

DEAD MOUNTAIN

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAINS - DAY

The majestic mountains sit in the sunlight. Trees cover the rocky slopes as snow caps their peaks. There are no signs of man here.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOREST - DAY

Thick wilderness. Light streams down through the high branches and leaves. It is peaceful.

TWO MEN and a WOMAN burst through the foliage. Their clothes are torn, dirty and bloody. Fear fills their blood and grime coated faces.

They run frantically, panicked.

CLANK! One of the men SCREAMS as he grabs his ankle which is now locked in a rusty steel bear trap.

The jagged teeth cut into his flesh, blood oozing out.

The other two stop and turn to see their companion.

FRIGHTENED WOMAN

GREG!!

They run over to the trapped man.

Greg continues to SCREAM in pain as they all attempt to free his ankle.

GREG

Get it off!!

Blood coats their hands and trap as the teeth cut deeper. The more they try to free him the louder he SCREAMS.

As they fight with the trap all three continue to glance back into the forest they came from. Their eyes are filled with fear, expecting something to show itself any minute.

FRIGHTENED WOMAN

Fuck!!

A SOUND causes them all to become silent. They listen.

An EERIE MOAN breaks the silence and their faces drain.

FRIGHTENED WOMAN (CONT'D)

Hurry!

GREG  
Get this fucking thing off of me!!  
Jesus! They're coming!

They go back to work, even more feverishly.

Fifty feet away, SIX PEOPLE emerge from the foliage. They walk on clumsy legs and their clothes are also ruined and bloody.

But wait...One of them is missing their lower jaw, another a big patch of skin from his face. ZOMBIES.

The three watch in horror as the zombies approach.

FRIGHTENED WOMAN  
Oh god.

The frightened man grabs the woman by her shoulders

FRIGHTENED MAN  
Run!!

GREG  
Don't leave me!!

The woman looks to Greg and they lock eyes.

GREG (CONT'D)  
No! Don't fucking leave me!

The man and woman reluctantly begin to back away into the woods.

GREG (CONT'D)  
Fuck you! Don't leave me! Don't  
fucking leave me!

Greg begins to rip at the trap and his ankle, tearing at the wound. Bone begins to show.

He looks over his shoulder and the zombies are there.

GREG (CONT'D)  
NO!!!

The zombies swarm over him. The man and woman watch painfully, then turn and run.

EXT. MOUNTAIN CABIN - MORNING

Deep in the mountain forests a comfortable cabin sits.

A small area around the cabin has been cleared and perfectly maintained. A shed sits nearby.

A large pipe runs from the house out into the woods and solar panels cover the rooftop. It is a structure built for function and nothing more.

INSIDE

Just like the exterior, the inside of the cabin is function first.

A small kitchen with an old electric stove.

A wooden table with four chairs.

A small framed picture of a TEENAGE GIRL on the kitchen counter.

An old rocking chair sitting beside a wood burning fireplace. Animal hides and mounted heads adorn the walls.

Well worn tools hang on a peg board.

No TV. No microwave. No phone.

The bedroom door OPENS and a gruff man with a thick peppered beard steps out. He wears heavy thick pants held up by suspenders, a flannel shirt underneath.

His leather boots are worn and heavy. His hair is slightly wild and his eyes are deep and experienced. His name is JOHN KELLER(50's).

John grabs a heavy jacket off the back of a chair and heads for the door.

EXT. ROOFTOP - LATER

John stands on a ladder as he wipes the large solar panels down with a bucket of soapy water and towel.

EXT. CLEARING - LATER

John stands at a large tree stump CHOPPING WOOD. THUD after THUD ECHOES through the trees as he brings down the massive double bladed ax.

EXT. RIVERBANK - MORNING

John stands beside a large steel water pump, its intake down in the crystal clear river. The same pipe that runs from the cabin ends at the pump.

John cleans the filter out and returns it to its place.

He washes his hands in the river and starts following the pipe back to the cabin.

EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

John walks through the wilderness, a hunting rifle hanging on one shoulder, and stops beside a small shrub.

He kneels and clears away some leaves to expose a bear trap, and a dead rabbit caught in it.

John resets the trap and drops the rabbit into a small bag hanging from his belt.

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST - AFTERNOON

A FOUR POINT BUCK forages through the underbrush. A GUNSHOT shatters the silence and the buck leaps into a run.

NEARBY RIDGE

John, crouched, lowers his RIFLE as he looks after the deer.

FOREST - A LITTLE LATER

John stops above the dead buck. He pulls out a huge hunting knife and kneels down.

INT. CABIN - EVENING

Deer meat SIZZLES in an iron skillet as John prepares his dinner.

He glances at the picture of the teenage girl and continues on.

John opens the old refrigerator and produces a jug of clear liquid.

He pours a glass.

LATER

John sits in the rocking chair, the wood CREAKING with his movements.

A fire BURNS in the fireplace as he cleans and oils his rifle.

LATER

John is nowhere to be seen as VOICES can be heard outside, GETTING CLOSER.

John steps out of the bathroom wearing only pants and suspenders, his strong chest and arms clearly seen. He listens to the voices as they approach.

His face does not hide his anger.

EXT. CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

The Frightened man and woman from earlier stagger toward the cabin. Their bodies exhausted, their faces filled with fear.

FRIGHTENED MAN

There might be food and water. Come on.

FRIGHTENED WOMAN

(smiling)

I can't believe it.

They almost reach the cabin when the door flies open. John stands there with a SHOTGUN pointed at the two refugees.

The couple stops, surprised.

JOHN KELLER

I don't know who you are but you best leave, now.

FRIGHTENED MAN

Please. There's just two of us.

JOHN KELLER

I said get gone.

FRIGHTENED WOMAN

Please. We can't stay out here. They're everywhere.

JOHN KELLER

I don't know what you're talking about and I don't care. This is my land and I have every right to shoot you where you stand.

FRIGHTENED MAN

We're human beings for Christ's sake! They're everywhere out here. They'll kill us.

JOHN KELLER

If you ain't gone by the count of three I'll kill ya.

FRIGHTENED MAN

Just let us in!

FRIGHTENED WOMAN

Please.

JOHN KELLER

One.

FRIGHTENED WOMAN

You can't do this. You can't!  
They're the monsters, not us!

JOHN KELLER

Two.

FRIGHTENED WOMAN

You son of a bitch! The world's  
gone! Who the fuck cares who owns  
what land?! All we need is some  
goddamned help!

Something she says catches John off guard.

JOHN KELLER

What are you talkin' about, the  
world's gone?

FRIGHTENED MAN

Fuck you, man.

The man looks into John's eyes and realization sets in.

FRIGHTENED MAN (CONT'D)

You really don't know. It's all  
fucking gone, man! All of it.

FRIGHTENED WOMAN

Everyone's dead.

FRIGHTENED MAN

But they aren't dead. They're walking  
around, hunting. Looking for us,  
the living.

John looks from one to the other.

JOHN KELLER

Get the fuck off my property before  
I blow both your junkie heads off.

John PUMPS the shotgun.

FRIGHTENED MAN

The world's gone goddamn it! It's  
gone!

JOHN KELLER

Three.

John FIRES the shotgun over their heads. He PUMPS the shotgun  
again.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)

The next one's taking your head off.

The two refugees look at John angry and frightened.

John stares at them unyielding.

The frightened man looks into the woods and then back to the woman.

FRIGHTENED MAN

Come on.

He grabs her by the arm as she continues to stare back at John.

The two start off toward the trees.

John follows them with his gun until they disappear into the darkness of the forest.

Satisfied, he lowers the shotgun and goes back inside.

INT. CABIN - LATER

John sits in his rocking chair, the shotgun across his lap. He sips from his glass of clear liquid. The only sound is that of the CRACKLING FIRE. After a few moments there is a DISTANT CRY.

John looks up. What was that? A bird? A scream? He listens. Another CRY, this one sounds even more disturbing.

John stands and holds the shotgun. Was that one closer?

He walks to the windows and pulls the curtains aside.

Nothing but the still darkness.

Another CRY, no that one was a SCREAM, an agonized scream.

John searches the dark forest with his eyes.

EXT. CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

The cabin door opens and John walks out, shotgun still in hand.

He listens intently as he scans the darkness.

Another DISTANT SCREAM and he steps off the porch and walks toward the trees. He raises the shotgun.

The darkness is thick.

John watches the trees behind the barrel of the gun. The shadows seem alive.

Something RUSTLES the bushes to his right.

John spins and takes aim but there's nothing there.

Another RUSTLE further to his right.

Again he takes aim. Still nothing.

Suddenly a WOODLAND CRITTER scampers up a tree and John relaxes slightly.

He stands there listening for a moment. No more screams or whatever they were.

He turns and heads back into the cabin.

EXT. CABIN - MORNING

John starts into the woods, his rifle slung over his shoulder and a fishing pole and tackle box in his hands.

EXT. RIVERBANK - MORNING

John sits on the bank of the river, his fishing line dipped into the water. His rifle rests against a tree beside him.

He looks around at the serene landscape.

He spies something floating down river toward him. Something that doesn't belong.

MOMENTS LATER

John uses a leafy tree branch to grab the thing and pull it to him.

He picks it up. In his hands he holds an empty biohazard suit complete with gas mask. It is torn and blood stained.

He looks upstream.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

John walks through the trees, the rifle on his shoulder. He stops and concern can be seen on his face. He readies the rifle in his hands and takes a careful step forward.

He looks down at one of his bear traps and Greg's severed foot and ankle still trapped inside.

John looks around cautiously then kneels down to the trap.

Blood stains the leaves and ground for ten feet in all directions.

John studies the scene. He stands back up and gives a last look around.

INT. SHED - LATER

John's hands grab various indistinguishable items. CLANKING METAL is heard.

OUTSIDE

John walks out of the shed carrying dozens of bear traps in his hands and slung over his shoulders.

EXT. FOREST - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - LATER

John sets trap after trap. As he moves through the woods, he looks around regularly, the rifle slung over his shoulder.

EXT. A FEW MILES AWAY - LATER

John moves slowly through the woods, rifle at the ready, as he approaches a red smear on a tree trunk.

He reaches the tree and studies the crimson Mark. He touches the spot with a cautious finger. Blood.

John looks down at the blood coated leaves and twigs on the forest floor.

Flies BUZZ around blood soaked fabric and tiny bits of flesh and bone.

Something in the gruesome scene catches John's eye and he carefully walks over to it.

He picks up a BLOOD SPLATTERED SILVER NECKLACE.

FLASHBACK

The Frightened man and woman from the night before. Around the woman's neck hangs the necklace.

PRESENT

John looks down at the necklace in his hand. A sense of remorse fills him.

A few yards away he spots a human jaw bone, flesh still clinging to it in places.

A distant CRACK of gunfire echoes through the woods immediately followed by THREE MORE.

John turns quickly to look in the direction of the sound. More GUNSHOTS. Wait, they're coming from somewhere near the cabin!

John slips the necklace into his shirt pocket and starts back into the woods toward his home.

EXT. FOREST NEAR CABIN - CONTINUOUS

TEN PEOPLE rush through the forest, a large black man, FINGERS(30's) and an attractive woman, JULIE(early 40's), carry guns and FIRE them into the woods.

A man in a pilot's uniform, JIM(40'S), rounds a tree just in time to come face to face with a DECAYING ZOMBIE WOMAN.

He SCREAMS as the zombie bites the front of his face off.

Two teenagers, HOLDEN(boy, 17) and RYAN(girl, 16), run past Jim and his attacker, their faces filled with fear.

Julie and Fingers can now be seen shooting zombie after zombie in the head.

A curvaceous woman with pink hair, BROOKE(20's), trips and falls. She SCREAMS as she scrambles to get up.

A man in military fatigues, DOUG(early 20's), runs to her side and helps her to her feet. They run on.

The female zombie looks up from Jim's dead body, blood and gore dripping down her chin.

She stands and leaps for a man in a mechanic's jump-suit, MARK(30'S).

Mark spins and catches the zombie as the two of them fall to the ground. They struggle, her mouth trying to find anything to bite into.

A large handsome man, WILLIAM(late 30's), grabs the zombie and lifts her off of Mark. He struggles to hold the rabid woman.

A young man in a fast food uniform, LUKE(early 20's), sees William and the zombie.

He looks to a nearby tree and jumps up, grabbing hold of a thick tree branch. The branch SNAPS under his weight and they both fall to the ground.

Luke is quick to his feet and he carries the branch like a baseball bat. He runs over to William.

LUKE

Will, let her go! I got her!

William looks up, lets go of the zombie and jumps back.

The female zombie lets out one last GROWL as Luke swings the branch and launches her head into the trees.

HOLDEN

Come on! This way! There's a house!  
I can see a house!

Holden points as he and Ryan run.

Julie and Fingers keep firing but there are only a few slow moving zombies left.

FINGERS

(to the group)  
Go. We'll handle the rest.

EXT. CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

The group, led by Holden and Ryan, move into the clearing around the cabin. Their relief is obvious.

BROOKE

Look at this! Can you believe it?  
A cabin all the way out here?

RYAN

How'd it get here? I mean with no  
roads how'd they build it?

HOLDEN

Look around, Rye. Whoever built it  
used the trees.

RYAN

Really?

WILLIAM

It's in great condition. Like someone  
still lives here.

MARK

No one lives here. Everyone's dead,  
remember.

LUKE

We're still alive.

Julie and Fingers bring up the rear.

JULIE  
I think we got them all.

RYAN  
You think? Are you sure?

JULIE  
Yeah. Pretty sure.

FINGERS  
We got 'em all.

Fingers slides his pistol into a shoulder holster under his jacket as he looks to Julie.

FINGERS (CONT'D)  
You sure are one badass chick.

JULIE  
Thanks. You're not so bad yourself.

DOUG  
I think she just called you a chick.

William walks over to Fingers.

WILLIAM  
You okay, brother?

FINGERS  
Yeah. No sweat. You?

WILLIAM  
(smiling)  
I've seen worse.  
(to the group)  
Is everyone okay? Anybody get hurt?

The group fills with "I think so's," "yeahs" and "I'm okays."

Mark looks down at his arm.

The sleeve of his shirt is torn revealing a bloody wound on his bicep. Under the blood, BITE MARKS.

He pulls the shirt back in place to cover the telling injury.

MARK  
I'm fin--

A bullet EXPLODES through his head.

People SCREAM and turn to see Julie holding her smoking gun.

BROOKE  
Are you fucking crazy?!

JULIE  
He was bitten.

BROOKE  
He just said he was fine!

WILLIAM  
Everybody just calm down.

BROOKE  
She just blew Mark's head off!

LUKE  
Yeah! Who gives you the right to  
just start shooting people?! Just  
'cause you have a gun doesn't--

DOUG  
She's right. He was bitten.

Doug is already kneeling beside the dead Mark. He holds up  
Mark's arm and exposes the wound.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
He would have turned. She did the  
right thing.

WILLIAM  
It's over with. It's not the first  
time we've lost someone.

FINGERS  
We lost Jim too.

BROOKE  
I don't know if I'd call that a loss.

LUKE  
So what, there's eight of us now?

HOLDEN  
Can someone help me find a way into  
this place. It's all locked up.

Holden moves away from the door and cups his hands over his  
eyes as he tries to look through the window.

Doug climbs up onto the porch.

DOUG  
Move over, I got it.

Doug stops in front of the window. He takes his shirt off and wraps it around his fist. He cocks back a punch.

JOHN KELLER (O.S.)  
You break that window...

Everyone spins to see John walking slowly out of the woods, the rifle aimed from his hip.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)  
...and I'll put one in your chest.

Julie and Fingers pull their pistols.

John spins and FIRES, a bullet hitting the ground in front of their feet.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)  
Drop the guns.

Julie looks at Fingers who drops his gun. She looks back to John.

JULIE  
How do I know you won't just shoot us?

JOHN KELLER  
Think I missed by accident?

Julie reluctantly drops the gun.

John looks back to Doug.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)  
Still thinking about breaking that window?

HOLDEN  
We didn't know anyone lived here.

JOHN KELLER  
Well I do. The name's John Keller. Now why don't you tell me what you're doing here?

BROOKE  
We're trying to survive. Like you.

RYAN  
Yeah.

DOUG  
We've been on the move for days.

JULIE  
We meant no harm.

JOHN KELLER  
And what were you shooting at?

The group look to one another confused.

HOLDEN  
(dumbfounded)  
What do you think?

JOHN KELLER  
I'm waiting.

Holden looks to Doug then back to John.

HOLDEN  
Them.

JOHN KELLER  
Them who?

FINGERS  
The Zombies.

John looks to Fingers.

JOHN KELLER  
Show me.

Fingers and Julie exchange glances.

EXT. FOREST NEAR CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

John, Fingers and Holden stand in the woods looking down at...

A DEAD ZOMBIE.

John shifts the rifle to his other hand.

JOHN KELLER  
This is what you call a "zombie?"

HOLDEN  
Yeah.

JOHN KELLER  
Looks like a man to me.

FINGERS  
Look at the face.

The zombie's face is missing lips and one of its eyes is grey and dead. A bloodless bullet hole rests in its forehead.

FINGERS (CONT'D)

That thing was alive five minutes ago. Trying to kill us.

JOHN KELLER

Still looks like a man.

Holden looks to John.

He leans over and RIPS the zombie's shirt open.

HOLDEN

And how do you explain that? Huh?

Part of the zombie's chest is open, white ribs exposed. There are no organs visible in the open cavity.

John squints.

JOHN KELLER

That man's been dead for weeks. He ain't even got no lungs.

HOLDEN

That's what we're trying to tell ya!

JOHN KELLER

You're saying he was alive five minutes ago?

FINGERS

That's the thing. They're dead, but they ain't dead. They're the walking dead. Only way to kill 'em...

Fingers TAPS the zombie's forehead with the toe of his shoe.

FINGERS (CONT'D)

...is to shoot 'em in the head. And then there's no more walking, just dead.

HOLDEN

So you're serious? You ain't never even seen a zombie?

JOHN KELLER

Son, I haven't seen another living soul in over fifteen years. To me, you're just about as strange as this here.

John POKES the zombie with his rifle barrel.

FINGERS

Proof enough for you?

John continues to study the enigma of the dead body.

EXT. CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

The rest of the group sits around the cabin. A few sit on the porch, some the ground. Doug leans against a wall.

John, Fingers and Holden return from the woods.

DOUG

So what's the verdict?

JOHN KELLER

You can stay, for the night. I ain't no hotel or boarding house. You can rest up tonight but tomorrow you'll be on your way.

BROOKE

What?! Didn't you see the zombies?

JOHN KELLER

I seen what I seen and I said you could stay.

RYAN

For one night!

JOHN KELLER

(angry)

Little lady, you'd best watch that tongue. I don't--

WILLIAM

Thank you.

John turns to look at William.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

One night is more than enough. It's very kind of you. Thank you.

JOHN KELLER

You're welcome. Now come on inside.

John walks up to the front door.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Everyone sits around the cabin finishing up dinner. A FIRE BURNS in the fireplace.

Ryan and Holden sit on the floor against a wall.

HOLDEN

I still can't believe you don't have a couch.

RYAN

It's like you're a caveman or something.

John ROCKS GENTLY in his rocking chair. He sops up the juices on his plate with some bread.

JOHN KELLER

Never needed a couch. Got a chair. Man don't need more than one chair.

RYAN

Well, then why do you got four kitchen chairs?

John shrugs.

JOHN KELLER

Didn't seem right to make a table and no chairs. Seemed unfinished.

WILLIAM

How long have you been out here, Mr. Keller? I mean, if you don't mind me asking.

JOHN KELLER

Don't mind. Little over sixteen years, I think.

HOLDEN

Sixteen years?

Holden looks to Ryan.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

You weren't even born.

Brooke sits with Doug who wraps her sprained ankle with a strip of cloth.

BROOKE

Why?

JOHN KELLER  
That's a question I do mind. Man's  
business is his own.

LUKE  
You built this place all by yourself?

JOHN KELLER  
Mmm hmm.

JULIE  
I'm impressed.

JOHN KELLER  
So you're runnin' from those people-

LUKE  
Zombies, not people.

JOHN KELLER  
Whatever you call 'em. What I wanna  
know is where'd you all come from?

JULIE  
Denver, mostly, I think.

She looks at everyone else.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
That's where I'm from. I know the  
kids are from there too.

HOLDEN  
East Denver High.

JULIE  
You're from Denver, right Luke?

LUKE  
Yeah.

BROOKE  
Me too.

DOUG  
Fort Blackwood.

JOHN KELLER  
What about you two?

John motions to William and Fingers.

Stun shows on a few people's faces.

HOLDEN  
That's William Tucker.

JOHN KELLER  
Well that doesn't very well answer  
my question now does it boy?

BROOKE  
The actor.

HOLDEN  
Yeah. He's been in like a hundred  
movies. "Concussion"? "Oblivion  
Force" one and two? "The Lazarus  
Pit"?

William looks to Fingers, slightly embarrassed. Fingers  
smiles.

LUKE  
He's the third highest paid actor in  
the world. Even got an Oscar  
nomination once.

WILLIAM  
Okay okay, enough of that.

JOHN KELLER  
Never heard of ya. I don't see many  
movies.

LUKE  
What's the last thing you saw?

JOHN KELLER  
I don't know. I seen that one about  
the fella in the skyscraper. Think  
he was fightin' terrorists or  
somethin'. Maybe it was Nazis.

LUKE  
Die Hard?

JOHN KELLER  
Yeah, I think that was it.

BROOKE  
That was like thirty years ago.

JOHN KELLER  
I said I don't see many films.

HOLDEN  
What's Die Hard?

WILLIAM

Well, I'm from California. Fingers here...

William throws a thumb toward Fingers.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

...is my friend and bodyguard.

FINGERS

Personal Security Administrator.

WILLIAM

And he's from St. Louis.

FINGERS

Florissant, actually. It's a suburb.

WILLIAM

(smiling)

My mistake. We were doing some interviews in the city. Promo stuff.

HOLDEN

Yeah, his new movie, "The Righteous," was about to come out when the world ended.

(disappointed)

I waited six months for that one.

JULIE

Really? You're upset about missing a movie? Now?

HOLDEN

(defensively)

It looked cool.

WILLIAM

It wasn't very good.

HOLDEN

Looked good.

LUKE

Seriously, man? The star of the movie just told you it wasn't good.

DOUG

Mr. Keller, when's the last time you had company?

JOHN KELLER

Never had company, not here.

(MORE)

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)

You can call me John. I ain't even seen a human being out here 'til last night.

WILLIAM

You saw someone last night?

JOHN KELLER

Man and a woman. Came looking for help. Like ya'll.

RYAN

Was it Laura and Rob and Greg?!

JOHN KELLER

Didn't get their names.

HOLDEN

He said it was only two, Rye.

JULIE

We lost a few people a couple of days ago. A woman and two men. She thought it might have been them.

JOHN KELLER

Well, I only saw two. She was wearin' this.

John reaches into his pocket and produces the necklace.

Brooke GASPS and covers her mouth. The impact is felt in the room.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)

I take it it was your friend's.

LUKE

How'd you get that?

JOHN KELLER

I found it this morning.

RYAN

(frightened)

Found it? Where?

John stands.

JOHN KELLER

I'm sorry about your friend.

John walks over to Ryan who begins to CRY. He hands her the necklace and heads into kitchen.

LUKE

Did you kill them?

John begins cleaning his dish.

JOHN KELLER

No. Found 'em when I was checking my traps.

DOUG

Traps?

JOHN KELLER

Bear traps. Got 'em spread out in five miles in all directions. Surprised you didn't step in any.

HOLDEN

They got killed by your traps?

JOHN KELLER

Naw. Something else got them.

John pauses in reflection.

DOUG

Do you have anymore weapons here?

JOHN KELLER

I'm not givin' any to you, if that's what you're askin'.

DOUG

I thought maybe we could buy some.

JOHN KELLER

With what, son? Money ain't no good here, and from what you've said, anywhere else for that matter. And I've been doing just fine without ya'll. So I'm not entirely sure what you could offer in payment.

Brooke looks to Doug and William uncertain. They look back with the same. She looks to John and her body language changes.

BROOKE

Well maybe--

JOHN KELLER

I'm not interested, miss. And a lady shouldn't offer that kind of thing to strangers.

DOUG

(angry)

She was just trying to help.

LUKE

So you won't help us and there's nothing we can do to help you?

JOHN KELLER

Sounds about right.

WILLIAM

And that's ok. We thank you again for letting us stay the night and for sharing your food with us.

John leans back on the kitchen counter and faces the room.

JOHN KELLER

You can keep your thanks. You can help yourselves to whatever food and water you like. But in the morning I'll expect ya to be heading out. I warn you, if I find anything but food and water missing come tomorrow...

John turns and exits into his bedroom. He closes the door behind him.

Everyone looks to each other.

LUKE

How's that for a goodnight?

WILLIAM

Now that's what you call a *real badass*.

Ryan studies the necklace in her hand, her tears have stopped but the grief remains.

HOLDEN

Did you hear him? We can have as much food and water as we like.

JULIE

Don't get too excited. We don't have any way to carry it. Whatever we take will have to fit in our pockets.

FINGERS

(lowering his voice)

Not that I like the idea, but there  
are eight of us and only...

Fingers holds up a single finger and motions to the bedroom.

WILLIAM

Stop it. We should be grateful. We  
got a real meal. Food we can take  
with us and a safe place to sleep  
for one nigh--

William stops mid word.

RYAN

(frightened)

What?

A DISTANT MOAN can just be heard. There is a unified GASP  
from the group.

WILLIAM

Julie, Fingers, come on. Everyone  
else, stay inside.

Holden wraps his arms around Ryan while Doug and Luke stand  
up.

DOUG

We're coming with you.

Brooke crawls over to Holden and Ryan.

OUTSIDE

William leads Fingers, Julie, Doug and Luke outside. Fingers  
and Julie hold their pistols. They study the dark forest.

A MOAN.

The group turns in that direction. They talk in WHISPERS.

LUKE

(pointing)

There.

Another MOAN, this time, behind them.

FINGERS

Shit. They're on both sides.

More MOANS, this time seemingly coming from all directions.

FINGERS (CONT'D)

Scratch that. They're everywhere.

INSIDE

A frightened Ryan moves quickly toward the bedroom door.

HOLDEN

(whispering)

Don't, Rye! Stop!

Ryan KNOCKS gently on the door. She leans in close to it, her lips almost touching the wood.

RYAN

(quietly)

Mister? We need you're help.

HOLDEN

Stop.

RYAN

Mister? Please. We need help. We need--

The door opens and John stands there looking down at the teenage girl. He is not happy.

OUTSIDE

A ZOMBIE steps into view from the tree line. A bullet grazes his shoulder immediately followed by a bullet to the face. The zombie falls to the ground.

Julie and Fingers hold their smoking guns out in waiting. Luke turns, leaps up and grabs hold of the roof's edge.

LUKE

Help me up.

Doug and William grab his feet and push him up onto the solar panels. Luke scrambles to his feet and makes his way to the roof's peak. He looks out into the woods.

LUKE (CONT'D)

(pointing)

There! Five O'clock!

The two turn to see two zombies shuffling from the woods. Julie and Fingers OPEN FIRE, both zombies falling dead.

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

Nine O'clock!

Again they turn and FIRE.

The door flies open and John steps out, shotgun in hand.

JOHN KELLER  
Out of my way.

The group parts and John steps to the front.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)  
Let's see your "zombies."

LUKE  
Seven O'clock!

John turns to see a zombie moving toward them. He steps off the porch and starts toward the slow moving man.

JOHN KELLER  
This is private property. I suggest  
you turn around.

The zombie continues as John closes the distance.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)  
You got to the count of three. One.

John raises the shotgun.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)  
Two.

John stops. The zombie is now close enough to see clearly. Bone can be seen through its decaying flesh and one arm has been ripped away.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)  
(realization)  
You ain't no man.

John FIRES and the zombie's head EXPLODES.

WILLIAM  
Get back to the cabin!

John looks back at the group on the porch. Julie and Fingers continue to FIRE at approaching zombies as Luke CALLS OUT DIRECTIONS.

John looks forward at the multiple zombies emerging from the trees.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
They'll overwhelm you!

John reaches into his pocket and loads shells into the gun.

JOHN KELLER

Whatever you do, keep 'em off the cabin. If they get inside, it'll be too late.

DOUG

What about you?

JOHN KELLER

I'll be right back.

John decapitates two more zombies and moves into the trees. SHOTGUN BLASTS fill the air and FLASH through the darkness.

DOUG

Are you seeing this? What the fuck is he doing?

WILLIAM

Looks like he's kicking zombie ass.

FOREST

John moves through the dark trees, blasting zombies as he goes.

A zombie steps out from behind a tree surprising John.

He holds the shotgun with both hands in front of him blocking the zombie's attack. They struggle.

John spins the zombie into a tree and breaks its hold on the gun. With one fluid motion he FIRES, blowing the zombie in half.

Another zombie grabs John from behind.

CABIN

Zombie's continue to emerge from the trees and cross the clearing around the cabin.

Julie and Fingers FIRE over and over, zombies falling with almost every shot.

Fingers' gun RUNS DRY and he checks his pockets for more ammo. Nothing.

FINGERS

I'm out!

Julie gets off two more rounds and then her gun is empty.

JULIE

Me too!

Zombies close in on the group on the front porch.

Luke takes in the zombies surrounding the cabin.

LUKE

Shit.

WILLIAM

What do we do now?

Doug runs inside.

JULIE

(sarcastically)

Well that was brave.

The front zombies are only a few yards away.

FINGERS

We have to go inside. Barricade the doors.

Suddenly the door opens and Doug stands there with a chair in each hand. He hands one to William.

DOUG

Break them! We can use them as clubs!

Doug hands the other one to Fingers. Both men stomp frantically on the chairs, splintering wood.

William tosses a chair leg to Julie as Doug runs outside with the other two chairs.

Fingers holds a leg in each hand.

FINGERS

(to the zombies)

Come on.

The first zombie reaches the porch and Julie CRUSHES its skull with the makeshift club.

Fingers bludgeons another zombie with his chair legs.

Within seconds all four porch occupants are fending off zombies with their clubs.

A zombie reaches for an unaware William's defenseless back.

Luke drops down off the roof directly behind the open mouthed zombie.

He grabs the zombie by its lower jaw and twists and pulls, ripping its head from its shoulders.

William spins around and sees the zombie fall. He gives a thankful smile to Luke.

DOUG (O.S.)

Luke!

Luke looks up as two clubs are tossed to him. Luke spins and immediately pummels a nearby zombie.

A zombie grabs Fingers' arm and leans in to bite. Fingers shoves a chair leg into its mouth before it reaches skin. With a GRUNT, he shoves the leg THROUGH THE ZOMBIE'S HEAD.

Julie SCREAMS as a zombie pulls her off the porch.

FINGERS

Julie!

Everyone fights off zombies.

Julie lays on the ground, a zombie above her. She holds the chair leg between them, the zombie's teeth GNAWING on wood.

JULIE

Help!!!

The zombie is yanked off her.

Julie looks up to see John holding the shotgun across the zombie's neck. The zombie struggles but is pinned.

Julie scrambles to her feet.

John twists and SNAPS the zombie's neck. He drops the body to the ground.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Behind you!

John spins and fires at the zombie about to bite him.

LUKE

John!

John looks to Luke who kicks a zombie back into John's field of fire. John puts a bullet through its head.

John takes aim at a pair of approaching zombies but does not fire.

The zombies get closer.

DOUG

What are you waiting for!

John continues to hold his fire.

The front zombie steps in front of the second zombie and John fires once, the bullet EXPLODING both of their heads.

LUKE  
Holy shit! Did you see that?!

FINGERS  
Two for one!

John's shotgun continues to fire as the others club and kick until the last zombie falls.

The group looks to each other. Blood and dirt spot their clothes and they all BREATHE HEAVILY.

FINGERS (CONT'D)  
(to John)  
Convinced yet?

John begins reloading his gun.

INSIDE

Holden, Ryan and Brooke sit huddled together on the floor.

RYAN  
Is it over?

HOLDEN  
I think so.

The door opens and John enters followed by the rest.

BROOKE  
Everybody's okay?

WILLIAM  
Yeah. No one was bitten.

Relief fills Brooke's face.

BROOKE  
How many were there?

JULIE  
A couple dozen. We wouldn't have been able to do it without Mr. Keller.

RYAN  
(to John)  
Thank you.

JOHN KELLER

You can stop calling me that. John  
is fine.

John walks to his rocker and sits. He lays the shotgun across  
his lap.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)

You say the whole world's like that?

WILLIAM

Yeah. Every country, every continent.

John SIGHS and his gaze falls on the flames in the fireplace.

JOHN KELLER

I might not like people but I ain't  
no murderer. You folks can stay  
here as long as you follow my rules.

Smiles cross everyone's faces.

John looks to the group.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)

But I do got rules.

INT. CABIN - MORNING

The group sleeps on the cabin floor. They use blankets,  
towels and clothes as pillows.

John's heavy boots step around the sleeping bodies. They  
stop in the center of the room.

JOHN KELLER (O.S.)

(loud enough)

Rule number one:

People wake suddenly.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)

You stay, you work.

EXT. CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

John stands in the clearing facing the cabin as the groggy  
group files out.

HOLDEN

(to the group)

Why do we have to get up so early?

BROOKE

(quietly)

Shhhh. Just do what you're told.

JOHN KELLER

First things first. We got to clean up these bodies. They're already stinking up the place. Doug, Fingers and Julie, you'll help me carry them. Holden and Ryan, you two need to collect wood. Twigs, sticks, anything dry and flammable.

BROOKE

What about me?

JOHN KELLER

You're not much good with that twisted ankle.

BROOKE

I can help.

JOHN KELLER

Fine. I got some smoked rabbit and salmon in there. You can cook breakfast.

WILLIAM

(under his breath)

That's not sexist at all.

FINGERS

(whispering)

Dare you to tell him.

WILLIAM

No, I'm good.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

In pairs, they move the zombies into a pile.

Holden and Ryan collect sticks and pile them near the bodies.

HOLDEN

(to Ryan)

I still don't get it. Won't the smoke bring the zombies to us?

JOHN KELLER

(overhearing)

Don't think so. From what you've said, they're drawn to the living.

(MORE)

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)

If that's true, this should send them the other way.

FINGERS

You sure about that?

JOHN KELLER

Nope. But I know if we leave these bodies to rot, we'll have every living thing for ten miles in our back yard. And that seems a bit more likely to bring our unwanted friends.

FINGERS

Burning 'em sounds good to me.

LATER

Julie tosses a burning stick onto the funeral pyre. Flames spread across the kindling and soon the bodies burn violently.

The group watches from a safe distance as the black smoke rises into the sky.

INT. CABIN - LATER

The dirty and tired group enter the cabin.

A PANTING Holden heads straight for fridge.

Holden opens the door and grabs the container of clear liquid. He tips his head back and GULPS a huge mouthful.

Immediately he COUGHS and SPITS it out all over the room.

FINGERS

What the hell, man?!

Holden continues to COUGH and GAG.

DOUG

(laughing)

Wasn't what you thought, was it Holden?

Holden shakes his head "NO." He desperately tries to clean the taste out of his mouth.

HOLDEN

I thought it was water.

William grabs the container and sips it. He gives out a SURPRISED COUGH and smiles.

WILLIAM

It's moonshine. Damn that's strong.

John enters the cabin.

JOHN KELLER

What's going on in here?

JULIE

Holden just found your moonshine.

John can't hide a small smile.

WILLIAM

John, where the hell did you get moonshine?

INT. BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

William, Doug, Holden, Julie and Fingers stand around the moonshine making equipment.

There are large jugs of the liquor in different levels of development.

FINGERS

Damn, John. You do got everything out here.

UPSTAIRS

The group walks back upstairs as Ryan and Brooke sit at the table.

RYAN

So what now?

JOHN KELLER

Now it's time to learn how to survive.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS DAYS

-John shows the group how to fish. Everyone struggles. Many SNAG their lines, William BREAKS his pole.

-John shows the group how to set traps in the forest. Again they struggle. A bear trap almost takes Doug's arm off.

-At the cabin John shows them how to build various things. The group makes a new SET OF CHAIRS.

-John shows them how to hunt. He teaches them how to field dress the animals they kill. Many are a little grossed out by the act.

-John shows them how to repair the water pump.

-Brooke cleans and tidies the cabin.

-The group begins fashioning weapons: Spears, axes, swords and clubs.

-John shows William, Julie and Doug how to make bullets and load casings in the shed.

-Brooke, Ryan and Fingers sew new clothing.

-The group tie trip wires made of string and bells from tree to tree.

-Brooke does a little dance showing off her healed ankle.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Everyone lays down for bed. Holden and Ryan together. Julie and William. Brooke and Fingers.

INT. CABIN - MORNING

John cleans a plate in the sink. The cabin is empty except for Brooke who walks over.

BROOKE

I can get that.

JOHN KELLER

I thought you understood. I clean up after myself. I won't have no one doing the things I should be doing.

Brooke smiles and leans on the counter.

BROOKE

I know. I just thought I'd try.

Brooke spies the picture of the young girl on the counter.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

So you ever gonna tell anyone who she is?

John glances up at the picture and then returns his gaze to the dish.

JOHN KELLER

She was my daughter.

BROOKE

Was?

JOHN KELLER

Is. Was.

BROOKE

Sorry.

JOHN KELLER

I guess she'd be thirty four or so right about now.

BROOKE

Yeah? What's her name?

JOHN KELLER

Morgan Isabella Keller. Isabella was her mother's name.

BROOKE

It's a beautiful name. Did something happen to her? Is that why you came out here?

John studies Brooke through the corner of his eye. He CLEARS HIS THROAT.

JOHN KELLER

Nothing happened to her. Happened to me.

BROOKE

I'm not sure what you mean.

JOHN KELLER

I'm a simple man. Grew up simple. Like things simple. The world just got too complicated. Can't say this, must do that. TV, computers, 401 Ks. Got to a point a man forgets what he is.

BROOKE

So you just turned your back on it all?

JOHN KELLER

Isabella thought I was too strict. Morgan called me old fashioned. They said I was trying to control them. Smothering 'em.

John dries his hands on a towel.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)

They told me to leave.

John straightens a bit, his chin up.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)

So I left.

BROOKE

I'm sorry, John.

Brooke reaches for John's hand and he pulls it back.

JOHN KELLER

Here life is simple. This is where  
I belong.

John turns and leaves as Brooke watches empathically.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

John walks to the crest of a mountain ridge. Below and in front of him the land stretches out to ice peaked mountains.

He adjusts the rifle on his shoulder as he takes in the majesty of it all.

In the distance black storm clouds approach.

EXT. ELSEWHERE IN THE FOREST - MEANWHILE

Fingers and Julie tend to a small vegetable garden.

JULIE

Your back holding up?

FINGERS

Yeah. Feels better, actually.

JULIE

(joking)

Ever think you'd be picking tomatoes deep in the Rocky Mountain wilderness?

FINGERS

(smiling)

No, I can honestly say I didn't see this coming. You know, you never told me where you learned to shoot.

JULIE

It was my husband's idea. In order for him to pay the bills he had to be out of town three weeks a month. He thought I should be able to protect myself and the kids.

(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)

He bought me the gun for Christmas  
and before Easter I could put six in  
a two inch pattern.

She smiles proudly.

A moment later the smile fades and she sobers a bit.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I still couldn't save them.

FINGERS

I'm sorry. About your family.

JULIE

I'm sorry too. But we're all in the  
same boat. We've all lost so much.  
At least we all have each other now,  
right?

FINGERS

Right.

JULIE

Fair is fair. Now I've got a question  
for you.

FINGERS

Alright. It's the name isn't it?

JULIE

Yep. Why does William call you  
Fingers?

FINGERS

It's from my old job, the one I had  
before I became a bodyguard. I made  
the mistake of telling Will and he's  
never stopped calling me it.

JULIE

Okay. So fill me in already.

FINGERS

They used to say I had "magic  
fingers." Said they could "perform  
miracles."

JULIE

You're killing me. What the hell  
did you do?

FINGERS

I was a masseur.

JULIE  
(tickled)  
You? A masseuse?

She LAUGHS.

FINGERS  
(smiling)  
Masseur. A woman is a masseuse.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

Dark storm clouds creep slowly through the sky.

Brooke and Ryan sit on the riverbank in their UNDERWEAR.  
They WASH the group's clothes in the river water.

RYAN  
Were you really gonna have sex with  
him? Mr. Keller?

BROOKE  
If I had to.

RYAN  
But he's old. And you don't even  
know him. How could you do that?

BROOKE  
I've seen people torn apart. Women  
and children eaten alive. If I had  
to sleep with some strange man to  
save your life. To save all of your  
lives. To save mine. Seems like a  
small price to pay if you ask me.

Ryan thinks about it.

RYAN  
But he's so old.

Brooke LAUGHS.

It begins to rain. Both girls look up at the clouds.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
Great.

Ryan lowers a shirt into the water when two zombie hands  
reach out and grab her wrists. Ryan SCREAMS as the zombie  
starts to pull her in.

Brooke reaches out, grabbing hold of Ryan and struggles to  
pull her free.

BROOKE

Help!!! John! Fingers! William!

As they struggle, multiple zombies begin emerging from the river bottom. Their heads breaking through the water's surface.

Luke sprints through the trees and grabs Ryan.

Together Brooke and Luke pull Ryan free.

A zombie grabs Luke's ankle and pulls him down.

Luke kicks the zombie in the face repeatedly, shattering the zombie's jaw.

A spear WHIZZES by overhead and plunges into the river, narrowly missing the zombie.

A second later an arrow THUDS into the Zombie's face.

Luke slips free of the dead zombie's grip and scampers to his feet.

Doug and William run into view. William carries a homemade ax and Doug a bow and arrow.

Doug strings an arrow and fires it into a zombie forehead.

More and more zombies emerge from the water.

Everyone pauses.

DOUG

Jesus Christ.

LUKE

There are too many of them.

WILLIAM

If we run they'll just follow us back to the cabin. We have to try and stop them.

Doug notches another arrow and fires.

William moves to the river's edge and brings the ax down on a water logged zombie.

Further up river Holden runs out of the trees.

HOLDEN

What's happening?!

DOUG

Holden! Get away from the river!

Suddenly A zombie grabs Holden's ankles and Holden falls to the soft bank. He struggles against the pulling hands.

RYAN

Holden!!!

LUKE

I got him!

Luke runs up the river bank toward Holden. As he runs he grabs a sizable rock.

As he reaches Holden he brings the rock down on one of the zombie's arm. The bone and flesh shatter.

Luke reaches out for Holden and they both slip into the river.

William, Ryan and Brooke run to the river's edge as Doug fires arrows as fast as he can.

Luke and Holden struggle to stay afloat as they fight off the unseen zombie's below.

William hacks a nearby zombie as Ryan and Brooke reach out to the endangered boys.

RYAN

Holden!!

BROOKE

Grab our hands!

Holden screams as something unseen attempts to pull him down.

Luke sees it and dives underwater.

Moments later Holden is freed and he swims frantically toward the bank.

Luke surfaces and smiles only to be yanked back under again.

Holden reaches the bank and Ryan and Brooke pull him out.

Luke resurfaces, a severed zombie arm still clinging to his shoulder.

LUKE

(through gasping  
breaths)

They're everywhere down there!

William and Brooke pull Luke out.

WILLIAM

Come on.

The group starts running back to Doug who holds off the zombies the best he can.

DOUG

Almost out of arrows!

As they run, a section of the bank breaks free and Ryan falls into the water with a SCREAM.

Immediately the group stops and runs to the water's edge.

She swims in panic as the group reaches out for her.

Holden grabs one arm as William grabs the other. They begin to pull her out when something pulls back.

Ryan SCREAMS in terror as the unseen forces pulls her back a foot.

Holden and William pull with all their might but it is an even match.

Suddenly Ryan's CRY changes from terror to UNBEARABLE PAIN.

Then her SCREAMS STOP, her eyes locked on Holden's.

HOLDEN

No!

The unseen force tugs and a red stain fills the water around Ryan.

The group watches in terror as they still fight for control of the young girl.

Ryan's face, filled with silent despair, remains locked on Holden's.

RYAN

I love--

With that Ryan is yanked under water, more red bubbling to the surface.

HOLDEN

Rye!!!

DOUG (O.S.)

I'm out!

William grabs Holden and pulls him back from the water as zombie hands and arms reach out.

They run back to Doug as the zombie's continue to surface.

John runs out of the trees beside the group.

He cradles a ten stick dynamite bundle in one hand.

He lights a match with his thumb and puts it to the short fuse.

Without hesitation he tosses it into the center of the river.

JOHN KELLER  
(to the group)  
Get dow--

A huge fountain of water rips into the sky with a DEAFENING ROAR.

The explosion knocks everyone to the ground as the water plume rises higher and higher. Pieces of zombies fill the white water.

The downed group shield their eyes and heads as water and zombie limbs rain down.

John sits up and watches as the last of the chaos falls.

Brooke holds the sobbing Holden as everyone takes in the moment.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Luke and Holden stand in their underwear putting on their clothes.

Holden is obviously distraught and the mood is somber.

People sit around the cabin.

BROOKE  
We should thank our lucky stars  
neither of them got bit.

The room becomes silent again.

DOUG  
We've set trip wires and bells all  
along the bank. Hopefully they won't  
catch us off guard again.

WILLIAM  
I'm still worried about the drinking  
water.

Holden sits with Brooke who wraps her arms around him.

DOUG

I guess we'll find out. What do you think, John? Should we stop drinking the river water?

John doesn't reply.

JULIE

John?

JOHN KELLER

Can't stay here.

LUKE

What?

JOHN KELLER

I said we can't stay here. I was afraid this would happen.

BROOKE

What would happen?

JOHN KELLER

Either those things' hunting ground has reached our land or they're tracking us somehow.

DOUG

How could they be tracking us? They can barely move for Christ's sake.

JOHN KELLER

Don't know, exactly. But I know that we've seen 'em three times in the last two weeks. And it's only gonna get worse.

FINGERS

How can you be so sure?

JOHN KELLER

Before ya'll showed up, I'd never seen the damn things. Don't take a rocket scientist to see they're followin' some kind of trail. Maybe they smell us. Maybe they're following the trail left by the ones before 'em. Like ants. I don't know. Just know that they know where we are and they ain't gonna stop coming here 'til there ain't nothin' left to eat.

JULIE

So what are you suggesting?

JOHN KELLER

That we move on.

DOUG

Are you crazy? Leave the cabin?  
And go where?

JOHN KELLER

We pack up the essentials and we  
move up the mountain. Deeper into  
the forests. We live off the land.  
Keep moving. Cover our tracks.  
These things are slow and stupid.  
If we think smart we can keep 'em at  
a safe distance.

LUKE

I don't know. We have shelter.  
Food. Water.

William CLEARS HIS THROAT LOUDLY.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Okay, we're not sure about the water.  
But we have a safe, defensible place  
here. Doesn't seem smart to up and  
abandon it.

BROOKE

I'm with Luke. If they show up again,  
we can fight them off here. Out  
there they could corner us. Catch  
us while we're sleeping.

JOHN KELLER

This cabin is as good as a coffin.  
Might seem safe now but they're gonna  
keep coming and coming and coming.  
And one day, they're gonna be too  
much to handle and it won't just be  
one of us that doesn't survive.

Holden looks up, tears in his eyes.

WILLIAM

So you really think we should leave?

JOHN KELLER

Did I stutter?

William looks over everyone's faces.

WILLIAM

We're all scared, John. And what you're proposing sounds even scarier.

LUKE

We can set more traps. Lay more trip wires.

FINGERS

We can make this place safe.

BROOKE

Like you said, they're slow and stupid.

John stands.

WILLIAM

I'm sorry, John. But I think we'll all feel safer here, not out there.

John looks at William then everyone else.

JOHN KELLER

I understand. If ya'll want to stay, that's fine. Goodnight.

John starts for the bedroom.

WILLIAM

It's nothing personal, John.

John enters the bedroom and closes the door.

Everyone looks to each other and Luke stands.

LUKE

I'm gonna go set more traps.

DOUG

I'll go with you.

The two head for the door as Brooke soothingly strokes Holden's hair.

INT. CABIN - BEFORE DAWN

Everyone sleeps as John quietly exits the bedroom. On his back he carries a true backpack loaded with gear.

He steps carefully around and through the sleeping group.

He slips outside and is gone.

INT. CABIN - EARLY MORNING

The group, all except Luke, is in various levels of waking up. Doug looks around.

DOUG  
John still sleeping?

JULIE  
(rhetorically)  
Has John ever slept in?

Luke opens the front door and enters.

DOUG  
Luke. Is John out there?

LUKE  
I didn't see him. I'll see if he's  
in his room.

Luke walks over to the bedroom.

Julie kneels beside Brooke and Holden.

JULIE  
(to Holden)  
You sleep alright? Need anything?

HOLDEN  
I'm ok.

Luke KNOCKS on the bedroom door.

LUKE  
You in there John?

No response.

Luke KNOCKS again.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
John?

Luke looks back at the group, concerned.

William walks over to the door.

WILLIAM  
John?

William opens the door slowly. He and Luke look inside.

William looks back at the rest.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

He's gone.

JULIE

What do you mean gone?

WILLIAM

I mean he's gone.

LUKE

All of his stuff's gone too.

BROOKE

He left us?

LUKE

Looks like it.

FINGERS

Damn.

HOLDEN

He's really gone?

WILLIAM

I'm afraid so. I didn't see that coming.

DOUG

So I guess he really thought staying was a bad idea.

EXT. FOREST - MEANWHILE

John walks up a hill with the backpack on, the shotgun in his hands and the rifle slung on one shoulder.

He pauses on his way up and looks back over his shoulder.

A moment later he continues on.

EXT. CABIN - DUSK

Fingers and Doug head up the porch to the front door.

INSIDE

Holden sits on the floor playing with the necklace last seen with Ryan as the two men enter.

Holden looks up.

HOLDEN

Get anything?

DOUG  
Nope. Finger's almost got a rabbit  
but...

FINGERS  
John made it look so easy.

DOUG  
(to Holden)  
What's that?

HOLDEN  
Laura's necklace.

DOUG  
How'd you get it? I thought...

HOLDEN  
She did. I found it down by the  
river.

Doug and Fingers don't know what to say.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)  
Now it's all I have to remember Rye  
by.

The front door opens and this time a tired Julie enters.

JULIE  
Please say you killed something.

FINGERS  
No can do.

JULIE  
You're joking.

FINGERS  
'Fraid not.

Julie collapses into a chair.

JULIE  
Well that's just fucking wonderful.

HOLDEN  
Fingers almost got a rabbit.

JULIE  
So how much meat do we have?

DOUG  
Maybe two days worth.

JULIE

I'll keep my fingers crossed that  
William and Brooke caught something.

The door opens and William and Brooke enter, homemade fishing poles in hand.

WILLIAM

Goddamn. It's like the whole river's  
empty. Please tell me you guys shot  
something.

EXT. FOREST RIDGE - DUSK

John sits on a log near a small fire. A lean-to fashioned  
of sticks and branches has been erected behind him.

He looks down on the distant cabin from his lofty position.

EXT. ELSEWHERE IN THE FOREST - NIGHT

Bushes RUSTLE as a few zombies shuffle through the leaf  
covered ground.

EXT. CABIN - EARLY MORNING

William sits on the wood chopping stump and puts the finishing  
touches on whittling a new fishing rod.

Brooke walks out of the cabin and stretches on the porch.

BROOKE

Everybody working already?

WILLIAM

Yeah. Fingers and Doug are checking  
traps. Julie's checking on the  
garden. And Luke's trying his hand  
at some hunting.

Brooke leans on the porch railing.

BROOKE

Do you think he's okay out there?

WILLIAM

Who? John?

BROOKE

Yeah. I can't help but worry about  
him.

WILLIAM

I wouldn't. He's one tough mother.  
(MORE)

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Not like the guys I used to play.  
He's a real survivor. He's doing  
much better than us, I can promise  
you that.

BROOKE

What do you want me to do today?

WILLIAM

You used to do hair, right?

BROOKE

(smiling)

I was a cosmetologist if that's what  
you mean.

WILLIAM

And that means you cut hair, right?

BROOKE

Yeah. Among other things. Why?

WILLIAM

I could really use a haircut.

Brooke laughs.

BROOKE

I'll get the scissors.

Julie walks out of the tree line, her stride quick.

JULIE

William, I need to show you something.

WILLIAM

What is it?

EXT. FOREST GARDEN - A LITTLE LATER

William and Julie stand in the garden.

At their feet the vegetables are yellow and dying.

WILLIAM

And you've been doing everything the  
same?

JULIE

Everything. I don't know what the  
problem is.

WILLIAM

Doesn't look like any of them are going to make it.

JULIE

What are we gonna do? Do you think we can find John? See if he can help?

WILLIAM

I doubt it. It's been three days. I'm sure he's on the other side of the mountains by now.

BEHIND THEM

Fifty yards away a zombie slowly approaches the unaware William and Julie. They continue to talk but it is too far away to hear.

The zombie continues toward them when suddenly John appears behind it.

He grabs it by what hair it has left and brings his massive hunting knife to its throat.

JOHN KELLER

Shhhh.

John slices the blade across the zombie's neck, decapitating it.

John holds the head by its hair as the body falls away.

Quietly he shrinks back into the bushes.

GARDEN

WILLIAM

Fuck! We're out of meat, now this.

JULIE

We can replant. John left us plenty of seeds.

WILLIAM

That'll take weeks.

William SIGHS LOUDLY.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

I guess I'll just have to start catching something.

JULIE  
Should I replant?

WILLIAM  
Yeah.

William attempts a reassuring smile.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
We'll just have to make it work,  
right?

JULIE  
(smiling back)  
Yeah.

EXT. CLIFF EDGE - LATER

John drags the headless zombie out of the tree line by its ankles. He is now standing on the edge of a thousand foot drop off..

John drops the zombie's ankles and walks to its side.

With a solid shove of his foot the body rolls off the rocky edge and plummets to the forest below.

John twists and unhooks the severed head from his belt.

He gives it a once over and then tosses it off the cliff.

After a moment, John readies his shotgun and heads back into the woods.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

William sits on the bank, his new rod in hand.

It is perfectly tranquil.

A brilliant red cardinal lands on a nearby rock in the river. A shaft of sunlight illuminates it.

William watches the bird when suddenly he explodes into a fit of UNCONTROLLABLE SOBBING. He drops the rod to the ground as the tears flow.

Seconds later he regathers control of his emotions. He wipes his eyes and nose with the back of his hands and glances around in all directions.

He picks his rod back up and continues fishing.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Holden sits on the floor in a fetal position. He plays with the silver necklace with his Fingers.

Brooke stands at the sink cleaning dishes.

Doug enters with his bow and arrow in hand. He lays it on the table as he walks to the kitchen.

BROOKE  
Hiya.

DOUG  
Hey.

BROOKE  
Any luck?

Doug grabs a recently cleaned glass.

DOUG  
Excuse me.

Doug begins filling the glass with tap water.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
Fingers is checking the Southern traps still, but so far, there ain't been shit.

Doug glances at Holden.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
How's he doing?

BROOKE  
Not good. Still won't eat. It's been three days. I'm worried.

DOUG  
Yeah. That's not good.

Doug takes a drink.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
Someone should talk to him.

BROOKE  
What do you think I've been doing?

DOUG  
Let me try.

Doug walks over and sits beside Holden.

He begins talking but doesn't look at Holden, rather, just off in thought.

DOUG (CONT'D)

When I was eighteen I had everything going for me. Good grades. Lots of friends. A beautiful girlfriend. And on top of it all I was the star quarterback of my high school team.

Holden's gaze breaks from the necklace for the first time and he glances up at Doug.

DOUG (CONT'D)

Everything was going great. But then I graduated. And all those things changed. It all got a lot harder. So much harder. I lost the friends. I couldn't play football anymore and everyday seemed like an uphill battle. I still had the girlfriend but even that was different.

Doug looks down at his hands.

DOUG (CONT'D)

A couple years later I get a call from my girlfriend's mom. Says that there was a bad accident. Some dumb bitch was texting and driving when she hit my girlfriend's car head on. My girlfriend didn't make it.

Holden sits up. He too looks at his hands.

HOLDEN

I was the quarterback.

DOUG

Yeah? Doesn't surprise me.

HOLDEN

So what did you do? When she died?

DOUG

I cried. I got angry. I wanted to die and I wanted to kill and I wanted to tear my heart out of my chest.

HOLDEN

So what did you do?

DOUG

I joined the Army.

HOLDEN

Why the Army?

DOUG

I was too scared to be alone in the real world. It seemed like the only safe place.

HOLDEN

I'm scared.

DOUG

So am I.

HOLDEN

But you're a soldier. You've been shot at, killed people. You're used to this kinda stuff.

Doug lowers his volume.

DOUG

I've never seen combat.

HOLDEN

What?

DOUG

I joined up and only made it through basic training when all this happened. I was at home on leave. Was supposed to ship out in three days. My first combat experience was shooting my little sister after she bit my dad's stomach open.

HOLDEN

I'm sorry.

DOUG

Thanks. That's just between you and me, okay?

HOLDEN

Yeah...I still don't know what to do.

DOUG

There's only one thing to do. We survive. That's what my girlfriend would have wanted. That's what Ryan would want. We might be all that's left of the human race so it's up to us to do what has to be done. To press on.

HOLDEN  
(catching on)  
I get it. So you think I should  
eat.

DOUG  
Not gonna be much good to the human  
race if you don't.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

A zombie MOANS as it attempts to walk.

Its left leg is locked in a rusty bear trap. A thick chain  
connects the trap to a nearby tree.

The zombie continues to pull against the metal, unaware of  
what holds it back.

John approaches the zombie, shotgun aimed at its head.

JOHN KELLER  
Open wide.

John fires.

EXT. A FEW MILES AWAY - MEANWHILE

Luke holds a hunting rifle as he sits propped up against a  
tree.

The barely noticeable ECHO of John's distant shotgun blast  
reaches his ears.

He looks off in the sounds direction.

Suddenly SOMETHING MOVES to his right and he raises the rifle  
in a flash.

EXT. CLIFF EDGE - SUNSET

John rolls another zombie body off the cliff.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Everyone sits around the cabin but Luke.

Holden SLURPS a bowl of soup while Julie stands at the window  
looking out.

JULIE  
Still no sign of him.

FINGERS

How long should we wait until we go looking for him?

DOUG

Luke can take care of himself. I bet he shows up any--

JULIE

I see him.

BROOKE

Does he have food?

JULIE

I can't tell.

MOMENTS LATER

The front door opens and Luke enters, rifle in hand. He is obviously tired.

FINGERS

You alright, man?

LUKE

Yeah.

There are no obvious signs of food on him.

JULIE

Any luck?

Luke sets the rifle down on the table.

LUKE

I have to piss.

Luke walks into the bathroom.

Everyone looks to one another.

DOUG

What the fuck?

The TOILET FLUSHES and Luke walks back out.

DOUG (CONT'D)

So do you have dinner or not?

Luke looks at the group with unpromising eyes.

LUKE

Sorry. But we'll just have to eat...

Luke whips out a pair of cleaned rabbits.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
...a few Thumpers tonight.

The relief is explosive.

FINGERS  
(smiling)  
Fuck you, man. I thought we'd be eating that shitty soup again.  
(to Brooke)  
No offense.

BROOKE  
Oh, I know it's shitty.  
(to Luke)  
Now bring those rabbits over here so I can get to work.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

Blood drips from a bundle of animal flesh and entrails suspended by a rope from a tree branch.

It hangs five feet off the ground.

ROCK OUTCROPPING

John kneels on a large boulder a hundred yards away. From there he has a clear line of sight on the hanging meat.

A zombie moves into view and toward the meat. Moments later a second zombie appears and follows suit.

The first zombie approaches the hanging meat, its mouth open and ready to bite.

Just as it reaches the meat the ground gives way and it falls onto an array of sharpened spears. The spears pierce the zombie with ease.

John gives a grin.

The second zombie continues on toward the meat unfazed. He too falls onto the spears.

JOHN KELLER  
Hmm.

EXT. CLIFF EDGE - LATER

Three more zombie bodies plummet to the forest below.

John stands on the cliff edge and wipes his hands clean.

EXT. CABIN - AFTERNOON

Fingers and William sit around a CRACKLING CAMPFIRE.

Doug walks out of the cabin carrying a glass of moonshine.

DOUG

What's up with the daytime campfire?

WILLIAM

Just felt like making one.

FINGERS

Pull up a stump.

Doug walks over to fire and stands.

WILLIAM

I noticed something today.

DOUG

And what's that?

FINGERS

That we ain't got shit to eat?

WILLIAM

Well, there is that. No, I noticed that since John left, we haven't seen a single zombie.

FINGERS

It's only been, what, a week?

DOUG

Something like that.

WILLIAM

Yeah. But I just thought we'd have seen or heard something by now.

FINGERS

Maybe they all died in the river.

DOUG

All the zombies in Colorado? Somehow I think that's unlikely.

WILLIAM

Don't know. Just seemed odd.

FINGERS

I for one, am not complaining.

Fingers stands and accidentally bumps Doug.

Doug loses control of his drink and moonshine splashes out over the fire.

Immediately the clear liquid bursts into flame like gasoline and everyone jumps back including William who falls backwards off the log he was sitting on.

WILLIAM  
Jesus Christ!!

FINGERS  
My bad.

Everyone LAUGHS.

DOUG  
Did you see that shit? Whoosh!

FINGERS  
I can't believe I almost lit you on fire.

William sits back up.

WILLIAM  
I can't believe you're drinking that.  
That shit went up like a set from  
Backdraft.

Again everyone LAUGHS.

EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

Luke and Julie walk through the woods.

Luke carries a makeshift sword which he twirls expertly.

Julie carries her pistol and watches Luke in some amazement.

LUKE  
I always wanted a sword. All boys  
do, I think.

JULIE  
You handle that pretty well.

LUKE  
(smiles)  
I've been to a few Renaissance Fairs.

JULIE  
Well then, that explains it all.

She CHUCKLES.

The two approach a rusty bear trap.

JULIE (CONT'D)

(annoyed)

Yet another empty trap. I'm starting to think these things are totally worthless.

Luke walks in closer, but his attention isn't on the trap but the tree it's attached to.

LUKE

Check this out.

Julie walks up behind him.

JULIE

What?

Luke touches the trunk with the tip of his sword.

On the bark small pieces of flesh and a few dried blood stains can be seen. The bark is also scarred from high speed projectiles and sap has bubbled out of a few of the holes.

LUKE

Something got shot here. Look. These holes are from BBS. Probably buck shot. And there's blood.

JULIE

(unimpressed)

So. John could have done that weeks ago.

LUKE

No.

Luke touches the sword tip to the sap. Still soft.

LUKE (CONT'D)

The sap hasn't hardened yet.

JULIE

So what's that mean?

LUKE

It means it's new.

Both look around.

EXT. ELSEWHERE IN THE FOREST - DAY

A zombie walks through the forest when suddenly it is yanked up in the air by its ankle.

It hangs upside down a few feet from the ground. A rope slipknot is cinched around its rotting ankle.

It flails around slowly.

John steps into view carrying a large chunk of wood like a baseball bat.

He smiles at the zombie and swings at its head.

EXT. CLIFF EDGE - LATER

Another body rolls off.

EXT. RIVERBANK - LATE AFTERNOON

William sits in his spot along the bank, fishing line dipped in the river.

He looks around bored and unsuspecting.

Suddenly the line dips and the rod is almost pulled out of his hands.

William gets a good hold on the rod and fights for control. Soon he is holding it firm while the fish on the other end moves up and down river.

William begins to HOOT and HOLLER with excitement as he plays the fish.

The rod bends against the pull of the fish and he stands up.

The rod dips more and there is a soft CRACKING sound.

WILLIAM  
(worried)  
No, no, no, no, no!

William jumps down from the rock he was sitting on to lessen the force but the rod stays pegged.

The water EXPLODES IN THRASHING as the incredibly large fish surfaces.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
Come on.

Then the fish disappears under water again and the line moves up stream.

Another CRACKING sound.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
Don't do this to me.

Suddenly the rod SNAPS like a toothpick. The top half dragged under water by the fish.

William stands stunned for a moment, the bottom half of the rod still in his hand.

Then he explodes.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

NO!!!

William throws the what's left of the rod into the river.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

No!!! Fuck you fish! Fuck you!

William looks around frantically for the biggest rock he can find.

He lifts a text book sized stone to his shoulder and shot puts it into the river.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Fuck you!

Water splashes up in a fountain as the stone disappears.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

I hate you!!!

INT. CABIN - DAY

William stands in front of the fireplace, obviously a little wound up. He waits as everyone files in and sit around the cabin.

DOUG

What's up man?

WILLIAM

We need to do something.

BROOKE

About?

WILLIAM

Food. Tools. Weapons. We need supplies.

JULIE

What are you getting at?

WILLIAM

I think we need to find a town and scavenge what we can.

HOLDEN

But that's the one thing John told us to never do.

LUKE

Yeah. It's too dangerous.

WILLIAM

We have no other choice. We've run out of options. Obviously John has mastered the outdoor life, but frankly, we suck at it.

William points at Julie.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Julie's a soccer mom. She's never gardened.

He points at Luke.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Luke, you used to work at, what, McDonald's?

LUKE

Burger King.

WILLIAM

Exactly, and now you're out trying to shoot wild game? Face it. We're all city folks. We don't have John's skills and we're in trouble.

BROOKE

We can get better. We're still learning.

DOUG

Yeah, I'm not ready to give up.

WILLIAM

And neither am I. But what I'm proposing is that we find a way to survive while we learn. We're out of food. The garden's dead. A squirrel or rabbit every couple of days just won't cut it. If we can get a hold of a few things. Some canned goods. Some baking supplies. A few more guns. We can keep learning but have food on the table. And when that food runs out then, maybe, will be good enough to keep food coming in. John's way.

FINGERS

I don't know, Will. A town's gonna be swarmin' with those things. All we have to do is shoot one deer. One bear and we'll be set.

WILLIAM

We've been saying that for weeks and we haven't gotten one yet. I don't want to go to town, I promise you that, but we can't ignore the problem. We're slowly starving here.

JULIE

So what's your plan?

WILLIAM

Tomorrow morning we send three or four people to the closest town. John left us that map. We take the wheelbarrow and load it with everything we can. Then we come back. That's it.

DOUG

So who do you have in mind for this raiding party?

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

William walks through the woods, rifle in hand. Behind him are Fingers, Julie and taking up the rear with the wheelbarrow is Doug.

Everyone carries a weapon of some kind.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Luke sits in the rocking chair. He's a bit bummed.

LUKE

I shoul'da gone with them.

BROOKE

You guys drew straws. It was fair.

LUKE

But they could use the help. You and Holden would be fine without me.

Brooke locks eyes with Luke.

BROOKE

We need your help here.  
(MORE)

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Holden's still a little weak and I can't handle myself as well as you. We never know when they might show back up.

LUKE

I guess you're right.

BROOKE

Luke?

LUKE

Yeah?

BROOKE

Thank you.

LUKE

No problem.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The raiding party continues on toward the nearest town.

Fingers walks beside William.

FINGERS

You really think we'll find food?

WILLIAM

We have to.

FINGERS

But what if we don't?

WILLIAM

We have to.

The two walk in silence for a moment.

FINGERS

You know, I didn't know you had it in you. This leadership thing. Just never seemed like the dude to take command.

WILLIAM

Yeah. Kinda surprised myself.

Both smile.

FINGERS

I'm proud of you, Will.  
(MORE)

FINGERS (CONT'D)

You're holdin' us all together and we need that.

WILLIAM

Can I ask you something, Fingers?

FINGERS

Sure, boss.

WILLIAM

What if we don't find any food?

EXT. TREE LINE - DAY

The raiding party stands just within the tree line.

They look the town over.

RURAL TOWN

The town is small, only three blocks long, and very very still. All that can be seen are a few dust covered cars, a couple broken windows and overgrown plants and flowers.

TREE LINE

JULIE

Looks dead.

FINGERS

Oh, they're in there. They're always where you don't expect them.

WILLIAM

Fingers is right. Chances are there are at least a few still hiding in there.

DOUG

So there are zombies in there. We knew that coming in. We gonna get this over with or what?

EXT. RURAL TOWN - MOMENTS LATER

The group moves down the center of Main Street, guns at the ready. Doug continues to push the wheelbarrow behind them.

William stops in front of a store. The marquee sign reads "GOODS AND GUNS."

Fingers and Julie walk up beside him. They talk in whispers.

WILLIAM  
Looks like the general store.

JULIE  
Think they have food?

WILLIAM  
Not sure.  
(stating the obvious)  
But I'm pretty sure there are guns.

William points at the sign.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
I think we should see what we can  
find in there. I'll stay out here  
and cover the street while you three  
check it out. If you hear shooting,  
get out.

INT. GOODS AND GUNS STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Fingers, Julie and Doug enter the store, William visible  
through the large windows behind them.

The store is dark, dusty and uncomfortably still.

Fingers leads the group inside, his pistol held out in front  
of him.

Doug follows with a homemade double headed ax.

Julie takes up the rear with his handgun.

Five yards in the light from outside is consumed by the  
shadows.

Fingers starts slowly down the first aisle: "AUTOMOTIVE."

Doug looks to Julie.

DOUG  
(whisper)  
Should we split up?

JULIE  
(whisper)  
Fuck no.

Doug follows Fingers.

Fingers holds his pistol out in front of him, his hands  
shaking a bit.

As he approaches the end of the aisle the shadows seem even darker and more menacing. At any moment something could...

Nothing.

The three causally continue to move deeper into the store. Soon they approach the rear sales counter composed of a glass display case, cash register and locked gun racks along the back wall.

Doug smiles. He lays his ax down on the glass counter top and leaps over to the other side.

Fingers and Julie watch unsure.

Many of the rack's weapon slots are empty but a few shotguns and rifles remain.

DOUG  
(normal volume)  
Come on guys.

FINGERS  
(whisper)  
Keep it down, man. Shit.

DOUG  
Relax. The store's empty.

Doug attempts to remove a shotgun but it is held in place by a lock.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
Damn it. They're locked. Help me  
find the key.

EXT. MAINSTREET - MEANWHILE

William stands alone in the center of Main Street. He glances around a bit nervously. The wheelbarrow behind him.

BANG!!! A GUNSHOT rings out from inside the store. William spins and raises his gun as another SHOT rings out.

He holds the rifle level, waiting.

Fear and adrenaline fill his face as he anticipates what's about to come.

A second goes by.

Five seconds.

The store door opens and William holds his breath as...

Julie steps out. She is pissed but casual. She signals him it's ok.

William EXHALES and lowers his gun. He waits for Julie to walk over to him. They speak quietly.

WILLIAM

What happened?

JULIE

(angrily)

That stupid mother fucker, Doug, tried to shoot the locks off the guns.

WILLIAM

What?!

Julie looks around.

JULIE

I know. Fingers convinced him to use the ax to get the other ones out.

WILLIAM

Jesus. Any food?

JULIE

Some candy, that's about it. There's a few guns, some ammo and tools. Stuff we can use. I'm grabbing the wheelbarrow.

WILLIAM

Alright. Tell Doug no more shooting unless he's got a zombie dry humping his leg.

Julie salutes and then grabs the wheelbarrow by the handles. She starts back to the store.

EXT. A BLOCK DOWN - A LITTLE LATER

The group stands in the street, the wheelbarrow half filled with rope, guns and various other things.

DOUG

We've been here for twenty minutes and haven't seen shit. The town's empty. I say we split up and cover four times the ground.

FINGERS

I'm not cool with that.

WILLIAM

I think he's right. It's empty.

FINGERS

Fuck that. I ain't goin' inside alone.

JULIE

Yeah. I'm sticking with Fingers.

DOUG

(slightly annoyed)

There's no zombies.

WILLIAM

Alright. You two check out the grocery store. Doug can check that doctor's office and I'll head down the street and see if there's anything of value.

JULIE

(a bit pissed)

Didn't we come here for food?

WILLIAM

We're here. It's dead. We might as well get all the useful shit we can.

FINGERS

Julie's got a point. I don't like pressin' our luck. I think we should all clear out the grocery store then get the fuck out of here, fast.

WILLIAM

Fine. I'll go with you guys to the store and Doug will check the Doctor's.

INT. GROCERY STORE - MOMENTS LATER

CRASH!!! Finger's breaks the glass front door with the butt of his pistol.

FINGERS

Damn I hate making all this noise.

He reaches in and unlocks the doors.

The three move inside, William pushes the wheelbarrow.

Finger's COUGHS and raises a hand to his mouth followed by the other two.

FINGERS (CONT'D)  
Smells like shit in here.

EXT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - MEANWHILE

Doug walks up to the front of the two story house turned doctor's office. The hanging sign which once had the doctor's name has been painted over with a big red skull.

DOUG  
(noticing the sign)  
Well that's welcoming.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Doug hacks the door open with his ax.

He looks back toward the grocery store, no one watching.

Doug raises the ax into a ready position and starts inside, slowly.

INT. GROCERY STORE - MEANWHILE

Fingers and Julie move through the store ready and waiting as William follows, checking the shelves and loading food into the wheelbarrow.

Julie talks to William as she keeps her eyes focused on Fingers and the unexplored store in front of them.

JULIE  
(quietly)  
Finding anything?

WILLIAM  
Most of it's rotten or the animals  
got into it. I'm grabbin' whatever's  
still good.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - MEANWHILE

Doug moves through the ground floor of the office. A set of wooden stairs lead up to the second floor and at the foot of the staircase is a door to the basement.

The windows are boarded up and Doug moves through the shafts of light that creep through.

The office is tidy and a layer of dust on everything is the only sign of neglect.

Doug moves to the room at the back of the house. A desk and two plush leather chairs populate the space. Bookshelves line the walls along with a large x-ray light board.

Doug checks the room for anything useful. Nope.

He picks up a framed picture off of the desk. A husband, wife and three kids smile.

INT. GROCERY STORE - MEANWHILE

Fingers stands in front of a doorway and the hanging plastic strips that separate him from the back rooms of the store.

FINGERS

I ain't going back there.

Julie walks up behind him.

JULIE

How 'bout I go in first and you cover  
*my ass?*

Fingers' SIGHS and readies his pistol.

FINGERS

Alright. But if shit goes bad  
remember I told you so.

BACK ROOM

The two move slowly through the plastic strips and into the near pitch darkness of the back.

Julie clicks on a flashlight which she holds out front with the pistol. She glances back at Fingers.

JULIE

(smiling)

Good thing we stopped at the gun  
store first.

Over her shoulder, illuminated by cone of light, SOMETHING DARTS BY. Julie is oblivious but Fingers isn't.

He FIRES two rounds in panic.

FINGERS

Mother fucker!

The flashlight CLATTERS against the floor and spins wildly. The effect is disorienting.

GROCERY STORE

A few more GUNSHOTS ring out as Fingers backs quickly through the plastic strips, gun held out in front of him.

William runs up and glances at Fingers' petrified face.

WILLIAM  
What's going on?!

FINGERS  
In there!

BACK ROOM

The flashlight comes to a stop as William burst through the plastic, rifle at the ready.

He picks up the flashlight and shines it on Julie who stands and looks at him wide eyed, her gun held in both hands.

Something moves quickly in the darkness SCRAPING and CRASHING into things.

William scans the dark with the flashlight.

There it is--gone.

Again--gone.

Finally he catches it in the light in a back corner.

A SMALL WHITE TAILED DEER scampers back and forth in a blind panic.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - MEANWHILE

Doug starts up the staircase, ax held ready.

He move slowly, each step CREAKING.

At the top he peaks down the hall. Nothing.

He glances out a small picture window at the top of the stairs.

He can see part of Main Street and the next building over. Nothing unusual.

He turns back around and bumps a small table with a round sculpture on top.

The sculpture tips and falls down the stairs.

The bowling ball sized and shaped piece of metal BOUNCES down the wooden stairs, finally PUNCHING a large hole through the basement door at the bottom.

Doug cringes at all the noise.

DOUG  
Sorry doc.

He looks down at the busted door for a moment and then continues down the hall.

INT. GROCERY STORE - MEANWHILE

Fingers stands stone still, his gun aimed at the plastic strips. He PANTS FAST and HEAVY, terrified. a SINGLE GUNSHOT rings out from the back room.

Moments later William, followed by Julie, step through.

WILLIAM

It was a deer.

FINGERS

(relieved and  
embarrassed)

Are you shitting me?

WILLIAM

No.

(smiles)

Funny how we can hunt for weeks and not shoot shit, but an hour in town and we bag a deer.

JULIE (O.S.)

Will.

The two men look at Julie.

WILLIAM

Yeah?

Julie looks down at her shoulder.

BLOOD SEEPS into her shirt covering her left shoulder and breast, the stain growing.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Oh my god.

Fingers jaw hangs open, his guilt and sorrow unmasked. He is speechless.

William drops the rifle and rushes over to her.

He puts pressure on both sides of the wound as he tries to figure out what to do.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Um...shit...we gotta...

(at a loss)

Fingers?

Fingers looks to William, and like that, he snaps out of his daze. Fingers runs into the store.

A second later he's back with the wheelbarrow.

Fingers pulls his own shirt off and begins tearing it into pieces.

He rushes over to Julie and William.

FINGERS

We can use this as a tourniquet and  
move her in the wheelbarrow.

He ties pieces of his shirt around Julie's shoulder. She GRUNTS in pain as he pulls it tight.

WILLIAM

(very worried)

We gotta get her back to the cabin  
as soon as possible.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE, UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - MEANWHILE

Doug opens cabinets in a bedroom turned medical storage area.

He grabs a trash can and dumps it out.

Quickly he dumps any and all the medicine he can into it.

CRASH!!

Doug stops. That came from downstairs.

Another CRASH. WOOD BREAKING.

Doug grabs the ax and steps out into the hall.

He walks toward the stairs.

Outside the picture window, something catches his eye.

Doug rushes to it and looks outside.

A zombie walks down Main Street.

DOUG

Oh shit!

A BANG comes from his left. He looks down the stairs and sees a HALF DOZEN ZOMBIES forcing their way through the broken basement door and into the office.

DOUG (CONT'D)

OH SHIT!!!

Doug rushes back to the bedroom and grabs the trash can.

INT. GROCERY STORE - MEANWHILE

William runs out of the store followed by Fingers pushing the wheelbarrow, Julie lying on top of the loot.

A few zombies move down the street toward them.

WILLIAM

This is not good.

William raises the rifle and takes aim at the closest zombie.

He fires and the zombie falls.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - MEANWHILE

Doug climbs out the second floor window and onto the slanted roof below. He glances back inside to see the first zombie enter the hallway.

Doug quickly scoots his way to the roof's edge and looks down. Not so bad.

He drops the ax down to the yard.

He grabs the trash can in both hands.

DOUG

This is gonna hurt.

Doug leaps down and lands hard but he keeps the trash can intact.

He gets to his feet quickly and looks down the street at the others.

William fires as he backs down the street. Fingers pushes the wheelbarrow as fast as he can. They're moving toward Doug.

Doug tucks the trash can under one arm as he grabs the ax with the other. He runs out into the street.

DOUG (CONT'D)

We gotta get out of here!

WILLIAM

What the fuck do you think we're doing?!

The group meets up in the street.

Doug notices Julie's wound.

DOUG  
(to Fingers)  
What happened?

FINGERS  
Behind you!

Doug turns to see an approaching zombie. He puts the trash can in Julie's lap and grabs the ax with both hands. He charges.

Doug HACKS the zombie down and then charges another.

EXT. TREE LINE - MINUTES LATER

The group moves back into the trees as William brings up the rear.

One last zombie pursues and William puts it down.

He waits for a moment and then continues on into the forest.

EXT. THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN - CONTINUOUS

Across town and around the bend in Main Street, at least A HUNDRED ZOMBIES climb the mountain road toward town.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Brooke, alone in the cabin, naps in the rocking chair.

Holden and Luke's OUTSIDE VOICES wake her.

She comes to as the front door opens and the boys enter.

Both wear large grins as they finish their conversation.

HOLDEN  
I know.

LUKE  
Just wait.

BROOKE  
You guys look happy.

LUKE  
You'll never believe it, Brooke.

Brooke stretches.

BROOKE  
(yawning)  
Never believe what?

LUKE

This whole time we had a real killer  
in our midsts. Holden did it.

HOLDEN

I got a deer!

Brooke sits up in excitement.

BROOKE

What?!

LUKE

Put an arrow right through its heart.  
I couldn't believe it.

BROOKE

(ecstatic)

Oh my god.

Brooke stands up and hugs Holden.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

EXT. FOREST - LATE AFTERNOON

A blood drop drips from Julie's finger as she lies asleep in  
the wheelbarrow.

The raiding party moves through the woods, no one talks.

Behind them a trail of blood droplets mark the leaves.

EXT. FOREST RIDGE - CONTINUOUS

John watches the raiding party approaching the cabin through  
binoculars.

JOHN KELLER

No, no, no. What did you do?

John lowers the binoculars and grabs his rifle.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)

What did you do?

He rushes off along the ridge line.

INT. CABIN - EARLY EVENING

Deer steaks SIZZLES in a pan as Brooke prepares dinner in  
the kitchen.

Holden and Luke sit at the table playing cards.

LUKE  
Damn that smells good.

HOLDEN  
Can't wait to see the look on their  
faces.

WILLIAM (O.S.)  
(sternly)  
Open the door!

Luke and Holden look to each other and jump up.

Holden throws the door open as Fingers carries Julie inside.

William follows with the trash can.

HOLDEN  
Holy shit!

BROOKE  
What happened?!

Fingers carries Julie into the bedroom and lays her down.

LUKE  
Was she bit?

WILLIAM  
No, she was shot.

HOLDEN  
Shot?

LUKE  
How?

Doug enters with an armful of food.

DOUG  
It was an accident. Help me get  
this stuff inside.

Holden and Luke rush outside as William walks out of the  
bedroom. He looks to Brooke concerned.

WILLIAM  
What's that smell?

She almost doesn't want to tell him.

BROOKE  
(reluctantly)  
Venison. Holden shot a deer.

EXT. EASTERN RIDGE - EARLY EVENING

John moves to the edge of the ridge and kneels. He raises the binoculars to his eyes.

In the distance a LARGE MOB OF ZOMBIES shambles through the forest toward the cabin a few miles away.

John lowers the binoculars and moves to another spot.

He raises the binoculars again.

From this angle, the zombie horde is massive. Much larger than anything they've ever seen.

JOHN KELLER

What did you do?

INT. CABIN - EVENING

Luke, Brooke, William and Holden sit at the dining room table.

LUKE

Well, what the fuck do we do now?  
None of us are doctors and she's  
bleeding bad.

WILLIAM

Brooke did her best to sew her up.

LUKE

For some reason I don't think it's  
that simple.

HOLDEN

(hopeful)  
Doug found all that medicine.

BROOKE

Medicine we don't know how to use.  
If we give her the wrong thing or  
too much of one thing. It's just  
too dangerous.

HOLDEN

(upset)  
We can't just let her die.

LUKE

Quiet, dude. We're not sure she's  
gonna die.

WILLIAM

Me and Doug will just have to go  
back and find some medical books.  
We can use those to figure out--

Doug walks out of the bedroom.

HOLDEN

How's she doing?

DOUG

She's sleeping but Fingers won't  
leave her side.

BROOKE

How'd it happen again?

Doug looks to William.

WILLIAM

While we were trying to fight off  
the zombies, I...I accidentally shot  
her. I didn't see her and I shot...

BEDROOM

A still shirtless Fingers sits at the bedside holding Julie's  
hand as she sleeps. He is beyond distraught.

FINGERS

I should have gone first. I should  
have. I was so scared. And it moved  
so fast, I just...I should have gone  
first. This would never have happened  
if I'd just gone first.

Tears drip down to his chin.

FINGERS (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry. Please. You gotta  
stick around. If you want, I'll  
even let you shoot me. You know,  
even Stevens.

He tries to force a smile.

FINGERS (CONT'D)

Don't go, Julie. I'm sorry.

CABIN

Doug stands at the table with the others.

DOUG

Truth is, we should have never gone.

William can't hide his shock.

WILLIAM

What? I'm sorry, say that again?

DOUG

You heard me. We should never have fuckin' gone. It was a stupid fucking plan and now Julie's laying there half dead. And for what? Food we don't need now, medicine we can't use.

William's face is now flushed.

WILLIAM

Oh? I see. Now it's all my fault?

DOUG

Damn right it's all your fault.

LUKE

Come on guys. It's nobody's fault. You both said it was an accident.

DOUG

An accident that would never have happened if hotshot over here hadn't pushed us to go to town.

BROOKE

(to Doug)

I didn't see you objecting before you left.

DOUG

So, I'm the bad guy now?

HOLDEN

This is stupid.

BROOKE

Holden is exactly right. This *is* stupid. There's no reason for us to be fighting. It was an accident.

LUKE

(concerned)

It was an accident? Right?

EXT. FOREST RIDGE - EVENING

John finishes packing his things into his backpack.

He throws dirt on the fire embers and gives one more look around.

He looks down at the distant cabin and SIGHS.

JOHN KELLER

(remorsefully)

I told you it was just a matter of time.

John turns his back to the cabin and starts his long hike further up the mountain.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The horde of zombies move through the forest.

The lead zombies legs catch the trip wires, the small bits of metal RINGING out a warning.

A few zombies' legs get caught up in them and they fall.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

The argument continues.

WILLIAM

That's bullshit.

DOUG

Then you tell me.

WILLIAM

I made an executive decision for the betterment of all of us.

DOUG

I'm sure Julie's way better off.

William jumps to his feet and gets in Doug's face.

WILLIAM

What's your fucking problem?

Luke attempts to separate them.

LUKE

Hey, hey.

DOUG

What's my problem?

BROOKE

Sit down.

DOUG

What's *my* problem? You shot someone!  
That's my god damn problem.

William slugs Doug and he falls on his ass.

BROOKE

What the hell, Will?!

WILLIAM

Someone needed to shut this asshole  
up.

Doug's stun turns to rage and he gets to his feet. He tackles William and they CRASH into the dining room table.

A full out brawl ensues.

Holden and Luke try to break it up unsuccessfully.

BROOKE

Stop it!! Grow the fuck up!

Fingers steps out of the room and takes the scene in. He moves over to the fighting men and lifts William off of Doug. He pushes him across the room easily.

FINGERS

What the fuck are you doing?

HOLDEN

(breathing heavily)  
Doug's mad about Julie.

DOUG

I'm mad because hotshot, here, thinks  
he can take risks with our lives.

LUKE

Shut up Doug.

WILLIAM

I never said--

FINGERS

You too!

Fingers looks hard into Doug's eyes, then to William's.

FINGERS (CONT'D)

It's not Will's fault I shot Julie.

The revelation takes them all off guard.

HOLDEN

What?

BROOKE

You shot her?

FINGERS

Yeah. It was an accident but still my fault. And my fault alone.

Doug looks at William.

DOUG

Why did you say you shot her?

Surprised, Fingers looks to William.

FINGERS

You...?

(realizing)

He did it because he's my friend.

WILLIAM

I did it because it was the right thing to do.

William, still angry, pushes a small end table over with a CRASH.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

(mockingly)

But what you said was right, Doug. Maybe we need someone else in charge around her. Hey, I know, how 'bout you?

DOUG

(pissed again)

You know, that's not a half bad idea.

HOLDEN

Stop already.

WILLIAM

Sure. Okay. Doug's the new boss. Hear that everybody? Doug's in charge.

DOUG

Fuck you, Will.

WILLIAM

Is that your first official decree?

Doug goes for William and Fingers holds him back with a hand to his chest.

FINGERS

Julie's hurt bad in there and this is what you do? Go at each other like some punk kids?

DOUG

(to Fingers)

Don't see you puttin' a hand on your old friend over there. Guess it's just me.

(to William)

Good thing you got your dog with you.

That pushes Fingers' button. He clocks Doug who stumbles back into the wall.

FINGERS

(to Doug)

You stupid son of a bitch. I was protecting you *from* him.

Fingers grabs Doug by the shirt.

FINGERS (CONT'D)

But now you pissed me off.

HOLDEN

Fingers don't!

Fingers stares hard at Doug who is obviously frightened. Fingers wants to hit him bad.

The room is silent for only a moment when the faint sound of RINGING METAL can be heard.

LUKE

Shhhhh!!!! Do you hear that?!

Everyone listens.

The sounds continue, still faint but unmistakable.

Every face fills with the recognition and fear deserved.

BROOKE

(knowingly)

The trip wires?

WILLIAM

Outside!

EXT. CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

The group runs outside.

Each of them now carries a rifle, shotgun or pistol, all except Holden who carries the handmade bow and arrow.

They stand on the porch and scan the dark tree line.

Nothing.

Luke taps Fingers who helps him onto the roof.

Luke surveys the area from up high.

WILLIAM

You see anything?

LUKE

No.

The RINGING SOUNDS are louder outside.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I can still hear 'em though.

DOUG

Maybe it's an animal stuck in the lines.

FINGERS

Then why's it coming from two directions?

HOLDEN

(pointing)

There!

In the trees a SLOW MOVING SHADOWY FIGURE approaches.

William raises his rifle as Holden notches an arrow on his bow.

LUKE (O.S.)

This is bad.

William continues to take aim at the dark figure.

WILLIAM

How bad?

LUKE

Really bad.

From Luke's vantage point the ground beneath the trees moves like an ocean.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
There are way too many of them.

WILLIAM (O.S.)  
What direction?

Luke does a three sixty but it's the same everywhere.

LUKE  
All of 'em.

William lowers his rifle and looks around.

DOZENS OF SHADOWY FIGURES are now visible in the trees.

William takes a step away from the cabin.

WILLIAM  
Luke!

Luke turns to face him.

William tosses the rifle up to him and Luke catches it.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
Do as much damage as you can.

William looks to Doug.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
(to Doug)  
Give me your gun.

Doug hesitates for only a moment and then tosses it to William.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
Go downstairs and grab as many jugs  
of moonshine as you can.

Doug runs into the house.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
Alright. We can do this. Just make  
each shot count. Watch each other's  
backs and don't panic. Alright?

Everyone nods as a GUNSHOT rings out from above.

LUKE (O.S.)  
That's one.

William and the rest smile.

WILLIAM  
How many more to go?

LUKE (O.S.)  
'Bout a thousand.

Another GUNSHOT.

LUKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Make that nine hundred and ninety  
nine.

William turns around and raises his shotgun. The rest raise their weapons.

WILLIAM  
We can't let them get to Julie.

William starts for the tree line and opens fire.

Everyone follows suit.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - NIGHT

The distant CRACKS of gunfire ECHO through the trees and rocks. John pauses for a moment before continuing on.

A moment later he stops again.

He shifts the shotgun in his hand uncomfortably.

Another moment.

No.

John turns around and starts his hurried run down the mountain.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

The group fires at the approaching zombies, the foremost now in the clearing around the cabin.

William moves about the clearing getting close to his targets while Holden and Brooke fire from the porch.

OPPOSITE SIDE OF CABIN

Fingers stands alone on the backside of the cabin. He holds a pistol in each hand.

FINGERS  
 (light hearted)  
 You got my back, right Luke?

LUKE  
 I'd cover that fine black ass any  
 day.

Both LAUGH as they continue firing.

FRONT

Doug rushes out of the front door with a jug of moonshine in  
 each hand.

DOUG  
 Will!

William shoots a zombie and turns to see Doug.

WILLIAM  
 Make a wick!

DOUG  
 A what?!

WILLIAM  
 Wick! Make a wick! Use some cloth  
 and stick it in the top!

It takes a second for it to register and then Doug snaps  
 into action.

He runs inside.

Holden fires slowly but each arrow hits its mark.

BROOKE  
 I can't hit anything!

HOLDEN  
 Just relax. Squeeze, don't pull.

BROOKE  
 Oh sure. Easy for you to say.

Doug rushes back to the jugs and shoves dish towels into  
 each one.

Doug pulls out a matchbox and begins trying to light the  
 towels.

It doesn't work.

DOUG  
Shit. Shit. Shit.

Brooke sees this.

BROOKE  
They need to soak it up first.

Doug stops and looks at the rags, a clear saturation line can be seen moving up the cloth. He waits.

OPPOSITE SIDE

A zombie gets too close and Fingers puts a bullet point blank into its face.

ROOF

Luke fires relentlessly until the gun RUNS EMPTY.

LUKE  
(to himself)  
Shit.  
(to everyone)  
I need ammo!!!

FRONT

BROOKE  
I got it! What kind!

LUKE (O.S.)  
Thirty caliber!

Brooke darts into the cabin.

INSIDE

Brooke rummages through the stack of ammo from town.

OUTSIDE

William doesn't see a zombie about to bite him.

An arrow stabs into its head and it falls. William turns to see a smiling Holden.

William smiles back when--

WILLIAM  
(frightened)  
Behind you, Holden!!!

Holden turns to see a zombie climbing through the rail to the porch beside him. Too close for an arrow.

Doug lights one of the wicks and it flames up brightly.

DOUG

Got it!

William's attention turns to Doug.

WILLIAM

Throw it, Doug! Now!!! Get it off  
the porch!

Doug grabs the jug and runs into the clearing.

With an olympic style spin he launches the jug into the trees.

Nothing happens.

DOUG

(confused)

I lit it!

WHOOSH!!! A massive fireball erupts igniting a tree and  
leaving a five foot burning circle.

Two BURNING zombies now approach.

WILLIAM

(to himself)

Well that was disappointing.

DOUG

I thought it would have been bigger!

WILLIAM

Me too! Light the other one!

Doug rushes back to the porch as Holden STOMPS the zombie's  
head to a pulp.

Brooke runs outside with boxes of ammo in hand.

BROOKE

Luke!

Luke scoots down to the roof's edge as Brooke begins tossing  
up boxes.

Zombies are close now, on all sides.

William takes it all in.

WILLIAM

Everyone back inside! Now! Hurry!

William begins to fall back to the cabin as he reloads his shotgun.

Doug runs past him with the jug, wick burning.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Hurry!

Brooke tosses up the last box.

LUKE

Thanks.

(to William)

I'll cover the house from up here!

Doug hurls the second jug at a group of zombies. This time it EXPLODES, splashing burning liquid ten feet in all directions.

A dozen new zombies burn.

Doug smiles and then quickly runs back to the cabin.

Everyone is inside but William who stands on the porch firing his shotgun.

WILLIAM

Fingers!! Get your ass inside!

Fingers runs around the corner as a zombie grabs his arm.

He SLAMS the pistol butt into the its temple and it stumbles back.

William finishes if off with the shotgun.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Get in here!

Fingers runs around to the front of the porch as William continues to fire.

A fallen zombie grabs hold of Fingers' leg and he falls.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Fingers!

William doesn't have a shot so he jumps down from the porch and kicks the zombie's head off.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Come on!

William starts to help Fingers up to his feet. He looks around as he does.

Zombies are everywhere, and close. Too close. Not enough time to get inside.

William lets go of Fingers and moves between him and the zombies.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Get inside!

Fingers gets to his feet as the zombies reach William. He looks back as the first one grabs William's arm. Another his shotgun.

FINGERS

Will!

WILLIAM

Go!

(forced smile)

It can't be that much different than the movies.

The shotgun fires taking a few zombie's down. William SCREAMS as teeth rip into his arm.

Fingers runs up the porch as Doug and Holden fire through the windows.

William wrestles the shotgun free and shoots another zombie.

He glances at his bleeding bite wound.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Alright, mother fuckers. Now I ain't got nothing to lose. Come on!!!

William fires again and again as he moves into the zombie ranks.

Luke looks down at William as he stands his ground.

LUKE

(to himself)

No.

(to William)

Fuck 'em up, Will!!! I got you!

William smiles.

WILLIAM

(to himself)

Thanks kid.

INSIDE

Holden and Doug fire out the front windows.

Tears stream from Holden's eyes.

Brooke SLAMS the front door shut, locks it as Fingers slides the table up against it. She too has tear stained cheeks.

BROOKE

What do we do now?!

DOUG

We survive! I need three oh eights!

Brooke runs to the ammo pile again.

Fingers stands stunned.

Brooke slides a couple boxes to Doug and looks up at Fingers.

BROOKE

Fingers?

No reaction.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Fingers. He saved you and now we need you to save us.

Fingers snaps back and runs into the bedroom.

A second later he pushes the dresser toward the front door.

ROOF

Luke continues to fire, he notices a few of the burning zombies are still walking and they're getting close to the cabin.

He starts picking them off.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

John reaches the rear of the zombie horde.

He empties his shotgun into a few and when it runs empty, drops it.

He pulls his wood ax from his backpack while on the move.

Left and right he swings and zombies fall.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

William's shotgun RUNS EMPTY. He stands completely surrounded by zombies. They close in.

WILLIAM

(smiling)

Everyone always wants a piece of William Tucker. Well come get some!

The zombies swarm him.

William begins to SCREAM--

A bullet RIPS THROUGH HIS HEAD and it's over.

ROOF

Luke's rifle barrel smokes as he watches the zombies devour William's dead body.

LUKE

(to himself)

I got you.

INSIDE

Zombies have reached the walls and now a nerve shattering POUNDING can be heard on all sides.

Holden and Doug have backed away from the windows and shoot from a few feet inside.

Fingers joins in the shooting as Brooke keeps them all supplied.

DOUG

I don't think we can last much longer.

HOLDEN

There's too many.

FINGERS

We don't stop until they're all dead.

ROOF

Something catches Luke's eye to the left.

He turns to see John hacking his way into the clearing.

LUKE

(smiling)

Are you shitting me?

John fights his way so far and stops. He continues to down zombies but the mass is too thick around the porch.

John spies Luke.

JOHN KELLER

Luke!

LUKE

Nice of you to join us, John!

INSIDE

The group look to each other in question and then smiles spread across all their faces as they listen to the conversation.

JOHN KELLER (O.S.)

I can't get to the door!

OUTSIDE

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)

To many of them! Is there another way out of the cabin?!

Luke looks around.

The zombies are thickest at the front door but the cabin is heavily surrounded.

LUKE

Not really!

JOHN KELLER

Start clearing the back! I'll meet ya at the kitchen window!

Luke follows his orders and begins concentrating his fire on the zombies at the rear of the cabin.

John starts fighting his way around.

INSIDE

Fingers and Holden slide the fridge in front of one window as Brooke and Doug barricade the other with whatever they can find.

BROOKE

Just couldn't buy a couch, huh, John?

JOHN KELLER (O.S.)

Kitchen window!

Holden runs to it and looks out. He looks back to the group with a smile.

HOLDEN

John's here! He's below the window.

JOHN KELLER (O.S.)

Shut up, boy! Now hurry up and start climbing out!

Holden starts then stops. He looks back at Brooke.

HOLDEN

You should go first.

Brooke looks to the others.

DOUG

Go.

Brooke runs to the window and starts to climb down.

She knocks the PICTURE of John's daughter into the sink, the glass CRACKING.

OUTSIDE

John keeps a clear area below the window, his ax swinging with deadly efficiency. Luke contributes from above.

Brooke drops down behind John.

She looks up at the window.

BROOKE

I'm down!

From inside there is a large CRASH.

DOUG (O.S.)

Oh fuck! Fingers!

HOLDEN (O.S.)

No!

Brooke listens in horror.

INSIDE

Fingers punches a zombie as another bites his shoulder.

The refrigerator lies on the floor and zombies pour inside through the window

Doug opens fire with a pistol as Holden climbs onto the kitchen counter. He sticks his head outside.

OUTSIDE

Holden looks down at Brooke.

A bit of relief fills her face.

BROOKE  
Hurry Holden!

HOLDEN  
Someone's gotta protect Julie.

BROOKE  
No, just jump down.

HOLDEN  
I have to help her.

BROOKE  
Holden, just--

Holden disappears inside.

BROOKE (CONT'D)  
Holden!

INSIDE

Fingers pounds zombies with his brute force but blood flows freely from numerous wounds.

Holden runs into the bedroom as Doug finds himself cornered by the fireplace.

DOUG  
Holden! Get the fuck out of here!

BEDROOM

Julie is on her feet and trying to make it to the door but she is too weak.

A CRASH from outside.

DOUG (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
The door!!!

Holden bursts in and runs to her side.

HOLDEN  
Come on, I got you.

Holden supports her with his shoulder as they move out of the room.

CABIN

Fingers ROARS as he pushes a group of zombies out the now broken front door.

Holden and Julie stop in the hall. Holden doesn't know what to do or where to go. He watches as Doug and Fingers do what they can.

Doug sees them.

DOUG  
Downstairs! Hurry!

Doug tosses Holden a box of matches.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
Just in case! Go!!!

Holden and Julie start down the basement stairs.

OUTSIDE

John looks back at Brooke as he fights.

JOHN KELLER  
What's happening?!

BROOKE  
It's just me.

They lock eyes as John receives his answer.

JOHN KELLER  
Stay close.  
(to Luke)  
You coming with us?!

LUKE  
Naw! I think I'll stay here and  
cover your retreat!

JOHN KELLER  
Alright! We're heading out!

LUKE (O.S.)  
I gotcha!

John starts toward the thinnest opposition, Brooke right on his heels.

Luke covers them as they go.

## BASEMENT

Holden locks the basement door behind them as they enter.

They move to the back of the basement, past the moonshine rig and Holden helps Julie sit against the dirt wall.

She looks up to him in fear and he smiles back.

HOLDEN

Don't worry, I'll protect you.

Julie takes his hand.

JULIE

I know.

The sounds of STRUGGLE can be heard clearly down here. GUNFIRE rings out as does the sound of HEAVY FOOTSTEPS.

Holden and Julie watch the ceiling.

A SCREAM.

No more gunshots.

No more struggle.

FOOTSTEPS.

More and more footsteps.

Holden pulls a pistol from his belt and checks the ammo.

He glances from Julie to the basement door.

THUD. Something at the door.

THUD.

THUD.

Holden raises the pistol.

The lock SNAPS and the front zombie catches one of Holden's bullets to the head.

More zombies pour in.

Holden fires but it is futile.

He turns his gun on the moonshine equipment.

Bullets SHATTER glass and wood.

Clear liquid spills everywhere.

He drops the gun and pulls the matchbox out. He looks down at Julie with wet eyes.

HOLDEN

I'm sorry.

JULIE

Don't be.  
(she smiles)  
You never let them touch me.

Holden smiles back.

He strikes a match.

ROOF

Luke covers John and Brooke until they disappear in the trees.

Suddenly an EXPLOSION rips through the house knocking Luke to the rooftop, his rifle sliding off.

Fireballs explode out of cabin windows igniting dozens of zombies.

Luke steadies himself.

LUKE

(to himself)  
Okay. Just me.

He climbs back to his feet and surveys his surroundings.

Most of the zombies are now on fire and so is the cabin. Smoke billows up around him.

The horde is now only a fraction of what it once was but still too many for Luke to escape.

LUKE (CONT'D)

(to himself)  
What a way to go.

Luke sits down on the roof Indian style.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

John hacks through the straggling zombies as they make their way to a rocky mountain slope.

Brooke looks over her shoulder and sees the rising flames. The loss is deep.

JOHN KELLER

In here.

John ushers Brooke into a dark cave.

BROOKE

Is it safe?

JOHN KELLER

I'll make it safe.

EXT. CABIN ROOF - NIGHT

Luke looks up in the sky as the clouds part revealing a beautiful full moon and stars. Breathtaking.

Luke smiles.

The cabin COLLAPSES in on itself in a WHOOSH of FLAME and SPARK.

Zombies continue to converge on the fire.

Surprisingly, they walk into the flames, one by one.

INT. CAVE - MEANWHILE

John stands his ground outside the cave. With his ax he cuts down the zombies that pursued them.

Brooke watches as she sits curled up against the cave wall.

Her weary eyes growing heavy. Slowly they begin to close as her protector continues his fight.

INT. CAVE - DAWN

Brooke wakes inside the damp cave.

John sits guard at its mouth, the morning sun silhouetting him.

She walks over.

Dead zombie's litter the forest floor.

BROOKE

Are they still out there?

JOHN KELLER

Don't know.

BROOKE

So what do we do now?

EXT. CABIN - EARLY MORNING

John and Brooke walk cautiously into the clearing.

John carries his rifle.

The black wooden embers of the cabin still smoke but the only zombies are the dead ones.

Brooke can't hold back her tears.

John walks over to the rubble.

He places a careful foot on top.

BROOKE

John, don't. It's too dangerous.

John continues and slowly walks out into the smoking rubble. He looks down at his feet as he does.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

What are you looking for?

He ignores her.

She looks around uncomfortably.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

There could still be more of them out here. We should keep moving, right?

John pauses.

He leans down and tosses some small pieces of debris aside.

He stands up with something small in his hand.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

What is it?

John looks down at the picture of his daughter. The edges are stained black but the image is mostly intact.

He slips it into his backpack.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Will you please say something.

John turns to face her.

JOHN KELLER

What do you think about East?

BROOKE  
East sounds good.

John steps out of the rubble and over to her.

BROOKE (CONT'D)  
John.

JOHN KELLER  
Yeah?

BROOKE  
Thank you. For coming back.

John smiles.

JOHN KELLER  
I've been alone too long already.

Brooke smiles back.

JOHN KELLER (CONT'D)  
Come on.

And with that, the two head East.

FADE OUT.

THE END