

A Brand New Hell

By

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Cast of Characters

- CODY: A guest riding out the apocalypse over some video games. Not the most humble winner.
- DELIAH: Evans girlfriend and weary traveller.
- EVAN / ZOMBIE EVAN: The apartment owner and a terrible gamer.
- BUB: A hungry and uninvited guest.

A nondescript apartment very sparse in decoration. Two men, CODY and EVAN, sit on a couch, wireless gaming controllers in their hands, pop cans at their feet. Their gaze is fixed as they mash their controllers in game play.

CODY

Always looking the wrong way.

The sounds of GUNSHOTS followed by a SHORT CELEBRATORY TUNE.

EVAN

Damn it.

CODY

You have played this game before haven't you?

EVAN

Bite me.

CODY

We can go back and do the tutorial levels if you think it'd help.

EVAN

Bite me.

CODY

I'm just sayin', pull it together. This is gonna get really boring really quickly if I keep beating you this bad.

EVAN

You're only up by three.

CODY

I might as well by playing by myself.

EVAN

Two of which you stole when I went to the washroom.

CODY

To be fair I only killed you one of those times. The other time I let the zombies get ya.

EVAN

Those don't count.

CODY

Stupid zombies. Flesh obsessed.

EVAN

It doesn't count if you win by cheating.

CODY

I'm winning because you have no sense of self preservation. I'm winning because you suck at impending danger.

There is a KNOCK at the door. Neither flinches or looks away from their game.

CODY

You should probably get that.

EVAN

It's Deliah.

CODY

There's no way she got across town that quickly.

EVAN

If you don't go let her in she's gonna be pissed at both of us. More you than me.

CODY

I'm telling you, it's not Deliah.

Another LOUD KNOCK.

DELIAH

(off stage)

Guys, let me in!

The game continues.

EVAN

Told you it was her. Go on. I'll wait.

CODY

Afraid I can't do that. Your apartment.

EVAN

What does that have to do with anything?

CODY

I'd feel awkward answering your door.

EVAN

You only moved out two weeks ago!

CODY shrugs.

CODY

What can you do?

A LOUDER KNOCK and a frantic DELIAH.

DELIAH

(off stage)

Open the door! Please hurry!

EVAN

Really?

CODY sighs and looks like he's about to get up from the couch. Instead he's just shifting to get more comfortable.

CODY

It's her own damn fault. Why the hell'd she give her key back anyway?

EVAN

Fine.

EVAN pushes a button on his controller. A LITTLE CHIME for the game pausing. He gets up, tosses the controller on the couch where he was sitting and crosses the room.

EVAN unlocks and opens the door. DELIAH busts through. Her clothes are blood stained and a little ragged.

DELIAH

What the hell took you so long?

EVAN

Cody made every excuse not to get up and answer the--

He's cut off by the LITTLE CHIME sounding as CODY takes the game off of pause. EVAN turns back toward CODY, one hand on the edge of the wide open door.

EVAN

What the hell are you doing?

A couple GUN SHOTS and a CELEBRATORY TUNE.

CODY

Make that up by four.

EVAN

Seriously? What's the point of playing if all you're going to do is cheat?

CODY

They're wireless controllers. You could have taken it with you. Judges?

CODY holds his arms upright like a football referee signalling a touchdown.

CODY

Ref says it's good!

BUB peeks his head inside the door. All eyes are away from him. He seems a bit awkward and confused.

EVAN

Bite me, you pathetic cheataaaaAUGH!

EVAN's words turn to screams as BUB takes a nice big bite out of EVAN'S forearm. Blood spurts up from the wound. DELIAH screams and recoils in horror.

CODY

That can't be good.

BUB smacks his lips while chewing. Blood running down his chin. EVAN is frantically trying to pull his arm away. BUB has him in a tight grip.

EVAN

Get him off! Get him offa me!

CODY launches off the couch, controller still in hand, and grabs BUB by the wrist. He pulls him in, around, and slingshots him back out the door.

CODY

And out you go.

CODY slams the door behind him and locks it.

CODY

Stupid zombies. See what I mean? This is exactly what I was talking about. Flesh obsessed.

EVAN

I can't believe he bit me.

CODY

I told you, didn't I? No sense of impending danger.
Always looking the wrong direction.

CODY walks back over toward the couch stopping long enough to kiss DELIAH on the cheek.

CODY

Hey babe.

He crashes down on the couch.

DELIAH

Evan are you okay?

EVAN

I don't-- I don't think so.

CODY

He's fine. Get back over here you giant baby.

DELIAH gets to EVAN just in time to catch him as he stumbles to the side.

DELIAH

I don't think he's fine, Cody.

EVAN

I should lie down.

DELIAH

It's okay. I've got you.

DELIAH begins walking EVAN across the room.

CODY

Yeah, nice excuse. I'm sure you'd be feeling just peachy if you weren't losing so bad.

CODY scoops up EVAN'S controller and stands in their path.

EVAN

Cody, my arm is bleeding pretty badly.

CODY

Sorry, I'm not buying it.

He pushes the controller in to EVAN'S good hand.

DELIAH

What the hell is wrong with you?

She pushes EVAN off to the side. He collapses down on the couch.

CODY

Look at him! It's convenience. He's hamming it up because he's embarrassed by how badly he's losing.

DELIAH

Yeah. How badly he's losing blood maybe.

CODY grabs EVAN'S bloody arm and holds it up on display. EVAN winces.

CODY

Look at this. It's barely a flesh wound.

DELIAH pulls EVAN'S arm out of CODY'S hand. EVAN winces again. She points at it.

DELIAH

Look at the amount of blood coming out of this. It needs to be taken care of now.

CODY

Will it make you happy if I fix his boo boo?

Deliah nods emphatically.

CODY

Fine.

CODY storms off stage. DELIAH sits down beside EVAN.

DELIAH

You're gonna be alright. We'll take care of you.

There is some LOUD RUMMAGING off stage.

DELIAH

What are you doing?

CODY

(off stage)
Solving a problem.

EVAN glances at his forearm and groans.

DELIAH

Don't worry about it. Let us take care of it.

CODY returns with a roll of toilet paper in one hand and a roll of duct tape in the other.

DELIAH

You have gotta be kidding me.

CODY

Move woman.

He runs her off the couch and begins wrapping EVAN'S arm with the toilet paper. He tosses the roll over his shoulder and tears off a strip of duct tape. DELIAH stands off to the side, arms crossed, looking angry.

DELIAH

Did you get that out of the bathroom?

CODY

Yup.

DELIAH

There's gotta be something better you can wrap his arm with.

EVAN

(weakly)

I don't think a roll of absorbent paper that sits beside a flushing toilet is the most hygienic option.

He wraps the strip of duct tape around the toilet paper.

CODY

I think if you ran out of excuses your head would explode. See? Good as new.

CODY hands EVAN his controller.

CODY

At least try and redeem yourself.

A CHIME as they resume game play. EVAN'S head bobs and lolls to the side as he attempts to maintain focus.

Some GUNSHOTS and a CELEBRATORY TUNE.

CODY

Oh! And the punishment continues.

EVAN responds with some unintelligible mumbling.

CODY

Come on. Pretend like you've done this before.

DELIAH shifts and sighs loudly. CODY responds without looking away from his game.

CODY

What's up babe?

DELIAH shifts again and clears her throat. Again, CODY responds without looking away.

CODY

Have a seat. Get comfortable.

DELIAH lets out an exasperated sigh and walks off stage. CODY takes only the briefest of glances at her as she goes.

CODY

If you're going to the kitchen can you grab me another drink?

EVAN is flagging, nearly falling over in his seat. Some more GUNSHOTS and a CELEBRATORY TUNE.

CODY

Too easy. Dee? A drink please?

DELIAH storms back on stage, can of pop in hand.

DELIAH

Here's your pop, dear!

DELIAH hurls the can. CODY dodges it. It connects with EVAN (preferably in the head). EVAN groans and slumps to the floor. A LITTLE CHIME as he manages to pause the game. He holds his controller up in the air.

CODY

What the hell was that about? That could have seriously hurt me.

CODY scoops up EVAN'S controller and sets it down on the couch. EVAN slowly starts to crawl away.

DELIAH

I'm sorry. You're right. Pop cans are dangerous. A zombie ripping a chunk out of your arm, on the other hand, can be easily remedied with toilet paper and duct tape.

CODY stands as the argument gets more heated. EVAN disappears behind the couch.

CODY

You've been stuck on crazy mode since the minute you walked through that door. What the hell is wrong with you?

DELIAH

This! This whole thing is what's wrong with me!

CODY

Care to be a little more vague?

DELIAH

Is this your grand survival plan? Play videos games and hope it all goes away?

CODY

We have to ride it out one way or another. Might as well have a little fun.

DELIAH

And you somehow thought this would be fun for me? Watching the two of you play video games, zombie video games no less, while there are actual real zombies on the other side of that door?

CODY

That door is a marvel of modern technology and as such comes equipped with a dead bolt lock. I'm fairly confident that we'll be fine.

DELIAH

Until when? Huh? 'Til the power goes out?

CODY

Backup generator in the basement.

DELIAH

Oh, fantastic. I'm sorry I doubted you. You have clearly thought of everything.

CODY

Thank you.

DELIAH

Just out of curiosity, say hypothetically it ran out of gas. Then what?

CODY

Hmm.

DELIAH

Yeah. And when the water stops? Or when we run out of food?

CODY

I'm not entirely sure I thought that far ahead.

DELIAH

I can't believe I actually fell for this. I walked, no, no, no, I fought my way through a city full of zombies to get here because I actually thought that somewhere in that jumbled little mess of a brain you might actually have something that resembled a plan. Instead you've decided the end of the world is just a good excuse to play video games. Viva the long weekend.

CODY

I think you're being a little harsh, Deliah.

DELIAH

I don't even know if my family is still alive and you're busy playing video games. The game is paused and yet for some inexplicable reason the controller is still in your hand. At this point I'm not even sure if you're capable of putting it down.

CODY

I can put it down anytime I want.

DELIAH

Like when?

CODY

Like if something important were to happen.

ZOMBIE EVAN starts to crawl out from behind the couch. He's looking significantly paler. Blood trickles out of his mouth. He stands and lumbers out toward the door disoriented.

DELIAH

Then now might be a pretty good time. This is it Cody. We're through.

CODY

You're dumping me? C'mon Dee, you can't be serious.

DELIAH

For all I know you and Evan are the last two men left alive on earth and I'm walking out that door right now!

DELIAH turns to head to toward the door. DELIAH and ZOMBIE EVAN turn to face each other simultaneously. He's all teeth and blood. DELIAH screams and jumps away from him.

CODY

That's not gonna end well.

CODY steps up and grabs DELIAH by the arm and pulls her out of ZOMBIE EVAN's reach as he tries to swoop in. DELIAH and CODY start walking around the couch while ZOMBIE EVAN follows them around.

DELIAH

Now would be a good time to do something.

CODY

Like what?

DELIAH

Hit him in the head with something heavy or sharp or sharp and heavy. Take your pick.

CODY

I can't. I can't do that.

DELIAH

Why not?

CODY

He's my best friend, Dee. He's been my best friend since we were kids. We lived in this apartment together for three years.

DELIAH

Honey, I appreciate your loyalty but I think that train of logic no longer applies when your best friend is keen on eating your girlfriend.

CODY

You sayin' you're still my girlfriend?

DELIAH

Not the right time!

CODY

What if we locked him in another room?

DELIAH

Neither of the bedrooms has locks and they both open in.

CODY

Bathroom.

DELIAH

How are we gonna lock it once he's in there and keep it locked?

CODY

Good point. We could go in the bathroom and lock him out.

DELIAH

I'm not spending the rest of my life locked in a five by eight bathroom with you.

CODY

Dumb idea. But if I can get behind him I could probably push him where ever we want. We can open the door just long enough to get him out then we can close it and lock it behind him.

DELIAH

That's a terrible idea.

CODY

He's outside, we're safe inside, and I don't have to crack open my best friends head with a ball-peen hammer. I don't see the problem.

DELIAH

I don't know.

CODY

I'm open to suggestions. I think we've got until he figures out how to climb over the couch for you to come up with something better. Otherwise you might want to be ready at the door.

DELIAH

We could-- No, that won't work. Well maybe-- Damn it. Fine. Be quick about it.

DELIAH crosses over to the door. ZOMBIE EVAN continues to follow CODY around the couch. DELIAH stands in front of the door, one hand on the lock and the other on the door knob.

DELIAH

Ready.

CODY sprints around the couch to get behind ZOMBIE EVAN. Controller still in hand he presses his hands against ZOMBIE EVANS back and starts to push/steer him toward the door.

CODY

Now!

DELIAH rips the door open. BUB stumbles back in again. DELIAH screams.

CODY

You were right!

CODY zips around ZOMBIE EVAN toward BUB. Two hands on his chest he pushes BUB back out the door. DELIAH slams and locks the door.

CODY

Very bad idea!

DELIAH and CODY turn to ZOMBIE EVAN who is closing in on them. Arms raised he swoops in. They duck and run under his arms, one on each side, and retreat to the opposite side of the room. ZOMBIE EVAN looks confused by the empty door he is greeted with.

CODY

I don't really have any more ideas.

DELIAH

Me either.

CODY

We can stay here until we're too exhausted to keep going.

DELIAH

We can make a run for it and hope we find somewhere safe out there.

CODY

Or we can go hide in the bathroom until we die of starvation.

DELIAH

I don't really like any of those ideas.

CODY

So what, we just let it happen?

ZOMBIE EVAN has figured it out and starts across the room toward them again.

DELIAH

I don't know.

DELIAH pulls in tight to CODY. Grabbing him in a tight embrace.

CODY

I'm sorry.

DELIAH

It's okay. I love you.

CODY

I know.

She pulls back from the hug.

DELIAH

I don't want you to blame yourself for this. I'm here. We're together. No matter what happens that's all that matters. The argument, all that other stuff, it's done. I'm not mad about it any-- Why are you still holding on to that controller?

CODY puts his hand out, controller still in his grasp. She yanks the controller out of his hand. A LITTLE CHIME as she accidentally resumes the game in the process. ZOMBIE EVAN stops dead in his tracks and looks over to the game.

DELIAH

I can't believe this. Right up to the end.

CODY

Dee?

ZOMBIE EVAN reaches down on the couch for his controller and sits down.

DELIAH

We're about to be eaten by your best friend and you still have this damn controller in your hand. Is there some kind of defect in your brain that you--

ZOMBIE EVAN looks over to CODY and groans.

CODY

Deliah?

DELIAH

What?

CODY nods over to ZOMBIE EVAN on the couch ready to play.

DELIAH

Oh my god. What do we do?

CODY

We very carefully and very slowly go sit down.

They head back toward the couch. ZOMBIE EVAN eyes them each step. DELIAH stands behind at a distance. CODY sits as far away on the edge of the couch as he can.

CODY

Hey buddy. What's shakin'?

ZOMBIE EVAN turns his attention back to the game and starts clumsily playing.

CODY

Alright, let's do it.

CODY joins him in the game taking periodic cautious glances over at ZOMBIE EVAN.

GUN SHOTS and CELEBRATORY MUSIC.

CODY

Still pretty thin on those self preservation instincts, huh?

ZOMBIE EVAN snarls and snaps at CODY. DELIAH jumps back and squeaks out an awkward, high pitched sound. CODY falls off the couch reeling back. ZOMBIE EVAN goes back to the game.

CODY

No more trash talk. Got it.

DELIAH and CODY talk through clenched teeth trying to be inconspicuous.

DELIAH

What do we do now?

CODY

I don't know, but we've got about ten more hours of battery life left on his controller. I suggest you start thinking very, very hard.

ZOMBIE EVAN stops for a second to reach down for a can of pop at his feet. He holds it up to his face.

Bone dry.

He shakes the upside down can confused. With another snarl he tosses it down to the ground.

CODY

Dee, another pop for Evan please?

*DELIAH is quickly off stage and back with a can.
She opens it and cautiously sets it at his feet.*

GUNSHOTS and a CELEBRATORY TUNE.

CODY

Good shot, buddy. Good shot.

THE END.