

The Sickness

By Christopher Styles AKA Christopher Rice

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DAY 4. SAN BERNADINO, CALIFORNIA.

INT.HOUSE-DAY

A family awakes to greet the day.

Valerie 30 years old, bubbly brunette awakes first heads downstairs and turns on the morning news on the way to the kitchen.

She starts coffee starts breakfast for the kids then walks half way up the stairs where she hails the family.



VALERIE

Rise and shine babies. I know you
hear that day calling. Sean that
means you too.

CUT TO

INT.MASTER BEDROOM-DAY

A head pops up from the mass of covers and pillows that surround.

Sean 32, tall, handsome with a stylized short beard turns over with a dry smile.

He sits up throws his feet over the side of the bed and rubs his eyes.

SEAN

Up! Yup, I'm up.

INT.DOWNSTAIRS KITCHEN-DAY

The talking head on the t.v.speaks almost awkwardly with the volume barely audible.

The Dow Jones runs across the bottom third as the black arrows beside them all point downward for a negative at over a point.

The Lower third changes again to a Breaking News-Health Pandemic.

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Valerie pushes open a door and looks in.

 The children still drowsy each enter the kitchen.

Chloe age 6, shy yet all smiles and often immersed in her own world bounces in first.

Phoenix age 10 sprightly, tomboyish but cute trails behind. Sean pulls a cereal from the cupboard sits down picks up the remote and turns the volume the rest of the way down.

SEAN

Do you mind Sweetheart

VALERIE

Of course Not..

They busy themselves with the basics as mom serves the family then tries herself to sit down and eat.

Outside the window the sun rises quickly into the May morning sky.

Street lights begin to speed up their synchronicity, traffic begins to fill the streets as people on cell phones are in a rush to start their day as they busy themselves with their own existence.

INT. ENTRY WAY-DAY

The family now dressed nears the front door Sean ahead of Phoenix who clasp's hands with Chloe as the door is pulled open.

Valerie readies for work down the hall in the bathroom.

CHILDREN

Bye mom, Love you Momma!

SEAN

Baby are you sure you don't want to just walk with us real quick it's beautiful out here.

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VALERIE

I should get ready, I'm running out
of time..

PHOENIX

Come on momma, Please!

Valerie smiles.

VALERIE

(sighs)

OK baby, let's get going though.

She grabs Chloe' s hand as they head out.

EXT.STREET-DAY

The family begins down a busy street.

They smile at each other as they walk Sean holds hands with
Phoenix behind Valerie and Chloe.

They come to the last corner before there school as another
family comes to cross the street.

Phoenix immediately recognizes the girl who pulls her mother
across the street.

CHRISTY

What's wrong with you, mom? Come
on. come on!

PHOENIX

Hey Cristy..

Cristy looks up and blinks a dim smile then turns back at
her mother.

SEAN

You know them, huh? They should be
careful. Maybe cross at a sidewalk.

CRISTY

Aghhh!

Sean and Phoenix look up in horror at the direction of the
scream.

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Cristy's overweight mother sails through the air lands then is dragged out and under another passing car where it drags her to a screeching stop.

Cristy flung outward by the impact to her mother isn't terribly hurt as Sean and Phoenix stand by startled.

Sean runs into the street to help Cristy off the ground gazes at the ghastly accident that is Cristy's mother, he gently lifts her and pulls her close to him as he checks her over.

SEAN

Get Back! Get back Phoenix, stay
over there with your mother..

A crowd begins to gather and cars stop. Phoenix is silent next to her mother who holds the two children close she tries to turn them away.

Valerie's face grief stricken while Phoenix sob's Chloe nervous looks around anxiously.

Cristy cry's from a distance with shrill screams for her mother.

John holds onto her both of them shake uncontrollably.

He peers over his shoulder to see Valerie in a the gesture to call 911.

The world slows.

INT. HOUSE DAY

The family is seated together at the couch.

Valerie holds the two children close each quietly still sob in dismay.

Sean sits on the arm of the couch and stares off.

Valerie breaks the silence.

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VALERIE

I know it's been an awfully
upsetting morning but sadly mama
has to get going for work now.

CHILDREN

(upset)

No. Please mama, don't go!

Sean looks up slowly. They meet eyes.

VALERIE

I know babies, I don't want to
leave you but mama has to work.
Don't fret daddy will be here with
you girls to keep you safe.

SEAN

Maybe you can call in.

VALERIE

I would baby especially today but
we need the money..

She leans in extra close for a big hug with Valerie and the
little ones.

VALERIE

Don't worry, it'll be a quick day-
I'll be back home before you know
it.

Valerie smiles slyly at the bunch.

EXT. DRIVEWAY -DAY

Valerie climbs into their white jeep the kids stand near
with long faces as dad approaches.

SEAN

Here, I made you some lunch, be
careful. I'm sure it was just this
morning. But something just feels
funny or off, I don't know. Just be
careful, I love you.

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VALERIE

I will. I love you to babe.

She pulls out the drive Sean walks the girls towards the door and they waive as Valerie drives away.

INT. HOUSE -DAY

The T.V. is on in the background as Sean attempts to soothe the children.

A breaking news report runs across the lower thirds.

V.O.

The Dow Jones shocks the world with 3 days straight in descending stock trends affected by everything from lack of purchases, missing employees, to freezes in transportation across the board. The CDC also reports an as yet undetermined food or ecology related pandemic with flu like symptoms. The reaches of which seem to be reports from the work place, hospitals and even a few known political officials here in the Eastern seaboard.

The children begin to settle as dad lists a number of things they can do as a family.

SEAN

We can go to the library, um the park, run groceries..

CHILDREN

No!..

SEAN

Um, we can..

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CHLOE

Can we just stay in and watch T.V.

Phoenix smiles faintly Sean nods with a smile that quickly fades away.

He gives in and they quickly change the channel and turn it up.

INT. MALL-DAY

The mall has few shoppers as Valerie approaches her kiosk. She unlocks then sets up and prepares for her day.

As she does many of the other kiosks and store fronts remain closed she settles in looks around and notices less commotion than usual but also many of the other storefronts remain unopened.

Valerie gathers herself walks across towards another cart that is up and open for business.

VALERIE

(anxiously)

Hello Marcy. This is just a bit strange, huh?

ATTENDANT

You can say that again. Whats going on you think?

VALERIE

Funny, I was going to ask you the same thing.

MARCY

well, Ive been here for over an hour now and it's been like this the whole time. I'd head home but I need the money..

VALERIE

(sympathetic laugh)

Yea, I know what you mean.

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MARCY

I tried calling the boss too. You know, to let him know how weird it is down here or if I should go. But no answer, weird. He always answers, I can't tell which is worse that or this.

Valerie listens curiously then stares over Marcy's shoulder at the rest of the mall almost completely closed save one more storefront.

MARCY

Oh now isn't that just lovely. Is it new?

Marcy leans into Valerie and gently caress a gold heart pendent that besets across her blouse.

VALERIE

Oh yes, well kind of. Sean and the girls had it made for me for my birthday, um a couple weeks ago now.

MARCY

Oh I didn't hear, a very belated birthday I guess.

VALERIE

No worries. I was able to switch with Jan that day otherwise I would have been here.

MARCY

Ugh! Thank God she covered you, that's sweet.

Valerie pops open the Heart pendent to reveal a photo inside. It's of Valerie and her two little girls.

VALERIE

(laughs)

We had a photo shoot done over a month ago. I should have known but we were so busy at the time and
(MORE)

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Sean just slyly said it was for more pictures of the kids and the family. I got so upset when he wouldn't get in any of them with us.

Valerie squints makes a guilty face and looks up at Marcy.

MARCY

(chuckles)

Awe. That's so cute. Don't worry you didn't know. Besides he knew what he was getting into with such a sneaky set up. You're so lucky My Charlie's a simple guy we could never have such a complexity of affairs that leads to a payoff of some thought full gift or even mutual orgasm for that matter.

VALERIE

(giggles)

Oh dear!

MARCY

Don't worry sweetie, I hold the check book so. Well let's see if anyone makes it or I'm going to ditch this ghost-town sooner then later or at least for a very long lunch!

VALERIE

Ok, Well later.

Valerie smiles sideways and heads back to her booth

CUT TO

INT. HOUSE- DAY

The family sits idly by the t.v. on when Sean gets up and walks over to the phone.

He glances over at the children then picks it up and dials.

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SEAN

I'm going to call grandma and
grandpa before it gets too late.
Anyone wanna say hello?

CHLOE

I do, I do!

The phone doesn't ring it just responds with a message of
error the lines are busy or otherwise unable to connect.

SEAN

Huh, that's funny..

CHLOE

What is!

He hangs up, dials again.. This time it rings busy. He looks
at the phone with a pause.

SEAN

That's odd, I don't understand.

CHLOE

what?

SEAN

I'm sorry sweetie, I wanted to talk
to them too but the phones are out
or something.

CHLOE

Ughh.

Something on t.v.catches Sean's ear.

SEAN

Hey phoenix baby turn that up a
moment..

She grabs the remote and turns up the t.v. A breaking news
report continues its update

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V.O.

It's not known at this time how wide spread this pandemic is.

The latest news breaks the CDC have stepped in to attempt to identify the source of the outbreak believed to be somewhere in Northern Colorado.

Speculation aside, our data indicates at least one bio-defense military installation currently housed in that region. Hospitals are at maximum occupancy yet short staffed all while implementing full quarantine as they are now required to dawn complete protective wear.

It's not known for sure how or where this flu like pandemic originated or if it may be directly tied to the dips in the market that we are currently experiencing this week.

Officials decline to comment other than to say all precautionary measures are being taken. As it stands right now we are noticing an interruption in all facets of life hear on the mid- west including day to day operations and of course this means phone lines are busy or down.

Sean stands still as stone glances at the children musters a faint smile then turns and looks at the clock.

CUT TO

INT MALL- DAY

Valerie stands alone at her wireless cell phone booth.

The rest of the mall is dead save a single family and an

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older couple. Very few customers shop, the mall resembles a mausoleum with its gated shops that sends a shiver down over Valerie's.

Valerie hears what sounds like a baby crying then a shout and loud volley of yells and murmurs coming from the floor above her.

She stares up at the commotion then walks out away from her booth to get a glimpse of what could be going on.

Another angry shout is heard a woman struggles with a man near the railing in the distance a baby is still audible over the commotion.

Valerie looks over at the closest store attendant Marcy as she steps out of the only opened nearby stall.

STORE ATTENDANT

What the heck's going on up their?

VALERIE

I don't know.

STORE ATTENDANT

Well, what should we do? Do you even see security here today..

VALERIE

..ugh, watch my booth will ya. Oh never mind!

Valerie dismisses the notion and begins to head towards the nearest escalator.

She starts to run when another scream is heard as she turns just in time to see a woman's body fall over the rail of the second floor.

The body hits the ground with a hard thud, blood begins to run from her ear and mouth as she convulses in shock.

Marcy screams and runs to grab her phone.

Valerie stares on in shock as the second brutal disaster today plays out in front of her.

INT. HOUSE- NIGHT

Valerie walks in the door, her keys dangle from her hands in a half clasp her handbag open on the other arm.

The family stands up surprised.CHILDREN
(in unison..)
Mommy!

The girls drop their silver wear, Sean gets up and puts the dishes in the sink.

CHLOE
Momma, your home early.

PHOENIX
You're usually not home till
bedtime..

Sean gives her space as if to let her bask in the girls love when they catch eyes. Hers watery and red.

SEAN
Are you all right baby?

CHILDREN
Whats wrong mommy?

She finally makes a move for the couch slowly she puts down her bag as if it were fragile.

Her keys drop on their own to the table beside the couch, as they do the sound seems to almost startle her back to reality.

A murmur escapes her but not much of one and she slips the rest of the way onto the couch and breaks into tears.

The children and Sean make a move toward her they all huddle together and embrace as Valerie as she sobs.

INT. ROOM- NIGHT

The two parents tuck in the children their shock settles. They draw the covers over the youngest Sean tucks them tightly as Valerie reaches over to his hand.

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VALERIE

Are you OK?

SEAN

I should be asking you the same..

VALERIE

I'll be all right.

SEAN

(solemnly)

..What happened?

VALERIE

(whispers)

Something that shouldn't have, I don't know.. Their was just yelling then all of a sudden. It doesn't make any sense! Just like this morning.

SEAN

I tried to call mom and dad today you know.. the line wouldn't connect. The news said.

They pause and look at each other.

Sean gives one last tuck to the oldest Valerie leans over and kisses both.

Sean tip toes out first then Valerie.

INT.MASTER BEDROOM- NIGHT

Sean and Valerie enter their room Valerie begins to close the door but checks first with an ear out as if to inspect the children.

VALERIE

The news said what?

SEAN

I'm not sure exactly, they're not sure exactly..

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VALERIE

What do you mean they're not sure?

SEAN

Well they're saying there is some kind of pandemic and at the same time a lot of the grid is down on the east coast.

VALERIE

(complete disbelief)

What are you saying!

SEAN

I'm not saying it's all related, I mean they're not implying that yet but..

Valerie walks towards the window she fearfully slows down as she nears it, as if something may lurk just past the view of her curtains.

She leans ever so slowly in to pull them back and peers out, fear washes over her face.

VALERIE

You don't think this morning..
Tonight?

Valerie stares back at Sean for confirmation.

SEAN

We should make a visit to the grocery store tomorrow. Make sure we have.. everything we might need, you know.

Valerie nods, she sits down on the bed where Sean joins her separate at first then he clasps her hand, she lifts her's over his.

They move in closer then hold each other. Valerie rests her head on Sean's shoulder and closes her eyes.

FADE TO BLACK..

INT.HOUSE-DAY

Day 5

Sean wakes to the sound of tires screech and an engine rev. He peers up at the space next to his own where Valerie should be then back at the window and the world outside.

Sean climbs out of bed out of intuition and continues to lift his ears to the wind.

He puts his shirt on and passes out the room into the rest of the house.

He passes Chloe's room, She's still fast asleep as he continues down the hallway to the downstairs.

INT. KITCHEN -DAY

Valerie and Phoenix have just sit down to eat in the kitchen.

The t.v. is on but mute in the back ground.

Past that is a morning breeze that drifts through the open window, Grey skies line the distance.

SEAN

So we're keeping them home for one more day. Hey sweetie, how are you feeling this morning?

PHOENIX

(tired and distracted)

I'm o.k. I guess.

VALERIE

Yea, well there was a call sometime yesterday afternoon I guess. Luckily the school leaves voice messages.

She lifts her cell phone into view then replaces it to the kitchen table.

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VALERIE

It said due to yesterday's incident
and the potential for a national
pandemic temporary measures are
being taken to suspend school for
the rest of the week or until
further notice.

The words sink in for Valerie and Sean stands idle in the
kitchen next to Phoenix not knowing quite what to make of
this all.

SEAN

(disbelief)

Are you serious?

They both stare at each other for a long beat.

PHOENIX

(breaking silence)

That's nice of 'em right, mom. Dad,
whats wrong?

Sean scans the house around him a sudden spike of panic runs
over Valerie's face.

SEAN

(mumbles)

Candles, flashlights! No first aid
kit! Food, water..

VALERIE

That's nice of them baby but that
maybe not exactly why they gave a
day off.

SEAN

..Supplies,how's our groceries?

VALERIE

I don't know honey. You did them
the other day. Two days ago I
think.

Phoenix sits between them and follows both with her eyes.

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SEAN

Agh, It was only odds and ends I was going to get more but Chloe started in with a tantrum over not getting a new backpack like phoenix for school. Oh, we're going to need more food stuffs!

PHOENIX

What's wrong, can I come?

SEAN

Yea..No. Not this time baby, let me check it out first.

PHOENIX

Check what out?

Sean and Valerie exchange looks of grief mixed with "I just don't know".

Sean takes a deep breath stands up kisses Valerie then walks over to the wall.

He lifts the car keys from their hook then takes a second look around.

PHOENIX

..So can I come?

EXT. GROCERY STORE- DAY

Sean and Phoenix pull into a grocery store parking lot. Vehicles, pedestrians and shopping carts shuffle past like 5 o'clock traffic hour.

A pair of pedestrians narrowly dive out of the way of being hit by a truck when they begin into a shouting tirade against the driver of the car.

PHOENIX

Why are they so mad daddy?

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SEAN

Usually, I'd say they're in the right but I think this is a little different. Everyone seems to be on edge.

Sean drives carefully beyond the skirmish and tries to find a parking spot, the lot full of vehicles and haggard faces.

The wind picks up that blow more shopping carts about Sean peers out his windshield dodges one does a scan and finds a spot.

They reverse in Sean takes a long glance over at Phoenix then leans in.

SEAN

Baby, please make sure you stay real close to me, o.k.

He makes a sigh then stares with sincerity.

INT.GROCERY STORE-DAY

Sean and Phoenix enter the grocery store only one of two carts is left.

Immediately the situation becomes clear something is awry and everyone and everything is going bad fast.

Shoppers go about their usual busy pace only there appears to be twice as many.

The shelves are quickly being emptied, carts and items lie haphazardly about.

Odd goods hang off shelves others left wherever or fill the aisles with fallen remnants of products ripped open or pulled out of packaging.

PHOENIX

This doesn't look good, huh dad?

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SEAN

No there's not much left is there.
Remember, stay close. Lets make
this quick alright.

They push their way past several customers that gather
around a few remaining liters of soda.

They argue over who deserves the last two diet cola's.

Phoenix follows Sean at the end of the aisle he looks back
to see the mob embroil into rage.

SEAN

Lets grab these waters, while
they're still some here.

They pile two gallons then the last case of bottle waters.
Sean looks back down the aisle.

Though several gallons remain he see's another customer eye
his find. Sean pulls Phoenix close by the shoulder then
directs them along and around the next aisle.

As they approach the meat department is now almost
completely bare. A few scattered items are left, sausage
some pigs feet, cow tongue and one whole turkey packaged.

Theirs a tear at its seam where dry blood drips from the rip
and has coagulated over the brand name.

Sean grabs a couple packages of sausage then pokes at the
turkey that appears to be bad its surrounded at its edges
with blueish tents and dots in the package.

They find their way to the dairy aisle only two opened dozen
of eggs is left both with a cracked egg in it.

Sean doesn't take a second look he grabs both turns and
pulls out the last two of the three, boxed half gallon
cartons of milk.

SEAN

Let's look for some boxed or canned
goods, toilet paper and get out of
here.

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They get to aisle 17 toiletries where another crowd of customers argue over the last of the name brand t.p. and paper towels.

Sean and Phoenix approach carefully as they edge closer to the last few rolls of generic toilet paper with no desire to disturb the crowd.

IRATE CUSTOMER

You know what, before I hurt you
I'm just going to grab this last
tissue over here..

Too early the customers notice Sean and Phoenix in the aisle with them. Sean reaches to grab the tissue paper.

SEAN

Oh shit..

IRATE CUSTOMER

Hey you, that's mine!

SEAN

(nervous)

Behind me baby.

Sean drops three of the last five single rolls into his cart then looks back over his shoulder in the other direction.

A third patron enters from the behind.

The new man ugly and upset large and obese with sinuses that drip he scans Sean the shelf then the others.

He staggers towards Sean while on the other side in the front of the aisle the irate customers wife chimes.

IRATE CUSTOMERS WIFE

Look you Ass Whole! You better get
some paper from someone, somehow or
I'm a fixen' to take a shit on you!

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ASS WHOLE

I swear if there's not a whole
bundle of t.p. still stacked right
there, you better hand me what you
put in your basket right now!

Sean takes a step back his arm extended to block for Phoenix
as they near the sick obese man.

ASS WHOLE(CONTD)

Hey, where do you think you're
going? It's a grocery store we're
all in here together. Come here!

With that Sean makes a decisive move to break past the
single obstacle of the patron in the rear.

They scoot around him he barely makes a look but instead
keeps on a course towards the last item or two of
toiletries.

Both the bumbling sinus driven man and the Asshole next meet
head on at the last of the stock.

The irate customer tries to push past the obese man in anger
when he is pushed back.

ASS WHOLE(CONTD)

Do you not see me here trying to
get at that ass whole ..ASS WHOLE!
Move the Fuck out my way

OBESE SINUS MAN

Huh?

Sean spies the scene one last time before turning the corner
of the aisle to see the both of them about to have it out as
the big sinus prone behemoth stands his ground.

Sean considers to possibly intervene looks down at phoenix
then decides to make for the front of the store.

In the background the asshole realizes the items left pushes
and makes a grab for them.

The bumbling obese man takes immediate hostile reaction of

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this and growls a snot ridden snarl back at him, then shoves back almost simultaneously.

ASS WHOLE

Hey! What the fuck..

The two continue into a rage as the asshole screams out obscenities and tries to land a blow while the obese man takes him in arms and proceeds to toss the irate customer head first against the empty aisles then body slams him to the ground, all the while he grunts and howls in rage.

EXT. GROCERY STORE- DAY

The grey clouds blanket the sky outside paths of sunlight peer through the overcast sky.

In a rush to the car they toss the bags in the backseat. Sean and Phoenix find momentary solace from the chaos that was the grocery store.

After a long look around Sean resumes his mission as he Free's the keys from his pocket inserts them in the ignition and starts the car.

Another quick swivel of his head then he pulls out and drives away from the store.

When they reach the edge of the parking lot they hear police sirens arrive to the scene. PHOENIX

Are they coming to help?

SEAN

I hope so, though probably too little too late.

They turn their heads next as an ambulance comes screaming down the street.

A pedestrian just misses being hit by another vehicle when a black Lexus that crosses traffic erratically pulls into the store parking lot.

The pedestrian reels around in reaction to the near miss of the ambulance when the ass end of the black Lexus is smashed into by a large white truck that barrels down the street on

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the inside lane.

Sean and Phoenix stare out the drivers side window as they pull out from the same exit of the grocery store parking lot.

Sean looks back in his rear view mirror at what missed them by seconds.

He glances to phoenix, taps at the ceiling of the car then shakes his head crosses his chest and smiles with a faint smirk.

He glances back one last time over his shoulder at the scene clicks his blinker merges back into the lane and drives off down the street.

INT.HOUSE-DAY

Outside the window the clouds have settled in and the darkness surrounds.

Sean and Phoenix stand in the kitchen Phoenix sets a couple bags of groceries on the counter top while Sean still holds onto his.

They both hunker down as if the kitchen was a make shift bunker.

VALERIE

Um. That's all you managed to get?
Are you alright?

The transparency of the trip to the store turned mission shows on their faces, Phoenix turns to Sean.

PHOENIX

That's what you meant by check
things out huh, daddy?

Valerie glances at Sean as he takes a last deep breath and exhales.

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SEAN

Their was a little more then I
thought going on out there.

VALERIE

(uneasy)

Yea, Like what?

SEAN

I cant say exactly, I mean we ran
across a lot. We had to more or
less keep our heads down and keep
moving, you know. We didn't, I
don't.. Some were crazy, a few were
normal and didn't know what to
think. Then their was some that
were oblivious or just I don't know
sickly. They didn't sound or look
good either.

VALERIE

I don't understand?

A large sigh then a deep breath follows before Sean checks
the groceries over.

SEAN

I don't either baby. lets get
everything laid out. Our supplies,
Our food. we'll try and get a hold
of grandma and grandpa again too.

VALERIE

Also lets try somebody else!

PHOENIX

Like Who?

They all stand around in the kitchen Sean and Valerie
exchange looks the wind is starting to whip up again
outside.

The Grey is darker as the clouds move in to stay and
rainfall appears eminent.

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SEAN

Let's check the internet and news
for updates and we'll try one of
our friends that's in town.

INT. HOUSE- NIGHT

The house continues its transformation, the kitchen and
lights are dim but warm with the smell of food in the air.

The living room now converted into a makeshift bunker is
surrounded in flashlights, candles, cases of stacked water
bottles rest in the corners.

Two antique kerosene lamps and a single bottle of oil set on
the kitchen table next to one stack of tissue paper and 2
unopened single rolls, a toolbox and some odd lumber in the
opposite corner next to a case of mostly random canned
goods, soups and veggies.

The lights in the rest of the house are all off or dimmed.
The T.V. is on only a few channels are still on the air or
barely coming in as Valerie flips through them with the
remote.

VALERIE

No other channels are coming in
with news babe, all just have the
standby Emergency Broadcast System
and a few random cable access
channels..

SEAN

Shit!

Sean stokes the fire then sits down beside the fireplace. He
looks over at a small black case then pulls out his cell
phone.

VALERIE

It's weird, if anything it all just
kinda keeps repeating the same
stuff from yesterdays broadcast!
That the East coast is less and
less responsive. The CDC has
intervened to manage the crises
(MORE)

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VALERIE (CONT'D)
across the country.

SEAN
It says Online MSNBC.com that most
all major affiliates are down.
Larger cities seem to be suffering
the most loss in communications.
The CDC's last acknowledged
communication was that this is a
confirmed Pandemic level virus.
most likely or probably even
getting potentially this bad the
world over, I don't know.

They both look at each other pale and grief stricken. Sean
stares for a minute the world stands still on its axis while
the phone hangs in his grasp.

Valerie turns slowly she watches their daughters run around
with smiles on their faces, oblivious.

SEAN
Wait! It says.. the president will
speak tonight from a secured
location to address the nation
about the nature of all known
aspects of this pandemic.

VALERIE
Does it say a channel or what time?

SEAN
It just says that they are going to
attempt to meet a 8 P.M. EST ..

VALERIE
I don't like the sound of that!

The flames take hold of the logs behind Sean when a serious
insight comes over him he observes the dim interior of the
room surrounded by his family and the lack of supplies.

He reaches for the black case from beside him and gently
sets it in his lap.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEAN

All right Every One!

Sean snaps back the locks on the black case with a loud pop each clasp releases.

He opens it up turns it halfway towards the family then looks up a deadly serious gaze from the father they know.

A cold, smooth, hard steel Springfield 1911 .45 semi automatic pistol rests within the case the fire light catches its edges.

SEAN

I don't know whats going on out there, I don't know why everyone's acting crazy or sick or what ever. What I do know is I'm your daddy and it's my job to protect you.

He looks up again at Valerie for approval she nods back a tear drops her eye.

Sean looks back to the girls he glances at each his look turns again from soft to hard.

SEAN

There's no more games babies. No more going outside, Chloe.. You got Me!

CHLOE

Yes daddy.

SEAN

No more eating everything, we have to make sure we have enough. At least till we figure this out..

PHOENIX

Is that a gun daddy?

SEAN

(Seriously)

I'm glad you asked, yes it is and I would never pull it out or show you
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

(CONT'D)

if it was a laughing matter so you
should that know, this isn't One!

Sean takes the clip out of the case and inspects it for a
any preloaded rounds.

He jams the clip into the handle of the gun and caulks back
the barrel with a swift but loud *clack* of affirmation.

Sean safeties the weapon and reaches back to tuck it behind
his back.

SEAN

I love you Both.. You All! Me and
your mom will stay on watch until
we figure out whats going on or
what to do.

PHOENIX

..Or where to Go!

SEAN

(In Agreement)
Or where to Go.

VALERIE

Until then you two just relax take
it easy, please lets try to keep it
low key in here with the noise.
Like their were zombies out there.

They All look at each once more after the finality of that
last statement.

Sean tries to shed his tough and worried exterior for the
girls.

SEAN

(forcing a smile)
Now mama, how about that dinner.

INT DINING ROOM- NIGHT

The t.v. is on in the corner it provides a large canvas of
cathode ray lighting over the quiet and dim room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The family is seated at the dinner table in a rare hush.

Valerie gently approaches the table with dishes of freshly cooked hot homemade stew and butter milk biscuits.

The meal still steams as its set down on the table in front of them, its simplicity glows everyone stares for a long second then grabs for their silver ware and digs in.

Valerie takes a seat next to them clears her throat when everyone looks at her.

VALERIE

If we could take a minute, I'd like
to say grace.

Sean looks at her and takes his daughters hands in his own with no further interruption they all bow their heads Chloe looks up with one eye.

VALERIE

Dear God..

Chloe blinks and smiles at Valerie as Phoenix stares on with intent and a glint of worry in her eyes.

VALERIE

It's been awhile since we've had
time.. since we stopped to do this.
I don't know whats going on or
exactly why I'm praying to you
about other then. I'm worried,
about my family. Please watch over
them. Please keep us safe, guide
us, direct us. Help those that are
sick if you can and please help us
to not get sick and to figure out
whats going on.. or at least find a
way. Thank you for this meal and
for our family, Amen.

SEAN

Amen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHILDREN
(In unison)
Amen.

Another tear drops Valerie's eye as they all lift their heads up each show a sense of emotion.

The t.v. previously on an unattractive and obvious loop flickers to life.

Various colors fill the room as a white house emergency logo transitions into an empty shot within an unusual concrete room.

The President of the United States anxiously steps forward to a generic podium with the Presidential Seal slapped on it's front.

He approaches notes in hand shake uncontrollably while with the other adjusts his glasses at the same time.

Valerie faces the t.v. her eyes blurry she's the first to take notice.

INT. DINING ROOM -NIGHT

The volume increases latent to the start of the Presidents address.

The president is already speaking when the first of his dialogue is heard by the family.

The girls look up at Sean and Valerie on how to interpret this broadcast or its meaning.

The screens image flickers and rolls a couple times like an old war torn foreign broadcast with a weak transponder signal.

PRESIDENT
(nervously)
..The earliest convenient time for
the organization and commencement
of an official address to You,Tthe
Peoples of these United States of
America. Its not entirely known the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

(CONT'D)

original source of the virus but what we do know is this has clearly become a far reaching and global pandemic.

A bearable silence is noticed after the pause that follows that fact.

PRESIDENT (CONT.D)

What we have been able to figure out is its an obvious viral outbreak that spreads fast. It has been determined that physical contact specifically with saliva or blood of an infected is how its transmitted. I repeat this is not an airborne pathogen. The effected regions so far in a 5 day time span is.

Another noticeable pause.

PRESIDENT (CONT.D)

(Sweat beads fill face)

roughly 57% of the continental united states. While the majority of the concentration is in larger cities. Out lying regions like country or rural areas are less effected though they suffer more immediate official response losses or shutdowns.

The president looks earnestly at the camera at the viewer.

His lip trembles as he readies for the last part of his speech and two large drops of sweat escape his brow.

PRESIDENT (CONT.D)

It's because of this last finding that it is assumed, that by the end of the week, with in 7-9 days from introduction of the outbreak the continental united states will be estimated at 85% infected and the worlds population around 67%. It's

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT (CONT.D) (CONT'D)
also because of this reality that I must hesitantly also announce our next step and measure to counteract the virus. That is, that the remaining Governing body has taken to a status of Def Con 2 in reaction to the threat and the order is now greenlit. Tomorrow morning at 6am, just after daylight. The order to drop a 1st volley of Napalm approximately 20 megatons over 5 of America's largest cities in a first attempt to curtail this viral outbreak.

Sean and Valerie look at the children who are trying to keep up, Phoenix eyes are large and thoughtful Chloe remarks.

CHLOE
What's Napalm?

PRESIDENT (CONT.D)
The cities in the first wave are as follows.

Valerie remarks to Sean

VALERIE
First Wave?..

PRESIDENT (CONT.D)
Los Angelas, San Diego, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Charlotte. This is not only an attempt at containment but also that the American public in the chance that many are fleeing these cities now will have the small but hopeful opportunity to have their pursuers stamped out.

Sean looks over at the children while Valerie scoots closer to him as do the girls.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT (CONT.D)

Also with in 24 hours of the first strike the effectiveness and readiness response units left will be evaluated. If the first wave of attacks prove futile we will respond with a decisive atomic attack, most probably at the previous named targets or the next validated mass threat area's..

The T.V. flickers and turns off followed by the power in the house that first makes a low hum noise then a second later everything shuts off.

The girls whine as Sean comforts them.

Valerie stands up in the dark and makes a movement the next thing heard is a click as the flash light turns on.

The light beam bounces across the floor to the wall before she strikes a match from the opposite corner of the living room.

Lantern light illuminates the room with a soft glow.

Outside the first drops of rain fall from the sky and permeate the dark quiet night.

EXT. HOUSE-NIGHT

The neighborhood is still for the first time in days when Sean steps outside.

The rain a sprinkle, a breeze carries dense clouds above.

The power on the entire block is out as well as the streetlights.

Candlelight shows from inside the house when Sean notices two lights at the far end of the street.

Headlights then another and another, a convoy of large military vehicles rush past. Stowed in the rear a group of men sit idly, some clad in protective yellow full body wear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Immediately behind them are two flatbed trucks loaded with concrete barriers, a military truck filled with soldiers and close behind two police cruisers with sirens blaring and lights on.

Sean watches as they drive past large raindrops begin to drip from his brow he puts his hand up to block it.

He peers into the distance behind him where Valerie watches from the window.

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

It's late when loud noises appear from the silence tires screech then a scream is heard in the distance next a volley of gun shots ring through the night.

The kids are the first to awake Valerie and Sean groggy barely shift completely exhausted.

The children shake their parents to consciousness as they hear another gathering of screams from the street followed by sirens and muffled words over a loudspeaker.

Another round of shots and the family startled huddles together beside a hutch for cover. Sean looks over at the black case.

V.O.

(muffled)

This township is under jurisdiction
of the Center for Disease Control
in cooperation with the Federal
Emergency Management Agency for a
logistic attempt at a quarantine
zone against the virus.

The family listen intent as the children hold tightly to Valerie.

V.O. (CONTD)

We will be coming door to door in
this and the neighboring
communities over the ensuing few
hours. We do not want to hurt you,
if you are not infected. we

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

V.O. (CONTD) (CONT'D)
estimate the infection rate to be
lowest in this region. However if
you do not cooperate or harbor a
potential infected, Necessary force
Will Be used to remove you and your
family from your homes.

VALERIE
What should we do?

SEAN
We stay calm, we stay together.
We're not sick, they'll see that
and everything will be o.k.!

Sean nods to the children and leans in as Valerie huddles them close together Sean stands in front of them in his hand he holds the black case.

They approach the front door and slowly open it to the blaring lights that come from and fill the street.

EXT. HOUSE-NIGHT

Military trucks marked with the insignia of National Guard Pour into the suburb and begin to line the street at almost every corner.

A police cruiser is parked center of the street at both ends as soldiers set up mobile generator and powered lights on one corner while an assembly of flatbed trucks drive past with concrete dividers.

The far end of the block people are already out of their homes, a woman cries hysterically as a group of soldiers stand around a likely dead man in the front yard.

Sean and Valerie hold the children close, Valerie turns Chloe away as they stand in the doorway.

The convoy of Soldiers climb back in their truck while some hang from the frame and others walk on foot through the neighborhood and the nearest towards the house.

The Sergeant approaches his lead, a Corporal early 30's, a strong postured individual.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Sergeant lifts a hand and makes a gesture, the Corporal nods before the Sergeant walks away.

Two soldiers move towards the rear of the house, the Corporal signals over his shoulder with a flashlight across the street to a soldier that stands near a power box.

The house lights come back on and the MP steps closer.

CORPORAL

(smiles at children)

I'm Corporal Romero. Sorry for the inconvenience but at this time we request that you let us enter your premises to ascertain if any infected might be among you.

SEAN

Of course, uh yea go ahead.

CORPORAL ROMERO

Are all of you all right, is any one.. Sick?

The Corporal signals for the Quarantine staff to step in. They approach as Sean attempts to answer.

SEAN

No..no. We're all fine here and we're all sticking together!

CORPORAL ROMERO

It'll be fine sir, it's all just routine. They'll check retinas, temperature and blood pressure right here. So long as everything checks out you and your family can go or stay together.

Three Yellow Jackets separate the family by a couple feet each as they assess Valerie first then the children.

Sean pushes back on the closest Yellow Jacket and eyes the other two guards that stand by the Corporal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEAN

It's all right babies. I'm right here, mommies right here. Everything is o.k. they're just doing a check up.

A Thermometer makes a beeping noise as Sean and the Corporal glances up.

The Yellow Jacket next to Chloe looks up and over at the one standing with Phoenix, they nod an affirmative then peer to the Corporal.

YELLOW JACKET

It's all clear here sir, they're not infected.

CORPORAL ROMERO

All of them?

A Yellow Jacket stands by Sean waving a flashlight in front of his eyes.

Sean waves him off and pulls off the blood pressure cuffs then nods all well to the Corporal.

CORPORAL ROMERO

Very well. Next Up!

The Corporal looks to the children, takes a beat then steps to Sean.

CORPORAL ROMERO

They're dropping Napalm in all the Major cities in California and closest highways they can afford too at dawn.

SEAN

Yes, we heard that

CORPORAL ROMERO

That isn't all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEAN

What do you mean?

CORPORAL ROMERO

There's already a secondary mission in place.. To drop an atom bomb in all the major cities beginning 24-36 hours after that. The napalm is just to provide an exit strategy to a few key officials for fallback positions.

Sean stares at him then at everything else going on around.

CORPORAL ROMERO

Get your family out of here.. your to close to the fallout.

With that the Corporal pauses a beat turns to see the unit standby another house across the street

SEAN

Where do we go?

The Corporal then walks away in stride cross the lawn into the the street and towards another house.

SEAN

Where do we go!

An outpouring of soldiers begin to appear and surround the neighborhood as families stumble outside onto their lawns.

Day 6

INT. LIVING ROOM- DAY

The Sun begins to shine through the house, the large front windows vibrate

Pictures of the family beside the couch rattle about as one falls off the end table to the floor.

Sean pops his head up at the sound and notices the sun penetrate the room as he caulks his head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Valerie comes to as well. Outside a small family into their Honda passport and peel off.

Sean looks over at the clock blinking 12:00am.

SEAN

Oh God! Babe.

VALERIE

What!

SEAN

Shit! This is the wrong day to
sleep in..

Sean makes his way to the window yanks the curtain back and
peers out.

SEAN

Nothing, no ones moving about.

Valerie awakens quickly she looks about the room for
essentials.

VALERIE

(nervous)

What do you mean no one's out
there? Where do you think everyone
is?

SEAN

Grab the cell phone! What time does
It say?

VALERIE

6:17am. It's only 6ish baby.

SEAN

It was only 2:45 when they came, we
got back to sleep like 3:30am. I
heard one or two people rounded up
but they couldn't have been out
there too much longer or we would
have heard it..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VALERIE
(shudders)
..or not even be able to sleep.

SEAN
That means everybody was still up
then left immediately.

VALERIE
Or Everyone just left while we were
still sleeping.

EXT. HOUSE-DAY

Sean steps to the front door and opens it the sun still
isn't all the way up and yet all ready its very bright.

He scans the neighborhood but is attracted towards a flicker
now apparent from the south west sky.

A veil of smoke from a large fire lifts into the sky from
off in the distance.

Sean takes a step back and lifts his hand to block the
brightness of its glow. Valerie notices Sean stare out she
slowly approaches him as the kids stagger out behind
Valerie.

She follows his gaze before her jaw drops on sight.

The family stands in awe Chloe holds tight to her mothers
waist, the oldest Phoenix pulls close to her father.

CHLOE
(smiling)
Wow Mommy, Is it the fourth of
July?

Sean holds Phoenix tight they shudder as they watch.

A bead of sweat builds then drips down Sean's brow.

INT. KITCHEN -DAY

Valerie packs the last of supplies in a couple boxes while
the girls help.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sean paces next to the kitchen table with a map splayed open on top.

Next to it a flashlight, some batteries, toilet paper, the black case and a cell phone that displays on its LCD, no signal.

VALERIE

What are we going to do?

SEAN

The phone doesn't work, we can see ..a goddamn sky full napalm cloud southwest of us. We know it's only hours, maybe a day at most till they get trigger happy with those things and start dropping 'em like hotcakes or worse nukes.

Shots ring from a block away Valerie flinches then glances to Sean.

VALERIE

I wish somebody could give us a clue where to go or whats really going on.

SEAN

Fucking zombies?

VALERIE

What?

SEAN

That's what this all feels like some kind of freaky zombie movie come to life. Those people back there at the store. They were someone else, crazed. I never seen flu symptoms like this before.

Tires screech in the distance as Sean caulks his head in the direction of the sound.

A large vehicle pulls up to the drive way some one jumps out and approaches the door as a knock pounds rather arrhythmic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sean half startled makes a move to the door hesitates then leaves the gun in the case and approaches the door.

SEAN
WHO is it?

STRANGER
ITS ME SEAN.. Judas.

Sean opens the door as he grinds his jaw with a sigh of relief.

Judas a mid thirties Caucasian male, above average height and portly huddles with a baseball cap over his head at the doorway.

SEAN
Shit Judas. You really know how to make an entrance.

JUDAS
I cant believe your still here man. They raided our community like two hrs ago. Ive been ripping and running trying to figure out where to go, I had to get out of there man. I've been just thinking who can help me fix this!

SEAN
Fix what?

JUDAS
My van ma. we keep overheating I think its a thermostat or something?

SEAN
Sounds possible, for your sake I hope it is.

JUDAS
May I borrow your tools Sean? I'll figure the rest out as long as you come with me to get the part while my family chills here maybe?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He stares at Sean with a dependent look..

JUDAS

I'll drive, you just watch my back.
I couldn't find any other option, I
already scoped out the auto parts
store on main street on the way
over here the one by the old gas
station. It seemed empty!

SEAN

(hesitant)

It's alright I'll drive we need gas
too if we're going to get out of
here, I guess we'll watch each
others back.

Sean walks over to Valerie and puts his hand on phoenix's
shoulder.

SEAN

Watch the babes and stick with his
family, Ill be right back.

VALERIE

Baby, Split up? Right now, really!

SEAN

I know. But we need gas, its safer
this way. Phoenix watch the family
o.k. your in charge till I get
back.

Phoenix nods and Valerie gives one as well with a dry smile.
Valerie walks outside and signals the family.

VALERIE

O.k. who's thirsty or needs to pee
come on inside and stretch it a
minute while the men run a real
quick errand.

Two older children pop out the van and head inside but the
wife of Judas and their youngest remain in the van.

The men load up into the family car and back out the

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

driveway.

EXT. AUTO STORE & GAS STATION-DAY

Their white jeep pulls down an empty highway into a rural town as a last vehicle races past in the opposite direction.

Sean slows the car to observe then pulls into the parking lot of the gas station and garage both adjacent to an Auto zone parts store.

Sean and Judas exit the vehicles then look up as all ambient noises seem to fade behind a fleet of heavy bomber jets that return from their mission and angle off towards the horizon.

The men exchange exchange looks as Sean glances down at his watch then taps at it under the already fading noise.

They approach the storefront that appears empty with the lights off.

Sean Peers in as Judas casually strolls in the direction of the Auto zone.

SEAN

Judas..

Judas continues to stroll towards the Auto zone.

SEAN

Aren't we sticking together, how
are you planning on getting in
their without creating to much of a
ruckus anyway.

Judas replies by pulling off his jacket in a single motion and then continuing to wrap it around his right forearm.

SEAN

you have got to be kidding me
right?

Judas approaches the plate glass windows..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEAN
Judas, Judas!

Judas takes 3 last good steps and with a heavy lean swings his arm and fist with all he has.

CUT TO

INT. HOUSE-DAY

VALERIE
Julia, Gabriel. Where is your mother and Carl aren't they coming in.

JULIA
Oh, uhm.. They're fine

GABRIEL
(nervous)
Yea, uh.. I'll take some water out to them, mine if it's o.k? I'll bring the glass right back!

VALERIE
Don't be silly, that's for you. I'll get them one and take it out there.

The two oldest children fumble about for a response as Valerie takes notice.

VALERIE
Don't worry. I'm sure whatever it is will be just fine. Take a load off where ever we're all going to go next, I'm sure it'll be a minute still.

Julia and Gabriel look around for an idea as phoenix begins to notice too.

Valerie smiles at her and heads out the front door with two glasses of water in her hands.

CUT TO

EXT. AUTO ZONE -DAY (CONTD)

The two men stand outside the store the glass still intact. Judas' pride is broken the pain seethes in his right arm.

JUDAS

Fuck! For Christ's sake who needs double pained glass at an auto parts store anyway. No ones going to break into this fucking place.

SEAN

So what are you doing then?

Judas gives no reply but a foul look over his shoulder in Sean's direction.

SEAN

Any more bright ideas?

Judas loafes towards a group of stashed carts and harshly removes one from the rest.

SEAN

Really?

Judas peers from under the brim of his cap with something like scowl mixed with determination.

He rams forward with the cart turns on his heels digs in and tosses it full force at the window.

The cart bounces off the window tumbles a couple times and just misses Judas head then Sean as he falls backwards to the ground to dodge it.

The glass cracks the length of the window but does not break.

JUDAS

(frustrated)

aha haaah! Take that.

Sean looks around anxiously.

No one pulls up and this time Sean gives Judas the dirty

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

look.

Judas listens intently as he cranes his neck towards the storefront.

JUDAS

You hear that? SEAN
Sounds like.. an alarm.

They both peer in through the store front heads half caulked.

A shadow catches their eyes when they exchange amused looks then lean in.

Judas lifts a hand to shadow the glass his face almost pressed to the window when a figure appears just a few feet from them then rushes strait at the glass as if it doesn't even see the barrier.

It screams and smashes head first into the pane of glass which cracks further across.

The two startled fall backwards to the ground.

CUT TO

EXT. HOUSE-DAY

VALERIE

Catherine. I brought you two some waters.

The families van sits idle in the garage a bit of steam lifts into the air from under the hood.

The front windows are rolled half way down while the back one's are tinted and all the way up.

VALERIE

Catherine?

CATHERINE

Shhh. Shhh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VALERIE

Um, I brought you guys some water.

Valerie approaches the van that seems to rock all its doors closed. She approaches the front passenger door.

CATHERINE

It's O.k., It's Okay, Shh.

VALERIE

Catherine? Are you two alright, can I get you anything sweetheart?

CATHERINE

No, uh um. We're all right. Shhh
It's o.k. Mama's got you.

VALERIE

O.k. well I'm just going to open
the sliding door and leave you
these waters right here, ok.

CATHERINE

No! No, its o.k.

Valerie takes a breath hesitates then leans in to pull open the sliding door to the van.

It's hinge makes a harsh noise as the door slides open.

In the backseat, the child yanks itself upright with a shrill as the mother tries to hold onto him.

He crawls over from his seat towards Valerie.

His lips chewed on drip Saliva- blood fusion from his mouth, he writhes in pain then jumps at Valerie.

CUT TO

EXT. HOUSE-DAY

The white jeep pulls back up to the house and stalls a beat as it sputters to a stop.

The men climb out Sean appears haggard with a couple scrapes

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

he heads towards the house.

Judas bleeds profusely from several scrapes on his face and neck beelines for the families van.

The two oldest children Julia and Gabriel stand by the van they look grief stricken.

Judas leans in to the front drivers side to pop the hood and gets to work.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. HOUSE-DAY

Phoenix and Chloe are in the kitchen as they stand by a few packed boxes when Sean enters.

PHOENIX

Daddy! Are you OK?

SEAN

I'm alright baby, it just looks bad.

PHOENIX

Somethings wrong with mommy..

Valerie emerges from the hallway she tucks something that looks like bandage in her sleeve as she puts on her jacket.

VALERIE

It's OK sweetie, it's nothing is everybody ready to go?

Valerie looks over at Sean and notices his condition.

VALERIE

Baby?

SEAN

It's OK, I'm OK.

He looks at her with sincerity.

They both come together and embrace the children.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sean smiles a beat while Valerie gasps at the pressure against her arm.

EXT.HOUSE-DAY

Sean and Valerie leave the house first arms full of boxes bags and the black case that hangs from Sean's two fingers.

The girls follow, Phoenix carries her share Chloe wears a backpack in her hand she carries her favorite doll.

They make it towards their vehicle Sean nods to Judas who barely looks over his shoulder but nods in return while he continues to work under the hood.

Sean opens the doors for everyone Valerie and the kids pile in the car with haste as Sean steps to Judas.

SEAN

How u guys look on your end?

JUDAS

Almost their. Kids, go ahead and jump in we're about ready.

Julia and Gabriel stare hesitant stifle for a response then after an exchange of looks make for the van.

Reluctantly, they enter through the front passenger side.

SEAN

Well, um. We're ready to, uh hit the road. So, I think.

Judas stands up abruptly and slams the hood, grabs a towel from his waist and wipes the blood from the other half of his face.

He smears a bit of dark engine residue across his face as he does.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUDAS

No problem, we are all good over here. Where you want these tools?

SEAN

(perplexed)

Do what you want. I don't need them.

Sean steps back then heads to the drivers side of the jeep and turns his head toward Judas

SEAN

Well.. alright then. You guys be safe, huh.

JUDAS

yeah, You too.

Judas walks around reaches into his van turns the ignition over it starts and he smiles.

Sean pauses before he steps in his vehicle takes notice and smiles back starts the jeep up and pulls slowly into the street.

The Jeep rolls to a stop in front of the house Sean and Valerie stare out the window followed by the girls they all look out at their home in silence.

Judas pulls out behind him and honks as they drive off in the opposite direction.

Sean looks up in the rear view mirror at Judas' van and is reminded by the plume of napalm smoke left in the sky, he puts both hands firmly on the wheel.

Sirens sound in the distance as Judas disappears from sight. Sean steps on the accelerator and drives off.

INT. TRUCK DAY

Rain falls hard outside the lone white jeep on the freeway it pushes around car wrecks on fire and debris about everywhere.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The family in silence save for Chloe's gentle sobs intermixed with worried breathing. Valerie stares out the window at the remains of their township.

Sean glances in the rear view looks over his shoulder then reaches his arm back to Chloe and extends his fingers towards her hand as Phoenix turns from the window and reaches to hold their hands as well.

Valerie turns and smiles at the children.

VALERIE

(Concerned)

Hey sweeties. Chloe are you o.k?

Nothings wrong. Everything is
alright now baby, o.k.

When she turns around Sean lifts his arm to rub her shoulder when he registers a freeway marker overhead that reads L.A. I-90 or North I-15/ 395.

A quick merge north and they continue on the next freeway more cars stranded or in various conditions of wrecks above a helicopter hovers in the distance.

INT. TRUCK-DAY

The millage on the dash of the jeep rolls over.

The speedometer indicates 40 mph when the hand on the steering wheel pulls hard right as Sean swerves around another wreck in the road.

He looks down again at the dash the gas tank reads almost empty.

The sun is hidden somewhere behind the clouds as steady rain falls outside.

Valerie takes notice of the tank level and frowns then puts back on a smile and takes a long look at the world around them.

A signpost they pass reads 3 miles to the next town. One look at each other and they ready for whats next, Valerie turns in her seat to face the girls.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VALERIE

Wake up girls..

The girls stir Chloe makes a whimper at first then lifts her head.

VALERIE

Its alright babies. We just need to
get ready to stop for gas.

Phoenix's eyes blink to life as she peers out the window and looks around.

PHOENIX

But mama where are we going to stop
every things..

VALERIE

Don't worry about that, leave that
up to me and your father. You just
help me look after you and your
sister o.k.

Sean passes the truck around a few vehicles as they
enter Mammoth lakes in a valley between the mountains.

The family scans the scenery for a gas station or life when
they come to the end of the small town.

The last gas station stands alone at the end of the strip.

SEAN

(Cautiously)

This looks like it guys, last stop
in town. we're lucky to have made
it this far.

PHOENIX

I haven't seen much dad. Hopefully
its empty too.

Chloe and Valerie return nods of confirmation when the truck
chokes and sputters once, twice then cuts off.

They all pause and listen intently before long they all look
at each other then chuckle between them, then come to

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

another awareness and quiet as Sean looks around for signs of whats just outside.

The sound in the car is quiet the girls in the back seat look at the world around them suspiciously as Sean and Valerie stare out their perspective windows. SEAN

(to Valerie)

Stay right here..

(to girls)

Stay here girls, alright! I'm just going to go over to the gas station and take a look. It's safer if you just stay right here in the car. I'll take a look and then we'll push it the rest of the way, alright.

GIRLS

(nodding)

uh, huh

VALERIE

O.K. ..Be careful.

SEAN

(nods)

I will.

Sean vehemently produces the black case in front of him. The girls and Valerie each strain to see as Sean cracks open the case.

From within the case he pulls a Springfield 1911, 45. ACP Pistol.

VALERIE

(in a whisper)

I never thought I would be so happy to see that thing.

SEAN

The way my father always put it, I didn't want to ever have too either. I think I know what he means now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They pause then Sean puts the clip in the butt of the gun and quietly releases the slide.

The girls exchange looks Sean manages a smile at them before he opens the door and exits the truck.

His silhouette soon disappears into the distance.

PHOENIX

He'll be alright, right mom?

Valerie herself is glued to the window peering into the distance.

VALERIE

Uh hum, yes baby. Daddy will be o.k.

EXT. GAS STATION

Sean approaches the gas station a cold fog surrounds this side of the town and mountains like a veil.

The building becomes more clear with each step as Sean looks around he draws his gun up beside him.

SEAN

(barely audible)

Hello?

Not even an echo resounds off the silent gas station brick walls.

A soft hum buzzes from the lone two fluorescent lights still on above the pumps, one flickers goes out then flickers back to life again.

Sean adjusts his confidence and posture and tries again.

SEAN

(Cautiously)

Hello.

He looks around the corners ready with the gun by his side. Sean takes stalk and approaches once more the gas station entrance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The sign in the window blinks *Open* but is half broken as is the window pane its attached to.

No reply except the flicker of the lamps above, he walks another step when a crunch from under his foot and a loud crackle of fragments of glass from the window and lights cover the ground near the entrance.

Sean glares down at the mess then startled hears a movement from inside the store.

SEAN
(distinctly)
Hello?

A *thump* sound registers in the distance, he steps closer towards the station door.

Sean see's two eyes stare largely back and take stock of him.

He leans back then lifts his gun before he can reply the eyes and the person behind them dart from sight.

SEANS
(anxious)
Um, Hello.

Sean stares through the window where the broken section seems to be fitted with a board loosely reinforced with some kind of foodstuffs.

Sean pushes on the closest bag with the tip of the gun in hand, nothing budes.

He takes closer examination he doesn't register the continued thump from around the corner as he slowly leans in and peers through the cracked window section of the entrance.

SEAN
(elevated whisper)
Hello.. I don't mean you any harm.
We uh, I just need help. I can pay
you!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Movements from inside indicate one person runs about then ducks out of sight.

MAN INSIDE
(Barely audible)
Shhhh! ..Don't make to much noise.

a loud metallic clank and drag noise is heard from around the corner that comes to a slow finish.

Sean quickly tucks the gun in his back pants waistline and leans on the bags of stuff slow but firm.

The bag on top shifts to the window and cracks it.

Sean slips his hand out just in time to see it fall further inward then the ones above fall as well and finally crash through the window at him.

SEAN
Sorry!

A moan ensues followed by an angry grunt as Sean turns to his side to see.

MAN INSIDE
Watch out!

Sean swivels back on his feet and pulls the gun from behind the small of his back.

A metallic noise followed by THUMP sounds again as a figure appears from around the corner.

What appears before him is whats left of a woman in her 40's, skin and clothes hang from over half her body.

He observes her wrecked appearance and lifts his pistol cautiously.

MAN INSIDE
Catherine!

The torn woman faces both and throats a horrible growl at them, she looks at the hole in the storefront and then back at Sean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The rain starts to fall again as the mangled woman turns forward stares and groans then begins at the open window. Pieces of glass and bags of dog food still block the way.

A glass piece protrudes from her head she continues a fit on the storage front in an attempt to climb through the fixture.

Sean cautiously approaches her, she turns and snarls at him then leans back in towards the hole in the window.

Dark blood drips down her face from the wound and escapes with the curdles of spit as she gnashes her teeth at the man behind the window.

Sean raises his pistol.

THE MAN

Stop!

The gun silences the noise. She falls with the finality of the head shot.

Sean registers the fullness of his actions as rain runs down his face he takes a breath then double checks his vicinity. The handle on the store front slowly turns then the door opens behind it.

Out of the shadows emerges a large figure of a man weary and bent over.

He saunters toward the beguiled woman hovers for a moment in a fragile state then collapses around her body in a gentle reproach.

Sean watches he cringes as more rain streams down his face before he leans in and gently reaches for the arm of the man.

SEAN

I'm sorry.. She's gone.

THE MAN

No!..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEAN

She's gone.

Sean surveys the pumps and the station now open to his left then down at the man below him who sobs in a internal hushed way.

SEAN

(troubled)

Can I help you?

THE MAN

You just did.

He stands up to face Sean, eyes dark and somber with intent he blinks away tears.

Sean slowly takes a half step back and looks up as he does. The man's clothes are the tattered remains of a suit.

Dark stains the color of blood run across his chest and shoulder, eye glasses with one lens cracked and short hair are the remains of his attire..

THE MAN

(realizes)

That thing.. She was my wife. She was it, the last of my. I just couldn't bring myself too.

Sean looks down and recoils. This time the gentleman reaches out to steady him.

THE MAN

It's OK, it had to be done.

The man searches for Sean's eyes.

THE MAN

Just not by me.

INT.TRUCK-DAY

CHLOE

What was that mommy?

Phoenix looks out with intent through the windows then slides into her seat facing Valerie who listens with her ear to the air.

PHOENIX

Is daddy OK?

VALERIE

I'm sure he is. Just give him a couple more minutes baby..

Valerie's face flushes with a thought as she grips tight the tool next to her seat.

A piece of bandage hangs from her arm she tucks it, feels it shoot with pain then grasps it.

Valerie looks up at movement outside the vehicle the girls notice too first one figure emerges then another through the rain towards them.

CHLOE

Daddy!

Valerie smiles as she looks over at the girls bounce about in their seats.

INT.GAS STATION OFFICE-NIGHT



The family enters the store just behind the man in a tattered suit.

Valerie leads the girls to the center register where they standby.

The man motions to a large vintage style vending machine before him and Sean push it in front of the door.

The Girls cautiously hang by their mother, Sean grabs dog food and charcoal bags to stack in front of the mangled windows.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE MAN

I woke up to my cell phone paging me at 3:45 a.m. It was the hospital and what I now think was the beginning of day two or three, I don't know that exactly.

CUT TO

INT.LARGE HOUSE-DAY

The man awakes to the sound of his phone vibrate and beep on the nightstand beside his bed, he reaches over and reads it.

VOICE OVER

It was a day, like any other.

He walks into the bathroom and shaves.

The light in his closet comes on as he enters and reaches at a suit next to others.

VOICE OVER

Early when I awoke all I remember was how I did my routine, the same as always.

The garage opens he backs out the driveway and pulls off through a quaint neighborhood.

CUT TO

INT. GAS STATION OFFICE- DAY

Sean helps the man put on a last giant bag of dog food to reinforce the window.

Valerie listens closely the girls look around the small office with the single fluorescent light that blinks on and off behind them.

VOICE OVER

By the time I reached the hospital..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CUT TO

INT. LA HOLLA HOSPITAL-DAY

VOICE OVER

It was clear something was going on.

The hospital staff busy themselves with patients that show symptoms from exhaustion and delirium to violent shakes and vomiting clutter the hallways with patients when he arrives off the elevator.

HEAD NURSE

Dr.Paeon Thank god your here. This is complete chaos, it really is. Dr. Mackie never made it in from Point Loma and the patients keep pouring in. We can't keep up with them!

DR.PAEON

Where are they all coming from?

HEAD NURSE

All I'm keep hearing is something about a train crash and a spill or containment. Its on the news.

Dr. Paeon swivels on his heels as patient lead by a nurse passes as he strains to see the television mounted on the wall silently report.

A hazardous biological spill warning issues across the screen in red. On the screen containment units and military officials swarm the scene.

Dr. Paeon takes another glance at the condition in the unit grabs a clipboard off the nurse's station then begins towards his office as he examines the patients charts.

He stops and double takes the patients in the hallway many who standby, some seated have blood pressure cuffs under their arms.

He walks up to one closest and puts the stethoscope to the

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

chest of the patient then looks as the dial reacts.

DR.PAEON

Very rapid heart rate and
breathing?

NURSE

Yes doctor. They also all suffer
extreme exhaustion, dehydration and
or muscle spasms. Fatigue?

In the lobby a man stands up and makes for the trash can but
stops short.

He spews vomit all over himself and the wall.

DR. Paeon looks over the glass and counter as a nurse and
paramedic in the exterior run to his aid.

NURSE

That keeps happening. If they don't
pass out and then vomit first with
temperature fluctuations.

The doctor walks over to another patient and listens again
with the stethoscope to the chest of the patient who heaves
heavily and is hunched over himself.

DR.PAEON

They all have a heavy wheeze in
both the inhale and exhale, it
sounds extraneous.

Down the hallway the doors soar open with the vomiting man
from the lobby.

Nurses attempt to take him to a room. He spews at them the
nurses scream and take a step back the sick man falls to the
floor.

His head hits the door side in turn he lets out a shriek.

Dr. Paeon and the staff all pause, the patients and nurses
look on in horror.

The Doctor slowly approaches along with a Security Guard as

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

the Attending Nurse looks on in horror her eyes full of tears, a Male Nurse hovers nearby.

MALE NURSE

I had him, we had him. He's o.k.
He's gotta be o.k.

DR.PAEON

It's o.k. its o.k. He did it to
himself, let me check his pulse and
we'll do what we can.

The Doctor and the Security reach the mans side where a pool of blood meet a meshing of vomit on the floor beside him.

They lean in when a flutter of movement spasms through the man that startles the two.

SECURITY

(Hushed)

Whew..

Dr.Paeon reaches down to the arm and feels for a pulse.

He winces yet continues to hold the mans wrist though tightens his grip.

The Security Guard watches with curiosity at the Doctor who finally looks up and with a nod.

He extends his stethoscope towards the mans chest when the patients eyes open the body jerks and they both jump back immediately.

Everyone hovers then smile dryly as they cautiously reproach.

The body still, the Security Guard leans in and nudges at the open eyed corpse.

SECURITY

Hey!

The eyes blink.

The body spasms once sits up, turns its head then vomits in

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

the direction of the security officer.

The sick man stands up to attention writhes his head one direction towards the doctor, screams at the nurses then makes a move in their direction.

The security officer releases his mace from the holster.

SECURITY

Stop!

The half dead man with vomit on his jacket and a dented bloody wound on his head takes two steps towards the security officer. He instinctively sprays mace at him some flies past his shoulder and onto the two nurses in the room.

They scream with eyes closed try to cry but choke instead. The man returns vomit again on the security guard who falls to the ground he paws at his eyes in disgust.

The sick man turns towards the doctor who helps the nurses, snarls and screams scare back all in the room.

Dr.Paeon takes a step back that leaves the male nurse open vomit man grabs him and begins to ram him into the nearby wall.

The female nurse screams as she stands there frozen with fear.

The male nurse' body goes limp then falls to the floor.

The sick man moves for the screaming nurse he moves to bite her when the doctor smashes him with a trashcan receptacle.

In turn he races towards the doctor him against a wall they brawl back n forth.

The doctor falls on him the back of his head lands in to a wall corner.

The man pauses a beat and returns again angry and vicious.

He charges the doctor with a push into a counter glass pane window through it and into the lobby.

INT.HOSPITAL LOBBY-DAY

The doctors equilibrium falters a muffled ringing in his ears fades as he picks himself up from the shards of glass. Patients stare at him confused others in shock.

Dr. Paeon regains composure as he peers back at the broken glass obstruction and the sounds of mayhem that now occur in the interior hallway.

Screams and chaotic movements spill from around the corner at least one more patient attacks others out of sight. Somebody beats at the interior of the door.

A female nurse screams from down the corridor.

DR.PAEON

Oh my God.

The doctor looks up at the t.v. news report on the wall just as men in containment suits are overrun.

A menacing crowd takes the camera man from behind who falls to the ground as the reporter runs into the distance.

Dr.Paeon reels in time to barely take notice when the emergency doors burst open.

Patients scurry as an ambulance barrels strait through the entrance.

The Doctor is thrown back against the interior entrance to ER's double doors as debris, sparks and people are sent a flight.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION OFFICE- DAY

DR.PAEON

I got out of there somehow. So mind
blowing how fast it all happened.
I'm sorry, where are my manners.
Girls there are some waters or
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR.PAEON (CONT'D)

drinks in that fridge though not cold. Be careful uh, mom for them girls. Their is glass and um.. Well it's a mess.

VALERIE

Its Valerie and Thank You.

DR.PAEON

Uh oh, I'm a Dr.Paeon or uh, Jason that is is just fine. Huh girls?

Valerie smiles as do the girls.

Valerie feels a wince in her arm and tries to fight the urge to rub at the cloth.

The doctor takes careful notice of her then the girls.

He stares at them a moment then back to Valerie.

VOICE OVER

(hushed)

By the time I got back home it was already turning into something.. else.

CUT TO

INT. HOUSE-DAY

Dr.Paeon walks through the door manic his family readies in the kitchen to leave for school and work.

He walks past them to the the television on the kitchen wall and presses the power button without diversion.

VOICE OVER

I turned on the news to nothing, no real alerts they were already telling people it was just a small spill in the out skirts of a lower San Diego railway.

DR.Paeon stands alone a beat longer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICE OVER

(disgust)

Containment was underway. I imagine
they though so at each
juncture, just outside of my home.
Moments away was something horrible
happening, I knew it was.

WIFE

Jason.. Jason. What's going on?
What are you looking for? What
happened to you?

He stares around at the house then the children. Mark age 7
astute, clean and dawns a prep school uniform.

Kimmy 10 a bit round and shy but bubbly.

Dr.Paeon takes a stutter step then snaps to as he finally
answers his wife Catherine mid 30's, golden brown hair,
average height, pretty with a polite demeanor.

DR.PAEON

Debra, I need you to grab anything
direly important to you or the
girls. otherwise jackets, water..
And grab the truck keys!

He turns and walks in the opposite direction.

CATHERINE

(cautious)

I don't get it whats going on? Why
are you back already and in such a
mess like that?

Dr.Paeon half way down the hall turns back and takes a
second glance at his family.

He approaches his wife.

DR.PAEON

I Know this is all crazy because it
is. We cant set foot outside that
door unprepared and without a plan.
There is.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He stares back over his shoulder at the t.v. again.

DR.PAEON

I know there is no news about it
now but back at the hospital and
I'm sure elsewhere, nearby.

CATHERINE

Jason, what? What do you mean we
can't go outside that door!

He stands there staring back at them with no definite
answer.

VOICE OVER

They were ready for school, seconds
from leaving. They weren't ready.

CUT TO

INT. GAS STATION OFFICE- DAY

V.O. (CONTD)

For this.

Sean looks from Dr.Paeon to the girls, while Dr.Paeon looks
at them then shifts his gaze to Valerie as he lifts his
glasses to his face.

DR.PAEON

Take care of your family my friend.
You've got a few minutes, you're
free to help yourself to what ever
you need.

SEAN

Thank You. Thank You.

Sean turns and walks over to his family.

He leans down with a deep hug to the youngest then a kiss,
Sean looks at the oldest reaches at her cheek and stands
over her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEAN

How are you girls, huh?

GIRLS

(indifferent)

O.k.

SEAN

O.k?

Sean looks back and forth between them and Valerie.

SEAN

Did you miss me? You weren't
worried too much were you?

PHOENIX

Mommy was but she was holding onto
the crowbar, so I knew we were o.k.

SEAN

The crowbar! I bet she was? I bet
you anything mommy is the toughest
one here when she needs too. Well,
we're all safe for now. So lets get
something to drink or eat. Do you
see anything you like? Its a bit of
a mess so lets be careful. Here,
walk with me this way.

They all navigate their way through the store in ruins.

A set of florescent lights hang sideways over a busted
cooler of waters and some soda.

Sean looks up to Valerie

SEAN

What do you think mama? What should
we all drink? Chloe, Phoenix?

Valerie Smiles back though reacts inside to a shooting pain
in her arm and now her shoulder as well.

She clenches her jaw and tightens her fist then releases it
in a stretch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Down the aisle the doctor observes her for a minute blinks then turns away.

CHLOE
I want apple juice

PHOENIX
I'd like grape juice but I'll share
apple with Chloe

SEAN
That's a fine big sister, thank you
sweetie.

Sean looks up at Valerie who appears squeamish.

SEAN
Babe? You alright?

Valerie holds a tight face then glances over after a deep breath. Dr.Paeon appears from behind her.

DR.PAEON
Better let them at it this isn't my
place. I figure there wont be too
many more people come past it
before the power goes out or
something else wreaks havoc. No
need to let it go to waist. They
can have it they'll need the
nourishment. Who knows what lies,
ahead.

He hands a towel and some anti-septic to Valerie.

The doctor looks at her then the family.

He engages Sean's eyes then breaks his gaze and feigns a smile at the girls.

He turns back to Valerie.

DR.PAEON
(Shy)
Better to check that my dear. You
definitely have a fever. I will, a
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

(CONT'D)
examine that if you'd like.

Sean's face drops when he peers down at the supplies up to the doctor then to Valerie.

Her eyes fall to the girls wryly then she looks around for something to eat.

VALERIE
(smiling)
I'm fine I checked it before we left the house. I'm just a bit famished and nauseous that's all. I'll check it again soon, thanks.

DR.PAEON
Of course. I meant nothing.

The doctor turns grabs a water from the cooler inspects it and walks away.


SEAN
All right girls. How about some pretzels and a turkey sub sandwich? Theirs even a banana over here.

VALERIE
We can sit in this corner together where its nice and safe.

She grabs a faded blue moving blanket from atop a palette of half used goods and lies it in the corner next to the cooler.

Sean helps as they all sit down together.

INT.GAS STATION-NIGHT

 VALERIE
Agghhhh!
(in pain)

Valerie sits up fast as pain washes over her face.

Sean awakes from his half sleep against the desk, the girls lay next to him with their heads on his thigh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The doctor rests across from them in a chair his head low.

SEAN

You alright baby? Whats wrong, how
can I help?

Dr.Paeon lifts his head as Sean reaches over to Valerie.

She stretches her arm and torso from a spasm then pulls fast
her arm back against her chest and inspects it.

She gasps for air as tears flood her cheeks.

VALERIE

I can feel it. It's cold, it burns.
I'm not well Sean, I'm sorry. I'm
sick!

Sean consoles her in disbelief.

The doctor looks up at her his eyes glossy, sweat fills his
face as he barely holds back tears.

In his hand from inside his tattered suit pocket he produces
a small pistol and rests it on his knee.

SEAN

(hushed)

What are you doing? I thought you
were helping us!

DR.PAEON

I am. By doing what I couldn't for
my wife and children.

CUT TO

INT.GARAGE-DAY

V.O.

We climbed in the car.

The family rushes into a baby blue BMW mini sports utility
vehicle.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR.PAEON

Alright, uh. everybody buckle up.

The Doctor faces the rear view mirror adjusts it takes a deep breath and looks up at the garage door opener on his visor.

V.O. (CONTD)

I thought if .. maybe we made it up
to our summer house in Lake Tahoe.
But we only made it this far.

The garage door roars open as daylight penetrates the darkness around them.

EXT.HOUSE-DAY

The wheels screech as they reverse out the garage and skid to a stop at the bottom of the driveway.

Smoke fills the air from an unseen building in the distance that beckons people outside to investigate.

Dr.Paeon puts the Blue SUV in drive and punches the accelerator.

The car retreats from the neighborhood Dr.Paeon glares at the rear view mirror to see people gather in the street.

The family drives down from the hills, in the south flames and smoke interweave with a soft yellow haze that appears to breathe and expand as it pours over the hills.

INT.CAR-DAY

V.O. (CONTD)

I hadn't stopped for gas yet I
didn't even pay attention. I just
went strait home from the hospital
I don't know what I was thinking. I
should have had done it already.

The BMW appears from a hill that leads down from their community into the edge of the basin that overlooks out on a chaotic view of lower sprawling San Diego.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

On their dash the gas light **turns on** as the needle points to Empty the doctor finally takes notice.

Sweat forms at his brow he looks up and to the gas station down the street and across the light.

On the same corner across the gas station a row of palm trees are on fire underneath people run to help the driver out of the toppled car idle and on fire in the bushes next to an over turned set of newspaper stands.

EXT-GAS STATION-DAY

The family circles the pumps when someone peels off.

People hurry about their affairs others choke or lift their shirts to their mouths as they go.

INT.GAS STATION-DAY

Someone rushes by and out the door as Dr. Paeon enters.

A clerk that hides behind the register peers back at him.

CLERK

Please take anything!

Dr.Paeon slowly lifts his hands.

DR.PAEON

I don't want to hurt you. Are you
alright?

He peers at the clerk then at the register that's open.

CLERK

yea, yes. uh. I'm alright.

The clerk observes the mess that has become the store.

Items by the register are knocked about and on the floor, an end cap spread across the entire front of the store and glass shards cover the floor from a broken cooler.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR.PAEON

Look I need you to please take this money & put it on pump 13. Can you do that?

The clerk looks at the Doctor then at the money and scratches his head.

CLERK.

Yea, uh I can do that but what..

DR.PAEON

I know it's a mess. There's nothing you can do about that now. Please turn on the pump. Then if you've already called the police or they don't show you get out of here! You hear me?

A scream is heard from outside.

Dr.Paeon turns and looks out the broken glass doors.

Behind the pumps his wife jumps out the car as their son is pulled from the car by a man in bloody and tattered clothes.

The Doctor bursts out the door.

CUT TO

INT. CAR-DAY

Blood covers the back seat next to the youngest child who pants & sobs, tears roll slowly down his cheeks.

His sister beside him she sniffles and sobs Valerie turned backwards attempts to console them.

The Doctor pulls over and pulls a first aid kit from the trunk.

He attends to the wounds of his son while Catherine puts bloody napkins and a blood-clotted towel in a bag all the while she still gently soothes him.

Once back on the road the Doctor looks up at the rear view

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

mirror his son in bandages breaths slower but heavy, his daughter asleep.

V.O. (CONTD)

I don't know exactly how but I knew it would get worse. I should have done something. I don't know what but.. I waited too long and in one moment, that was it. Everything was gone!

They pass a small motel just off the I-395N, the Doctor takes notice and returns to the road ahead of him.

Next thing he knows he hears a scream from his daughter, he looks up in the mirror to see his son blood dripping from his mouth, his teeth covered in foam and saliva with a handful of his sisters hair, he growls and writhes.

Catherine looks back in terror.

The youngest leaps at her with a bite and a growl Debra screams, the Doctor attempts to reach back to stop the commotion.

Their Blue SUV veers and side swipes another car the Doctor over corrects to just miss an off ramp with a steep grade and a curve.

EXT.CAR-DAY

The car skids then flips once, the youngest is ejected out the window, it flips two more times until it comes to a stop on its side.

DR.PAEON

(moans)

Catherine? Kids?

Catherine leers in the passenger seat.

She bleeds from a wound on her head and a bite to her hand that leaks from it's wholes.

He notices the broken window where Mark should be.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Doctor grips at his seat back and begins to cry.

He sobs between breaths, wipes the glass shards and dust from his face.

DR.PAEON
(desperate)
Ugh. Kimmy!

Dr. Paeon gets himself loose from the seatbelt and peers in the back seat at his daughter.

Kimmy is covered in glass and blood, her body twists half way around in an unnatural sort of way, her neck broke she leans in the seat limp.

Dr.Paeon slumps his head, tears run down his blood soaked face, he puts one hand to his head.

DR.PAEON
(cryies)
Aghh!

A minute passes before he peers to the side at his wife.

DR.PAEON
I'm, so sorry.

The car smokes from the engine splayed on its side, the windows blown out.

Dr. Paeon from inside clutches at his window seal, he cries in agony as he drags himself up and out.

CUT TO

INT.GAS STATION-NIGHT

SEAN
There's nothing you could have
done. Nowhere you could have gone.

DR.PAEON
In your heart you know. In your
mind, there is always something you
could have done.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tears fall down the cheeks of his silhouette.

Valerie stares at him in sympathy.

VALERIE

(sobs)

Please. Do it!

SEAN

What, No.

VALERIE

I don't know whats going to happen
to me. I can feel it. It's what
your talking about.

Valerie grits her jaw in pain and looks over at the girls
then down at the bite, tears stream down her face.

VALERIE

I don't want to hurt them.

SEAN

That wont happen we wont let that
happen. There's got to be another
way.

Sean looks from the Doctor to Valerie who looks up

VALERIE

We're past that now! I can see
that, I understand. Doctor.

Dr. Paeon looks up, grips his pistol tight and stands up
slowly. He looks at Sean as he walks over to them.

SEAN

No! I won't let you. Valerie don't
do this.

The Doctor holds the gun in his hand at his side Sean leans
to move and get up.

The Doctor extends his hand to Sean and stares into the eyes
of Valerie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR.PAEON

I'm so sorry dear. You don't have
long now. Hold your children, tell
em' that You Love Them. They'll
need that.

The doctor looks at Sean.

DR.PAEON

You have a gun don't you?

SEAN

..yes.

DR.PAEON

If you won't Only then will I.

The girls begin to stir and wake up behind Sean, phoenix
stands up slowly and stretches.

PHOENIX

What's going on?

She notices Valerie's face a mix of pain and sadness.

PHOENIX

Momma, What's wrong?

Valerie looks at her a long moment as Chloe comes too. She
lifts her arms to her children who fall in, she holds them
close.

VALERIE

(gentle)

I'm so sorry girls.

Valerie reveals the bite.

Chloe looks away and shrieks, Phoenix begins to cry and
slowly looks from the wound to her mothers eyes.

VALERIE

I'm sick. There isn't much more
time I can be with you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHLOE

No mommy, don't be sick!

PHOENIX

It's just a bite. I don't understand!

VAL

I know. I know you don't.
It's not just a bite anymore.
Sweetheart you have to KNOW That!

Valerie looks at them both then extends out her hand to them slowly.

It's swollen around the bite the skin rots and folds over on its self where it leaks blood and puss.

VALERIE

I thought it would be o.k. I thought it would get better.

The girls recoil at closer sight but then move to their mother and hug her.

She wraps her arms around and holds on to them.

Tears drop from Sean's eyes.

VALERIE

I love you girls. You know that right.

The girls still in a hold look up at their mother and nod.

VALERIE

No matter what happens, I Love You
two Both so very Very much.

The girls nod and see in their mothers eyes a sense of something to come.

They both start to cry and hug her again when Valerie breaks into a hack cough.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VALERIE
(struggles)
Ahem.. Hehhhhh.

Sean reaches for the girls as the Doctor rises out of his seat.

Her bad hand goes up in a fit then she extends her fingers at Sean and settles her self.

She breathes deep and attempts to clear her throat, her skin more pale, her veins flush green and hyperactive.

The girls sit back down as Valerie gently lowers them with a smile though through pain.

VALERIE
I love you girls. I'm so so sorry,
I waited too long to say this.
Listen. You have to do what your
daddy says o.k.

The girls nod as they pay close attention.

VALERIE
I know it's going to be hard I know
it will make you sad. But you have
to remember this, **remember me.**
Don't let this happen to you!

Valerie coughs again and sits back as her breaths fluctuate she looks feint as she grasps at her self and begins to dry heave to her side.

GIRLS
Mama!

CHLOE
Are you o.k?

PHOENIX
Your O.k. You have to be!

Valerie looks up at Phoenix then at both. She takes a final deep breath and pulls her self up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The doctor leans against a wall a tear drops his eye as he looks away then takes a breath of his own.

VALERIE

I Will always Be with you Phoenix
and you my little Chloe. I will
never stop watching over you O.K.

She looks back in forth between them.

VALERIE

I am not going to be here much
longer, everything we know has
changed -or died. I am sorry to
leave you alone in this, mess.
Daddy will take care of you and the
Doctor he's a good man, he'll help
as long as he can too. You two have
to be strong, you have to take care
of each other. **You Have to Survive
This!**

CHLOE

O.k. Mommy.

Phoenix stares at her mother. Valerie smiles at her then at Chloe.

Valerie feigns a smile at Sean then the Doctor and starts to cough.

VALERIE

(slurring)

It's getting close. I love you
girls. Step back now, I don't want
to hurt you.

She pants and extends her forearm against the girls who step away as Sean puts a hand around each.

Valerie gasps and pants through fits of coughs when she hunches over hacks up blood and reaches for the wall.

Sean reacts to help but the Doctor comes forward and pushes him back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He holds up one hand at Sean palm up and walks towards Valerie.

Dr. Paeon turns to smile at the girls while he approaches slowly.

DR.PAEON

I'm right here Valerie. I'm here
for you.

Valerie drops a tear as she slowly turns her head at him then past to the girls.

She strains to smile as tears stream down her cheek then another fit of coughs and blood that drops her to her knees.

PHOENIX

(frantic)

Mama!

When Valerie looks back up it is no longer her that peers through those eyes.

She catches the doctor in her blood vessel torn gaze and stands back up slowly.

The Doctor backs up to Sean with his hands extended.

She leans forward and takes a step as foamy spit begins to curdle from her lips with a snarl, her tears now run red with blood.

SEAN

No baby, don't look.

Sean holds Chloe tight to his chest and reaches to grab Phoenix who peers out with ghastly fear.

Dr. Paeon sees phoenix pulled tight looks back at Valerie and lifts his gun.

SEAN

Don't!

Blam! The gun flares and kicks as Dr. Paeon winces, a tear rolls out his eye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sean reels, he barely holds on to the girls as tears flow down his face.

Phoenix lets out a short cry, tears flow as she holds fast to her sister herself and her father.

Valerie falls to the floor, a puddle of blood fills the space next to her head, it covers shards of glass and settles around an unopened 2 pack of paper towels.

INT. GAS STATION OFFICE- DAY

The Girls sob and take deep breaths as they lay in Sean's lap.

The Doctor stands in the shadows against a wall his head lowered a beat passes before he steps forward his head gently shakes left to right as he looks up at Sean then the girls.

DR.PAEON

I'm so sorry.

SEAN

(INTERJECTS, HUSHED)

No.

DR.PAEON

..Sean.

SEAN

You did what I couldn't. Thank You.
I won't ask again.

DR.PAEON

So did you ..for me.

Sean looks up at the Doctor and is met with solidarity.

DR.PAEON

And I know you wont.

SEAN

Please, hand me that packing
blanket.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sean attempts to get up when Phoenix stirs and grabs a hold.

SEAN
(hushed)
I know . I'll be right here. it's
over now.

He releases her grip and begins to stand as the doctor passes him the blanket.

SEAN
Will you help me?

The doctor nods.

Valerie's body lays still on the floor behind them.

CUT TO

EXT. GAS STATION-NIGHT

Dusk falls as the girls clutch tight to Sean and the Doctor.

Thunder rumbles in the distance yet the rain barely sprinkles from the sky.

SEAN
We have to make this faster then
I'd like because it's not safe out
here but this is important.

Dr. Paeon returns the nod looks down at the Girls then steps forward.

A makeshift altar stands erect made of wood scraps from broken tables and old packing crates.

Atop it lays the body of Valerie.

The Doctor extends his arm a lighter in hand he sparks it and shoves it into the pile which seems to stall then breath in and heave out a small puff of smoke, it fumes a beat then a larger plume bursts into fire.

They stand back and watch as the flames take hold. Silence falls over them as the wood crackles and the flames grow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sean holds the girls tight tears stream down Phoenix cheeks, Chloe holds tight to her father her face blank save a single large tear that fights to be free.

Anger hangs over Sean's face when a sob escapes from Chloe's, she leans into Sean.

CHLOE

Mommy!

Sean's lets go then leans in to wrap his arms around his Girls.

He scans their surroundings as he does and passes the responsibility with a nod to the doctor.

SEAN

... I'm Here, I've got you.

Phoenix breaks into a hushed crying fit unable to fight it.

SEAN

I know.. Its Not Alright. IT'S Not O.K.

The girls recover and slowly begin to calm while Sean hovers between them flush with color his tears also flow.

SEAN

I'm not going to say it is because
Nothing Is. Everything has Changed.
We lost your mother, she died to
make Sure we get this far.

The girls both break into tears and sob at the same time,

Phoenix looks over at the fire that now engulfs the body and entire pile in flames.

SEAN

Everything has changed. A lot of
people have died and we only have..
Each Other. I know this hurts. It
will hurt for a long time but that
part is o.k. We hold onto That!
We'll Hold your mother's memory

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEAN (CONT'D)

alive there and never let her go-
o.K.

The girls hold their fathers gaze, behind them the flames take hold of the last of the remains.

The Doctor sets his hand gently on Phoenix shoulder, Sean takes Chloe's hand and lays in it her mothers gold pendent necklace.

He turns to Phoenix and puts in her hand Valerie's Wedding ring.

PHOENIX

Mom's wedding ring?

Sean looks to Phoenix through tears.

SEAN

She would want you to have it, keep
it for me o.k.

Phoenix nods he slides it gently on Phoenix's middle finger then turns it in.

SEAN

Hold it in Your palm. Let it remind
you of her if it her. So you know,
one day your mother was looking at
that ring. she was about 6 months
pregnant with you and she said,
"..She knew you would be more
beautiful then the largest diamond
in the world."

Another tear escapes Phoenix as she grabs hold of Sean.

Chloe does too when a shrill scream is heard in the distance.

Sean clinches his teeth but holds them another beat.

A second sound echoes in the distance, Doc nudges Sean.

He stands back up slowly they all peer into the mist ears listen intent on picking up any information.

INT. CAR-DAY

Sean Peers up into the rear view mirror to see Chloe sob
Phoenix looks up at him from the back seat.

He starts the car the wind shield wipers swat at the rain
that starts up again outside as Doc leans forward in his
seat and wipes at the hazy windshield then peers out and
scans the country side ahead.

They re-emerge from the parking lot and onto the highway.
The girls look out the back window and stare at the remains
of the store as a thick of fog encloses around them and the
store fades into the distance.

Chloe starts to sob again when Phoenix puts her arm around
her and they slump down into the seat.

EXT.HIGHWAY-DAY 

The Truck continues until they come to a highway junction.

I-395 North to Reno/ Highway 120-West San Francisco.

They come to a slow stop next to the sign.

INT.CAR-DAY

DR.PAEON

So, what are you thinking?

SEAN

(insistant)

I have parents in Berkley.

DR.PAEON

Risky! They've dropped bombs on at
least a couple major cities. Have
you spoken to them?

SEAN

No.. But I have to try.

Dr. Paeon Stares at Sean a long moment then nods to the back
seat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR.PAEON

Do you?

Sean follows his gaze to the children and swallows.

A tear builds in his eyes he glances to the sign on the side of the road.

DR.PAEON

I don't know anything for sure.
Last I saw on the news at least two
major cities on both coasts were
experiencing something similar to a
chemical attack. Where after the
gaseous component spilled into the
surrounding vicinity, immediately
everyone became.. Sick. I heard
them mention Chesapeake and San
Diego as the likely Original Points
of Contamination.

Sean looks back up at the doctor.

SEAN

Then there's a chance.

He looks back at the girls then slowly looks down to his side.

DR.PAEON

There's always a chance. Listen,
I have a house. It's probably not
much more of a safe option but it's
a start. It's, where I was going to
take my family. The House is still
a ways more north of here just off
Lake Tahoe.

Sean lifts his head to face the doctor.

SEAN

It's all ready dark, we should get
off the road soon. About how far to
your house?

The doctor glances out at the sign then down at his watch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR.PAEON

Its about 80 miles, say another hour and a half or so.

SEAN

We can go back or check on my parents soon enough. If your o.k. with that, lets just get the girls somewhere safe.

DR.PAEON

Yea. Yes. I'm o.k. with that.

Sean looks behind them again at the kids then out at the sign as they begin to accelerate and drive past.

EXT.HIGHWAY 395-DAY

The vehicle arrives at another juncture just shy of Topaz Lake I395-N or 89N are the choices in front of them.

Dr. Paeon puts the shifter in park looks in the rear view mirror then out the windshield ahead of them then to the left at the road.

He stares over the hill into the distance after which he turns and looks at Sean.

DR.PAEON

The last truck on the road was behind us and it seems to have pulled off just over a mile ago.

SEAN

What? When? I didn't see it. I haven't seen a vehicle in a couple hours.

DR.PAEON

I imagine these folks had enough time. They know not to go out and about they stay inside or go hunting for what they need now.

Sean shakes his head in agreement.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR.PAEON

Cant see far in either direction. I was looking for smoke as far as some kind of, I don't know sign of ill.

SEAN

O.k, yea that's good. So what you got?

DR.PAEON

Nothing.

(pause)

What you think?

Dr.Paeon turns to face Sean.

SEAN

What do I think? About what? I don't know, I don't get it.

DR.PAEON

Either way will take us there, eventually. Straight ahead is more direct yet round about. Left is through the mountains climbing then dropping- its usually closed in the winter if that tells you anything. However there's usually not too many people on it, normally.

SEAN

I, I don't know! Which were you going to do?

Dr.Paeon looks to Sean slowly.

DR.PAEON

The road less traveled.

Sean nods from the passenger side and sighs.

EXT HIGHWAY 89N-DAY

The sun begins to set through the clouds ahead of them they race against the light as they drive through constant pines

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

then climb quickly to incredible altitudes with never ending vistas at each turn the sun begins to fade into soft blues with tall shadows.

They pass a speck of a town awhile later another little one named Alpine Village where a burnt out all black barely recognizable Nissan truck besets on the side of the road between a group of tall trees.

Everyone looks out the windows for a sign of life but there no movement found anywhere. The car keeps driving.

DR.PAEON

Its not that far to town now. In Meyers we'll get a just of how bad it is up this far north. If this is any indication though, there wont be much difference.

INT.CAR-NIGHT

The Sunsets in the north west as they pull the final bend of the 89-North into south Lake Tahoe.

Through the soft blue light black smoke can be seen in the distance the kids huddle low by the windows as Sean turns to Dr.Paeon. Head lights from behind flash their high beams and honk their horn as they burst onto the road form a side street.

Sean puts his hand on the doctors shoulder and reaches for his revolver when the vehicle a large Dodge Ram Truck barrels past in the next lane.

The girls turn their heads to look out the side windows and bounce about as their car swerves to see them safely avoid the Dodge Truck.

It screams to a screeching turn another two streets down and takes a left off onto another street and out of sight.

DR.PAEON

(exhales)

Whew!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEAN

(sighs)

You said it.

DR.PAEON

This here is the 50, we'll take it
all the way through or get on a
side road. we're going into town
now. look sharp!

Sean nods his head and turns his attention back to the road ahead then scans out his windows as the car turns right.

They only get a mile when they spot a tall plume of black smoke rising ahead.

The vehicle nears the roadrunner gas station still burns at it edges to the side of the highway.

Half pulled up on the side of the road a burnt out patrol car sits adjacent to another SUV Patrol riddled with gun holes in the approach of the drive of the gas station.

The Girls push their faces against the glass by the time Sean peels his eyes away he motions with his hand to Dr.Paeon the car speeds up.

EXT.50-DAY

A loud foreign engine noise is heard as the car pushes down the highway the night seems to fall with each mile they drive further into town.

Beside them in the sky to the right a plane rises loud and awkward its engine throb's overworked as it ascends with too little speed.

The road that the car is on pulls safely to the left until the plane itself seems to dip then bob while banking to the left.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR.PAEON

Oh, huh? Oh dear. Watch it will ya!

Dr. Paeon grips tight both hands to the steering wheel.

Sean wipes sweat from his brow as he watches the plane through the front windshield then just as quickly out the passenger side window.

SEAN

I'm watching it!

The engines can be heard going in and out before the left prop goes dead then a second later the right followed by silence.

The plane loses pitch and immediately begins a nose dive as it falls sharply to its left.

Sean gulps takes a deep breath and turns to stare at Dr. Paeon his hands on the wheel, his foot on the gas.

Sean glances over his shoulders then in the same second looks forward to the road and spots it fall further.

SEAN

Step on it. Step on it!

Sean puts his hand on the Doctors shoulder who in turn stomps on the accelerator as the car zooms forward.

The medium sized private air plane dips into tree tops as the car pulls left the left wing of the plane breaks off and flies past in a mesh of shrapnel, flames and debris.

The larger remains of the plane continues on over their heads as it breaks up further into its fuselage, right wing and tail then further on the tree tops into flames and debris that scatters all around as the car screams into town.

They all take deep breathes as they peer out the windows at whats left of the plane on fire spread across Lake Tahoe blvd.

The car merges onto 89, everyone inside the vehicle falls

(MORE)

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CONTINUED:

quiet.

INT.CAR-NIGHT

They drive through the small town commercial buildings like PetSuper Mart and TJMax with their large store fronts and glass windows are smashed through, a faded red bug left rammed into another.

Smaller businesses are boarded up while others are burnt to the ground each gas station they pass in major disrepair or totally ruined.

DR.PAEON

Best to have that revolver of yours
on the ready.

Sean stares ahead occasionally he scans out the window the gun already on his lap low and facing forward.

SEAN

Oh I do.

Dr.Paeon double takes downwards at the weapon looks ahead and nods then looks up into the rear view and briefly forces a smile.

Further down the road motels and homes look like skeletal remains devoid of vehicles or life doors open or sections burnt out.

DR.PAEON

Just another couple miles now.

SEAN

How can you tell?

DR.PAEON

That's the Pine Cone Acre Motel
their. I know the owners.
Everything looks, as if it just
struck here.

(sighs)

Just caught up.

The doctor strains to look ahead out the front windshield

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

then he too scans the surroundings.

SEAN

Is that bad?

DR.PAEON

I don't know yet. I would have
rather it missed here all together.
Guess I was dreaming to think so.

Dr. Paeon seems fixated on something.

SEAN

What's up doc?

Sean strains his head to follow the Doctors eye line and
does straight to a gas station in fair condition.

Sean next notices the gas meter just shy of E. Dr.Paeon
slows the vehicle as they pass the gas station pausing at
each juncture along the driveway to further analyze.

EXT.GAS STATION S.TAHOE-NIGHT

Dr. Paeon pulls to a stop adjacent the station while still
in drive, he leans releases his seat belt while he does a
second sweep of the surroundings then the store it self.

A small mom and pop gas station with only 4 gas pumps and
a small quaintly house, a single light on inside peeks
through the window.

SEAN

I don't like this. Last time we had
to stop ..

Silence as Dr.Paeon turns to look at Sean who swallows .

SEAN

I mean. It just seems too..
cyclical. Like a bad joke.

They both stare out the window a beat at the little gas
station.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR.PAEON

Your right. We'll Keep pushing and
maybe I'll come back tomorrow,
alright?

Sean nods and puts his head down far down the road behind them a dark vehicle drives with no headlights on it continues unnoticed down the street.

Sean looks back up at the doctor who nods back and dismisses the gas station with a last glance.

The car accelerates again they journey beyond the edge of the township further along the highway.

As they pull off the same dark vehicle appears slowly from the last side street, sits a long beat then pulls out in the same direction.

FADE TO BLACK

INT.CAR-NIGHT

The bright orange glow of the gas empty light is all that is visible in the pitch dark car.

Everyone's silhouettes regard the night with anxiousness and a readiness as they venture a single lane that curves through a mountainside road densely populated with pine.

A last large bend and the hill seems to reveal the shape of a large custom home nestled in to the landscape.

The House is dark save some soft blue solar lights lined along the driveway a bright motion detector light above the garage turns on as they pull in.

INT.LAKE TAHOE HOUSE-NIGHT

DR.PAEON

Watch your step!

The girls follow in to the house behind the Doctor with Sean bringing up the rear.

The lights in the foyer come on with a flick at the switch

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

as the doctor leads them further into the house then comes to stop in the kitchen.

DR.PAEON

I trust everyone is at least a bit hungry, huh?

CHLOE

I'm starving.

DR.PAEON

Well that's a good thing. I for one am glad you are.

CHLOE

(giggles)

he he ha!

Phoenix smiles and leans against the counter when the doctor looks over to her she slumps her shoulder and drops her head.

Sean walks over to the window in the living room just beyond.

The view out the window looks out upon all of Lake Tahoe, even in the dark its serene and eerily peaceful.

Sean stares out at the bay in all directions I don't see any lights on anywhere.

DR.PAEON

That's probably not a bad idea. A lot of these folks are survivor types. They know how to hunt and trap.

PHOENIX

Do you?

DR.PAEON

No, unfortunately I don't. some of the locals were turning there nose up at us. I guess with the house and us being vacationers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Phoenix returns to slumping over the counter.

DR.PAEON

Truth is I was always sort of
jealous of them. They went
everywhere into nature and knew it,
us we just visited here.

Sean steps away from the window and walks over to the
kitchen and puts a hand on Phoenix' shoulder.

DR.PAEON

Anyhow We can learn a thing or two
from them, like keeping the lights
to a minimum at night. I'm just
glad the power grid works.

SEAN

Your right. You here that girl's

CHLOE

What?

SEAN

Please, lets not turn on too many
lights tonight. Especially if we're
not using them.

CHLOE

Does that mean we have to have it
all dark?

PHOENIX

Yea! Can't we leave on some lights?

The two girls huddle against each other as Sean rounds the
counter and wraps them in hugs.

DR.PA

Of course. I'll tell you what.
We'll leave on the bathroom light
and I can dim most of the lights in
the house so we'll do that to the
living room this evening where
we'll all sleep together. How's
that sound?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHLOE

Yea!

SEAN

Sweetie?

He lets go of his double embrace and looks down at Phoenix.

PHOENIX

Uh huh!

SEAN

Thank you. I can't say it enough.

Dr.Paeon nods his head with a warm smile. Sean looks around at the place with complete regard.

SEAN

It would have been perfect for them. I really am, so sorry.

Dr.Paeon forms a smile and looks at the two girls and Sean as his eyes gloss over.

He looks away and stops as he see's the empty space where Sean just stood.

DISSOLVE IN

He watches as his kids Mark and Kimmy only a year before run into the living room both of them come to a stop at the same spot at the window.

MARK

Wow!

KIMMY

You got to be kidding me!

His children turn around and look up to him.

DISSOLVE

Dr. Paeon stands motionless as the memory fades and his eyes water over a tear escapes.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR.PAEON

We only had last summer.

Dr.Paeon Smiles still staring at the window.

DR.PAEON

We had just bought it, for the whole family to spend more time together. I had been gone so much, so many years.

Sean watches him his face sympathetic.

SEAN

I'm sorry. I, I didn't mean to.

DR.PAEON

I know. It's O.K.

Dr.Paeon reaches up and rubs at his eyes then turns from his daze walks over to the fridge and opens it.

DR.PAEON

Alright Well. That store we passed has some goods perishables usually just a little cooler and a local produce section. Real small but still worth visiting as soon as we can, since it seemed secure.

He walks over to the pantry and opens up the top and looks in then the bottom and leaves both open and steps back.

DR.PAEON

Great! I was always a bit of a stickler with my wife. I was found a reason to be cross about the way she kept it so stocked.

The Girls and Sean approach and find what seems like a mother load of a pantry inside is cereal, canned goods, gourmet boxed soups, pasta noodles and sauces of all kinds.

Jars of pickled vegetables, jams and caches of extra large

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apple sauce next to pop tarts, oatmeal and a large variety of sweet snacks and chips.

DR.PAEON

She said it made those days we
arrived more easy. In hindsight she
was always on top of it.

Sean turned and saw the Doctor smiling and smiled up at him.

DR.PAEON

At last we had that time together.

Sean looks down at the girls who rummage through the pantry
now and peer in at the soups.

CHLOE

Oh, I like that one the clam
chowder!

PHOENIX

Me too! But I'm going to get this
one Thai coconut curry and potato.
I've never had it before.

Sean smiles at them that turns to uneasy as he looks back to
Dr. Paeon who seems to watch them also.

DR.PAEON

Now that you've picked your soup
Phoenix why don't you help me pull
out the camping gear and we'll find
some extra sleeping bags for us
all. Sean the pots are under there.

PHOENIX

O.k.

SEAN

Alright.

TRANSITION

INT.KITCHEN-NIGHT

Spoons ding off bowls no chatter or sound is heard as the kitchen is revealed, a quiet somber settles over them as they finish their food.

Phoenix slumps and eats the last couple bites of her clam chowder.

Chloe pushes her spoon around in her tomato soup her gaze fixed as she stares straight down into her bowl.

Sean stops mid bite looks over at Chloe and takes a breath.

SEAN

You alright baby? Would you like a
bite of my sandwich.

Chloe still pushes the spoon around in circles as she stares fixated at the soup.

SEAN

Chloe.

He stands and walks over Phoenix lifts her head and watches.

SEAN

Chloe, hunny?

Sean gently nudges Chloe.

She appears to return to consciousness when fear and panic grows on her face.

She begins to sob again then burst into all out fit of terror, screaming and crying.

Sean drops to his knee and looks into her eyes.

SEAN

I know. it's alright. It's going to
be okay.

Chloe stares back at him lifts her arms up to touch his face she calms a bit yet sobs as she touches her father then pulls him close and falls into his embrace.

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Sean holds her in his arms as Phoenix now worked up herself leans over on her fathers shoulder.

Sean puts his head against hers then slowly looks up at the Doctor.

TRANSITION

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Sean tucks in the girls on the couch each in their own sleeping bags on the floor.

He gives Phoenix a big hug and kiss on the head and then Chloe.

PHOENIX

Wait, what?

CHLOE

Don't go!

They both look frightened at Sean.

SEAN

I was just going to go in the kitchen and talk to the good Doctor.

CHLOE

No! Please!

She rolls out of her covers and back into Sean's chest her arms wrap around him without warning.

SEAN

It's o.k.

DR.PAEON

It's alright we can speak in the morning right now its probably better that we all get some rest.

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PHOENIX

Yea. Please!

Sean nods his head to the affirmative and attempts to pat the couch for Chloe to register her return to but she nods to the negative and returns a sad face and long eyelashes.

Sean sighs grabs her covers and replaces them to the floor next to his own all while Chloe hangs on to him.

They all settle in and the Doctor walks over to the light and dims it down to a soft warm position before he returns to his own place and lays down.

They all close their eyes except Chloe.

She lays in her spot next to her father her eyes open she listens to the night time all around her.

EXT. HOUSE DAY-NIGHT

A large Doge Truck pulls up the driveway it comes to a stop just shy of the garage the head lights still on.

It sits a beat then the headlights go dark then all the doors open.

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

A thud is heard like a large car door and the eyes of Chloe instantly spring open.

She sits a beat and listens then looks around and pats on her father.

Sean stirs just a bit but stays put as Chloe shakes him this time she half falls on him.

CHLOE

Daddy, Wake up!

SEAN

What baby? I'm Awake.

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CHLOE
I heard something.

SEAN
Well, What do you mean?

Phoenix lifts her head followed by the Doctor who sits up from his position on the floor with blankets.

CHLOE
Like um, a door.

With that Dr. Paeon turns his head at Sean and make a sympathetic look he cranes his head in the opposite direction and listens a beat before he gets up and walks towards the foyer.

Dr. Paeon stops mid strut.

Silent, the others watch him.

They all spot the exterior light over the front door pop on.

Next they hear jiggling of the handle and a soft but hardy push followed by a sound of the door shake in its frame.

Dr. Paeon sneaks a few more steps when he notices shadows out the side window, closed over by a curtain.

He turns and crosses back to the living room.

DR. PAEON
Good Job Chloe. Everyone Please put your shoes on there are people at our front door.

SEAN
What? DO you have any guns?

DR. PAEON
No. This was supposed to be a vacation house. However You do and one is enough.

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SEAN

Where are we going to go?

DR.PAEON

I'm not sure but for now I have a boat house down the back path so maybe we make the slip and figure it out a from there.

Sean puts on Chloe's coat then Phoenix's and helps Chloe finish tying her shoes.

Sean stands back up and grabs his jacket when a loud thud is heard at the front door the girls gasp and a second later another one is heard.

DR.PAEON

Come now, lets be gone. This way!

He slides open the large glass back door and all file out it left half ajar when the front door loudly is busted through.

A group of five tough guys emerge in the foyer.

Two head up stairs, one a Tough Guy rustic type stops short the others disappear back into the first floor of the house guns in hands.

The Tough Guy walks forward after a beat he follows a draft right through the house to the sliding glass window.

He spots the open window he whistles and the other Men reemerge behind him.

The Tough Guy nods in the direction of the open door and the henchman all head that way just in front of him.

EXT.LAKE HOUSE BACKYARD-NIGHT

The family and the Doctor round the lower edge of the lawn and run out onto the the small personal size beach and to the dock just beyond.

As they approach the dock men pour out from the house guns in hand and begin to flank the descending grass lawn.

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Sean helps the Girls onto the boat after the Doctor who helps them climb aboard then Sean begins to untie the dock rope.

He glances back and recognizes the Men near the edge of the beach when he stuffs his hands in his pockets and in slow mode reveals the Revolver.

A loud noise sounds as the girls flinch and the Doctor puts his extended arm out to receive the rope.

SEAN

Start the boat!

The Doctor nods and runs off starboard towards the bow and the upper deck of the small yacht like craft.

Sean begins to push the boat away from the dock it barely budes, leaned against the boat he stretches out his arm again and lets off two rounds then with all his might shoves at the boat once more.

The Girls cry out as phoenix leans over and extends an arm towards her father.

GIRLS

Daddy!

Sean looks up at her bites his lip then turns and lets off another round when a volley of rounds are fired back.

The Girls duck, when they peer out they see Sean is hit and bends at the knees, he falls to the deck.

He looks up to smile at the Girls on the ship as it pulls away from the dock.

The Doctor returns to the girls side.

Sean stands himself up and takes another step towards the edge of the dock.

He lifts one hand at both the Girls, Chloe holds onto Phoenix and hides behind her.

Chloe stares at her fathers eyes when he is shot again.

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He flinches but manages to hold his smile before he buckles and falls into the water and out of sight.

The Girls scream out.

Dr. Paeon stands stuck a beat open mouthed then wraps his arms around the Girls pulls them tighter then guides them towards the front bow side.

The Tough Guy follows his men onto the dock.

Two of them extended pistols and begin to squeeze off rounds when the Tough Guy sticks an arm out and they stop.

The small boat fades into the gray expanse of the wide open lake.

Thunder crackles in the distance, lighting flashes and rain begins to fall.

ROLL CREDITS

FADE TO BLACK