

BIOHAZARD

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FRESH BLOOD EDITION

COMPANY MAN

(a.k.a. "DEAD ON OUR FEET")

Written by

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EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

A planned community where every third house looks the same. A white van decorated with a logo for the INSURANCE COMPANY in RED stencil is parked outside one of the fancier models.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

A FAMILY (Mom/Dad/2 Kids) huddle close on the couch, clasping hands. MOM (40s) wipes away tears. DAD (40s) pulls his children close.

DAD
Love you guys.

A BLOOD STAIN appears, as if he was just wounded.

DAUGHTER
Dad?

Standing before them reading over her clipboard is IVY (32). Ivy is dangerously magnetic, professional, and loves sugar soda as she sips out of a Big Gulp drink.

She wears a white jumpsuit also with an INSURANCE COMPANY patch logo.

Impatient, Ivy uses a tool to unlock the Dad's bulky digital wrist-watch and drops it into a Ziplock bag.

MOM
Can't we have a little more time?
We paid for the premium package.

IVY
Sorry ma'am. It doesn't work that way. The contract you signed when you and your husband got your vaccination helps the sustainability of our community.

Holding up the plastic bag with the wrist-watch. The numbers on the small screen count BACKWARDS.

IVY (CONT'D)
Out of time. Two minutes. It'll be best if we take care of it before... you know, the change.

Dad looks down at his shirt. The blood stain seems to be growing by the second.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - BACKYARD - SAME

As Ivy exits the house, her warm smile ices over. She joins her co-worker, SILAS (25).

SILAS
Cutting it close, yeah?

IVY
Good-byes dragging out.

SILAS
Don't tell me that steel heart of yours is melting.

IVY
Poor bastard got caught up in a convenience store shooting. The guy was just getting milk.

SILAS
That's gotta suck. I wonder if it spoiled.
(off Ivy's look)
The milk?

Ivy grabs a CO2 tank from their gear and hooks up a hose - a BOLT STUNNER.

IVY
Who cares about the milk. Hold this will ya? I'll go get him.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - SAME

Ivy hands Dad a pen.

IVY
Sign here and initial here...
That'll do. Okay.

Dad turns towards his family. His skin is now grey and BLUE VEINS start to appear on his face, neck and arms. Final hugs.

SON / DAUGHTER
Love you, Dad. / Bye, Daddy.

Dad squeezes his wife's hand and slowly walks outside --

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - BACKYARD - SAME

The Dad walks towards Silas as Ivy follows two steps behind.

They walk past a BOMB SHELTER DOOR leading to an underground bunker in the middle of the manicured yard. BARBED WIRE lines the top of the white wooden fence.

Silas hands Ivy her equipment. He gives Dad a sympathetic smile. One of Dad's eyes has gone MILKY WHITE.

DAD

Wait, I had a letter for my wife --

PFFT!

Ivy shoots the Dad in the forehead with a CAPTIVE BOLT STUNNER.

Dad is DEAD on his feet with a two-inch hole in his forehead. Silas lightly taps his shoulder. Dad falls neatly into the BLACK BODY BAG spread out in the grass.

A drop of BLOOD drips down a doll's face lying nearby in the yard. They zip up the bag and secure the body to the stretcher.

SILAS

Thai or Mexican buffet for lunch?

IVY

Thai sounds good.

There is a GROAN from within the bag. Suddenly, a ZOMBIE-FIED HAND breaks through the plastic causing Silas and Ivy to drop the stretcher to the ground.

Ivy grabs her CO2 tank and stands over the body.

PFFT! PFFT!

INT. JACK WILSON'S APARTMENT - MORNING

PFFFFFFT! Water droplets SPRITZ from a spray bottle onto a four-inch tall CACTUS plant. JACK WILSON (early 40s) leans close to inspect his work.

Jack is plain. So plain that if he ever robbed a bank, witnesses could only say, "I dunno... a guy?" The spark has long left his eyes. He stands back to inspect his work.

REVEAL -- TWENTY miniature cacti plants decorate the shelves of his living room wall. He adjusts one of the plant pots and accidentally PRICKS his finger.

JACK

Gah!

He sucks the blood from his finger. He looks down at the large RED smudge on his white crisp button down.

The news plays on a clear piece of glass mounted to the wall grabs his attention.

NEWS

As the Z-Virus has lulled to a halt, are researchers bringing disease back? Is cancer in our future? Tune in at six!

Jack opens the closet and selects one of the THIRTY identical white button-down shirts.

As he walks past the TV he CLAPS TWICE turning the TV off. He opens the door to leave, revealing a -- METAL PARTITION.

EXT. JACK'S TALL APARTMENT BUILDING - CITY - SAME

The paint on the building is faded and peeling. All the units have small ORANGE GARAGE DOORS. In fact, this might have been a storage unit back in the day.

FRRRAAAPPPP! The sound of a metal door rising -- but in the sea of orange doors, we can't tell which one.

CLOSER...down, further... SECOND FLOOR...there. Jack exits and descends the outside stairwell to --

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jack scans his wristwatch at a vestibule that houses electric bikes. He puts on an industrial respirator mask and helmet.

DALE (O.S.)

Jack! Jack! Wait up, man.

DALE (33), Jack's best friend, approaches. He has the persona of a human golden retriever and smiles a lot. He also sweats.

JACK

Morning, Dale.

They greet each other with a "Footshake" tapping ankles.

DALE

Hey, I lost my watch again. Can I bum a ride?

JACK

Why don't I get you your own bike?

DALE
But then how'd we talk?

EXT. BIKE PATH - MOMENTS LATER

Jack and Dale maneuver a two seated electric bike on the crowded path full of COMMUTERS also on electric bikes. A collective HUM fills the air.

Dale wears a swim face mask and pulls down his disposable mask, covering his mouth. He talks LOUDLY over the hum.

DALE
Man, you missed it last night. That new bar on 5th? It's stellar. Need my wingman, dude. You're coming with tonight, no excuses.

JACK
Fine.

DALE
Chin up. It'll be fun.

SWOOSH! An electric streetcar moves past them heading towards the city. However, Jack and Dale drive AWAY from the pack, towards the desert.

The CITYSCAPE soon turns to dirt with splotches of grass, to a brown desert WASTELAND.

They pass a JUNKYARD piled high with discarded automobiles with signs, **"FREE SCRAP METAL" "DISINFECTED / SAFE TO USE."**

EXT. DESERT - DAY

A tumbleweed rolls across the dusty plain. Suddenly the sand floor shifts. THUNK.

A steel manhole cover opens and a woman (60s) dressed in a white INSURANCE COMPANY jumpsuit emerges. This is BEE.

She hops in an all-terrain golf cart and drives towards a --

GLASS HOUSE: About 20x20 feet in size. Inside is a metal desk, office chair, and gun rack stocked with weapons much like the ones that rattle in the back of her cart.

She passes by an old street pole where the MAIN STREET sign dangles by a squeaky bolt -- a clue to the once busy intersection. In the far distance is the CITY.

The sticker on the rear bumper of Bee's cart: **DEAD PATROL.**

The faint BUZZING of Jack's bike can be heard as he drives over the hill.

ROAD:

Jack and Dale wave to Bee as they pass.

Jack parks at a charging station in front of a small building with a sign that spins: **INSURANCE COMPANY.** It's the ONLY building, save for Bee's glass house, for miles.

Both Jack and Dale clip their INSURANCE ADJUSTER work badges to their shirt pockets and walk towards the GLASS SWINGING DOORS of --

INT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - DAY

Formerly a 7-Eleven convenience store, the space has been converted to an office where six vintage steel desks fill the main space.

The back wall is outfitted with a soda fountain, Slurpee machine and snack station.

A larger office with a Plexiglass window is off to the side with a view into the work pit.

They pass WORKERS shifting paper, stacking paper and stapling paper. Jack places his breakfast sandwich in the fridge before settling in at his desk.

Dale pushes his chair with his feet, rolling up to Jack.

JACK

Dale, time to get to work.

DALE

What gives?

JACK

The weekend reports AND I'm going to pitch Lex this morning.

DALE

Again? Why? Look around. We're cogs in a big machine.

Jack glances around at their FOUR CO-WORKERS. EUNICE (26) draws at her desk and GEORGE (50) yawns while reading a file. The other two sleep upright in their chairs.

Their boss, LEX (50s) exits his office prompting Dale to roll his chair back to his desk. The typing on keyboards grows louder as everyone aims to impress.

Lex grabs a snack from the fridge and approaches.

LEX

There's my number cruncher, Jack.
Got the weekend report?

He takes a bite out of a breakfast sandwich. The Post-it note on the wrapper reads, "JACK." Lex is a dick.

JACK

Almost done. Is that my BLT--
Actually, if I could get five
minutes of your time...

A LOUD SIREN rings through the air interrupting them. Lex beelines it back to his office, shuts and locks the door.

LEX

(as he walks)
My office, in an hour.

Without any fanfare the office WORKERS get under their desks. All EXCEPT Jack and Dale.

George, the office rule follower, watches them.

GEORGE

Guys, duck and cover!

JACK

Taking a look is all.

Jack and Dale close the blinds and peek through the slats.

DALE

Ooh, he's a fast one.

INTERCUT: EXT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - DAY

Running across the desert is a MAN (20s): eyes sunken in, skin grayish color, large sores on his body -- a ZOMBIE!

Bee grabs a weapon and exits the glass structure.

BEE

On your knees now, son!

The Zombie grunts as he sprints. He's fast. Bee's faster. She aims her rifle. BAM! The Zombie tumbles to the ground.

OFFICE WINDOW:

Jack and Dale watch, mesmerized.

JACK
Total baller.

Bee turns towards the window, causing Jack and Dale to hit the floor. From under a nearby desk.

GEORGE
Told ya.

DALE
Grow a pair, George.

JACK
(soft whisper)
Bee scares me.

Dale nods in agreement and shoots George the stink-eye as if to say, "She scares you too, mother fucker." Jack and Dale return to their desks.

Dale, George and Eunice STAMP paper, SHIFT paper, and FILE paper with enthusiasm.

Jack sits. Unmotivated. He watches two WORKERS emerge from the basement wearing LAB COATS. They refill their soda cups.

Jack's POV: He reads the posters on the wall.

HAVE YOU SEEN A ZOMBIE? CALL THE INSURANCE COMPANY!

Picture of a reasonably healthy family, except ONE FAMILY MEMBER is a bit dead in the eyes. **CALL THE INSURANCE COMPANY FOR YOUR FIVE YEAR CHECK!**

JACK (CONT'D)
Hey George, what do you think they do down there?

DALE
Dunno. Over my pay grade.

JACK
I wonder if it's you know... a cure.

DALE
A cure? But we are cured. Set until the ripe age of ninety-nine.

Dale picks up on his friend's somber mood.

DALE (CONT'D)
What? Make it how it was before?
That's a hard sell man.

Jack shrugs.

DALE (CONT'D)
We're in the middle of the HQ.
Don't you think we'd hear about it?

JACK
I guess.

Jack sits defeated. He pushes a stack of paper with one finger until it topples over and spills his coffee.

JACK (CONT'D)
Ah, suck nuggets.

Jack is too busy to notice the front door bell, DING! He uses CITIZEN REPORTS on his desk to mop up the liquid.

A FEMALE HAND, sporting a retro leather bracelet with the imprint "IVY" places the CITIZEN REPORT with the DAD'S PICTURE (from the previous scene) on it.

IVY
Finished. These for me?

Jack quickly stamps TERMINATE in RED INK on the last form.

JACK
Yeah. Here you go.

IVY
Thanks, Jason.

JACK
Jack. My name is Ja--

HOOONNNK! Silas honks the horn in the Insurance Company van parked out front. Ivy takes a sip from her Big Gulp.

IVY
Right.

As she walks towards the door, Dale holds up his drink, half winks, trying to be cool.

DALE
Mello Yello...
(to Jack)
We both drink Mello Yello.

JACK
(under his breath)
Be cool man.

Dale throws a Nerf ball toward Jack, who misses it.

DALE
Dunk me when you want to grab grub.

INT. INSURANCE COMPANY - LEX'S OFFICE - LATER

Lex scrolls on an electronic tablet. His back is to Jack, who sits in an uncomfortable modern chair. Jack holds a stack of citizen reports marked for termination.

LEX
Any way to up these numbers?

JACK
W-why would we want to do that?

LEX
Can't have everyone living until
they're 99, can we?

Taken aback.

JACK
But it's the law.

Lex's smile fades. Jack hands him a report.

JACK (CONT'D)
My research shows people are
lasting longer after initial
injury. And if the team is
developing a serum to counteract
the Z-vaccine --

LEX
Stop right there. The serum is just
rumors for the media. Even I would
love to bring diseases back. Do you
know how many claims we'd have on
diabetes alone?

Lex's huge smile fades when he sees Jack's mouth agape.

LEX (CONT'D)
But that's for the next generation
to figure out. The apocalypse was
hard for all of us.
(MORE)

LEX (CONT'D)

We're survivors! The work horses
left to guide humanity.

JACK

But we aren't really doing that...
If we gave people more time --

LEX

Everyone's already been given more
time and squandered it. The Zombie
Virus wiped out more than half the
population but thanks to our
company and our vaccine, people get
to live a disease free life until
ninety-nine and help rebuild this
hot dusty shit bowl.

Jack flips through the forms.

JACK

Not all of these injuries should
result in death sentences.

LEX

Oof. We can't risk having anyone
develop into you know --

Lex glances at a POSTER on the wall. Jack follows his gaze.

POSTER: Two ZOMBIES in a cage with a healthy human on the
outside. The caption reads, "**Register with the Insurance
Company and live free!**"

LEX (CONT'D)

Listen, we're all chockfull of
chemicals, kickin' the disease out,
holding on for dear life. The
company only steps in if you make a
colossal boo boo. You eff it up,
we've gotta put ya down. It's that
simple.

Lex leans forward for effect.

LEX (CONT'D)

For the safety of humanity of
course. YOU, Jack, are a part of
that. Don't over complicate things.

(BEAT)

But hey, good on ya for trying to
assert yourself. Shows I made a
good decision to promote you.
Gotcha upstairs with a window.

Jack glances out the window to the vast desert with trolley tracks going through it.

JACK
Thank you, Sir.

INT. BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

Dale and Jack maneuver through the CROWDED bar. Dale wears a loud print shirt while Jack dons his work suit. They both wear large HEADPHONES.

The venue is silent. The only sound comes from tapping feet on the dance floor as the CROWD dances to the music blaring into their HEADSETS.

JACK
He wouldn't even listen to me.

Dale only half listens to Jack as they make their way to the bar. He nods at girls along the way.

DALE
Don't let Lex get to you.

Jack taps Dale's arm, signaling him to allow a MAN (30s) wearing a COLLAR with a DIGITAL CLOCK on it, to the front.

JACK
Excuse us, Sir. After you.

Dale catches a glimpse of the Man's COLLAR, **0 HR 59 MIN.** Dale pushes other people waiting to the side.

DALE	JACK (CONT'D)
Dead man walking. Step on up here.	Don't call him that. Sorry. He means well...

The PATRONS oblige.

MAN
Get to go out on a whiskey sour.

Dale lets out an overzealous laugh. Off Jack's look.

DALE
What? You better laugh at my last joke.

JACK
That's not --

DALE
 Oh yeah, right.
 (to Man)
 Dude, sure you got another joke
 comin' in the next 59...whoop, 58
 minutes.

JACK
 (to man)
 Ignore him.

TIME LAPSE:

Tapping feet. Barely a whisper. Empty glasses sit on the counter in front of Jack. Across the room Dale and a GIRL make out with face masks on. Jack leaves.

EXT. ABOVE GROUND TROLLEY STOP - NIGHT

Jack exits the bar to find the electronic bike vestibule OUT OF SERVICE. He walks down the empty city street, past an alley where an electric BMW is parked.

INT. BMW - ALLEYWAY - SAME

Ivy sits in the driver's seat, eyes wet from crying. She listens to a self-help podcast.

PODCAST (O.S.)
 You are a leader contributing to
 the sustainability of our
 community, servicing the nation.
 You are empowered and help the
 government restore order. Repeat, I
 am a positive person. I am a good
 citizen.
 (BEAT)
 Paid for by the Insurance Company
 Training system.

Ivy wipes her eyes and slams her steering wheel. She SLAPS herself across the face, SEVERAL TIMES, it gets awkward fast.

IVY
 Come on, Ivy!
 (another HARD slap)
 You got this.
 (unsure)
 You got this...

She starts the car and punches the GAS. She don't got shit.

EXT. DARK CITY STREET - NIGHT

Jack crosses the street just as --

Ivy's electric BMW speeds over the hill, catching AIR. Jack looks up at the bright lights coming right at him.

Ivy and Jack LOCK EYES for a BEAT.

SLOW MOTION: BAM! Jack lands on the windshield leaving a large imprint. His left hand PIERCES the glass.

Jack bounces off the window and FLIES THROUGH THE AIR.

REGULAR SPEED: Jack HITS the pavement, hard, about twenty feet away and rolls to a stop.

Ivy processes.

IVY
What the actual fuck?!

STREET:

Jack's eyes open. He looks at the NIGHT SKY, takes a deep breath. A shadow appears over him.

Ivy leans forward with a concerned look. For a second we prep for the bolt stunner -- but then...

IVY (CONT'D)
That was, you sailed through the
air...you're... here. Oh.

Ivy looks at his arm, we can't see what she sees, but from the amount of blood on Jack's shirt, it's not good.

Jack sits up. She gives him a sympathetic look.

JACK
I-I'm okay...

Jack's eyes suddenly roll back and he faints.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - LATER

Jack regains consciousness and removes his oxygen mask. He notices that the IV tube hangs to the floor, having been REMOVED. His once bloody arm is BANDAGED.

Jack reads the PAIN MANAGEMENT sign on the wall: Various corresponding smile & frown faces. **Next to the FROWN face in RED lettering: NO PAIN? TELL YOUR DOCTOR! YOU MIGHT BE DEAD!**

SCREECH. The dividing curtain is pulled back by the DOCTOR.

DOCTOR
Wish I had better news.

JACK
H-how dead am I?

DOCTOR
Pretty dead. Completely dead.

Jack sits stunned.

JACK
Huh. I thought it would feel
different.

DOCTOR
That's the benzo drip. It takes the
edge off processing the news.

The Doctor throws two X-Rays up on the light board. It's a
mess of broken bones and grey clouds.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
The Z-virus vaccine only makes us
disease free, not invincible. That
car hit you pretty hard --

JACK
A car? The details are a bit fuzzy.

The Doctor points to a picture on the wall.

DOCTOR
This here, is the mortal wound.
Unfortunately you are on a count
down to the zombie state.

She writes notes in Jack's file.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Based on these results, I'm going
to give you four days, nine hours,
thirteen minutes. I like to
underestimate a smidge. Hate to
have you turn on family and
friends. Don't scratch anyone.

JACK
Understood.

DOCTOR

Think about where you want to spend
your last days and get yourself
there.

She starts to leave but hangs back for a moment.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. You seem like a nice
guy.

JACK

Thanks.

A MALE NURSE (50s) rolls in a cart. On the tray there is a
wrist watch, an ankle monitor and a neck collar (similar to
the one the guy wore in the bar).

NURSE

Hi, Mr. Wilson. I need you to
choose your device.

JACK

I'll take the ankle one.

NURSE

Good choice. Go under the radar.

The Nurse activates the monitor, clicks a few buttons. The
time 4 Days / 9 Hours / -- Minutes appears. The minute button
sticks...he struggles, finally gets to...12, 13.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Didn't want to short change you.

The Nurse removes the bandage on Jack's arm. Once a bloody
mess, now only has scar tissue. He hands him a form.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Take this with you to get
processed.

He rolls the cart out, leaving Jack alone, lost in thought.

B&W MOVIE PLAYS: On the screen are long lines of people
waiting to be vaccinated and ZOMBIES being rounded up and put
in cages. Families wave good-bye to their zombie loved ones.

MOVIE NARRATOR (V.O.)

*Our sincerest condolences. You are
deceased and have been assigned
your farewell time.*

(MORE)

MOVIE NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Thanks to the vaccination during the Z-Virus outbreak, you have led a disease free life. The contract you signed during the zombie outbreak is now activated. Thank you for your cooperation and dedication to your community.

REVEAL: The archive footage plays on a computer monitor in the --

INT. HOSPITAL FAREWELL OFFICE - DAY

Jack removes the headphones and gives them back to MARIGENE (70s) who sits behind a partition.

Marigene wears bright colors. She likes pink. This is either really annoying when you just die or comforting.

To the side of her workstation is a sign, "Hi. I'm your farewell processor, Marigene with an "i"." Behind her, an *I NEED A HUG Basset Hound* poster is tacked to the wall.

MARIGENE

Thanks, dear. Government ID?

Jack obliges and Marigene slides it through a card reader. She lets out a couple "oh, dears" while reading the screen.

MARIGENE (CONT'D)

I see your parents passed in the incident.

JACK

The outbreak was tough for a lot of families.

Marigene reads further.

MARIGENE

Cousins? Siblings? All gone? Well, at least you can have time with your daughter.

RECORD SCRATCH. Hold up...

JACK

Daughter? That's a mistake. I don't have a daughter.

MARIGENE

What? Well, it says right here. Who's Shannon Brantley?

Jack sits dumbstruck.

JACK

Shannon? She was my college girlfriend. We broke up after graduation during the --

MARIGENE

--Zombie apocalypse?

Marigene clicks a few screens.

MARIGENE (CONT'D)

Katherine Brantley Wilson. Born twenty-two years ago. You're listed on her birth certificate.

JACK

I am? But I-I didn't know about--
Can I get Shannon's information?

MARIGENE

I'm sorry dear. She passed.
(reading screen)
Z-virus, five years ago. But here's Katherine's information.

JACK

Katherine...

MARIGENE

Looks like she goes by Katie.

JACK

Shannon died of Z-virus? But everyone got vaccinated.

MARIGENE

Not if she was pregnant.

JACK

Right. Oh.

MARIGENE

Reach out. Settle your affairs.
That's the one gift we've been given in all this mess.

JACK

Yes, ma'am'.

Marigene adjusts the dial on her ink stamp and STAMPS Jack's paperwork. **RED INK: 4D. 9H. 13M.**

MARIGENE

Now your timer starts when you pass through that door over there.

Jack pockets his I.D. Marigene watches him.

MARIGENE (CONT'D)

And don't drive the last twenty-four hours. You never know with these things. We always get an influx of accidents.

JACK

Understood.

He walks over to the sliding glass doors leading to the outside. He stands there for a beat. The clock reads **6AM**.

He looks back to Marigene who gives him a smile. Jack looks to the sensors on each side of the doorway.

As Jack steps forward, into the early morning sunlight, the sensor goes from RED to GREEN.

Jack is forty-four years old and officially has 4 Days, 9 hours, 13 minutes to learn how to LIVE.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jack walks. Picks up the pace slightly. RUNS.

INT. JACK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - SAME

The wall clock TICKS. Jack stares, lost in thought, at the rows of work suits in his closet. TICK. TICK. TICK. The wall clock becomes LOUD in Jack's head. PANIC SETS IN.

He jumps to his feet and rips the clothes off the hangers, overturns a dresser, knocks over the TV...finally haphazardly falls to the floor. Jack buries his head in his hands.

EXT. BIKE PATH / TROLLEY TRACKS - DESERT - DAY

An old suitcase bobbles across the rugged terrain. It hits a rock and topples onto its side. Lost in thought, Jack DRAGS the suitcase across the dirt.

EXT. CAR JUNKYARD - DAY

Jack hands the ATTENDANT cash. The Attendant dumps a gallon

of corn oil in the tank and hits the side of the truck signaling to Jack the tank is full.

Jack's suitcase bobbles in the bed of the truck as he drives.

EXT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - 8 AM

Jack enters the building, the pickup is parked conspicuously in the back.

INT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - STAIRS - MOMENTS LATER

Jack enters and nods towards the stairs, signaling Dale to follow him.

They walk through the double doors that have a Plexiglass window looking into a MASSIVE UNDERGROUND CUBICLE CITY.

The underground office is so dark and depressing, it would surprise no one if an employee swallowed a gun barrel in their cubicle at lunch.

DALE
Why are we down here?
(loud whisper)
I avoid the despair...

Jack pulls him into --

INT. SUPPLY ROOM - SAME

Outdated office equipment is stacked up against the wall.

DALE
Where'd you disappear to last
night? Did you --

Jack lifts his pant leg, displaying his ankle monitor. Dale smile fades. His bottom lip immediately starts to quiver.

DALE (CONT'D)
Nope. NO. Wh-whyddya have that on
for?

Jack waits for Dale to process.

JACK
I was walking home and the next
thing I know, I woke up in the ER.
They told me I got hit by a car.

DALE
What kind of asshole runs someone
over?

Jack holds up his arm showing Dale the scar tissue.

DALE (CONT'D)
You're crazy for coming here. You
won't make it back to the city. Bee
out there, is fierce as fuck.

JACK
I wanted to say good-bye.

DALE
How long do you got?

JACK
Four days and some change.

DALE
F--four?

Dale paces.

DALE (CONT'D)
Okay, okay. Day one, video games
24/7. Day two, drink beer all mofo
day long, day three --

JACK
I found out I have a daughter.

DALE
A what now?

JACK
I-I have a daughter.

DALE
A kid? How'd you not know something
like that?

JACK
My college girlfriend. We broke up
when the zombies hit.

DALE
As one does.

BEAT.

DALE (CONT'D)
You spawned an apocalypse baby!

JACK
Shhhh --- yeah, seems so.
(beat)
I'm going to go find her. Her name
is Katherine.
(to himself)
Goes by Katie.
(to Dale)
But maybe it's too weird, you know?
Show up, only to leave, for good.
I'll mess up her life --

DALE
Stop. Don't you think Katie wants a
say in all this?
(beat)
Get out of this dump. This is a
chance to have a real life, even if
it's only for a few days.

JACK
I need your help with something. As
soon as the hospital reports come
in, I'll be a marked man. Buy me
some time?

DALE
Yeah, I got ya.

Dale pulls Jack's pants leg down.

DALE (CONT'D)
Keep that hidden. Makes people
weird.

Before his lip can quiver again, Dale throws his arms around
his friend. For all he knows, this is good-bye.

INT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

George staples reports at his desk. Eunice sketches in her
art book, while the other two sleep.

DOORWAY:

Jack looks back to Dale one last time. When he turns back
around, he runs straight into -- Ivy. Behind her, the BRIGHT
DESERT SUN beams down on Jack's face. He squints.

Ivy wears sunglasses and sports a bruise on her cheek from
the accident. She waits for Jack to say something...

QUICK FLASHES OF THE ACCIDENT: Bright lights of an approaching car! SMACK of the windshield! A shadow leaning over him.

RESUME NORMAL TIME: Flustered, Jack snaps to. Ivy watches as a groggy Jack makes it out the door. NO REACTION to her.

JACK
(muttering)
Excuse me.

INT. JACK'S TRUCK - SAME

As Jack drives away, he pulls his company badge off his shirt and throws it against the dash -- it bounces to the floor of his truck.

In the background, Dale watches out the window.

Bee nods to Jack as he passes by her station. He keeps his eyes on the road, avoiding eye contact.

INT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - DAY

Dale hurriedly opens up the Insurance Company database. He inputs Jack's ID number.

ON SCREEN:

Jack's photo. Time Given: **4 D 7 H 02 M** (clock ticks down)
CONTRACT ACTIVATED flashes on the top of the screen.

LIVING RELATIVES: Katherine Brantley.

Dale DELETES all references to Katherine. He presses save and changes the screen just as --

GEORGE (O.S.)
We got doughnuts.

Dale jumps in his seat.

DALE
Damn it, George! Yeah, okay, I'll
have a few.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Jack drives from West Texas towards East Texas, his surroundings get more lush: Trees, forest, rolling hills.

Jack pulls over and exits his truck near a wooded area with a river. SIGN READS: **Fresh Water SAFETY LEVEL BLUE** (on a scale where RED indicates DANGER).

He kneels down and lets the water flow out of his hand. Takes a deep breath, enjoying the fresh air.

WHAP!

BLOOD SPLATTERS across Jack's face. He stumbles back dumbstruck as a ZOMBIE falls to the ground at his feet.

JACK
What the--!?

He turns to find:

A PREGNANT GIRL (early 20s) wielding a nine iron GOLF CLUB above her head. She winds up to strike again --

JACK (CONT'D)
Stop! Stop! Christ, lady. Easy now.
I said BACK UP.

The Girl watches a nervous Jack. Tries to stifle a smile.

PREGNANT GIRL
Alright don't get fidgety. You
okay?
(mocking silent Jack)
Oh, what's that? Thank you. Oh,
you're welcome.
(re: bashed skull)
I saved you from a runner. That one
tracked me up the river.

She struggles with her large belly to bend over and collect her bucket of fresh catch that fell in the ruckus.

Jack watches for a BEAT too long.

PREGNANT GIRL (CONT'D)
Could you just --?

JACK
Oh, yes. Sorry. Here...

Jack tries to collect the fish. It's awkward as one still flops and slips out of his hands. The Girl nonchalantly grabs the fish by its tail, stunning it.

She catches him staring at her big stomach.

JACK (CONT'D)
You're uh --

PREGNANT GIRL
Pregnant? So? You're not from
around here are ya?

JACK
Down the road a bit.

PREGNANT GIRL
From the looks of ya, way down the
road.

She collects her bucket. Notices his fresh pressed T-shirt.

PREGNANT GIRL (CONT'D)
You're very -- ironed. Lemme guess,
an inside type a guy? Watch your
back out here. We get a few
stragglers every now and then.

JACK
Thanks. Can I help --

She's already down the trail, half waves.

PREGNANT GIRL
I'll be fine.

Jack spots her golf club on the ground. Calls after her.

JACK
You forgot your -- club.

PREGNANT GIRL
Keep it. I've got a whole set.

JACK
Thank --
(she's gone)
You.

Jack stands there listening to the trickle of the stream. The moment is interrupted by a rustling in the leaves. He goes on alert, club at the ready -- only a deer. He relaxes.

EXT. TADPOLE MOTEL - JACK'S TRUCK - LATE AFTERNOON

Jack checks the address on his paper. Huh, is this right?

The TADPOLE MOTEL is a quaint establishment that boasts ten

guest rooms and a small diner. Kind of place that's a three-star on appearance, but five star on service.

Jack parks his car in the gravel lot and watches as various TOWNSFOLK make their way inside for an early supper.

EXT. DINER - AFTERNOON

Jack stops short when he notices the sign on the door:

ZOMBIES: NO SERVICE

He adjusts his pants leg to make sure his ankle monitor is hidden and is about to open the door when from behind him --

LUCAS (O.S.)
Two dollars for a shine.

Jack freezes. Unsure if he was just caught covering his monitor. He turns to find LUCAS (20s), who has Down syndrome, sitting on a stoop with a shoe shine box and a slingshot.

Jack stammers.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Five dollars for cowboy boots, but
you have shoes. Two dollars for
you.

JACK
Uh, thanks. But --

Lucas reaches for Jack's leg. Jack stumbles back.

JACK (CONT'D)
Easy there.

Jack digs in his pocket and hands Lucas a five dollar bill.

LUCAS
No. I need two dollars. Wrong.
(he pockets it)
Okay. Bye.

INT. MOTEL DINER - LATE AFTERNOON

It's bustling. A petite Indian woman, SHALINI (mid 30s) slaps a menu to Jack's chest.

SHALINI
You solo?

(MORE)

SHALINI (CONT'D)
(off Jack's nod)
Take the bar.

Shalini weaves through the packed crowd and barks orders.

SHALINI (CONT'D)
Coffee coming up. Chicken fried
steak. Hold the gravy.
(back to customer)
Who holds the gravy on my chicken
fried steak?

EARL (50s) heavy set customer, shrugs.

EARL
Shalini, she has me on a diet.

SHALINI
For you, Earl. Fine.
(to crowd)
But only Earl!

She means business. Jack sips his water at the counter.
Shalini stops in front of him.

SHALINI (CONT'D)
You know whatcha want?

JACK
The chicken fried... um... let's
see....

Shalini impatiently taps her pen against her palm.

SHALINI
How about the blue plate special?
You get the chicken fried steak and
the greens on the side. You can
settle your worries in the mash.

JACK
Sounds great.

SHALINI
Coffee, milk or soda?

JACK
Decaf if you have it.

SHALINI
Katie, put on a pot of decaf!

KATIE (O.S.)
Two seconds!

Upon hearing Katie's name, Jack shifts forward in his seat. A coffee pot is placed in the service window.

The swinging door OPENS to reveal the PREGNANT GIRL from the woods, now has her hair pulled back and a hint of make-up on.

This is KATIE BRANTLEY (22). She holds a giant tray of food. Shalini grabs plates.

SHALINI

What have I told you about carrying heavy weight?

KATIE

I'm fine. Earl, gravy on the side. Thelma, side salad and rare steak for you.

(low voice)

I put fries on just in case you change your mind.

THELMA (50s), Earl's wife, smiles.

THELMA

Katie, you always take care of us.

Katie grabs the coffee pot off the ledge.

KATIE

Now, who had decaf?

Jack half raises his hand.

JACK

That'll be me.

Katie smiles when she sees Jack. She fills his cup and puts two creamers next to it.

KATIE

I see you survived alright.

JACK

Thanks to you --

He pretends to read her name tag.

JACK (CONT'D)

-- Katie. I'm Jack.

KATIE

Nice to meet you, Jack.

Father and Daughter lock eyes. He can't help but stare at her baby belly -- again. She catches him.

KATIE (CONT'D)
You gotta stop staring. I already
feel like a freak. I was an
apocalypse baby. Not vaccinated so--

Shalini walks in between them.

SHALINI
Don't tell strangers your business.
(to Jack)
Blue plate will be right up.

Katie places a fish plate down on the counter for a neighboring CUSTOMER. She turns to Jack.

KATIE
(lowers her voice)
I'd appreciate you keeping mum on
the bucket drop.

JACK
Secret's safe.

Just then the diner door chimes, announcing the arrival of TOM (29) high on swagger, low on brains. Shalini rolls her eyes. Katie noticeably tenses up.

KATIE
Tom, we've got a full house. Why
don't I bring you and the boys--

TOM
-- We're stayin'. We've worked
outside all day and I'm tired. Grab
us some waters, won't ya.

Jack watches as Tom and TWO MEN take the last available booth. He overhears Shalini.

SHALINI
I can't stay late and clean up
after them if they get rowdy.

Jack watches as Tom sips from a flask hidden in his over shirt. Shalini stops by the booth to hand them menus.

TOM
What's the rush? Trying to get rid
of us?

SHALINI
Your idea not mine.

TOM
That's no way to be thankful for
taking out that undead from your
shed last weekend.

SHALINI
I told you the Insurance Company
was already on their way.

TOM
One leads to many. Not right. We
choose to live out here in peace.

Tom hops up from the booth and approaches Katie. He places a
hand low on her hip, pulls her close. Startled, Katie almost
drops the coffee pot.

TOM (CONT'D)
I do it for you, you know. To
protect our family.

Katie tries to shake free from Tom's grasp but he covertly
grabs her arm, hard. Katie winces. No one sees this but Jack.

Jack is just about to jump up from his seat when Katie
manages to twist away. She stumbles. Jack catches her -- the
HOT coffee pot rests on his left forearm. He doesn't flinch.

Shalini looks up at the ruckus and notices the HOT pot on
Jack's arm.

KATIE
Sorry. I --
(noticing the coffee pot)
Your arm!

Jack looks down. He covers.

JACK
It's fine. I'm fine.

KATIE
Tom, that's enough. Get out of
here.

TOM
I was only joking, hon.

KATIE
I'm not your, hon. We broke up, get
out of here or I'll get --

TOM
-- You'll do what?

KATIE
I'll call the Insurance Company and
tell them you and your boys keep
trying to do their job.

Tom ices over. Checkmate.

TOM
You know most people would thank me
for keeping our town safe.

KATIE
I take care of myself. Go home.

TOM
Katie? Come on, now.

Katie doesn't meet his gaze. He nods towards his pals.

TOM (CONT'D)
Guys. Let's hit Charlie's on I-20.

Shalini holds the door open for the men to leave.

SHALINI
They've got shit gravy. Katie, take
five.

Katie removes her apron. Jack digs into his meal.

EXT. TADPOLE MOTEL - PARKING LOT - LATER

The neon motel sign BUZZES as it turns on. A ripped piece of scrap metal made into a hand-painted sign, "WE SELL STUFF" is propped up outside the MOTEL OFFICE/STORE.

INT. TADPOLE MOTEL OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

The lobby decor is a mixed bag of used furniture from the last four decades, but somehow it works.

A B&W photo on the wall is of a young Katie and a WOMAN in the motel parking lot. Katie catches Jack looking at it.

KATIE
This place used to be bustling back
in the day. That was taken the day
we moved here. Pie?

Still looking at the picture...

JACK

Huh?

Katie picks up the pie tin off the counter that showcases welded art pieces and ceramic FROGS for sale.

KATIE

I make one fresh every other day to offer guests. Can't afford a happy hour like the motel down the way, so you get blueberry instead.

JACK

Oh.

KATIE

It's a family recipe.

JACK

Sure.

Katie fixes him a plate and hands him a guest sign-in card.

KATIE

Cash or credit? I prefer cash. Unless you're planning on trashing the place, then I'll happily take a card and redecorate myself.

JACK

Cash is good.

He pays and grabs the key to room #3.

KATIE

Enjoy your stay at the Tadpole.

INT. JACK'S MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Even though the room has been scrubbed clean, it still looks dirty. He sits on the edge of the bed. He has unpacked his clothes into neat piles: T-shirts, pants, socks, etc.

He looks at a worn photo he shoved into his bag. It's him and his parents. He then pulls out a photo, SHANNON BRANTLEY. The same woman in the lobby photo.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

Jack quickly throws the book into his bag. He answers the door to find Katie with a plate of pie.

KATIE

You left your dessert. Didn't have many takers, so I gave you a second piece. Works well with coffee in the morning.

JACK

Thanks.

KATIE

How's your arm?

Shit, Jack's sleeve is rolled up. There is a light pink mark from the coffee pot where there should be a huge blister.

Katie notices his scars.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm sorry. I --

JACK

Accident... long time ago. I don't have much feeling on this arm so...

Katie takes a step back. Hard to tell if she's being cautious or leaving.

KATIE

The ice machine is at the end of the breezeway there.

JACK

Thanks.

Jack closes the door. He takes a bite of pie. Not bad.

INT. DINER - NIGHT - LATER

The neon motel sign glows outside the window. Katie hums to the music that plays on the vintage jukebox.

Headlights from a car pulling into the lot outside briefly light the room.

EXT. PARKING LOT - SAME

BAM! Jack hits the side of the ice machine.

Two lone ice cubes drop out.

He walks across the gravel lot holding his ice bucket but stops short when he sees a parked car with an INSURANCE COMPANY logo on the door.

Jack ducks into the shadows and watches Katie speak with a female INSURANCE AGENT dressed in a white nurses coat.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

The INSURANCE AGENT (40s) removes the blood pressure cuff off of Katie's arm.

INSURANCE AGENT
Blood pressure is good. Not too high. How's your appetite?

KATIE
Normal, for someone eating for two.

The Agent looks at Katie so intensely, it makes Katie shift in her seat. The Agent removes a syringe.

INSURANCE AGENT
Quick sample. Last one.

The Agent kneels beside Katie who nonchalantly holds out her arm. The Agent wraps the rubber band around Katie's bicep.

INSURANCE AGENT (CONT'D)
Try and stay relaxed. I know there must be so much pressure on you.

KATIE
Excuse me?

INSURANCE AGENT
You're the only pregnancy in this little county.

Katie forces a smile. The Agent retracts the needle and wraps a bandage on Katie's arm.

INSURANCE AGENT (CONT'D)
I know this is special time for your family, but imagine how much it means to the rest of us.

Katie rubs her arm, almost protective. This lady gives her the creeps.

INSURANCE AGENT (CONT'D)
Home birth?

KATIE

I dunno yet. I have an appointment in the city, but you can never plan.

The Agent ices over slightly.

INSURANCE AGENT

Well, then. Just in case you don't make it to a facility. Here.

The Agent places a pre-dosed VACCINATION syringe filled with BLUE liquid on the table.

KATIE

Wh-what's that for?

INSURANCE AGENT

Your vaccination. In case the birth has a hiccup. Can never be too safe.

Katie nods along.

KATIE

Of course. Thanks for stopping by.

Sensing her visit is done, the Agent packs up her bag.

INSURANCE AGENT

Very well. See you post delivery for your check-up.

Katie holds the door open for the woman to leave then takes a seat at the counter.

KNOCK. KNOCK.

Katie turns to find Jack at the glass door.

JACK

Hi. The ice machine is out. I was hoping I --

KATIE

Again? Damn thing has been on the fritz for a month. I keep calling the guy. This way.

Jack follows her behind the counter. She flips up the lid of the ice maker.

KATIE (CONT'D)

You mind doin' it yourself?

She wipes the sweat from her brow.

JACK
You here alone?

Always on alert, Katie's hand inches toward an empty coffee pot. She relaxes when she turns to see Jack has filled a cup of ice water for her.

JACK (CONT'D)
Here.
(sensing her relief)
You should lock the door.

KATIE
You walked in.

JACK
Yeah, and you don't know me.

KATIE
(sarcastic)
Okay, dad.

Jack stops scooping ice for a second. He covers.

JACK
Just watching out is all. Don't you have family around?

KATIE
Shalini's like family. But no. Mom passed a while back and I never knew my dad.

Jack closes the freezer and follows her toward the door. Thinking better of it, he puts the ice bucket down and waves her to a booth.

JACK
Sit.

KATIE
Excuse me?

Jack places her glass of water on the table. He eyes the syringe as he grabs the mop.

JACK
Drink. Important to stay hydrated.

Katie plops down in the booth, sideways, she won't fit otherwise, and props her feet up on the mop bucket.

KATIE
Only for a minute.

Jack proceeds to mop under a booth.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Be sure to get it all the way to
the wall --
(off his look)
If you're insisting on doing it, do
it right.

JACK
Yes, ma'am.

KATIE
All I got is this business. Have to
make it work so I can provide.

JACK
Your friend --

KATIE
Shalini? She already works six day
weeks.
(changing gears)
So what are you running from
exactly?

Jack dips the mop into the bucket. Thinks for a BEAT.

JACK
What makes you think I'm running
from something?

KATIE
Well, you're mopping my floor so --

JACK
Family. Next town over.

Katie raises her ice water in agreement.

KATIE
Avoid complications. Cheers to
that.

Jack finishes the floor.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Thanks for doing a once over in the
kitchen.

Jack smiles slightly and rolls the bucket towards the back.

JACK
No problem.

INT. DINER - KITCHEN - SAME

The kitchen is small but tidy. Jack opens the fridge -- barely enough vegetables for a lunch crowd.

KATIE (O.S.)
You fall back there, old man?

JACK
Old man?
(calling out)
Be right out.

He mops under the sink before dumping the dirty water.

INT. DINER - DOORWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Katie holds the door open for Jack. She hands him a fresh bucket of ice.

KATIE
Thanks.

JACK
Now, lock this behind me.

He glances at the ZOMBIE: NO SERVICE sign.

JACK (CONT'D)
You don't know who lurks out in these parts.

KATIE
These parts? I know these parts. You're city folk. You be careful. And thanks.

JACK
No problem.

KATIE
Keeping your distance, huh? From family?

JACK
Haven't meant to. It's a unique situation.

KATIE

Usually is. Now get out.

Jack half laughs as she shuts the door and locks it. She holds up a hand against the glass to wave goodnight.

Jack smiles as he walks back with his filled ice bucket. He turns to get one last look at Katie -- his smile fades.

INSIDE THE DINER:

Katie sits at a counter stool and wipes tears from her eyes, lost in thought.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jack runs. Sweat drips from his brow. He has a determined look on his face. Suddenly, a loud HORN. He turns just as the car makes IMPACT!

INT. MOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Jack sits up in bed with a start. Daylight peeks through the cheap curtains. A HORN from a passing truck fades in the distance causing the window pane to rattle. **It was a dream.**

He stares at a small ceramic FROG on top of the dresser. He picks it up, examines it. Etched in the clay are the initials SB - Shannon Brantley.

INT. DINER - LATER

Jack enters. Shalini pours coffee for a lone CUSTOMER.

SHALINI

Coffee?

JACK

A to-go cup if you don't mind.

Jack watches as Katie drags a piece of sheet metal across the dirt lot. Shalini follows his gaze.

SHALINI

She's a little young for you ain't she?

JACK

Ah, it's not like that.

SHALINI
We're tougher than we look around
here.

JACK
I didn't mean... you look tough.

SHALINI
(softens)
You're up early?

JACK
Heading over to Wimberly.

SHALINI
Take the side roads. They're doing
work on the highway. It'll save
time.

JACK
Every minute counts.

EXT. COUNTRY SUBURB - DAY

Jack passes quaint houses, an abandoned train car and farms.
He parks along the side of a cemetery. Hops out and walks up
the path carrying flowers. He searches.

Finally he stops. Touches the headstone. Gently places the
flowers at the site, next to half-dead flowers already there.
He reads the worn card. "Happy Birthday, Mom."

The gravestone reads: SHANNON BRANTLEY

INT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - MORNING

Dale sits at his desk, on edge. George approaches.

GEORGE
Sorry. Where's Jack? Did he get
canned?

DALE
He most certainly did not. He-
he's...
(almost losing it)
...had some personal business to
attend to. Why don't you worry
about your stats, George. Worry
about that, okay?

George slinks away.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Jack walks through the woods armed with Katie's nine iron. He comes to the trees edge, drops to his knees and digs. Just over his shoulder, down the hill below is the motel.

He takes a canvas bag out of his backpack, removes his watch and ring. He drops them inside the bag -- which is full of cash. Last, he removes a piece of paper from his back pocket.

He briefly glances at it. We can't make out what it says, only "Dear Katie..." Before he doubts himself, he drops it in and covers up the bag with dirt.

As he walks away, we see the little FROG FIGURINE from his hotel dresser on top of the fresh mound of dirt.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Jack slams on the brakes when he comes across a FARM that has carts of fresh vegetables and fruit for sale.

The sign reads, "GROWN WITH CERTIFIED BLUE LEVEL WATER."

EXT. TADPOLE MOTEL - PARKING LOT

Jack pulls into the lot with the back of his truck filled with boxes of vegetables and produce. He grabs a box and heads into the diner.

INT. DINER - MOMENTS LATER

Shalini and Katie sit at a booth going over the day's menu.

KATIE

We only got enough to stretch to
six blue plate specials.

SHALINI

We could whip up some sort of hash.
Who doesn't like taters with sour
cream?

Both women look up when Jack plops down the box of vegetables.

EXT. TADPOLE MOTEL - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Katie and Shalini stare at the truck full of food.

KATIE
Where'd you get all of this?

JACK
One town over.

KATIE
I don't have any money--

JACK
I'm not asking for anything. Just a blue plate, if it's on the menu.

KATIE
I don't know what to say...

Interjecting.

SHALINI
Thank you. She says thank you.

Shalini shoots Katie a look, what? She grabs a box of food and walks it into the diner and calls back to Katie.

SHALINI (CONT'D)
Put that down missy. You're on coffee refill duty.

Katie grabs an apple and bites into it. She watches as Jack stacks two boxes to carry in.

KATIE
So which farm?
(off Jack's look)
I've gone to all the ones in the county. Want to know who to thank.

JACK
Uh... a friend's place. The one with the refurbished barn on Moss Lane.

KATIE
You know the Murphys?

JACK
Uh, we're not that close.

He picks up the boxes and heads inside. Katie watches him, skeptical.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Shalini has sorted all like items into piles.

SHALINI

Good thing this town is on a diet.
It's veggie plate specials all
around.

KATIE

I got plenty of potatoes to make
home cooked fries. It'll make these
Brussels sprouts go down easier.
(re: blueberries)
Pie. Lots of pie.

QUICK CUTS:

A knife CHOPS vegetables. Pie Crust RISES in the oven.
Potatoes DROPPED into the fryer. Plate after plate PLACED on
diner tables.

REVEAL: Full house in the diner.

SHALINI

Blue plate! Fries! Hustle!

Jack hustles in the kitchen, Shalini runs food to tables
while Katie mans the coffee counter. Lucas buses tables.

Jack wears an apron covered in food scraps and sauce. Sweat
drips from his brow, he's covered in grease -- but he looks
happy. Katie closes the door behind the last customer.

KATIE

Well done.

SHALINI

Let's hit the pool.

JACK

Pool?

EXT. BACK OF MOTEL - DAY

Shalini and Katie sit in worn lawn chairs and soak their feet
in a baby pool. Jack sits with his boots and jeans firmly
rolled down, careful not to reveal his ankle monitor.

KATIE

Oh, yeah. This is the stuff.

Katie closes her eyes. It quickly becomes apparent she's in for a nap. Jack adjusts the umbrella so she has shade.

Jack dips his ball cap in the pool and rings it out. Puts it on his head to cool off. He feels Shalini's stare.

JACK
Do you have a problem with me?

SHALINI
Yeah. I don't trust you.

Jack stiffens.

JACK
Why? Because I'm nice?

SHALINI
Who doesn't put their feet in a kiddie pool on a hot ass day?

Jack relaxes... until --

SHALINI (CONT'D)
-- and I don't know you.

KATIE
Stop barking at the poor guy.
(to Jack)
We're even. Thanks for your help today.

SHALINI
Even?

KATIE
I saved him from being a zombie lunch the other day.

SHALINI
Oh.

JACK
It's the least I could do for saving my life.

Katie closes her eyes. Jack smugly pulls the wet cap over his face. Shalini processes.

INT. LEX'S OFFICE - DAY

Dale sits in front of Lex, nervous. Lex turns his electronic

tablet around, displaying a CITIZEN REPORT with Jack's picture. Status: DEAD.

Dale looks to the ceiling.

LEX

Look, this is unfortunate. I know you guys were close.

DALE

Not really.

(off Lex's look)

Honestly, haven't spoken to him since... well, a couple of days.

Lex glances out his office window into the pit where Ivy and Silas watch from the fountain drink station.

LEX

Jack doesn't have much time...I'd hate to think he turns and things get ugly.

Dale shifts in his seat, tight lipped.

DALE

Are we done here?

BEAT.

LEX

It's his funeral.

INT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - DALE'S DESK

Dale takes his seat, defeated. Ivy approaches and slides a printed CITIZEN REPORT with Jack's picture across Dale's desk. She leans over, inches away.

IVY

(coyness of a shark)

Um, could you stamp this for me?

Dale's hand shakes as he stamps "TERMINATE" on Jack's form. Silas smirks as they walk out sipping Big Gulps.

INT. MOTEL BATHROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Jack sits on the tile floor. He watches as the digital numbers on his monitor COUNT DOWN. He looks at his phone, MISSED CALL from Dale.

Jack listens to voicemail on speaker.

DALE (O.S.)
They know! She knows! Ivy is coming
for you, Jack!

KNOCK! KNOCK!

Jack cautiously approaches the door. He grabs the nine iron
and looks through the peephole. He opens the door to see --

JACK
Katie? Everything okay?

He nonchalantly sets the golf club against the wall.

INT./EXT. TADPOLE MOTEL - OFFICE - DAY

Jack carries the large piece of polished metal into the
office. It's half of an old car door, handle still intact.

KATIE
Thanks. Tom was gonna help but, of
course, he didn't show up.

She leads him back to -- a small two bedroom apartment.

KATIE (CONT'D)
In here.

Jack follows --

INT. NURSERY - SAME

The nursery is rustic-retro with metal elements. The crib is
welded metal like her art pieces. Jack takes it all in.

KATIE
Not much baby stuff on the market
these days. Had to make most of it.

JACK
This is... wow. Your baby is lucky
to have such a resourceful mom.

KATIE
Thanks.

Regarding the piece of metal.

JACK
Where does this go?

KATIE

Up there, in the window.

ON THE WALL: Two metal tracks bolted above and below the window. The rectangle piece of metal fits perfectly.

Katie demonstrates by pulling it perfectly over the glass window, locking it into place.

KATIE (CONT'D)

In case we have another virus outbreak. It will keep all the danger out of the little one's room.

JACK

Staying safe is important.

Jack watches as Katie folds a baby blanket. She looks happy. A pregnant glow. Pain and regret rip through Jack.

JACK (CONT'D)

Um, it's been really nice getting to know you, Katie. But I need to head out tomorrow.

KATIE

I hope I didn't run you off by putting you to work.

JACK

No. Happy to help. Got my mind off my troubles.

KATIE

Well, Mr. Jack. Pleasure having you at the Tadpole.

Jack notices more ceramic frogs on the baby's bookshelf.

JACK

May I ask, what's with all the frogs?

KATIE

You'll think it's stupid.

JACK

Try me.

KATIE

When I was little, I used to spend all my summer days swimmin' and playin' in the lake not too far from here. It was my nickname when I was a kid. I hated it then, but now, don't mind too much.

JACK

Frogs are resilient -- survive in water and on land.

KATIE

(rubs her belly)
That's us.

Jack notices the other bare window.

JACK

You going to cover that one?

KATIE

I wanted to go to the salvage yard today but Tom was a no-show. It's weird he wants to be involved but never is around when I need him.

JACK

I could go with you tomorrow, before I hit the road. If you need help --

KATIE

Seriously?
(catching herself)
Nah. It's weird. I just met you and you have already done so much.

JACK

You did save my life.

INT. JACK'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Jack brushes his teeth, hits a sore spot. Something is caught on his toothbrush. SPITS. A tooth falls out. Instead of RED blood, it's BLACK liquid covering the molar.

He quickly throws it in the trash and rinses out the sink. He looks at his monitor, **1 DAY 21 HOURS LEFT.**

INT. CITY BAR - NIGHT

A shit hole dive bar. Ivy sits at the bar and knocks back a whiskey. She shoots a side glance towards a MAN (30s) at the end of the bar. He shoots her a half-smile -- a connection.

The BARTENDER approaches. Ivy points to her empty glass.

BARTENDER
Coming right up.

IVY
Thanks.

She watches as the Man walks towards the back of the bar. She puts a napkin on top of her glass and follows.

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM

The Man is just zipping up his fly, when Ivy enters.

MAN
Well, aren't you forward.

She says nothing and shoves him against the wall and proceeds to make-out with him. He's caught off guard but quickly gets on board.

THEIR FEET: She bends her knee as if she is going to wrap her leg around him but then lowers it. CLICK. Her eyes OPEN.

Ivy pulls away and HEAD BUTTS HIM in the forehead. He falls against the tile wall. She points to his ankle.

IVY
Show me. NOW.

The man obliges and pulls up his pant cuff -- only a motorcycle BOOT.

MAN
I don't know who you think I am,
but I'm very much alive.

Shame washes over Ivy's face.

MAN (CONT'D)
Now you need to learn some manners,
little miss.

She turns to leave, but he grabs her arm, swinging her towards him. Mistake.

Ivy grabs the paper towel tin off the wall and wallops him. The Man falls in a heap onto the floor in the nearest stall.

INT. CITY BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Ivy licks the blood off her knuckle as she meanders through the bar crowd, back to her seat. She downs her whiskey and throws cash on the counter as she leaves.

EXT. SALVAGE YARD - NEXT MORNING

Jack parks his truck at the edge of a salvage yard filled with abandoned cars and metal scraps.

Katie hops out the passenger side of the truck and looks with a smile at the vast wasteland of metal.

KATIE

All the possibilities to make
something out of nothing.

They walk the aisles. Jack is noticeably quiet.

KATIE (CONT'D)

You okay?

JACK

Over two decades and there's so
much left. Takes me back is all.

KATIE

Good thing my generation came
along. We'll populate and repurpose
all of this stuff.

Katie digs into a metal scraps.

KATIE (CONT'D)

What?

JACK

You're so positive about it.

KATIE

I'm not. Really. Faking it until I
make it.

(rubs stomach)

Or bake it.

Jack digs through a pile.

JACK

I hauled metal for a good five years. Didn't mind at first. I liked to work outdoors. But then it got to me. Seeing details of those lost. Trinkets in their cars.

Katie casually pockets a necklace she finds in a glove compartment. She pauses, catching Jack's stare.

KATIE

In case I have a girl. Irony that the generation with the chemical hearts, y'all can't die, and end up suffering more than us newbies.

JACK

Chemical hearts? That's what the kids call people my age? I- people my age don't suffer.

KATIE

Pumped full of the Z-vaccine. I see it walking around town -- dead in the eyes. Clocking time but not really living.

JACK

I-I wouldn't say that.
(off her silence)
What?

Katie looks him up and down.

KATIE

A couple of days ago, your t-shirts had creases. So I'm guessing you wear suits wherever you're from.
(off his look)
It's cool, whatever.

JACK

(a bit defensive)
I had a solid job. Stable.

KATIE

Had?

Jack shifts on his feet.

JACK

I'm in between things at the moment. But I'm not --

Jack catches himself -- emotions flash to the surface.

KATIE

Sorry, I'm being a pill. You're kind enough to help me and I go all anti-establishment on, ya. All I meant, it seems like everyone from the older generations are so happy to exist they don't push the envelope.

(points to her head)

Dead up here.

She walks ahead.

JACK

It's easier to have that perspective when you didn't watch your whole family die or take a baseball bat to leave the house.

Katie turns towards Jack.

KATIE

I have experienced loss. And I use a nine iron.

Katie walks ahead. Jack hangs his head, fuck. They arrive at a drop off and stand at the edge of the mound of junk.

JACK

I wasn't judging you...

KATIE

After my mom died, I tried to get vaccinated. All I could think about was just living, to hold on.

JACK

Understandable --

KATIE

-- But then I woke the fuck up. Holding on is not enough. I want to do something important while I'm here.

Jack processes.

JACK

Katie, I need to tell you --

KATIE

Oh, look! That one's from a Smart Car!

JACK

Perfect size for your nursery.

KATIE

Grab it. Sorry, what were you saying?

JACK

Not important.

KATIE

I'll go ask for a wheelbarrow.
(pointing to a pile)
I want all of this.

EXT. TADPOLE MOTEL - PARKING LOT

Katie carries trinkets she found at the junkyard while Jack unloads the metal scraps. She turns back towards the truck.

KATIE

Forgot my bag.

JACK

Think it's in the cab of the truck.

Katie returns to the front seat and finds her bag. She stops short when she sees -- Jack's INSURANCE COMPANY work badge that has fallen to the floor. Her face ices over.

SIDE LOT:

Jack stacks the last piece when his work badge hits him in the shoulder.

KATIE

The Insurance Company? That's what you're doing here?

JACK

What? No... I mean I used to be...

KATIE

Get the fuck off my property now.
(before Jack can protest)
Y'all are all alike. Pretending to be my friend but really checking up on me?

JACK
No, I-I was helping --

KATIE
Help? How? Taking away all my
choices? Always sniffing around...

JACK
It's not like that --

The gravel CRUNCHES as Tom's SUV pulls into the parking lot.
He exits his truck and approaches. Katie glances at Tom.

KATIE
You better go before he finds out.
Then we'll all be in a pickle.

Jack nods. Regret in his eyes. He backs away.

JACK
I'm sorry. Katie, I only wanted to
help.

Katie doesn't meet his gaze.

KATIE
(under her breath)
Just leave.

Jack reaches his truck and shuts the passenger door. He
hovers by the driver's side door, watching Katie and Tom,
from a distance.

KATIE (CONT'D)
You're a few hours late, Tom. I
already went without you.

TOM
Without me? But I want to see you.

KATIE
You lost that right when you slept
with half the town.

Tom moves close. Almost pinning Katie to the wall. She turns
her head to not meet his gaze.

JACK
Hey! Get out of here --

TOM
This isn't any of your business.
(to Katie)
You know what's right.

Katie turns to him, eyes fierce.

KATIE

Yes. Do you?

Suddenly ripped away by Jack.

JACK

Get away from her.

TOM

Why are you still here?

JACK

She said to leave.

Jack is not a fighter. It's awkward. Tom punches him across the face, stunning him. Tom laughs. Jack tackles Tom.

The two men tumble in the dusty parking lot landing near Katie's metal shop workstation. Tom grabs the mallet and swings it at Jack, who ducks out of the way.

BAM! The mallet SLAMS down onto Jack's truck, leaving a HUGE DENT. Jack continues to try and fight -- it's scrappy.

Tom tumbles back, tripping on pieces of salvaged metal, FALLING BACKWARD. He lands hard.

Tom's eyes BULGE. He's -- DEAD?

REVEAL: A METAL SPIKE through Tom's skull.

KATIE

Tom! Oh, my g--

Shalini exits the diner, armed with a rifle -- aimed at JACK.

SHALINI

I knew there was something off
about you!

Jack follows both of their gaze to his ANKLE MONITOR exposed.

KATIE

Tom's dead! And... you're --

Shalini cocks the rifle.

SHALINI

-- Dead.

JACK

I--I can explain.

INT. JACK'S MOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

CLICK CLACK. A shotgun readies itself.

REVEAL: Katie now holds the barrel of the gun inches from Jack's face who sits in a chair.

Shalini stands a short distance away holding a shovel.

KATIE
I trusted you.

SHALINI
I knew I didn't like you.

KATIE
Not now.
(to Jack)
Come around me in your condition.

She pokes his chest with the gun barrel.

KATIE (CONT'D)
What's wrong with you?

SHALINI
I'm calling the police! No, the
Insurance Company! They'll know
what to do with you.

Katie throws Jack's insurance company badge at his face.

KATIE
Don't bother.

Shalini scowls.

JACK
...I can explain.

KATIE
You're a zombie who is endangering
me and my child!

JACK
Listen to me. I--I'm a good man. I--

She readies her aim --

JACK (CONT'D)
Katie...

Katie cocks the gun, ready to fire --

JACK (CONT'D)
I'm your dad!

KATIE
What?

Shalini's menacing look falls for 1.5 seconds, but then she reins it in - readies the shovel for a swing.

SHALINI
He's just saying that.

Jack never breaks eye contact with Katie.

JACK
Your mom. Shannon. We were together in college. We called it off during the outbreak.

KATIE
I was told my father died.

JACK
I didn't know about you! You've got to believe me. I -- I have photographs. Let me show --

Shalini swings the shovel close to his face.

SHALINI
Sit down. Anyone could print pictures off the internet.

JACK
Katie, I'm not a killer.
(searching for words)
Your mom... She had a scar on her knee ---

KATIE
Could've seen that in the picture in the lobby --

JACK
It was from falling during a school assembly but she always said it was from skateboarding because it sounded cooler.

SHALINI
Shut your mouth.

KATIE
Go on.

Shalini shoots Katie a look, really?

JACK
 She was allergic to avocado, which
 was weird because Tex Mex was her
 favorite --

Katie loosens her grip on her weapon. Shalini circles.

KATIE
 And...

JACK
 Your mom wanted to travel to
 Australia because her uncle once
 was on a research team to Alice
 Springs.

Katie nods, "continue..."

JACK (CONT'D)
 ...She always cried when the song
 "Photograph" came on because it
 sounds happy but it's really sad.

KATIE
 (barely a whisper)
 It was written by a Beatle...

Looking at them both.

SHALINI
 What?

KATIE
 Ringo Starr.

Katie lowers the shotgun. After a moment she inches forward.

KATIE (CONT'D)
 I have a d-
 (catches herself)
 You show up now? Now?
 (beat)
 Do you know how hard it's been?
 Without her. Without you?

JACK
 I'm so sorry -- I--

KATIE
 No. You don't get to do that.

Katie collapses in a nearby chair. Stares at the floor,
 dumbfounded. Finally...

JACK
Your mom was... wanted to see the world. When she left, I assumed she left for good. I should have --

KATIE
Looked for her?

JACK
She was off to have a big life...

KATIE
We did. Have a big life.

JACK
I missed it.

Katie watches him for a BEAT. His eyes full of regret.

Katie subconsciously rubs her stomach... A CRASH of a garbage can toppling over outside. She and Jack LOCK EYES.

KATIE / JACK
Tom. / Tom.

From Shalini's look, she doesn't want to, but obliges.

EXT. BACK OF MOTEL - DAY

Well fuck. TOM IS GONE. A POOL of BLOOD and the bloody sharp piece of metal sticking straight up from where he fell.

Jack's face leans close to the piece of metal, eyeballs a measurement.

JACK
Six inches? Went straight into his brain.

KATIE
Meaning?

JACK
He's a walker. Take it he has been exposed but not vaccinated?

KATIE
He hates the government.

Just then, MR. and MRS. PERRY (60s) exit room four.

MRS. PERRY

Katie? Everything alright? We heard a ruckus and saw a man stumbling about.

KATIE

It's fine, Mrs. Perry. Why don't I send some pie down to your room?

MRS. PERRY

Oh, aren't you sweet.

Mrs. Perry hovers. Katie follows her gaze to the large blood puddle in the dirt. Jack begins to drag the sheet metal across the lot around back, out of view.

However it only smears a blood trail making it worse.

MR. PERRY

(under his breath)

We're checking out of this dump.

MRS. PERRY

Shh. Don't be rude. We're gettin' pie.

Katie walks towards the woods nearby and calls out.

KATIE

Tom! Tom!

(softer)

Get your zombie ass back here.

Shalini stands behind her with a handgun.

SHALINI

We'll have to shoot him, when he returns.

KATIE

A little trigger happy, aren't you?

SHALINI

Don't pretend this isn't fate. I know I'm not the only one feeling relieved.

KATIE

He's gonna come back. They always do.

Jack looks around at the motel.

JACK

We have to send everyone away. I'll pay for your rooms. I've got money.

KATIE

I don't want your stupid money.

JACK

I don't want to die with it. So you're gonna take it.

KATIE

I said I don't want it.

JACK (CONT'D)

Don't be stubborn.

SHALINI

STOP! I'll take it. For shutting down my diner.

(looks to Katie)

And to tip you.

KATIE

Aw hell. Fine. Shalini, you don't have to stay. This isn't your fight.

SHALINI

You can't do this alone. And he shouldn't be near you.

JACK

She's right. I-I shouldn't be near you when things start to go south.

Katie is riled up, getting more upset as she speaks.

KATIE

They've already gone south. You came here and stirred the pot. It's time to get messy.

(points to Shalini)

I don't have any family. We've had to rely on one another for protection. Oh. No. Ahhhh...

Katie hunches over in pain, grabs her belly.

KATIE (CONT'D)

It's okay, I'm fiiiinnneee--

A PUDDLE forms at her feet.

KATIE (CONT'D)

(wipes away tears)

No. No. No. Come on, I--

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)
 (PRE-LAP)
 AHHHHH!!!!

INT. KATIE'S MOTEL APARTMENT - SHOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Katie is in full blown LABOR on the floor of the walk-in shower. Towels over her legs. Shalini in the catcher's position while Jack scurries to get more towels.

KATIE
 Ahhhh! I don't want to-- I can't.
 Not like this.

SHALINI
 You don't have a choice.

KATIE
 (trying to cover her pain)
 I can wait. I--

SHALINI
 Honey, whether you like it or not,
 it's time. We're going to help you.

KATIE
 Tom... is a fucking idiot zombie.
 Rest of my family is dead. This
 isn't riiiiiiiggghhttt!!!!

SHALINI
 (to Jack)
 I need your help!

Jack gets on the floor. He tries to hold her hand but she squeezes hard. He lets go.

JACK
 I don't want to scratch her.
 Switch.

As Shalini moves to hold Katie's hand, she catches a peek at his ankle monitor **1 DAY 12 Hours and COUNTING...**

SHALINI
 We need fresh water.

JACK
 I'll get it.

EXT. BACK OF MOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

Jack exits the back door of Katie's apartment and approaches

the retro water pump sticking out of the ground.

He PUMPS the lever until SPLASH, fresh water hits the tin bucket. He fills it to the top.

Jack looks to the woods. He puts the bucket down on the wet dirt and walks to the edge of the woods.

JACK
(murmurs)
Not scared of you.

On his way back to the back door he notices a toolshed full of gardening supplies.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A GARDEN GLOVED HAND clasps Kate's hand. Jack now has a heavy work shirt on for Katie's protection. He nestles in against the tile wall. Katie is tired, fading.

JACK
Hey, hey. Look at me. I'm here.

KATIE
(shakes her head no)
I can't.

Another contraction hits. She winces in pain.

JACK
Focus on me. It hurts, hit me.

SHALINI
Hit him. Go on!

Bam! She does.

KATIE
Goddamn it!

JACK
I'm mad too.

SHALINI
Harder!

She shrugs, what? Katie clasps Jack's hand, TIGHT, pushes.

JACK
That's it...

LAST PUSH.

A BABY cries.

Katie collapses against the tile wall, relieved. Shalini quickly swaddles the newborn and hands her to Katie.

SHALINI
It's a girl.

Happy tears stream down Katie's face.

Jack watches them, his eyes full of love. His expression clouds to sadness. Their journey is just beginning and he's going to miss everything.

Hiding his disappointment, Jack busies himself, collecting the dirty towels.

INT. KATIE'S MOTEL APARTMENT - LATER

Jack looks in on a sleeping Katie and baby. He goes back to the kettle on the stove. He pours two cups of tea. Midway from the counter to the table he --

DOUBLES OVER in PAIN. The tea cups SMASH onto the floor. From the other room the BABY cries.

Jack gets his breath steady and grabs a dish towel. He shakily wipes up the mess just as Shalini returns.

SHALINI
What happened?

JACK
Slipped out of my hands is all.

He shows her his hands, they have a slight shake. He tries to cover but she notices.

JACK (CONT'D)
No cuts. See.

SHALINI
Clean up. I got us some food. The last guest just left.

Jack takes a deep breath when he gets to his feet. Shalini doesn't say word, only watches.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Dale's face in deep concentration. Sounds of GUNFIRE.

REVEAL: Dale sits on Jack's couch, in Jack's apartment, wearing one of Jack's baseball hats backwards playing video games. PEW! PEW! PEW!

Dale pauses the game. Did he hear something?

The wall clock: TICK TICK TICK. Nope.

He goes back to the game.

PFFT! PFFT! PFFT!

Dale slowly turns his head to find three HOLES in the drywall beside him. PFFT! A FOURTH HOLE! He hits the floor!

DALE

What the-- Who's there? Come out!

THONK! THONK!

A BLACK BOOT presses on his back. Dale tries to get a look, but all he sees is a WHITE JUMPSUIT pant leg.

An air canister swings to and fro into view. It's Ivy.

Silas leans down next to Dale.

SILAS

It's Mello Yello guy. You're Mello Yello.

DALE

I-I like Mello Yello.

Silas flips him over. Ivy's boot comes down on Dale's chest.

IVY

Where's Jack?

DALE

I don't k-know.

Ivy shoots a stun BOLT into the floor, inches away from Dale's head. THUNK! A BOLT buries itself into the wooden floor on the other side of his head.

She puts the stunner to his forehead and leans close. Waits.

DALE (CONT'D)

H-he has a daughter!

Dale lets out a whimper.

DALE (CONT'D)
He has family.

Ivy processes for a millisecond before kicking Dale strategically across the face, knocking him out.

EXT. MOTEL - LATE AFTERNOON

Jack hammers 2x4 boards across motel room windows. He stops when his phone rings.

INTERCUT: INT. JACK'S APARTMENT

Dale sits on the floor, rubs his jaw.

DALE
Jack! Where are you?

JACK
Listen. Um, things have changed.
I'm not coming back.

Dale leans on the couch to pull himself to his feet--

DALE
Not coming back!? Dude, they know.
Ivy knows!

Dale accidentally hits the remote, the game unpauses and the volume goes LOUD.

INT. DARK SEDAN - SAME

Silas and Ivy sit listening to the conversation, having bugged Jack's apartment, both jump at the game's gunfire.

IVY
What the f--

RESUME SCENE:

Dale fumbles with Jack's various remote controls.

DALE
Which remote controls your volume?

JACK
Are you in my apartment?

Dale pauses.

DALE
This has been a very stressful
time. I miss you, buddy.
(click)
Found it.

JACK
I'm calling to say good-bye.

DALE
No can do, brother. Gonna have say
that in person.

JACK
You don't even know --

DALE
-- Yes I do. I erased her address
from the database.

JACK
You did that?

DALE
Figured they can't come for you if
they can't find you.

BEAT.

JACK
Thanks. Make sure no one follows.

DALE
I'm stealth, dude. Real stealth.

Jack hangs up.

EXT. JACK'S APARTMENT - STAIRWELL - SAME

Dale slinks from the stairs into the bushes, all the while
carrying Jack's fishing rod. He looks around. Nothing out of
place -- wait a second...

TWO MELLO YELLO CANS discarded near a BLACK SEDAN.

Dale raises a set of binoculars. He practically drops the
binoculars when he sees Ivy and Silas.

DALE
Mello Freakin' Yello.

With a determined look he shimmies back into the bushes.

INT. KATIE'S MOTEL APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DUSK

Jack looks out the back window. Shadows of the trees loom a short distance away. Katie holds the baby in her arms.

KATIE

He's never been on time for anything. Breaking in here wouldn't be any different.

Jack slides the metal plate across the window and takes a seat next to her bed.

JACK

Can I ask, how, why'd you two--

KATIE

Stupidity and whiskey. Not many folks to choose from out here and I'm not a nun.

JACK

Ever thought about moving into the city?

KATIE

This is my home. I want to make something of it.

JACK

Thought of any names?

Katie clouds over.

KATIE

With things going like they've been, I was afraid of counting on anything. Even her. Hell, I didn't even know if I was having a boy or girl.

JACK

Wow. You seem to have everything under control, I figured --

KATIE

Birth control is outlawed. The government forced me to be a single parent instead of going to college. I had no control. The Insurance Company made sure of that.

JACK

There's still time to leave. I'll drive you wherever you want to go.

KATIE

I'm the only pregnant woman in the county. I'm on record. The Insurance Company checks in.

Jack holds up one of the Frog stuffed animals. The baby coos. Katie rubs her cheek.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I was thinking Delphine. It was --

JACK

-- Your mom's middle name.

KATIE

Yeah.

Shalini appears in the doorway. She holds a rifle.

SHALINI

I'm going to do a perimeter check.

JACK

I'll come with.

(turning toward Katie)

You need anything?

Katie gets to her feet. She moves gingerly, still in pain.

KATIE

I'm going to put her down. I need to wash up.

JACK

We'll be back shortly.

Jack walks out, leaving his knife on the kitchen counter.

EXT. TADPOLE MOTEL - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Jack and Shalini round the corner. From the dark --

LUCAS

Caught roly pollies.

Both Shalini and Jack jump. Lucas emerges from the shadows shaking a jar of bugs.

JACK

Jesus.

SHALINI

Go home, Lucas.

Lucas looks at her gun then at Jack.

LUCAS

Why you have a gun?

Shalini holds her weapon behind her back.

SHALINI

Dinner service is cancelled for
today and tomorrow.

LUCAS

No work?

(disappointed)

Okay.

INT. DARK SEDAN - SAME

Silas and Ivy walk through the crowd near an electric bike kiosk. Ivy's CO2 Tank sways beside her as she walks. Silas nods to the stocky guy about ten feet in front of them.

Silas grabs the stocky guy by the shoulder, turns him around - NOT Dale.

GUY

Hey man --

PATH:

Dale has ditched his hat and wears a bike helmet and goggles. He smirks as his bike picks up speed.

IVY & SILAS:

IVY

Come on. Let's check the car yards
nearby.

EXT. CAR JUNKYARD - DAY

The same one where Jack got his truck.

The ATTENDANT (50s) pulls up a turquoise station wagon. Smoke shoots out the exhaust. A large solar panel is fitted on the roof of the car.

DALE
How come smoke's comin' out of it,
if it runs on corn oil?

ATTENDANT
(shrugs)
It's all I got.

Dale doesn't look pleased. A bell DINGS, signaling a new customer arrived -- it's Silas & Ivy.

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
Think about it, be right back.

Dale finds a place to hide.

Silas and Ivy approach. The Attendant's demeanor ices over when he sees their Insurance Company jumpsuits. He looks uneasy, nervous?

The Attendant looks behind him where Dale once stood, gone.

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
Can I help you?

Ivy holds up her phone, picture of Dale.

IVY
Have you seen this man?

The Attendant looks.

ATTENDANT
What'd he do?

IVY
Does it matter? We're looking for him.

CLANG! CRASH! All three look toward the noise -- from the direction of a SMALL SHED. The Attendant is about to say something but stops himself. Ivy picks up on it.

Ivy nods toward Silas. Silas goes to open the door but it's STUCK. He pulls on it --

ATTENDANT
Don't -- Okay. Maybe I've seen him.
Let me see the picture again.

IVY
Too late.

Silas pulls on the shed door.

ATTENDANT

Please...

IVY

What's in the shed, Sir?

CRASH.

IVY (CONT'D)

Am I going to have to send the cops
out perhaps?

Silas tugs on the door --

STATION WAGON:

Dale ducks down on the floor of the driver's seat, having found a discarded rear view mirror on the floor of the car. He holds it up just high enough to watch out the window.

As soon as Ivy turns, he lowers the mirror. Did she see something?

Ivy takes a few steps towards the car -- when Silas gets the shed door open.

ATTENDANT

No!

SILAS

Holy crap!

A FEMALE ZOMBIE, the Attendant's wife, lunges out onto Silas!

SILAS (CONT'D)

Ahh!

ATTENDANT

Honey, No. Let the man go!

Ivy makes no move to help out Silas. She calmly turns to the junkyard Attendant.

IVY

Harboring a zombie is a federal
offense.

SILAS (O.S.)

Get her off me! I'm bit! I'm bit!

ATTENDANT

(to the Zombie Wife)
Sweetheart, please stop!
(MORE)

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
(to Ivy)
She don't mean nothin' by it.

PFFT! PFFT!

IVY
She's dead.

The Zombie falls onto the ground as the Attendant watches in horror. He pulls a gun tucked in the back waist of his pants.

ATTENDANT
You son-of-a--

PFFT! He drops. Ivy looks at the mess.

IVY
Damn it.

STATION WAGON:

Dale watches in horror. Ivy turns and it's as if she looks RIGHT AT HIM in the mirror. The mirror drops to the floor and Dale braces for the worst.

Silas on the other hand is not in good shape on the ground. BLUE VEINS crawl up his neck. He sweats profusely.

SILAS
H-help. P-please.

Silas watches as Ivy CALMLY walks past him to the trunk of their car. She scans her hand on the top of a Insurance Agency cooler and it opens revealing:

A SYRINGE filled with ORANGE LIQUID.

Ivy kneels next to a now gasping Silas. She takes her sweet ass time as her co-worker gasps for life. Finally... Ivy STABS the syringe into SILAS'S CHEST. Silas GASPS.

The wound on his neck ceases gushing.

IVY
Stings like a bitch, huh.

SILAS
Y-you could have hurried.

IVY
Let's hit the next one up the road
a bit.

STATION WAGON:

Dale has seen the whole thing.

DALE

Holy shit.

A freaked out Dale watches as Ivy and Silas take off. As he falls back against the seat the sun visor falls down and the keys drop into his lap.

INT. STATION WAGON - ROAD

Dale drives with purpose.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Lucas sits on the curb, his shoe shining kit in front of him, sulking. He watches in silence as Tom, Greg, Clancy and two other men, walk toward the Motel.

The last man turns, looks straight at Lucas. His eyes sunken in, blood smeared on his face, a huge wound in his neck. He is DEAD.

Lucas nervously grabs his kit and scurries off.

INT. DINER - DAY

A large ICE SCOOPER digs into a mound of ice. Jack fills a bucket. Something catches his eye. Jack goes to the window.

JACK

Thought you said everyone left.

SHALINI

That's Mr. Porter. He stays here every week on his way to Laredo. He'll shove off soon.

Jack turns around to find Shalini has her gun aimed on him.

JACK

Hey --

SHALINI

I let you stay for the baby. But it's time for you to go.

CLICK CLACK she readies the gun.

JACK
I can help. Just for tonight.

SHALINI
There is someone coming for you.
(motioning to his ankle)
You're a walking target.

JACK
Please.

Shalini glares at him. He doesn't budge.

SHALINI
She shouldn't have to take on your
burden. And neither should I.

Her words hit hard.

JACK
I'll go say good-bye.

He collects his ice bucket. He hovers by the door, hoping she changes her mind.

SHALINI
Take care of yourself.

Jack gives her a nod and exits.

EXT. TADPOLE MOTEL - DAY

Jack walks with his head down towards the Motel office. He stops short when he notices BLOODY footprints outside ROOM 4.

In front of the room door is MR. PORTER's car parked with its trunk half open. Jack approaches the car.

JACK
Hello? Mr. Porter?

No answer. The car trunk door has a RED SMUDGE on it. Jack kicks it with his boot. The TRUNK DOOR OPENS--

-- Revealing nothing but Porter's tool box.

Jack looks back towards Room 4. The door is ajar. From inside the room, a GROAN. Jack grabs a HAMMER from the toolbox.

INT. TADPOLE MOTEL - ROOM 4 - SAME

Jack enters to find Mr. Porter lying on the floor behind the

bed and TOM'S PLAID SHIRT ZOMBIE friend (same guy who stared at Lucas) EATING Mr. Porter's GUTS.

JACK

Mr. Porter? What the--

PLAID SHIRT ZOMBIE stands, blood running down his neck. He drops Porter's innards and LUNGES for Jack. He's oddly fast.

Jack is caught off guard by his speed, but he manages to duck out of the way. He TRIPS over Mr. Porter's feet and falls NEXT to him on the floor.

Mr. Porter looks at Jack, eyes pleading to end it. Jack hops back up just as Plaid Zombie JUMPS over the bed. Jack scrambles away.

It's been a while since he's had to kill a zombie and his inexperience shows.

Plaid Shirt comes at him again. With no other choice, Jack WHOPS him in the head with the hammer. EW! It imbeds itself into the Zombie's skull, and only stuns him. Jack squirms away and gets on his feet.

JACK (CONT'D)

Shit.

Plaid Zombie grunts. Thinking fast, Jack grabs the BIBLE off the nightstand and SLAMS it against the hammer, causing the Zombie to fall to the ground.

Jack retrieves the handle along with a CHUNK of the Zombie's skull and quickly goes to work, BAM! BAM! BAM!

We don't see the HITS, only Jack's determined face and the occasional spatter of carnage against the wall.

When it becomes abundantly clear there is no way in hell that Plaid Zombie is moving Jack STOPS.

He WHEEZES for a moment. As soon as he catches his breath-- A GUNSHOT can be heard from the direction of the diner.

Jack looks out the window and sees Shalini standing on the diner counter, gun raised.

BAM! A second Zombie falls.

INT. KATIE'S MOTEL APARTMENT - SHOWER - NIGHT

Katie lets the water run over her face. She opens her eyes and shuts off the water. Did she hear something? Waits...

Nothing...She turns the water back on and watches the water disappear down the drain.

INT. TADPOLE MOTEL - ROOM 4 - SAME

Jack stares at his bloody hands and shirt. He removes his over-shirt revealing a dirty T-shirt.

He peers out the window. Tom stomps outside the motel office. BANGS on the metal window covers.

TOM
(half grunt/mumble)
Katie!

Jack is just about to exit when he notices zombie-fied Greg and Clancy roaming the parking lot nearby.

He bolts Room 4's outer door. He turns to the door connecting to Room 5 and KICKS IT IN!

INTERCUT: INT. KATIE'S MOTEL APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Katie gets out of the shower and towels off. She takes part of the towel and wipes the steam off the mirror -- ALL CLEAR.

INT. TADPOLE MOTEL - ROOM 6

BAM! The door SLAMS OPEN and Jack walks through.

He proceeds to kick in door after door connecting the rooms. He'll have to get to Katie's apartment without being seen by the zombies in the parking lot.

ROOM #7...

ROOM #8...

ROOM # 9...

Room #10 -- GAH!

Suddenly Jack doubles over in PAIN. He falls to the floor, helpless. He begins to sweat profusely.

INT. DINER - SAME

Shalini watches Greg and Clancy in the parking lot from her hiding space. She scurries to the back door to find -- Lucas.

LUCAS

Miss Shalini. Zombies are back--

Shalini pulls him inside and SLAMS the door.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

There's a lot of em'. I --

Lucas looks down at his bat.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

I'm scared.

Shalini touches his shoulder.

SHALINI

You're okay. We'll be okay. Come with me.

INT. KATIE'S MOTEL APARTMENT - SAME

Now dressed, hair wet, Katie looks in on the baby, asleep.

KITCHEN:

Katie opens the fridge. The filtered water is empty. Carton of BOXED Water is empty too. She grabs the bucket. She picks up Jack's nine iron he left on the counter, but with the weight of the bucket, it's too much.

She places the club on the counter and exits.

EXT. MOTEL APARTMENT - BACK ENTRANCE

Katie shifts through the dirt in her flip flops toward the water pump sticking out of the dirt yard. She squints in the bright sunlight.

Sweat drips from her brow as she works the lever on the well. After a few pulls. Water splashes into the metal bucket.

A much-needed breeze kicks up. Katie stops for a moment to let the fresh air hit her face.

DONK! DONK!

The wooden BACK DOOR bounces against the doorframe. Katie whips around but doesn't see anything.

The DOOR sways ever so slightly in the breeze. The WIND picks up again. Katie shrugs it off.

Katie shifts through the dirt. The water splashes out of the bucket onto her feet. She is halfway to the door when --

On the corner of the building she spots a RED BLOOD smudge.

Katie looks around. She's alone. Relaxes. Hobbles a couple of steps when suddenly MULLET ZOMBIE comes around the corner.

KATIE

Clancy?

She drops the bucket and HOBBLER towards the door.

She manages to reach the door seconds before Clancy and SLAMS it shut.

INT. TADPOLE MOTEL - KATIE'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

THUMP! THUMP! Against the outside of the door. Katie exhales. Safe. Something shifts behind her. She turns to find ZOMBIE TOM standing in the kitchen doorway.

KATIE

(barely a whisper)

T-tom?

He grunts and steps closer.

Their Baby lets out a coo over the baby monitor. Katie quickly, discreetly silences the monitor with her hand behind her back.

She glances to the golf club on the counter. She'll have to step toward Tom in order to get it. Tom steps closer.

Tears form in Katie's eyes.

KATIE (CONT'D)

(barely audible)

Jack?

The baby WAILS. Tom's head turns toward the bedroom.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Nooooo!

Katie lunges for the nine iron and raises it over her head.

INT. TADPOLE MOTEL - ROOM 10 - NIGHT

Jack lies unconscious on the floor. The sound of Katie and

Tom's struggle can be heard in the background: Furniture MOVING and CRASHING. Katie's muffled SCREAMS.

KATIE (O.S.)

Jack! Help! Get away from her!

His granddaughter CRIES!

Jack's eyes OPEN.

He pulls himself up and throws himself against the door. It doesn't budge. He kicks it.

JACK

Katie!

BAM! Another distant GUN SHOT from the diner. SHIT.

INT. DINER - SAME

Shalini's shotgun SMOKES. A Zombie drops with a THUD.

Lucas rounds the corner with a large bloody KNIFE wearing a trash bag with head and arm holes cutout, a makeshift raincoat. Behind him, Zombie Greg exits.

CLICK CLICK.

SHALINI

I'm out of bullets!

She quickly grabs a MEAT CLEAVER off the grill and THROWS. It lands in the side of Greg's head, slowing him down.

Lucas takes his knife and STABS Greg under his throat into his skull. He drops. Lucas holds up his knife, proud.

LUCAS

Miss Shalini, we're okay.

SHALINI

Thanks, Lucas.

She looks around.

SHALINI (CONT'D)

These shits messed up my diner.

LUCAS

Mother fuckers ruined my shoes.

SHALINI

Grab some knives.

LUCAS
Yes, Miss Shalini.

INT. KATIE'S MOTEL APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Jack kicks in the door. He gasps for breath. Looks around.
It's QUIET.

Katie enters from the hall, shirt and face covered in blood splatter. In one arm she cradles Delphine. In the other hand, Jack's golf club.

She shakes slightly, still in shock.

KATIE
I-I...

Jack gently takes the golf club from her hand. The baby coos.

JACK
That wasn't Tom, you understand. It
wasn't him.

A GRUNT. A LAMP crashes to the floor. They both turn towards the LOUD APPROACHING STEPS of an injured and aggravated Zombie Tom.

He LUNGES for them when -- CRUNCH!

Jack WHACKS him in the head with a DEATH BLOW from the nine iron. Tom drops.

JACK (CONT'D)
I'm getting y'all out of here, now.

Katie nods yes.

BAM! BAM! BAM! On the metal partition. They jump.

LUCAS (O.S.)
Miss Katie, you okay?

SHALINI (O.S.)
Open up!

Jack opens the door. Shalini gives him a weary glance but then sees the bloody golf club in his hand.

SHALINI (CONT'D)
You've been busy.

Jack holds up the bloody club and blocks her path. He points to her shoulder wound.

JACK
Who did that to you?

SHALINI
The mixer in the diner, not a...
one of -- you.

Shalini pushes past Jack, to Katie who holds Delphine.

SHALINI (CONT'D)
I'll call the Insurance Co --

KATIE
-- No. Don't.

Shalini looks to dead Tom on the floor.

SHALINI
You can't stay here.

KATIE
We won't.
(looks to Jack)
Pack up supplies.

Jack reluctantly obliges and leaves the room.

KATIE (CONT'D)
(to Shalini)
I need time away from here.

SHALINI
He doesn't have time.

KATIE
A little. He has a little. I
deserve that.

Katie shifts Delphine in her arms.

KATIE (CONT'D)
I owe her that too. Come with us.

INT. KATIE'S MOTEL APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER

Jack packs supplies. He comes across the pre-filled syringe of vaccine and without over-thinking, he stashes it in the inside pocket of his jacket.

INT. JACK'S ROOM - SAME

Katie drops her bag on the bed, looks around. Finds a worn

picture of Jack's parents on the bedside table.

KATIE

They really my grandparents?

JACK

You would have liked them. We would spend time up in these parts in the summer. Just down the road a bit.

KATIE

I finally get a family... only for a day.

JACK

I'm sorry about that. Sorry for a lot of things. Tom had issues but --

KATIE

He was bound to get bit one day, doing what he did.

(swaddling baby)

You saved us.

Jack musters a nod.

INT. DINER - DAY

It's a bloody mess. Lucas tries to tidy the place but there's dead zombies and kitchenware lying about. He looks around.

LUCAS

Oh.

He spots his shoe shine supply case.

Out the corner of his eye, a RUNNER ZOMBIE crosses in the background. Lucas stops. Looks. Nothing.

He bends down to pick up the case when he hears a rustling behind him. Lucas turns around, armed with his SLING SHOT!

ZING!

Lucas slings a marble! It HITS dead center of the zombie's forehead, stunning him. Lucas runs!

EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Jack carries a couple of duffle bags, while Katie carries Delphine. Shalini carries her shotgun.

Jack and Katie find Jack's tires all slashed.

KATIE
All of em'?

Lucas stumbles out of the diner.

LUCAS
Miss Shalini... very bad.

SHALINI
Lucas?

Jack looks at the neighboring car.

JACK
This one too.

Nervous, Lucas drops his sling shot and FALLS DOWN.

DING! The diner door opens and the Runner Zombie exits,
beelines it quickly toward Lucas.

SHALINI
Lucas run!

Katie and Jack turn towards Shalini's scream.

KATIE
Lucas, no!

With her hurt arm, Shalini is too slow. She can't get another
bullet in the gun fast enough.

Jack drops the bags and runs toward Shalini and Lucas --

Suddenly DALE'S STATION WAGON veers off the road, kicking up
dust in the motel parking lot.

Dale clocks the running zombie and PUNCHES THE GAS!

CRUNCH! Dale runs over the Zombie mere feet from Shalini and
Lucas, saving them.

Everyone exhales.

Dale rolls down his window.

DALE
Jack! Guess what I saw!
(looks around)
What the hell's goin' on?

EXT. BACK OF MOTEL - GRASS AREA - LATER

Katie stands over a fresh grave for Tom.

KATIE
(to Delphine)
One day, I'll tell you about the
good parts of him.
(whispers in her ear)
But sometimes the mystery is
sweeter.

Katie wipes away a tear. Shalini puts an arm around her.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Damn fool.

SHALINI
He gave you her. That's something.
(off Katie's look)
I'm trying.

DALE'S CAR:

Dale wipes his brow. He studies his friend. Jack's face is covered in sweat and dirt.

DALE
You alright? You look -- well,
good.

JACK
It got kind of crazy around here.

DALE
The company will show up soon.
Locals will call in the gunfire and
dead zombies and whatnot.

Dale follows Jack's gaze -- Katie rocks Delphine in her arms.

JACK
She's in no condition to run.

DALE
I know a place.

JACK
Let's move.

Shalini limps past Dale towards the car, he goes to her assistance.

DALE
Here, lean on me.

SHALINI
I don't--

Dale takes her arm around his shoulders.

DALE
Stop it. Think of me as a fat
crutch.

She doesn't argue and needs the help.

DALE'S STATION WAGON:

Dale wraps Shalini's ankle with an old T-shirt from his
backseat. He rips it into strips.

DALE (CONT'D)
Old trick I learned camping not too
far from here.

SHALINI
Thanks for earlier.

DALE
Here to help.

Shalini nods. Jack and Katie get in the car. Dale pulls out
of the lot and heads towards the farmland.

JACK (O.S.)
Drive easy.

As Dale's taillight disappears around the bend, headlights
shine from the opposite direction.

Silas's van rounds the corner and pulls into the Tadpole
Motel parking lot.

INT. SILAS'S VAN - SAME

Silas and Ivy take in the carnage.

SILAS
Looks like there was a tussle
alright.

IVY
Fucking blood bath.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Dale's station wagon pulls up, stops, then continues on.
Lucas waves from his driveway.

EXT. WOODS - CABIN - DAY

Dale's car pulls up in front of a secluded A-Frame cabin. The grass is green, there's a stream nearby.

DALE

Henry passed from the virus a few years back. His wife lets me use the place.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

They exit the car. Jack unlocks the cabin door and lets Katie inside. Shalini looks around. Dale sidles up next to her.

DALE

Take a pit stop on the porch and stay off that ankle. Got to patch up that shoulder too.

Jack digs through Dale's gear in his trunk.

JACK

Is this my fishing pole?

DALE

Well, yeah. Thought you know, for old times sake.

Shalini rolls her eyes. Dale points to the stream, defensive.

DALE (CONT'D)

We need to catch dinner.

(to Jack)

How is it possible, I can hear her eye roll?

JACK

He's got a point. Besides, the water is blue level clean up here.

Shalini says nothing, heads into the cabin. Once the door closes, both Dale and Jack crack a smile.

DALE

Tough nut to crack that one.

JACK
She looks out for Katie.

SHALINI (O.S.)
I can hear you.

Dale jumps.

EXT. RIVER - MOMENTS LATER

Both Jack and Dale stand in shallow water with their pants rolled up. Jack looks down at his fishing pole. The price tag is still on it. He picks at the sticker.

DALE
Got one!

Dale reels in a fish. ZIP! Jack looks on with sad eyes.

JACK
(covering)
Biting big time.

The two men unhook their catch and throw it into a bucket. Operating in silence, enjoying their time.

The moment is interrupted by a GUN SHOT echoing through the canyon. Jack looks towards the woods where birds flock from the treetops.

JACK (CONT'D)
Saw a runner few days ago, on my way out here.

DALE
More and more of em'. Doomed.

JACK
Let's head back. Don't want to leave Katie for too long --

He catches himself.

DALE
Don't worry. I plan on checkin' in on her after you've gone.

They gather their gear and start back down the trail.

DALE (CONT'D)
But what we should do is head back in the morning. Get some of that orange antidote.

JACK

I'm not going back. And besides
they'll never give it to me.

DALE

I saw it with my own eyes, dude.

JACK

Then why aren't they giving it to
everyone? Huh? Said it yourself,
small cog in a big machine. Not my
problem anymore.

Dale stops walking.

DALE

What do you mean, not your problem?
This is exactly your problem. Don't
you care? This is your chance to do
something big, not to mention, save
you! YOU!

JACK

(breaking a bit)

I did everything I was supposed to
do. I followed the fucking rules
and got nowhere. This time
tomorrow, I'll be snacking on
brains or taking a stunner bolt to
the skull. So don't talk to me
about problems.

DALE

You've done more in your life in
the last four days than you've done
in a decade. Isn't it worth trying
to find out?

The truth stings.

JACK

I have tried. The company doesn't
want to help save people. At least,
not people like us.

DALE

I saw Silas dying, then he walked
off, normal as fuck. This Orange
antidote is a reset button.

(snaps his fingers)

Clear as day. You'll get your full
ninety-nine bro. You'll get your
family.

BEAT.

JACK

I buried some stuff for her. Take care of her expenses --

DALE

Fuck your ATM. You have what --

He grabs his friends pants leg, looks at his ankle monitor.

DALE (CONT'D)

Less than a day left. You're out here, free. But you're still playing their game and by their rules. Man, you don't understand what's right in front of you.

Dale carries his gear past Jack and heads into the house, alone. Katie sits on the porch, holding Delphine having listened to the whole exchange.

EXT. TADPOLE MOTEL - DAY

Ivy leans down to inspect the Runner Zombie that caught Dale's tire treads. It lets out a small gasp before PFFT! She pumps a stunner bolt to its head.

Silas exits the diner.

SILAS

Got three more in here.

Ivy kicks the dirt.

IVY

Fucking zombies making a goddamn mess.

INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - EVENING

A cleaver comes down hard on a chopping block. The fish head drops into the trash. Shalini proceeds to prep dinner.

SHALINI

You going to sit there slack jawed, or you going to help?

DALE

Yes ma'am'. What should I--

SHALINI

--Cans of soup in the pantry.
Wouldn't be the worst thing if you
sort through them and put one on.

Dale grabs a pot.

DALE

Right away, Chef.

Despite herself, Shalini cracks a smile. From inside the pantry, Dale calls out.

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

I saw that.

He returns with the canned goods.

DALE (CONT'D)

Now get off that ankle and let me
show you how to fry up this grub.
(off her uncertain look)
Go on.

SHALINI

Well, I did take out four zombies
today. So I guess you can cook.

Shalini obliges and takes a seat at the table. Dale moves the chair up so she can put her ankle up.

INT. CABIN - BEDROOM - EVENING

Katie finishes burping Delphine and puts her down. Jack knocks on the doorframe. Katie waves him in and takes a seat on the bed.

KATIE

Your friend, Dale. You trust him?

JACK

Yes.

KATIE

I heard what he was saying, about
the Insurance Company...the
antidote. Any truth to that?

JACK

I've never seen it.

KATIE

You know when mom got infected... I was there with her. It needed to be me. I wasn't going to let the Insurance Company or Sheriff do it.

(she picks Delphine up)

But now, I don't know if I have it in me.

Jack processes this.

JACK

I wouldn't ask you to do that.

KATIE

But you'll ask me to accept losing you? If that's how you feel, just leave now.

They sit in silence for a moment. Delphine coos.

A breeze blows from the open window. Jack walks over to inspect the lock.

JACK

I'm going to put some boards up on these tonight --

KATIE

Shut up about the damn windows.

(beat)

I lost mom to the virus and today I put a nine iron through Delphine's father's skull. So if there is any chance I can give her a grandfather and save other people, I'm willing to try.

JACK

I don't want to put you and Delphine in any more danger.

Katie puts the baby down and approaches Jack.

KATIE

You're here... late. Really late. But you're not lost anymore. And we need you.

(beat)

I don't want to do this alone. I know I can. I'm strong. Made sure of that.

(turns towards him)

But I don't want to.

For the first time since he's met her, Katie looks younger than her age. Vulnerable.

JACK
For years I worked at a company
that dictates how we die, but
somehow I forgot how to live.

Katie steps forward and hugs Jack. It's forced at first. But they finally relax -- a real hug. A real family.

INT/EXT. STATION WAGON - DESERT - NEXT DAY

Shalini pulls to a stop. Katie rides shotgun, rolls down her window. The back passenger doors open to REVEAL --

Jack and Dale exit the car in RED HAZMAT suits armed with crowbars. Jack looks at Delphine then to Katie, who has a game face on.

KATIE
I'm not saying good-bye... be safe.

JACK
If things get wonky you --

SHALINI
-- Don't worry, I'll gun it.

Jack nods in approval. He gives Katie a half wave as they drive off. Jack and Dale walk across the desert towards --

MANHOLE COVER:

Dale fidgets in his suit.

DALE
This suit is hot as hellfire.

JACK
How'd you get these anyways?

DALE
I rather not say... you ready?

JACK
Go for it.

Dale used the crowbar to open the metal cover. THUNK... NOTHING. They both peer over the edge.

JACK (CONT'D)
This is useless --

A GROWL interrupts him and a ZOMBIE hand sticks out of the darkness into the hot desert sun.

DALE

Jackpot.

EXT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - DESERT - NEXT DAY

Katie adjusts her wrap protecting Delphine. She looks past the rail stop where Shalini keeps a watchful eye from the station wagon.

KATIE

Come on little lady, let's get this party started.

Katie watches as Bee gets on her ATV and drives on her surveillance rounds in the desert.

INT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

George and the front office workers stop in their tracks when Katie enters. All taken aback by baby Delphine.

GEORGE

Hello, Ma'am. Is that a -- baby?

KATIE

I need to register her.

Katie sways on her feet, trying to quiet Delphine. Lex leans out his office door.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Is there some place more comfortable I could sit while I feed her --

Delphine cries louder. Katie looks towards Lex's office.

LEX

Oh, what do we have here? Come on back, get comfortable.

Katie forces a smile. Lex gives her the creeps. She looks out the front window, where Jack and Dale walk across the desert.

INT. LEX'S OFFICE - SAME

Lex types into a laptop.

LEX
Okay, so your family history. Your
mom is deceased. Your dad?

Pouring it on thick... Katie's voice breaks. Tears come.

KATIE
I-I never knew him.

LEX
Oh, don't cry. Let me -- uh, get
you a tissue.

Lex exits to the common area to the snack station wall.

INT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - SNACK STATION - SAME

Lex fills a cup with water from the soda fountain when the newscast gets his attention:

ON TV: Pictures of Jack, Dale, Shalini and Katie. Lex looks back at Katie in the office. His demeanor ices over.

He dials his cell.

LEX
This is Lex Palmer. I've got a
situation, here. Office #794.

EXT. DESERT ROAD - SAME

Ivy and Silas operate a ROAD STOP outside of the city. Ivy speaks into her cell phone.

IVY
Got it.

She hangs up the phone and calls out to Silas.

IVY (CONT'D)
That was the home office. Let's
bounce.

They hop into their INSURANCE COMPANY van and floor it.

INT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - UPSTAIRS

Lex offers Katie a tissue. He watches her, suspicious. She can feel something has changed but can't place it.

LEX
Let's cut the bull crap. Who are
you? Really.

KATIE
I-I told you --

Katie nervously glances towards the window.

INT. BEE'S GLASS SHED - SAME

Bee looks up from her paperwork and sees THREE Zombies chase Dale and Jack across the desert. She grabs her high power rifle and exits her glass office.

Jack waves to Bee for help.

JACK
(to Dale)
Now! Hustle!

Jack breaks into a run across the desert towards the small glass box shed. Dale flails behind him.

DALE
This suit is heavy as shit! I can't
run! I can't run!

Almost there... As soon as he reaches the glass shed, Jack shoves Dale to the ground.

JACK
I do this part alone. You can't get
in trouble.

DALE
What? No!

Amidst their tussle, Jack's crowbar drops to the ground OUTSIDE of the door. Dale turns to see a Zombie coming right at him.

DALE (CONT'D)
What the hell!?

BAM! Just as the Zombie is about to attack, it's HIT in the head by Bee's bullet. It falls ONTO Dale.

DALE (CONT'D)
No, no, no, NO!

Dale wiggles in his suit. He's safe, but trapped and super uncomfortable.

INT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - SAME

Lex flashes a fake smile at Katie. Another GUN SHOT rings in the air.

LEX
Sounds like your friends are in a
pickle.

KATIE
Friends?

She looks toward the window, unsure.

INT. GLASS HOUSE - SAME

Jack removes his Hazmat helmet. He's covered in dirt and sweat. He shoves Bee's desk to the side -- a MANHOLE COVER.

JACK
Yes!

He looks up and sees the INSURANCE COMPANY VAN pull up. He hurries, digging with his hands, removing sand away from the edges. He struggles to open it -- can't get a good grip.

JACK (CONT'D)
Come on! Ah --

Jack doubles over in pain. He takes in a deep breath, trying to control it. He has to focus. He pulls his pant leg up: **17 MINUTES**. He digs in the sand, but can't get a good grip.

He rolls onto his back in frustration and sees -- a CROWBAR mounted underneath Bee's desk! He grabs it!

The Manhole lifts up! Jack climbs inside.

INT. STATION WAGON - SAME

Shalini ducks behind the driver's wheel and watches as Ivy wears her bolt stunner connected to a shoulder strap and secures a SILENCER onto a GUN.

Shalini sinks lower in her seat as Ivy heads across the road, while Silas enters the Insurance Company office.

INT. LEX'S OFFICE - DAY

Lex leans back in the desk chair.

LEX
 Little miss, I made a call and you
 don't even want to know --

Without warning Katie picks up the metal stapler off the desk and CHUCKS it at Lex's face, hitting him square in the forehead. Blood gushes out of his nose.

LEX (CONT'D)
 Ow! Goddamn it! You broke my nose!

KATIE
 That's enough out of you!

She walks around the desk and stapler whips him across the face. He's out.

Katie grabs Delphine's carrier and exits to --

MAIN ROOM:

-- Only to stop short. Silas raises a gun right at her.

SILAS
 Not one more step.

BANG! His eyes bulge. He DROPS to the ground, revealing Shalini with a shot gun.

SHALINI
 Holy fuck... I --

KATIE
 Saved us!

The SHUFFLE OF PAPER. Both women turn to look at the George, Eunice and their co-workers staring at them. Awkward BEAT...

KATIE (CONT'D)
 Go! Everyone out!
 (off their hesitation)
 Go on now!

The Insurance Adjusters quickly shuffle out of the front door. Eunice grabs all her artwork shoved in her desk.

EUNICE
 Thanks...

Afraid, George sits back down, hands folded on his desk.

KATIE
 Really?

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)
(to Shalini)
Come on.

Shalini limps out behind her friend. George blindly stamps
TERMINATE on a Citizen Report.

EXT. INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE - DESERT

Katie climbs into Dale's station wagon when she looks over
and sees Dale losing a wrestling fight in the glass box with
Bee. She winces as Bee throws Dale against the glass wall.

About twenty yards away, Ivy SHOOTs a zombie and opens
another manhole cover, ducking inside.

KATIE
She's going to take him out.

Katie looks at Delphine sitting innocently in her car seat.

SHALINI
Katie, we've got to go, now.

KATIE
Keep the car running. Anything
weird, hit the gas and don't stop.

SHALINI
But --

KATIE
He saved us. Now I've got to try
and save him.

SHALINI
He's already going to die.

KATIE
Then he shouldn't do it alone.

Katie grabs her golf club off the floor of the car and walks
towards a manhole. GAME. FUCKING. ON.

INT. UNDERGROUND STORAGE BUNKER - DESERT

Jack hits a switch, dim lights mounted to the wall illuminate
the space. He makes his way through the maze.

On the far wall, large refrigerators house syringes filled
with a faint BLUE LIQUID.

JACK
It's just more vaccine?

Jack reluctantly opens the neighboring fridge. ROWS AND ROWS of syringes filled with ORANGE liquid.

Jack removes his Hazmat gloves and starts pocketing the drug. He grabs for more when suddenly the vials around him start exploding!

Ivy enters the room from the opposite direction and fires her gun, PFFT! PFFT! PFFT!

Jack ducks for cover.

IVY
You are done, Jack. Surrender now.

JACK
I didn't do anything wrong!

IVY
You're dead on your feet and
sucking up resources. Your time is
up.

More vials explode above Jack. He ducks for cover.

INT. BEE'S GLASS SHED - SAME

SQUEAK... Dale smashes against the glass.

He's taking a beating but he keeps throwing himself over the manhole, blocking the entrance so Bee can't get to the lab.

BEE
Get out of my way or I'll have to
use force.

DALE
Use fo-force? What have you been...
No, woman!

Bee has Dale over her shoulder. He squirms and manages to grab a BAZOOKA. Dale's foot haphazardly kicks the door to the structure open.

In the mayhem, the Bazooka goes off -- shooting a rocket, out the door and straight into the Insurance Company office just as George exits.

With seconds to spare, George drops to the ground as the Insurance Company office explodes around him.

GLASS SHED:

Dale, still over Bee's shoulder, leans back, WALKS UP THE WALL and FALLS BACKWARDS. On the way down, Bee cracks her head against the metal desk. OUT COLD.

Dale lies on top of a passed out Bee and catches his breath. He pats her arm, relieved it's over.

DALE (CONT'D)
Sweet Jesus, honey. You know how to party.

He ducks down into the bunker.

INT. UNDERGROUND STORAGE BUNKER - LAB - SAME

Ivy readies a shot when Jack's LEFT HAND cramps in PAIN. He looks up at her.

JACK
You're such a dick.
(Ivy caught off guard)
Geez lady, I have a daughter... a granddaughter.
(beat)
I followed every rule, every law!

Ivy fires, PFFT! PFFT!

IVY
Yet you still ended up here.

Jack scrambles away.

Ivy shines her large FLASHLIGHT on Jack's face. She walks towards him, now armed with her BOLT STUNNER.

Jack squints and stumbles backward against the cabinet. The vials shake and fall to the ground.

JACK'S POV: Ivy's shadow leans into the light. It's just like the CRASH. Memories rush back to him.

QUICK CUTS: Jack hits the windshield. He rolls to a stop on the pavement. A SHADOW LEANS OVER HIM -- it's Ivy.

BACK TO PRESENT:

JACK
It was -- YOU.

Caught, Ivy is momentarily taken aback.

JACK (CONT'D)
You put me here.

He's about to rant but then catches himself. Realization washes over his face.

JACK (CONT'D)
Thank you.

IVY
What? You're too far gone --

Ivy raises her stunner bolt.

JACK
-- No, I'm not. You tell yourself lies to get through your shitty day. The government made us into heartless drones. Somewhere along the way, we lost what's special.

IVY
The rules are why I exist. You're a threat to the community and no longer belong here.

JACK
Even when the world ends, the insurance company fucks us over.

IVY
You're a meat bag corpse.

JACK
And you are sad sack of shit.

Ouch. Jack throws a piece of equipment hitting Ivy in the shoulder, knocking her off balance. PFFT! PFFT! Glass rains down. Jack crouches on the floor.

In a last ditch effort, Jack throws metal supplies from the cabinet.

UNDERGROUND BUNKER ENTRANCE:

Katie hears the commotion off the main corridor. FOOTSTEPS approach. Katie readies her NINE IRON for a swing, but stops short when she sees that it's Dale.

From the other room, PFFT! PFFT! Sound of GLASS SHATTERING.

BEHIND THE PARTITION:

Again, Jack winces in pain. Then he sees it. An EMERGENCY KIT

encased in glass -- a FLARE GUN.

He waits for the next shot to land, PFFT! PFFT!

Jack punches, breaking the glass at the same time. He grabs the flare gun and is about to jump up when he hears --

WHAP! THUD.

KATIE

Jack!

JACK

Katie?

He stands up just in time --

JACK (CONT'D)

Behind you!

Katie turns but is too late, Ivy knocks her down.

Dale on the other hand has found the fridge and is stuffing his pockets with syringes of the ORANGE SERUM.

PFFT! PFFT!

IVY

Stop --

From behind her, WHAP! Katie levels Ivy with her nine iron and turns to Jack.

KATIE

Let's get out of here.

Jack puts an arm around Katie and hobbles towards the exit.

JACK

Dale, Let's go!

DALE

Hold up.

Dale has his back turned and doesn't see Ivy raise her stun bolt tank. Katie and Jack move faster!

As they run, Jack fires the FLARE at Ivy.

The FLARE hits her CO2 TANK!

BEAT.

Ivy looks down at the Tank -- NO!

EXPLOSION!

In the BLAST and the DUST -- the freezer doors BLOW SHUT.
It's unclear if Dale is inside or outside the walk-in.

EXT. DESERT - SAME

Shalini watches as a FIRE BALL escapes up through the manhole under Bee's desk!

SHALINI

Holy smokes --

She glances at Delphine in the backseat. She is about to start the car when -- Twenty yards away... a different sand covered manhole cover opens... Katie climbs out --

-- and PULLS JACK OUT AFTER HER. They take a few steps when:

The GLASS HOUSE EXPLODES!

SHARDS of BULLET PROOF GLASS fly through the air --

Katie is HIT.

Father and daughter fall to the ground. A large SHARD OF GLASS protrudes from Katie's gut.

JACK

Katie?!

Not vaccinated, Katie feels her injuries. She bleeds out, fast. Jack searches in his suit... the vials he took are all cracked and ruined.

Then he remembers. He peels off the top part of his Hazmat suit, inside jacket pocket, the BLUE vaccine from Katie's apartment.

KATIE

...Dad.

Her lip quivers. Jack winces as blue veins appear on his left arm. He holds her. Katie's eyes close. She's fading fast.

JACK

No. NO...

THWAP!

Jack stabs the syringe filled with BLUE LIQUID into Katie's stomach, injecting the vaccine into her.

NOTHING.

Jack shakily strokes Katie's hair. Eyes wet with tears.

JACK (CONT'D)
Katie, come back...

Suddenly Katie GASPS for air. Her eyes OPEN.

The color flows back to her face. Jack smiles through his obvious pain.

Katie sits up, faces her dad. She looks at the EMPTY syringe on the ground.

KATIE
A chemical heart....

Jack winces. When he opens his eyes, ONE IS MILKY WHITE. He's turning.

Katie sees the BROKEN vials on the ground. Katie grasps his hands -- both rein in their emotions.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Dad?
(beat)
Thank you for finding me.

Jack manages a slight smile. He slumps over. It's time.

CREAK...

A MANHOLE cover opens in the distance.

IT'S DALE! He's a bit worse for wear with burn holes all over his suit. In fact, part of his suit still smolders.

He stumbles towards them. Covered in ash and holds an ax.

Dale quickly assesses the situation and -- opens his HAZMAT SUIT JACKET. About twenty syringes filled with ORANGE SERUM drop to the ground.

DALE
I got you, Jack!

Katie scrambles for a syringe. She pops the cap and SLAMS it into Jack's chest.

Her face clouds over. IT'S NOT WORKING. The BLUE VEINS continue to SPREAD up Jack's arm.

KATIE

Dale!

Katie looks Dale in the eye, gives a slight nod as if to say, "do it."

DALE

Yep...

Dale raises the ax above his head, just as Jack OPENS his eyes: one pupil CLEAR, one CLOUDY.

Jack looks on in HORROR as we --

SMASH TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

EXT. TADPOLE INN - WEEKS LATER

Grass has started to grow on the edge of the property. The place has been painted. Different colored CAR DOORS are now mounted on the outside of each window -- Zombie protected.

The sign has been upgraded from motel to TADPOLE INN.

We see Jack, from the back. His LEFT arm swings into view -- the bottom half GONE. His elbow sports a bandage. He shuffles kind of like a zom-- he spins around -- NOT A ZOMBIE.

Jack bounces baby Delphine strapped in a baby Bjorn on his chest. Lucas greets them at the door of the diner.

LUCAS

Mornin' you two.

INT. DINER - DAY

On each table are new center pieces, the tiny cactus plants from Jack's old apartment.

Jack stands inside the doorway, watching the chaos of the morning shift. The place is packed. Everything seems to move at WARP speed and two decibels louder.

Dale collects his ball cap and gives Shalini a kiss on the cheek on his way out as she delivers food to a nearby booth.

Katie rings customers up on the register. On her inner forearm she sports a TATTOO: A HEART with a SYRINGE instead of an arrow piercing it.

Katie lights up when she sees Jack and Delphine.

KATIE

Dad, do refills?

JACK

We got you.

Jack grabs the coffee pot and gets to work refilling
CUSTOMERS' mugs.

As Katie passes by the juke box, she hits it on the side. An
upbeat rock-a-billy song (with sad lyrics) comes on.

As the music swells we...

FADE OUT.