

Down On The Farm

By

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script frenzy 2009

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INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY

JARED lays in bed sleeping. The room is very sparsely decorated sporting only necessities.

The muffled sound of a HELICOPTER starting elsewhere. Jared bolts from sleep and is immediately on his feet, awake. Instinctively he grabs a katana resting against the wall beside the bed.

He blinks hard as he walks to the closed door to his room. He pulls across two separate locks and looks out in to the hallway.

It's clear.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY

An apartment door opens flooding light in to the darkened hallway. Jared steps out. The beam of a flashlight shines in his face.

AUGUSTUS

What the hell are they doing up there?

AUGUSTUS swings the light around toward the stairs at the end of the hallway. They walk together toward it.

JARED

I was just about to ask you the same thing.

AUGUSTUS

Nothing planned for today.

JARED

Fantastic.

AUGUSTUS

It's probably nothing.

JARED

Maybe.

They approach the stairs.

JARED

You round up some people and meet me on the roof. Rainy's on the north staircase. Make sure you get him too.

AUGUSTUS

Sure.

JARED

It might not be anything but I'd rather be sure.

Augustus opens the metal door to stairs. They disappear behind it as it swings shut.

EXT. APARTMENT ROOFTOP

The rooftop of the building is connected to two others by makeshift bridges. A helicopter is running with FLYBOY in the pilots seat. A couple bags have been loaded in to the back.

RAINY, a massive bike covered in tattoos, retrieves another bag resting on the roof by the entrance to the stairs. He walking back toward the chopper when the stairs open and Jared steps out.

JARED

What the fuck?

Rainy turns back toward Jared. He walks backward toward the chopper as they talk.

RAINY

Hey brother, what's happenin'?

JARED

What the fuck?

RAINY

Me and Flyboy are headin' out for a bit.

JARED

Nothing was scheduled. We're running low on supplies, including gas.

RAINY

That's why we're headin' out. Know where there's a pump and got some good ideas for supplies too.

JARED

Then you should be bringing this shit up. And who's watching the north stair case?

RAINY
North stairs are fine. We're goin'.

Jared steps forward. Free hand to the hilt of his sword.

JARED
What's going on Rainy? Who's
watching the north stairs?

The sawed-off comes off Rainy's hip in his hand.

RAINY
I said the stairs are fine. You
wanna come at me with that pig
sticker?

JARED
What are you doing?

RAINY
I'm not sticking around here so we
can slowly starve to death hopin'
winter fixed everything. I ain't
leaving you all to starve to death
either.

JARED
What the fuck did you do, Rainy?

RAINY
Sorry brother. Chopper can't take
us all.

JARED
Just gotta be faster than the other
guy?

Rainy steps on to the helicopter.

RAINY
Something like that.
(to Flyboy)
Let's go.

The helicopter lifts off.

JARED
Shit.

The door to the stairs flies open and Augustus charges out.
He nearly knocks Jared over in the process as they collide.

AUGUSTUS

Fuck. We need to go. Now.

Augustus starts over one of the bridges.

JARED

What happened?

AUGUSTUS

It's all fucked. The buildings done, man. We have to go.

JARED

Where are the others?

Augustus storms back across the bridge and grabs Jared.

AUGUSTUS

They're fucking gone. Let's go.

As they're walking across one of the make shift bridges the door opens on the roof of the building they're headed to. Zombies begin spilling out.

AUGUSTUS

Fuck.

They turn around and head back to the building they were on.

JARED

Tank the fucking bridge.

The push the bridge clear of the edge of the building. It tumbles down to the ground below.

Across the remaining bridge to the other building zombies begins spilling out on to the rooftop there as well.

JARED

He opened up all the buildings.

They race across the roof and push down the secondary bridge as well.

AUGUSTUS

Who?

JARED

Rainy, that fuck. He said he wasn't going to leave us to starve to death.

AUGUSTUS
He tore down the blockades?

JARED
I think so. Are they coming up?

AUGUSTUS
Didn't get more than a couple
floors down on the north stair
before I saw them.

JARED
Shit.

Jared pulls his free of it's sheath.

AUGUSTUS
We are so fucked.

JARED
We prepared for this. We knew it
was a possibility. Fight or jump?

AUGUSTUS
Shit.

JARED
I'm fighting.

AUGUSTUS
Shit.

JARED
They're bottle necked coming out of
the stairs. We can hold here for
awhile.

AUGUSTUS
I'm not fucking jumping.

JARED
Good to hear.

INT. HELICOPTER

Rainy peers out the window down to the apartment rooftop as
the first few zombies spill out. Jared goes directly for
them hacking with his sword.

RAINY
Good for you. Show 'em hell you
crazy bastards.

The helicopter tilts and flies away as Augustus joins the fray.

EXT. COUNTRY BACK ROAD - DAY

An old, beaten up car rambles down the dirt road kicking up dust in it's wake.

INT. CAR

Jared sits behind the wheel of the car. Despite sweating profusely the windows are wound up tight. He looks exhausted. He's sporting a couple weeks of facial hair.

He glances at the dash.

JARED
We got a problem.

He glances over to the passenger seat. Strapped in, bound, and gagged is Augustus. He looks worse for wear with a blood soaked bandage covering his thigh. He stares vacantly ahead.

JARED
We're running low on gas.

Jared turns back to the road. Silence.

JARED
You can't blame yourself for it. It was the good call getting off the highway. You were right, getting around those cars would have taken forever and wasn't worth the risk. Would be nice to have some vehicles to syphon off of though.

Augustus continues staring straight ahead. He coughs against his gag. A small farm in the distance.

JARED
Of course, that means nothing if we can't find any food. I think you were right though, farm's probably the most likely option.

Jared flicks on the radio and skims through the dial. Nothing but static. He shuts it off.

JARED
I miss the radio.

Silence.

JARED
And the Internet and GPS and
cellphones and fast food and video
games and, shit, fuck it, I miss
everything. What do you miss?

Augustus is consistent, no response. His eyes flutter.

JARED
Yeah, I know.

Augustus breathes out hard against his gag and his eyes
close. He slumps forward in his seat.

JARED
Gus? Augustus?

Jared reaches over and prods Augustus.

JARED
Come on Auggie.

Nothing. Jared wells up. Tears at the edge of his eyes.

JARED
I'm gonna check this place out up
ahead. See if there's anything
useful. I need you to stay with the
car.

EXT. FARM HOUSE

The car has been left near the end of the drive way. Jared
is slowly walking up toward the house. He has his sword,
unsheathed, in hand. He cautiously eyes the tall grass
lining his path on either side. Quiet tears streak his
cheek.

As he steps on to the old wooden porch the boards CREAK
loudly under foot. He cringes and pauses. Silence. He steps
up to the door. It sits a few inches ajar. Other than that
there is no indication anything is out of the ordinary. He
pushes the door open wide. It GROANS under the movement.

JARED
Hello?

A long moment of silence. He calls out again, much louder.

JARED

Hello?

A longer moment. Nothing but silence. He steps in to the house leaving the door open behind him.

INT. FARMHOUSE

Jared steps through the house. The sword tensely resting at his side. He checks every corner and over his shoulder as he works toward the kitchen.

He steps in to the kitchen. A flimsy screen door leads off the side of the house toward the barn. A handwritten note on the otherwise bare fridge held up by a magnet. He pulls the note down.

"Stopped by and no one was home. We've started on a fence. Hope you're okay. If you get this come by. We can help each other.

Dale."

Jared tosses the letter to the ground and opens the fridge. He immediately gags and slams the door closed.

He pulls open cupboard doors. Bowls, plates, glasses, spices, and baking materials. Finally. Food.

He pulls a box of crackers out. He sets his sword down on the counter and pulls a handful of crackers out. Back to the door he begins filling his face.

A BANG at the screen door. Jared jumps, instinctively he grabs his sword.

A ZOMBIE is pulling open the ragged door.

JARED

Come and work for you dinner you
piece of shit.

A CREAK over Jared shoulder. He turns to find two more ZOMBIES coming up the front porch.

JARED

Son of a bitch.

Jared strides forward and kicks the ratty screen door. It nearly tears off of it's creaks hinges and sends the zombie tumbling down to the ground.

EXT. FARMHOUSE

Jared is quick for the kill. He pulls a large, long flat head screw driver out of pocket and jams it in to the zombies head. It falls limp.

He pulls the screwdriver out of its head. He stands facing the house, sword in one hand and screwdriver in the other.

JARED

Come on then. Let's get this over with. I'm hungry.

He watches the house intently. One of the zombies stumbles out the side door. Without hesitation Jared steps forward and lops it's head off. Head and body hit the ground. The head continues to follow him with it's eyes.

Jared pulls out his screwdriver. As he moves to finish off the head a movement catches his eye. He turns to look toward the barn. A half dozen more ZOMBIES are coming out of the wood work.

JARED

Shit.

He steps back from the head on the ground as the remaining zombie stumbles out of the house. Jared turns on his heel and walks away, headed back for the car.

JARED

Fuck!

At a quick walk the distance between him and his pursuers grows rapidly.

INT. CAR

The driver side door is ripped open. Jared sets his katana down beside the drivers seat.

JARED

That place is fucked.

He gets in.

JARED

More trouble that it's--

Augustus, now a proud member of the undead, lunges against his restraints toward Jared. His GROAN muffled beneath the gag. Jared nearly falls out of the car reeling back from him. Augustus has virtually no room to move.

JARED

Fuck!

Jared composes himself, slams his door shut, and starts the car. He puts the car in reverse and backs out of the drive way.

JARED

More trouble that it's worth. That shit was a lot easier when you were there to back me up.

Augustus continues struggling against his restraints.

JARED

Found a letter inside. Might be a neighbour in better shape. It's worth a look anyway. I'm not holding my breath.

A loud, mournful GROAN against the gag.

JARED

If you're gonna stay with me you're gonna have to ease up on that shit.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

DALE (40s) stands at the kitchen counter putting together a basic salad. His boys, RAY (14) and IAN (9), are sitting at the table. A hunting rifle rests against the door. A wood stove, not currently in use, in the corner.

RAY

Here's come another one, dad.

Ian turns to look out the window. Dale steps away from the counter and glances out the door. In the distance a figure approaches the fence at the edge of the road.

Ray starts up out of his seat.

RAY

I'll take care of it.

Ray reaches for the rifle. Dale jams the salad bowl in to his hands.

DALE

You and your brother eat.

Dale snags up the rifle and leaves the house.

EXT. FARM

Dale walks down the property toward the approaching figure. He stops away from the fence and raises the weapon. The figure throws it's hands up.

JARED
Don't shoot.

Dale looks up from the sight on the rifle.

DALE
Come again?

JARED
Don't shoot. I'm not one of them.

Dale drops the rifle with a chuckle and a smile.

DALE
Well doesn't that beat all.

Dale double times it down a gate. Jared meets him there.

JARED
Thank you for not shooting, sir.

DALE
You just out for a stroll, son?

JARED
I, uh, ran outta gas a few miles back. Found your note back at your neighbours. Didn't really have much else in the way of options.

DALE
Note was still there?

JARED
Yes, sir.

DALE
And? Did you see anyone?

JARED
No one still living.

DALE
Damn. You look like hell. Let's see if we can't do something about that.

Dale unlocks and opens the gate. Jared steps in. Dale closes and locks the gate behind him. Dale walks toward the house. Dale is close in step with him.

JARED

Right now I'd just be happy to find a safe place to sleep for a couple of hours.

DALE

I think I can help you out with that. You got a name, son?

JARED

Jared.

DALE

Welcome, Jared. My name's Dale. Me and my boys were just about to sit down to eat too. You're welcome to join us if you'd like.

Jared's eyes light up.

JARED

I would. Yes, please. I would like to very much.

DALE

Good. I'm curious about something and be honest with me.

JARED

Yes. Of course.

DALE

You ain't one of those people cutting holes in my fence at night to steal food are you?

JARED

No.

DALE

It'd be okay if you were. In fact, I'd rather you in here sharing my food with me then ripping holes in my fence.

JARED

I swear. We just got down to this area today. We were living north a couple weeks ago. Been slowly working our way down.

DALE
Fair enough.

INT. HOUSE

The door opens and Jared steps in with Dale right behind him. He stops and looks down at the boys eating their salad.

DALE
If you don't mind, you can set your
sword down here.

Dale motions beside the door as he sets his rifle down in the same place. Jared hesitantly follows suit.

JARED
Sure.

DALE
These are my boys, Ian and Ray.
Please, sit.

Dale retrieves an additional bowl and sets it down in front of Jared. Dale serves him some salad.

JARED
Thank you for this.

DALE
You're welcome. Dig in.

And dig in he does. He's stuffing food in to his face.

DALE
Take it you haven't had fresh
vegetables in a while.

He shakes his head and talks out of a full mouth.

JARED
No.

DALE
You enjoy. Take as much as you
want.

JARED
Thank you.

DALE
Said you were from up north?

Jared swallows hard and tries to compose himself.

JARED

We were living on rooftop, the top few floors of buildings. Stuff we'd managed to reclaim. Ran out of food. Ran out of supplies. Things didn't quite go how we'd planned.

DALE

There a lot of you up there.

JARED

18. Things went to shit an--

DALE

If you wouldn't mind, Jared, watch the language around the boys?

JARED

Yes. Of course. Uh, things fell apart and some people died. Mostly luck that I got out.

IAN

You smell.

DALE

Ian.

RAY

He's right, dad.

DALE

Don't start, Ray.

RAY

He smells worse than the zombies do.

DALE

Raymond James!

Ray slams his fork down on the table and pushes away. He heads for the door. Dale grabs his arm on the way by.

RAY

Let me go.

DALE

You apologize right now.

RAY

No.

Ray pulls himself free and storms out the door.

DALE

Raymond! Get back here!

JARED

It's, it's fine, Dale. Your boys are right. I've been living in a car for a couple weeks now with the windows rolled up. It's probably worse than he says.

IAN

I'll go get him.

DALE

You finish eating and leave your brother alone. He needs some time to himself so let him have it.

IAN

Fine.

DALE

As for you. You got enough in your belly for a shower and a change a clothes?

JARED

A shower?

DALE

Run off well water here. It's cold but if you--

JARED

Yes, of course. Yes.

Dale pushes back from the table.

DALE

Let's get you taken care of. Got a spare razor if you want to get some off that hair off your face.

Jared pushes back from the smile with a huge, nearly crazed grin. He grabs his sword as he follows Dale out of the kitchen.

JARED

Yes, sir.

EXT. PORCH

Dale sits on a wooden porch swing on the front porch. An old steel string acoustic guitar in his hands, he plucks out a simple tune. Out in front of the house Ian sits in the sun reading a book.

Jared, sporting some of Dale's clothes and freshly showered and shaven, steps out on to the porch. Sword in one hand and a huge smile plastered over his face.

DALE

How you feel?

JARED

Like I'm never gonna stop smiling.
Ray come back yet?

DALE

Not yet. Probably went to go hide in the riding shed. That seems to be where he goes these days. Can't say I blame him. Kinda hard to find privacy when you're fenced in on all sides.

JARED

He's supposed to be playing sports and chasing girls not hiding from the end of the world.

Dale nods to the sword.

DALE

You gonna carry that thing with you everywhere?

The smile drops. His face twitches.

JARED

It's hard, Dale. I'm trying to relax, I really am but it's too strange to let my guard down. It's too weird.

DALE

I understand. Have a seat.

Jared sits down beside Dale on the swing.

DALE

You said something earlier when we were walking up to the house. A

DALE
couple times you said "we". You
down here with someone else?

JARED
Yeah. My brother.

DALE
And where's he?

JARED
We didn't know which way to go so
we split up. He's, he's fine. Not
much to worry about out here
anyway.

DALE
I got a truck. Should be enough gas
to go get him.

JARED
Thanks, but it'll be okay. We said
we'd meet up in two days no matter
what. No point in going out
searching for him when we'd be
better off waiting.

DALE
Suit yourself. You're welcome to
stay as long as you need.

JARED
I don't want to take up too much of
your time or resources, Dale.
You've been incredibly kind
already. I just need to figure out
the next step before I meet up with
my brother.

DALE
You do what you need to. Offers
open for you and you're brother.

JARED
Thank you.

Dale plays over the silence. Jared's eyes slowly close. His
head slumps forward and he jerks away. Dale set the guitar
aside.

DALE
I need to walk the fence. Make sure
it's still good. You're welcome to

DALE
come but I get the feeling you need
to rest for a little bit.

Jared nods in agreement.

DALE
Let me show you where you can
sleep.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Jared lays sleeping in a small bed with a pink blanket and pillow covers. The room is definitely a girls. The dresser has been pushed up against the door, the bed in front of the dresser.

A nearby GUN SHOT shatters the silence.

Jared jumps out of bed. He's on his feet disoriented. He searches the room with his eyes, panicked. His eyes find their target. He snatches his sword from atop the dresser and quickly moves to the window.

Outside Dale is walking back toward the house from the fence. He has the rifle down at his side. An obscured body lays in the tall grass on the opposite side of the fence.

JARED
Shit.

Jared pulls the bed away from the door.

INT. KITCHEN

Ian and Ray are at the table eating bowls of soup. Dale enters and set the gun down as Jared comes down the stairs.

DALE
Good morning.

Ray looks away with a scowl and down in to his bowl.

JARED
What happened?

DALE
Nothing to worry about. Just one
the neighbours,
(he chokes on the words)
one of them things got a little too
close to the fence is all.

JARED

Probably followed me. I saw it back in the city. Once they find someone they follow 'em unless something else distracts them.

DALE

How you feelin'?

JARED

Not great but better. Better than I have in a long time. Rested.

DALE

You slept for an entire day.

JARED

What?

Dale grabs a bowl and fills it from a pot of soup on the wood stove.

DALE

You must be starving. Bet it's been awhile since you've had hot food.

Dale hands the bowl off to Jared. Eyes fixed on the bowl Jared sits at the table. Ray immediately dumps his spoon in his bowl and pushes it back. Jared is oblivious to the action and starts eating.

Dale sits at the table without anything to eat. He watches Jared and he gorges.

DALE

You saw those things follow people?

Jared's response is punctuated by slurping spoonfuls of soup.

JARED

Mmhmm. There was a helicopter pilot in our group. Flew in from a couple cities over. Had a partner that got bit. Had to leave him behind.

RAY

Are you gonna let him eat like that?

Jared stops eating.

DALE

Enough.

RAY

If I was eating like that you'd--

DALE

I said enough.

RAY

Fine.

Ray pushes back from the table and leaves. A repeat performance out the door.

DALE

Don't mind him. Go on.

Jared puts his spoon down and sits back.

JARED

He, uh, Flyboy, didn't tell us anything about where he was before. I think he felt a little guilty about leaving his partner behind. We were about to start cleaning out a new building, that's what we did, start at the top and clean it out best we could, and his partner was right there. It walked at least a hundred miles.

Dale nods.

DALE

I see. You eat up. You want anymore you just help yourself. When you're ready I'd like you to take a walk with me along the fence.

Jared pushes back from the table.

JARED

Sure.

DALE

Not yet. You eat up. Get some of your strength back.

Jared grabs his spoon and digs in again.

EXT. FARM

Jared and Dale walk along the fence. They carry their sword and rifle respectively. Ian trails behind them.

JARED

I'm sorry I keep chasing off Ray.

DALE

That's not your fault.

JARED

You learn to forget about how hungry you are out there. You forget a lot of things.

DALE

He's mad that you slept in his sisters bed. Mad that you came from the outside world. Mad at everything really.

JARED

You okay with him just disappearing like that? Going off alone?

DALE

I know where he is. We're a lot safer out here than out there. You know my biggest worries with these boys right now isn't what's on the other side of the fence. It's what isn't there.

JARED

I don't follow.

DALE

A broken bone, a puncture wound, a bad infection. There's no hospitals, no doctors. Yeah, maybe there's some antibiotics out there but I don't know what to give them. I don't know how to set a bone or clean a wound. The smallest thing and I could lose them. Or they could lose me.

JARED

That's a scary place to be.

DALE

It keeps me up at night, Jared. I ain't gonna lie. Every day feels like my wife just died. I don't know what to do next.

Jared simply nods in agreement.

DALE

I'm sorry, Jared. Saddlin' all this on you.

JARED

It's okay.

DALE

I haven't had an adult to talk to in months. It's all just spillin' out.

JARED

I get it. I don't mind.

DALE

Nah, you got other things to worry about, I'm sure.

JARED

After the kindness you've shown me, Dale, it's the least I can do.

DALE

Anyway, back to Raymond. His sister ran away from home right before this all happened. Put up the fences and he started getting these nightmares. Screaming in the night kinda terror. Woke up one more to find him gone. Hopped the fence. I searched for him for three days and then he just comes down from his room. I didn't ask him where he was and he didn't offer. From then on, whenever we disagree, he runs off to that shed but each night he sleeps just fine. If he needs some privacy to be okay staying here I'm happy to give it to him. At least I know he's safe.

Jared motions toward a section of fence up ahead. The fence has been cut and pulled aside enough for a person to squeeze through.

JARED

Shit. There's a hole.

DALE

Relax. It's alright. There's not many of them around here. We've had a couple holes and only one ever got through.

JARED

If you're neighbour followed me here there were others.

DALE

I know. Ian and I are going to head to the barn. I have supplies there to fix the fence. Can you please go check on Ray for me?

JARED

Sure.

DALE

Thank you.

Jared and Dale head in opposite directions.

EXT. RIDING SHED

Jared steps up to the riding shed and reaches for the door. Across the property Ray screams at him.

RAY

No!

Jared pulls away from the door and watches as Ray sprints to cover the distance.

RAY

Get away from there! You're not allowed.

JARED

It's alright. I came to get you.

Ray slows down just enough to prevent from colliding with Jared. He gives Jared a good solid push away from the shed. He steps in between Jared and the door.

RAY

That's mine. No one goes in there.

JARED
It's okay.

RAY
No. You don't get to sleep in my
sister's bed and tell me it's okay.

Ray pushes Jared again.

JARED
There's a hole in the fence.

Ray stares down Jared.

RAY
A hole?

JARED
Your dad sent me to make sure
you're okay.

Ray turns and walks away from Jared headed toward the barn.

EXT. BARN

Ian stand twenty feet back from the barn. Dale stands just outside banging against the wooden wall. WHOOPING and making as much noise as he can.

Ray approaches with Jared following close behind him. Dale nods at Jared.

DALE
Thanks, Jared.

Dale hands the rifle off to Ray.

DALE
Keep an eye out.
(to Jared)
Sure you've done this before.
They're pretty stupid. Just give
them something to lock on to and
they come right toward it.

Dale stops banging and they stare in to the darkened barn. No noise. No movement.

DALE
I think we're clear. You mind
watching my back.

JARED

Sure.

Ray brings the gun up to his should and begins doing sweeps of the property looking down the sight.

Dale steps in. Jared follows in close behind him. They don't go far. Dale starts pulling supplies off a shelf.

DALE

When we first put up the fence I put barbed wire on top. I had some from when I had more livestock. Didn't know whether those things could climb. Once the scavengers started cutting through to steal food I took it down. Thought it'd be better to have them climbing the fence than cutting through it.

Ray continues his sweep past the grounds and in to the barn. Jared is brought square in to his line of sight.

DALE

Didn't matter. They still kept cuttin' holes in the damn thing. Easy enough to fix though.

Jared glances back over his shoulder. Dale turns away from the shelving. Both notice Ray's aim.

DALE

Ray?

Jared quickly side steps and sprint the four paces to cover the distance between him and Ray. Sword still in scabbard, Jared brings it down hard on the rifle. The rifle drops to the ground.

RAY

Ow!

JARED

Watch where you point that thing.

Ray stares daggers at Hared. Tears well up in his eyes.

DALE

What the hell were you doing, Raymond?

RAY
I didn't-- I--

Dale rages at the boy.

DALE
What were you thinking?

RAY
The safety was on.

DALE
That's no excuse and you know it.

Ray hangs his head and the tears start flowing.

DALE
Go. Right now. Go to your room.

Ray turns and walks slowly back toward the house.

JARED
I'm sorry, Dale. That was a reflex.

DALE
It's alright.

JARED
That's not the first time I've had
a gun pointed at me.

DALE
Don't worry about it. You didn't
the right thing.

JARED
Alright.

DALE
Let's go patch that hole.

JARED
Yeah.

EXT. PORCH - DUSK

Dale and Jared sit on the porch swing. Ian plays quietly by himself in front of the house. Ray is nowhere to be found.

DALE
Big day tomorrow.

JARED

Yeah?

DALE

You're going to meet up with your brother, aren't ya?

JARED

Oh, yeah. That's tomorrow? Sleeping for a whole day screwed up my time.

DALE

I know. I'll drive you out in the truck.

JARED

Thanks, but no. My brother's very cautious of strangers. I made it here just fine I'll be okay going back.

DALE

Suit yourself.

They watch the horizon in silence for a moment.

JARED

I'm worried about Ray.

DALE

Me too.

JARED

He's really protective about that shed.

DALE

The shed's just a part of it. It's his family. He doesn't know you, Jared. Doesn't know if he can trust you. He's lost his mother and his sister. I mention they were twins?

Jared shakes his head 'no.'

DALE

Yeah. Fraternal. They were close. You just need to give him some time. He'll come around.

JARED

Sure.

DALE

There's something else I'm more worried about. That story you told me about your helicopter pilot friend.

JARED

What about him?

DALE

I used to work in a metal shop when I was younger. We did a lot of custom parts. The shop would have all these shavings and splinters and flakes of metal all over the place. End of the day it was pointless running a broom through it. Missed more than it got. Instead we had this big magnet on the end of a pole. We'd run it over the floor and you'd see all these tiny pieces of metal skitter towards it.

JARED

I'm the magnet.

DALE

You and your brother escaped from a city full of zombies. If those zombies got you in their nose, well, I'm not sure these fences can hold up to that. If what you said is true then it's really just a matter of time before they come for you.

JARED

Shit.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jared's surrogate room is lit only by the moonlight pouring in through the window. The dresser and the bed have been pushed against the door again.

Jared stands in the window looking out over the property. It's bathed in moonlight, easy to see. He stands there with his sheathed sword in hand.

As Jared watches a figure comes around the house and steps in to the open space heading toward the riding shed. It's clearly Ray. Half way toward the shed Ray looks back toward the house. He looks right at Jared.

He turns fully and stares up at Jared for a moment. Jared steps in closer to the window to be fully illuminated by the moon. Jared turns and continues to the shed.

As Ray disappears in to the shed Jared turns away from window and lays down in bed.

EXT. PORCH - MORNING

Jared sits on the porch swing as the early morning sun pulls up over the horizon. His sword resting across his lap. The porch door groans as it opens and Dale steps out. He's still waking up, his stretches and grunts exaggerated.

JARED

G'morning.

DALE

Morning to you to. I've been getting up this early for over 20 years. What's your excuse?

JARED

Not much to do at night but sleep. Excited to go see my brother. You choose.

DALE

Fair enough. You sleep alright?

JARED

As good as can be expected after sleeping for entire day. Still wake up at the slightest noise.

DALE

That would be a hard one to change.

JARED

I wouldn't want to. I like to know what's going around me. I'd bet there's a lot more going on here at night then you know.

DALE

Like how?

JARED

Well--

RAY

'Scuse me.

Ray pushes out past Dale and steps in, listening to the conversation.

JARED

Nothin' in particular. Just a lot of land. I imagine if you spend a night watching out your window you might see all kinds of stuff.

DALE

I did when this whole mess started. I saw nothin'. After three nights of that I decided it was better to take care of my boys and my farm during the day to then sit up at night worrying about them.

Jared nods.

JARED

I should start walking.

DALE

Non-sense. I'll drive you up there.

JARED

Thank you but no. Augustus doesn't really trust people anymore. It's better he comes to you and not the other way around.

DALE

You sure?

JARED

It's an easy walk. I'm not in any danger out here. I'll be fine.

Dale claps his hand on to Jared's shoulder.

DALE

Alright. Well, let's at least get some food in you before you go.

He steers Jared in toward the door. Jared lets him.

INT. KITCHEN

They sit around eating quietly. Jared stares out the window as he eats. Ray periodically glares up at Jared.

EXT. FARM - LATER

Jared and Dale walk toward the gate in the fence. Dale has his rifle and Jared his sword.

DALE

You sure I can't talk you outta walking?

JARED

Yeah. You should be here for your boys not driving me around and I don't think you're about to hand over your truck to me to go it alone.

DALE

Probably not.

JARED

Understandably.

Dale unlocks the gate and opens it. Jared steps out. Dale stands on the opposite side of the gate and reaches in to his waistband. He pulls out a revolver.

DALE

Take this with you.

Jared doesn't reach for the weapon.

JARED

I wouldn't even know what to do with that, Dale. Thanks, but no.

The weapon remains held out between them.

DALE

I insist.

JARED

I've shot a gun once. I missed from five feet away. You'd be wasting a weapon and ammo on me.

Dale pressed the weapon in to Jared chest.

DALE

Then you make sure they're closer
than five feet before you use it.

Dale releases the weapon. Jared catches it before it falls
to the ground.

JARED

Thanks.

DALE

You're welcome. Be safe.

Dale closes the gate.

JARED

I will.

Jared turns and begins down the road. Dale locks the gate
and watches Jared walk away. He calls after him.

DALE

I hope you come back with your
brother but if you don't I'm not
going out looking for you.

Jared calls back over his shoulder.

JARED

Take care, Dale.

Dale turns and walks back up toward the house.

EXT. COUNTRY BACK ROAD - DAY

Jared approaches his earlier abandoned car. Augustus, still
dead and still bound, is in the front seat. Jared opens the
driver side door with a smile and sticks his head in.

JARED

Hey, little broth--

Jared recoils gagging. He dry heaves.

JARED

Jesus. What have you been doing?
Fucking roasting in there? I
definitely should have left the
windows down.

He rolls down the window and coughs getting in to the car.
Augustus struggles against his restraints making no
progress.

JARED
Holy shit you stink.

Still coughing Jared gets in the car and closes the door.

INT. CAR

Jared sits studying his struggling brother for a moment.

JARED
Sorry I left you out here. Sorry I
didn't come back sooner. I've got a
bit of a dilemma.

Jared glances in to the rear view mirror. Nothing but empty
road behind him.

JARED
There's a family up the road. A man
and his two sons. They've got a
pretty set up. Running water and a
decent food supply. Theoretically
it's a pretty sweet set up. Self
sufficient, I think. But here's the
problem, I don't think you'd be
welcome there. Nothing I say is
going to make them understand me
toting around my dead brother.
Fuck, I barely understand it.

Behind them in the distance a dust cloud is being kicked up.

JARED
I can't leave you tied up here. I
can't cut you loose. I don't know
what to do. I really don't want to
leave you, Gus. I don't think I'm
quite ready to do that. I could go
back. All I have to worry about
there is the boy. That and every
zombie that's been tracking us over
the last couple hundred miles. I'm
sure it's only a couple days, weeks
at the most, before they reach us
out here.

The dust cloud grows. A big vehicle reflecting sunlight in
the middle of it.

JARED
Truth is I'm more scared of being
back out on the road alone. So you
tell me, what do I do?

The quickly approaching vehicle catches Jared's attention. He turns from the mirror to look out the back window of the car. In the middle of the dust cloud is a big white motor home.

JARED

Shit.

Jared pulls the gun out of his pocket and lays his seat all the way back.

The motor home roars by, side swiping the car in the process. It nudges the car aside and takes the driver side mirror with it.

JARED

Fuck.

Jared sits up and watches as the motor home continues on swerving down the road. A bottle sails out of the driver side window in to the grass at the side of the road.

Jared attempts to open his door. It CREAKS under the effort. He pushes hard to force it open.

EXT. COUNTRY BACK ROAD

Jared runs down the road and scoops up the bottle. An empty but still wet vodka bottle.

JARED

Goddamnit.

Jared tosses the bottle and walks back to the car. He leans in.

JARED

We're gonna have to figure this out later. I'll be back.

Jared closes the car door and walks down the road following the motor home.

EXT. FARM - LATER

Jared walks around the property on the outside of the fence. He scans the silent property while trying to remain obscured by the unkempt grasses.

With the barn masking him from the house he jumps the fence.

He cautiously works his way around the barn. As he gets to the entrance a loud METAL CLANK rings out behind him. He jumps and turns while pulling out his sword.

The sound startles Dale who is sifting through some tools. He turns to the noise ready to defend himself with a very large wrench.

DALE

Jesus!

JARED

Sorry.

The both relax their weapons.

DALE

I thought you'd left.

JARED

That was the plan. Things don't always go the way we'd like.

DALE

I saw a great big RV go by earlier. I assumed that was you and your brother.

JARED

Definitely not me.

DALE

That's too bad. Seemed like a good way to travel these days.

JARED

He passed us on the highway. Tossed a vodka bottle out on the way by. I don't think he saw us. That's trouble.

DALE

I think I'd be escaping too if I had the chance.

JARED

Not out there. I know you haven't seen much. Anyone out there driving around while getting smashed is either suicidal or crazy. Both are extremely dangerous.

DALE

And you came back?

JARED

Not about to just walk away.

DALE

If they were really drunk there's a chance they didn't even see the farm.

JARED

Maybe. But pretty soon, whether it's because they're following me or natural migration the dead are going to start moving out of the cities and in to the country. Then what happens?

Dale becomes very animated.

DALE

I need to start preparing.

JARED

I think so.

DALE

The fence can't hold out everything. We don't have anything ready in case we need to leave. The house is too hard to defend.

JARED

It's okay.

DALE

I can't believe I didn't think of this before.

JARED

You wanted to make sure your boys would make it through the next day.

DALE

The barn. We'll fall back here if we need to. Second floor is easy to defend. We can stock up supplies here. Bring up the truck and we've got a way out.

JARED
That's a good plan.

DALE
I'm gonna, I'm gonna load up the truck and bring it up here. It's better here than down there.

JARED
Let's go.

DALE
No, no. You stay here.

JARED
I came back to help.

DALE
I know. Collect up whatever you can here. I trust you know what we'd need out there better than I do.

JARED
You got it.

DALE
Whatever you need. Go through everything. I'll be back soon.

Dale steps out of the barn toward the house. He stops and turns back to Jared. He grasps his hand and shakes.

DALE
Thank you.

He doesn't give Jared time to respond. He releases him and walks toward the house.

INT. BARN

Jared picks through drawers of hardware and tools. Nothing useful. He fidgets with the gun at the small of his back in his waist band.

Jared climbs up the ladder to the second floor. Mostly bare. Only way up is the ladder which could be easily pulled up or kicked away.

Jared presses his foot against the top of the ladder and gently pushes it away from the ledge. He fidgets with the gun again. As he's moving the ladder back and forth he glances out of the front of the barn. Immediately in his field of view is the riding shed. He climbs down.

EXT. FARM

Jared walks to the riding shed from the barn. As he approaches the small shed a light SCRATCHING catches his attention. He puts his hand to his sword.

JARED

Please just be rats.

Jared cautiously steps up to the door. He reaches for the door handle. A motion at the house catches his attention.

Jared looks up toward the house. The details are slightly obscured as Jared fights to look at the house rather than the sun. He shields his eyes. In a window on the second floor of the house is Ray waving his arms frantically.

JARED

Yeah. Not this time.

Jared grabs the handle and pulls the door open. It blocks Jared's view of the house and, conversely, Ray's ability to see Jared.

JARED

Oh, Ray.

Jared turns on a light and steps in. He closes the door behind himself.

INT. RIDING SHED

The small riding shed has saddles, harnesses, and assorted leather and metal materials. In one corner, heavily bound at head, wrist, and ankle, is CHERYL (14). Well dead and still moving. A metal bar is strapped across her mouth. She struggles against her restraints.

JARED

So you must be the sister.

He relaxes his grip on his sword and rests against the wall. The gun at his back pressing against the wall. He absently removes the gun and sets it on a shelf.

JARED

Shit.

He watches her in silence for a moment.

JARED

He find you before you got bit or
were you already like this?

Jared studies her face for a moment. Her eyes are fixed on him. Her hands turned toward him. Her bound form reaching out for him.

JARED

It's alright. I don't actually
expect answer. Makes the next step
interesting though.

Jared steps out of the shed and closes the door behind himself.

EXT. FARM

Jared looks up to the house. Ray is no longer in the window.

JARED

Shit.

He walks toward the house.

INT. KITCHEN

Dale and Ian are sitting at the kitchen table staring silently across the room. The door swings open and Jared steps in.

JARED

Hey, Dale. Listen--

RAY

Jared.

JARED

You need to take a look at the
riding shed.

RAINY (O.C.)

Jared. What's happenin', brother?

Jared spins toward the voice while pulling his sword out of it's scabbard. The sword is three quarters out by the time he's turned to the sawed off shotgun aimed at his face. At the other end of the shotgun stands Rainy leaned against the counter. Dale's shotgun leaned beside him.

Jared stops with the sword partially drawn.

RAINY

You didn't forget about my partner,
did ya?

Rainy nods to the shotgun in his hand. Tense and still
gripping to sword Jared stares down Rainy.

RAINY

That's no way to greet on old
friend.

JARED

I think that friendship ran it's
course when you left me and my
brother on a rooftop to die.

RAINY

I knew you were gonna bring that
up. Put it back in your pants,
cowboy.

Jared slides the sword gently back in to it's sheath.

RAINY

Down at my feet.

Jared tosses the sword down in front of Rainy. Jared steps
over to the table and sits down. He looks to Dale.

JARED

It's gonna be okay.

RAINY

Damn right it is.

JARED

Was that you in the RV?

RAINY

She's been good to me the last week
or so. Startin' ta smell a little
though.

JARED

You crazy son of a bitch.

RAINY

I missed you too, brother.

DALE

What do you want?

RAINY

Right now I want you to shut the fuck up while me and my friend have a conversation. You ask another question and my partner answers. You understand?

JARED

Let me talk, Dale.

RAINY

Good advice.

JARED

I'm surprised you didn't just run the fuckin' fence down.

RAINY

Fence on it's side ain't no good. Supposed to keep the bad things out. Can't do that when it's on the ground.

JARED

I find it hard to believe you actually climbed over the fence.

RAINY

Cut a hole.

JARED

On it's side. Standing up. Doesn't seem to be doing it's job either way.

RAINY

You best watch your tone, Jared.

Jared launches out of his seat but maintains the gap between them by the shotgun.

JARED

Fuck you! You left us to die on that roof top you piece of shit!

RAINY

An' you managed just fine.

JARED

By luck, you sick fuck. You killed everyone in that building. Everyone who depended on you. Augustus and I were the only ones who made it out of the city.

RAINY

Good point. Where is Gus?

JARED

He's around.

RAINY

He's not here, is he?

JARED

What about Flyboy?

RAINY

Tragically not with us anymore. So, who wants to fix me up some lunch?

JARED

Go fuck yourself.

Jared goes back to the table and sits with his back to Rainy. Silence as Dale and Ian look to Jared and follow his lead.

RAINY

I ain't done nothing but drink vodka for the past three days. I'm hungry and I'm fuckin' miserable and here's the thing, I ain't too proud to eat you or you boy. So I'll ask again--

JARED

Don't terrorize the kid, Rainy. You're not gonna eat him.

RAINY

What do you think happened to Flyboy?

JARED

Bullshit.

RAINY

Wanna take a walk down to the camper? It's about a half mile down the road. You're welcome to check for yourself.

JARED

Jesus. At least the zombies don't fuckin' know any better.

RAINY
I'm just survivin' brother. That's
been the plan from the beginning.
So, who's cooking?

 DALE
Jared?

 JARED
Just do what he wants.

 RAINY
Good advice.

Dale turns to Ian.

 DALE
Just like any other day. Can you
get lunch started?

Ian nods.

 DALE
That's my boy. Go.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Shotgun resting at his side Rainy leans against the counter slurping out of a bowl of soup. Dale, Jared, and Ian sit at the table. Dale and Ian have had some of their food. Jared sits in front of a full bowl glaring across at Rainy. Rainy sets his empty bowl aside and grabs his shotgun again.

 RAINY
You look like a man who's got
something to say.

 JARED
Yup.

 RAINY
Well, spit it out. Time's a runnin'
short.

 JARED
What do you say we go outside and
settle this. No guns, no swords.
Just you and me.

Rainy laughs mockingly.

RAINY

Are you fucking kidding me? Best case scenario Farmer Joe or his kid tries to sneak away while I'm distracted turnin' the whole thing in to an even bigger cluster fuck.

JARED

I don't want you dead, Rainy, but I--

RAINY

Horse shit. You had half the fuckin' chance you woulda run me through with that pig sticker second you came through that door.

JARED

That obvious?

RAINY

I ain't gonna apologize for what I did. I did what I needed to and now so are you. We got a whole shit storm we're gonna need to deal with real soon.

JARED

What'd you do this time?

RAINY

You know as well as I do these fuckers will follow you anywhere. You know how many towns I've been through? I just left a whole herd of zombies a couple hours back. And the city before that and the city before that.

JARED

I know. I probably brought enough of them myself.

RAINY

We got a day. Maybe two. If you kids had a plan that's more important than revenge right now.

JARED

You're absolutely right. I'll take my sword back now.

RAINY

Your plan is the only thing keepin'
any of you alive right now. Don't
push it.

A CREAK of the floorboards above them. Every falls silent
and looks to the ceiling.

RAINY

Gus up there, Jared?

JARED

There's no one up there Rainy.

DALE

It's an old house. Makes all kinds
of noise.

Another CREAK followed by a third. Distinctly hesitant foot
steps moving across the floor above.

RAINY

You sure you're happy with that
answer?

JARED

There's no one else here Rainy.

RAINY

Alright.

Rainy points the shotgun at the ceiling and fires. Dale
jumps out of his seat.

DALE

Wait!

Rainy fires again.

DALE

Stop! Please!

RAINY

Thought there wasn't anyone up
there?

Rainy levels the shotgun at Dale.

DALE

Just my boy. Ray. Please.

RAINY
Get 'im down here.

Dale cautiously steps toward the hallway and calls up.

DALE
Ray? Ray? Come down here.

Silence.

DALE
Ray? Answer me.

RAINY
You come down or daddy's becomes an
angel.

DALE
Ray? Are you okay?

RAY (O.S.)
I'm okay.

DALE
Then come down. It's okay.

CREAKING of the floor above them. FOOTFALLS down the stairs.
Dale grabs Ray and, acting as a shield between him and
Rainy, tries to guide him to the table.

RAINY
Nice try you little shit. Just
means no lunch and you get to clean
up.

Ray looks to Dale. Dale nods. Rainy collects up the bowls
and utensils on the table. Everyone watches in silence as he
clears the table. Ray turns on the faucet to fill the sink.
As he's putting items in to the sink he slides a spoon in to
his sleeve.

RAINY
Fuck this. Let's see what you got.
Everybody out.

EXT. FARM

Outside the house the entire group stands. Everyone looks to
Rainy while he surveys the land.

RAINY

Lay it out.

JARED

It's obvious, mostly.

RAINY

It's a big border to defend. Be fence.

JARED

We can't be everywhere at once. Once enough of them are the fence who knows how long it'll hold.

RAINY

Hole up in the house?

JARED

No. Still too hard to defend. Too many windows, too many doors. Too easy to get backed in to a corner with no way out. We were thinking about the barn.

RAINY

How many exits?

JARED

Two. Lots of tools and we can keep the truck in there. Still needs to be stocked with supplies though.

RAINY

Good. Better than anything I got anyway.

Rainy points to the riding shed.

RAINY

That the shed you were talking about?

JARED

What shed?

RAINY

I may still be drunk but I'm not stupid, Jared. You know better.

JARED

It's nothing. I thought we might be able to do something with the

JARED
riding leathers in there. Was a
stupid idea that won't work.

Rainy walks in the direction of the shed.

RAINY
Maybe a fresh set of eyes then.

Ray looks to Jared panicked. They follow Rainy.

JARED
It's nothing. Unless you think the
end of the world is the good time
to become a bondage queen you're
wasting your time, Rainy.

Rainy continues undeterred. He steps up to the shed and
grabs the door handle.

RAY
Don't!

Rainy pulls the door open.

RAINY
We'll I'll be damned.

Rainy steps back from the door and walks away.

JARED
It's not what you think.

RAINY
I think one of you boys is keepin'
some entertainment.

Rainy points to Dale.

RAINY
Judging by that look it ain't you.
Go ahead. Look for yourself.

DALE
Ray?

Dale steps in to the door of the riding shed.

RAINY
A little poon to pass the time,
boy?

DALE
Cheryl?

RAY
I'm sorry, dad. I didn't know what
to do.

Dale steps out and over to Ray.

DALE
Ray?

RAY
I didn't know what else to do with
her.

DALE
You found her?

RAY
Too late. She'd already been bitten
when I found her.

RAINY
Very touching.

Rainy steps up to the door way, levels the shotgun, and
fires.

RAY
No!

DALE
Why?

RAINY
Can't stay here. Can't let her go.
Let's go check out the barn.

Rainy walks toward the barn. Ray slips the spoon out of his
pocket. With a scream he charges at Rainy.

DALE
Wait!

Rainy turns as Ray lunges.

RAINY
You gotta be fuckin' ki--

Ray swings the spoon, handle first, at Rainy's face. He jams
it deep in to Rainy's eyes. Rainy stumbles backward with a
howl.

Jared steps toward the fray to help. Ray swings again catching Rainy's cheek. Rainy pushes the boy off of his and fires the shotgun blind.

The shotgun blast misses. Jared steps back. Ray turns on his heel and runs. Still howling, Rainy clutches his bleeding eye with one hand and menacingly holds out the shotgun with the other.

RAINY
Stay the fuck away.

He stumbles backward and catches a glimpse of Ray running for the fence. He fires twice as the boy. Ray stumbles briefly but continues up to and over the fence.

RAINY
Run you piece of shit!

Rainy howls with rage.

RAINY
Motherfucker!

JARED
That was his sister.

RAINY
Fuck you!

JARED
Could have just left the girl alone.

Rainy levels the shotgun.

RAINY
You speak one more word and I will fucking end you. Barn. Now.

Jared leads as Dale and Ian follow toward the barn.

INT. BARN

Dale, Ian, and Jared are sitting along a wall while Rainy sits across the barn tending to his eye.

RAINY
You know, it's a good thing that little shit's gone. Good for you little boy. The plan was to send you out on the other side of that

RAINY
fence. Give us a little bit of a distraction. Your brother'll be better though. He's faster. Angry. He'll keep those fucking things busy for you awhile.

DALE
You're a monster.

RAINY
Maybe. Of course, the boy's not off the menu yet. You may want to be careful with your words.

Rainy is wrapped up in what he's doing. Jared nudges Dale. He makes a discrete motion of a hand gun and nods toward the upper level of the barn. Dale nods.

RAINY
I had a choice. As far as I knew a couple minutes of fighting for your lives was better than a couple weeks of slowly starving to death. I-- We did what we thought was best. The merciful thing.

JARED
And?

RAINY
And nothing. It ain't an apology. You got every asshole out there fighting over big box stores and malls. Trying so desperately to hold on to it.

JARED
How many are out there?

RAINY
A lot. A lot more than I thought anyway. You got a good set up here. Well water, a wood stove, good land. Left alone while everyone else is killing each other over scraps that aren't gonna last.

JARED
And when the scraps are gone? We won't be left alone for very long.

RAINY

I guess not.

DALE

We've already got people cutting through the fence at night to steal food and water. We need fix it almost every day.

RAINY

Just a matter of time before they slit your throats in your sleep. Take it as their own.

DALE

You said it yourself, zombies are coming, man. Whether they've locked on to me or you, they're coming. Whoever's cutting through the fence out there is gonna get desperate when that happens.

RAINY

It's about to get really messy in here.

There's a long gap as Rainy presses his palm over the socket over his damaged eye.

JARED

Rainy?

RAINY

Fuck it. Let's get to work. You boys have a lot to do and daylight's going fast.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Two boxes have been loaded up with food, candles, and other materials. Jared is putting food in to a bag on the counter. Rainy sits at the table with the shotgun at the ready. He looks exhausted as he watches the others load.

DALE

This should be a good. Grab that box, buddy.

Dale points to a box on the floor which Ian dutifully picks up. Dale grabs the other and they look to Rainy.

RAINY
Alright. Let's go.

He stands. Dale and Ian walk toward the door. Jared remains loading up the bag.

RAINY
Let's go, Jared.

Dale and Ian stop by the door.

JARED
You don't need me for this.

RAINY
You're coming anyway.

JARED
Dale knows the place better. He'll be able to organize shit at the barn just fine without me. I'm of more use here packing up what we need.

RAINY
It wasn't a request.

Jared stops what he's doing and turns to Rainy.

JARED
You've got my sword. You've got all the guns. What more do you need?

RAINY
To keep my other eye. We go everywhere together. You don't touch anything I can't see.

JARED
It's your show.

RAINY
Don't you fuckin' forget it.

Jared walks toward Ian and Dale.

JARED
You heard the man.

EXT. FARM

They march across the property from the house to the barn in single file. Dale at the front, Ian close behind, then Jared, and Rainy following up behind. His steps slow and sluggish.

RAINY

I know what you're thinking.

JARED

Yeah?

RAINY

I started the day piss drunk, I've been on the road for a long time, and I've lost an eye. I'm about ready to fall over.

JARED

And?

RAINY

Don't hold your breath.

Dale is the first in to the barn.

INT. BARN

Jared and Rainy enter the barn as Dale is half up the ladder to the upper level. He's climbing one handed as he has the box in his other hand.

RAINY

What the fuck are you doing?

DALE

Preparing.

RAINY

Get the fuck down here.

DALE

I'm already half way up.

Rainy levels the shotgun.

RAINY

And this little shit will be dead before you get to the top.

Dale starts down the ladder without hesitation.

JARED

We need to prep. Let him do what he needs to.

RAINY

We're not doing some bullshit last stand. We're prepping to get the fuck out of here as soon as we can. If we have to fall back here we ain't staying for long.

Jared walks toward the ladder.

JARED

Then I've got shit I need to bring down.

RAINY

We've got what we need.

Rainy waivers in place.

RAINY

Fuck it. I'm tired and I'm hungry. We can finish up in the morning.

No one moves.

RAINY

Let's fucking go!

They file out with Rainy following behind them. Rainy pulls the doors closed on his way out.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Rainy has resumed his post against the counter while eating. Ian, Dale, and Jared sit at the table. They each have plates in front of them but no utensils. They eat with their hands. Rainy has a makeshift bandage over his eye and looks very ragged.

RAINY

Keys for the truck. Where?

Dale gets up from his spot at the table. The shotgun is raised. Dale sits back down.

RAINY

Jus' tell me.

Dale points to the wall in between them. Rainy struggles to focus on the point. A set of keys hang from hook by the door.

RAINY

Get 'im.

Dale rises again.

RAINY

Not you.

He points the shotgun at Ian.

RAINY

Him.

Dale sits back down and rubs Ian's shoulder.

DALE

Go on.

Ian quickly leaves the table and pulls the keys off the hook. He stops there staring at the shotgun.

RAINY

What are you waitin' for, boy?

Ian tosses the keys gingerly at Rainy's feet and quickly returns to his seat. Rainy laughs.

RAINY

Good choice. Now, what about a place to sleep?

DALE

Four bedrooms upstairs. Take whichever one you want.

RAINY

What's the most closed off space you got?

DALE

I don't know. Basement?

RAINY

There's windows there, aren't there? Saw 'em from the outside.

DALE

Yeah. But they're small and don't open. You'd have to smash them to get in.

RAINY

What about the attic? You got one of them?

DALE

Sure. Doors in my room.

RAINY

Any other way in?

DALE

Nope. Just a hatch.

RAINY

Does it lock?

DALE

Only from the outside.

RAINY

Perfect. Get your shit together. It's bed time.

JARED

It's still light out.

RAINY

And we ain't runnin' on your fuckin' schedule no more. We're runnin' on mine.

Jared grabs his plate and reaches for Dale's.

RAINY

Leave it. Upstairs now.

Rainy tosses his own plate in to the sink. It shatters. Dale, Ian, and Jared dutifully leave the table and head upstairs.

INT. DALE'S BEDROOM

They stare up at the ceiling. A trapdoor style entry in to the attic with a large board latched across it keeping it closed.

RAINY

Perfect. Everybody in.

JARED

Don't do this.

RAINY
How do you fuckers normally get up
there?

DALE
Step ladder in my closet.

Rainy levels the gun at Dale.

RAINY
The boy gets it.

DALE
You heard him, Ian. Get the ladder.

JARED
Don't back me in to another corner,
Rainy.

RAINY
You're spending the night up there.
Might as well be comfortable with
it.

Ian retrieves a small step ladder from the closet and hands
it to Dale.

DALE
Thank you, Ian.

Dale snaps it open and steps up.

JARED
Please, Rainy.

RAINY
Shut the fuck up.

DALE
It'll be fine, Jared. You're just
provoking him. It's just for a
night.

Dale swings the board out and the door drops down.

DALE
Come on, buddy.

Dale picks up Ian and lifts him up to the open in the
ceiling. With Dale's help Ian scrambles in to the attic.
Dale pulls himself up.

IAN
It's dark up here.

Rainy and Jared stare each other down.

DALE
Can we get a lamp for the night?

Dale is ignored.

RAINY
You're not spending the night
walking around.

JARED
It's a death trap.

RAINY
Not my problem.

JARED
Would you go up there?

RAINY
Again, not my problem. You can get
up that ladder or I can take your
knees.

JARED
Count to three?

RAINY
You don't have nearly that long.

Rainy lowers the gun toward Jared's knees.

JARED
Fine.

Jared climbs the ladder and pulls himself in to the attic.

DALE
A lamp?

Rainy closes the hatch and swings the board across.

INT. ATTIC

It's almost pitch black in the attic. Jared immediately follows the wall looking for openings. Dale sits beside Ian with his arm protectively around him.

DALE
There's nothing.

JARED
There's gotta be something.

DALE
Just an air vent barely big enough
to fit your hand through, assuming,
of course, you can get the grates
out.

JARED
Fuck.

DALE
Please, Jared. My boy.

JARED
I'm not fucking dying up here.

Jared walks back over to the door. He stomps on it repeatedly with one foot.

JARED
Let me the fuck out!

INT. DALE'S BEDROOM

The door rattles with each BOOMING stomp. The board holding it closed slides a little bit each time.

Rainy reaches up and slides the door across between attacks. He steps back as the door opens and Jared's foot rockets out. Jared nearly falls out of the attic.

JARED
Shit!

RAINY
Knock it off.

Dale helps to pull Jared back in.

DALE
A lamp.

Rainy holds up a kerosene lamp in his hand. Dale reaches down and retrieves it.

DALE

Thank you. It's not lit.

Rainy tosses a box of matches after it.

JARED

If you're doing to keep me up here
at least give me back my sword.

RAINY

He starts stomping on that door
again and the next lamp gets tossed
up while lit. we'll see if anyone
is quick enough to catch.

Rainy closes the door and slides the board in place.

INT. ATTIC

Jared steps away from the door and collapses back in to a
corner.

JARED

This isn't right.

Dale lights a match and then lights the lamp. The attic
glows under the light.

DALE

It's gonna be fine.

JARED

When was the last time anything was
fine, Dale?

INT. BATHROOM

Rainy examines his eye in the mirror. It's mangled.

RAINY

Motherfucker.

He tears apart the medicine cabinet before moving on to the
cupboard under the sink. He retrieves some bandages and
tape. He gingerly covers his eye with fresh bandages.

INT. ATTIC

DALE

I know you're worried, and I understand why, but the fence has been good to us.

Elsewhere in the house Rainy is BANGING CUPBOARDS.

JARED

I don't like it up here.

DALE

Even if the zombies do come while we're up here the fence will hold. When they do come he's gonna need help.

JARED

It's not the zombies I'm worried about Dale.

INT. DALE'S BEDROOM

Rainy enters the room and calls up.

RAINY

Where's the fuckin' booze.

DALE (O.C.)

There isn't any.

RAINY

Of course there isn't.

Rainy tosses the shotgun down on the bed. Gently cupping his bad eye he lays down beside the shotgun. He closes his good eye and passes out instantly.

INT. ATTIC - LATER

The lamp continues to glow. Dale and Ian are asleep near the lamp. Jared sits awake on the opposite side of the attic.

Elsewhere in the house a board CREAKS under a foot.

Dale's eyes open. Jared and Dale whisper their conversation.

DALE

How long have I been sleeping?

JARED
I don't know.

A long silence followed by another CREAK.

JARED
This is it.

DALE
What?

JARED
Nothin' good.

DALE
Stop worrying so much.

JARED
Those footsteps are too light. Too deliberate. Rainy strike you as the stealthy sort?

DALE
No. What's he up to?

JARED
He either wants to catch us off guard or it's not Rainy. If this goes bad throw the lantern at them.

DALE
We'd be trapped.

JARED
It's easier to get past a fire than a shotgun.

DALE
It's a bad idea.

Another CREAK. Closer.

DALE
Pretend you're sleeping.

WOOD ON WOOD of the board holding the door shut is slowly pulled aside. The door is gently opened. The door remains empty. Silence.

JARED
Here to kill me in my sleep, Rainy?

RAINY
I'm gonna kill you, Jared, I'll do
it in the middle of the day in
front of the farmer and his kid.
Shit's going down. I need you down
here.

INT. DALE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is barely lit by a kerosene lamp. Jared scrambles
out of the attic. Dale approaches the edge of the door.

 RAINY
Just you.

 JARED
What's going on?

 RAINY
Just close the fuckin' door.

 DALE
Close it up.

 JARED
Sorry, Dale.

 DALE
Don't be.

Jared closes the door and slides the board across. He turns
to Rainy in time to catch his sword, sheathed, as Rainy
tosses it at him.

 RAINY
You're a valuable lesson to them.
You're more valuable at my side.

 JARED
What's going on?

 RAINY
Saw some people inside the fence.
You're on point.

Jared nods.

 JARED
Understood.

EXT. FARM

Jared walks ahead of Rainy and they cross the property toward the fence. The entire property is poorly lit by patchy moonlight.

RAINY

What's the deal with these fuckers?

JARED

They come by and night and steal some food. If it wasn't for the holes in the fence you wouldn't even know they were here.

RAINY

Soon they won't be.

JARED

We don't have to do this.

RAINY

Yes, we do. They'll get desperate in time. As long as they breath they're dangerous to me. Anything dangerous to me is bad for you too.

JARED

We'll be gone before they have reason to, Rainy. I'm telling you. This is shit we don't need. We don't know how many of them there are or what kind of weapons they have.

RAINY

Doesn't matter.

JARED

You think they survived out there this entire time without some serious shit to back them up?

RAINY

They would have taken the farm by now.

INT. ATTIC

Dale stomps on the door as Ian looks on.

EXT. FARM

JARED

Not everyone thinks like you do.

RAINY

These days? They're worse.

Jared catches a glimpse of a figure running toward the barn out of the corner of his eye. He looks toward the barn in time to see Ray disappearing inside. Jared turns and walks toward the fence away from the barn.

JARED

Follow the fence?

Rainy's response is not in the least bit restrained.

RAINY

There!

Two RAIDERS, hardly distinguishable in the patchy moonlight, turn on their heels and run. Rainy pushes Jared forward.

RAINY

Go!

Rainy and Jared run to follow the Raiders. The chase is short lived as Rainy fires off a shotgun blast. Both Raiders drop to the ground.

Rainy and Jared catch up to the Raiders. Neither is injured. They slowly get to their feet with their hands up. Food stolen from the garden scattered at their feet. One is male and the other is female. They're both in their teens. The girls speaks up.

RAIDER

Don't shoot. Please.

RAINY

How many of you are there?

RAIDER

Just me and my brother. Please, don't hurt us. We just needed--

He levels the gun at the boy.

RAINY
 She telling the truth?

The boy nods.

 RAINY
 Speak up.

 RAIDER
 He can't talk, sir.

Rainy laughs.

 RAINY
 Course he can't. Just the two of
 you?

 RAIDER
 Yes.

 RAINY
 You're sure about that?

 RAIDER
 Yes.

 RAINY
 Good. That solves one problem.

Rainy fires a blast in to the boys chest. He's dead before
 he hits the ground.

 RAIDER
 No!

She drops to the ground and grabs her brother. She howls out
 her greif as the tears start.

 JARED
 Jesus Christ, Rainy. They're just
 kids.

She turns to Rainy, accusing.

 RAIDER
 Monster!

 RAINY
 Yup.

 JARED
 Don't.

Another shotgun blast. This one directly in the raiders face. Her lifeless corpse falls to the grass beside her brother.

Absolute silence.

Jared pulls his sword from it's sheath and pulls it back to strike. He finds the shotgun ready to greet him.

RAINY

It's done.

JARED

They were just kids.

RAINY

They're a threat.

JARED

No there weren't.

RAINY

Doesn't matter. It's over now. Help me drag them down to the gate.

Jared remains with his sword at the ready.

RAINY

You can't fix it. You can't change it. All you can do is make sure you see tomorrow. Put it away.

Jared sheaths his sword.

RAINY

Give it to me.

Jared tosses the sword to the ground and grabs the boys wrist. He drags the body behind him as he walks toward the gate. Rainy collects the sword and slings it over his shoulder. He follows up shortly behind Jared. He drags the girl by her ankle.

INT. ATTIC

Dale continues to stomp on the door.

DALE

Why won't you break?

IAN
Dad?

DALE
It's okay, buddy.

IAN
Can I help?

DALE
I got it. We'll be out of here
soon.

EXT. FARM

Jared reaches the gate and leaves the boys body in the grass. Head down, Jared turns and walks back toward the house.

RAINY
Hey.

No response. Rainy ditches the girl and follows Jared.

RAINY
Hey.

JARED
That may not be all of them.

RAINY
I expect it isn't.

JARED
If they have any friends out there
it won't be long before they come
after us.

RAINY
If they do it was gonna happen
anyway. I'd rather it was on my
terms when I'm expecting it.

JARED
I'm glad you've got it all figured
out.

RAINY
We need to find the hole.

JARED

No.

RAINY

Not an option?

JARED

How do you suggest we find it? We could walk every inch of that fence and not see it in this light. Even if we do find it I don't know how to fix it.

RAINY

Don't bullshit me.

JARED

This is Dale's farm. I don't know where the supplies are or ever what to do. Doing it in the middle of the night? It's just not gonna happen.

RAINY

Let's go.

Jared continues toward the house.

JARED

Fuck you, Rainy. I'm going to sleep. You want to shoot just fucking do it.

Rainy follows Jared back to the house in silence.

INT. KITCHEN

Jared and Rainy enter the house. The dull THUMP of Dale stomping on the attic door resonates through the house. Rainy pushes Jared forward.

RAINY

Upstairs.

INT. ATTIC

Dale is stomping on the door.

IAN

I think they're back.

DALE
I didn't hear anything.

Dale raises his foot for another thrust.

INT. DALE'S BEDROOM

Another loud THUMP.

Jared steps in the room and passively walks up toward the step ladder in front of the door. The board holding it shut barely holding on to it's latch.

Rainy raises his shotgun and shoots in to the ceiling.

DALE (O.C.)
Shit!

Jared jumps and reflexively and backs away toward the wall. Above them the sound of a person SCRAMBLING across the floor.

RAINY
You pull that shit again and I'll
burn down the house with you and
your fucking brat in that attic.

Defeated, Jared walks back to the step ladder.

RAINY
Wait.

Rainy steps up and uses the barrel of his shotgun to slide the board back in to place.

JARED
What now?

RAINY
I get it. I understand. You're
tired and your scared. You're
losing hope. Man, I get that more
than you can understand.

JARED
I just want to sleep.

RAINY
I meant it when I said you're a
valuable ally. I'm not stupid. I
know I can't trust you but I might
be able to help you.

JARED

Then let me sleep. Before this
whole shit storm goes down.

RAINY

You got it. Where were you sleeping
before?

Jared eyes Rainy cautiously.

JARED

Girls room. Down the hall.

Rainy scoops up the lamp.

RAINY

Perfect. Let's go for a walk.

EXT. FARM

Rainy and Jared walks toward the riding shed.

RAINY

The attic wasn't ideal. I was
broken down. I just needed some
time. It was the only place I could
be sure.

JARED

Don't care.

RAINY

You're hittin' that place. Another
day and you'll be no good to me.
You need to sleep.

Jared opens the door to the riding shed. The corpse of
Cheryl is still bound to the wall. The wall behind her a
mess.

JARED

Now what?

RAINY

Grab a couple of those straps.

INT. HALLWAY

Jared stands outside Cheryl's bedroom. Another bedroom directly across the hall. Rainy has a handful of leather straps.

RAINY

Soon enough you're gonna need me
just as much as I'll need you. So
get some rest. Room's all yours.

Jared turns in to the room. Rainy drops the straps to the ground and slides the sword off his shoulder.

RAINY

Hey.

Jared half turns to look back.

RAINY

You forgot this.

Jared hesitantly reaches out for it. He retrieves it with a nod.

JARED

Thanks.

RAINY

You fuck with me, you go out the
window, and I'll mow you down. Dig?

Jared ignores the question and closes the door behind himself. In the room the sound of furniture being DRAGGED toward the door.

Rainy retrieves the discarded straps. He ties them off leaving a loop on one end. He pulls the loop over the doorknob to Cheryl's room and tightens it down. He pulls the door closes on the other and ties the strap to it's doorknob. A tight line holding the opposing door closed.

INT. CHERYL'S ROOM

Jared moves the last piece of furniture in front of the door in almost complete darkness. He collapses down in to bed with the sword still clutched in hand.

JARED

Fuck.

INT. CHERYL'S ROOM - LATER

Jared wakes with a start. The room is still fairly dark. He gets out of bed and walks to the window. He looks out and rubs his eyes waking up.

JARED

Fuck.

Despite the minimal light it's still clear the fence at the edge of the property is lined with zombies.

JARED

This is bad.

Jared frantically pushes the furniture out of the way.

JARED

Rainy? Rainy?

No response. Jared pushes the furniture far enough out of the way to reach the door. He grabs the doorknob and pulls. Nothing.

JARED

Open the fucking door, Rainy.

Jared bangs on the door.

JARED

We gotta fuckin' go, Rainy.

The CREAK of a loose floorboard underfoot from the other side of the door.

JARED

Rainy?

RAINY (O.C.)

What's the problem?

JARED

Shit's going down now. We gotta move.

RAINY (O.C.)

We're not going anywhere yet.

JARED

Stop fucking around! Let me out.

RAINY (O.C.)
Just relax.

 JARED
Don't tell me to fucking relax!
There's at least a couple hundred
zombies out there.

 RAINY (O.C.)
I know.

 JARED
You know?

 RAINY (O.C.)
They've been out there for over an
hour.

 JARED
Get Dale and the kid and let's get
the fuck out of here.

 RAINY (O.C.)
No.

 JARED
Fuck you.

 RAINY (O.C.)
It's too dark still. We'd be too
exposed out there. If you can sleep
some more now's the time.

CREAKING floorboard through the door and footfalls leading
away.

 JARED
Rainy? Rainy? The sun'll be up in
20 minutes. At least let us out so
we're ready!

Silence.

 JARED
Fuck!

INT. CHERYL'S ROOM - DAWN

The first orange inklings of morning sun are trickling in
through the window. Jared has pulled the bed a few feet in
front of the door. Enough room for the door to open. He sits
on the bed facing the door.

JARED

Rainy?

Jared loudly TAPS his sheathed sword against the floor.

JARED

It's morning. Time to move.

TAP.

JARED

You better not have died from that eye wound and turned you son of a bitch.

TAP.

JARED

Rainy? The longer you wait the harder it's gonna be to get out of here.

TAP.

JARED

Open the goddamn door.

Jared raises the sword. SMASHING GLASS elsewhere in the house. Jared jumps to his face and goes to the window. The fence is still lined up with zombies.

JARED

What's going on?

Elsewhere in the house heavy FOOTFALLS followed by a SHOTGUN BLAST. Jared runs to the door and start banging on it.

JARED

Rainy? What's happening?

More BREAKING GLASS and SHOTGUN blasts.

INT. ATTIC

Dale quickly moves over to the door and stomps down hard on it.

IAN

What's going on?

DALE
Nothing good.

He stomps again.

INT. CHERYL'S ROOM

Jared moves back to the window and pulls on it. It doesn't move.

JARED
Come on.

He fiddles with the lock and tries again. Still nothing.

JARED
Open you piece of shit.

He plays with the lock again. At the top of the frame on each side he notices a large nail driven in to the window frame leaving an inch on either side.

JARED
Of course.

Jared grabs a lamp and tosses it through the window. He uses his sword to clean up the remaining pieces. He cautiously steps through the window.

EXT. FARM

Jared steps out on to the roof. He looks up and down the length of the farm. The fence is lined deep with zombies.

JARED
Shit.

Jared walks to the edge of the roof. This side of the house is clear. The drop is short. He jumps off the edge to the grass.

More SHOTGUN BLASTS.

Jared rounds the corner of the house.

A huge section of the fence on the opposite side of the house has been cut. Zombies are streaming in through the opening.

JARED

No.

Rainy is already in the thick of things. He's fending off approaching zombies with his shotgun while trying to make his way to the barn. It's not going well. He looks a little bloody and battered.

Jared breaks in to a sprint while freeing his sword. He closes the gap between them and the sword flashes down inches from Rainy. The head of a zombie drops to the ground. Another flash and another head.

RAINY

Shit!

JARED

We need to go back.

They fight in opposite directions. Rainy works toward the barn and Jared toward the door of the house.

RAINY

It's too late.

JARED

I'm not leaving them up there.

RAINY

The house is full.

JARED

I have to go.

RAINY

I went out the window just to get out. You ain't getting back in.

Jared catches a glimpse through a window. The house is indeed the last place you'd want to be. Jared turns back and fights his way to Rainy.

JARED

You son of a bitch.

RAINY

Not the right time.

Rainy fires in to a zombie's face giving them enough clearance to make a run for the barn.

RAINY

Run!

INT. ATTIC

In between Dale's stomps on the door floorboards underfoot
CREAK elsewhere in the house.

DALE

You pick up that lamp.

Ian, white faced and blank stares at his father.

DALE

Ian!

IAN

Yeah?

DALE

Pick up that lamp. I need you to
hold on to it.

IAN

Okay.

DALE

Be careful. It's hot.

Ian picks up the lamp.

DALE

When this door opens we're gonna
have to run. If it's still dark we
need to see where we're going. Do
you understand?

Ian nods.

DALE

It's very important you hold on to
that lamp tight, okay?

Dale stomps again. He nearly falls out of the door as it
splinters and breaks open. Ian jumps and pulls back in to
the corner.

DALE

It's okay. I'm okay.

Dale pulls himself out of the door and back in to the attic.
Dale looks in to the room below. They're coming in the door.

DALE

Shit.

Ian pushes back further in to the corner.

DALE

I need you to be brave. Can you be brave?

Ian gives a frantic nod.

DALE

They're here but I'll get us out of here, okay? They can get up the ladder but I don't think--

A zombie head pops up through the door. Ian screams. Ian winds up with his eyes closed.

DALE

No!

He throws the lamp. It hits a beam in the ceiling and shatters. The liquid ignites. Liquid fire rains down and covers Ian. He screeches and flails.

DALE

Ian!

Dale runs to aid Ian. The zombie in the door grabs his pant leg. Dale goes face first in to the ground. He struggles against the zombie, kicking at it's face. He gets free and continues to his son.

DALE

Ian!

He tries putting Ian out with his hands. The liquid sticks to his Dale's hands and burn as well.

The zombie in the door awkwardly pulls himself in to the attic. Another takes his place and pulls himself up.

Dale continues to try and put out his son as the fire rages on. The screech abruptly stops.

DALE

No. No. No. No. No.

A zombie grabs Dale's shoulder. Dale spins and pushes the zombie away hard. It sends him in to the second zombie who's made it up in to the attic. Dale turns his attention back to the Ian, who burns motionless and silently.

The zombies come back. They grab him. Dale fights back only enough to try and get them away and he fights against the flames. The zombies overpower Dale and tear him apart.

INT. BARN

Rainy and Jared make it in to the barn.

RAINY

Close it.

Rainy continues in toward the truck. Jared closes and secures the door.

RAINY

Holy shit!

Jared raises his sword to attack Rainy.

RAINY

I didn't know if you were gonna
come through or not but, goddamnit
Jared--

As Jared steps in to attack a GUNSHOT rings out. Jared darts behind the truck for cover. Rainy's shoulder jerks back. The shotgun hits the floor. After a few stumbling steps backward Rainy follows suit.

JARED

Ray?

Jared steps out in to the open on the upper level of the barn. He sheaths his sword. The handgun Jared discarded in his hand.

RAY

Yeah.

Rainy groans in pain.

RAINY

Motherfucker.

Jared cautiously steps out from behind the truck.

JARED

I get it, man. I know what's going
on but we need him.

RAY
He never leaves this barn.

JARED
He's strong. He's a survivor. He
can help up.

The gun lowers slightly.

RAINY
Piece of shit!

The gun comes back up again.

JARED
You're not helping.

RAY
He killed Cheryl. He's gotta die.

RAINY
Wait!

JARED
That wasn't Cheryl, Ray. Cheryl was
already dead. You already knew
that.

RAY
That biker piece of shit killed
her.

JARED
I know why you had her, kept her
around, but that wasn't your sister
anymore.

RAY
Yes!

JARED
No. If that was Cheryl then why was
she tied up?

Silence.

JARED
She was tied up because she was
gone. You knew that. Just cause it
looked like her doesn't mean she
was in there any more.

RAY
That piece of shit killed my
sister.

RAINY
Fuck you! You took my fucking eye.

Jared picks up Rainy's shotgun and heads toward the ladder.

JARED
Come on down. We need to get out of
here.

Ray climbs down the ladder.

RAINY
Took my fuckin' eye.

JARED
That's fair to you? An eye for
family?

RAINY
Yes. Yes, it's fair.

Ray plugs another round in to Rainy who screams in agony.

JARED
He's useful to us. Don't do this.

RAY
Where's my dad? Ian?

JARED
They didn't make it out of the
house.

RAY
Let's go get them.

JARED
The fence was ripped apart. There's
hundreds of them out there.

RAINY
Trapped in the attic like a couple
of fucking rats.

Ray levels the gun again. With the sheathed sword he smacks
the gun aside. The gun fires.

JARED
Enough.

RAY
No.

JARED
I have a plan. He's a part of it.
We need him more than you need
revenge.

RAINY
Thank you.

JARED
Shut the fuck up.

RAINY
Already took my eye.

JARED
I said shut up.

RAY
It's not enough.

JARED
It has to be.

RAINY
That's fair.

JARED
And fair is fair, right, Rainy?

RAINY
Fair deal.

Rainy struggles to get to his feet. Jared turns back to Ray.

JARED
I know everything you're thinking
right now. All I'm asking for is a
little trust.

Ray glares at Rainy.

JARED
Your father was good to me. Allow
me to return the favour.

Rainy makes it to his feet. He waivers with his hands out
stretched.

RAINY

Can I have my shotgun please?

JARED

Eye for a sibling, right?

RAINY

Yes, sir. My shotgun?

JARED

You got it.

Jared drops the shotgun on the ground at his feet. Rainy lumbers forward to close the difference between them. A flash of metal at Jared's sword is unsheathed and thrust in a single, fluid motion.

Rainy HOWLS and stumbles backward holding his remaining good idea. Blood runs down his face and through his fingers.

RAINY

Motherfuck!

Rainy flails.

JARED

An eye for a sibling. That was the dead.

RAINY

Kill you!

JARED

An eye for everyone you left to die.

RAINY

There weren't your family.

JARED

Augustus was. He got bit before we hit the street.

Rainy stumbles around blind. His hands outstretched.

RAINY

Fucking kill you.

JARED

Sibling for an eye.

RAINY
Kill both of you.

Rainy stumbles toward Jared. Jared casually steps out of his way.

JARED
Fair is fair.

Rainy lets out a feral scream. Jared smacks Rainy in the back of the knee with his sheathed sword. Rainy stumbles to a knee. Jared pushes him down on his face.

JARED
Just one more thing, Rainy.

Jamming a knee in to Rainy's back Jared fishes around in Rainy's pocket. Rainy thrashes against Jared to no effect.

JARED
See ya around.

Jared walks toward the truck. He nods to Ray.

JARED
Get in. We're leaving.

Rainy screeches in terror.

RAINY
Don't leave me.

Jared and Ray get in to the truck. Jared rolls down his window to look out to Ray.

RAINY
Please. Please don't leave me.

JARED
Fine. Get in the back.

Rainy struggles to his feet. He feels around at the empty air.

RAINY
Please. Help me.

JARED
Fine. It's on your right.

Rainy stumbles to his right and bumps in to the truck.

JARED
Climb in.

Rainy struggles to pull himself over the side of the truck. His grips falls and he falls to the ground.

JARED
Fine.

Jared starts up the truck.

JARED
Find another ride.

RAINY
No. I'm coming.

Rainy struggles to his feet and then up over the edge of the truck. Bleeding from his eye he lays down in the truck bed.

JARED
Hold on tight.

Jared rolls up his window and floors the gas. The truck peels out and through the wall of the barn.

EXT. FARM

The truck blasts through the barn wall and in to the thick of the zombie horde. It's a sea of the walking dead. All of them are headed straight for them. The truck mows down a couple as it comes to a stop. The dead quickly fall in around the truck. Hands at every side.

RAINY
Fucking go!

INT. TRUCK

Jared looks out at the horde. In the middle of the property the top of the house spits out smoke and flame.

JARED
Jesus Christ.

RAINY (O.C.)
What are you waiting for?

A zombies smacks at the window beside Ray. Ray jumps and the gun comes up.

JARED

Don't.

Jared presses down on the gas and the truck slow pushes through the horde. Like driving uphill on inconsistent terrain. Bones snap and bodies break under the wheels.

JARED

Don't help them. I don't think they can break that glass.

Jared steers toward a large gap in the fence where the dead continue to funnel through.

RAINY (O.C.)

Go!

Ray looks over his shoulder to the truck bed.

RAY

Can they get him back there?

JARED

Fuck I hope so.

EXT. FARM

The truck passes through the opening in the ruined fence. They continue to run down zombies in their path. Rainy lays in the back of the truck screaming.

RAINY

Go! Go! Gooooooooo!

They're quickly through the fence and in to the field. The zombies are beginning to thin.

The truck picks up a bit of speed and jumps around on the uneven field. Rainy is bounced around the back.

RAINY

Stop.

He screams as he's slammed from one side to the other.

The truck lurches over a narrow trench and on to the road. The ride gets significantly smoother for Rainy. Rainy sits up with his back to the cab of the truck. He shakes his fist triumphantly.

JARED

Your house is gonna burn for
awhile. It's gonna draw some
attention.

Rainy fumbles his way toward them, crawling on his hands and
knees.

RAINY

Where are we? What's going on?

RAY

What happened?

JARED

They were probably just trying to
protect themselves.

RAINY

Where are we?

JARED

Rainy couldn't find a safe place to
keep us so he jammed us all in the
attic with a lamp. Once the zombies
got in your dad probably set the
place on fire.

RAINY

The house is burning?

RAY

How'd you get out?

JARED

After he killed those kids he put
me in your sisters room instead of
the attic. I tried to help them,
Ray.

RAINY

Why did we stop?

RAY

You see that?

Down the road the shape of the horde slowly shambling toward
them.

JARED

Yeah. This isn't gonna take long.
You can wait in the truck if you
want.

RAY

I'd like to stay right here if you don't mind.

JARED

Not at all.

RAINY

What the fuck is going on?

Jared drops the gate on the truck.

JARED

Time to move you, Rainy.

Jared steps up on to the bed. He helps Rainy to his feet.

JARED

Come on. You're not staying back here.

RAINY

Thank you.

Jared leads him to the edge of the bed and pushes him off. Rainy's feet look for ground. His arms flail. He slams down to the road.

JARED

I wouldn't be so quick with the appreciation.

Jared jumps down from the truck beside Rainy. Rainy scrambles back away on his hands and knees.

RAINY

Why?

Jared walks around Rainy. Rainy turns his head with each footfall, desperately trying to follow Jared. He holds a hand out in front of him self defensively.

JARED

Why?

RAINY

Why?

JARED

You fuckin' know why you piece of shit.

RAINY

No. But no. It's fair. Fair is fair. You said it's fair.

JARED

You and me? No. I asked you if you thought it was fair.

RAINY

No. We're settled. Fair is fair. Fair is fair!

JARED

I didn't agree to that but we're settled. You and me? We're square. How about you Ray?

Ray grimly nods his head.

JARED

You can't see it but Ray just nodded yes.

RAINY

Okay. We're good. Fair is fair.

JARED

I'm glad you feel that way. How do you feel about getting squared away with Augustus?

RAINY

No. Please.

Jared walks toward the car.

JARED

Before he turned he made me tie him out. I had to leave him in the car out here.

RAINY

Please.

JARED

He's been cooped up in the car now for a couple days. I imagine he's pretty hungry by now.

RAINY

Jesus, Jared. No.

JARED

It's going to take me a minute or so to cut him loose. Consider it a sporting chance.

RAINY

Ray? Please stop him.

JARED

This is all time you could be using to get a head start.

Jared opens the passenger side door to the car.

RAINY

Ray?

RAY

What?

RAINY

Help me.

RAY

Run you piece of shit!

Rainy gets to his feet and stumbles away. He gropes at the air helplessly.

JARED

Hey Auggie. Bet you're sick of this fucking car, huh?

Augustus struggles against his restraints. He pulls against them trying to get his hands and face closer to Jared.

JARED

I know.

Jared leans over Augustus and unclips the seat belt. It snaps back. Augustus struggles to get out of the car. His hands, feet, and legs still bound. Jared leans back out of the car.

JARED

Come on. Stretch your legs.

Augustus clumsily falls out of the car and on to his face. Jared holds him down gently with one foot and draws his sword. Calmly and smoothly he cuts to the ties binding Augustus' legs and ankles. He also removes the gag.

JARED
Bet that feels better.

Jared steps away. Augustus gets to his feet and starts toward Jared. Jared watches him rise. He calls over his shoulder.

JARED
You runnin' yet, Rainy?

Rainy continues stumbling down the road away from the vehicles and toward the distant horde.

Augustus lumbers toward Jared. His bound hands outstretched. With a quick swipe of the sword the binding on Augustus' wrists falls away. Jared sheathes his sword and steps back from Augustus.

JARED
Rainy stopped by to see you.

Augustus continues after Jared. Jared continues around Augustus, slapping his hands away with his sheathed sword.

JARED
Knock it off.

Augustus pushes in again. Jared steps around him and uses the end of sheathed sword to push Augustus toward Rainy.

JARED
Go get him.

Rainy has made a bit of distance groping blindly down the road.

Augustus moves to turn back toward Jared. Jared repositions the sword and nudges the turned shoulder back toward Rainy.

JARED
Augustus! Quit being a pain in my
ass.

Augustus stumbles forward. He walks away from Jared and toward Rainy.

JARED
There you go.

Jared follows Augustus as far as the back of the truck. They watch for a moment as Augustus pursues Rainy.

RAY

Now what?

JARED

That's your call. You need to stay
and watch this?

RAY

No.

JARED

Me neither.

RAY

We should get going.

JARED

Yes we should.

INT. TRUCK

Jared and Ray saddle up. The truck roars to life. Ray
habitually buckles his seat belt.

JARED

You know you don't have to do that
anymore, right?

Ray smiles and takes the seat belt off.

JARED

Seriously though, put it on. You
have no idea the shit out on the
roads.

Ray puts his seat belt back on and Jared puts the car in
gear.

RAY

Where are we going?

JARED

Anywhere you want, boss.

RAY

You think we'll be okay?

JARED

I was voted most likely to survive
the zombie apocalypse in high
school.

Ray laughs.

JARED
Sick part is, I'm not joking in the
least.

RAY
Where do you think we should go?

JARED
You the one who grew up on a farm.
What do you want see?

RAY
Doesn't matter.

Ray flicks on the radio and skims through the dial. Nothing
but static.

RAY
I miss the radio.

JARED
You and me both. And the Internet
and GPS and cellphones.

RAY
T.V. and video games.

JARED
And fast food.

RAY
My sister.

JARED
Yeah. I know.

They drive in silence for a moment.

JARED
I'm just gonna head out for the
highway. We can figure it out from
there.

RAY
Okay.

Ray glances over his shoulder at the smoke in the sky down
the road behind them.

EXT. HIGHWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

The truck weaves through a patch of abandoned cars.

INT. TRUCK

Ray stares absently out the window. The gun rests on the seat beside him.

JARED
How you doing?

RAY
I think my ass is falling asleep.

JARED
We'll need to figure out food soon.
How do you feel about sleeping in
the truck?

RAY
Is there somewhere else we could
sleep?

JARED
Not really, no. You know how to
drive?

RAY
Farm boy, of course I do.

JARED
Then we'll switch off. Means we
don't have to stop to sleep.

RAY
Okay.

Ray absently switches on the radio and wheels through the dial. Static. He leaves it at the end of the dial. White noise fills the cab.

RAY
You mind?

JARED
Sure.

RAY
It's better than silence.

JARED
If you're tired try and get some
sleep.

Ray nods. He rests his head against the window and closes his eyes.

INT. TRUCK - NIGHT

Ray wakes as the truck comes to a stop. White noise continues to fill the cab.

RAY
What's going on?

JARED
I need to sleep.

RAY
Sure. Okay.

Ray stretches out and rubs his eyes.

JARED
Take your time.

Ray nods. He looks around at his surroundings. There's not much to see.

RAY
Where are we?

JARED
Haven't a fucking clue.

RAY
Good place to be.

Ray reaches for his door handle.

JARED
I'll just climb over.

RAY
You sure?

JARED
At night? I'm not opening the door
unless I absolutely have to.

They awkwardly switch seats. Jared takes over with his head rested against the window. Ray buckles up and puts the car in to drive. He continues down the street.

RAY
You mind if I change the station?

JARED
Fuck no. They've been playing the
same shit all day.

Ray laughs and gives the dials a long pull with his finger.
A blip in the static. Jared bolts upright, wide awake.

JARED
What was that?

RAY
What?

Ray slowly rolls the dial back. He skips past a noise again
and slowly dials it back. As the sound fills the truck Ray
brings the truck to a slow stop. They listen intently to the
broadcast.

RADIO ANNOUNCER
(filtered)
-- live broadcast at 10:08 PM on
September 18th, 2009. If you are
within the broadcast area please
proceed Wright-Patterson Air Force
Base in Dayton, Ohio. We are
broadcasting from within the base.
We can provide food, shelter, and
water for any uninfected survivors.
If you are unable to leave your
current shelter continue to listen
to our broadcast. We are
dispatching search and rescue teams
during the day. We will announce
locations as teams are sent out. As
it is night there are no teams on
the ground right now. We will send
more personnel at dawn. We will
inform you where these groups are
searching. This is a live broadcast
at 10:09 PM on september 19th,
2009. If you are within broadcast
area --

The broadcast continues repeating the previously stated
information.

RAY
Military base?

JARED

Unless you got a better plan.

Ray continues driving down the street.

JARED

Any idea where you're going?

RAY

South.

JARED

Ohio it is.