

Safe Houses

Written by

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1

SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

1

SAL is a middle aged Caucasian man with a long, unkempt beard. He is wearing MILITARY FATIGUES and is sitting in a RECLINER in the middle of a grey, concrete room. He is looking into a WEBCAM that is set up behind a LAPTOP on a FOLDING TABLE. There is a COT behind him and BOXES stacked against the wall. An AK-47 is leaning against the provisions. Sal is clicking buttons on his LAPTOP COMPUTER and looking at his WATCH.

SAL

Come on. Don't crap out on me today.

Sal clicks a button on the laptop. The computer makes the sound of a phone RINGING. BENTON'S face appears in a window on Sal's computer screen. He is pale, thin, tall and effeminate. He is sitting at a DINING TABLE in a dining room looking into a LAPTOP, which is set up at the other end of the table. The room is immaculately clean, and every window is boarded over. We see his keyboard and a PLATE OF MASHED POTATOES AND GREEN BEANS.

BENTON

Hey, Merry Christmas, Sal!

SAL

Ah, hey, Benton. How's things?

2

BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

2

BENTON

Oh, I've had a hell of a week and nobody to talk to about it.

SAL

Well, we got a half hour before the rest of the lines open up. Why don't you tell me about it? I sure don't want to hear myself talk any longer.

BENTON

Maybe we should wait for the others?

SAL

Screw it. You can give them the short version.

(CONTINUED)

BENTON

Well, there are a few details I was going to leave out, but I'll tell...

The speakers on their computers make RINGING SOUNDS.

SAL

What the...? Who...huh, hey, it's Detroit?

3

DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

3

Benton clicks a button on his keyboard, and DETROIT, a young, strong African American male in his early twenties, appears on their screens.

Detroit is sitting in a BLACK LEATHER RECLINER in a luxury suite of a luxury hotel room. There are large windows behind him that are wide open. Outside there are clear skies and skyscrapers. Detroit is surrounded by UNOPENED BOXES labeled "ELECTRONICS, FOOD, BABY FORMULA, and DIAPERS."

DETROIT

What's happening, fellas?

SAL

You're online early. We weren't expecting you for another half hour. For a second I thought we might have caught another survivor.

DETROIT

Good to see you too. Merry Christmas.

BENTON

Detroit, you know we love you. But you know what a big deal it is when something new happens?

DETROIT

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

BENTON

Yeah, but it is weird that you were able to call early. That's got to mean something.

DETROIT

Probably means it's daylight savings time somewhere and we got an extra hour.

BENTON

That probably wouldn't apply since your line opened a half hour early, and anyway, daylight savings time doesn't cut over on Christmas, does it?

DETROIT

Who gives a shit? Why can't you people just be happy when something good happens?

BENTON

I guess you're right. Well, we're glad to see you're online. And you're just in time too to hear the uncensored version of my adventure today.

RINGING sounds come from the computers.

DETROIT

Ya'll, ya'll. No offence, know what I'm saying, but is this gonna to be a sausage fest? Yo, look, Carly's online. Let's get her fine ass on the phone and see what she's wearing. Er, I mean, so we can all hear your gripping story.

Detroit clicks his mouse.

4

CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

4

CARLY, a female wearing a bikini top, sarong and many necklaces and bracelets appears on their screens. Her hair is fashioned into dreadlocks. The walls behind her are stucco and are draped with COLORFUL FABRIC. She is sitting on a BED looking at her LAPTOP, which is also on the bed. It is obvious Carly has been crying.

CARLY

Oh, merry Christmas everyone. I was just about to call you.

DETROIT

Hey, baby, why you been crying?

CARLY

Oh, it's nothing...just...just some drama. It's nothing. It's stupid.

5 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

5

DETROIT

Girl, if someone's doing you wrong
I'll straight come over there right
now and whoop the shit out of
him...or her. I don't give a fuck.
Nobody makes my Carly cry.

CARLY

You're so sweet. But it's not that
big of a deal, and there's nothing
you can do anyway.

DETROIT

I'll be there if you need me baby.
Just say the word.

The computer RINGS, and Carly answers it quickly. ESMERALDA, an elderly Caucasian woman, appears on their screens. She is affluently dressed but wears a WIG and a large amount of makeup. She is sitting at a MAHOGANY DESK in a clean, nautical/beach-themed hotel room. The door to the hallway behind her is open. She waits until everyone greets her before speaking.

ESMERALDA

And a very merry Christmas to all
of my mainland friends as well. I
trust we're all having a luxurious
dinner tonight?

BENTON

Funny story about that...

DETROIT

Yeah, momma. We all good. You
should have come over to my place.
We'd be eating turkey and drinking
Crystal till New Years.

6 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

6

ESMERALDA

Maybe we could meet in Paris and I
could introduce you to some new
labels.

DETROIT

Yeah, you just want to show off how
Esmeralda got her groove back to yo
pasty white friends.

(CONTINUED)

ANDY, a cook, wearing a spotless APRON, walks to Esmeralda's door. Andy addresses Esmeralda dutifully but with a resentful tone of voice.

ANDY

Ms. Esmeralda? I'm sorry, but there's been a, uh, change in the menu this afternoon. Would you prefer crayfish or tuna for the main course?

ESMERALDA

It's Miss, not Ms. And I will have a two legged creature for Christmas like I ordered. I know for a fact it's available.

ANDY

But Miss...

The computers start RINGING. Esmeralda looks at the caller's name and grimaces.

ESMERALDA

That will be all, thank you.

Andy extends his middle finger towards Esmeralda. She does not see this since her back is turned to him.

ANDY

Yes Mi...Ma'aam.

Andy walks away down the hall to the left.

HALLUX, a suburban redneck sitting in a suburban red neck basement appears on everyone's screens. Behind him there are DEER HORNS and a BILLY BASS MOUTH on the wall. There is also a COUCH, a WASHING MACHINE, DRIER and a large PILE OF LAUNDRY behind him. You can hear other adults in the background out of view. Hallux is energetic.

HALLUX

Howdy, ya'll! Merry Christmas, everyone!

Esmeralda looks around in fear and disgust and then turns down the volume on her speakers.

CARLY

Oh, Hallux! Merry Christmas back. How is everyone doing? How's Skeeter?

HALLUX

Skeeter's drunk. Everyone's alive.
We're doing uh...yeah...we're doing
all right.

SAL

Where are you?

HALLUX

Oh, we're holed up in the storm
shelter at the moment, but this
ain't permanent or nothing.

BENTON

What's going on?

CARLY

Benton, it's rude to pry.

HALLUX

I don't mind. Hell, ain't got much
else to talk about.

BENTON

See Carly, it may be rude to pry,
but it never hurts to ask.

CARLY

You sound like Alim.

BENTON

And Alim's usually right.

ESMERALDA

Usually being the key word.

BENTON

Anyways...

Their computers start RINGING again.

HALLUX

It's Gracy, ya'll. Sorry. We'll
have to get back to my story later.

BENTON

Mine too, apparently.

HALLUX

Huh?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HALLUX (cont'd)

Hallux presses a button on his computer.

GRACY, an African American woman in her early 60's, appears on his screen. She is in a church nave. The LAPTOP she is talking into is set up on the PULPIT. There are a few people praying and sleeping in the PEWS behind her. Gracy has been crying.

8 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

8

BENTON

Merry Christmas, Gracy!

ESMERALDA

Darling, you're crying. How can you be crying on Christmas?

GRACY

Hello everyone. I'm so happy I got to see all of you today. This is a truly blessed day.

DETROIT

We're blessed to see you too. What's going on, my celestial queen?

GRACY

Oh, don't worry about my problems. I want to hear how everyone else is doing. I want this to be your day.

9 BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

9

Benton is about to take a bite of his mashed potatoes.

DETROIT

We were just about to hear someone's story, and Benson was about to tell us about his mashed potatoes. So, please...

Benton puts his fork down, disgruntled.

(CONTINUED)

GRACY

No, I'm serious. Don't worry about me.

BENTON

Gracy. You have the floor.

GRACY

Come on now, I don't like being put on the spot.

Nobody says anything.

10

GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

10

GRACY

We... It's just that we lost a few people. Four. They were good men, all of them.

CARLY

I'm so sorry. What happened, honey?

GRACY

I don't know how much I can talk about it without...

Gracy chokes on a cry and then collects herself.

CARLY

Whenever you're ready.

GRACY

There was a hurricane. Or a tornado. Probably a hurricane. It was bad. It tore up the town real bad. The church is one of the only buildings standing, but... a big pecan tree fell on the fence, and the branches took out a wall in the Sunday school wing.

CARLY

Was anyone in there?

GRACY

No. No. We were in the basement.

ESMERALDA

Did the storm last all night?

(CONTINUED)

GRACY

I don't know. It felt like days down there in the dark. It was long enough to run out of... well, anyway, when we finally opened the storm doors and sent our six strongest men out to look things over. They found the hole in the wall and... and.... only two came back.

Gracy chokes up again and barely collects herself.

11 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM 11

CARLY

It's okay. You don't have to tell us.

12 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE 12

GRACY

No, you may as well know.

Gracy leans back to give everyone a better view of the room.

GRACY

As you can see we're fine in here. The thing is... outside... after that big of a storm... there are bodies everywhere, and the... the church just... stands out.

SAL

How bad is it?

Everyone is silent for a moment while Gracy collects herself. Then their computers RING. Gracy quickly clicks her MOUSE.

ALIM, a masculine, well-dressed Middle Eastern man appears on everyone's screen. He is holding the LAPTOP he is speaking into, and he is standing on a balcony inside an open air sports stadium. There is a major metropolitan city behind him in one direction. There is desert in every other direction. The sun is setting.

13 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

13

ALIM

Happy Christmas everyone! It appears I'm late. I wasn't expecting anyone to be on for another half hour. But this is lucky, because now, for your Christmas present I can give you...a view of the Arabian sunset!

Alim holds his laptop up to show the sunset. Then he sets it on a FOLDING TABLE and sits down and looks at everyone.

ALIM

Why is everyone so glum? What did I miss?

DETROIT

Gracy lost some people this week.

ALIM

I'm terribly sorry to hear that. My condolences.

GRACY

No. It's okay. Thank you for the present. I'll replay it often.

ALIM

Did you want to talk about it?

DETROIT

Gracy was saying they had a hurricane. Did some damage to their safe house and let in some... of those mother fucking zombies.

ALIM

I wonder if it might have been a tornado and not a hurricane?

14 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

14

SAL

It is hurricane season, and I had a tornado up my ways that I was gonna tell you 'bout later, knocked down literally the whole forest around my spider hole the other day. Good thing I have two exists on this thing, cause a tree fell right on top of the main hatch.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

If it's hurricane season then why did you say there was tornado?

SAL

Hurricanes spin off tornados.

ESMERALDA

Okay, then maybe Gracy's hurricane reached you?

GRACY

Hurricanes never get that far north.

SAL

Let alone this far West. Regardless, it's all cleared up now on my end. What about you, Gracy?

15 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

15

GRACY

The *skies* are clear.

CARLY

Hey, what are you going to do now that the forest isn't there to hide you anymore?

GRACY

Darling, I'm in the city. We only had the one pecan tree.

CARLY

No, I was asking Sal.

GRACY

Oh. Sal? The phone's for you.

16 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

16

SAL

Hey, I didn't want to steal the spot light, but I'll give you the short version. So, yeah, no. Screw that forest. Now I got all the timber in the world to build fortifications. I can set up a wide perimeter and start growing crops. I've had all the seeds, just nowhere to plant them. Plus, now I've got a clear line of sight in

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SAL (cont'd)
 every direction and a whole lot of
 debris for zombies to trip over in
 between us. So... honestly I'm
 actually really excited about it.
 I've been working on some pretty
 interesting designs.

17 BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

17

BENTON
 You know, I'm happy for you Sal,
 but it's just cruelly ironic that
 with one storm, God would bless you
 and smite Gracy.

GRACY
 Oh no, God didn't smite us. He just
 works in mysterious ways. All
 things are a gift from...

ALIM
 That's illogical. If God...

BENTON
 No! No! I wasn't trying to go
 there. I was just saying, and now I
 regret saying it. I don't want to
 argue about religion or politics
 tonight. I'm sorry. I went through
 a lot of trouble to have a special
 Christmas, and I just don't want to
 ruin it with stupid debates.

18 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

18

ALIM
 I apologize. It's just that I've
 taken a vow of honesty recently.
 I've decided life is too short to
 ever say anything except exactly
 what you mean.

CARLY
 But isn't life too short to say
 everything you mean as well?

ALIM
 Carly, you tend to automatically
 disagree with people. You think
 you're being clever and playing the
 devil's advocate, but it's really
 just a mental knee-jerk response in
 place of...

(CONTINUED)

BENTON

I don't give a crap. If you don't have anything nice to say then don't say anything at all.

ALIM

Constructive criticism is the nicest thing you can say to a person, but I understand. I apologize, Carly. And I yield the floor to you, Benton. Did you have a story that can reset the mood?

19 BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

19

BENTON

I do have a story. I've got a doozy of a story.

Sal and Detroit laugh.

SAL

Benton's been trying to tell this since we logged on.

GRACY

Well where are our manners? I'm so sorry, Benton. What did you want to say?

BENTON

Okay. Where to begin? Okay. In order to understand this, you have to bear in mind, my town is a small retirement community. So most of the zombies around here are old people. They're stronger than you'd think, but they're not that strong. And they tend to stay close to their homes because... well, a lot of them were locked in anyway. So it's kind of safe to walk the streets, but it's always dangerous to go inside anywhere.

20 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

20

DETROIT

Whaaat? You can handle a few old ass zombies, can't you? Shit. We got big ass gangsta nigga zombies pounding on our doors out here.

(CONTINUED)

GRACY

Language.

DETROIT

Sorry, ma'am.

BENTON

The thing is, I've pretty much cleared all the houses by now.

DETROIT

Okay. So you got your town on lockdown? My wigga.

21 BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

21

BENTON

I've got it too locked down. I've already scavenged most of what the town has. And I know there's nobody else alive here but me. The only place I haven't gone is the retirement home, and I've always known they had a lot of food.

ALIM

And now I see you have a delicious freeze dried Christmas dinner.

SAL

How much resistance did you encounter? I'm going to be very disappointed if this story ends with you walking out the front door with a shopping cart.

BENTON

Oh, hell. I wish that's how the story went. No. I had to go through a bit more than that. I left here at dawn and snuck to the back of the retirement home. I climbed onto the roof and broke into the attic through one of those little ventilation windows. Then I had to tightrope walk on the crossbeams so I didn't fall through the ceiling. I had to lift up the ceiling tiles in every room before I found the pantry. And I wanted to check and see how many zombies were in there too.

22 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE 22

SAL
How many were there?

23 BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM 23

BENTON
A lot, but I wasn't going to stay there and count. Anyway, the pantry was zombie-free, and the door was closed. So I just jumped down and locked it. I might have made a bit of noise though, because it stirred up the old folks. I wasn't too worried about them getting through the pantry door, but just to be safe, I took a big bottle of dish soap back up to the attic and dumped it through the open ceiling tiles so when the zombies came at the door they just slipped and fell all over themselves. It was kind of funny like an old slapstick comedy show, but since they were all old and starving, it was also a lot of sad.

DETROIT
Did that really work?

BENTON
Yeah. It worked great. I heard so many bones break I kind of threw up in my mouth a little.

24 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM 24

CARLY
Oh, God.

25 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE 25

SAL
Huh. Well that must have made a lot more noise, right?

26

BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

26

BENTON

Oh, for sure. The rest of the old folks came pouring in. And they all just fell down one right after each other. Falling, literally, for the same trap the person... I mean, zombie... right in front of them just fell for.

DETROIT

That's pretty quick. I gotta remember that one. But... so after that, you just got all your food and left? I mean, that was clever, but I think you might have hyped it up a bit without the follow through.

BENTON

Well, the story's not over yet. See, the dish soap worked so well, I figured I should do it to the rest of the rooms so I'd have an easier time going back to them if I ever needed to.

27

DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

27

DETROIT

Again, clever, but not impressed.

GRACY

You're being rude.

DETROIT

You heard Alim earlier. You gotta call it like it is.

BENTON

I've also heard him say patience is a virtue.

DETROIT

Yo, but time is of the essence, and that right, Alim?

ALIM

You're not wrong.

(CONTINUED)

BENTON

If you'd let me finish my story...

DETROIT

Chill man, chill. I'm gonna let you finish.

28

BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

28

BENTON

Thank you. So I'll skip the dramatization of balancing big jugs of soap across the rafter beams and get right to the part where I fell through the ceiling and landed on top of a bed ridden old zombie lady.

SAL

You weren't bitten were you?

BENTON

Relax. She couldn't move. She didn't even have any teeth.

HALLUX

What about all the rest of the zombies in hallway? Didn't they hear you fall?

BENTON

Definitely, but I'd already soaped up the hallway real good, and there was so much commotion everywhere else, nobody tried to come through the door.

HALLUX

Ooooo. You lucky.

BENTON

I don't know about that. If I hadn't landed on the bed I might have really hurt myself. I did land pretty awkward though, and I pulled my back something terrible.

29 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

29

ALIM

Couldn't have been too bad. You got out with your food, and you seem fine.

BENTON

That's cause I took half that lady's pain medications. She had the good stuff too.

ALIM

But painkillers take what, thirty minutes, an hour to start working?

BENTON

Yeah. And I was laid out until that happened.

30 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

30

CARLY

Laid out in the room with the zombie you just landed on?

31 BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

31

BENTON

Yeah.

Benton takes a large bite of his mashed potatoes.

SAL

That must have been awkward.

BENTON

It was at first a little, but after a while it was kind of beautiful.

DETROIT

Sounds like you did take the good shit. What was it?

BENTON

Oh, I don't know. The name started with a "D."

32 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE 32

GRACY

So you just got high and watched a poor, old woman suffer and thought it was beautiful? You should have more respect.

BENTON

Why I am the bad guy here? Look, I had a conversation with her. It was profound.

33 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH 33

ALIM

She could talk?

34 BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM 34

BENTON

Well, no. I did all the talking, but she looked at me. I mean, she *looked at me*. It was almost like she could see through me.

DETROIT

Yeah, you definitely got the good stuff.

BENTON

I'm serious. We shared a moment.

CARLY

That's so nice, Benton.

35 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT 35

HALLUX

But you did kill the zombie lady, right? I mean, you didn't just let her go on suffering?

BENTON

I put her out of her misery.

HALLUX

Didn't the gun shot call all the zombies back?

36 BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM 36

BENTON

No, I smothered her face with a pillow.

ALIM

Did that work? I didn't think you could suffocate zombies.

BENTON

Turns out you can't. So I had to bash her. But I left the pillow on her face when I did it.

ALIM

What for?

BENTON

To give the poor lady a little dignity.

37 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM 37

CARLY

But wouldn't the pillow make it harder to... finish?

BENTON

Turns out, it did. So I had to take the pillow off after a few tries anyway.

38 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE 38

GRACY

Benton.

39 BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM 39

BENTON

The important thing is she's in a better place now.

40 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE 40

SAL

Benton.

BENTON

What!?

(CONTINUED)

SAL

So how did you get out with your back still hurt?

BENTON

Same way I came in. It took about an hour to get all the usable food out. I didn't have a shopping cart, and I couldn't carry much at a time. So I stashed most of it in the back of an eighteen wheeler a few streets down, but I can pick that up pretty much any time.

SAL

You did all that with a hurt back?

BENTON

... and a ton of pain killers!

SAL

That was a bad idea. You're not fit to fight. You're going to have to spend the next week in bed, with or without pain killers.

41 BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM 41

BENTON

I spend most weeks in bed, and I've got plenty of food here to last me for a... a while.

42 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT 42

HALLUX

I gotta say. I'm a little jealous you get to spend a week in bed with a bottle you ain't gotta share, but ain't it gonna be dangerous going back out there now with all the zombies stirred up? I mean, you didn't kill a building full of zombies with soap. They might try busting out now that they know there's fresh meat in town.

BENTON

No. No. No. No. No. Before I came home I set the building on fire.

43 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM 43

CARLY

I thought you poured soap
everywhere so you could go back
later.

BENTON

I was pretty high when I made the
decision.

CARLY

What about all the people inside? I
thought you shared a moment with
them.

BENTON

They're *all* in a better place now.
That was the idea.

44 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE 44

GRACY

Not before they burned alive.

BENTON

Alive? Come on. It had to be better
than the alternative.

45 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM 45

CARLY

You mean getting smothered and
having your face beat in with a
baseball bat?

BENTON

It was a night stand, actually.

CARLY

I'm gonna be sick.

46 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH 46

ALIM

More importantly, you left that
fire burning out of control? You
could burn the whole city down!

BENTON

It's a town, not a city, and the
old folk's home stands alone.
There's nothing to catch on fire.

(CONTINUED)

SAL

Even still, you're sending up a pretty massive smoke signal. You should have waited until night.

HALLUX

That would have just made a giant spotlight though.

SAL

That's true. Benton, you shouldn't have done that at all.

47 BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

47

BENTON

Relax. There's nothing for miles. I wish there was attention to attract.

ESMERALDA

The hurricane might have pushed a lot of zombies up North.

BENTON

Not this far. No way. Even if they made it to the Great Lakes, that's as far as they'd get.

Between the cracks in the boards on Benton's windows you can see movement outside.

CARLY

Benton! I think I saw something move outside your window.

BENTON

Come on. That's not funny.

48 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

48

DETROIT

Nah, straight up. Check your six.

BENTON

It's nothing. Look. If it'll make you all feel better, I'll go have a look around, but I'm not even closing my computer.

Detroit clicks a button that maximizes Benton's screen. On it, we see Benton get up and try to walk leisurely to the door, but he shows signs that his back is bothering him. We

(CONTINUED)

hear GLASS BREAKING in another room. Benton takes a step backwards and grabs a GOLF CLUB out from under the table. He runs out of the room. A few moments later we hear scuffling and Benton SHOUTING from off screen.

49 BENTON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM 49

Benton runs back into the dining room and shuts the door. He fumbles with the lock while zombies enter through another door across the room. A heavy CONSTRUCTION WORKER and THREE ELDERLY ZOMBIES overtake him and pin him to the ground. They eat his flesh while he screams.

50 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH 50

Everyone screams for a while. After everyone calms down there is a long moment of silence as they listen to the SOUNDS OF ZOMBIES EATING Benton's corpse.

ALIM

We should disconnect from Benton's feed... I mean.

Carly starts crying.

DETROIT

He's right. It don't do anyone any good watching this. Peace my brother from another mother.

Everybody except Alim and Sal click a button on their mouse or keyboard.

51 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM 51

DETROIT

Damn. Well... don't ya'll think Benton deserves a few words?

GRACY

That's awfully big of you. Benton will be happy to hear you give his eulogy.

DETROIT

I wasn't talking about... ugh. Okay. What can I say about Benton? Shit, I don't even know his last name. Have we been calling him by his last name this whole time?

SAL

His full name was Peter Benton Henton.

DETROIT

Really? Damn. No wonder he acted so...picked on.

SAL

Well, he tried to own his name.

DETROIT

I'da disowned it, but ai'ght. Anyway, Peter Benton Henton...

Detroit chuckles a little while saying his name.

DETROIT

Benton was a good guy. He didn't bother anyone. The world could stand to have few more Bentons in it, not less. It's a damn shame he ain't with us no more. This one's for Benton.

Detroit gets out of his chair and walks to a REFRIGERATOR across the room and takes a 40oz BOTTLE OF MALT LIQUOR out. He looks at it for a moment and puts it back in the fridge. Then he pulls a bottle of CRYSTAL out. He takes it to the window and pours it out.

We hear CLAPPING coming from Detroit's computer speakers.

52

S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

52

Esmeralda is clapping a distinguished old white woman clap.

ESMERALDA

Amen, brother.

DETROIT

I'm gonna let that one slip for Benton.

ESMERALDA

How kind of you. Now if you'll excuse me, it's going to take some time to get into my mourning dress and make myself presentable.

ALIM

You're not going to stay online?

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

Well that wouldn't be proper? Don't you think?

ALIM

None of us have anywhere else to go... except maybe Carly.

ESMERALDA

Carly. What are you going to do?

53 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

53

CARLY

I don't have a mourning dress, and I'm kind of trying to avoid crowds and conversations right now.

ESMERALDA

Well, you're having a conversation right now, aren't you?

CARLY

With people who don't want to take anything from me.

DETROIT

What's that supposed to mean?

54 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

54

ESMERALDA

One thing at a time. How can you all just go on making small talk at a time like this? Shouldn't we... do something? Sal? You're a practical man. Oh, no wait. You're too practical. Gracy?

55 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

55

SAL

All Benton wanted was to share his story with us. I think he'd hate it if nobody else got to hear anyone else's today on account of him.

GRACY

That's exactly right. And I'll say a prayer for him. If everyone will close their eyes...

(CONTINUED)

SAL

Uh, Grace? Benton wasn't a Christian. In fact, he kind of hated his Christian father. Not the Holy Father, but his biological... or actually... step father. He was a Christian... and a bit of bastard. So...

56 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

56

HALLUX

Hey man, can I interrupt for a second? How do you know all this stuff about him? Were you like, friends before?

DETROIT

Dog, they come online thirty minutes before everyone else. We talked about this. You were probably drunk.

HALLUX

Naw, I didn't know that. Sal, how come you ain't told us how to sign on earlier? Didn't you think we all wanted to talk thirty minutes longer?

57 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

57

ALIM

Hallux, nobody here has any control over how or when the lines work. I've been over it a thousand times, and I can't figure out a reasonable explanation for why those two can stay on longer than the rest of us, or why the lines are already open today. I mean, obviously it's all automated, but I can't figure out why an engineer would design it that way.

SAL

Maybe we did something different today that made it work. We should compare our communication setups.

ALIM

We would have all had to do something differently. So it

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALIM (cont'd)
 couldn't have had anything to do
 with our individual equipment or
 settings. I think whoever wrote the
 automation software just programmed
 it to come on early for Christmas,
 which makes me suspect the servers
 are in the United States.

CARLY
 Or they're somewhere else, and they
 were just programmed by someone
 from a Christian country.

DETROIT
 Shit ain't on auto. Some mother
 fucker is fucking with us.

SAL
 Look, there was the hurricane.
 Hallux is in his basement. Alim,
 you're on the roof. Lots of things
 are different.

ALIM
 I'm still disinclined to agree with
 your hypothesis, but...

HALLUX
 Hey, we can talk about all this any
 time, but what about Benton's
 prayer?

GRACY
 I know some of you don't want me
 to, but Benton might.

SAL
 He would want us to share our
 stories, not waste our time
 arguing, or, I'm sorry Gracy, pray.

58

S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

58

ESMERALDA
 Then I guess it's settled. We'll
 stay online as long as we can, but
 I'm sure each of us can find
 another way to honor him in our own
 way, which I intend to do this
 moment.

Esmeralda picks up a sleek, blue REMOTE CONTROLLER and
 clicks it vigorously.

(CONTINUED)

A HOSTESS in her early thirties, wearing a CORPORATE UNIFORM enters Esmeralda's doorway from the hallway to the right. She carries herself like an obediently trained, but exhausted, unfulfilled, entry level worker doing work beneath her age.

HOSTESS

Yes, Ma'am?

ESMERALDA

One of my mainland friends has just passed away. Please bring me two glasses of champagne.

HOSTESS

You have contact with the mainland?

ESMERALDA

That's none of your businesses. Now if you don't mind, I'll have those glasses.

HOSTESS

Two?

The hostess looks around the room to see if anyone else is there. She does not see anyone and makes a sad, judgmental face at Esmeralda.

ESMERALDA

I'm going to pour one out for him.
When in Rome.

The hostess walks back down the hallway to the right. As she's walking away we hear her say over her shoulder,

HOSTESS

Classy.

59

HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

59

HALLUX

Well, if we all get to do one thing for Benny, then I'd like to spend mine on a moment of silence... from all of us. You don't have to be religious to have a moment of silence. I think our boy would be all right with it.

GRACY

I second that motion.

(CONTINUED)

ALIM

Third.

HALLUX

Okay. So. I guess I'll... Okay.
Moment of silence starts... now.

They have a short moment of silence.

HALLUX

I guess that'll do. And Benton,
wherever you are, I'll pour out a
beer... or drink one for you....
like you would have wanted. Because
you weren't wasteful. Amen.

60 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

60

GRACY

Well, Alim, would you like to say
anything?

ALIM

I wasn't planning on it, and I'm a
little surprised you would ask.

GRACY

We don't agree on most things, but
you do have a way with words. When
they're used for good they can
be... poignant.

ALIM

You're setting me up on a pedestal
I don't know if I can stand on, but
if you really want me to say
something for Benton, I'd be
honored to.

61 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

61

CARLY

I'm kind of curious to hear what
you have to say, and I like to hear
you talk. I like your accent.

62 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

62

ALIM

Okay. Well. Hmmm. Benton took all
his accomplishments and failures
with him. All of that is between
him and whatever brought us here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALIM (cont'd)

But our lives will go on for a little longer, and I know Benton would have wanted the same thing for us that we pity him for losing: time spent living and twiddling our thumbs, or whatever it is we do. He can't live, but we can live for him, not by looking backwards but by looking forwards. For Benton, we'll live.

GRACY

Amen.

SAL

Thanks, Alim. That was good, but it made me feel guilty about spending all my time just sitting around doing nothing.

ALIM

Don't blame the mirror for how your reflection looks.

DETROIT

Ooooh! Disssssed!

63

SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

63

SAL

Fuck all you guys. But since you brought it up, let's talk about something serious. The fact is, Benton's safe house was woefully unprepared. We all saw how cheap the boards on his windows were. Hell, they had cracks between them, and that's what got him killed.

CARLY

It was the fire that got him killed.

SAL

The fire might have brought the dead, but we're living in the freakin zombie apocalypse. That's what happens. Herds of zombies swarm your safe house. If Benton was as prepared as he should have, he wouldn't have died. The way I see it, we let him.

(CONTINUED)

HALLUX

I told that sonofagun last time,
his window job was half-assed, but
he didn't listen.

64 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

64

ALIM

I'm going to have to side with Sal
on this one. We could have talked
Benton into improving his defenses,
but we chose not to.

65 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

65

ESMERALDA

Well I don't know anything about
defenses. I couldn't have done
anything different, but it doesn't
matter anymore anyway. Or are we
just supposed to go on the rest of
our lives beating ourselves up
because we didn't convince everyone
we ever met that what they were, or
weren't, doing was foolish?

ALIM

The fact still stands, if there's a
lesson to be learned from Benton's
death, it's that we should help
each other in whatever way we can.

DETROIT

Yeah, but we can't do much sittin'
on opposite sides of the world.

SAL

We can analyse each other's
defenses.

66 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

66

CARLY

Oh, my God! I wish there was a
separate chat lines for boys and
girls. Are we seriously going to
talk all night about defenses?

SAL

Gracy and Hallux are both in
desperate need of practical advice
right now.

(CONTINUED)

CARLY

There is that. I feel so selfish.
Ugh. What kind of a person am I?

67

GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

67

GRACY

You don't need to beat yourself up,
dear. I'd rather gossip than talk
about walls.

SAL

But Gracy, you need more help than
anyone.

GRACY

No, don't worry about us. We're
fine now. All there is to do now is
wait.

ESMERALDA

Until what?

GRACY

For evil to pass.

SAL

There's no boards on the windows
behind you, Grace. How is that
secure?

GRACY

Those are too high to reach without
a ladder. Anyway, Father says
they're blast proof. If a hurricane
couldn't knock them out, then a
zombie sure can't.

SAL

What about the rest of the windows?
And the doors?

GRACY

Honey, the whole building was
designed as a disaster shelter.
That's why it survived the storm.
Nothing is getting in.

DETROIT

But what about you getting out? How
much supplies you have? You already
said you running out of stuff.

(CONTINUED)

GRACY

We managed to get everything we need for now, and there's nothing left to do but wait until the time is right to go.

SAL

So the two men who made it back were able to get some supplies from another part of the church?

GRACY

Like I said, they got what we needed.

68

S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

68

ALIM

Surely there's some way we can help, some expertise we could offer?

The hostess is standing in the doorway with TWO GLASSES OF CHAMPAGNE.

HOSTESS

I got some champagne.

ESMERALDA

Thank you. That will be all.

HOSTESS

But, ma'am. Your green account is already overdrawn this period.

ESMERALDA

I'm positive it's not.

HOSTESS

We both know it's impossible for you to not know you're over your limit.

ESMERALDA

I'll not have that lip from you.

HOSTESS

Look, you can keep the drinks. I'll bring you two *bottles* if you let me contact the mainland... or at least try.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

You want to blackmail me with a bottle of champagne? Oh, you're fresh.

HOSTESS

I'm not blackmailing you. I'm asking. I'm begging. Do you have any news? Can I send an E-mail?

ESMERALDA

This is neither the time nor the place. I must insist you leave my quarters before I report you.

HOSTESS

I can help you.

ESMERALDA

This conversation is over.

The hostess looks hopeless and deflated for a moment. Then she collects herself and purses her lips slyly.

HOSTESS

Keep the drinks as a gift. I'll be back later.

The hostess leaves and walks off down the hallway to the right. As she turns the corner, we can hear her WHISPERING hurriedly with someone. Once the hostess is out of sight, Esmeralda takes one of the glasses to her window and pours it out.

69

ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

69

ALIM

What was all that about?

ESMERALDA

Oh, the help around is absolutely helpless, but they think they're better than the people they serve. Can you imagine?

ALIM

Sounds like your boat is full of monsters.

SAL

Does nobody else on the ship know you're communicating with the mainland?

70 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN 70

ESMERALDA

It's not a secret. I've told a lot
people.

71 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM 71

CARLY

Did they believe you?

ESMERALDA

Why wouldn't they? Why? Did your
people not believe you?

CARLY

I haven't told anyone else...
except my boyfriend.

GRACY

Don't you think that's being a
little selfish?

CARLY

You're one to talk. Hogging the
spotlight.

GRACY

Most folk around here don't want to
meet anyone else they're going to
lose. The rest are fine with me
speaking for them since I was the
one God gave this gift to.

CARLY

That's nice for you, but if anyone
else found out about this, the big
bad bosses around here would hijack
the conversation.

72 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN 72

ESMERALDA

Come to think of it. I have been
waiting for the captain to ask for
an audience. I sent him a message,
and he never responded.

GRACY

He probably has other matters to
attend to, like our deacons.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

Just this once, why don't we talk to them? The boys could advise them on your situation.

73

GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

73

GRACY

I appreciate that, but seriously, you needn't worry about us. The men have already taken care of everything here. Hallux needs our attention more.

SAL

Esmeralda's right. We can get to Hallux later.

GRACY

Sal, you're practical man. There's no time to argue about things that are already decided.

SAL

Okay, loud and clear. I don't like it, but alright, Gracy. If that's what you want. Hallux, what kind of a pickle have you got yourself in?

74

HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

74

HALLUX

Oh, man. Where to start? Uh, we're in the storm shelter under the house, and before you ask, you couldn't get through the door with an axe. So we're good there. But we've been down here for a few days. We're feeling awfully cooped up.

ESMERALDA

How did you end up there in the first place?

HALLUX

It's kinda funny, actually. What started it all was, we welded these zombie traps together. They basically looked like big, giant hog traps. And the...

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

Darling, I think I speak for most of us when I say we don't know what a hog trap looks like.

HALLUX

Really? Then just imagine what one would look like.

ESMERALDA

I haven't the faintest idea what to imagine.

HALLUX

Huh. City folk. Well, it's a long cage with a door that swings in but not out. And we modeled it off a hog trap to catch zombies, but the first thing we caught was a hog. I know, right? So when we found it, we shot it and loaded it up onto the four wheeler and took it back to the house.

75

CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

75

CARLY

You killed that poor animal?

HALLUX

You're joking, right?

CARLY

No. That's cruel.

HALLUX

Uh, I don't know what to say to that but uh... I hope you're not offended that I don't care.

CARLY

A little.

HALLUX

Sorry?

CARLY

I guess.

HALLUX

But hey, we use every part of the animal just like the Indians. So that pig wasn't gonna die in vain.

CARLY

So the animal didn't suffer?

HALLUX

Nah. Just one shot to head like a zombie and lights out.

DETROIT

Yeah, get to the zombies.

HALLUX

Well, after we gutted and drained ole' porky and started throwing big slabs of ham on the grill... mmmmm. You never smelt nothing so good in your entire life. We opened every door in the house to let that good smell just get everywhere.

ALIM

So... the obvious flaw in your plan was...

HALLUX

There wasn't no plan. We were just drunk on bacon heaven.

CARLY

... and moonshine?

HALLUX

Goes without saying. Anyway, it dawned on one of us that it might be a bad idea to advertise our dinner to the entire neighbourhood. We were just about to start closing up shop when we were just surrounded by em. I mean, it's like one second they weren't there, and the next second they were everywhere. Dozens of em, and they were running too. So we all ran like hell and dove in the basement.

(CONTINUED)

CARLY

Did everyone make it inside safe?

HALLUX

Everyone's safe, but ain't everyone here.

GRACY

How many of you got left outside?

HALLUX

Steve and Skeeter are up in the barn, but they're doing better than we are. That's our man cave out there.

We hear a raspy female voice with a thick country accent shout from off screen in Hallux's room.

TRACY'S MOM (O.S.)

They ain't been sober since the door hit em' in the ass.

HALLUX

Neither have you.

SAL

But how can you be sure they're even alive?

HALLUX

Awww, dude, we got an intercom hooked up.

Hallux points behind him at an INTERCOM BOX on the wall.

Tracy's Mom made us put it up back in the day since we was always out there, and she didn't want to keep running up her cell phone bill calling us every time she wanted to tell us to do something or bitch at us.

Everyone returns her hello.

CARLY

Where's Tracy?

HALLUX

Sleeping on her momma's lap.

(CONTINUED)

ALIM

We'll try to keep the volume down. Now, what have Steve and Skeeter been able to tell you about the situation? Are they secure? Do they know what's going on outside? And how old are they, if I may ask?

HALLUX

They're behind strong doors, which I'm sure they MacGyvered up even more since they've been in there. They got a pretty good view of the property from the second story, and they said it's clearing up. Just a handful of stragglers who loved my cooking too much to leave. And Steve and Skeet? They're two bad ass mother fuckers, if that's what you're asking. Hell, I'm not even so much worried about us getting out of the basement as I am about those two retards getting drunk and going all wild West.

SAL

So what's the plan then?

HALLUX

After maybe a couple more zombies leave or get stuck, Skeet wants to lower a strobe light down into the yard to distract the rest while we clear the house and lock it up. Then we can just shoot the shit out the zombies outside and call it a day.

77

S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

77

ESMERALDA

Two questions. One, why haven't you used the strobe light yet in the first place? And two, why haven't your friends shot them all by now? Don't tell me you don't have a gun rack in your little man cave.

HALLUX

Oh, I don't know. Maybe because both of those things would have called back all the zombies that just left.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

Well, then what makes this such a good plan now?

78

HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

78

HALLUX

Like I said, it ain't just yet, but it's gettin'.

ALIM

That means you have time to refine your plan and consider other options. There may be an advantage you haven't considered.

HALLUX

There really ain't much to it. We just gotta walk out that door and shoot whatever we see in the face.

Hallux reaches below him and lifts a PISTOL, which he cocks.

HALLUX

I'd do it right now, but I don't want zombie brains splattered all over every room in the house.

SAL

Friend, you can't be serious? Running around in the dark with a strobe light blaring, shooting whatever you see in the face, is not a plan.

DETROIT

True. I can tell you exactly how that's gonna work out.

CARLY

And won't that still just draw all the other zombies back anyway?

ESMERALDA

Excellent point.

HALLUX

Them coming back won't be a problem once we clear the house and shut the doors.

(CONTINUED)

SAL

But your gun shots will draw the zombies distracted by the strobe light straight back in. You need to make sure you clear the house as quietly as possible.

HALLUX

If you got some big idea, I guess I'll hear it.

79 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

79

CARLY

Oh my god. We're really doing this? We're talking about defenses?

ALIM

Benton would have wanted us to.

CARLY

Fine.

80 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

80

HALLUX

Go on, Sal. Blow our minds.

81 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

81

SAL

Actually, I'm just a guy in a spider hole. What the hell do I know? Clearing houses is Detroit's area of expertise.

DETROIT

Recognize. Carly, you paying attention, right?

CARLY

You're so dreamy.

HALLUX

Everybody keep their panties on. Detroit, whatcha got?

DETROIT

Rule number one of clearing a building. The only place a zombie can bite you, is between two walls. If there's something between you, the zombies and the walls, that's your safe zone. When we first started clearing buildings, we pushed a box mattress in front of us everywhere we went.

ALIM

I'm curious to hear how you solved the problem of hitting zombies in the head with a mattress between you.

HALLUX

Me three.

DETROIT

We had these big, medieval-looking iron curtain rods we'd stab em in the face with.

HALLUX

We ain't got no box springs or curtain rods down here. Got a bed upstairs.

DETROIT

That's no good. You need it as soon as you open the door. You got a dresser?

Hallux looks over his shoulder at the pile of clothes and the washing machine.

HALLUX

We got a washing machine.

DETROIT

Fuck that.

HALLUX

I know where I can get a bunch of dressers though, if they're good for fighting zombies. Is that what you use?

(CONTINUED)

DETROIT

Nah, my boy who does cars, took these shopping carts and welded em up all Mad Max and shit with a hydraulic bitch slapper on front.

83 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

83

Hallux's jaw drops in wonder.

HALLUX

I have no idea what you just said, but that's the most amazing thing I've ever heard in my life.

84 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

84

SAL

How does a hydraulic bitch slapper work?

DETROIT

All I know is, you pull a lever on the back of the cart, and a bar in the front, bitch slaps the face off of anyone looking at us wrong.

SAL

That's gotta deliver a pretty good recoil though?

DETROIT

No doubt. We load it with weights when we're ready to use it. Holds it down, aight.

85 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

85

HALLUX

That's great and all, and believe me, we're gonna make one of those next chance we get, but we ain't got that kind of equipment down here. We got a mattress, but it's for a cot. We got some couch cushions?

86 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

86

DETROIT

That's all garbage. You need something sturdy with wheels.

HALLUX

The cot folds up on wheels. That's how we got it out of the hotel in the first place.

DETROIT

Aight. That's a start. You got any closet doors or big pieces of wood down there?

87 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

87

HALLUX

Nah, pretty much anything big and flat's already been nailed to a window.

DETROIT

What about your coffee table? That looks about the width of a hall.

TRACY'S MOM (O.S.)

Ain't nobody touching my momma's coffee table!

DETROIT

Your momma would rather there be a broken table in the house tomorrow than a dead daughter.

HALLUX

Suppose I do something with the coffee table?

88 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

88

DETROIT

Take that flimsy ass mattress off. Then fold up the base. Break the legs off the table and wedge it in the cot. Tape it or tie the whole thing up. Then you got a moving wall. If you can put up a wall like that on either side of you, then you're perfect. If you only got one, then at least you only got one direction to defend.

(CONTINUED)

SAL

But you're also blocking off your
escape route.

DETROIT

If you gotta run you're dead
anyway.

89 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

89

HALLUX

We ain't gonna have to run. It'll
be pretty easy to shoot if we don't
have to worry about watching our
backs.

SAL

Whoa, you aren't still thinking
about using guns for this?

Hallux huffs impatiently.

HALLUX

It's the quickest way.

ALIM

... to fill your house with
zombies. In a fight, you don't want
to make things more complicated.

HALLUX

I suppose we could save the ammo.

90 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

90

DETROIT

Hey, rule number two of clearing
houses is, draw as little attention
to yourself as possible. You need
to stay in control of the situation
at all times. You lose control, you
lose your life. Now what other
weapons do you have with you?

91 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

91

HALLUX

Hmmm. Let me think. Tracy, what do
we got to kill zombies with around
here?

(CONTINUED)

TRACY

Look under the couch!

Hallux reaches below his couch and retrieves a POTATO LAUNCHER and a DUFFLE BAG, which he sets on the coffee table in front of him. Hallux holds up the potato launcher.

HALLUX

We got this.

DETROIT

Damn, man. What does that shoot?

HALLUX

Potatoes, cue balls, whatever.

DETROIT

You got any of those?

HALLUX

We got boxes of cue balls. Got em when we stole the pool table.

92

DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

92

DETROIT

Those things kill a zombie?

HALLUX

Hell yeah. Even if you don't hit the head, you'll still tear em' up.

SAL

How loud are they?

HALLUX

They make a big poof, but you won't hear it too far away.

DETROIT

You gotta show my boy how to make those.

HALLUX

Get him in here.

DETROIT

He ain't around right now, but we'll get him next time. What you got in that bag?

93 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

93

HALLUX
Hatchets.

DETROIT
And?

Hallux looks down at the bag.

HALLUX
Just hatchets.

DETROIT
The whole bag?

HALLUX
Yep.

94 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

94

DETROIT
Did you get that before or after
the world ended?

HALLUX
Before.

DETROIT
Fucking white people. Damn. I
wouldn't asked a brother this, but
is anyone there good at throwing
those?

HALLUX
Couple of us.

DETROIT
How good?

HALLUX
Pretty good.

DETROIT
So you got weapons. Can you make
two mobile walls?

95 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

95

HALLUX

Let's see. We can't fit the pool table up the stairs. The fridge has wheels on it, but that'll be a bitch getting up the stairs. We got this couch. That might work as a wall.

DETROIT

How many people you got down there?

HALLUX

Seven, including me.

ESMERALDA

How big is your basement?

HALLUX

Not that big.

DETROIT

How many good fighters you got?

HALLUX

Three, including me.

96 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

96

DETROIT

Okay, here's what you do. Forget about that couch. Move that fridge up stairs, and put it at your backs. I don't care how hard it is. Then get your smallest fighter to hold it and keep you knowing what's going on behind you. You and your other fighter are the only other people you need up there. Anyone else would just get in the way. Take the cot and table upstairs like I told you, and put it in front of you. Have one guy hold the cot steady, and the other one hatchets every zombie in sight.

HALLUX

What about the potato launchers? And what do we do when we get to a big room?

(CONTINUED)

DETROIT

Forget that dumb ass potato gun.
And never fight in a open room.
Make a little noise and get the
zombies to come to your choke point
in the hall. Then take your time
and pick your swings. One swing,
one kill.

HALLUX

Yeah, that might work.

DETROIT

Recognize. Oh, and hey, if you got
any dish soap, you might try
throwing some of that in front of
your choke point.

97 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH 97

ALIM

So what's rule number three?

DETROIT

What?

ALIM

Do you have any other rules for
clearing houses?

98 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM 98

DETROIT

Stay alive.

HALLUX

You don't actually have a list of
rules you use, do you?

DETROIT

I know what I'm doing whether it's
in a fucking memo or not.

SAL

Say, Hallux, what about the grill?
You were cooking when the zombies
attacked? Were you using gas?

HALLUX

Yeah, but I flicked it off when I grabbed the bacon. So... at least we got one dinner out of this.

Hallux picks up an empty frying pan off the coffee table. A large amount of meat has been deep fried in it recently using a large amount of oil.

CARLY

That's grosser than what Benton was saying about those old people's bones breaking.

SAL

Let's talk about how you're going to get out of that basement for your next dinner. Do you have cameras upstairs? Does the door at least have a peep hole? How much do you know about what's going on upstairs?

HALLUX

Well, I mean, unless one of em walks outside when Skeet's watching, we ain't got no way to know about what's going on up there except from listening to footsteps.

DETROIT

How many footsteps are there?

HALLUX

We ain't had much to do down here till the Internet came on but play pool and listen. So we know there's at least five uninvited house guests.

ALIM

Are there heavy footsteps and light ones? Do some shuffle and some pound?

HALLUX

Awe, a little bit of everything.

SAL

Five is a lot of zombies, and there are always unknown variables. Your

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SAL (cont'd)
best bet tactical move is to hold
tight as long as you can. How many
days' worth of food and water do
you have?

HALLUX
Yeah, we could get into all that,
but the thing is... this is my
house. We got king of the castle
laws in this state.

DETROIT
Man's got a point.

ALIM
Committing suicide doesn't prove
anything.

From off camera, a PLUSH FOOTBALL is thrown at Hallux and
hit him on the side of the head.

TRACY'S MOM (O.S.)
Told you so!

HALLUX
I guess we could hold tight a
little longer. We ain't gonna
starve or nothing, but as soon as
the moonshine runs out, then
getting' to the man cave is going
to become priority number one.

ALIM
You should be sober before you go
out.

HALLUX
Looks like I ain't going out
tonight then. Guess I can get more
drunk.

100 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

100

CARLY
There's no chance of you blacking
out and doing anything stupid is
there?

101 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT 101

HALLUX

Yes.

CARLY

There is?

HALLUX

Yes.

CARLY

Don't you think that's not good?

HALLUX

Yes.

102 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE 102

GRACY

You're impossible.

HALLUX

Yes, ma'am?

GRACY

Look, you got time to bide. So bide it. Talk to your friends and do this as carefully as possible, please?

HALLUX

Yes ma'am.

GRACY

You have a good heart, but you need to work on that mouth of yours.

HALLUX

Anyway, I guess we got our situation figured out. Thanks for all your tips, Detroit, and while we're on the subject, what about you?

103 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM 103

DETROIT

What about me?

HALLUX

How's your castle?

(CONTINUED)

DETROIT

I'm living like Lando Calrissian in my sky tower, know what I'm saying?

ESMERALDA

No.

DETROIT

We named the road outside Tyson Street, because it's impenetrable, know what I'm saying?

ESMERALDA

Still no.

SAL

If you've done so well for yourself, then tell us your secret.

DETROIT

Shit's pretty simple. We in an apartment building, right?

104 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN 104

ESMERALDA

By apartment, don't you mean projects?

105 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM 105

DETROIT

I don't live in the projects you...

GRACY

Let it go, sweetie.

DETROIT

Anyway, good thing about living in apartments is, there's only one way in, through the ground floor. So we just fill up the bottom floor and the stairwells with furniture, and boom. Nobody's coming in.

SAL

But then you just lock yourself up along with any zombies already in there.

DETROIT

No shit, Sherlock. But the only way in or out of each room, is down a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DETROIT (cont'd)
hallway, and we control the
hallways with movable walls...

106 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

106

HALLUX
And a hydraulic bitch slapper!

DETROIT
And a hydraulic bitch slapper,
which is a bitch to get upstairs.

HALLUX
What about getting it to other
buildings? You've cleared like
fifty haven't you?

107 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

107

DETROIT
Uhhh. We cleared eight, but that's
a lot of floors and a lot of rooms
between them. And yeah, it's a bit
tricky to move between them at
first. Nothing else you can do but
just climb out the window and run
across the street. But after we
clear the first two floors, we set
up a bridge between the two
buildings.

SAL
What did you make a bridge out of?

DETROIT
When we can, we like to use big
rigs. Then you got a bridge *and* a
barrier. If you got two, then you
can wall off the space between two
buildings. We did that in one spot
and got a garden going in there. I
ain't a farmer or nothing, but
there ain't no food at the grocery
stores.

ESMERALDA
Are you finding a lot of food in
the apartments you break into?

DETROIT
We find enough to live month to
month. But you wouldn't know
nothing about that.

108 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN 108

ESMERALDA

I apologize for being successful
and working for my money.

109 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM 109

DETROIT

Bitch, you ain't worked a day in
your life.

ALIM

So hey, Detroit! If you've only got
two trucks, what are the rest of
the bridges made out of?

DETROIT

Rope.

CARLY

Oh my God! Has anyone fallen off?

DETROIT

We ain't stupid.

ALIM

That must look amazing. I'd love to
see your rope bridges. Are there
any outside your window you can
show us?

DETROIT

Not that one. Not yet. I'll show
you when there are though.

SAL

How are they anchored? What kind of
rope do you use?

DETROIT

Yo dog, you'll figure it out if you
ever need to. Let's let the girl's
talk for a minute.

SAL

I just got a few more questions.

110 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

110

GRACY

To be honest I wouldn't mind
hearing a little girl-talk, myself.

CARLY

Gracy, aren't there plenty of women
in your congregation to talk to?

GRACY

Yes, but I've already heard
everything they have to say, if you
know what I mean.

111 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

111

CARLY

Don't I? There are so many girls
here I don't want to talk to ever
again.

DETROIT

How many?

CARLY

Um... Fifteen.

DETROIT

I'll be right over. What's the
address?

CARLY

Not that it matters, but if you can
get to Interstate 80, take it to
Highway 174, and you'll see signs.
I hear you can't miss them.

DETROIT

You're in California, right?

CARLY

Yes.

DETROIT

Damn.

CARLY

You couldn't sleep with them even
if you made it here. That's the
problem.

(CONTINUED)

DETROIT

What, they all got herpes? I heard hippies all got herpes. No offence.

ESMERALDA

Didn't your mother ever teach you not to speak that way to a lady?

HALLUX

Mine didn't.

CARLY

We don't have herpes. Well, Gina does... which means Mark and... it doesn't matter.

112 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

112

GRACY

I think what Carly's trying to say is that all the girls in her community are already married.

CARLY

Eeeee. We don't really believe in marriage here.

GRACY

But it's the foundation of any civil society.

ALIM

Gracy, you realize that in Biblical times, marriage was a way for a husband to buy a wife? Marriages were financial transactions, and they were for life because all sales are final. Well, no, actually, Yahweh spelled out a few circumstances where the man could get his money back.

GRACY

I'm not going to argue about this, but you're wrong.

113 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

113

CARLY

It doesn't matter anyway. It looks like we're going back to the good old days whether I like it or not.

(CONTINUED)

ALIM

What do you mean?

CARLY

Our self-proclaimed leader thinks he can manage who sleeps with who.

GRACY

That's unthinkable!

DETROIT

Yo, Carly. You're not gonna let some old white guy tell you what to do?

CARLY

He's part black actually, I think. But no, you're right. I'm already fighting back.

SAL

What, are you speaking up in meetings or something like that?

CARLY

Meetings? The little people don't get invited to the meetings. We just find out what our masters decide when they come out of their little circle jerk sessions.

ESMERALDA

So how are you fighting back?

CARLY

Well, nobody can tell me who to sleep with if I'm already pregnant.

DETROIT

That's how you're fighting? By fucking....?

Carly shrugs.

ALIM

Let's say you get pregnant? What happens after the birth?

CARLY

I don't know. All I know is I won't have to worry about it for a while longer.

(CONTINUED)

SAL

Is any of this set in stone? Has the decision to micromanage your re-population already been made? What happens to those who break the rules?

CARLY

It was all set in stone, but everybody's up in arms about it. So they're talking about it again right now...like it's their decision to make.

GRACY

What are you going to do if they try to split up you and your husband?

CARLY

Boyfriend, and I don't know. All I know is, nothing is going to keep us apart. Nothing.

114 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

114

SAL

What does that mean?

CARLY

I don't know. It just means we'll do whatever it takes to stay together.

SAL

That's a dangerous way to talk, Carly. You need to be level headed here.

CARLY

What's level headed about telling me what I can and can't do with my body?

SAL

I didn't say it was.

115 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH 115

ALIM

It's worth noting that, as callous as it sounds, selective breeding has a mathematical advantage in a survival scenario.

DETROIT

Well said, Hitler.

ALIM

The comparison is invalid. I'm saying this purely from the point of view of minimizing inbreeding later on.

116 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM 116

CARLY

Our children aren't growing up in this prison. My children are going to grow up outside those walls.

SAL

With the zombies?

CARLY

How long do you expect this to last? The zombies are going to be gone in a year or two at the most.

SAL

How do you figure that?

CARLY

They're falling apart as it is. They're running out of food. Mother Nature is bringing the world back into balance like she always does. That's why the apocalypse started. Humans upset the balance of nature, and She balanced it back out.

117 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT 117

HALLUX

I don't know about any of that. But the zombs that chased us down our hole were running fast. I think some of em might have been in better shape than me.

(CONTINUED)

TRACY'S MOM (O.S.)

Nobody ever seen a zombie that
wudn't in better shape than you.

ALIM

This is interesting... and
disheartening. All the more reason
none of us should be in a rush to
leave our safe houses.

118 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

118

SAL

I agree one hundred percent, but if
I don't speak to another human face
to face for another year, I might
be about ready to take my chances
making a run for civilization.
Maybe I'll head to California.

DETROIT

Yo, Michigan's closer ain't it?

SAL

Don't you have big gangsta zombies
pounding down your door there?

119 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

119

DETROIT

Good point. You wouldn't last ten
minutes in this city. And Carly,
you wouldn't last ten minutes
outside your walls. Have ever
killed a zombie? You ever have to
fight off three zombies by yourself
while three more eat your best
friend right in front of you?

CARLY

I can handle myself.

DETROIT

I doubt it, and you sure as hell
won't be able to handle yourself
when you're pregnant or trying to
carry a baby that wakes the dead
every time it cries.

ALIM

The advice is unanimous. And look,
it's not like...

120

CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

120

CARLY

All right. Just. I get it. Okay?
I'll think about it. Let's just
hope nobody pushes me into a
situation where I have to make that
decision. Now can we talk about
something else?

GRACY

I thought we were going to have
girl talk. Carly, why don't you
tell us a little about your hus...
life partner?

CARLY

Hmmmm. He's really dreamy,
actually. We met at a full moon
party in Thailand. I was just out
of university, and he'd been
travelling through Australia for
the past two years. We totally
connected, but then we left, and we
didn't think we'd ever see each
other again, but right before the
outbreak we both wound up here
looking for horticulture work in a
sustainable commune. It's like it
was meant to be, you know?

GRACY

It sounds like God has a plan for
you.

CARLY

Yeah, sure. So what about you
Gracy? Which man there does God
have a plan for you with?

121

GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

121

GRACY

My man is already with the Lord.

CARLY

I'm sorry. You never told us. How
long ago did you lose him?

GRACY

It was after the storm... he was
one of....

(CONTINUED)

HALLUX

Grace...

CARLY

Oh my God! Honey, Sweetie. I'm so sorry. We had no idea. Uh. You didn't tell us or... show it. I mean, you're holding yourself together really well.

GRACY

It's all part of the Lord's plan.

SAL

What was his name?

GRACY

Henry. Henry is his name.

ESMERALDA

Grace, why don't you tell us a little bit about Henry, and we could have a moment of silence for him?

GRACY

I know you all mean well, but I wanted tonight to be about...I don't. I just don't think I'm ready to talk about it yet. Right now, what I need most is to hear about the living and not talk about the dead.

HALLUX

Aight.

DETROIT

Whatever you need whenever you need it, we're here for you.

GRACY

Thank you all. So Esmeralda, who's the special person in your life?

122

S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

122

ESMERALDA

Oh, me? I'm a widower as well. I rarely talk about him anymore. He passed away ten years ago this summer.

(CONTINUED)

ALIM

So you've had time to learn that life goes on after the death of a loved one?

ESMERALDA

What else can it do?

123 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

123

DETROIT

But you carry the past with you wherever you go. Know what I'm saying?

Detroit removes his shirt to reveal TATOOS of names written in cursive Old English across his torso and arms.

DETROIT

I'll carry these scars with me till the day I die.

HALLUX

Man, we're supposed to be trying to make Gracy feel better.

DETROIT

You all want to feel better? This is how. Pain is what makes us grow. That which does not kill me only makes me stronger. No pain no gain and all that. So you take the pain and eat it. Make it part of you, and you use that fire to burn off the weakness. You don't get rid of the pain by praying, wishing, thinking, singing or drinking. You do it by being stronger.

HALLUX

What movie was that from? Rocky?

DETROIT

What?

124 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

124

GRACY

Look, like I said boys. Let's not make this about me. Alim, we haven't heard much from you tonight. Why don't you tell us about all your love life?

(CONTINUED)

ALIM

Well, there's not much to tell. And uh, Gracy, Esmeralda, my condolences. As you know I was basically a professional student all my childhood, and a working professional all of my adulthood. I was always too focused on the future to stop and...

GRACY

...and smell the roses?

ALIM

I was going to say, invest my time in a relationship that wouldn't yield a long term return.

CARLY

You sound like a calculator.

125

ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

125

ALIM

I know how it sounds, but I didn't really think of it that way at the time. I've only articulated that to myself recently. At the time, I was just a kid shooting for the moon. I wanted love. I flirted a little and got dragged along to a few clubs, but I was just so terrible at it... I stopped trying and decided to wait until someone came to me.

DETROIT

Yo, are you saying you've never... hit it?

ALIM

Oh, no. I've had sex.

ESMERALDA

With who, dear?

ALIM

A few awkward one night stands. Online dating. Call girls.

The girls gasp. The men cheer.

(CONTINUED)

GRACY

You mean, prostitutes.

CARLY

I don't understand how any man can do that.

ALIM

Carly, if I explained my reasons you'd just argue the logic behind them, and we'll end up having to agree to disagree in the end. So why don't we just skip to the end and move on?

GRACY

Well, I don't want to hear your fool's reasons at all. I just want to hear you repent.

ALIM

Maybe I'm already paying my penance, because fate has stranded me here alone with nothing but time to think about everything I've done.

126

HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

126

HALLUX

...and masturbate.

DETROIT

...and what?

HALLUX

You know. Ain't not nothing else to do all day. Ain't got no woman around. What else you gonna do? Man I'd be...

ALIM

You'd be doing what you need to do to get by.

HALLUX

I know exactly what you mean. Man, there was this one time I was...

ESMERALDA

You can stop right there.

(CONTINUED)

HALLUX

Naw, seriously. Check this out. I used to spend all day out driving a tractor. So...

127 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

127

GRACY

Hallux! We're talking about Alim's life right now. So, Alim, what else has been going on in your life?

128 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

128

ALIM

I wish I had more to say, but it's really just more of the same since the last time we spoke. I still do my nightly sweeps through the grounds, but I do it more out of boredom than security. There's nobody here, and nobody's getting in.

DETROIT

Trust me. No matter how safe you think you are. There's always a way in.

ALIM

Sure. There are two ways into this stadium. With a sledge hammer or a rope.

HALLUX

Man, you must be losing your mind in there.

ALIM

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't struggling. Sometimes I wonder if I am going crazy. Almost every night I think I hear footsteps outside my room, but there's never anything there.

DETROIT

Are you sure?

ALIM

I've got peep holes and traps everywhere. If a roach moves, I know about it. The noises used to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALIM (cont'd)

scare me. Now I hope someone or something gets in. Even it were a zombie, at least it would be something.

ESMERALDA

I can't imagine living like that.

ALIM

I can't imagine living in a spider hole like Sal. I don't know how he does it.

129

SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

129

SAL

Oh, I lost it ages ago. I don't even try pretending like I'm holding on anymore. Now I just sing at the top of my lungs and walk around naked. Sometimes I go topside and chop down trees just for something to do.

DETROIT

That's gotta bring the zombies, don't it?

SAL

Sometimes, but I have traps too, and I can pick off the few that get through pretty easy. There's some risk involved, but it's safer than letting my territory fill up with monsters.

DETROIT

The enemy you don't know is more dangerous than the one you do. Say, what's the farthest you've been away from your crib anyway?

SAL

There's a river a few clicks away. I go check my fish traps every couple of days, but other than that, there's no point going any further. There's nothing but trees for a day and a half walk in any direction. Past that, all there is is death.

(CONTINUED)

CARLY

How do you know? There might be a safe town.

SAL

If there was, I think I would have heard chatter on the radio. I don't think there's one near, and the cost/benefit analysis of leaving to check for sure doesn't add up yet. As bored as Alim must be, I'd say the same thing for him.

130

ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

130

ALIM

Sal's right. I've got enough processed food to feed a stadium. It's not an ideal diet, but it'll do in a survival situation. Eventually I'll need to make a run to resupply, but right now I don't think the cost/benefit analysis adds up.

ESMERALDA

But darling, what about company?

ALIM

I prefer my own company to that of zombies.

DETROIT

How many you got at your perimeter?

ALIM

None.

GRACY

None?

ALIM

Not a one.

DETROIT

So what's stopping you from bugging out? Don't you got any wheels? There's got to be a few rides out in the parking lot. You know how to hotwire them? If not I can teach you.

(CONTINUED)

ALIM

I appreciate the offer, but I've got keys to a couple of vans. I could leave any time I wanted, but it's not the zombies that are stopping me per say but the lack of zombies.

HALLUX

How could that be a problem?

ALIM

It's not just the lack of zombies. It's the lack of anything. The city is a ghost town. I haven't seen anything move since the night I came here when they were shelling the city.

CARLY

Oh my God. That's so perfect!

ALIM

Is it? There were almost a million people in this city. Where did they go? Where are the zombies? Something eradicated them all. What could do that?

SAL

Do you think the military used chemical or biological weapons on the city?

ALIM

That's what I'm afraid of.

DETROIT

Chemical and biological weapons don't work on zombies though. Head shots the only thing.

ALIM

Have you ever used chemical weapons on a zombie? One of them might work. Nerve agents might paralyze them. Blood agents might damage the brain. Who knows what kind of experimental weapons the government has. Maybe something so dangerous they would only ever use it as a last resort.

131 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE 131

SAL

And who knows how long any of those
poisons could last on the streets.
Just touching a door handle could
kill you.

132 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH 132

ALIM

Precisely. My hope is that the sun
will burn the toxins off or the
rain washes them away eventually,
but I intend to wait here as long
as possible to let that happen.

GRACY

But you don't know the city's
poisoned. You might be going crazy
with loneliness for nothing.

ALIM

I think about that every day. I've
even left a few times, but I never
made it past the end of the parking
lot. No, I'm staying here for now.

CARLY

So what do you do all day?

ALIM

I watch the city. I exercise and
meditate. I'm getting really good
at billiards and darts.

133 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT 133

HALLUX

You got any hooch?

ALIM

Hooch?

HALLUX

You know, booze, spirits, wine,
beer, liquor.

ALIM

Alcohol is illegal in my country.

(CONTINUED)

HALLUX

Say Whaaaat!? No offence, but what the hell?

ALIM

Several Muslim countries forbid alcohol.

HALLUX

How do you live like that? Is that why all the terrorists are so angry?

ALIM

I don't miss it, and no. Now, I think it would be for the best if we changed the subject.

HALLUX

Fine. Sal, what about you? How much hooch you got left?

SAL

I live in a spider hole. I had to ration my space, and alcohol didn't make the cut.

HALLUX

You're all crazy, but don't worry. I got this. I'm gonna teach you how to make a still. Step by step.

GRACY

I'd rather we not waste everyone's time talking about how to get drunk.

HALLUX

That ain't a waste of time.

134

SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

134

SAL

It's okay, Hallux. I'm glad I don't have anything to drink. Anyway, I've got marijuana growing topside. Well, I did before the storm, but I got enough stashed down here to last until I can get another garden going.

(CONTINUED)

HALLUX

Sounds like we all need to go to Sal's place.

SAL

I'd rather be at Carly's.

135 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

135

CARLY

We've got alcohol, weed, walls, company and sky.

HALLUX

Party at Carly's house.

ESMERALDA

I think I'll stay where I'm at.

CARLY

I'd rather be with Esmeralda out on the open ocean. I don't understand why people weren't building floating islands years ago.

136 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

136

SAL

Uh, because there's a billion things that can go wrong on the open sea. As much as I hate this place, I'd take it over a floating coffin any day.

ESMERALDA

...says the man who's already in a box underground. But you're right about one thing. There's danger even in paradise.

DETROIT

Oh, please. Tell us about more about the killers beating down your door.

ESMERALDA

Well, I wasn't going to say anything, but there are greedy, horrible people on this vessel. Who knows what they're capable of.

(CONTINUED)

DETROIT

Yawn.

ESMERALDA

I'm serious. The scoundrel I bought this cabin from has been hounding me for money and threatening me, but I'm not paying one more penny than it's worth. Can you believe the nerve, like money matters any more, if it ever did.

DETROIT

It did. You learn how much when you work for it.

137 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT 137

HALLUX

Hey, being stuck on a boat with a bunch of crusty old yuppies sure sounds like torture to me. I mean, I'm just fine here on the farm, but if I had to choose, I'd go with Detroit building bridges and hydraulic bitch slappers.

138 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM 138

DETROIT

I'll trade you places. It ain't all it's cracked up to be. I got responsibilities, you know. People to look after. There's never a day off, and there's always drama that's got to be dealt with.

139 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH 139

ALIM

Instead of wishing for what we don't have, we should be talking about the problems right in front of us.

GRACY

I hope you're not trying to bring this back to my situation.

ALIM

I'd like to, but I respect your wishes. I'm actually talking about the big picture. Look, we're in a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALIM (cont'd)
 unique situation here. We can only see what's going on around us. This gives each of us a piece of the puzzle. Together we can see around the world. If we can put our pieces together maybe we can see the whole picture.

ESMERALDA
 What exactly are you talking about?

ALIM
 The apocalypse. We've all seen things. If we put our information together, we might be able to get a clearer understanding of how and why it all started.

140 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE 140

SAL
 There's no secret in my mind about how it started. It had to be a human engineered virus that got loose. The only question is whether that was on purpose or accident. If it was on purpose, the only questions left are who made it and why?

141 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM 141

CARLY
 The military has to be responsible. Probably our military. A few months before I came here I passed a base. The troops were going crazy like they were gearing up for something big. They knew this was coming.

DETROIT
 I love you Carly, but you don't know what you're talking about. I did my four in the Marines. When soldiers aren't fighting they're training to fight. You just saw an exercise.

CARLY
 That's what they always say when they're covering something up. It's an exercise.

(CONTINUED)

Carly makes "air quotes" with her fingers when she says, "exercise."

DETROIT

You watch too many movies. The military ain't that complicated. What I'm saying is, the military is always either mobilizing or exercising. Be worried if they all shut their gates and disappear.

CARLY

Okay, wise guy, if the military didn't have anything to do with it, then who did?

142 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

142

HALLUX

Has anyone thought about this? What about aliens?

ALIM

No, nobody has thought about that.

HALLUX

Think about it though. Aliens ain't no more unbelievable than the dead walking, and there ain't no reason the dead should be walking. We ain't never seen anything that can do anything like that. So if there's no... worldly explanation, then all that leaves is an unworldly explanation.

ALIM

That's uh, surprisingly logical, but all the same, I'll stick with my skepticism until I have evidence to support a claim.

143 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

143

GRACY

Hallux is right about one thing. The explanation isn't of this world. The only force strong enough to raise the dead back to life is the Lord. That is the only explanation, and that is the obvious explanation. We have been chosen to live through the end times.

(CONTINUED)

SAL

The simplest explanation is always the right one. It was terrorists.

144 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

144

DETROIT

What? Like a bunch of hajjis shitting in a cave playing with chemicals. Hell, nah. It was some old white guy.

CARLY

Say what?

DETROIT

It's always some old white guy fucking the world up. Watch, when this is all over the only people left are going to be old, rich white folk like Esmeralda.

ESMERALDA

Oh, please. Who do you think is responsible for keeping the internet on? I can say with confidence it's an old, rich white person.

DETROIT

Oh, I don't doubt it. And there's probably some young cracker snooping on all of our conversations and giving a report on us to the old cracker who started it all.

ALIM

Can I interject? Humanity is on the brink of extinction, which means...

DETROIT

Niggas are on the brink of extinction.

145 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

145

ALIM

Humanity is on the brink of extinction, and which means every life is invaluable. Race matters less than ever. And if a living human were actually responsible for

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALIM (cont'd)
keeping the internet switched on,
then why wouldn't they leave a
message for us?

CARLY
Obviously because they don't want
to. Otherwise they would. I just
don't know why they wouldn't want
to communicate.

ESMERALDA
Maybe they don't trust you.

GRACY
Maybe there really isn't anybody
running them. Maybe the computers
are just on autopilot. That would
explain why the internet turns on
and off like clockwork.

CARLY
Computers don't run themselves.

ALIM
Servers can run for years on their
own as long as they have power.

146 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

146

DETROIT
That is the one thing I can't
figure out. Why do we still have
power?

HALLUX
They can't stop solar panels from
working?

DETROIT
Yeah, but the whole world ain't run
on solar panels. Where does the
electricity in the sockets come
from?

HALLUX
There ain't a socket in my county
that works.

ALIM
I only have power in the VIP room
here because it's wired to solar
panels.

147 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

147

SAL

I'm on solar too. I haven't been in a city since I bugged out. I just assumed the whole grid everywhere was shut down by now.

DETROIT

Nah, man. Everything works here. Don't know for how long though.

SAL

That's really interesting. Say, do you know where the power plant is? If you could get there or just get a message there, there's probably survivors.

148 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

148

DETROIT

I don't know where that is, and I don't need to. I got problems of my own, and as long as they keep doing their job I'm happy.

CARLY

They might need food to keep doing their jobs.

DETROIT

Yo, I need food to keep doing my job, know what I'm saying?

ALIM

They might have answers. They might know something.

DETROIT

You can't kill a zombie with answers. I know everything I need to stay alive, and that's all I'm worried about right now.

149 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

149

ESMERALDA

Well, you'll get all of your answers after the military liberates you. They're winning back more cities every day, and they're going to rescue all the survivors

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA (cont'd)
eventually. Then we can just walk
into wherever the power plants and
servers are and see who's in there.

HALLUX
What! Hold the phone. What, how do
you know about the military? What
cities have they saved? Where are
they now? Are they close?

ESMERALDA
Don't you know?

HALLUX
How the hell would I know about
anything?

ESMERALDA
Have you tried the radio?

HALLUX
All I do is listen to the radio,
and all I hear is static. What
frequency are they broadcasting on?

ESMERALDA
Oh, well I don't know. I just
assume they're broadcasting.

DETROIT
So how do you know about the
military?

ESMERALDA
Like I said, everybody knows.

150 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

150

GRACY
Ezzie, what exactly does everybody
know? Because we don't know
anything. This could make all the
difference. This could change
everything.

CARLY
Yeah, what does everybody know?

151 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN 151

ESMERALDA

Well, I don't know all the details, but I know they're clearing all the islands first. Then they'll push inland from there.

152 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM 152

DETROIT

Right. And who's going to be first on the islands? All your boats full of rich people while the rest of us are left out here. Real convenient you got the offer to buy a room on a floating island right before the apocalypse came crashing down on us.

SAL

Come on, Detroit. We were both military. You know clearing islands first makes the most tactical sense. It's a safe place to stage a mainland invasion from.

DETROIT

Well here's something that don't make sense. Why ain't the military broadcasting on the radio?

SAL

Maybe because they don't want people leaving their safe houses on a suicide mission to find safety. Even if people could get to the military, they probably couldn't keep everyone fed and cared for.

ALIM

Maybe no militaries are broadcasting because there aren't left to broadcast.

CARLY

But Esmeralda just said...

ALIM

Until I see evidence to support her claim, all I heard was a rumor. Esmeralda, do you have any proof?

153 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

153

Esmeralda sips her champagne nervously.

ESMERALDA

Well, not, uh, personally.

GRACY

But who did you hear about all this from? Could you just get them in here to talk to us?

ESMERALDA

Everyone's talking about it. Maybe I could arrange for someone to sit in on our next conversation.

DETROIT

Find out when they're going to get to Michigan.

HALLUX

And Texas.

Esmeralda sips her champagne nervously and silently. The hostess sneaks by the open door obviously eavesdropping. Esmeralda sees her.

ESMERALDA

If you're going to hover in my door, make yourself useful and bring me another drink.

The hostess rushes away.

CARLY

Esmeralda, when the hostess comes back, get her to fetch whoever has information about the military.

ESMERALDA

Well, that's not really her job. That would be rather rude, don't you think?

154 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

154

ALIM

Right. Look, everyone. We shouldn't put false hope on rumors. For now, we should assume help won't reach us in our lifetime.

(CONTINUED)

GRACY

I don't think we should give up
hope just yet.

155 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

155

SAL

I agree with Alim. We can't hope
for rescue. We have to just do the
best we can with what we've got.

HALLUX

Man, every military in the world
can't be MIA. Alim, when was the
last time you heard a broadcast
from anyone on your side of the
planet?

156 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

156

ALIM

After the outbreak got out of
control, there were days of
non-stop announcements and chatter.
Ever since then, I haven't heard
anything. Not even an automated
message.

HALLUX

You know, we had thousands of
troops in the Middle East. You
might see some of our troops before
we do.

ALIM

Doubtfully. How do you think your
troops got here in the first place?
They came on planes and ships. They
most likely would have left the
same way to go take care of their
own.

SAL

But planes and boats take oil to
run. I bet we're still there.

ALIM

You've got oil in America that
needs to be secured as well, and if
your war machine is fighting on
your own soil, it only makes sense
to use the fuel that's close by.
You don't need ours anymore. Even

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALIM (cont'd)
 if your troops were still here, why would they risk their lives to save Arabs who would just turn around and take back our oil? Why not just let the zombies finish us off so our resources are free for the taking when you do need them?

GRACY
 Because we're a Christian nation, and we wouldn't do that.

ALIM
 You can't be serious.

GRACY
 More than you, I'm sure.

ALIM
 Have it your way. I hope I see your troops again very soon.

157 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

157

HALLUX
 What about all the Taliban and them out there? They ran the Russians out of town. A few zombs ought to be a piece of cake compared to that. They might be on their way to clear the cities.

158 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

158

ALIM
 There's logic to that, but I haven't heard anything from Afghanistan or Pakistan. So I'm not sure what they're up. But I think most likely they'd be glad to just stay where they're at and let the world go to hell. In fact, I rather hope that's the case.

ESMERALDA
 I know I wouldn't want to be rescued by the Taliban.

ALIM
 I don't think any of us should be too eager to be rescued by anyone.

(CONTINUED)

GRACY

How can you say that?

ALIM

How does that American song go?
Everybody wants to rule the world.
Look at Carly's situation. Her
leaders are pacifists, and they're
already trying to establish a
totalitarian regime.

CARLY

But you said you agreed with them.

ALIM

I do, and I'm a logical thinker.
Most people aren't, whether they're
leaders or followers. They're
illogical, cruel and greedy. I
predict our liberators will quickly
become our captors. That's usually
how it works.

SAL

Do you have so little faith in
humanity?

ALIM

I have faith in precedent.

GRACY

You must be happy the world is
coming to an end. Do have no hope
for us at all?

ALIM

You're confusing my realism with
pessimism. There is good in people.
We have cosmic potential, but it
takes education to bring it out of
us. We had the technology to
educate the planet and we used it
to sell stupidity to the world. The
way we celebrated ignorance it's
not surprising the world collapsed.
Under the circumstances I'd say it
was inevitable, but now that it's
happened I actually have hope that
humanity can start over again.
Maybe this time we'll learn our
lesson and build a better, smarter
society. But I fear the dark days
aren't over yet, not by a long

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALIM (cont'd)
 shot. Survivors will try to rebuild
 the world in the image of their own
 ignorance. If they're successful
 they could paralyze humanity again
 and for generations. We'll just
 have to wait and see and do our
 best.

159 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

159

HALLUX
 Damn. That was deep.

ALIM
 Thank you, Hal. I hope you take it
 to heart.

HALLUX
 Yeah, but first things first
 though. Philosophy don't keep
 zombies from stealing your dinner.

CARLY
 Earth bag walls do, and they keep
 people out. You'd have to have a
 tank to get through our walls.

DETROIT
 There's a lot of tanks out there.

160 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

160

GRACY
 Listen to all of you. You're
 talking like you're already at war
 with the living. We all know we
 haven't been perfect, but we've
 survived this long. I have faith
 those who are left will build a
 better world, and you should to.

A man gives Gracy a cup. She takes it and thanks him. He
 does not leave until he sees her take a drink from the cup.

SAL
 I wish I had someone here to share
 their cup with me.

GRACY
 People are good. Sal, you'll find
 your company soon. I just know you
 will, and you'll meet a good woman
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GRACY (cont'd)
and raise a family and be a good
father and husband.

SAL
Thanks, Grace. I'd hate to die
alone out here. I just hope I meet
some more survivors before I'm too
old to be a father.

GRACE
You know you will.

CARLY
If I was Sal, I'd have left a long
time ago. Maybe you should try to
come to California.

161 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

161

SAL
I'm telling you, I've taken a few
long recon expeditions, and
everything I've seen out there
convinced me it's not time to go
mobile yet.

DETROIT
But where you're at, you're just
waiting to die. Your life is
pointless.

GRACY
Nobody's life is pointless.

SAL
Funny you should mention that,
because I have found something to
do with my life down here.

GRACY
What's that?

SAL
I'm writing a book.

GRACY
What a lovely idea.

DETROIT
What are you writing a book for?
Nobody's probably ever going to
read it.

(CONTINUED)

HALLUX

Or buy it.

162 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

162

CARLY

Hey, there's lots of artists in our commune making art that nobody is ever going to buy. Nobody's ever paid you to dance, but you've all done it. You do it for the sake of expressing yourself.

DETROIT

I done a lot of dancing, and it wasn't ever to express myself.

163 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

163

SAL

I don't have a kid to pass anything on to. So this is the only legacy I've got. And it's not like I have anything else to do besides clean my guns and exercise and play video games, but I've already beat all of those about a thousand times.

CARLY

So what's your book about then? Are you writing your memoirs?

SAL

It's sort of an autobiographical manifesto, but what it's about is, the meaning of life, pretty much.

CARLY

Really!? No offence, but I would have thought Alim would be the one writing a book about the meaning of life.

ALIM

Now that you bring it up, I think I will. That's a great idea. Sal, do you have a soft copy of your book. I'd love to read it. Give me some inspiration?

SAL

I'm not sure it's ready for an audience.

(CONTINUED)

ALIM

I can appreciate that, but we're never sure if our next session online will be our last. You never know. This might be your final chance to share your legacy with us.

SAL

When you're right, you're right. Alright, I'll send it. But remember it's a rough draft. So don't be judgy.

Sal puts his hand on his computer mouse and operates it. After the last click his computer makes a BING SOUND.

SAL

There you go.

164

GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

164

GRACY

If you don't mind, could you give me the short version? In a sentence or two, what do you think the meaning of life is?

SAL

It might be a bit agnostic for you, Grace, but my theory is that the meaning of life is to fulfill your potential.

GRACY

I like that. You could say the Lord put us here to fulfill our potential.

ALIM

Which is to accept Jesus Christ as our lord and savior?

GRACY

That's the Gospel truth.

SAL

I hate to brake it to you, but that's not exactly where my book is going with that.

(CONTINUED)

GRACY

Well where is it going then?

165

SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

165

SAL

Well, I think the point of it all is you have to figure out what your own potential is. That's the point of free will. You pick who and what you want to be. Then you become that.

ALIM

That's a bit vague, but I'll withhold judgement until I read the book. If you'd like, when I'm done, I'll can give you some feedback. Try to poke holes in your logic... constructively.

SAL

Sure, that'd be great, but I'm not trying to be the next Buddha or anything. I'm just, you know, relating what I think I've figured out. I'm just trying to give what I got.

DETROIT

I get what you're saying. That's cool. I wish more people were thinking like that.

166

CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

166

CARLY

Well, I've always said that the meaning of life is to pass on what you've learned. So I think you're doing the right thing.

ESMERALDA

I think the meaning of life is much simpler than that even, don't you?

CARLY

What do you mean?

167 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN 167

ESMERALDA

The meaning of life is to have children and pass on our life. Our name.

HALLUX

Amen to that too.

168 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH 168

ALIM

But what's the point, if our purpose is to raise children, and their purpose is to raise children and their purpose is to raise children? Each generation just defers purpose to the next one, ad infinitum. And can we really say someone's life is meaningless if they don't have children? What about after you have children? Does your life become meaningless? At some point, there has to be a reason to be alive in the here and now, regardless of whether or not children are involved.

169 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN 169

ESMERALDA

If that's the case, then why should we have to wait to fulfill the meaning of life until we fulfill our potential even? By your reasoning we should be fulfilling the meaning of life just fine sitting right here, right now no matter what. So there's no reason to do anything.

ALIM

Maybe. But the world you experience depends more on what's in your head than what's outside of it.

170 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM 170

CARLY

Come on. There's got to be more to life than just sitting here. Mother nature went through an awful lot of trouble getting us here.

171 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE 171

GRACY

Maybe you're all right, and each of you just has a piece of picture. Maybe we're here to be here and to fulfill our potential and pass down our knowledge and the gift of life to future generations. Detroit, you've been quiet. What do you think?

172 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM 172

DETROIT

All I know is, when the next history book comes out, I'm gonna be in it. Kids gonna be growing up saying, "I wanna be like Detroit." Folks around here don't respect that yet, but they're gonna.

ESMERALDA

You forget that the victor always writes history, and when the military comes through and takes back everything you stole, you'll be remembered as a thief, not a savior.

DETROIT

In this city, I *am* the military. I'm what keeps this city alive. Shit. I might come take your island next.

173 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN 173

ESMERALDA

You don't fool me. Puff up all you want. You're just a thug.

DETROIT

You're dancing on a mine field.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

Oh, please.

174 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT

174

HALLUX

There ain't no need to talk like that, ya'll. We're all friends here. And my boy, Detroit, ain't stealing from nobody alive. He's just keeping his people alive. What's he supposed to do? Just starve to death?

GRACY

God provides for us. His resources are gifts.

ALIM

God or no God, the only law left is the law of the jungle. Nothing is more important than life. We all have to do what we have to do to survive.

175 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

175

CARLY

Can I say one thing....

Esmeralda's camera goes black.

CARLY

Hey, what happened? Your screen just went dark.

176 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

176

SAL

I lost it too. Are you still there?

ESMERALDA

I'm still here. The lights went out. This is unacceptable. I'm going to have a talk with...
AAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

GRACY

Esmeralda! What!? Are you all right?

(CONTINUED)

HALLUX

Essy! What's going on?

ALIM

Esmeralda? Are you there?
Esmeralda?

177 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

177

We hear two sets of FOOTSTEPS enter the room.

ANDY

I someone hurt in here? What happened?

HOSTESS

Andy, is that you? I heard a scream. Ms. Lane? Ms. Lane, are you okay?

CHARLES

I heard something too. What happened to the lights?

The lights turn back on. The hostess is standing next to Andy, who has BLOOD all over his apron, and he's holding a BLOODY KNIFE. Next to him stands CHARLES, a middle aged man wearing a business suit.

Slumped back in her chair is Esmeralda's dead body. Her throat is slit, and she has a horrific look on her face. In the background, a closet door that was previously closed is now open.

CARLY

AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH!

ANDY

Oh my God!

HOSTESS

Ms. Lane! Ms. Lane!

CHARLES

You murdered her! Drop your weapon!

ANDY

What!? I didn't... I just got here.

CHARLES

You're covered in blood, and you've got the knife in your hand. Drop it and put your hands over your head.

(CONTINUED)

ANDY

Hold on, I didn't...

178 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM 178

DETROIT

All ya'll shut the fuck up!

179 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN 179

Andy, the hostess and the Charles turn and look at the computer.

CHARLES

Who the hell are you?

HOSTESS

Those are people from the mainland
Ms. Lane has been talking to.

CHARLES

How do you know that? You've been
in her room! You're a part of this!

HOSTESS

What!? No. I served her drinks.

CHARLES

Both of you on the ground and put
your hands above your head. I'm
making a citizen's arrest.

DETROIT

Yo, I said shut the fuck up.

CHARLES

This is none of your business.

180 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM 180

DETROIT

Hey, Esmeralda was our crew. That
makes it our business, and you
three all suspects. So you gonna
shut the fuck up, and my boy, Alim
is gonna tell us which one you
crackers killed our girl.

ANDY

Who's that, and how does he know
who the killer is?

(CONTINUED)

DETROIT

He's the haji, and he knows who killed Esmeralda because he's a God damn genius.

181 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH 181

ALIM

Thank you for the vote of confidence, Detroit. Now, I acknowledge you three don't know us and don't have any reason to trust or cooperate with us, but one of you is undeniably guilty of murder. If you're not, then you'll be eager to clear your name. So the only reason you'd have for not cooperating, is if you're the killer. Do any of you not want to cooperate?

182 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN 182

CHARLES

We've got the killer red handed!

ANDY

I'll cooperate with you, Alim.

HOSTESS

I'm in.

CHARLES

What other evidence do you have?

183 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH 183

ALIM

I just need you to do one thing. Would each of you please take off your right shoe and hold it up to the camera? Afterwards you may put your shoe back on. And please, don't disturb Esmeralda Lane's body when you approach the camera.

184 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN 184

The three suspects act confused and hesitant, but they each remove their right shoe and hold it up to the camera and return to where they were standing and put their shoe back on. Charles stumbles a little as he removes his shoe.

(CONTINUED)

ALIM

You, sir, the man in the business suit. What is your name?

CHARLES

My name is Charles Hughes.

ALIM

Charles, did you sell Esmeralda Lane this cabin?

CHARLES

What? I, that's none of your business.

ALIM

Charles is the murderer.

CHARLES

That's ridiculous. You don't have any right to... This is a police matter. I'm turning this off right now.

Charles starts to move towards the camera, but Andy stops him by pointing his knife at him threateningly.

ANDY

Those people are witnesses. They're not going anywhere.

CHARLES

How dare you. Do you know who I am?

ANDY

A murder who wants me to take the blame. Back up, asshole. Alim, how do you know he did it?

185

ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

185

ALIM

We were talking to Esmeralda when the lights in her room went out. We heard her scream and then two sets of footsteps entering the room. That means the killer was already here. If you'll turn around, you'll see that the closet door is ajar. It wasn't earlier. This means the killer was hiding in the closet. We've seen both Andy and the lady

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALIM (cont'd)
come and go during our conversation
with Esmeralda. So it couldn't have
been them.

HOSTESS
That's right!

ANDY
So, why did you make us take our
shoes off?

ALIM
Just to be extra sure. There's not
much room in the closet. So the
killer would had to have been
kneeling down the whole time. Their
legs would have been cramped, and
their cramped muscles would have
buckled trying to do something as
simple as removing a shoe, just
like Charles did. Also, their shoe
would likely have a deep, fresh
crease on it, just like Charles's
did. And since I'm recording all of
this, I now have video evidence to
submit to your authorities....
those guys.

186

S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN

186

SECURITY GUARD #1 and SECURITY GUARD #2 enter the room.
They're both large men wearing security guard uniforms.

SECURITY GUARD #1
What's going on here? Someone
reported a...

The security guards see Esmeralda's body. Then they look at
the three people in the room. When they see Andy holding his
knife they draw their GUNS and point them at him.

SECURITY GUARD #1
Drop your weapon! Down on the
ground, now!

Andy drops his knife and falls to his knees. Security guard
#2 kicks it away and forcefully puts a pair of HANDCUFFS on
Andy.

SECURITY GUARD #1
You two, get down on the ground and
put your hands on your head.

(CONTINUED)

The hostess and Charles comply.

HOSTESS

You don't understand. Andy didn't
kill her! It was that guy! Charles!

CHARLES

He's got the bloody murder weapon
in his hand. Of course it was him.

Security Guard #1 points at the hostess.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Did you witness the murder?

HOSTESS

No, I heard a scream and came in.
The lights were off, but they saw
everything. On the computer.

The security guards look at the computer.

SECURITY GUARD #1

All of you, report to the security
office at once.

187 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT 187

HALLUX

Would if we could, buddy.

188 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE 188

SAL

Might take a while to get there.

189 S.S. CARNIVAL - ESMERALDA'S CABIN 189

SECURITY GUARD #2

Sir, they're off-island.

SECURITY GUARD #1

That's impossible.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Look at the rooms on their cameras.
None of that's on board, sir, and I
don't recognize any of those
people, do you?

Security guard #1 looks closer at Esmeralda's face, and
recognition dawns on his face.

(CONTINUED)

SECURITY GUARD #1
This is the crazy lady. Huh. She
really was telling the truth.

Everyone in Esmeralda's room is quiet for a moment.

SECURITY GUARD #2
Sir?

Security guard #1 caresses the laptop with his fingers and
speaks softly to himself.

SECURITY GUARD #1
This is the most valuable thing on
this ship.

SECURITY GUARD #2
Excuse me?

SECURITY GUARD #1
Arrest everyone already!

Security Guard #2 puts HANDCUFFS on the hostess and Charles.
The hostess is compliant, and Charles is not.

CHARLES
Do you have any idea who I am? I'll
have your job for this! I'll have
you expelled. That man is the
murderer, and I'm a witness!

190 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

190

GRACY
Officer, officer! That man's the
murderer. It was Charles. We can
prove it!

HALLUX
It was the old white dude! That
mother fucker, Charles!

191 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

191

Security Guard #1 looks at the camera greedily and then
slams the laptop lid shut. Esmeralda's video feed goes
black.

Sal slams his keyboard on the table.

SAL
Come back! You're gonna pay for
that, you slimy bastards!

(CONTINUED)

ALIM

They're gone.

SAL

Fucking damn it! We were witnesses!
We've got the footage!

GRACY

Maybe Esmeralda was recording.

SAL

She doesn't know how to do that.
It's a wonder she could turn on a
computer at all, much less have a
video chat. Not that it matters
anyway.

GRACY

I guess old ladies like us are just
obsolete. I don't know how to
record our conversations either.

SAL

Alim and I have, and we have her
E-mail address. Maybe if we sent it
there, someone might check it.

192

ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

192

ALIM

I won't be able to do it until
after this session ends, but I'm
one step ahead of you.

SAL

Do you think they'll check her
E-mail? Who would have her
password?

ALIM

Her address's suffix is
"@sscarnival." It sounds like her
E-mail is hosted on-site, which
means the admins on board probably
have administrative access to her
account. Hopefully the tech team is
separate from security.

GRACY

Lordy, I hope you're right. Alim,
thank God you know your computers.

(CONTINUED)

DETROIT

Good thing you were recording all this too. All this time you never mentioned that though. What you recording us for anyway?

ALIM

Why not? You're the only contact I have. These videos are all I know about the outside world. I assumed we were all recording. If not, I can try to send you a copy.

HALLUX

That's cool, man. I want em. I'll watch em over again like my favourite TV show.

ALIM

That's what I do.

193 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

193

GRACY

I'm not comfortable being recorded, but I don't suppose there's anything I can do about that.

ALIM

It wasn't my intention to offend. I could stop it, but...

GRACY

It doesn't matter. What's important now is that we pay our respects to Esmeralda.

Everyone agrees.

GRACY

Let's have a moment of silence then.

They have a moment of silence.

GRACY

Thank you everyone. Now I think we've had enough for one day. I need to go.

194 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

194

DETROIT

Whoa, momma. Come on. It's Christmas, remember. What I want to be anywhere else for?

SAL

Yeah, our time online is priceless. I got to stay on as long as possible.

GRACY

It's just that, I mean, what else is there to say?

DETROIT

Look, I got something I want to say. I wasn't gonna say nothing in front of Esmeralda, but I got something I need to get off my chest.

CARLY

Really?

DETROIT

I put up a strong front. I gotta. A leader's gotta be strong, always. It's just that... I ain't a leader no more.

HALLUX

What's that supposed to mean?

DETROIT

My crew left me, man. Said they didn't like my style, or some bullshit. I did everything for them. Built this empire, and once it was finally going, my crew robs me.

ALIM

So there was a mutiny?

DETROIT

If that's what you want to call it.

195 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

195

CARLY

They just abandoned you? Left you all alone?

DETROIT

I'd be better off on my own. Nah, they left me with the old folks, the kids. Anyone not strong enough to fight. And me.

CARLY

Are you all going to be okay? What are you going to do?

DETROIT

Was thinking about moving out. Maybe I'll come to California.

CARLY

Really?

SAL

You won't make it if fifty miles, trust me. And what about the other people? They need you.

196 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

196

DETROIT

They don't need me. They need a leader. I'm just an asshole with a fat head.

GRACY

Don't say that. You're a good man. You're a strong man. You led your people through hell, and you kept them alive. You don't have anything to be ashamed of.

DETROIT

How do you think I did that? I was hard. I did things. I did things you wouldn't like, Gracy. I'm not the man you think I am.

197 GRACY'S CHURCH - NAVE

197

GRACY

Bull. I know you. I see you. We all done things we never thought we could have done. But these times are different. You're alive. So you did what's right. You did what you had to do. You're gonna be fine, baby. Just keep doing what you have to. All of you, do whatever it takes.

An elderly PRIEST, dressed in priest's robes, enters Gracy's camera view. He is carrying a GOBLET.

PRIEST

It's time to go.

GRACY

Already? I'm just finishing up. We only have a few minutes left.

PRIEST

Everyone else has already left.

DETROIT

Left? Yo, weren't you trapped?

HALLUX

What about those people sleeping back there?

SAL

Is that why you didn't want to talk about your situation? You didn't want to share your escape plan with us? I'm a little hurt.

PRIEST

Drink your cup and say goodbye to your friends.

GRACY

I love all of you. I've so treasured the time we've had together, and I wish all of you the best. Remember, never give up faith.

Gracy drinks the entire contents of the goblet.

(CONTINUED)

GRACY

Good bye.

198 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

198

ALIM

Gracy, what was in that cup? Where are you going? What's going on?

Gracy's body shutters a little. Then she clumsily shuts the lid of her laptop, and her screen goes blank.

ALIM

Gracy, Gracy! Come back! Damnit.

HALLUX

Chill out, man. When you gotta go, you gotta go. We'll catch her next time.

ALIM

Next time? Are you serious? Some else tell me they think what I think just happened, didn't just happen?

199 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

199

CARLY

Maybe. I don't want to say it, but what do you think just happened?

DETROIT

Gracy just had to go. That's all. Chill out.

SAL

I'm as worried as Alim.

DETROIT

But there ain't nothing to be worried about.

CARLY

Why did the priest say everyone else had already left? Like Hallux said, there were people in the benches. Ohhh, no.

DETROIT

Before you deploy, you hurry up and wait. They were just waiting.

(CONTINUED)

CARLY

Detroit?

DETROIT

She's fine. We'll talk to her again. Gracy couldn't have...

SKY, an elderly male hippie of racially mixed heritage, enters Carly's room and sits next to her. He sees she is upset and puts his arms around her comfortingly.

CARLY

Oh, Sky's here. Everybody, this is Sky. Sky, this is everybody.

Everybody exchanges greetings with faked enthusiasm.

CARLY

Guys, I think I need to sign off now.

200 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT 200

HALLUX

Hold on, girl. We need you.

201 CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM 201

CARLY

Our time's up in a few minutes anyway. We really just have time to say goodbye's.

SAL

But the connection came up early today. It might stay on longer too.

CARLY

I can't do it anymore. I can't bear to see anyone else die.

Carly cries into Sky's shoulder and then pulls away from him.

SKY

Good bye. It was nice to finally meet all of you.

Sky shuts the laptop, and Carly's screen goes black.

202 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

202

DETROIT

Shit, Carly's right. Time's up anyway, and I gotta get up outta here before it gets dark or ain't nobody gonna eat tonight. Responsibilities, know what I'm saying? Ya'll take it easy man, be safe.

ALIM

Till we meet again, my friend.

SAL

Stay safe. Semper fi.

HALLUX

Later, gator.

Detroit clicks a button on his computer, and his screen goes black.

203 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

203

ALIM

Is anybody else leaving?

HALLUX

I'm not going anywhere.

SAL

Ditto.

ALIM

Good, because there's something I wanted to talk to you about. I left Benton's video on while we were talking. About twenty minutes after we lost him, his transmission suddenly stopped.

HALLUX

So? His laptop probably ran out of batteries or went to sleep.

ALIM

There was a bright flash just before his video stopped. I think there was an explosion.

204 SAL'S SPIDER HOLE

204

SAL
 Not surprising. Benton's fire probably got out of control. With a bunch of burning zombies running around, it was only a matter of time before something combustible caught fire.

205 ALIM'S STADIUM - VIP BOOTH

205

ALIM
 I'll send you the video and you can see for yourself why I'm not so sure. Pay attention to the window.

Over Alim's shoulder we see a dark, shadowy figure approaching him.

SAL
 Alim...

Everyone's cameras go black.

SAL
 Nooooooooooooo!

Sal clicks his mouse and presses a bunch of buttons on his keyboard rapidly. When this fails to bring his video back he smashes the keyboard on the desk and throws it against a wall.

Sal looks up to a camera on the wall and then walks to the door behind him. He opens it to reveal a soldier in a hallway who is wearing a uniform and texting on a cell phone. The name, "Fogel" is embroidered on his shirt.

SAL
 What the fuck is going on out there? You weren't supposed to move in until after the video stopped. How did we even get to Alim that fast?

Fogel stops texting and looks up at Sal.

FOGEL
 That wasn't one of ours, sir.

SAL
 Who the hell was it then? Is someone else hacking the signal? Did they trace us?

(CONTINUED)

FOGEL

We don't know yet, sir.

Sal clenches his fists and stares angrily at Fogel.

SAL

What about the rest of the targets?

FOGEL

The upgrade worked. We got their locations. Teams are inbound to all of them except Louisiana.

Sal leans closer to Fogel, seething with anger.

SAL

I don't think I heard that last part right.

Fogel shifts uncomfortably.

FOGEL

All the assets are dead, sir.

SAL

Then show me the bodies.

FOGEL

We may not be able to reach them anyway, with the debris and the infected.

SAL

Airlift a fucking tank and drop it on the front lawn of the church!

Fogel sighs heavily and then presses a button on his phone and puts it to his ear.

SAL

And get the comm nerds in here to set up another computer before the Eastern transmission starts.

Sal storms off down the hallway.

206

CARLY'S COMPOUND - CARLY'S BEDROOM

206

Sky unplugs Carly's computer and wraps the power cord around it.

(CONTINUED)

CARLY

I gave you what you wanted. Now let me see my boyfriend.

Sky jerks the power cord hard and ties it off. Then he looks at Carly intensely.

SKY

I'm your boyfriend.

CARLY

I wouldn't let you touch me if you were the last man on Earth.

SKY

Lucky for the human race, it's not up to you.

CARLY

We had a deal.

Sky holds the laptop at his side with one hand and grabs Carly by the throat with his free hand.

SKY

You were supposed to gather information on my competition, not give them detailed fucking instruction on how to find us!

CARLY

You're hurting me.

SKY

Did you think someone was going to come rescue you? Then give you some big ghetto dick? You want to be with your boyfriend? Fine. You can talk to him all you want, from the next cell.

Sky lets go of Carly's throat and walks to the door. He bangs on it twice and then speaks loudly.

SKY

Come in!

We hear the sound of a HEAVY LOCK SLIDING. Then the door begins to open.

207 DETROIT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

207

Detroit stands at an open window looking out at the city. A beautiful African American woman in her late twenties walks up behind Detroit and puts her hands on his shoulders.

WOMAN

Did you find a new home?

DETROIT

One of them has a place in California.

WOMAN

That's great, baby. When do we leave?

DETROIT

We can't go there.

WOMAN

I know it's a long way, but we can make it.

DETROIT

They wouldn't let us be together. The head cracker in charge decides who they're allowed to love.

The woman leans her head against Detroit's back and grips his shoulders tighter.

WOMAN

Is there nowhere else we can go?

Detroit turns to the woman and takes her hands in his.

DETROIT

We're going North, baby. To Canada.

WOMAN

No. It's too cold.

DETROIT

That's why it's undefended.

The woman and Detroit look into each other's eyes lovingly, and then they look out the window together.

208 HALLUX'S FARM HOUSE - BASEMENT 208

Sitting on his couch, Hallux loads a POOL BALL into his potato launcher. He looks at the weapon in his hand and frowns. He sets it down on the ground and picks up two HATCHETS. He takes a few practices swings in the air and feels satisfied.

Hallux walks to the basement door and listens carefully for footsteps. His face looks concerned, and his eyes get wider as the sound of HELICOPTER ROTORS grow louder and louder from outside.

209 ALIM'S STADIUM - PARKING LOT - NIGHT 209

Alim runs through an empty parking lot. He is not carrying any weapons or supplies. He has a gash on his forehead that is bleeding.

CAMERA PANS UP TO THE SKYLINE OF THE DARK CITY IN FRONT OF ALIM