

AFTERLIGHT

Feature

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EXT. HOUSE - DAY

In the desert is an old house with peeling paint; its windows are boarded up, and there are no signs of anyone living there anymore. The land around it has been scorched by the light but not destroyed.

There are broken-down vehicles parked in the driveway. Some old animal pins are badly damaged from neglect or theft. No were no signs of normal farm animals nearby.

INT. FARM HOUSE- BEDROOM- DAY

An elderly gray-haired woman in her late sixties or early seventies, FLOE, is sleeping in her old-fashion bed.

Slowly, her eyes open, and she looks around the room for a few seconds as she gets her bearings. After determining it is safe, she gets out of bed.

Floe takes about two steps and stops, as if she forgot something. She returns to her bed, reaches under her pillow, and pulls out a very large handgun. She sits back down on the bed as she makes sure it is ready to fire.

FLOE

Well, I made it another day in this
shit-hole of a world.

Floe stands up with her weapon ready and goes to the very heavily boarded-up window. The light shone brightly through the cracks in the board.

FLOE'S POV, she sweeps the entire yard, going from left to right. Nothing is moving; nothing seems out of place.

Feeling things are safe, Floe turns and goes to her bedroom door to open it.

The door has five different types of locks on it (two of them dead bolts).

She cautiously takes her time unlocking each and every lock.

SUDDENLY

Something runs toward her from under the bed; she turns and takes aim at it.

It's a small dog named BARNEY that was hiding under the bed. She drops her weapon down to her side, relieved that it was her dog.

FLOE (CONT'D)
Some watchdog you turned out to be.
I should have let them have you.

Barney is sitting up, staring at Floe.

FLOE (CONT'D)
Now that you're up, you can earn
your keep. Go check to see if the
coast is clear.

Barney doesn't want to leave the room or Floe's side.

FLOE (CONT'D)
Go on before I shoot you and eat
you myself!

Floe aims her weapon at Barney and gives him a look. You better go.

With a little hesitation, he leaves the room through the small opening between the door and the wall.

SEVERAL SECONDS LATER:

Barney hasn't returned.

There were some noises, as if something might have happened to Barney.

Floe is unsure if she wants to go and see what happened to Barney. She has almost convinced herself to go and find out what happened.

A noise of something scampering makes her take aim, and then it is revealed that Barney has returned unharmed.

FLOE (CONT'D)
(to Barney)
You better have a good reason for
making an old woman's heart jump?

Floe opens the door wider and exits the room.

DESERT- DAY

The sun is already starting to beam its blistering heat and bright light onto the five small tents strategically placed in the encampment.

Each two-man tent is well camouflaged and partially covered by the sand.

They are spaced apart so as not to give away the entire camp. Drifting sand has also piled up all around the tents during the night.

JORDAN 45, a Caucasian male and very intelligent scientist, was in charge of PROJECT REM (Radiation Environment Monitoring) until the world ended.

Jordan is wearing layered protective clothing to protect him from the sun's rays. His face is also covered for protection. His radiation monitor is attached to his outerwear.

Jordan is on standing guard duty and looks over sand dunes with his binoculars.

BINOCULAR VIEW: Desert for as far as we can see. No were no signs of trouble. It is clear in all directions.

Jordan makes his way down the sand dunes and walks over to the tents.

Jordan looks up at the sun with his eye protection on and decides it is safe and time to move. He walks over to one of the tents.

He opens the flaps with the end of his weapon because he doesn't want to startle her.

JORDAN

Kara, it's time to get up. It's safe to move now. The sun is out.

KARA'S DREAM

KARA 35-40, emotionally hardened Caucasian female who was once an abused spouse. Her suffering and her need to survive have molded her into a leader. Her only hope left in this world is that, by some small chance, her youngest son has managed to survive, and she is hell-bent on finding him. She believes that if he survives, he will be in the one place that the light didn't touch, now known as sanctuary.

KARA'S POV, she is looking up at an extremely bright light and then back down at her son, JESSE 16, athletic Caucasian male. He is standing in front of her as he is being burned alive.

JESSE SCREAMS

Kara tries desperately to reach him from the protection of the parking garage. As she exposes herself to the light, her arms begin to burn, as does her face as she tries to get to him.

KARA
 (screams)
 Jesse!

SUDDENLY, a man tackles her, forcing her back into the protection of the garage.

KARA POV, she watches as her son Jesse turns to ash before her very eyes.

END OF DREAM

KARA (CONT'D)
 (screams)
 No! God, no!

JORDAN
 Kara, Kara, are you alright?

KARA
 (waking up from a bad
 dream)
 Yeah,

JORDAN
 We need to cover more ground today
 than we did yesterday. If we are
 going to make it to the place on
 the map.

INT. SMALL TENT - CONTINUOUS

Kara uncovers her head, revealing she has been crying. Her face and arms are badly scarred from radiation burns.

KARA
 I'm up; get everybody else up and
 moving.

JORDAN V.O.
 Okay...

KARA
 Check for sun flares, and then put
 Jermaine on point!

JORDAN V.O.
 I did already.

KARA
 Well, check it again; I don't want
 to be caught out in the open again.
 We lost good people.

JORDAN V.O.
You're right. And I'll make sure.
I'll check it again.

EXT. TENT- CONTINUOUS

Jordan is looking up at the sun with his special glasses while making some calculations.

INT. TENT- CONTINUOUS

Before getting up, Kara reaches into her front shirt pocket and pulls out a badly worn picture of herself and her two boys, MICHAEL 9, and Jessie, right after the big game.

She has a small, tender smile for a couple of seconds that quickly turns into hardened grief. She looks at the picture for a couple of seconds, then puts it back in her pocket and starts getting dressed.

EXT. TENT- CONTINUOUS

Kara exits the tent dressed in her layered protective clothing. Everything is covered over, except for her eyes.

She begins breaking down her tent.

DRAW BACK VIEW:

Everyone in the group is packing up their tent and belongings.

Trayvon finishes first and goes to relieve Ann, who is on perimeter guard, so she can pack her things.

The group of survivors is all covered with layered protective clothing. They gather around Kara for a motivational word of encouragement.

20 MINUTES LATER:

Everyone has everything packed up and sitting on the ground beside them. Beside Roger is some specialized equipment.

ROGER 35, Hispanic male, is the fix anything guy. He can build almost anything out of nothing.

SARAH 21, a pretty Caucasian female and college student during the Light.

MIKE 25, a Caucasian male nerd, worked at a computer repair store in the mall when the light hit.

ANN 50, Hispanic female. She is the only survivor of her entire family.

BOB 65, a Caucasian male cable guy, managed to get his utility cable truck under a bridge as the light hit.

MYESHA 30, an African American female who worked at the mall in a jewelry store.

TRAYVON 30, an African American male, was rescued from the back of a partially melted police cruiser when the light hit.

LEXIS 16, a Caucasian female who was athletic and resourceful, was caught by Myesha for shoplifting, just as the light hit.

JERMAINE 28-30, an African American and former army veteran. Served in special operations.

Sarah, with a pair of six-shooters on her sides, opens her canteen to get a drink, and then she only manages to drink a small sip before the canteen is dry.

KARA

I know you're all hungry and tired, but we have to keep going. Drink only when you absolutely have to. We don't know when we'll find water again. I believe in my heart, that Sanctuary is real. Everyone has seen the map, so you know it's close. A few days, that's all. We need to just hang on a few more days.

Everyone agrees,

KARA (CONT'D)

So no matter what, we need to keep pushing ourselves, and we will get there.

ROGER

(exhausted with a moment of doubt)

But what if it's not real, Kara?

KARA

It is real... Travis believed in the stories;

(MORE)

KARA (CONT'D)

that's why he gave his life so we could have a chance to find it.

LEXIS

I miss Travis.

KARA

Yeah, me too. This is the world we live in now. It's not if we'll die anymore; it's how and when we'll die.

BOB

You got that right.

KARA

We can't choose when, but we can sure as hell choose how. And I say we go down fighting to the very end.

EVERYONE CHEERS

KARA

The rumors are true. Sanctuary is real, and we are going to find it. And when we do, we will take a small piece of beautiful green land for ourselves. And God help those... we try and stop us!

EVERYONE AGREES

KARA

Jordan, how are we looking for solar flares?

JORDAN

We should be good for the next 24 hours.

KARA

Let's make sure everyone helps with carrying the water. Trade on and off; everyone takes a turn. I mean, if you want a drink, you'll have to earn it.

LEXIS

Do you think the cans will follow us out here?

KARA

Let's hope not. Just the same, keep your eyes open.

ANN

They'll come; they always do.

Myesha puts her hand on Ann's shoulder, knowing that her husband was dragged away to be eaten later by the cannibals.

TRAYVON

They do if they're hungry enough. God knows I'm almost hungry enough to eat someone.

ROGER

You try to take one bite out of me.

(pulls out his knife)

And I will cut off Little Trayvon.

(gestures toward his groin)

TRAYVON

I was only kidding... Everyone knows it's the young ones that are the most tender.

Trayvon licks his lips at Lexis.

She responds by mean-mugging him right back while holding onto her bow.

KARA

For those of you with guns, make sure they're loaded and have your ammo handy. We don't want any surprises sneaking up on us. That's all I have.

Alright, Jermaine, lead the way.

Roger, Jordan, and Sarah check their handguns while Ann loads her shotgun.

Lexis puts her quill of arrows on her back and strings her bow across her chest.

JERMAINE

Stay back about 50 feet and keep your intervals; we don't want any surprises.

Jermaine takes the lead through the rough, damaged terrain.

In the background, there is a partially melted sign with the words (Welcome to) missing the words (city of Cincinnati) that is all that remains.

Lexis runs up to Jermaine once they stop and offers him a small drink from one of the two remaining water bags.

LEXIS

Here, you need to drink. You can't keep skipping your water ration.

JERMAINE

I don't feel thirsty.

LEXIS

If you don't feel thirsty, you're already dehydrated. Now drink.

JERMAINE

Alright doc.

Jermaine takes a couple drinks from the water bag.

LEXIS

(upset)

I'm not a doctor; stop calling me one.

JERMAINE

You're the closest thing we have to one.

LEXIS

My parents were doctors, and I might have been one too if I had had the opportunity to go to college.

JERMAINE

Yeah, the world ending screwed up things for all of us.

LEXIS

So, what did it screw up for you? What did you lose out on?

JERMAINE'S MEMORY

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Jermaine is lying in bed, kissing his new wife, TISHA 25, beautiful African American female with long hair extensions.

She is in just her panties and bra. As he kisses her, he moves down to her baby bump and starts kissing on it.

TISHA

Are you sure you didn't marry me just because of the baby?

JERMAINE

I've loved you since the moment I first laid eyes on you... Having the baby is the icing on the cake.

Jermaine keeps kissing her belly. Tisha guides him up to her.

TISHA

I want to spend the rest of my life with you, baby.

JERMAINE

That's what I want to hear for the rest of my life.

A bright flash of light, from the window lights up the entire room. The light is so bright that it almost makes it impossible to see in the room.

TISHA

What do you think that is?

JERMAINE

I don't know—maybe a plane passing overhead or a flare of some kind.

Tisha gets up from the bed to go and investigate. She opens the sliding glass door to the porch and goes out. Jermaine gets a little concerned and gets out of bed to follow her.

Tisha is staring up into the sky as Jermaine makes his way through the sliding glass doors.

SUDDENLY: The light gets intense, melting the light fixtures on each side of the deck. Jermaine reaches for the door handle, and it melts into his hands.

Out of desperation, Jermaine slams his body into the window, breaking it and allowing them to enter back into the room.

Jermaine CRIES OUT.

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

(state of panic)

Tisha, Tisha baby, are you alright?

When he rolls her over, her face has been completely burned off, and she is dead.

PRESENT TIME

JERMAINE

(tearful)

What did I lose? Everything!

Jermaine walks away to take point. He is forced to remember what he had buried in the deepest part of his mind for the past year.

LEXIS

Jermaine, I'm sorry...

HOURS LATER:

The group continues to walk for hours in the desert of what used to be beautiful green Ohio.

KARA V.O.

I had never heard of a gamma burst before that day. The day when the world dried up and died. What didn't melt or burn quickly mutated from the radiation. I'm sure that some of the things that are now walking on the earth weren't even in God's worst nightmare.

Jordan makes it to the top of a hill and has everyone stop while he checks out the other side.

KARA

Everyone, take a break and get a sip of water.

Kara comes to a point and looks up.

KARA'S POV, the sun is very bright and intense. Giving off a feeling of anger at the world.

Kara gets out her canteen of water and moves her face covering to the side, just long enough to take a sip of water from her canteen.

She wipes her face off, and covers back up.

KARA V.O.

I always thought it would be global warming that slowly killed us, not some exploding star 100 million miles away.

PAN VIEW, There is only desert in all directions.

Jordan appears at the top of the hill and signals everybody to follow him up the hill.

HOURS LATER:

The group walks past a burned-out shell of a dune buggy.

KARA V.O. (CONT'D)

I was never supposed to be the leader; Travis was the one who was going to lead us to sanctuary. He was the strong one. Only he could have brought such a large group of survivors together.

KARA'S MEMORY

EXT. OBSERVATORY IN THE DESERT - DAY

The exterior of the observatory is partially damaged. There are two vehicles sitting in the parking lot, badly damaged by heat and radiation.

INT. OBSERVATORY- DAY

TRAVIS 30-35, a physically fit African American and former Army sergeant, is searching through the desks in the offices.

KARA

What the hell are you looking for, Travis?

TRAVIS

A damage assessment is something that tells us how far this thing went across the planet. We have to know if there's hope of finding some place untouched.

KARA

I thought we came here for shelter.

TRAVIS

We are here for shelter, but we can't continue to just exist... We need hope; we need a reason to go on.

KARA

For what?

TRAVIS

For living...

Kara has a sad look on her face as she turns away. Travis walks up behind her and hugs her. Then he kisses her on the neck.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

I love you, Kara, but you deserve more. We deserve more. We need to get off the road if we are going to make it.

Roger walks in carrying several rolled-up star charts.

ROGER

I don't know if these will help, but we found a lot of them.

Jordan walks in with more bad news.

JORDAN

The telescope is functional, but without massive power, it will never move again.

ROGER

What about these maps?

JORDAN

If they were created after the light, then we'll know for sure if they exist.

Travis walks over to check them out. Jordan quickly takes them out of their tubes, one at a time, and unrolls them. When he doesn't find what he is looking for, he throws them to the side until there are none left.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Well, that sucked! They all predated the light.

ROGER

What do we do now?

TRAVIS
We keep looking...

SOMEONE IS BANGING METAL PANS

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
For now, everybody go get something
to eat. We all need to keep up our
strength.

JORDAN
What's on the menu?

ROGER
Hopefully, rat, I don't think I can
take eating roaches again in the
same week.

NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

About fifty people are gathered around, sitting everywhere,
just trying to get comfortable for the night.

Roger is cleaning his plate and enjoying his meal as Jermaine
walks up with his half-eaten meal on his plate.

JERMAINE
(While watching Roger
eat)
It isn't that good.

Roger looks up.

ROGER
Compared to roach stew, it's
porterhouse steak to me, baby.

Jermaine looks one more time at his plate, and decides to
give the leftovers to Roger, and scraps them onto his plate.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Thanks, man; I owe you one.

JERMAINE
Okay, then, how about taking my
guard duty?

ROGER
Sure, when does it start?

JERMAINE
In about fifteen minutes.

Roger quickly finishes off his food and jumps up, taking his weapon with him.

Kara and Travis walk up to talk with Jermaine.

JERMAINE (CONT'D)
Any luck finding anything?

TRAVIS
No, we searched everywhere. The radiation fried all the computers connected to the mainframe.

KARA
It looks like a dead end.

Sarah walks by playing a video game on a small computer tablet, catching everyone's attention.

TRAVIS
Maybe not, hey Sarah!

Sarah turns to see who is calling her.

KARA
(To Sarah)
Where did you get the tablet?

SARAH
I found it on one of the desks. It has a cool video game on it.

TRAVIS
Do you mind if I take a look at it?

SARAH
Yeah, sure, the batteries are about dead anyway.

Sarah hands Travis the tablet.

Travis quickly tries to get to the main menu and accidentally locks it out.

CLOSE ON, the tablet is locked out.

TRAVIS
Damn it!

Mike comes over.

MIKE
Let me try. I used to be a computer tech in the real world.

TRAVIS
Fine, see what you can do.

Travis hands Mike the tablet.

Mike quickly accesses the main menu and allows Jordan to go from there.

Jordan searches several files and folders.

JORDAN
(excited)
I got it; it's what we were looking for.

Everyone gathers around the small tablet.

CLOSE ON, TABLET

It is a map of the United States. Then, when Jordan hits, a simulated path of the gamma blast appears. A small section of the United States is protected by the sun, with several more small areas outlined and protected by satellites.

JORDAN
Just as I suspected, the sun and moon blocked some of the radiation. That's why we're still alive. There's enough plant life out there to maintain oxygen levels.

Jordan scrolls down.

TRAVIS
That's it!

KARA
That's what?

TRAVIS
Our new home, Sanctuary!

The tablet shows low battery and then turns off.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
Get it back, Mike!

MIKE
I can't, not without electricity.

TRAVIS
Where's Roger?

JERMAINE

He just took over my guard duty.

TRAVIS

We need him; he's the best mechanical wizard I've ever known. I'm sure he'll find a way to give us power.

JERMAINE

(disappointed, but understanding)

Well, I almost got out of guard duty. So much for the power of rat stew. I'll send him back this way.

Jermaine picks up his weapon and heads off to relieve Roger on guard duty.

NEXT DAY- CONTINUOUS

Kara is asleep, partially exposed on Travis's chest, when Mike and Roger walk into the room and wake them up.

MIKE

(To Travis)

Travis, Travis...

Travis wakes up, rubbing his face. Kara stretches her shoulder.

MIKE (CONT'D)

With Roger's mechanical talent, we now have printed maps of the unaffected areas of the country.

TRAVIS

Awesome! Have you told anyone yet?

MIKE

No, we were waiting for you.

TRAVIS

Call everyone together; we now have hope for a place to call home.

Travis kisses Kara on the lips and then kisses Roger on the cheek.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

I love you, Roger. You're my hero.

ROGER

Contrary to what people might have been saying about me, I am human.

TRAVIS

Lighten up, Roger, I'm just letting you know you're needed. We couldn't survive without you.

EVERYONE CLAPS

Roger is humble and thanks everyone.

INT. LARGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is gathered around to hear what Travis has to announce.

Travis walks into the room carrying several of the printed copies of the area where vegetation remains untouched.

TRAVIS

I'm sure that some rumors have made it around the room by now, so let me set the record straight. We were not keeping anything from anyone, and I wanted to make sure before I told you all about it. We have found what I would call a sanctuary—a place to call home.

EVERYONE CHEERS

LEXIS

How far away is it?

TRAVIS

Good question, Lexis. It won't be easy to get to it. We'll need to travel about 150 miles north-west.

JERMAINE

That's going to take us into the horde's territory.

BOB

And what about the mutants?

TRAVIS

I didn't say it was going to be easy or that everyone here was going to live long enough to see it.

Some people grumble as others express doubts.

KARA

I know some of you are unsure about this, maybe even a little scared, so we decided to take it to a vote.

Sarah tries to hand out small pieces of paper.

KARA (CONT'D)

No, we are going to do this by a show of hands; that way, we all know where we stand.

Sarah throws the pieces of paper she has cut up on the floor.

KARA (CONT'D)

All those in favor of trying to make it to sanctuary, raise your hands.

Most of the people raise their hands.

KARA (CONT'D)

All those apposed!

Three people and a family of four raise their hands.

KARA (CONT'D)

Then it's settled, and we find sanctuary.

TRAVIS

Those who voted not to go are free to stay and try to make it here on their own. We'll supply you with enough rations for a week and a map to find sanctuary if you change your mind.

JORDAN

(to Travis)

That's going to take our supplies down pretty low.

TRAVIS

(so everyone can hear)
 Everyone here has fought and even
 bled to get us this far, and we
 will not abandon those of us who
 have chosen a different path.
 Everyone gets some sleep because we
 leave in the morning.

NEXT DAY

EXT. OBSERVATORY - CONTINUOUS

Travis is looking all around, making sure the coast is clear.

Kara walks out to talk with Travis.

TRAVIS

(to Kara)
 How many?

KARA

Six people—one changed his mind
 during the night and is staying.

Jermaine returns from patrol with two men.

JERMAINE

It's clear all the way for about
 two miles.

TRAVIS

(to Kara)
 Okay, get them ready to move out.

WILLIAM 68, JEFF 45, JAMES 38, HIS WIFE, and their TWO
 CHILDREN 7 and 10).

They exit the building and briefly stop to check for any
 threats.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

(to those leaving)
 I'm sorry to see you go, but I
 understand your decision. Good
 luck.

William shakes Travis's hand and takes off to lead the small
 group in a different direction.

Jeff gives Travis a nod and takes off after William,
 maintaining safe intervals.

James stops to shake Travis's hand. Followed by James's wife giving Travis a hug and saying good-bye.

JAMES

Thank you for everything. I'll pray
you find sanctuary, wherever that
is.

James and his family take off a short distance behind Jeff.

KARA

(to Travis)

Do you think they'll be okay?

TRAVIS

Yeah, William is an excellent
tracker, and James is the best
marksman we had.

Jordan comes out to give Travis an update.

JORDAN

Everyone's ready to go.

TRAVIS

Okay, then let's move out.
Jermaine, take point!

Jermaine leaves his guard position and starts to move down the road in the opposite direction of William, James, and Jeff.

Every couple of seconds, another person emerges from the building and begins to follow the line. Most carry some form of weapon and some supplies.

Once the last person is out of the building, Travis and Kara bring up the rear of the group.

The group travels for about a half-mile, moving like soldiers on a battlefield. They are moving in bounds and over-watching as they travel away from the building.

5 MINUTES LATER:

GUNFIRE BEHIND THEM IN THE DISTANCE.

KARA

They're in trouble!

Travis stops the group and has them take cover behind the hills and rocks.

TRAVIS

Mike, Roger, and Trayvon are with me! Bob, take control of the group and keep them moving!

LEXIS

(yells)

I'm going! I'm the best shot here! You'll need me, I'm telling you!

TRAVIS

(to Alexis)

Stay with the group, Lexis.

Alexis gets angry; she can't go.

Jermaine comes back to talk.

JERMAINE

I'm going with you guys; William is my friend.

TRAVIS

No, you're needed here.

JERMAINE

I'm going; don't try to stop me!

TRAVIS

Alright, Trayvon, you stay with the group.

(to Bob)

Bob, keep them moving... Don't stop, even if we don't make it back! Jordan keep them headed in the right direction.

KARA

I'm going...

TRAVIS

Would it matter if I told you to stay?

KARA

No...

Kara chambers a round into her handgun.

TRAVIS

Jermaine and Roger are on the right; Kara, Mike, and I will take the left.

They take off in the direction of the weapons fire as the group continues to move away from the city.

INT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

SKINNER 30-40, 6'2"- 6'5," a large, muscular Caucasian male with long blond hair sticking out from his mask, is the leader of the cannibals.

DOG 18-35, skinny, Caucasian male in a tight-fitting leather outfit with a dog collar is anxious to eat a piece of the dead children.

James's two children lay dead in the street from arrows a few feet away from Skinner, who seemed to be enjoying the slaughter.

JAMES POV, His wife is being drugged off by several people dressed in cannibal-type attire.

James is bleeding badly from a machete that is buried deep into his left shoulder.

James takes aim as best he can and FIRES, killing one of the men holding his wife. She briefly manages to escape and is immediately grabbed by another cannibal with bad intentions. He hits her with a club, throws her over his shoulder, and carries her away.

COVER

William is up on a small hill SHOOTING at the approaching horde of cannibals.

ROAD

James runs out of bullets in his rifle and is forced to pull out his handgun. He pursues his wife's abductors, FIRING his pistol as he goes.

COVER

William stands up from his cover and SHOOTS several of the cannibals as they are about to overtake James.

ROAD

James continues FIRING until he runs out of bullets in his handgun. Then he is hit in the center of his chest with a large spear, killing him.

COVER

William is upset and leaves the protection of his cover behind the rock and small hill in order to run to James' body.

END OF ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Jermaine and Roger quickly go down the right side of the road as Travis leads Mike and Kara down the left.

ROAD - CONTINUOUS

William is hit by a bullet in the shoulder as he bends down to check on James.

William quickly returns FIRE with his rifle, killing a cannibal with a gun and two others holding spears.

1/4 MILE AWAY ON ROAD

Skinner acts as if he doesn't have a care in the world and backs away from the bodies of the children while pulling the dog back with his chain.

Jermaine has made it to the bodies of James's children and assessed them. He quickly shakes his head no as he signals across the way toward and advancing Travis.

SKINNER

Skinner shakes his head and makes a funny gesture as if he is crying for the children.

Jermaine discharges his weapon at Skinner in anger as he casually walks away with no fear of being killed.

Jermaine manages to miss Skinner every time.

WILLIAM

William is hit in the chest by an arrow and drops to one knee. Just as soon as he pulls the arrow out, he is hit in the chest by a spear.

Despite his grave injuries, William is still able to pull James's body behind the burned-out vehicle.

500 FEET AWAY

Travis gives Jermaine and Roger the signal to quickly advance to William's position.

SIDE OF THE ROAD

Jermaine and Roger quickly advance to William's position behind a vehicle, FIRING their weapons as they move.

The cannibal horde advances on William's position and starts trying to remove the body, even though he isn't dead yet.

Travis OPENS FIRE, killing several of them.

Kara and Mike arrive and also start FIRING their weapons, forcing the horde to temporarily halt their advance.

BURNED-OUT VEHICLE

JERMAINE
(to William)
How bad are you hurt?

William shakes his head no, despite blood dripping from his nose and mouth.

Roger quickly checks for a pulse on James and finds none.

ROGER
He's gone.

JERMAINE
(to William)
What about James's wife?

WILLIAM
They got her.

ROGER
What will they do with her?

William placed his hands on his mouth, like he was eating something.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Oh my God!

ROAD

The cannibal horde is advancing despite Travis, Mike, and Kara's GUNFIRE.

TRAVIS
(yells to Jermaine)
We got to leave now!

AT THE VEHICLE

Jermaine and Roger try to move William, but he is in too much pain.

WILLIAM
Leave me; I'm dying...

JERMAINE
I'm not going to leave this way.
You're my friend.
(teary-eyed)
You know what they'll do to you,
man?

William touches Jermaine's shoulder.

WILLIAM
(experiencing dyspnea)
Do you have any of those grenades
left?

Jermaine knows what William has planned and finally accepts his wishes.

JERMAINE
Grenade.
(yells to Travis)
Grenade!

CROSS THE ROAD

Travis grabs the only one he has on his gun belt and throws it to Jermaine, who catches it.

TRAVIS
(yells)
Give them hell, Marine!

AT THE VEHICLE

WILLIAM

(struggles to stay alive)
 Jermaine, pull the pin for me, and
 then get hell out of here, man!

Jermaine kisses William's forehead. Then he pulls the pin and places the grenade in both of William's hands.

Roger starts SHOOTING back at the approaching horde so that they can make a run for it.

Jermaine tearfully joins Roger in SHOOTING at their attackers.

AT THE ROAD

Travis signals for them to run across as they lay down HEAVY COVER FIRE.

Roger and Jermaine make it across the street unharmed despite the heavy bombardment of arrows, spears, and GUNFIRE.

Travis starts to lead them back down the road until they are cut off by an even larger group of cannibals approaching from another direction.

TRAVIS

Shit! We've got to run for it!

They run toward several hills in the distance, leading the cannibals away from the rest of their group.

They run up and down hill after hill, as fast as the slowest person can run.

They are exhausted from running for their lives as the cannibals get closer in their pursuit. Several of the cannibals stop long enough to shoot arrows that narrowly miss Kara and Travis.

They continue to climb up one of the hills to get high above the approaching cannibals.

HILL

Travis is the first over the hilltop and pulls Kara over the edge.

Arrows and BULLETS are hitting all around them.

Once in position, they begin SHOOTING back at the cannibals to provide cover fire for the rest of the small group.

Jermaine is hit in the shoulder by an arrow as he is the last to make it to the top of the hill. He turns and FIRES, killing the man who shot the arrow with a headshot.

Jermaine is helped up and over the hilltop ledge by Mike under a barrage of GUNFIRE and arrows.

HILLTOP - CONTINUOUS

Travis, Kara, Mike, Roger, and Jermaine take cover while looking down at the approaching horde of cannibals' attempts to climb up the hill to get at them.

AT THE VEHICLE

A large group of cannibals quickly moved up the road toward William.

Upon arrival, one of the cannibals flips William over, and before William can say anything, he cuts his throat and takes off his face covering.

He starts laughing and gives it to his dog to chew on.

CLOSE ON, William gurgles for a couple of seconds and then smiles as blood rushes from the open wound across his neck.

The cannibals don't know how to react to Williams odd behavior.

Something rolls onto the road. The cannibal looks down. To his surprise, a grenade is lying at his feet.

CLOSE ON, the cannibals react in fear.

CLOSE ON, William still has a satisfying smile on his face.

EXPLOSION

The Dog, and four other cannibals are killed. Skinner hurries to check out the dog. He kicks him several times and determines he is dead. He gets very angry at the loss of his pet human.

SKINNER

(yells)

I want them alive. I want fresh
meat! Now go!

HILL- CONTINUOUS

The group reacts to the EXPLOSION.

KARA

Damn, I sure hope he took a bunch
of those sons of bitches with him!

Jermaine is looking out and providing cover in one direction,
while Travis is observing and providing cover in the other
direction.

TRAVIS

Mike and Roger, go see if they're
trying to outflank us.

Mike and Roger quickly take off.

BELOW

There are dead cannibals everywhere. Not wanting to waste
good meat, the other cannibals drag them off to be eaten
later. Once the dead have been removed, the cannibals return,
FIRING their weapons as they advance up the hill.

Skinner is watching just out of range. While he is standing
there, another cannibal runs up and hands him one of the
children's arms to chew on.

Kara, Travis, and Jermaine return FIRE killing two of the
cannibals and sending the rest looking for cover.

Roger and then Mike return from scouting.

ROGER

We're surrounded; we can't make it
off this hill.

KARA

(yells in anger)
Look at that son of a bitch! He's
eating a kid's arm.

Kara FIRES her handgun several times, but it never comes
close.

TRAVIS

You won't hit him with that, but I
can reach him with this!

Travis takes aim with his rifle and FIRES.

SKINNER

Skinner is hit in the hand and forced to drop the half-eaten child's arm.

Skinner lets out a WAR CRY with some chest banging in the direction of Travis.

HILL

Travis stands up, raises his rifle in one hand, and flips off Skinner with the other.

SOUNDS OF GUNFIRE BEHIND THEM.

They turn, and Mike is hit in the upper thigh by an arrow. Travis FIRES his weapon and kills the female cannibal holding the bow.

Travis looks around.

TRAVIS POV, in the distance, there are two dune buggies parked with just two cannibals guarding them.

TRAVIS
(to Jermaine and Roger)
Help Mike, and follow me!

Jermaine and Roger help Mike to his feet. They quickly follow Travis and Kara as they run down the side of the hill in a hail of arrows and GUNFIRE.

ROAD

CLOSE ON, Two cannibals are standing guard on the road when one and then the other fall from arrows to the head and neck.

Lexis walks onto the road from the desert to retrieve her arrows.

SECONDS LATER:

Myesha walks onto the road. She notices something on the ground and picks it up.

Lexis checks her lucky necklace, and it is missing.

LEXIS
If you found a necklace, it's mine.

Myesha is looking at the necklace very closely.

MYESHA

This came from my jewelry store!

LEXIS

Yeah, where else did you think I got it?

MYESHA

I think I'll just hang onto it.

LEXIS

Seriously, you think that store is going to open back up?

MYESHA

Your theft cost me my job at the mall.

LEXIS

You were only out of a job 20 minutes before the world ended, so what? It's not like you were almost barbecued in the back of a patty wagon after someone got you arrested for shoplifting.

MYESHA

Serves you right.

LEXIS

Really, you want to do this now?

GUNFIRE

Myesha starts to run and then stops when she notices Lexis isn't moving.

MYESHA

What are you doing?

LEXIS

My necklace, please.

Myesha looks at the necklace.

MYESHA

Fine, you can have it!

Myesha tosses the necklace back to Lexis.

LEXIS

I only took it because I was bored and thought it would be a challenge.

(MORE)

LEXIS (CONT'D)

You can run a helluva lot faster
than you look. You caught me before
I could even get to the food court.

MYESHA

I ran track in high school. Can we
go now and help the people being
shot at?

Lexis looks at the necklace in her hand.

LEXIS

It's broken; can you fix the chain?

MYESHA

Sure, I guess.

Lexis tosses it back to Myesha.

LEXIS

Make sure you give it back to me.

MYESHA

What if you're dead?

LEXIS

That will never happen!

MYESHA

Are you sure?

Quickly, Lexis lifts her bow and draws an arrow, then shoots
it toward Myesha.

CLOSE ON, Myesha's face in disbelief.

The arrow misses Myesha and kills a male cannibal about to
kill Myesha with a machete.

LEXIS

I'm too good a shot.

Myesha looks at the dead body and agrees with Lexis.

Lexis retrieves her arrow, and then both girls take off,
running toward the GUNFIRE.

DUNE BUGGIES

Travis gets the jump on one of the cannibals guarding the
dune buggies and quickly kills him with the long knife on his
side.

Travis then moves toward the remaining oblivious cannibal inside one of the dune buggies. Travis punches him in the head, knocking him into the passenger seat. Travis then grabs the rail over the driver's seat and swings in, kicking the guard out of the dune buggy.

Kara is watching as Roger and Jermaine help a hobbling Mike into the four-person buggy.

JERMAINE

I'll grab the other one!

As Jermaine approaches the other dune buggy. GUNSHOTS are heard HITTING the dune buggy.

Jermaine is forced to abandon his idea of taking the other buggy. He jumps on the outside of the buggy that Travis is driving and hangs on.

As Kara is getting into the passenger seat, she SHOOTS over her shoulder, killing the cannibal guard as he SOUNDS THE ALARM.

TRAVIS

We don't need them following us.

Kara turns and SHOOTS the two front tires on the other dune buggy.

The horde of cannibals is almost upon them. Travis gets the dune buggy started, and they drive off with Jermaine hanging on.

Roger and Mike continue to SHOOT back.

DUNE BUGGY

Travis keeps looking back as they speed away, kicking up sand and a large dust cloud to cover their escape.

TRAVIS

I think we're okay.

Suddenly, a speeding dune buggy just misses the chance to wreak havoc on them as Travis turns quickly to avoid the crash.

Kara looks behind them.

KARA

(while pointing)

We need a way to hide! They are coming from everywhere!

The buggy is reaching speeds of up to 60 mph at times.

A buggy drives up close to them. The passenger tries to use a spear to injure them. Travis is forced to drive the buggy erratically to avoid the spear.

Jermaine is FIRING his weapon and is missing badly as he is dodging thrusts from the spear.

JERMAINE

Mother fucker, I ain't no steak on
a stick!

Jermaine FIRES again and misses the passenger, but luckily it hits the driver instead.

CLOSE ON, the bullet hits the driver in the head, sending the dune buggy crashing over a sand dune.

SECONDS LATER:

Two more buggies pull us next to them. This time, one of them tries to ram them. Two different times they just missing hitting Jermaine.

LEXIS

Lexis and Myesha are getting close to the action. In the distance, dust from dune buggies headed their way.

MYESHA

What should we do?

LEXIS

Take cover!

They quickly took cover behind some rocks.

Travis, with two dune buggies in pursuit, drives past.

LEXIS (CONT'D)

That was them!

Lexis stands up, takes aim with her bow, and SHOOTS.

DUNE BUGGY

The arrow hits the passenger in one of the chase buggies, and he falls out.

Everyone notices the passenger fall out and looks around. Kara spots them first.

KARA
That was Lexis!

The dune buggy that just lost its passenger breaks off and goes after Lexis and Myesha.

TRAVIS
They're going after the girls!

Travis drives into the remaining dune buggy, causing it to crash into a bunch of rocks and suffer damage to the drive train.

Travis turns the buggy around and heads back to help Lexis and Myesha.

LEXIS

The dune buggy is fast approaching their location.

LEXIS
Split up!

Myesha takes off in one direction as the buggy follows after Lexis. It quickly closes in and attempts to run her over. At the last second, Lexis dives away.

The buggy circles around and goes in to run her over again.

As the dune buggy closes in on Lexis, she dives between two small rocks. The buggy looks like it runs right over her.

CLOSE ON, the buggy jumps over the rocks and doesn't make contact with Lexis.

The buggy turns around to make sure she is dead. Lexis jumps up and runs again. She heads toward a 10-foot hill. When she arrives, she has difficulty climbing it and falls back down.

The buggy rushes up and stops 25 feet away. He revs the engine several times. He is about to run Lexis over when the buggy driven by Travis flies over the hill toward the cannibal's buggy.

CLOSE ON, The buggy driven by Travis, with Kara in the passenger seat and Roger and Mike in the backseat, hits the cannibal's buggy and kills the driver.

DUNE BUGGY

Before Travis can bring the buggy to a stop, two more cannibal dune buggies arrive, forcing Travis to abandon Lexis and take off.

Travis looks back to see if Lexis is safe.

TRAVIS POV, Lexis shoots an arrow and kills a cannibal in the last dune buggy, and he falls off the back of the vehicle.

Travis turns the dune buggy quickly around a hill.

SLOW MOTION, As he is going around the hill, Skinner is standing in the path with a spear in his hand. He quickly throws the spear, which catches Travis in the side of the chest.

Angry, Travis speeds up and just misses Skinner but runs over three other cannibals.

Travis looks down, and he can't believe it.

TRAVIS
(to himself)
I didn't see that coming!

Travis drives right over the dead bodies.

LEXIS

She runs over to the dune buggy to see if it is still drivable.

Jermaine comes running up to Lexis.

Feeling someone is sneaking up on her, she spins around with an arrow drawn and is ready to shoot.

She realizes it is Jermaine and puts her bow away.

LEXIS
What are you doing here?

JERMAINE
I fell off about a quarter mile back. Will it run?

LEXIS
Let's find out.

Jermaine starts dragging the remains of the body out of the front seat.

Lexis does a quick inspection and starts it up.

JERMAINE

Get over it, you don't even have a license.

LEXIS

Get in, or walk!

Jermaine reluctantly gets in the passenger seat and puts on the seatbelt.

Lexis quickly spins the buggy in the direction that Travis went.

TRAVIS

Travis circles back around toward Lexis's last location.

Travis starts to drive erratically, garnering the attention of everyone in the buggy. In a state of panic, Kara takes the wheel.

She drives the buggy behind a hill, and the buggy comes to a stop.

Kara grabs Travis and holds him tight.

KARA

(Panic)

Hang on, baby! Somebody help me!

Roger gets out and comes around the front, to the driver's side. He looks at the spear, and it has gone almost completely through and is embedded in the backrest.

ROGER

I'm no doctor, but I think we need to pull it out.

MIKE

If you pull it out, he could bleed to death.

ROGER

We have no choice. They'll be on us again any minute.

KARA

Okay, okay, we can do this. Travis, hang in there!

TRAVIS

Do it!

ROGER

I'm going to have to push it the rest of the way through to pull the head off.

Travis is looking around to make sure the coast is clear.

Three cannibals rush toward the buggy. Travis SHOOTS one, and Mike SHOOTS the other two.

TRAVIS

Just leave me and take the buggy.

KARA

The hell we will! Now sit up, and let's get this over with.

Kara helps Travis sit up and holds onto his shoulder while giving Roger a signal to go ahead.

Roger rams the spearhead the rest of the way through.

Travis lets out a CRY OF PAIN and passes out. Roger takes the butt of his rifle and breaks off the spearhead from the shaft.

Mike SHOOTS another cannibal who is holding a spear as he comes over the hill.

Roger pulls the remaining spear shaft out of Travis's chest. Kara quickly shoves her scarf into the gaping wound.

MIKE

Come on, let's get him in the back; we have to go now!

Several arrows fly over Mike's head as he returns FIRE.

Roger pulled a semi-conscious Travis out of the front seat and moved him to the back. After securing him with a seatbelt, Roger moves to the passenger seat.

Kara moves over to the driver's seat and takes off, throwing sand and dirt.

Several cannibals are FIRING their weapons at the escaping buggy.

LEXIS BUGGY

There are now two buggies chasing Lexis and Jermaine, just a few feet behind them.

Lexis jumps over several sand dunes in hopes of losing the cannibal buggies, but they follow and stay right behind them.

LEXIS

I'm going to see if Myesha can help.

Lexis spins around and heads back toward Myesha.

KARA

A cannibal buggy comes racing up to them. It tries to pass several times, but is cut off by Kara.

Kara looks back at a badly wounded Travis and gets very angry.

When the buggy again tries to pass, Kara quickly slows down, and as she pass by, she SHOTS the driver in the head, killing him and causing the buggy to flip over.

MYESHA

She thought Lexis had forgotten about her until she drove by in a hurry.

Lexis signals Myesha as she drives past.

LEXIS

Lexis circles one more time around and drives right in front of Myesha, who is now standing on the hilltop with a large rock in her hand.

Myesha throws the rock and catches the driver of the cannibal buggy in the head, killing him instantly. The buggy rolls over, catches fire, and EXPLODES.

KARA

EXPLOSION in the distance. Kara takes a chance and drives in the same direction.

LEXIS

Circles and celebrates, with a fist pump to Myesha. As she does, her buggy sputters and rolls to a stop.

JERMAINE

What's wrong?

CLOSE ON, gas Gage is on empty.

LEXIS

Sorry, we're out of gas.

They quickly get out of the dune buggy and meet up with Myesha walking toward them.

MYESHA

What did you do to my ride? I meant to say I was tired of walking!

LEXIS

Sorry, we're out of gas, so it looks like we're walking again.

MYESHA

Maybe not.

Kara drives up and stops.

Everyone quickly realizes their leader, Travis, is hurt.

LEXIS

What happened?

KARA

He got hit with a spear. Do whatever you can for him.

Lexis goes to see Travis. She checks the wound and the makeshift dressing. She rips her undershirt and ties it around the wound and his back.

MYESHA

How bad?

Roger shakes his head.

KARA

I don't know how many of them are left, but we better keep moving. Everyone grab hold of something and hang on.

Everyone grabs hold of something or finds a way to get on the dune buggy. Kara drives off slowly as they head back toward the direction of their group.

HOURS LATER:

The sun is starting to go down. The group has now uncovered their faces.

The buggy sputters and then stalls, coming to a complete stop.

KARA (CONT'D)
That's all the gas.

Everyone dismounts the buggy.

LEXIS
Help me get Travis.

Jermaine and Roger take Travis out of the buggy, move him to a slightly shaded area, and lay him down. Lexis makes a more thorough assessment.

Myesha helps Mike over to where Travis is lying down.

Kara is distraught and is not sure what to do next. Lexis completes her assessment and walks over to talk with Kara.

LEXIS (CONT'D)
I'm sorry; there's nothing I can do. He would have less than a 10% chance with a hospital and a top surgeon. The spear nicked his aorta. I'm sorry.

Lexis hugs Kara, then Kara goes to Travis's side to say good-bye.

The others in the group get the bad news from Lexis.

Kara hugs Travis, causing him to momentarily wake up.

TRAVIS
I'm sorry, Kara.

Kara hugs him again as she CRIES.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
I won't be able to help you look for Michael.

Travis is in severe pain and has trouble breathing.

KARA
I can't survive without you.

TRAVIS

Yes, you can; you're a strong leader, Kara. You will lead them now. Find the home we were looking for.

Everyone is heartbroken over the impending death of their leader, Travis.

Kara professes her love.

KARA

I love you.

Travis is breathing irregularly.

TRAVIS

I love...

Travis stops breathing.

Kara grabs hold of him and CRIES OUT.

Lexis comes to Travis' side and checks on him one last time.

LEXIS

He's gone, Kara.

Lexis walks away as Kara is left alone to have a few more moments to grieve.

After kissing Travis one last time, she stands up.

KARA

We need to bury him so those sons of bitches can't find him.

Everyone consoles Kara as they go to move Travis.

20 MINUTES LATER:

The group has just begun their journey to find the others.

Kara stops briefly to look toward the hilltop and then turns to lead her group.

PRESENT TIME

They have been walking for days and are exhausted, thirsty, and needing a break.

KARA

Already, take 10, but keep your eyes open.

Everyone grabs a place to sit down near a small hill that is providing a little bit of shade.

Something starts reflecting light in Sarah's face.

SARAH

What is that?

CLOSE ON, a pile of something shiny.

Curious, Sarah gets up from her resting spot and goes to check it out.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I wonder what they were shooting at.

Sarah looks around and doesn't see anything but desert.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Everyone, check this out!

Bob walks over to where Sarah is standing.

There is a large pile of expended shell casings on the side of the path.

BOB

That's a lot of ammunition to use.

Kara walks over to see what they have discovered.

Bob bends down, picks up one of the shell casings, and smells it.

Kara is looking at Bob for a reaction.

BOB (CONT'D)

It was fired within the last couple of days.

KARA

Are you sure?

BOB

I served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I know ammunition.

Kara gets nervous and quickly looks around in all directions.

KARA

Spread out and keep your eyes open.
Whoever it was must have been
fighting an army.

JERMAINE

Or they were cannibals.

Lexis looks around the area closely.

LEXIS

I don't see any dried blood or drag
marks.

Trayvon and Roger are also looking around on the ground for
signs of violence.

ANN

Let's keep moving; I don't like it
here.

Kara signals Jermaine to get the group moving again.

KARA

Let's move, Jermaine!

The group travels about 100 yards when Jermaine stops.

Jermaine stops the group with hand signals when he sees
something suspicious up ahead.

Jermaine then uses hand signals to get Kara to come up front.
Kara quickly responds by running up to his position. She
needs to determine the threat that caused Jermaine to stop
the group.

KARA (CONT'D)

What is it?

JERMAINE

I'm not sure, but something doesn't
feel right.

Kara has everybody hit the ground and take up defensive
positions.

Kara and Jermaine take up positions on the ground. Kara gets
out her binoculars and looks.

BINOCULAR VIEW:

The binoculars go back and forth several times, catching
nothing out of the ordinary.

BINOCULAR VIEW: Full strength.

There are several small piles of clothing, including boots, shoes, personal items, and even a weapon, lying nearby.

KARA
There are piles of clothes and
personal items up ahead.

JERMAINE
Why would somebody do that?

KARA
Maybe it's some kind of dump?

Kara hands Jermaine the binoculars to look for himself.

GROUP

Everyone is anxious to find out what is going on. They are signaling each other.

KARA

JERMAINE
I see usable things in the piles,
like weapons and hygiene items.

KARA
Yeah, everything we are in need of.

JERMAINE
Who leaves usable things anywhere
anymore?

Jordan walks up while keeping a low profile, his weapon ready.

JORDAN
What is it?

JERMAINE
Several piles of clothing and all
sorts of other things, even
weapons.

JORDAN
Nobody leaves that stuff lying
around. It's got to be a trap.

KARA

Yeah, it's a trap... But if we go around, it will be three days in the sun with only one day of water left.

JERMAINE

So, we check it out?

KARA

We check it out.

JORDAN

So, whose turn is it?

KARA

Sarah and Roger's.

JORDAN

I'll let them know.

KARA

No, you keep watch with Jermaine; I'll get them.

SARAH

Sarah is lying on the ground listening to her headphones without a care in the world. Roger is lying a few feet away and is staring at her.

Sarah notices Roger staring at her.

SARAH

(whispering)
What?

ROGER

(whispering)
How do you do it?

SARAH

(whispering)
Do what?

ROGER

(whispering)
Stay completely detached from everything that is going on in this shitty world.

SARAH
(whispering)
I'm not detached; I'm ignoring
everything.

Kara walks up to them.

KARA
(quietly)
There's something up ahead we need
to check out, and it happens to be
your turn.

ROGER
(quietly)
Are you sure? I thought we checked
out the radiated bodies like 10
miles back?

KARA
(quietly)
You know everything works on a
rotating basis. If you're not up to
it, I'll have someone else do it.

ROGER
(quietly)
No, it's okay, I'm going. It's just
that I've been having this bad
feeling in the pit of my stomach.

KARA
(quietly)
Yeah, me too. I have had that
feeling since we left the city.

Roger stands up and dusts himself off, then heads toward the
front of the group.

Kara pulls Sarah's headphones off her head, catching her
attention.

KARA (CONT'D)
(quietly)
You too! Your up!

SARAH
God, I miss the old days when I
could just fuck somebody, and they
would take care of it for me.

KARA

Guess what? We all got screwed when the light came down, so now we have to take care of our own shit!

FOLLOW, Sarah wraps her headphones around her neck and follows after Roger.

She catches up to Roger.

SARAH

Slow down, damn it. I'm not in a hurry to die today.

They walk past Jordan and Jermaine, standing guard at the farthest point of the group.

Roger has Sarah stay behind him, several feet back, with her weapon ready.

Roger proceeds to cautiously advance toward the piles of clothing while looking all around for signs of danger.

Sarah follows quickly behind him with her weapon in her hand and ready to fire.

They stop a few feet from the piles of clothing when Roger notices something strange.

CLOSE ON, a large hole in the ground right next to the piles of clothing.

SARAH (CONT'D)

(quietly)

What is it?

ROGER

(quietly)

A large hole in the ground right beside the clothes.

SARAH

(quietly)

Why is there a hole?

ROGER

(nervous)

I don't know... Keep your weapon aimed at the hole, and if anything comes up out of there, you shoot it before it gets me, got it?

SARAH

Yeah, I got it; shoot everything
before it gets you.

ROGER

Don't forget!

Roger slowly approaches the hole while looking back every couple of steps in order to make Sarah is providing cover with her weapon.

CLOSE ON, the hole is large enough for a person to enter easily. Its appearance is slightly irregular.

Roger takes the flashlight he has in his pocket out and shines it into the hole.

SARAH

Be careful.

Roger responds by shaking his head.

CLOSE ON, Nothing is in the hole when he first shines his light in.

HOLE VIEW: When Roger looks over at Sarah to let her know he is going into the hole. A pair of glowing eyes appear briefly from the darkness of the hole.

TOP OF HOLE

Roger sits down beside the hole and slides his feet in first.

While looking around briefly, Sarah notices some make-up lying on the ground next to the pile of clothing and becomes distracted.

She walks over and picks up the items as Roger enters the hole.

IN THE HOLE

Roger slides down in the hole, his weapon drawn and his flashlight pointing the way.

BEHIND COVER

The other members of the group are keeping their distance behind cover with their weapons aimed in the direction of the hole.

PILE OF CLOTHES

Sarah notices several items she needs and wants. She lowers her weapon in order to pick through the items. Without thinking, she puts her headphones back on with the music blasting.

IN THE HOLE

Roger is finding a series of honeycombs. He follows one tunnel, and when he turns the corner, he stumbles upon a naked mutated humanoid, almost mole-like in appearance but with very large teeth and hooked claws for hands, feeding on what is left of a human body.

Roger freezes in his tracks, then tries to slowly and quietly back away without being detected.

Just when he is about to get away, he turns right into a group of them.

The creature signals its feeding time with a CLICKING SOUND.

Roger FIRES HIS WEAPON killing the first creature that attempts to grab him.

BEHIND COVER

GUN SHOT

The entire group goes running toward the hole to Roger's aid.

IN THE HOLE

A second creature sneaks up from behind and hits Roger in the side with one of its claws. Roger turns and SHOOTS, killing it as well.

The remaining creatures back away momentarily.

Roger painfully removes the claw from his side. He continues to back away, his weapon aimed at the creatures.

THE PILE OF CLOTHES

Sarah is completely unaware of what is going on down below and continues to pick through the pile of clothing.

IN THE HOLE

Roger FIRES his last round into the side of one of the mutants; he then throws the empty gun at another one, jumps up to the top of the hole, and tries to pull himself up.

A larger mutant buries its claws into Roger's lower leg.

TOP OF THE HOLE

Roger is losing his grip on the side of the hole.

ROGER

Help!, Somebody help!

Kara grabs his hands and tries to pull him up. Fighting against her is a mutant trying to drag him back down. Jermaine arrives and helps Kara by grabbing Roger's arm and back.

The others arrive at the hole and begin FIRING their weapons down into the hole.

Only the mutant's eyes are visible.

The mutants loosen their grip on Roger, allowing Kara and Jermaine to pull him up with ease.

When Roger's body reaches the top of the hole, there is a problem; Roger has been eaten in half, below the waist.

Kara is in shock; she continues to hold tightly to the arms of a dead Roger.

JERMAINE

He's dead, Kara!

KARA'S MEMORY

PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Kara and Jesse 17, her eldest son, are walking out of a parking garage when Kara realizes she left something in the car.

KARA

Shit, I forgot my phone in the car.
I'll be right back.

Just as Kara steps under the protection of the parking garage, the sun begins to flicker.

SUDDENLY, A LIGHT SO BRIGHT THAT IT IS ALMOST BLINDING.

Kara turns in the direction of Jesse.

JESSE

He feels the intense heat and, along with it, severe pain. He tries to make it back to his mother, Kara, and the protection of the garage.

Jesse falls just a few feet away, his clothing smoking.

Jessie tries to crawl to safety but can't.

Kara SCREAMS,

KARA

Jesse!

Kara starts after him and is grabbed by Travis.

KARA (CONT'D)

Let go of me! I have to save my
child!

TRAVIS

He's already dead.

Kara strikes Travis in the groin and breaks free.

Kara darts out to Jesse, but is turned back by the intense heat. Despite her arms being severally burned, she reaches out and grabs the outstretched arms of Jesse, pulling him into the protection of the garage.

Kara is being shaken by someone.

END OF KARA'S MEMORY

PRESENT TIME:

Jermaine is shaking Kara and yelling at her to let go.

JERMAINE

Let go, Kara, you can't help him!

Kara realizes where and when she is and releases her grip on the remains of Roger.

KARA

Let's kill those fucking creatures!
Burn them!

Trayvon and Jermaine light up two bottles with something in them and throw them down into the hole.

WITHIN SECONDS AND EXPLOSION

Several mutants ran from the hole.

An angry Kara draws her weapon and starts SHOOTING at the mutants as they exit their holes.

When Kara runs, everyone follows after the creatures.

Sarah notices everyone taking off running and starts after them, but all of a sudden she is dragged down into another hole, stopping only briefly at the top as she tries to keep from going further down into the hole.

SARAH

(screams)

Help! Someone Help!

As the others turn to see where she is, she is dragged the rest of the way down into the hole and disappears.

Kara turns as if to go after her.

JORDAN

You can't help her; none of us can
help her now.

The creatures turn and go on the offensive. Kara reluctantly abandons a rescue attempt.

KARA

We're leaving!

Kara takes off running while the others follow after her, SHOOTING as they move.

The mutants follow briefly and then disappear back into other holes within the desert terrain.

HOURS LATER:

Everyone is still feeling depressed and distraught over the loss of two friends.

Jermaine notices something in the distance.

JERMAINE

Hey, there's something up here you
have got to see, Kara!

In the distance is a line that separates the desert from a forest of beautiful, lush green vegetation, as far as the eye can see.

Mike yells out.

MIKE

Thank God, we made it! The stories
were true!

EVERYONE CHEERS

Michael starts to take the lead until Kara stops him.

KARA

Be careful; they won't be as
excited to see us as we are to see
them.

JERMAINE

What do you mean?

KARA

If you controlled a piece of the
last radiation-free land in the
world, would you be willing to
share it with everybody?

The group comes together to talk.

TRAYVON

So what do we do now?

MYESHA

I haven't eaten in days; none of us
have. I see green when I look out
there. And green means something is
growing out there, and I'm sure
that we can eat it.

KARA

I didn't say we weren't going; I'm
saying we get close, but we wait
until just before dark to go in.

BOB

We can't stay out here another
night with those mutant things
crawling around.

KARA

What do you think, Jermaine?

JERMAINE

Bob's right; we can't stay out here. Who knows how far those things can crawl underground?

KARA

Okay, spread out, Jordan; you lead the way. No one shoots unless they shoot first.

Jordan takes point as everyone following from a distance heads toward the tree line.

HOURS LATER:

They have reached the tree line as the sun is about to go down.

TREE LINE

The terrain is scorched all the way up to the forest, as if something preserved the forest from the rest of the world as it was being destroyed.

Everyone is lying down on the ground in a defensive position with their weapons chambered and ready for anything.

Kara signals Lexis to go in for a closer look.

With her bow in hand, Lexis runs quickly into the forest and disappears.

OBVIOUS ANIMAL NOISES COMING FROM THE LOCATION WHERE LEXIS ENTERED THE FOREST.

Myesha and Ann are lying beside each other with their weapons ready to fire.

ANN

Did you hear that?

MYESHA

It sounded like some kind of wild beast.

ANN

What do we do if it comes out here?

MYESHA

We kill it and eat its ass!

Trayvon gets up to go talk with Kara when he trips into a hole approximately 3-feet deep.

Trayvon starts to yell, until he realizes it is a mole creature's hole.

Both Ann and Myesha have their weapons pointed at him.

MYESHA (CONT'D)
(to Trayvon)
Are you good?

Trayvon shakes his head.

TRAYVON
Yeah, I'm good.

MYESHA
Then, pick up your weapon and get
your ass back up here.

Trayvon picks up his weapon and goes back to where he was positioned on the ground.

For several minutes, everyone looked around, expecting to be attacked at any moment.

SEVERAL SMALL BRANCHES BREAKING, in the tree line.

Everyone is nervously holding their breath.

Lexis emerges and signals for everyone to come in. Everyone gets up and quickly leaves the rough, sandy terrain and enters the forest next to where Lexis is standing.

KARA
Any signs of trouble?

LEXIS
I only went about a hundred yards
in. There are some homemade booby
traps up ahead to the left, but
there's been no sign of anyone
being around for quite some time.

KARA
Lead the way.

They all follow in Lexis's footsteps as Jermaine brings up the rear.

INT. WOODS - NIGHT

The group travels past the various homemade booby traps. Once clear of the booby traps, Kara signals everyone to gather around her.

KARA

We make camp here tonight. In the morning, Lexis, Jordan, and I will scout ahead; everybody else will stay here. Bob, you'll be in charge. For now, set up some defensive positions just in case somebody sees us enter their backyard.

MORNING

Kara walks around and does a head count as everyone is packing up their belongings.

KARA (CONT'D)

Alright, Lexis and Jordan are with me.

BOB

Are you sure you don't want me to go with you?

KARA

No, if we don't make it back, you'll need to keep everyone moving toward sanctuary.

JORDAN

You're still betting this is a sanctuary?

KARA

Now more than ever, look around; there's life here. And I'm sure we'll be able to find things we can eat.

MYESHA

Leave the food to me... I grew up poor in the south; I'll find us something to eat. You just get back here safely.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY

Floe is walking around her yard with her shotgun in her hand and Barney right behind her. She stops at a trap of some kind and finds it empty, and then she goes to another one and finds something moving around in it.

FLOE

I knew I heard something crawling
around out here last night.

Floe pulls out a bag, reaches into the trap, and quickly moves the creature into the bag. It fights once it's in the bag until she pulls out a club and kills it.

FLOE (CONT'D)

(to Barney)

It's better we eat them, than they
eat us.

Floe ties the bag to her side.

FLOE (CONT'D)

Let's go check the other traps, and
then we'll start cooking breakfast.

Something makes a sound and moves in the tall grass just past the yard as Floe goes back into the house.

Floe accidentally leaves the back door ajar as she enters the house.

INT. FARM HOUSE

Floe walks over to the sink and dumps the contents of the bag. She sits her shotgun on the countertop as she begins to prepare her catch.

EXT. FARM HOUSE

Something has moved from the dense vegetation into the backyard. It quickly makes its way near the door opening and quickly goes in.

INT. FARM HOUSE

Something is moving very quickly toward Floe, and just as it is about to get her, she turns and FIRES her shotgun at it.

The large bug-like creature partially explodes from the blast.

FLOE
It took a year, but I finally got
your ass!

The creature is flopping around.

Floe walks over to the bug.

FLOE (CONT'D)
This is for my husband; may he rest
in peace.

Floe stomps on the creature, killing it.

INT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Jordan, Lexis, and Kara are walking along when they hear something and stop.

GUNSHOT in the distance.

LEXIS
Did you guys hear that?

JORDAN
Be ready; they might know we're
here.

Jordan takes his weapon off his shoulders and gets ready to use it.

KARA
Yeah, so much for a peaceful
welcome.

JORDAN
(to Kara)
Do we go back?

KARA
No, we keep going. We need to see
what we are up against.

INT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

The group of cannibals is hot on Kara's trail.

SINGLE GUN SHOT

Several in the group point in the direction of the sound.

Skinner orders his tribe to move in the direction of the GUN SHOT.

SKINNER
(angry)
Go!

Skinner looks one more time at a dead cannibal trapped in one of Floe's booby traps.

INT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

The blue farm house is visible through the trees. Jordan, Lexis, and Kara are walking up to the backyard.

LEXIS
Wait, stop!

Kara stops within an inch of an almost invisible wire at ankle level that stretches all the way across to the trees.

Lexis follows the wire to a booby trap that would have sent a large, sharpened log flying right into Kara's chest.

LEXIS (CONT'D)
(to Kara)
Do you want me to set it off?

KARA
No, leave it alone, just in case
this wasn't meant for us.

Kara steps over and carefully places her foot on the other side of the wire.

After they all carefully step over the wire, they follow Kara to the backyard.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Kara and Lexis assume a prone position on the ground at the edge of the backyard.

Lexis notices the multiple traps in the backyard and points them out to Kara.

Kara points to the smoke bellowing out of the chimney.

KARA
Somebody's home, and breakfast is
cooking.

LEXIS
What do we do?

KARA
We get ourselves invited to eat.

Kara stands up, straps her weapon over her shoulders, and walks out into the yard with her hands up.

KARA (CONT'D)
(yells)
Hey, is anybody home? Hello,
anybody in the house?

INT. FARM HOUSE- CONTINUOUS

Floe is looking out the window in the kitchen.

KITCHEN WINDOW VIEW: Kara is walking toward the house with her hands up.

FLOE
(at Barney)
I'm becoming very disappointed in
your watchdog skills.

KARA O.S.
Hello, we don't mean you any harm;
we just want to talk with you.

The dog then looks to the door and starts BARKING.

FLOE
(at Barney)
A little late, don't you think?

Floe grabs her shotgun and heads to the door.

EXT. FARM HOUSE

The creepy old door slowly opens, and Floe peeks out.

FLOE
That's far enough! What do you
want?

Kara stops walking toward the door.

KARA
We are with a small group of
survivors from Atlanta.
(MORE)

KARA (CONT'D)

We are just trying to find a place
to call home.

FLOE

Well, you didn't find it here! Now,
get off my land before I shoot you!

KARA

If we go back into the desert,
we'll die.

Jordan is sneaking around the side of the house.

FLOE

If your friend keeps sneaking up on
me, I'll make sure you die before
me.

Kara shakes her head and nods at Jordan.

KARA

Put your gun down, Jordan; I don't
want you to make her nervous.

Jordan shoulders his weapon and walks around so Floe can see
him.

Barney forces himself from behind Floe and runs out to where
Lexis is hiding.

Barney runs up to Lexis, and she starts playing with him.

FLOE

You hurt my dog, and I'll put a
hole in your ass.

LEXIS

What's his name?

FLOE

Barney.

Lexis is petting Barney with care.

FLOE (CONT'D)

I guess if you love dogs, you can't
be all bad. Come on in, and we'll
talk.

Lexis, Barney, Jordan, and Kara start walking toward the
house.

Floe acts like something is wrong and turns her shotgun
toward Kara and FIRES.

Kara covers herself, thinking she is about to die.

Jordan and Lexis aim their weapons at Floe, ready to shoot.

Kara looks over at the large, dead serpent-like creature that was just about to attack her.

KARA
(to Floe)
Thanks...

FLOE
There are a lot of things out here
that can kill you; I'm the least of
your worries. Now, come on inside,
and I'll share breakfast with you.

The group lowers their weapons.

FLOE (CONT'D)
And somebody pick that thing up;
we'll be having him for supper.

Kara picks the dead creature up and looks at it.

KARA
Him, huh?

EXT. FOREST -CONTINUOUS

While the rest of the group are gathering up their belongings after a night's sleep under the stars, Myesha walks into camp carrying arms full of fresh fruit and nuts.

BOB
What do you have there, Myesha?

MYESHA
Breakfast!

Everyone walks over to see what's for breakfast.

Ann picks up a banana.

ANN
(surprised)
It's a banana; I haven't seen one
in two years.

Jermaine looks through the choices and picks an apple and a couple pecans.

JERMAINE

Everyone eat up; we are moving out
in 10 minutes.

MICHAEL

Where are we going?

JERMAINE

To find the others.

ANN

But Kara said to stay here.
Besides, we could stay here for a
while. This place is loaded with
food.

JERMAINE

We can't stay here.

ANN

Why not?

JERMAINE

Last night we were probed; someone
or something went through the camp.

MICHAEL

How do you know that?

JERMAINE

My pack is missing, along with my
extra ammo.

Everyone immediately starts checking their equipment.

ANN

My knife is gone!

BOB

Mine too!

TRAYVON

Why didn't they attack?

JERMAINE

They were waiting for
reinforcements.

TRAYVON

So why take our stuff?

JERMAINE

It's in case their reinforcements didn't arrive and they had to take us out on their own.

BOB

So why didn't you tell us earlier?

JERMAINE

I just discovered my stuff was missing, right before Myesha got back.

BOB

Jermaine is right; we can't stay. Let's get ready to move out. Jermaine, let me talk with you over here for a second.

As everyone else is getting ready to move, Jermaine goes over and talks with Bob behind some trees.

JERMAINE

What do you have in mind, Bob?

BOB

How many of them do you think there are?

JERMAINE

I figure two, maybe three. If it were more, they would have taken us already.

BOB

We need to get our stuff back, and we need to know how many we might have to deal with.

JERMAINE

I have an idea; I'll take the lead with Trayvon right behind me. You slow the rest of the group down and let whoever is watching think we got separated. Then we'll double back and surprise them.

BOB

Let's hope this works.

They leave behind the trees and return to the group.

BOB (CONT'D)

Let's move out, Jermaine; you take point.

Jermaine takes off, walking ahead, as Trayvon follows close behind him. The rest of the group slowly moves in behind them at a distance.

INT. FARM HOUSE- CONTINUOUS

Kara and Lexis are sitting at the kitchen table, while Jordan is standing by the window, looking out.

Floe is finishing up preparing breakfast.

LEXIS

Whatever you're cooking, it sure smells good!

FLOE

It's one of those things I shot today.

KARA

What are they?

FLOE

I don't know for sure. My husband thought they were some kind of worm or snake caught out there in the radiation zone when the light hit.

Floe puts the food on plates.

FLOE (CONT'D)

Hey Jordan, get over here and sit down; there ain't nobody getting through my traps without me knowing it.

Jordan sits down at the table.

LEXIS

What about us?

FLOE

Yeah, I'll have to make a few changes in my defenses.

Being very hungry, everyone starts eating right away.

Floe looks out the window as she puts the flying pan in the sink.

KARA
This is really good.

FLOE
You would never know they are
highly poisonous.

Everyone stops eating.

FLOE (CONT'D)
Don't worry; when you cook them, it
renders the poison harmless.

Jordan starts getting groggy.

FLOE (CONT'D)
It does have a mild sedative side
effect, though.

Within a couple of seconds, everyone is unconscious.

FLOE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, but in this world, we
all have to make deals we don't
like in order to survive.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

As Jermaine and Trayvon get further away, Bob trips and
pretends to roll his left ankle, falling over a small
embankment.

Mike and Ann quickly rush over to assess him for injuries.

ANN
Bob, are you alright?

Bob moves up to a sitting position, holding his left ankle.

BOB
No, I think I broke my ankle.

MIKE
I'll find something to make a
splint.

Mike walks around, finds some small sticks, and returns to
Bob's side.

Ann pulls her scarf off and hands it to Michael, who quickly
begins making a splint from it.

Out of nowhere, two males dressed in cannibal attire aim their drawn bows at Myesha. She reluctantly drops her weapon.

BOB
Two of you...

Another cannibal crawls out of a pile of leaves behind Bob and puts a knife at his throat.

BOB (CONT'D)
That better not be my knife.

The cannibal nicks Bob on the side of the neck with the knife blade, causing him to bleed. The cannibal then licks the bloody blade.

ANN
(to the cannibals)
What do you want?

One of the cannibals licks Ann's neck and then shoves her to the ground.

The cannibal starts pulling at her clothing when, all of a sudden, he is SHOT dead.

The other two cannibals look around, and as they do, Bob stabs the closet one in the throat.

The last cannibal tries to run off but is SHOT from behind by Jermaine.

Bob gets up, rubbing his neck, and looks down at the dying cannibal that he stabbed in the neck.

BOB
(to the cannibal)
It doesn't feel so good now, does it?

Suddenly, the long tentacles of a mutant quickly dragged off the dying cannibal.

TRAYVON
(scared)
We need to keep moving.

BOB
I hear that!

Jermaine starts walking in the direction the cannibal was trying to run.

MIKE
 (to Jermaine)
 What are you doing?

JERMAINE
 We need to get that ammo back and
 see what we are up against.

MYESHA
 Seriously?

JERMAINE
 We don't have a choice; their
 reinforcements could be here any
 minute.

MYESHA
 So, heading toward them is a good
 thing?

MIKE
 It beats staying here and waiting
 for that thing to come back.

Everyone quickly agrees and follows Jermaine down the path
 through the woods.

INT. FARM HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Kara, Lexis, and Jordan are all tied up and sitting at the
 table. Kara is the first one to wake up and look around.

Floe is looking at the picture of Kara and her two sons,
 Michael and Jesse, when she notices Kara has awakened.

FLOE
 Good-looking boys.

KARA
 They're my sons.

Kara, realizing she is tied up, fights with the ropes.

FLOE
 Did they survive? It won't do you
 any good; those knots are tight.

KARA
 Jesse was killed when the light
 hit. Michael is missing.

FLOE
 That's when you got them scars?

KARA

Yeah,

FLOE

I'm sorry I have to do this.

KARA

You don't have to do anything; you can let us go.

FLOE

Living here comes at a price.

KARA

So what? You sold us for some trinkets?

FLOE

It's nothing like that. I turn over everybody that wanders onto my land. And they leave me, my husband, and Barney here alone.

KARA

What are they?

Lexis and Jordan have now woken up.

KARA (CONT'D)

I asked you a question: what are they?

FLOE

Cannibals, I think.

JORDAN

I should have killed you.

FLOE

We all do what we have to do to survive. I'm sure you killed plenty getting here.

JORDAN

Only the people who were trying to kill us.

LEXIS

We didn't do anything to hurt you. Please let us go.

Lexis fights with the ropes.

FLOE
Save your strength; they'll be here
in a couple of minutes.

Floe looks out the window.

CLOSE ON, Four cannibals are walking toward the house.

FLOE (CONT'D)
(surprised)
They're here already.

KARA
Give us a fighting chance.

FLOE
How?

KARA
Cut halfway through the ropes,
please?

Barney gets up on Lexis's lap and starts licking her.

Floe has a change of heart and goes over and cuts partially
through their ropes.

FLOE
If you get away, don't try and come
back here; if you do, I'll shoot
you.

Floe helps Lexis stand up as Jordan and Kara get to their
feet.

Floe opens the door.

FLOE (CONT'D)
Let's go!

EXT. FARM HOUSE

The four cannibals have arrived and have come quickly to
check out their captives.

When one of the cannibals gropes Lexis.

LEXIS
Get your hands off me!

Barney gets angry and bites him on the leg. The cannibal
kicks Barney away and raises his bow to kill Barney.

SINGLE GUNSHOT

The cannibal falls to the ground, dead.

Everyone looks up at Floe, who is holding her smoking double-barrel shotgun.

Angry, one of the remaining three cannibals throws his spear at Floe, hitting her in the chest with it.

Floe FIRES the second barrel of her shotgun, killing the cannibal that just impaled her with his spear.

Floe drops her shotgun and slowly falls to the ground, mortally wounded.

Kara headbutts another cannibal and then kicks him off his feet.

Meanwhile, Jordan knocks the last cannibal to the ground with his shoulder and pins him to the ground.

Barney is vigorously trying to untie Lexis's ropes.

The cannibal fighting with Kara stands up, draws his knife from his waistband, and starts swinging it at Kara. She dodges his initial attack.

On his second attack, he cuts her arm.

When he moves in for the kill, a large, flying insect-like creature lands on his back and punctures his back with its stinger.

He is quickly overcome by the neurotoxins in its stinger.

While Jordan is holding down the last of the cannibals, the man manages to get his knife free and stab Jordan in the side. Jordan responds by headbutting the man several times, killing him.

Lexis, now free from her ropes, quickly unties Kara. Lexis re-enters the house to retrieve their weapons as Kara goes to help Jordan to his feet and untie him.

KARA

(to Jordan)

Can you make it back?

JORDAN

I'll be fine; it's nothing a few band-aids can't fix. It's a good thing I have a hard head... How about your arm?

KARA
It's just a scratch.

Lexis hands Jordan his weapon.

FLOE

Barney runs over to a dying Floe and begins licking her face.

Lexis runs to Floe's side as Kara and Jordan stand back.

KARA
Can we do anything to help you?

FLOE
Take good care of Barney.

LEXIS
I will...

FLOE
Don't let that damn thing eat on
me.

(while looking at the
insect feeding)

Kara quickly turns and shoots the insect off of the
cannibal's back, killing it.

KARA
He's not going to bother you;
you'll be able to rest easy.
Floe... Floe.

Floe has succumbed to her injuries and died.

Kara quickly checks for a pulse but doesn't find one.

KARA (CONT'D)
Let's gather as much as we can from
the house; it won't be long before
these guys are missed.
(to Jordan)
And we need to stop that bleeding
if we are going to make it back to
the others.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Jermaine is leading the group cautiously toward a temporary
encampment. He signals everyone to stop as he moves forward
to assess the strength of the group.

Jermaine works his way through the deep vegetation to get within several yards of the camp.

INT. ENCAMPMENT- CONTINUOUS

There are approximately eight cannibals walking around, with two people in one wooden cage and one in the other wooden cage.

Two of the cannibals are holding a shirtless man down as one cannibal cuts off both his arms, one at a time, with a machete.

The air is pierced by his SCREAMS of pain.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jordan is all bandaged up and about to pick up a large bag of goods they removed from the house. Kara is putting something in her bag, and Lexis is standing ready to go with Barney by her side.

KARA

Alright, let's get out of here.

FAINT MALE SCREAMS IN THE DISTANCE

JORDAN

I think that is what was waiting for us.

Kara starts walking toward the screams.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

What are you doing, Kara?

KARA

We need to see what we are up against.

JORDAN

We are in no condition for a fight.

KARA

I'm not looking for a fight.

JORDAN

We can't help them...

Kara reluctantly agrees, turns, and goes in a different direction.

Jordan and Lexis quickly follow.

MINUTES LATER:

INT. FARM HOUSE- CONTINUOUS

The cannibals are cleaning out all the food and anything that is valuable in the farmhouse. Skinner is looking around the kitchen and notices Kara's photo on the countertop, he picks it up and looks at it.

Michael walks by carrying a basket with canned goods. Skinner stops him and holds the picture up to Michael.

CLOSE ON, it's Michael.

SKINNER
Bring him!

A cannibal grabs Michael and binds his hands.

INT. ENCAMPMENT- CONTINUOUS

Within a couple of seconds, the injured man goes unconscious and bleeds out.

The cannibal places the arms on the fire to cook, along with the two legs and upper torso of another man.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Jermaine is disgusted by the atrocities he has seen and takes aim with his weapon. But then lowers his weapon when he thinks he sees something familiar.

Jermaine moves from his position to get a better look. He moves another 50-feet closer. He stops when he knows for sure what he is looking at.

INT. ENCAMPMENT- CAGE- CONTINUOUS

A badly battered Sarah is in one of the two cages, along with another female.

JERMAINE
(surprised, to self)
Sarah, but how?

Jermaine slowly starts backing away to tell the others.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Jermaine returns to the group that has been waiting on him.

BOB
So, how many?

JERMAINE
I counted eight...

BOB
We probably should just try to go around them.

JERMAINE
They got Sarah.

ANN
Are you sure it was her?

JERMAINE
It's her, alright... Don't ask me how she survived.

MIKE
Then we have to go get her.

Mike starts to move toward the encampment when Jermaine grabs him.

JERMAINE
Did you forget what I said about there being eight flesh eaters?

TRAYVON
I'm sorry for her, but we can't take on eight. We got lucky with the couple we killed earlier.

MYESHA
What was that screaming we heard a couple minutes ago?

JERMAINE
They're cooking dinner, and one of their captives is on the menu.

MIKE
So, Sarah could be next? We have to help her.

JERMAINE

I think it's crazy to even try. But it's your call, Bob; Kara left you in charge.

BOB

If we do this, there's a chance some of us won't make it. So it needs to be all or nothing.

Everyone quickly agreed to fight.

BOB (CONT'D)

Alright, here's what we are going to do...

EXT. ENCAMPMENT- CONTINUOUS

Everyone has moved into position except Jermaine and Mike, who move around the other side of the camp and take up positions.

Before Jermaine and Mike can get into position, two cannibals approach Sarah's cage, each with a machete in their hands.

CAGE

One of the cannibals opens the cage and goes to grab Sarah, who is playing dead.

The cannibal picks her arms up and lets them drop, and then decides he wants something a little more lively.

They quickly grabbed the other woman, MARSHA, 21-30, Caucasian, and dragged her out. Marsha looks over at the man in the other cage briefly. MEL 35-45, athletic build, Caucasian.

The second Marsha is outside the cage; she breaks free, stabbing one of the cannibals in the neck and kicking the other one to the ground.

She takes off, running toward the tree line.

CLOSE ON, Mel is hoping she can get away.

AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, just as Marsha reaches the tree line and is about to flee.

Marsha is hit and falls to the ground, dead.

CLOSE ON, Cage - Mel is very angry and wants revenge.

One of the cannibals is holding Sarah's weapon in the air, celebrating his kill by FIRING several more rounds into the air.

The other cannibal returns to the cage to remove Sarah.

After a couple of kicks to her ribs, she stops faking her death and stands up.

SARAH

You can't eat me; I'm anemic!

The cannibal smiles and licks his lips at Sarah.

As he grabs her and drags her out of the cage, he is SHOT in the head.

All of the cannibals grab their weapons.

WEAPONS FIRE

The cannibal with Sarah's weapon FIRES at Jermaine, forcing him to dive for cover.

As the cannibal walks past the male cage with his back turned in pursuit of Jermaine, Mel from inside the cage grabs him by the hair and stabs him with a home-made weapon.

As the cannibal dies, Mel takes the automatic weapon away from him.

Mike SHOOTs and kills one of the cannibals as he is about to throw a spear at Sarah.

Mike grabs Sarah and takes her to cover.

Bob is hit with an arrow in the shoulder as he stands up to fire his weapon.

Trayvon FIRES his weapon, killing the cannibal.

Within a few seconds, all the cannibals were dead.

Mel has broken the lock on his cage and has joined the others in the middle of the camp.

JERMAINE

Clear! Everyone alright?

Everyone begins to walk out into the open. Bob is the last one to come out of cover with an arrow sticking out of his shoulder.

BOB

Yeah, not so much... Let's get the hell out of here before anyone else shows up.

TRAYVON

(to Mel)

Who the hell are you?

MEL

I was supper!

An arrow hits suddenly and pierces the side of Trayvon's neck.

Trayvon falls forward, and Mel catches him in the standing position.

More cannibals have arrived to join in the fight.

Everyone is scrambling for cover.

Trayvon is hit three more times in the back by arrows.

MEL (CONT'D)

(to Trayvon)

Sorry about your luck, but your sacrifice can help save me and maybe your friends.

Mel uses Trayvon as a shield to get cover with Trayvon's help.

He drops a dead Trayvon and scrambles to get behind some rocks. Then Mel begins FIRING his weapon.

A cannibal is shot, and killed by Mel.

Quickly, the cannibals are overwhelmed by the new arrivals and are quickly killed by intense FIRE POWER.

CLOSE ON,

Kara, Jordan, and Lexis are standing there with their weapons drawn.

Everyone comes out of their cover positions to greet them with a re-uniting of the group.

As Kara is looking at Mel, he introduces himself.

MEL (CONT'D)

I'm Mel, thanks.

KARA

These are my people.

Jermaine quickly runs up to Mel and places a gun to his head.

Mel responds by dropping his weapon.

MEL

I could see you feeling a certain way about how things played out.

JERMAINE

You use my friend as a goddamn shield! Now I'm going to finish what the Cannibals started.

MEL

There seems to be some kind of misunderstanding.

Jermaine readies to pull the trigger.

KARA

(to Jermaine)

Wait a second!

(to Mel)

You've got about 2 seconds to convince me that I shouldn't let Jermaine kill you.

Mel, still defiant, looks briefly at Jermaine.

MEL

He was already dead; you would have done the same thing in my position. Hell, we've all done some things to survive that we wouldn't have done two years ago.

KARA

Anyone see what happened?

BOB

Trayvon took an arrow in the neck.

Kara walks over and examines Trayvon's body.

MEL

I'm not a doctor, but I've seen my share of wounds, and that one was fatal. He just didn't know it at the time.

JERMAINE

That didn't give him any right to use him like that.

KARA

How many times was Trayvon hit before this man used him as a shield?

ANN

At least three times. All of the arrows were in the back.

KARA

Lower your weapon, Jermaine.

JERMAINE

Why?

JORDAN

Because, Trayvon was already dead. He just did what any person wanting to live would do.

Mel slowly slides Jermaine's weapon away from his head.

KARA

What's your name?

MEL

Mel...

KARA

Where's your group?

MEL

Most of them were killed when we were ambushed by these things. The other two that survived with me were yesterday's lunch.

Kara looks up toward a dead Marsha as Lexis checks her to see if she is still alive.

Lexis shakes her head and then returns to the group to check on Bob's injuries.

MEL (CONT'D)

(Mel's eyes dropped with sadness)

She was a good friend.

KARA

Sorry,

MEL
 (saddened)
 Yeah, me too...

Sarah and Mike come walking up to the group.

LEXIS
 (excited and happy)
 Sarah!

Lexis runs up and gives Sarah a hug.

LEXIS (CONT'D)
 I'm so glad you're alive!

KARA
 (surprised to Sarah)
 I'll be damned; I wrote you off as
 dead... How?

A WEIRD SOUNDING HORN

Mel quickly grabs up the weapon and starts walking away from the sound.

MEL
 If you don't want to become lunch
 meat, I suggest you follow me!

KARA
 Why?

MEL
 Because in about five minutes,
 there will be a whole bunch of
 those flesh-eating sons of bitches
 here for dinner! And I'm sure they
 will be a little upset that someone
 killed the cooks!

JERMAINE
 Shit!

KARA
 You heard what the man said—let's
 get the hell out of here.

Kara grabs hold of the arrow sticking out from Bob's shoulder, breaks off the arrow head, and then pulls it out.

Mel is standing there watching when he notices a nearby plant and runs over and grabs a few leaves from it.

He returns and places them in Bob's shirt next to the wound.

MEL

They act like antibiotics and speed healing. I know this place well. Follow me or don't, but you've got to go now!

Mel starts walking away from the group in the opposite direction of the horn.

Lexis quickly grabs all the leaves off the plant and puts some of them in her bag. She takes the rest and places them on Jordan's wounds.

JERMAINE

I don't trust this guy.

KARA

We'll follow him for now; later, we'll decide what to do next.

Everyone takes off after Mel.

FOREST - CONTINUOUS

The group is moving through the forest, with Bob and Jordan having trouble keeping up.

Kara notices them struggling and makes her way to Mel.

KARA

You have to slow down. I have people wounded.

MEL

We can't slow down; they'll just have to keep up.

Kara looks back, and Bob and Jordan are falling back. She has to make a decision.

KARA

(to Mel)

Here's where we part ways.

Mel stops walking when Kara signals her people to stop and rest.

MEL

If, by chance, you or any of your people survive. Head east across the desert, and you'll find me.

Mel quickly takes off, this time running.

Everyone has stopped and is looking at Kara for answers as to why they aren't following Mel.

JERMAINE
What are we doing, Kara?

KARA
We aren't going to lose anyone else.

Kara is looking up at the trees.

KARA (CONT'D)
Lexis.

Lexis has just arrived with Jordan and sits him down to rest.

LEXIS
Yeah,

KARA
Do you remember where those traps were when we first came in?

LEXIS
Sure, it's that way!

Lexis points in a slightly different direction.

KARA
Take us there.

Jermaine takes Lexis's place in helping Jordan.

Lexis takes off, leading the way back to the desert.

2 HOURS LATER:

Lexis stops in the pathway when the others arrive.

LEXIS
Watch, there is a wire here.
(points)
And there.
(points)

KARA
We need to slow them down. Can we move the traps?

JERMAINE
Sure, but I'll need some help.

KARA
Let's get to it.

5 MINUTES LATER:

The traps have been moved, set, and camouflaged.

JERMAINE
That should slow them down.

KARA
Alright, we're crossing the desert;
cover up.

FOREST/DESERT

The group emerges from the trees.

Skinner is standing in the desert 100 feet away with two male cannibals by his side and a hooded Michael.

Everyone raises their weapons in order to fire.

Skinner shakes his finger and takes Michael's hood off.

KARA
Stop! No one shoots! That might be
my son!

Kara puts down her weapon and walks toward Michael with her hands up.

KARA (CONT'D)
Michael!

MICHAEL
Mom, get away!

KARA
Don't hurt him. I'll do whatever
you want.

Skinner waved for her to come to him.

GROUP

Sarah taps Jermaine on the shoulder and gets him to follow her back into the trees.

Kara continues to walk forward as the group looks on with increasing anxiety.

Kara is within 25 feet when Skinner cuts Michael's ear and licks the blade.

KARA

Please, you can have me; just let him go.

SKINNER

Your people fight well. Now I'm going to kill their leader.

Skinner throws a large knife in front of Kara.

SKINNER (CONT'D)

Now, pick it up.

After Kara picks up the knife, Skinner has a smirk on his face. He looks at Kara and then at Michael before pushing Michael backward into a large mole hole.

Kara panics and rushes toward Skinner with a knife in hand.

Skinner cracks his neck in anticipation of a good kill.

SERIES OF ACTION

- 1.) -- Kara swings wildly, and Skinner pushes her to the ground.
- 2.) -- Kara stands back up and rushes again; this time she rolls and cuts Skinner on the leg. She tries to look into the mole hole, but Skinner grabs her leg and swings her away.
- 3.) -- Kara stands back up and attacks again; on her two swings, she manages to cut Skinner on the side of the face. Skinner punches Kara in the nose, knocking her down.
- 4.) -- With her nose bleeding, Kara is rolling on the ground. Skinner kicks her in the ribs and celebrates with the newly arrived Cannibals behind the group.
- 5.) -- Skinner quickly mounts Kara and prepares to finish her off with his knife. Kara uses her knee to knock him off balance and off her chest.
- 6.) -- Kara gets a knee on Skinner's chest and begins punching him multiple times. Skinner is unable to get her off his chest or defend her punches. She continues to almost beat him to death.

END OF A SERIES OF ACTION

Kara turns and realizes she forgot Michael.

KARA

Michael!

Kara bends down to look into the mole hole and is grabbed from behind. She manages to turn around.

KARA'S POV, The eyes of a large mole peek out over a hole that is right behind Skinner.

Kara kicks Skinner in the leg, breaking it. He stumbles, and Kara kicks him in the chest, causing him to get very close to the hole.

Just when Skinner regains his balance, the moles take his feet out from under him and drag him into their hole, SCREAMING.

MACHINE GUN FIRE

FOREST/DESERT

The bullets are hitting only the cannibals. Those not killed slip back into the trees.

Three dune buggies with mounted machine guns are approaching.

KARA

Kara runs back to the mole hole her son was pushed into to look.

KARA

(frantic)

Michael!

KARA'S POV, the mole hole is empty.

Kara is beside herself with grief, slides back, and cries.

The buggy stops in front of Kara, and Mel gets out of one and walks over to Kara.

MEL

I thought I would return the favor.

The group has made it over with a surprise.

KARA

(sullen and depressed)

I just found my son, and now I've lost him forever.

MEL'S POV, Michael is running up.

MEL
It wouldn't be that kid there,
would it?

Kara turns, and when she recognizes Michael, she jumps up and runs to meet him.

MICHAEL
(while running)
Mom!

They embrace with joy and receive hugs and kisses from Kara.

KARA
(to Michael)
How? I thought they took you.

Sarah is happy she could bring joy to Kara.

SARAH
As it turns out, those things are almost blind. They sense movement. I just didn't move until they left and walked out. I remembered the way.

KARA
Thank you,

MEL
I hate to break up the reunion, but they'll be back with reinforcements. Can I give you a ride to my place?

JERMAINE
(suspicious)
Where's that?

MEL
Afterlight, some of the new arrivals referred to it as sanctuary.

Kara nods her head, says Yes.

KARA
You heard the man; everyone climb on.

Mel has Kara take the front passenger seat of his buggy, with Michael on her lap.

Once everyone is in or on a vehicle, they drive off across the desert.

VIEW: The sun is setting across the desert as they drive into the sunset.

THE END