSET

Paul and Ian sit several stools away from Nick. Ian drinks a soda.

PAUL

Thank you for letting us take some things from the kitchen.

NICK

Wasn't mine to give. Besides, Ian's gotta grow, right? He needs his snacks.

IAN

Right!

Ian looks at Nick a moment. He feels sad for him.

IAN (CONT'D)

You wanna come with us?

Nick perks up some when he hears the invitation.

IAN (CONT'D)  
We're going to...

Paul stops Ian from talking further. Ian looks confused. Nick smiles and settles back in his chair.

NICK  
No can do, buddy. Besides, your  
Dad's right...best not to tell me.

PAUL  
I'm sorry, Nick...it's just that I  
have a hard time...

NICK  
(sarcastic)  
Trusting people during the end of  
the world?

Nick takes another sip of beer.

NICK (CONT'D)  
I'd be a anchor dragging you both  
down anyway.

PAUL  
Don't say that.

NICK  
It's true...a blind man in a  
disease infected world with  
desperate people left in it.

Nick rolls his cane between his fingers.

NICK (CONT'D)  
I've accepted my fate a while ago.  
Sooner or later, somebody will come  
through that door, and that'll be  
it.

Nick drinks some more beer, then smiles.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Just glad it wasn't you guys.

Ian pulls on his father's coat.

IAN  
(sad)  
Tell Nick he can come with us, Dad!

Paul and Ian share a look with Paul's face saying no.

IAN (CONT'D)  
Tell him!

PAUL  
(frustrated)  
I can't, Ian!

IAN  
Why?

PAUL  
Because he's right! He's right!

Ian's emotions are conflicting. He's never seen his father, a doctor, refuse to help someone. Ian hangs his head down. Paul grabs the backpacks off of the bar.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
(ashamed)  
Let's go.

Paul and Ian walk to the front door. Nick sits in silence. Before they leave, Paul turns back to Nick.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
You want the door closed?

NICK  
(light-hearted)  
Nah, sun will do me good. Take care  
of each other.

Paul and Ian leave. Nick finishes his beer.

EXT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - EVENING

Paul and Ian walk slowly towards a house then stop when Paul hears someone SINGING around the side of the house. They follow the voice.

EXT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - GARDEN - EVENING

Paul and Ian cautiously approach a garden. MAVIA, (40's) flannel shirt and jeans, boots and a cap, hums a tune while she works with the earth. Her back is to Paul and Ian.

PAUL  
(nervous)  
Excuse me? Hello?

Mavia stops humming and turns around, seeing Paul and Ian.

MAVIA  
(surprised)  
Who the hell are you?

IAN  
I'm Ian, lady.

Mavia looks at Paul.

MAVIA  
And you?

PAUL  
Paul.

IAN  
He's my Dad.

Mavia nods her head in acknowledgement.

IAN (CONT'D)  
We're not here to hurt you, lady.

PAUL  
Really, we aren't...

Mavia nods at Ian.

MAVIA  
Him I believe, you though...

Paul tries to answer Mavia but she interrupts him.

MAVIA (CONT'D)  
Let me see your faces and fingers.

Paul and Ian step closer to Mavia. She holds her hand out in a *stop* signal. Mavia looks over Paul, then Ian. Ian holds out his fingers, then points his face toward to her. Paul stares at Mavia's features simultaneously.

IAN  
See? No blue lines or yellow stuff.

Mavia smirks.

MAVIA  
I'm clean too. You look like you've been walkin' a ways. Let's go inside and get you some soup. I'm Mavia.

IAN  
What's your name mean?

Mavia looks the two up and down.

MAVIA  
It means Mavia.

Mavia starts walking towards her home.

PAUL  
Uh, thank you...but should you just  
trust...

Mavia pulls her flannel sleeve down some, revealing a kitchen  
knife tucked inside it.

MAVIA  
I had you covered.

IAN  
Stoves and microwaves don't work.  
How you gonna cook soup?

Mavia continues to the house.

MAVIA  
You comin' or not?

Paul and Ian reluctantly follow Mavia.

INT. BAR - DAY - LATER

Mark's silhouette with the hammer in his hand emerges in the  
bar door against the light outside. Nick, still at the bar,  
thinks he hears someone. He turns his head towards the door.

NICK  
(inquisitive)  
Somebody there?

Mark steps a few feet into the bar. His eyes see the rage.

MARK  
Did you help them?

Nick pauses a moment, trying to get a read on Mark's voice.

NICK  
Help who?

MARK  
The father and his kid!



Nick now senses that he isn't dealing with a sane person.

NICK

Nah, haven't seen anybody in days.

Mark looks suspiciously at Nick, then at the bar. Paul and Ian's bottles are still sitting on it.

MARK

First that son of a bitch lies to me, and my Connie's dead...then you lie to me?

Mark walks towards Nick, twisting the blood stained hammer in his hand.

INT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Candles and a large flashlight illuminate a cozy room. Paul, Ian, and Mavia eat soup sitting at a table.

IAN

(excited)

This is good!

MAVIA

A little while in the fireplace is all it takes.

PAUL

Thank you for the food. We really were only looking for a safe place to sleep.

Mavia looks from Paul to Ian, then back to Paul.

MAVIA

Father and son traveling on foot, not carrying a lot, no woman in the picture...what gives?

Paul hesitates to reply. Anne is still a sore subject. Ian puts his head down. He misses his Mom. Mavia reads the room.

MAVIA (CONT'D)

Too early...I get it. I'll shut up about it.

Ian picks his head up.

IAN  
 (somber)  
 Mom died from the bug. We left her  
 in the garage.

Mavia shows compassion towards Ian and holds his hand. Paul  
 watches on.

MAVIA  
 I'm sorry...but I'm sure your Dad  
 did what he could for her. Did you  
 get to say goodbye to her?

IAN  
 Kinda...but she didn't hug me  
 goodbye.

Mavia motions to Paul as if to say *let me try something*. Paul  
 nods yes.

MAVIA  
 Can I give you a hug?

IAN  
 Why? You're not Mom.

MAVIA  
 Cause' everybody needs a hug  
 sometimes, right?

Ian nods yes as Mavia hugs him. He smiles.

MAVIA (CONT'D)  
 There you go. Both of you can stay  
 here tonight...I have a clean room.

Paul looks apprehensively at Ian.

IAN  
 Can we, Dad?

PAUL  
 We don't want to intrude on Mavia,  
 buddy?

MAVIA  
 No intrusion, or I wouldn't have  
 offered.

She looks at Paul and Ian.

MAVIA (CONT'D)  
 Your choice though.

INT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mavia guides Paul out of a bedroom door.

MAIVA  
Ian likes his room, jumped right  
into bed.

PAUL  
Yeah, I'm glad, he needs sleep.

Mavia subtly flirts with Paul.

MAIVA  
So do you...

She moves closer to him. Paul seems nervous. Mavia motions her head towards another door.

MAVIA  
My room's right there.

Paul politely moves away from her and opens Ian's bedroom door.

PAUL  
I'm...going to stay with Ian.  
Goodnight.

He enters the room and shuts the door behind him. Mavia looks frustrated as she walks to her bedroom.

EXT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - GARDEN - NEXT DAY

Mavia works her garden. Paul approaches her with apprehension. She hears him approach.

MAVIA  
Don't creep around back there, help  
me in the garden.

Paul walks next the her, then kneels down next to her.

PAUL  
I'm sorry about last night...

MAVIA  
My fault, I was horny and came on  
too strong.

PAUL

It felt awkward...with us just getting here and my wife just passing.

MAVIA

I hear ya', I just haven't been with a man since my husband ran off when he thought he started gettin' sick. He didn't want me sick, so he made the decision for both of us and left.

Paul pauses, reading Mavia's face. This is painful but she shared it with him.

PAUL

That must have been tough.

MAVIA

Nah, tough's having an argument, what he did was brutal. It left me alone.

Mavia digs her trowel into the earth with frustration.

MAVIA (CONT'D)

This whole T-13 virus was man made, you know that, right?

Paul doesn't say anything. He's gaging the tone in Mavia's voice.

MAVIA (CONT'D)

Every night the news was on...this many more dead, our government's workin' on a cure...their close to a cure!

Mavia stops digging and holds her head up as she SHOUTS to no one.

MAVIA (CONT'D)

Did we get a cure?! Did we even stand a chance?! Those doctors...specialists in their fields...they never found a cure because they were told not to find one by those damn politicians!

Mavia slumps down in a defeated heap.

MAVIA (CONT'D)

They killed my marriage!

Paul consoles Mavia as best that he can. He doesn't dare tell her he is a doctor who worked on the cure. Mavia looks at Paul. She sees the sympathy in his eyes and tries to compose herself.

MAVIA (CONT'D)  
 Course', you losin' your wife like  
 you did, you know what brutal is.

Paul nods his head in agreement. The two begin working in the garden.

INT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Mavia, Paul and Ian eat at the table. The open blinds let the sunlight in and illuminate the room.

PAUL  
 Ian, make sure you have everything  
 of yours together, okay?

IAN  
 (surprised)  
 We're going?

PAUL  
 Yeah, a little later.

IAN  
 But why?

MAVIA  
 You could stay here longer if you  
 want?

Paul looks at Mavia, then Ian. This conversation could be difficult.

IAN  
 Yeah Dad, let's stay.

PAUL  
 Ian...

MAVIA  
 You got food, a bed and a roof over  
 your heads...and I've missed not  
 having anybody around...it gets  
 lonely here.

Paul is in an awkward spot. Mavia looks at Ian.

MAVIA (CONT'D)  
You liked stayin' here, right?

IAN  
Yeah, it's fun.

PAUL  
Look, Mavia, you've been really  
gracious towards us...better than  
most would have been...I just don't  
want to take advantage of...

Paul pauses and looks at Ian with his hands locked together,  
praying, then Mavia, who points to Ian and chuckles.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Alright, two more days.

Ian claps at his father's decision while Mavia smiles. Paul  
looks at Ian.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Happy now?

Ian nods yes and goes back to eating.

EXT. STREET - NEXT DAY

Mark searches for Paul and Ian in a deserted neighborhood. He  
grows more frustrated with every step. Mark stops, SHOUTS a  
primal grunt, then turns and walks the way he came from.

EXT. STREET (CROSSROAD) - DAY - LATER

Mark stands at a fork in the road. He starts pacing, anxious.  
Mark looks to his left and sees a gum wrapper in the grass.  
He walks to it and picks it up.

FLASHBACK BEGINS:

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

Mark searches the trash inside a can near Paul's garage. He  
sees a gum wrapper along with other trash before he finds an  
empty vaccine vial. Mark grips the vial tightly, with rage.

FLASHBACK ENDS:

EXT. STREET (CROSSROAD) - DAY

Mark recognizes the wrapper, smiles, and walks on the other road.

INT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Paul enters and sits at a table to a large breakfast. Mavia sets glasses on water on the table. A radio plays music.

PAUL  
(surprised)  
Music?

MAVIA  
Batteries.

PAUL  
It's been so long since I've heard  
any...

He eyes the food on the table.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
(pleased)  
This looks delicious, thank you.

MAVIA  
Dig in...where's Ian?

PAUL  
He'll be down in a minute, he's  
putting on his shoes.

Mavia sits at the table. She affectionately holds Paul's hand.

MAVIA  
I'm glad you two stayed. I got used  
to seeing you around here. I missed  
that feel of a family, you know?

Paul smiles.

PAUL  
It's been great staying here. The  
calmness...the normality has done  
Ian good.

MAVIA  
And you too?

PAUL

(humble)

I admit, to sleep without one eye open all the time, watching for infected people, and having real food...it's more than I hoped for. I can't thank you enough.

Mavia holds his hand tighter. Paul takes notice.

MAVIA

You're a good lookin' man, Paul. I'm attracted to you...you know that.

Mavia pulls Paul's hand to the side of her face. His touch makes her quiver with relief.

MAVIA (CONT'D)

It's been so long...don't make me beg for it. I need you.

Mavia gets off her chair and tries to straddle Paul. Paul is uneasy.

PAUL

Mavia...wait.

MAVIA

Please, Paul...now.

Paul holds Mavia still a moment.

PAUL

I can't take the place of your husband.

MAVIA

You're better.

Mavia passionately kisses Paul. Paul, in the moment, has missed the touch of a woman, and succumbs to Mavia's advances. The two kiss each other.

INT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Ian leaves his bedroom and walks towards the stairs. A sudden CRASH from behind a closed door startles him. Ian slowly makes his way to the door and listens. Another THUD makes him jumpy.



HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 (angry)  
 Mav, you crazy bitch...open this door!

Ian looks nervous.

HUSBAND (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Open it!

IAN  
 (scared)  
 Who's...in there?

HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 Hey, who's that?

IAN  
 Who are you?

HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 Are you a kid? Hey, how old are you?!

IAN  
 I don't talk to strangers.

HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 Look, kid...I live here! I'm Mavia's husband...now you gotta' let me out of here, okay?

IAN  
 She said you got sick and left.

HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 Jesus Christ! I'm not sick, kid! She knocked me out and tied me up in this room cause I was gonna' leave her! I finally got free, now let me out of here!

IAN  
 How do I know you ain't sick? You might lie?

HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 Damn it!  
 (pauses)  
 Sorry kid...I'm sorry, okay?  
 (pauses)  
 I got a mirror in here, and I'm gonna slide it under the door.

(MORE)

HUSBAND (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Pick it up and hold it up to the  
 door crack...you'll see my face in  
 the mirror, okay? That'll show you,  
 right?

IAN  
 Yeah.

The mirror shoots out to Ian from underneath the door. He puts a glove on and picks it up. He points the mirror underneath the door and squints at the mirror.

MIRROR:

Mavia's husband is not sick.

BACK TO IAN:

Ian looks shocked. He tries to open the door but it's locked.

IAN (CONT'D)  
 I can't open it!

HUSBAND  
 Alright, stand back kid!

Ian moves away from the door. Mavia's husband begins KICKING the door.

INT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Paul and Mavia kiss passionately. She tries to undo Paul's pants to have sex with him. The KICKING noises from upstairs detour Paul's concentration from Mavia. He hears it as the music from the radio quiets down.

PAUL  
 Did you...  
 (kiss)  
 Hear something?

MAVIA  
 No, baby...  
 (kiss)  
 It's nothing...keep going.

Paul hears the KICKING noise again.

PAUL  
 (concerned)  
 Something's going on up there!

Paul tries to remove Mavia off of him and get off the chair, but Mavia wraps her arms and legs around Paul and the chair.

MAVIA

Don't leave me, Paul...we can be a family. Give it to me.

INT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

The bedroom door breaks off its hinges and Mavia's HUSBAND, (40's) burly with a beard and a bandage on his head, exits. He looks at Ian.

HUSBAND

You okay, kid?

IAN

Yeah, what happened to your head?

HUSBAND

It's where my wife hit me a few days ago when I wanted to leave her.

He looks around cautiously.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)

Where is she?

IAN

Downstairs with my Dad.

HUSBAND

(worried)

Your Dad? Jesus, I gotta get down there! You stay here!

Mavia's husband heads to the stairs. Ian is worried. He looks inside the bedroom where the husband was.

BEDROOM:

Ian sees an overturned chair with broken rope next to it and a bandana gag.

BACK TO IAN:

Ian nervously looks down the stairs.

INT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Paul struggles to free himself from Mavia. She clings to him with desperation. Her husband enters the kitchen.

HUSBAND

Mavia, stop!

Mavia ignores him, acting like she is in a trance. Her husband walks to her and pulls Mavia off Paul. Mavia savagely fights back, but her husband tosses her several feet to the floor. Paul jumps from the chair.

PAUL

(confused)

What the hell is going on?

Mavia's husband positions himself between Mavia and Paul

HUSBAND

Get your kid outta here! She's nuts!

Paul stands still, dumbfounded.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)

Move...now!

Paul starts to run towards the stairs. He looks at the husband.

PAUL

I'm sorry...I didn't know you were here! She said you left her!

HUSBAND

Doesn't matter, go!

Paul exits the kitchen. Mavia jumps on her husband's back and pulls at his face and hair. Temporarily blinded, he falls to the floor. Mavia pounds on his back with her fists.

MAVIA

God damn it! I finally had a family! I wouldn't be alone!

Mavia's husband finally overpowers her and pushes her away from him.

HUSBAND

Stop it, Mavia! The virus, the death...this world now, it's turned you into a terrified lunatic!

Mavia crawls up into a ball.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)

What were you gonna do, tie up this  
guy and his kid too?! Keep them  
prisoners like me?!

Mavia starts crying.

MAVIA

I'm so scared...I don't wanna die  
alone!

INT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - STAIRS - DAY

Paul reaches the bottom of the stairs, ready to shout for  
Ian. Ian surprises him by being on the stairs holding both  
backpacks with his coat on. Paul smiles at Ian.

PAUL

(appreciative)

Oh, you're a smart kid! Come, let's  
go!

Paul helps Ian down the stairs.

INT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Paul and Ian runs pass the kitchen towards the front door.  
Mavia spots them. Her husband is leaning against a counter  
catching his breath.

MAVIA

(desperate)

Paul...don't go! I love you!

Paul and Ian stop a moment and stare at the frightened, manic  
woman on the floor crying out to them. Mavia looks at Ian.

MAVIA (CONT'D)

Ian, tell Daddy don't leave! You're  
happy here! I love you!

Behind Mavia's husband, Mark enters the kitchen and hits him  
on the back of his head with the hammer in his hand. Her  
husband drops to the floor, convulsing.

PAUL AND IAN:

Paul and Ian stare in horror of mark brutality. Paul quickly covers Ian's face into his chest. Paul stares closely at Mark's face.

MARK FACE:

Blue coloring on Mark's face and a few sprouting veins near his chin show that he is infected with T-13.

PAUL AND IAN: (CONT'D)

Paul grabs Ian who's crying and drags him to the door.

INT. MAVIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Mavia cries at Paul's exit. Mark focuses on her. He walks next to her and raises the hammer above her. Mavia slowly turns in his direction. She gasps in horror.

MARK

(angry)

You helped them, didn't you?

Mavia puts her hands out in front of her like a shield.

MARK (CONT'D)

Didn't you?!

MAVIA

(hysterical)

I loved them!

Mark drops the hammer repeatedly down on Mavia. He stops after several blows with a sick, satisfied grin on his face. Mark realizes than Paul and Ian are gone. He walks to the front door and exits Mavia's house.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Mark stops walking and scans the street with his eyes for Paul.

PAUL AND IAN:

Paul holds Ian's hand as the two run to the right at the end of the street.

BACK TO MARK:

Mark begins to follow them again.

EXT. PARK - DAY - LATER

Paul hugs Ian who's crying. The two are sitting on the grass. The park seems deserted.

PAUL  
(consoling)  
It's okay, buddy. That man's not here anymore.

IAN  
(upset)  
Why did he hurt Mavia, daddy?!

PAUL  
He's angry at everything. Sometimes anger is dangerous, Ian.

IAN  
Why is he angry?!

Paul pauses, he knows why he must tell Ian the truth, but is hesitant to do so. After a moment, Paul knows he cannot lie to Ian.

PAUL  
I have medicine that helps with the virus. It doesn't cure it, Ian, but a person can live longer if they get sick.

Ian looks at Paul. He slowly stops crying.

IAN  
Did you give Mommy the medicine?

PAUL  
Yes, I gave her some...but I didn't give it to that angry man's wife...and she died.

Ian pulls away from Paul. He has a confused look on his face.

IAN  
Daddy, was there enough medicine for Mommy and that lady?

Paul pauses. This conversation is difficult.

PAUL  
There might have...been...

IAN  
Was there, Daddy?

Paul's eyes begin to swell with tears.

PAUL  
Yes, there was enough...

Ian examines his father's face. He sees the pain and guilt Paul feels.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
But I didn't give her any...I  
wanted it for us. We need to  
protect ourselves, Ian. Don't you  
see that?

Ian holds Paul's hand.

IAN  
Daddy, we have to share. You always  
said to share if you can. Sick  
people need help, daddy.

PAUL  
(worried)  
We can't get sick, Ian.

Ian touches the gloves and masks sticking out of his backpack as if to tell Paul, *we have these to keep us safe, Dad.*

IAN  
You always helped people, Daddy,  
don't stop now.

Paul looks at Ian and smiles. The innocence and hope Ian shows moves him. He hugs his son again.

PAUL  
You're a good kid...I love you.

IAN  
Me too, Dad.

A man's voice SHOUTING nearby startles them.

MAN #1  
(desperate)  
Please...someone...help me! I'm  
starving!

Paul and Ian stand and grab their bags. Paul instinctively pulls Ian away from the voice, but Ian holds his ground.

MAN #1 (CONT'D)  
Anyone! Please help me!



Ian opens his backpack and hands Paul a can of food. He taps the top of the can. Paul understands Ian's gesture and pulls open the lid of the can. Ian puts the open can on the ground a few feet away from them. Ian closes the bag and the two leave.

Ian turns his head around and looks back at the can.

TREE:

An infected man appears from behind a tree near where Paul and Ian were. He spots the can and drops to his knees to devour the contents.

BACK TO IAN:

Ian looks away from the man and at his father, who was already watching the man, then smiles at Ian, acknowledging his generosity.

EXT. STREET - SUNSET - LATER

Paul and Ian walk on a deserted street. Cars sit motionless in different positions. No bodies are around. People's belongings are scattered around the neighborhood. Paul looks at his map.

ON JOE:

JOE, (70's) white hair and glasses in khakis and a collared shirt, exits a house with a box in his hand. He locks the door and turns, seeing Paul and Ian on the street coming towards him. Joe ducks behind a car and watches them.

BACK TO PAUL AND IAN:

Paul and Ian walk passed Joe. They don't notice him. The two walk to a house down the street and stop in front of it. Paul quickly checks the outside the house, then tries the front door with Ian by his side, but it's locked. They walk to a window. Paul puts a mask on, then helps Ian with his own. Paul breaks it with his tire iron.

ON JOE:

Joe watches as Paul and Ian climb through the window and enter the house. He looks in the other direction. A reflective flash of light from another house signals to him. Joe looks back at the house Paul and Ian broke into.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SUNSET

Paul scans the room, keeping one eye on Ian. The house is quiet.

PAUL  
Hello? Anyone here?

There's no answer to Paul's SHOUT. Ian looks around nervously.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
We don't mean any harm! Hello?

Still no answer. Paul exits the room with Ian safely behind him.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SUNSET - MOMENTS LATER

Paul slowly opens the door to a room decorated for a young girl. He and Ian enter the room. Paul walks towards the closet as Ian sits down on a bed. He picks up a stuffed animal and looks at it.

IAN'S FEET:

A rope with a noose from underneath the bed is suddenly tied around Ian's ankle.

BACK TO IAN:

Ian is yanked off the bed to the floor. He SHOUTS to his father.

IAN  
(scared)  
Daddy!

BACK TO PAUL:

Paul turns and sees his son. He moves towards him when from behind him, LINDA, (40's) blonde, sweater and jeans wearing a mask and gloves, charges out of the closet and hits Paul in the back with a baseball bat. Paul drops to the floor and grabs his back in pain.

Ian tries to untie the rope around his ankle. He looks under the bed.

ON SUZIE:

SUZIE, (8) blonde hair in a dress with a mask and gloves on, holds the rope tight. A look of determination on her face, Suzie is surprised to see another kid tied to the rope.

BACK TO IAN:

Ian stops struggling against the rope. He is just as surprised to see Suzie. In an act of honesty, Ian lowers his mask to show Suzie he isn't infected. Suzie lowers her mask in response to Ian. She grins. The rope goes limp. Ian tries to untie himself.

Linda tries hitting Paul again with the bat. He blocks the swing and covers up.

LINDA  
(angry)  
Son of a bitch!

PAUL  
(frightened)  
Wait, stop!

LINDA  
Break into my god damn house!

Linda jams the bat into Paul's ribs. Paul grabs the bat. A tug of war ensues.

Suzie crawls out from underneath the bed. She helps untie Ian, then looks at her mother and SHOUTS to her.

SUZIE  
Mommy, stop it!

Suzie's yell distracts her and Paul swings his backpack into Linda, knocking her into the closet. Next to the closet in the open door stands Joe with a gun in his hand, wearing a mask, aimed at the group. He moves it on Linda.

JOE  
Drop the bat!

Linda exits the closet and stares at Joe, the bat clinched in her hands.

JOE (CONT'D)  
I said drop it!

She reluctantly does so. Paul tries to stand, but Joe aims the gun at him next.

JOE (CONT'D)  
Stay there!

Joe notices the children.

JOE (CONT'D)  
(concern)  
You kids okay?!

SUZIE  
Look at us, we're not sick!

IAN  
(worried)  
Don't shoot my Daddy!

Joe reacts to Ian and Suzie first with surprise, then compassion. He lowers his gun slightly.

JOE  
I don't want to shoot anyone...so  
let's calm down, okay?

Paul drags himself defensively over to Ian and Suzie, shielding them with his body. Linda notices this act. She's puzzled by Paul's selfless behavior. Linda's face reads of *he doesn't seem like a thief*. Linda looks at Joe.

LINDA  
Lower your mask!

JOE  
You first!

LINDA  
(sarcastic)  
You broke into my damn house, you  
first!

Joe concedes and lowers his mask. Linda studies his face a moment and sees he isn't sick. Linda lowers her mask. Joe looks at Paul.

JOE  
Your turn!

Paul removes his mask. Everyone reacts with relief that no one is infected. Linda reaches for the bat. Her trust for these intruders isn't there yet. Joe notices her movement.

JOE (CONT'D)  
Hey, hold on...we'll talk and  
figure this out...without the bat.

LINDA  
Putting that gun away will give you  
a lot more credit with me!

Joe abides and tucks the gun into his jacket.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Joe, Linda and Paul sit at a table. No one has a weapon out. There is an awkward silence.

JOE  
Anybody can go first?

LINDA  
Is someone gonna tell me why for A  
YEAR, me and Suzie have lived alone  
here, and in the last twenty  
minutes, it's a damn house party?!

Paul looks over his shoulder at Ian and Suzie.

IAN AND SUZIE:

The children play with toys on the floor as if they've been friends for years.

BACK TO PAUL:

Paul smiles at their innocence.

JOE  
I live on this street. I saw...

Joe points to Paul.

PAUL  
Paul.

JOE  
Paul and what I guess is his son...

Joe motions to Paul. Paul sighs.

PAUL  
(frustrated)  
Ian.

JOE  
Ian break a window and climb  
inside, so I checked it out.

LINDA  
How come I've never seen you?

JOE  
I'm quiet for an old guy.

Linda looks at Paul.

LINDA  
(annoyed)  
So you decided to break into my  
house, just like that?! What if you  
were sick?!

PAUL  
(embarrassed)  
I'm not proud of what I did...I  
yelled when we came inside.

Paul pauses a moment. He's weary of the traveling he and Ian  
have done.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
My son and I were low on food. I  
was desperate...looking for  
anything.

Paul again looks at the children.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
I can't say I wouldn't have come in  
here no matter what...I'm sorry.

Joe turns and looks at the children, then looks back at Paul  
and Linda.

JOE  
Looks like those two figured out  
how to get along pretty  
fast...maybe we should follow their  
lead.

Linda looks at Paul.

LINDA  
(sarcastic)  
You're gonna fix my window.

Paul smirks.

PAUL  
Absolutely.

JOE  
Let's head over to my house. I've  
got plenty of food...and a change  
of scenery.

LINDA

(defiant)

My daughter and I are going to come  
back to our house from time to  
time.

JOE

(sarcastic)

No one asked you to move in.

All three of them laugh. One by one they stand up from the  
table. Paul looks at Joe.

PAUL

I'm surprised you made it through  
that broken window at your age.

JOE

I'm full of surprises.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Joe leads Paul and Linda to his house with Ian and Suzie in-  
between them. Joe removes a small flashlight from his pocket  
at flashes it three times in the direction of his house. Paul  
and Linda notice him.

PAUL

(curious)

What's that for?

JOE

Let's the missus know you aren't  
sick?

LINDA

(teases)

Got your own system there, huh?

JOE

Yep, cuts down on  
shouting...doesn't attract any  
infected people...or assholes.

Paul and Linda chuckles as they keep watch over the children.  
A flashlight from a house flashes back once.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

HANNAH, (60's) long hair, jeans and a sweater, lets Joe and  
the group inside the simple, conservatively decorated house.

HANNAH  
 (friendly)  
 Well, look at this bunch.

Paul and Linda survey the house. It's a natural reaction based on the world they live in. Ian and Suzie step passed their parents. Hannah smiles at them.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
 And who have we here?

IAN  
 I'm Ian, and this is...

Suzie cutely interrupts him.

SUZIE  
 (attitude)  
 Suzie...

She looks at Ian.

SUZIE (CONT'D)  
 I can say it.

Ian playfully raises his hands in surrender. Hannah looks at Linda.

HANNAH  
 Got a feisty one there, huh?

She looks back at the kids.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
 I got a fire burnin' in the  
 den...lets get those coats off and  
 feed you two, okay?

Ian and Suzie begin to take their coats off. Hannah helps them and guides them towards the den. Paul and Linda look at each other like *what are we, chop liver?* Joe notices.

JOE  
 When kids show up around my wife,  
 you two are on your own. Let's get  
 you settled.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ian and Suzie sleep in separate twin beds on opposite ends of the in a rather plainly decorated room. Paul tucks Ian in while Linda does the same for Suzie.



IAN  
Daddy, are we safe here?

Paul leans closer to Ian and whispers to him.

PAUL  
Not till we reach Haven, buddy, but  
I think we're okay here.

IAN  
Why can't this place be Haven?

Paul strokes his son's hair lovingly. He looks over his shoulder suspiciously at Linda, not wanting her to hear his conversation.

PAUL  
We'll talk about it in the morning,  
okay? Keep it between us, right?

Paul puts one finger over his closed lips for the *hush* symbol. Ian nods in agreement.

LINDA AND SUZIE:

Linda tucks Suzie into bed.

LINDA  
Big day today...a lot going  
on...you okay?

SUZIE  
I'm okay, Mom. Ian and his dad  
don't want to hurt us.

Linda smirks.

LINDA  
Yeah...how can you be so sure?

SUZIE  
Because Ian knows how to play "riot  
city" with the toys.

Linda chuckles.

LINDA  
What?

SUZIE  
A crazy person can't play "riot  
city", Mom, plus he showed me  
Ballbuster.

LINDA  
Ballbuster?

SUZIE  
Yeah, in his backpack. He's our protector, nobody can hurt him. Ian wouldn't have showed him to me or let me play with him if he was bad.

Linda smiles at her daughter's simple logic.

LINDA  
You got this all figured out, huh?

SUZIE  
Yeah, you just gotta pay attention, Mom.

She hugs Suzie.

LINDA  
All right, miss know it all, get some sleep.

BACK TO PAUL:

Paul stands from Ian's bed and walks to the door to leave the room. Linda stands to leave Suzie's bed and the two awkwardly meet at the same time at the door. Paul politely gestures for Linda to leave first, and she does, followed by Paul.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Paul closes the bedroom halfway. Ian shouts to his dad.

IAN (O.S.)  
You can shut the door dad...Suzie's here with me!

PAUL  
Okay.

He shuts the door with a surprised look on his face. Linda smirks.

LINDA  
(playfully)  
Guess she's having a good effect on him.

Linda leaves Paul looking at the door with an expression of pride in his son on his face.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Paul and Linda enter the room. Joe and Hannah are seated in chairs. Their living room is moderately decorated.

HANNAH  
Kids all set?

LINDA  
Yes...thank you again for opening  
your home to us.

Paul smiles while looking around the room, examining it.

PAUL  
You're more than generous, both of  
you.

Joe pours four glasses from a nearby liquor bottle.

JOE  
It's warm, but the stuff never  
expires.

HANNAH  
Sit down, please.

Paul takes a glass and hands another to Linda. They both slowly sit on a couch. Joe looks at Paul.

JOE  
Just you and your son?

Paul nods yes and goes to take a sip of liquor but stops and looks at the glass with uncertainty. Joe notices him.

JOE (CONT'D)  
Here, look...

Joe gulps down some liquor from his glass.

Paul smiles, acknowledging Joe's gesture of trust. He takes a sip from his glass. Linda does the same. Hannah looks at Linda.

HANNAH  
Suzie seems adorable, looks like  
you too.

LINDA  
I always thought she looked like  
her dad.

Linda grows somewhat solemn, reliving at memory. Hannah notices this.

HANNAH

I'm sorry if I brought up something...

LINDA

No, you did nothing wrong. Her dad died from the virus four months into it.

Linda's eyes tear up.

LINDA (CONT'D)

(sad)

One day he wasn't feeling good...he had a home test in his car, so he took it, and it was positive. He called us from his phone and said to meet him outside our house. He wouldn't come inside because he didn't want to infect us.

Linda starts to cry. Hannah moves next to her and comforts her.

LINDA (CONT'D)

He stayed in a tent behind the house until he died. Suzie misses his laugh the most...

She finishes her drink, then wipes her eyes.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I miss the sex the most.

Everyone chuckles. It breaks the tension. Joe holds up the liquor bottle and motions to Linda.

JOE

Refill?

LINDA

Oh yeah, please.

Linda holds out her glass in front of her.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ian wakes from his sleep and yells. Suzie jumps up in her bed from fright. A moment later, Linda bursts into the room.

LINDA  
 (concern)  
 What's going on in here?

SUZIE  
 Mommy?

Linda sees Ian's fear and sits next to him on the bed. She looks at Suzie.

LINDA  
 Everything is okay, honey. It's good.

Linda looks at Ian and lovingly strokes his head. Ian is breathing heavy and sweating.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
 Hey, you have a nightmare, Ian?

IAN  
 (anxious)  
 The bad man...he was chasing us! He got closer to me!

LINDA  
 What man?

Ian's eyes widen. He wants to tell Linda about Mark and what he saw him do to Mavia, but remembers the promise to his father. He slowly calms down.

IAN  
 It...was a bad dream.

LINDA  
 (supportive)  
 Yeah, that's all it was, it wasn't real...you okay now?

Ian hugs Linda. This catches her off guard. She slowly smiles and hugs him back.

IAN  
 You're a nice lady.

LINDA  
 Thank you, Ian. You're pretty great too.

Linda notices Ballbuster next to Ian. She picks up the action figure.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
 If you're going to have another bad  
 dream, take him with you. He looks  
 tough and very handsome.

IAN  
 (puzzled)  
 He's an action figure.

LINDA  
 (playfully)  
 So's Ken and G.I. Joe, they date  
 Barbie and save the world, and  
 they're pretty hot.

Ian and Suzie giggle.

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Hannah plays with Ian and Suzie. Paul and Joe look on. Joe  
 has a stare in his eyes.

PAUL  
 (complementary)  
 Your wife is great with them.

JOE  
 (proud)  
 Always had the knack for it, came  
 natural for her.

Paul looks around, then back at Joe's house.

PAUL  
 Has anybody ever come around your  
 house...looking for trouble?

Joe looks at Paul with a puzzled look.

JOE  
 Why...you invited someone over?

Paul chuckles.

PAUL  
 No... it's just that you and Hannah  
 have lived here most of your lives,  
 same house, same neighborhood, and  
 excluding what happened at Linda's  
 house yesterday, you both are very  
 calm, in spite of what the world  
 has become.

JOE  
It's acceptance of what is, Paul.  
If you're going to keep on living,  
you'd better make peace with what's  
around you.

Paul thinks a moment on Joe's words.

PAUL  
Someone may show up here, I'm not  
sure.

Joe looks at Paul.

JOE  
Somebody dangerous?

PAUL  
Yes.

JOE  
Why?

PAUL  
He's the result of a mistake I  
made...

Paul is uncomfortable revealing this truth to Joe.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
A neighbor who blames me for his  
wife's death from T-13.

Joe looks Paul up and down.

JOE  
Are you responsible for it?

PAUL  
(guilt)  
Indirectly...yes.

JOE  
Seems like it bothers you...that's  
good, keeps you human through all  
of this.

Paul looks at Joe a moment, trying to read his demeanor.

PAUL  
Is that it?

JOE

We all have stuff we did in the last year...during this madness. You didn't have to tell me about this neighbor of yours, but you did. That's trust, Paul.

Joe grins at Paul.

JOE (CONT'D)

Wait here, then I'll trust you with something of mine.

Joe steps away from Paul and joins his wife. They talk in inaudible conversation.

ON IAN:

Ian stops playing with Suzie and Hannah a moment and looks at his dad. He waves and smiles.

ON PAUL:

Paul waves back with a smile. Joe rejoins Paul.

JOE (CONT'D)

Let's go.

PAUL

(confused)

Where are we going? What about the kids and Hannah?

JOE

They'll be fine. Hannah and I have a system that works.

Joe walks past Paul, and after a moment, Paul catches up to him.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY - LATER

Paul and Joe walk to the front door of the same house Joe visited yesterday. Both men look around alertly for anyone else. Joe looks back at his house.

JOE'S HOUSE:

A bright flashlight blinks once from window of the house.

ON JOE:



Joe removes a flashlight from his jacket pocket and flashes it at his house once, then puts it away. He looks at Paul.

JOE  
(smugly)  
See, we have a system. Hannah watches from the house when I go here, and one flash means the coast is clear.

Joe takes a key from his pants pocket and begins to unlock a padlock on the front door.

JOE (CONT'D)  
This house belonged to a neighbor. He died from the virus outside of it, but I cleaned the inside anyway. I was the only person on the block that talked to him...he was a conspiracy nut, end of the world stuff.

PAUL  
(sarcastic)  
Guess he wasn't too far off, huh?

Joe chuckles.

JOE  
Sometimes there's truth in craziness.

Joe opens the door.

JOE (CONT'D)  
He kept a pretty big stash of canned and non-perishable foods and supplies in his basement for the "end of days".

Joe starts to walk into the house. Paul attempts to follow him inside, but Joe stops him.

JOE (CONT'D)  
No, no...you have to keep watch out here, see if Hannah's signal changes. If you see two flashes, give a shout inside.

Paul raises his hands up in a *no contest* motion. Joe disappears into the house. Paul looks around anxiously.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ian and Suzie walk into the room. Ian holds a picture in his hand. Hannah sits by a window holding a flashlight. She watches out the window.

IAN  
(curious)  
Who's this guy?

HANNAH  
What do you two looky-loos have  
there?

Hannah looks at the children with a smirk.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
Ask me next time, I'll give you the  
grand tour.

Hannah takes the picture from Ian. Her expression changes to bittersweet smile of loving memories.

SUZIE  
Who is that?

HANNAH  
That is our son, Chris.

Hannah faces the picture towards Ian and Suzie.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
Chris, meet Ian and Suzie.

The two children look confused. Hannah notices their expressions.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
Just because someone isn't around  
doesn't mean we drop the  
formalities.

IAN  
What happened to him?

Hannah gets choked up. Her voice trembles a bit.

HANNAH  
(lovingly)  
He passed away...from the virus.

Some tears drop from her eyes.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

His wife and their kids...our  
grandchildren, passed away too.

Hannah pauses and wipes her eyes. Ian and Suzie take Hannah's hands into theirs in an act of compassion.

IAN

Don't cry, Hannah.

HANNAH

Oh, no honey...it's okay that I'm  
crying...it means I love them. It's  
a good cry.

Ian struggles with nerves to say his next sentence. His expression changes to sadness.

IAN

My Mom died too...I miss her a lot.

Suzie is motivated to speak after Ian's bravery to share his feelings with Hannah.

SUZIE

My daddy too.

Hannah hugs both children.

HANNAH

(supportive)

Well of course you miss them. You  
love them.

After a moment, the children respond to Hannah's kindness and hug her.

EXT. FRONT YARD OF HOUSE - DAY

Paul hears faint VOICES and COUGHING. He turns in the direction of the noise.

STREET:

Three men, all infected, appear from the side of a nearby house and begin walking with fatigue towards Joe's supply house.

BACK TO PAUL:

Paul's eyes widen with panic. He looks into the open front door and tries to yell for Joe in a low voice.

PAUL

Joe! Joe!

STREET:

One of the men falls to one knee and struggles to stand again. A MAN, (30's) with bulging veins and blue skin and a tint of yellow around his eyes who is out in front of the other two sees Paul.

BACK TO PAUL:

Paul sees one man weakly tap the other two with his hands, then point to Paul. Paul shouts louder into the house.

PAUL (CONT'D)

(nervous)

Joe, get out here! Now!

JOE (O.S.)

What? Hold on, I'm coming!

PAUL

Hurry up!

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Hannah stops hugging the kids.

HANNAH

I guess we all have something in common. We love and miss someone.

Linda enters the room. She walks past a window, glances out it, stops, and returns to it, moving a curtain to see better.

LINDA

(panic)

Oh God, Hannah...there's three men near Paul and Joe!

Hannah's mouth drops open in fright. She looks out the window, then clicks her flashlight button twice, over and over. Ian and Suzie move away from Hannah.

LINDA (CONT'D)

That won't matter, they already see them! I have to get out there and distract them!

Linda moves towards the front door, but Hannah stops her.

HANNAH  
You can't bring them here!

Ian and Suzie hold hands. Fear rises within them.

LINDA  
(shocked)  
That's your husband out there!

Hannah steps in between Linda and the door.

HANNAH  
I know that...and I know what he  
would want!

Hannah motions with her head towards Ian and Suzie. Linda understands the gesture and shakes her head in agreement. She goes to the children. Hannah, with fear gripping her, goes to the window and looks out it.

IAN  
(worried)  
Is my dad gonna be okay?

LINDA  
Yes honey, he'll be okay.

Linda puts her arms around the kids. She anxiously looks towards the windows.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

The men stop at the perimeter of the yard in front of the house. Paul puts on a mask from his pants pocket and tries to put on gloves. The man in front SHOUTS to Paul.

INFECTED MAN #1  
Ain't enough time for that!

Joe exits the house with a full bag of supplies over his shoulder. He spots the men and draws his gun. A cold demeanor falls over him.

JOE  
Just stay there!

The man, coughing and wheezing, takes a step forward. Joe raises the gun.

JOE (CONT'D)  
I mean it, I'll shoot!

ON PAUL:

Paul's eyes dart back and forth nervously between Joe and the men.

BACK TO YARD:

One infected man moves closer. The third MAN, (30's) backs up.

INFECTED MAN #3

(nervous)

He's got a gun!

(coughs)

What if he shoots?!

INFECTED MAN #1

You're dyin' anyway, idiot! The plague or a gun...doesn't make a difference!

The man steps closer and a second MAN, (30'S) SHOUTS at Joe.

INFECTED MAN #2

You got food in that bag?

INFECTED MAN #1

Course he does...that's why he's grippin' it so tight. They got it outta' that house.

Joe is anxious. He points his gun at the men.

JOE

I don't want to use it, but I will!

INFECTED MAN #2

We...

(coughs)

We just want the food!

Paul is scared. He looks in the direction of Joe's house, wishing he was with Ian right now. Joe notices and whispers to him.

JOE

(faint)

Don't look that way.

Paul looks back at the three men.

INFECTED MAN #1

You can't kill us all before we get to you two...infect you! Hell, neither of you are killers!

Joe nervously shifts his weight as he holds the gun in front of him.

INFECTED MAN #1 (CONT'D)  
So why don't you two leave and let us get inside that house to the food.

JOE  
(angry)  
No, it's ours!

The third man joins the other two and they all move closer to Joe and Paul. Paul notices and leans into Joe.

PAUL  
(defensive)  
Joe, I have to get back to Ian. Let them have it. They'll be more houses, or a store somewhere.

JOE  
How do you know that?!

The first man grins at Joe.

INFECTED MAN #1  
Better listen to him, cause I swear to God, we'll rush you!

The two men next to him wobble and catch their footing. One coughs up blood.

PAUL  
Please Joe, let's go.

Reason enters Joe's mind and overrides anger. He wants to see Hannah again.

JOE  
We'll go, but step back!

The front man grins and motions to the others to back away. After a moment of posturing, he joins them. Joe puts his mask on. Paul and Joe walk away from the house, the gun still drawn. Their eyes never leave the trio.

Paul and Joe move further from the house. The three men run into the house. Joe's face burns with disgust. He walks back to the house a moment later.

PAUL  
Joe, what are you doing? Come back!

Joe approaches the house, checks to make sure the men are away from the front door, and quickly shuts and locks it with the padlock from his jacket pocket. Joe catches up to Paul and they walk quickly up the street.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
That looked like a "screw them"  
move!

JOE  
(proudly)  
It was!

Joe and Paul approach his house.

STREET:

Several houses away, Mark, holding the bloodied hammer, stares at the two. His skin is bluer and the veins in his face are predominant. Yellow color has begun to form around his eyes. His face seethes with anger.

Paul and Joe enter Joe's home.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER

Joe, Hannah, Linda and Paul sit at a table. A pile of food sits on the table. The attitude is grim between them.

JOE  
With Linda's food and ours, there's  
about a month's worth here.

PAUL  
(objective)  
That's not including the four of us  
who showed up here, right?

JOE  
(hopeful)  
Give or take a month.

Hannah senses the tension between everyone.

HANNAH  
So...we'll just have to find  
someplace else to get food.

LINDA  
Yeah, all of us will help find it.

Paul looks the most dejected out of everyone.



PAUL

It isn't as simple as that, right  
Joe?

JOE

Those three showed up and look what  
happened. We're going to have to  
stay inside for a while...lay low  
and not attract attention should  
somebody else come around.

Joe looks at Paul.

JOE (CONT'D)

Were any of them your crazy  
neighbor?

PAUL

No.

LINDA

(concerned)

What are you two talking about?

PAUL

(frustrated)

Someone has been stalking us! He's  
been following Ian and I for days  
now since we left our home!

HANNAH

Why didn't you say anything, Paul?

JOE

He did, to me.

HANNAH

How long have you been sitting on  
this, Joe?

JOE

Since this morning.

Hannah gives Joe a glare with a meaning of *unbelievable*.

JOE (CONT'D)

It's his story to tell, and he's  
telling us now.

LINDA

Why's he after to two?

Paul takes a breath.

PAUL  
I'm a doctor...

JOE  
(proud)  
I knew it!

HANNAH  
How?

JOE  
He kept saying T-13 when he talked  
about the virus. Never said plague  
or sickness like everybody else.

PAUL  
And I was assigned by our  
government and the CDC to work on a  
cure for T-13, along with another  
colleague of mine.

Linda thinks a moment, testing her memory.

LINDA  
Did you come up with that vaccine  
that gives somebody sick an extra  
couple of months?

PAUL  
Yes.

JOE  
(sad)  
Doesn't matter...you never found a  
cure.

PAUL  
(defensive)  
It wasn't because we didn't try  
hard enough. T-13 mutated so many  
times...it always stayed ahead of  
our vaccine trials. No matter what  
we did or how many of us worked on  
a cure...there was no stopping it.

HANNAH  
(sympathy)  
God, Paul, it must have been  
horrible for you.

Paul pauses as his eyes well up with tears.

PAUL

(upset)

All the death and pain...hearing it every day on the tv and radio...and the false hope some gave to others that we could save ANYBODY!

Hannah gets up from her seat and tries to comfort Paul.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Then Anne, my wife, got sick and died. God...I haven't said her name out loud in weeks! I had to be brave for Ian's sake...I promised Anne that I would keep him safe...keep him alive!

HANNAH

(supportive)

You did, Paul. You kept your promise to her.

LINDA

I'm sorry, Paul...but that doesn't tell us why your neighbor's chasing you.

Paul becomes uncomfortable behind his tears. He stands and walks to his nearby backpack. Paul opens it and removes something. He returns to the table and puts the remaining vaccine vial on the table.

JOE

Is that what I think it is?

LINDA

The vaccine that gives a sick person more time?

PAUL

Yes, it's a compound that delays the effects of T-13. I had two vials, but I gave one to Anne when she got infected.

A light bulb goes off in Joe's head.

JOE

The neighbor's wife was sick, and he wanted the serum...but you held onto it, right?

Paul begins crying again. Hannah comforts him. Linda steps back from Paul. She seems angry. Hannah notices Linda.

HANNAH  
 (confused)  
 What is it, Linda?

LINDA  
 It's because of him that this guy  
 might show up here and infect us!

HANNAH  
 (protective)  
 Linda, Paul made a decision to  
 protect his family with that  
 vaccine. He gave it to his wife!

LINDA  
 And he didn't think this might  
 happen?! That this guy would take  
 that personally?

Paul snaps at Linda.

PAUL  
 I had to make a choice!

LINDA  
 (upset)  
 Well I hope the losing end of that  
 choice doesn't come here and infect  
 Suzie!

Linda leaves the room. Paul wipes his eyes with his fingers  
 and tries to go after her, but Joe stops him.

JOE  
 Let her go, she needs a minute.

HANNAH  
 I'll go see if she's alright.

PAUL  
 No, please stay Hannah.

Joe picks up the vial from the table. He holds it in his hand  
 a moment.

JOE  
 What's the reason you showed us  
 this, Paul?

PAUL  
 The doctor I worked with on the  
 vaccine set something up in case we  
 failed.

Paul removes Forrester's note from his pocket and hands it to Joe. Joe opens and reads it.

HANNAH

What is it, Joe?

Joe looks at Paul a moment as in *is this for real?* Paul nods his head yes.

JOE

It's a commune, or a community called Haven. It says that everyone there isn't sick.

HANNAH

How does this doctor know that?

PAUL

Because he started it before the government ended our program, a healthy group of people, all tested, from all walks of life, living inside a protected area...it was a precaution against the inevitable.

JOE

This is where you and Ian were going to before you stayed here with us?

PAUL

Yes, I swore Ian to secrecy and I didn't talk about it till now. If anyone else found out about it, they'd want to come with us.

JOE

And compromise the two of you, right?

PAUL

(hesitant)

I can't be responsible for anyone else dying on account of my actions.

JOE

So why did you stay with us? You and Ian could have kept going to this Haven place.

PAUL

You and Hannah, even Linda...you all cared enough to open your homes to us...fed us...treated us like human beings. Ian and I felt safe...like a part of a family. Ian hasn't felt that in a long time.

Hannah hugs Paul.

HANNAH

You and Ian are like family to us. In the last few days, having Ian and Suzie here...

Hannah chokes up a little.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Is like a second chance for Joe and I to help take care of someone who needs us.

JOE

(remorseful)

We didn't get to say goodbye to our son or his wife and our grandkids. One by one as they got sick, they were put in quarantine...isolated from us. There wasn't any cell service then...we couldn't even talk to them.

HANNAH

We understood why it had to be that way, but it was horrible being separated from them...having the government tell us they passed away.

PAUL

(saddened)

I'm so sorry.

JOE

Hey, you tried to cure what took Chris, our son, from us. That says something good about you as a person.

Paul scratches his head from being nervous. He's apprehensive about his next words.

PAUL

I'm going to Haven alone, and I'm leaving the vaccine here for all of you...and Ian.

HANNAH

(worried)

Oh, Paul...I don't know if that's wise. Ian needs his father here with him.

Paul's conviction in his decision grows.

PAUL

I love my son more than anything else, Hannah. I thought the two of us going to Haven was the best thing for us...it still may be, but I have to make sure that it is, and I can't risk anyone else's safety while I do it.

HANNAH

Paul, there's so much out there...

Hannah motions to outside the house with her hand.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

That can be a danger to you...and it's a two day hike from here.

Hannah looks at Joe.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Joe, can you tell him...

JOE

(begrudgingly)

I can't tell him he's wrong, Hannah. If the six of us went together, that means the chance of more of us getting sick and dying increases.

PAUL

If I go alone, it's safer...I can handle things better if I'm approached by someone infected.

Hannah pauses. Her concern for Paul is plastered on her face. The logic of Paul's thinking sinks in after a moment.

HANNAH

I don't like it...but I understand your decision.

JOE

(supportive)

And don't worry, Ian's going to be safe here. We'll have to stay indoors for a while until it quiets down around here, but he'll be with us.

PAUL

I know he will.

Paul hands the vial to Joe.

PAUL (CONT'D)

(concern)

Now I just have to figure out how to tell Ian.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Paul approaches Ian and Suzie's room. Linda exits the room. There is a awkward glance between them.

PAUL

(uncomfortable)

I just came to talk to Ian. Is Suzie in there?

LINDA

(regretful)

No, she's downstairs with Joe and Hannah. I was just making her bed for her. Ian's reading inside.

Linda pauses.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Listen...I'm sorry about before...it's just when it comes to my daughter I'm protective...you know...crazy mom.

PAUL

Anne was the same way...I get it.

Linda pauses a moment.



LINDA

(admittance)

That thing you did with the vaccine...you chose your family over your neighbor's wife. I would have done the same thing.

PAUL

Thank you for understanding. I'm not proud of the decision I made, but I don't think I would have done anything different if I had a second chance at it.

LINDA

Joe and Hannah told me what you're planning on doing...leaving...are you sure about it?

PAUL

I paid a price for my decision when I lost Anne...but Mark, my neighbor...didn't see it that way. It's another reason I'm leaving. If he does show up and doesn't see me around, he'll leave and keep looking for me. You'll be safe.

Linda hugs Paul, then lets him go.

LINDA

I'll look after Ian as if he were my own.

Paul's eyes well up with tears. He smiles.

PAUL

He couldn't be in better hands.

Linda leaves. Paul opens the door to the room.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Paul enters the room. Ian sits on his bed with a book open in front of him. He perks up when he sees his dad.

PAUL

(lovingly)

Hey pal!

IAN  
(excited)  
Dad, this book Hannah gave me is  
about dinosaurs that have super  
powers!

PAUL  
Now that's cool. I have to read  
that when you're done with it.

Paul sits next to Ian on the bed. He tries to keep his  
demeanor upbeat for Ian's sake.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
So, I have to talk to you, buddy.  
Close your book a minute?

Ian closes the book and looks at his dad with innocent eyes.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
You know how we've been going to  
Haven, right?

IAN  
Yeah.

PAUL  
Well I still want us to get there,  
but it's been scary along the way,  
so...

IAN  
(inquisitive)  
Isn't Joe and Hannah's house like  
Haven, dad?

Paul is taken aback a moment by Ian's question.

PAUL  
They've looked after us, like Haven  
would...and nobody's sick, like  
in...

IAN  
Dad, why not stay here?

Paul looks at his son in confusion.

PAUL  
You want to stay here now?

IAN  
I guess so, it's safe here, right?

Paul pauses because the next words he'll say will break his own heart.

PAUL  
(sad)  
Only if I go.

Ian becomes nervous, growing anxious.

IAN  
Go? No Dad!

Paul tries to take Ian's hand for support, but there is resistance from him.

PAUL  
Ian, listen to me...

IAN  
No!

Ian leaps from the bed, frustrated, and moves away from Paul with his back to him..

PAUL  
Ian, please...

Ian walks to the door to the room and reaches for the knob.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
(annoyed)  
IAN, STOP!

Ian spins around in Paul's direction.

IAN  
(angry)  
You can't leave! Mom left and  
didn't come back! You will too!

Paul tries to fight back waves of guilt and pain.

PAUL  
(patient)  
Ian, please come here.

Ian pauses as the turmoil of an eight year old's emotions crash around inside his head. Paul extends his hand towards Ian.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Son...please.

Ian sees the love in Paul's eyes. He walks to Paul who hugs him tight. Ian starts to cry. Paul's eyes tear up.

IAN

(sad)

I don't want to you go, Dad.

PAUL

(heart-broken)

I know, honey...and I don't want to leave you, but I have to...to keep you safe.

IAN

Why?

Paul cradles Ian in his arms.

PAUL

I'm going to make sure that Haven place is safe for us, then I'll come back for you with help from people who are healthy and want to take care of us.

Ian looks up at Paul's face.

IAN

That's here, Dad. What about Suzie and her mom, and Joe and Hannah?

PAUL

They'll come too, buddy. We'll all go to Haven, together. It just has to be safe there, okay?

IAN

Dad, will that man Mark come here?

PAUL

No, no...if I'm gone, he won't. All of you will be safe.

IAN

You'll come back?

PAUL

You bet I will. I have to see my best friend again, right?

Ian hugs Paul. Paul grips Ian tight. He doesn't want to let him go, but eventually does.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
 Besides, if you go with me, who's going to play with Suzie, and eat peanut butter and jelly with Joe and Hannah, or listen to Linda's bedtime stories?

Ian smiles.

IAN  
 I'm good at those things.

Paul smiles back at him. Ian gets a *eureka* look on his face.

IAN (CONT'D)  
 Hold on, Dad!

Ian runs to a closet and searches for something. After a moment, he finds it and turns to Paul holding Ballbuster. Ian walks to his father and hands it to him.

PAUL  
 (confused)  
 Why are you giving me Ballbuster?

IAN  
 So he can protect you.

Paul smiles, looks at Ballbuster, then Ian.

PAUL  
 You know how I know you're grown up and you'll be okay while I'm gone?

Ian shakes his head no.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
 Because you call me Dad now, not Daddy. I'm watching you grow up, and it's beautiful. I love you, Ian.

IAN  
 (funny sarcastic)  
 Love you too, DADDY!

Paul feigns shock.

PAUL  
 WHAT? Get over here, you!

Paul playfully grabs Ian and tickles him. Ian giggles.

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - MORNING

Paul and Joe stand outside the door. Paul holds his backpack over his shoulder and a broom handle in his other hand.

JOE

You sure you don't want me to wake Ian?

PAUL

No, let him sleep. Besides, if I have to say goodbye to him again, I might not leave.

JOE

Understood.

PAUL

When I get to Haven, I'm going to tell them about all of you...where to find you, and they'll come get you and bring you there.

JOE

Sounds great, Paul. I hope this "Haven" is for real, and it's what your friend promised you. We'd like to come live there.

Paul and Joe shake hands. Paul turns and walks away from Joe's house. Joe's enters his home.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Paul passes the house taken over by the three men. He turns his head and looks at it.

ON HOUSE:

One man lies dead inside the open front door.

BACK TO PAUL:

Paul, with a look of fear and relief on his face, never breaks stride as he passes the house.

MONTAGE:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Paul sits on grass and looks at his map. He glides his finger along a route on the map.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Paul leans against a car. He bites into a sandwich. Paul looks around the isolated street for anyone else nearby. He removes a picture from his jacket pocket and looks at it.

ON PICTURE:

Ian, a few years younger than he is now, smiling.

BACK TO PAUL:

Paul smiles and touches the picture with a loving stroke.

EXT. STREET - DAY - LATER

Paul walks briskly across a deserted street.

ON STREET CORNER:

Mark emerges from behind a building. Blue veins cover his sweaty face. Mark coughs violently and raises his hand to his mouth. Mark's finger tips are yellow. He holds the bloody hammer in one of his hands. Mark spots Paul and with a sinister smile begins to follow him.

BACK TO PAUL:

Paul crosses another street while looking at his map, unaware of Mark.

END OF MONTAGE:

EXT. PARK - DAY - LATER

Paul, still holding his backpack and broom handle, enters a clearing. He looks up from his map and sees a tall wooden wall about two hundred yards away from him. There is a large door in the middle of the wall. Paul smiles.

Paul folds his map and begins to run towards the wall. From behind some nearby bushes, Mark appears and slowly begins to make his way towards Paul. Mark is ahead of Paul, and will cut him off from reaching the wall.

Paul slows down and drops his backpack. Mark closes in on Paul. Paul quickly tries to put his face mask on as he holds the broom handle out in front of him in a defensive pose.

Mark slowly circles Paul, waving the hammer in his hand. He almost stumbles once or twice from exhaustion and the virus infecting him.

MARK  
(vengeful)  
You won't make it!

PAUL  
(angry)  
I'm sorry about Cindy! I had to  
save my family!

MARK  
She was my world, and you killed  
her, you selfish bastard!

Paul raises the broom handle up to chest level.

PAUL  
Get out of my way...or I'll kill  
you!

MARK  
I'm already dead! You can't do  
anything to me anymore!

Mark suddenly realizes that Ian is not with Paul.

MARK (CONT'D)  
Where's your boy?

A sickly smile crosses Mark's face.

MARK (CONT'D)  
Did he abandon you?! Did he finally  
see you're a murderer?!

Sweat begins to pour down Paul's masked face.

MARK (CONT'D)  
Too bad I couldn't bash his head in  
in front of you! Then you'd feel  
how I feel, lost...alone...with a  
hole in my soul that you put there!

Mark raises the hammer and charges at Paul. Paul tries to  
dodge Mark's attack and hits Mark in the face with the broom  
handle. Mark weakly stumbles backwards as Paul tries to run  
past him.

Mark reaches out and grabs the back of Paul's jacket and  
pulls him to the ground. The broom handle flies out of Paul's  
hand. Mark savagely climbs on top of Paul and yanks his face  
mask off. Mark's blue veined hand rubs Paul's face. Paul  
punches Mark in the face and throws him off of himself.



Mark struggles as he reaches for the hammer. He picks it up and begins to walk towards Paul. A single gunshot rings out and startles Paul. Mark grabs at his neck. Blood begins to flow from a gunshot wound. Mark falls to his knees and drops the hammer. He looks at Paul with a cold dead stare.

MARK (CONT'D)

Too late.

Mark falls face forward dead. Paul refocuses and looks in the direction of the wall. Henry Forrester and a young man holding a rifle stand outside the door in the wall. Paul starts to walk towards them.

EXT. HAVEN DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Henry watches Paul approached them. He smiles, but it is a bittersweet and sad smile. Paul gets closer to them. The young man raises the rifle and aims it at Paul. Henry puts his hand on the rifle and lowers it.

HENRY

PAUL, STOP!

Paul stops walking with an exhausted look on his face.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I can't let you inside!

PAUL

I might not be infected!

HENRY

You know better than that, Paul!

Paul touches his face with his hands and disbelief. A look of shock comes over his face.

PAUL

You have the vaccine! You could give it to me!

Henry slowly shakes his head no.

HENRY

It's all gone, Paul! Everyone inside here is healthy! I can't risk letting you infect anyone!

Paul points his finger to the door.

PAUL  
 What if I just kept walking towards  
 it?!

Henry gets a lump in his throat. He is uncomfortable with  
 what he must say next.

HENRY  
 You saw what happened to him...

Henry nods his head towards Mark's dead body.

HENRY (CONT'D)  
 Please don't make us have to do it  
 again!

Paul drops to his knees, then sits down on the grass,  
 dejected.

HENRY (CONT'D)  
 Where's Ian and Anne?!

Paul doesn't respond. His grim fate has sunk into his mind.

HENRY (CONT'D)  
 Paul?!

PAUL  
 Ian's safe!

HENRY  
 I'm sorry, Paul! Anne was a good  
 woman! It's isn't fair!

Paul sarcastically laughs.

PAUL  
 No, it is NOT FAIR!

Paul anxiety grows.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
 In my backpack...there's a map with  
 directions to a house, about a half  
 a days drive from here! Ian's  
 there, and four other  
 people...they're all healthy!

Paul starts to hyperventilate.

HENRY  
 Easy, Paul! Breath slowly...

PAUL  
 (demanding)  
 You promise me that you'll go there  
 and get them and bring them here!  
 They deserve to be here!

Henry looks at the young man beside him with a facial  
 expression of *should we do this?*

PAUL (CONT'D)  
 Henry! You promise me that! You  
 have transportation here, right?!

HENRY  
 Yes, Paul, we do!

Paul stands up. His body limps in a defeated form.

PAUL  
 Then you go and get them and bring  
 them to Haven!

HENRY  
 Alright, Paul...I'll do that! I  
 promise!

Paul points with his finger to some nearby trees and bushes.

PAUL  
 I'm going to stay in there! I don't  
 want Ian to see me get the symptoms  
 of T-13...but I want to see him  
 arrive here! Don't tell him I'm  
 over here!

HENRY  
 What should I tell him?!

PAUL  
 Tell him I love him, and that  
 everything will be okay! Tell him  
 I'll always be with him! Keep him  
 safe, Henry!

HENRY  
 I will, Paul!

Henry hesitates a moment. He has remorse for Paul becoming  
 infected.

HENRY (CONT'D)  
 I'm sorry this happened to you! If  
 you hadn't come here...

PAUL

If I didn't have Haven...this place...I might have given up a long time ago, and took Ian with me! You gave my son a chance to live, Henry...don't ever be sorry for that!

Paul leaves the backpack behind and starts walking towards the trees.

EXT. FIELD - DAY (TWO DAYS LATER)

Paul, sitting against a tree, scarfs down some food with a ravenous appetite. He face is infected with blue bulging veins and yellowish discoloration around his eyes. Paul's hands shake as he eats.

The ROAR of a truck engine catches Paul's attention. He drops the food and struggles to stand up. Paul's muscles are weak. He violently coughs and moves away from the tree.

EXT. HAVEN WALL - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

A truck stops outside the wall. Henry and the young man with the rifle stand waiting for it. Henry holds Paul's backpack in his hand. Joe, Hannah, and Linda exit the truck, then help Ian and Suzie out of it.

ON PAUL:

Paul stands behind a group of trees and bushes at the edge of the field. He spots Ian, and forms a bittersweet smile on his face.

BACK TO FIELD:

Henry kneels down to meet Ian and shakes his hand. In inaudible conversation, Ian asks Henry about Paul. Henry's demeanor changes to sadness. He reaches into the backpack and removes Ballbuster, then gives it to Ian.

Henry answers Ian, which makes Ian upset. Linda quickly moves to comfort Ian. Suzie stands next to Ian and takes his hand in support. Hannah and Joe, also in inaudible conversation, ask Henry about Paul. Henry answers them. Ian cries and hugs Linda.

ON PAUL:

Paul cries at seeing Ian upset. The longing for his son is evident on his face.

He moves to walk towards his son instinctively, but stops, remembering not to want to infect him.

BACK TO FIELD:

Only Henry spots Paul while everyone attends to Ian's emotional state. Henry motions to Paul in an *everything will be okay* subtle hand movement.

ON PAUL:

Paul sees Henry's gesture and calms down. A strange peace embraces him. Paul accepts his end is near, and that Ian will be safe and loved. He leaves the edge of the field.

BACK TO FIELD:

After a moment, Henry and the young man escort the group inside the wall surrounding Haven.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD PARK - HAVEN - DAY

People walk together talking and laughing. Some other people sit on benches eating, while others sit on the grass. Children play without a care in the world.

EXT. HAVEN - FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

Joe and Hannah, with Ian, all smiles, exit a house. Linda and Suzie, along with a man, (40's) holding her hand and a guitar case in the other, meet them outside the house. Suzie and Ian hug each other.

SUZIE

You got your picture?

Ian removes a photo from his pocket.

IAN

Yep, always.

Ian looks at the picture.

ON PICTURE:

Paul holds Ian in his arms.