

EXITUS

"Pilot"

Written by

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EXT. ZOO ATLANTA - GORILLA DECK AREA - DAY

SUPER: PRESENT DAY

POV: SEEN THROUGH ANIMALISTIC EYES

Alarms BLARE as a RECORDED VOICE broadcasts on loud speakers:
ESCAPED ANIMAL. DO NOT APPROACH. PLEASE SEEK IMMEDIATE
INSIDE SHELTER WHILE OUR KEEPERS HANDLE THE SITUATION.

Visitors take cover as THE BEAST barrels towards a picnic
area where four BOYS and a girl are talking.

The Beast pushes two of The Boys to the ground and
immediately focus' it's attention on a third.

The third BOY jumps across the picnic table.

As the other children scatter, the Boy and the Beast circle
each other, keeping the picnic table between them.

The Beast hurls the table over the young child's head and
approaches the Boy.

END POV

As the Girl approaches, we see a large Silverback gorilla
known as, Taz. She places her hand on the massive creature's
shoulder.

GIRL
Taz. It's OK.

INT. CDC CONFERENCE ROOM - ATLANTA, GA - DAY

SUPER: 13 YEARS AGO - THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT PLAGUE

At the Center for Disease Control, SCIENTISTS watch multiple
TV monitors.

INTERCUT TV BROADCASTS

TV #1
The disease has been reported in
the city of Dubai, now making it
officially in twelve countries
across the globe.

TV #2
Reports are coming in saying that
the country's National Guard has
been called to active duty while
other states--

TV #3

People everywhere are raiding
pharmacies and buying up flu-
related medicines--

TV #4

Director of the CDC Steven Jaetson
made a statement earlier today.

STEVEN JAETSON (56), straight-laced, three-piece business
suit, no nonsense type and head of the CDC, stands behind a
podium. A man with a reputation of being strict, stern, and
straight to the point.

STEVEN

At this time we are encouraging
people with flu-like symptoms to
seek medical help immediately and
to keep contact with others to a
bare minimum. The important thing
is to stay calm.

DR. JANET RICHARDS (28). A Native Georgian and the classic
perfect example of a Georgia Peach, sits at a desk watching
the broadcast.

JANET

Bossman doesn't look too pleased
now does he.

Director Jaetson enters the room and mutes the volume on the
televisions.

STEVEN

Alright everyone, what do you have?

DR. DAVID CHUNG (35), your stereotypical nerd/Dungeons &
Dragons player, conspiracy theorist and tech guru of the
team, approaches a projection screen and begins his
presentation.

DAVID

Based on reports from our friends
overseas, the virus was first seen
48 hours ago in New Zealand and
Australia. Russia has had 3
outbreaks reported within the last
24 hours.

EMILY HENSTRIDGE (23), multi-color streaks of hair to match
her bright and chipper personality, lab assistant and
computer expert, raises her hand.

EMILY

My sources say those reports from Russia may have been released late. Also that it's a lot worse there than the government is letting on.

JANET

This thing's popped up and spread faster than the biblical plague.

STEVEN

Minutes ago, the President was made aware of cases appearing in the U.S. We'll be receiving a sample shortly. David and Emily, you two start getting the lab ready. I need to talk to Dr. Richards alone.

David and Emily leave the room.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Since William is not here yet, I am putting you in charge of this one. We need to find a cure and we needed it done yesterday.

JANET

I can handle it.

STEVEN

The President will be declaring Martial Law soon. Things are going to get rough. It's going to be a lot of weight to bear.

Janet kisses Steven.

INT. CAR OF WILLIAM MCCORD - ATLANTA, GA - SAME

WILLIAM MCCORD (33), an absent-minded professor crossed with a kind-hearted Jack Pearson/This is Us personality, drives down a busy street.

William talks on his cell.

WILLIAM

Got the kitchen stocked with a good two weeks of food and medicines. On my way to work now. Traffic is nuts.

JENNIFER MCCORD (33), wife to William, is heard on the other end.

JENNIFER (O.S.)
Just be careful out there.

School bells ring in the background over the phone.

JENNIFER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Looks like they're letting the kids
out now.

WILLIAM
Tell Delilah I love her.

JEDIDIAH SAUNDERS (42), African American, long-knotted beard,
dreadlocks, tattered clothing, a homeless man, dazed and
disoriented, coughs while walking toward the street.

JENNIFER (O.S.)
I will. Love you.

WILLIAM
Love you too.

Jedidiah stumbles out into the road.

William slams on the brakes and exits the car.

EXT. CITY STREET - SAME

Jedidiah lays motionless as William rushes up to his side.

WILLIAM
Jesus, are you alright? I didn't
see you there.

JED
I didn't mean to... not feeling...

The man starts to cough as his body goes into convulsions.

WILLIAM
Somebody call 911!

INT. SCHWARTZ RESIDENCE - AUSTIN, TX - SAME

A modest two-story, two car garage styled home. Yard, freshly
cut with vines that cover a white picket fence. In front of
the fence, a typical plain metal mailbox with the name,
SCWARTZ.

INSIDE: Inexpensive furniture fills the house as various
framed photos of family and friends align the walls.

Books about various countries and their cultures fill the bookshelves with framed documents of multiple patents spread out on top.

INT. SCHWARTZ RESIDENCE - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - SAME

LAURA SCHWARTZ (28), the classic girl-next-door, sits upright in her bed under the covers, coughing and blowing her nose. A television news broadcast plays faintly in the background.

A knock at the bedroom door.

LAURA
(coughing)
Come in.

PETER SCHWARTZ (28), a reluctant genius, down with the establishment type, hippie-casual attire, walks in carrying a brown paper bag.

PETER
Feeling any better?

LAURA
No and the cough medicine isn't working. Neither is the throat spray. Do you think I have it?

PETER
Nah, you have the basic flu, sweetie. They say it is extremely contagious and I'm feeling OK.

LAURA
You've never been sick. Not even when you were little.

PETER
Pretty sure I couldn't even handle something like that.

Peter pulls out a container of soup from the bag.

PETER (CONT'D)
Also, dropped by that sandwich shop you like and got you some chicken noodle soup.

Laura grabs the container, opens the lid and tries to smell the contents.

LAURA
If only I could smell it.

Peter pulls out a small rectangular box wrapped with a bow.

PETER
I also got you this.

Peter hands over the gift.

Laura opens the present.

A picture of Laura and Peter in front of a straw cabin surrounded by a large group of African villagers in a picture frame.

LAURA
I love it.

Laura places the picture on her bed-side table.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Any word on how they're doing over there?

PETER
Everyone's fine, so far.

LAURA
Peter, working with the Peace Corps. is great and everything--

PETER
But?

LAURA
You're wasting your talent. I know how much you like helping others.

PETER
Laura--

LAURA
You did great things as an engineer. Your patents are--

PETER
Are what pays for my ability to go out and help others.

LAURA
And your medical studies--

PETER
Will still be there when I'm ready to continue them.

A news flash appears on a muted television playing in the background: President addresses the nation on the outbreak.

LAURA
President is on.

Laura turns up the volume.

PRESIDENT HOWARD J. WILLIAMS (57), enters the press room and approaches the podium.

PRESIDENT WILLIAMS
Today, reports of the new super flu spreading across the globe has officially made its way to the United States. Anyone experiencing severe flu-like symptoms, please call the number appearing--

Laura goes into severe coughing fit. Her body stiffens as her eyes roll into the back of her head.

Peter jumps on the bed and holds her tight to his chest.

PETER
Laura?

She doesn't respond.

Peter pulls out his cell phone and calls the number on the screen.

PETER (CONT'D)
Hold on. I'm right here.

INT. CDC LABORATORY - SAME

Doctors Richards, Henstridge and Chung dressed in biohazard gear, work in a sealed-off lab.

David prepares multiple test tubes while Emily preps the lab, moving equipment from one area to another.

Janet researches viruses in a database as she prints out results sent to her from other labs across the globe.

Steven Jaetson observes from the other side of a glass window as he activates a microphone.

STEVEN
Anybody know where the hell McCord is?

EMILY

No word yet sir. Good news is, we got an update from Russia.

DAVID

Shared group reports from our friends overseas say that the virus has three unrecognizable proteins.

JANET

The National Institute for Biological Standards and Control in the UK suggests that the proteins may be synthetic.

DAVID

If they are, not any I'm familiar with. Nothing matching in the database either. I smell black-ops all over this.

JANET

You've watched too many X-Files, shug'.

William walks into the room with the glass partition where Steven is.

JANET (CONT'D)

Hey there, 'bout time you made it.

WILLIAM

Sorry, got here as soon as I could. What do we have so far?

William clears his throat as his brow starts to bead-up with sweat.

STEVEN

You OK?

Janet give a quick "step away" look to Steven.

Steven walks away from William to the other side of the room.

WILLIAM

Exhausted. The last couple of hours were hell. School let out early due to some kids being sick. My wife had to drop everything and pick up Delilah. Also had to take a homeless man to a hospital. Came here after the emergency room.

Janet runs over to a wall and slams her hand down on a large red button.

Protective glass drops from the ceiling surrounds William on the other side of the partition. Caging him in glass.

ALARMS

JANET

William may be infected sir.

WILLIAM

It hasn't made it this far yet.

STEVEN

It officially hit the U.S. a few hours ago. Figures, the one day you show up late.

EXT. SCHWARTZ RESIDENCE - HOUSTON, TX - NIGHT

SUPER: 12 HOURS LATER

The white picket fence now lays on the lawn in piece. Tire tracks run across a once perfectly cared for lawn all the way to an open front door.

CDC vans now rest parked on the lawn, close to the front door of the house.

The back doors of the vans fly open.

Laura, unconscious on a stretcher surrounded by plastic, is wheeled into one of the vans.

VARIOUS SCIENTISTS in bio-hazard suits fill the other with lab equipment and a large box marked CAUTION: SAMPLES.

Peter runs out the door. His arms, covered with band-aids various sized patches. In the middle of both arms, tight gauze holds a cotton ball in place.

TWO CDC AGENTS grab him before he can approach the van.

PETER

Where you taking her!

The two CDC agents drag Peter to his front room and sit him on the couch.

PETER (CONT'D)

Where you taking her, damn it!

CDC AGENT

Sorry Mr. Schwartz, but your wife's condition has gotten worse. We just can't provide the proper medical care for her here.

DR. JOSEPH EDWARDS (46), tall, slender in face under a bio-hazard suit, walks through the front door and into the living room.

JOSEPH

Now Mr. Schwartz, please calm down.

PETER

What's wrong with her Dr. Edwards? Why won't she wake up?

JOSEPH

Your wife has slipped into a coma.

PETER

Coma?

Dr. Edwards coughs.

JOSEPH

We're getting reports from all over the world. No deaths yet, but--

Joseph goes into a sever coughing fit that brings him to his knees.

Peter bends down, takes his hand and lifts him back on his feet.

PETER

None of you are looking too good.

JOSEPH

All your test results came back negative for infection. Peter--

PETER

You want us to go to the CDC for further study. Am I right?

JOSEPH

Thank you, I know we've asked and done a lot already.

PETER

I obviously have a natural immunity to this.

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)
If I have to give more samples to
help you guys figure this thing
out, so be it.

Joseph takes a seat on a nearby chair, coughs again and spits
up a little blood.

Peter gabs ahold of the hood and begins to remove it.

JOSEPH
(still coughing)
Don't.

PETER
Really? Kind of pointless now,
don't ya think?

Peter grabs some nearby medical gauze and hands it to him as
he helps Joseph take off the suit.

Joseph wipes the blood away from his mouth.

PETER (CONT'D)
Come on. The sooner we can get on
the road, the better.

Peter takes Joseph's hand, places it around his shoulder and
helps to walk him to the front door. Peter see the two men
from earlier passed out in the back of the van with Laura.

PETER (CONT'D)
You think you can make it--

Joseph goes completely limp in Peter's arms.

Peter places Joseph in the passenger seat, takes the keys to
the van, straps him in, takes a seat at the wheel.

INT. CDC - HALLWAY - DAY 3 - DAY

Janet, a tad paler in complexion than before, stands at the
doorway as Laura is wheeled in by two CDC agents.

JANET
Down the hall and to the right,
gentlemen. Second door down.

The two men acknowledge the request as they walk by.

Peter walks through the door with Joseph in-tow.

Joseph coughs.

JOSEPH
Hey, Janet. Good to see you. What's
with the lockdown.

JANET
The entire building has been
infected. All of us.

JOSEPH
Hope you got room, for one more.

Peter places Joseph in a wheelchair as he passes out.

JANET
He wasn't kiddin' was he? Thank you
for coming in Mr. Schwartz.

PETER
Anything to help my wife. Whatever
you need from me, you'll get.

Peter get behind the wheelchair and grabs the handles.

PETER (CONT'D)
Where to?

JANET
This way.

The three walk down a hallway.

JANET (CONT'D)
How long has he been like this?

PETER
Started showing signs about two
days ago. Got worse on the way
here.

JANET
Most everyone is out sick. This
thing is everywhere.

PETER
I've worked jobs as a lab-tech
before, I'll do whatever I can to
help.

JANET
We don't usually recruit civilians.
Let's get this guy settled. We'll
start your tests and discuss your
medical background. See what you
can do from there.

Janet and Peter carry Joseph down the hallway.

Time passes. As Radio Broadcasts play, a split screen image of our Homeless Man and Laura Schwartz shows a glimpse into mankind's future.

R.B. 1

Cities across the globe are without power as what has been now dubbed as "The Enders" virus, named after the phrase "The End of Days"--

SPLIT SCREEN:

Laura Schwartz/Jedidiah Saunders

IN UNISON: Tossing and turning in their hospital beds. Their breath quickens as their bodies convulse, going into a seizure.

R.B. 2

Multiple reports of people slipping into comas are coming from all over the planet. While nobody appears to have died through their long-term exposure--

SPLIT SCREEN:

IN UNISON: Jed and Laura's eyes open and turn solid blue in color. A spark of electricity illuminates from their eye-sockets.

R.B. 3

Riots begin to break out among cities nationwide as the first death tolls from the End of Days virus hit half a million world-wide.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM OF JEDIDIAH SAUNDERS - DAY

Jedidiah Saunders sleeps peacefully in bed with monitors working in the background.

DR. ANNA MONTGOMERY (35), wearing a doctor's coat covered in bright cheerful stickers, a Patch Adams type of doctor, enters.

Jedidiah awakens.

ANNA

Morning.

JED
Where am I?

ANNA
Northside Hospital. You gave us
quite the scare there, sir. Mind
telling me your name?

Doctor Montgomery grabs the man's chart and begins to take
notes.

JED
Jed. Jedidiah Saunders.

ANNA
Have any family we can call for you
Jed? Let them know you're OK.

JED
No. No family. How did I get here?
Last thing I remember was stumbling
into traffic. Did I get hit by a
car?

Doctor Montgomery puts the chart down, pulls out an ear
thermometer and starts to take Jed's temperature.

ANNA
You came down with that Super Flu
that got everybody. Almost everyone
here called in sick. We're a little
behind schedule right now.

Doctor Montgomery removes the thermometer.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Your temperature is back to normal.
That's good.

JED
When can I leave?

ANNA
Let's get you another day of rest
just for observation. You were in a
coma for a few days.

JED
I can't afford this--

ANNA
The guy in the car is paying for
all of this. Works for the CDC.

JED
Thank you doctor and please tell
him... I'm sorry, what's his name?

ANNA
Mr. McCord.

JED
Please tell Mr. McCord thank you.

ANNA
I will. Just get some rest. I'll
check back in with ya later.

Doctor Montgomery exits.

Jed stares at the door for a brief moment and gets out of
bed.

*The song by Fleetwood Mac: Never Going Back Again, plays from
here without cut and/or edit until the end of the next three
scenes.*

Jed walks over to the partition leading to the adjacent room.
He moves his hand over the lock in a circular fashion. The
door unlocks.

INT. NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL - ROOM ADJACENT TO JEDIDIAH - SAME

Jedidiah steps through and looks at the man sleeping in the
bed. He focuses his attention towards the closet in the room,
walks over and proceeds to remove the man's clothing and a
small leather case.

INT. NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL - JEDIDIAH'S HOSPITAL BATHROOM - SAME

Jedidiah wipes the moisture off the bathroom mirror, opens
the small leather case and pulls out a pair of scissors, a
razor and shaving cream.

**INT. NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL - HALLWAY OUTSIDE JEDIDIAH'S HOSPITAL
ROOM - FEW MINUTES LATER**

Lights down the corridor flicker while others are completely
off.

A door opens.

Jed emerges, covers his head with the hood of the jacket and
walks out into the hallway. As he heads down the hallway,
light fixtures he walks by light up as he exits the scene.

Song ends.

MULTI-SCREEN TIME LAPSE TO PRESENT DAY

FOUR SQUARES, two vertical rows of two stacked on top of each other, display a montage of images described by voice over.

V.O. 1

Cities burn as all Emergency
Responders report a severe shortage
in manpower--

V.O. 2

The death toll nationwide topped
seven-hundred thousand now making
the worldwide total over one and a
half mill--

V.O. 3

As the world recovers from the
worst pandemic in human history,
reports of a possible "genetic
mutation" triggered by exposure to
the--

V.O. 4

President Williams signed off on
approval for the creation of The
Genetic Oversight Committee today.
They will be working along with the
CDC towards--

THE FOUR SCREENS BECOME ONE.

SUPER: 13 Years later.

A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL dressed in football gear joins the
defensive line on the field.

V.O. 5

Thirteen years have passed and the
Enders generation are making their
impact everywhere.

V.O. 6

While allowed to compete in High
School UIL competitions, schools
still refuse to let the children
compete in athletic events.

The ball snaps. The Enders Girl plows through the two Varsity
boys in front of her. Both boys are sent twirling in the air
before hitting the ground.

The Enders Girl tackles the Quarterback, launching the boy backwards five yards.

V.O. 6 (CONT'D)
Mostly due to safety concerns.

ENDERS GIRL
Sorry, didn't mean to do that. You
guys alright?

The boys lay motionless, moaning.

ENDERS GIRL (CONT'D)
Guys?

INT. PETER'S CAR - NIGHT

SUPER: PRESENT DAY

Peter drives through a residential suburban area.

Signs for the next Presidential election fill the front yards: Vote for someone we KNOW we can trust. Someone we KNOW is pure of SPIRIT, BLOOD and AMERICAN BELIEFS. VOTE AB-, VOTE JOHN KNOWELS.

INT. SCHWARTZ RESIDENCE - ATLANTA, GA -SAME

A modern two story home, large attic on top. The backyard contains an extremely old and large tree with branches that stretch and reach the home.

A tire swing hangs from the tree that's surrounded by a tall wooden fence creating a large back yard complete with a high-quality gas grill in front of a large in-ground swimming pool.

Peter parks the car in the driveway, exits the car with briefcase in hand and enters the house.

The new home is filled with modern furniture. The same pictures from earlier now align the walls among newer photos that include their daughter STACY SCHWARTZ from various stages of her childhood.

Diplomas and various Doctorates in biology and genetics in Peter's name now rest on top of the bookshelves among his many patents.

A TV plays a local news report.

TV REPORTER

The DNA Registration Act unanimously passed the Senate and House floors today. Once signed into law, it will be mandatory for all newborns to have their blood type and DNA registered in a national database--

Peter changes the channel.

ADVERTISEMENT

Thinking of starting a family but unsure of what kind of future your child will have? Come by and visit one of Gen-Corps family planning centers. We have the largest samples of untainted human DNA in the country.

Laura enters.

PETER

Can you believe this crap?

ADVERTISEMENT

With a free consultation, we can give your future loved one the normal childhood they deserve.

Peter turns off the TV.

LAURA

How was work today?

PETER

Good.

Sounds of movement upstairs.

PETER (CONT'D)

How was her school today?

LAURA

A group of high school boys got caught off-campus beating a nine year old. Parents are freaking out.

PETER

The child alright?

LAURA

He'll be fine. The boys have been arrested, but still--

PETER
I know what you're feeling.

LAURA
There's something else.

PETER
What is it?

LAURA
Stacy's school called. They say her IQ is one of the highest they've ever seen.

PETER
So? She's just a kid. You're thinking she's one of them. An Ender's child.

Laura turns her back to her husband with his arms still wrapped around her.

LAURA
You've seen how she is. You tell me she's not, special. And with the local schools now. They become less safe every day.

Laura pulls out a pamphlet from her front pocket and hands it to Peter.

LAURA (CONT'D)
That new charter school opened.

Peter takes the pamphlet.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Will you at least promise me you'll think about it?

PETER
OK, I'll think about it.

Laura turns around and embraces her husband, their heads next to each other. Her eyes turn a solid blue.

LAURA
I love you.

Laura eyes go back to normal with a blink as she releases her husband.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Dinner will be ready in about 20
minutes. Why don't you go get her?

Laura walks into the kitchen.

Peter heads up the staircase to the second floor.

OFF IN THE DISTANCE:

LAURA (CONT'D)
She has a permission slip you need
to sign for her trip to the zoo
next week.

PETER
Thank you.

INT. BEDROOM OF STACY SCHWARTZ - SAME

STACY SCHWARTZ (12), a gifted, kindhearted child with a sharpness of tongue when needed. One of the first of her generation and THE GIRL from the beginning of our story.

She relaxes on her bed listening to a language learning app on her phone while she reads: *The Conquest of Gaul* by Julius Caesar, Original Latin text.

Bookshelves overflow with works by and about Alexander the Great, Shakespeare, Chaucer, Maya Angelou, Albert Einstein, Carl Sagan, Isaac Asimov, and Ray Bradbury.

A large telescope sits in front of her window, while glow-in-the-dark stickers in the shape of stars and planets decorate the walls of the room.

Peter opens the door while knocking.

STACY
Hey, pop.

PETER
Hey, kiddo. What ya listening to?

STACY
How to speak Aramaic.

PETER
What happened to Latin?

STACY
Too easy. Only took five days.
Hoping Aramaic will give an actual
challenge.

Peter picks up the book.

PETER
Julius Caesar?

STACY
He's really long-winded.

Peter sits down beside his daughter.

PETER
Stacy, sweetie, have you ever
thought that maybe--

STACY
Maybe what?

PETER
That maybe you'd be better off in a
different school.

STACY
This is about that test the school
made us take, isn't it?

PETER
There's nothing wrong with being
special, sweetie.

STACY
I can't leave my school. All my
friends are there. Please don't
make me leave.

PETER
Your mom is pushing for you to go
to one of those special charter
schools and she's got a good point.
Unless you're going to tell me that
all twelve-year-olds read the works
of Julius Caesar? Seriously?

Stacy goes silent.

PETER (CONT'D)
You have a permission slip for me
to sign?

STACY
On the desk.

Peter walks over to the desk and signs the slip.

STACY (CONT'D)
Look, Pop, I just want to go to a normal school. Besides, I'm the smartest one there. Big fish in the small pond, why would I give that up?

PETER
Dinner is almost ready. And if you want your mother to calm down on the school stuff, take all this down a notch. Stop showing off.

STACY
I will. And Pop, thanks. Love you.

Peter exits.

Stacy places her ear buds back in. She swipes the Aramaic program to one side of the screen and opens another. An Introduction to Sign Language.

ON THE SCREEN: A tutorial on how to write in Sanskrit play over a sign language instructional video showing hand movements along with subtitles.

INT. CDC & GENETIC LEGISLATION OVERSIGHT - ATLANTA, GA - DAY

Outside, CONTRUCTION WORKERS work on remodeling the building as a large industrial crane lowers a brand new sign in place with the CDCs newest designation.

SAMANTHA CARR (47) and the new Head of the CDC-GLO. Well dressed with a strong demeanor of professionalism, sits at her desk, on the phone.

SAMANTHA
Yes, sir. Thank you, and congratulations on getting your bill passed.

PRESIDENT ATWELL (48), the countries current leader that inherited the aftermath of a nationwide disaster.

PRESIDENT ATWELL (O.S.)
It was your department's suggestions and interactions with both parties that got this done.
(MORE)

PRESIDENT ATWELL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
This victory is as much yours as it
is mine.

SAMANTHA
Thank you. Goodbye, Mr. President.

Samantha hangs up.

Steven Jaetson enters, approaches the desk and lays down a
sealed envelope with Samantha's name on the front.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
What's this?

STEVEN
My resignation. I want out of this
place. Hell, I wanted out years
ago.

SAMANTHA
I know this job hasn't been easy.
You've handled it well. If you're
harboring some ill will--

STEVEN
The President felt more comfortable
with you in charge, and I supported
that decision. My personal feelings
are my own.

SAMANTHA
Times change. Jobs and positions
change. The people needed a
department that could advise the
government on how to handle the
aftermath.

STEVEN
Yes, a separate department, and an
advisory department to the CDC
only. The two were never meant to
be combined.

SAMANTHA
We adapt to the changes that come
over time. The CDC had no choice.

STEVEN
If I had been left in charge of the
CDC instead of being asked to join
your team after the outbreak, none
of--

SAMANTHA

The people after you were more than qualified. This country promised a way to reverse the mutation and couldn't do it in the time frame given.

STEVEN

I told you that we would be years away from finding a method to reverse the effects. The CDC needed more time.

SAMANTHA

After thirteen years, combining the two departments was the only way to justify keeping the CDC. Are you suggesting that I let it fail, or that I caused it to fail?

Steven walks over to the window, glancing downward toward the streets below.

Two large areas are fenced off, each with a separate group of protestors. On one side, people hold signs reading: "CHILDREN ARE CHILDREN", "CRUELTY TO THE YOUNG = A CRUEL FUTURE", "TREAT YOUR CHILDREN WELL". On the other side, signs read: "NOT HUMAN, NOT MINE", "REVELATIONS 13:16-18" and "ONLY HUMAN BEINGS CAN BE GIVEN HUMAN RIGHTS"

STEVEN

All of us should have made better choices. Be more cautious with yours than I was with mine.

Steven exits.

EXT. JEFFERSON MEMORIAL - WASHINGTON, D.C. - SAME

Laura and Stacy Schwartz observe the tourists as they approach the front of the grand monument.

LAURA

Know who that is?

STACY

Thomas Jefferson. One of the Founding Fathers of this country.

LAURA

That's right and how long was he President?

STACY

From March 4th, 1801 to March 4th,
1809.

LAURA

Correct. Do you know what he did
with the indigenous population that
was here before him?

STACY

The Native Americans?

LAURA

He moved them off their sacred
land. Did you also know he was a
slave owner? He even knew that
slavery was wrong and freed some of
the people he kept.

STACY

Why would a person treat others
like that?

LAURA

Now that is the big question, isn't
it? Some say he was just a product
of his time. Personally, I think he
knew one very important thing about
human beings.

STACY

What's that momma?

LAURA

That everybody needs guidance.
Somebody to show others their
place. To give them purpose. Not
just in this world, but in the
universe.

A female Eldermite, a human-insect like being from a time
unknown, stands in front of Stacy taking the place of her
mother.

Segmented eyes with a see-through exoskeleton, tissues
submersed in blue blood. Neurons discharge electrical
impulses throughout the skull as its long flowing fiber-optic-
like hair changes colors.

The creature places her hand upon the child's shoulder,
speaking in her mother's voice.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Sometimes the best way to do that..

The creature kneels down in front of the child.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Is by controlling them.

The creature's eyes begin to glow with an intense blue light.

INT. SCHWARTZ RESIDENCE - HALLWAY - SAME

Laura stands outside Stacy's bedroom. Her eyes glow with a dimly lit blue light. They go back to normal with a blink of her eyes as she moves to face the door.

INT. BEDROOM OF STACY SCHWARTZ - SAME

Stacy awakens startled from the dream to the sound of her mother opening the door.

Laura enters.

LAURA
Up and at'em stinker, or you'll be
late for your field trip. Let's get
a move on.

STACY
I'm awake.

LAURA
Everything OK?

STACY
Just a bad dream.

LAURA
Breakfast is almost ready.

Laura exits.

INT. OFFICE OF STEVEN JAETSON -- SAME

A box filled with folders and office supplies rests in the middle of a cleared desk. Outlines of where picture frames once hung align the walls. A figure of a woman stands in front of a window.

Steven Jaetson enters and walks towards his desk.

JANET
Hello Steven.

STEVEN

Nice of you to come by and see me off.

JANET

You will be missed. Unless you want to go back to the CDC branch. I can make that happen.

STEVEN

How are you able to--

JANET

Samantha asked me to take charge of the CDC Division while she manages the Legislative.

STEVEN

That was fast.

JANET

The new offices should be ready by tomorrow and the center for the database in two weeks.

STEVEN

A legislative committee with a database full of information on children and their families. What could go wrong with that?

JANET

I know this wasn't the path you intended for the committee to take.

STEVEN

You're damn straight it isn't. A society will always be judged on how it treats its citizens.

JANET

We were invaded. Changed against our will.

STEVEN

And the Genetic Registration Act is the way to tell by whom? Yeah, I get it.

JANET

With the new law in place we'll be able to start gathering--

STEVEN
Listen to yourself.

JANET
It was more than a disease that hit us. We need to be prepared.

STEVEN
There are scientists out there that believe life began and evolved because of viral influences in the environment.

JANET
Not this again.

STEVEN
Who are we or this Government to say this isn't the next step in our genetic evolution? Maybe being smarter, stronger, and faster is exactly what we need.

JANET
We're working on a test that will be able to tell us who carries The Enders mutation as a dominant or recessive trait. It's six months from completion, maybe less.

STEVEN
For what purpose, exactly?

JANET
To bring us closer to what the world wants, a cure.

Steven grabs his box from off his desk and heads towards the office door.

STEVEN
Feels like a stepping stone to a preemptive strike.

Steven stops at the office door entrance.

STEVEN (CONT'D)
For what it's worth, I wish things had worked out differently between us.

JANET
Until I'm sure my child will be human, I'd make the same decision.

STEVEN

I know.

Steven walks out of the office closing the door behind him.

Janet sits down at the empty desk and begins to cry.

**INT. CDC AND GENETIC LEGISLATION OVERSIGHT - ATLANTA, GA -
LABORATORY - SAME**

The room is completely decked out in the most advanced lab equipment money can buy. Centrifuges spin as other vials are being rocked back and forth throughout the lab.

Peter stands in front of a cabinet, looking at an object resting inside.

The lab door opens.

Peter closes the cabinet doors and locks them shut.

Steven Jaetson enters and places his box of memories on a nearby empty seat.

PETER

Steven. I was meaning to get
topside before you left. Must've
gotten distracted. Sorry.

STEVEN

Peter, I just wanted to let you
know, if there is anything I can do
for you, just call.

PETER

Appreciate it, but I'm needed here.
Never thought I'd say that about a
government job. You talk to Janet
lately?

STEVEN

Saw her a few days ago during the
commencement ceremony. How's that
little one of yours?

PETER

Right now, I'd say she's probably
having the time of her life.
School's visiting the zoo today.

STEVEN

Heard the schools in town started
testing.

PETER
They say she's special.

Peter walks over to a desk, opens a drawer and pulls out a file.

STEVEN
What's that?

PETER
A DNA test. Haven't told Laura yet.
Stacy, she--

STEVE
Tested positive as an Enders
carrier?

PETER
Yeah. Figured we should know. Just
in case this Registration Act
passes. I'll never rest until I
beat this thing. My newest test
results show--

STEVEN
Please, Peter, I no longer work
here.

Steven walks back towards the exits as Peter follows.

Peter shakes Steven's hand.

PETER
What are you going to do?

STEVEN
Figured I would live a nice, quiet,
self-reflective life for a little
while.

PETER
Nothing wrong with that my friend.
Just stay in touch.

STEVEN
Don't worry about Stacy, she's
strong. With you and Laura by her
side

Steven grabs the remnants of his past and exits.

EXT. ZOO ATLANTA - ATLANTA, GA - AFTERNOON

SCHOOL TEACHERS move around a large group of children, trying to maintain order in the parking lot outside the Atlanta Zoo.

MARY SNODGRASS (26), conservatively dressed, brunette, tall and teacher at Inman Middle School.

MARY

Alright everyone settle down please.

The children continue to talk to one another.

PRINCIPAL MARCUS (67), well dressed with a serious demeanor approaches the group.

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

You heard your teacher, everyone settle down now.

The group quiets down quickly.

MARY

Everyone keep in mind that this is still a school-sanctioned event. So be on your best behavior, stick together, and try to have as much fun as possible.

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

OK everyone, let's form two single file lines. Beginning here.

Stacy and her friend JESSICA, get in line.

JESSICA

You excited?

STACY

I've never been here.

JESSICA

It's amazing. You'll love it.

FREDDIE YOUNG (12), thin, glasses, a sheepish looking boy, approaches the line.

JOSH SAMPSON (14), large and brutish in appearance, pushes Freddie out of line.

JOSH

Thanks for the cuts.

ADAM JONES (14) and DERRICK YATES (14), same in appearance and friends to Josh, join him in line.

Stacy witnesses the incident.

ADAM
It's good that you know your place.

STACY
Freddie, over here. Join us.

Freddie hurries to the other line.

FREDDIE
Thanks, Stacy.

STACY
Don't worry about them. Maybe if they weren't jerks all the time, they would actually pass the fifth grade for once.

INT. ZOO ATLANTA - GORILLA HOLDING AREA - SAME

TAZ, a large, male, Silverback gorilla, paces anxiously in an enclosure located in the Gorilla holding area.

A MALE KEEPER sits at a desk observing the gorilla's behavior. A FEMALE KEEPER walks up behind him.

FEMALE KEEPER
How goes it?

MALE KEEPER
Not bad.

FEMALE KEEPER
What is up with Taz?

MALE KEEPER
Not sure. Doc had him in there resting after his last exam.

Taz quickens his pace back and forth while pounding his chest.

FEMALE KEEPER
He's uptight about something.

Taz walks up to the door leading to the room where the keepers are. He beats on the door, each strike harder than the last.

MALE KEEPER

Probably just wants out to flirt
with the girls.

The door moves more and more with each strike.

FEMALE KEEPER

Better call the doc and see if he's
cleared to go outside.

Male Keeper picks up a phone located on the desk.

INT. ZOO ATLANTA - PICNIC AREA - SAME

Stacy and the rest of the children congregate in the picnic
area.

A SECOND GROUP of children ranging from the ages of five to
twelve years old, walk into the enclosure.

Some are dressed in regular clothing while others wear shirts
that say: "Ennoble: Where advanced education is the key to
advanced knowledge."

Multiple ADULTS accompany the group.

SANDRA JOHNSON (26), typical schoolmarm, conservatively
dressed and teacher at Ennoble, addresses the children.

SANDRA

OK class, let's go get some food
then come back here and be sure to
wash up after you eat. Is that
understood?

CLASS

(in unison)
Yes Miss Johnson.

Josh, Adam and Derrick, notice the group.

One of the boys wearing an Ennoble school shirt takes a seat
alone at a bench.

JOSH

What's that? Ennoble.

ADAM

One of those special charter
schools, I think.

JOSH

Charter school?

DERRICK
Yeah. It's one of those schools for
the freaks.

JOSH
No way. Seriously?

DERRICK
Let's go ask the freak sitting
alone over there.

JOSH
Sounds like fun to me.

The three boys head over toward the child.

Stacy notices the bullies' behavior and walks towards the
group.

INT. ZOO ATLANTA - GORILLA HOLDING AREA - SAME

Taz continues to pound on the door leading inside as The Male
Keeper talks on the phone.

MALE KEEPER
Thanks doc, might want to hurry.

The Male Keeper hangs up the phone.

MALE KEEPER (CONT'D)
Doc says to keep him in. He's
showing up with a sedative.

Taz moves to the other side of his enclosure. He runs at the
door and slams his body into the massive metal structure. On
the other side, a single bolt falls out of one of the hinges
and rolls towards the two Keepers.

FEMALE KEEPER
He's about to bust down the damn
door.

Male Keeper walks over to a cabinet and pulls out a black
hand-held tranquilizer pistol.

Taz backs up again to the other side of his enclosure.

FEMALE KEEPER (CONT'D)
Screw this!

Female Keeper presses a button opening the door to the
outside enclosure.

Taz pauses for a moment, sees the open door and casually strolls through.

FEMALE KEEPER (CONT'D)
See? All he wanted was out.

The two Keepers laugh.

Security monitors behind the men display video feeds of Taz outside staring at the entrance he just walked through.

DR. PAULA SHEPHARD (38) Veterinarian, wearing regular clothes under a doctor's white lab coat, enters.

DR. SHEPHARD
What's going on guys?

Taz charges toward the entrance at full speed, slamming the full weight of his 370 pound frame into the door, blasting it off its hinges.

The door flies into the Female keeper, knocking her unconscious.

Male Keeper aims the pistol at Taz.

Taz grabs the man's arm, and seizes the pistol.

DR. SHEPHARD (CONT'D)
Oh boy.

MALE KEEPER
OK big guy. Careful now. Just put it down.

Taz wraps both his hands around the gun and points it directly at the Keeper.

MALE KEEPER (CONT'D)
Taz, put it down.

Taz pulls the trigger.

The dart hits The Keeper in the chest, sending him backwards into Dr. Shephard.

Taz tosses the gun into the gorilla enclosure and pushes the two men to the floor as he exits the building.

**EXT. CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS OF SENATOR KEVIN SCHEFIELD -
ATLANTA, GA - SAME**

SENATOR KEVIN SCHEFIELD (57), a typical politician/southern gentleman, stands behind a podium in front of a large group of supporters.

TIMOTHY SULKA (28), a "suit and tie" man and Campaign Manager to Senator Schefield, stands behind the man alongside Jedidiah.

TIMOTHY

The Senator is really impressed with all the work you've been doing for us Jed. He wants to talk to you after the speech. Mind sticking around for a little bit after?

JED

Of course.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD

My friends, we have now seen a shift in ideals and perspective. A perspective that is rooted in ignorance. This; DNA Registration Act; is nothing more than another step towards inequality and bigotry.

Voices from the crowd yell and cheer in agreement. Shouts of "NOT FAIR" and "HELP THE CHILDREN" ring out among the crowd.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD (CONT'D)

Because of rumor and conjecture of The Enders virus's origins, people question whether or not these children are human.

Again the crowd cheers with yells of "MORE RESEARCH, MORE UNDERSTANDING" hail from the group.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD (CONT'D)

Until recently, the only thing that kept this fear at bay was the equal divide between both Democrats and Republicans. Then along comes Senator Knowels.

The sound of boos and mumbling overcomes the Senator's supporters.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD (CONT'D)
A man who rose to power basing his
campaign on people's fears and
prejudices.

The audience cheers.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD (CONT'D)
Miseducation and misinformation.

The crowd grows louder.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD (CONT'D)
Now he and others like him are a
step closer to declaring war on
families. Families like mine and my
granddaughter. I promise this, I
will not- nor will I ever- swap my
moral beliefs for fear.

APPLAUSE

SENATOR SCHEFIELD (CONT'D)
Too many of my party have been
misguided by Senator Knowels. I now
feel tossed aside from the
Democratic Party that I once
admired.

The crowd goes silent.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD (CONT'D)
As of today, I am stopping my
campaign for State Senate and
instead I declare my run as the
next Independent Presidential
Candidate.

The crowd bursts into an overwhelming show of support,
chanting the Senator's name.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD (CONT'D)
Together we will stop this
mentality of cruelty to our young
and ensure our future with hope,
kindness, and respect. God bless
the United States of America.

The crowd stands and cheers for the Senator as he steps away
from the podium.

Senator Scheffield, Timothy, Jedidiah, and a few other members
of the Senior Campaign Staff follow close behind.

**INT. CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS OF SENATOR KEVIN SCHEFIELD -
ATLANTA, GA - SAME**

The Senator and staff enter.

Senator Scheffield approaches his office, turns around, and addresses the group.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD
OK everyone. We have a lot of work
to do starting tomorrow, so go
home, get some rest, and be
prepared to work hard tomorrow.
We've got a Presidency to win.

The Senator opens the double doors and walks into his office.

Tim and Jed enter as Jed shuts the doors behind them.

**INT. CAMPAIGN OFFICE OF SENATOR KEVIN SCHEFIELD - ATLANTA, GA
- SAME**

Senator Scheffield takes a seat behind his desk.

Tim and Jed take a seat in the two chairs in front.

TIMOTHY
So I take it the meeting went well?

SENATOR SCHEFIELD
The two Independents bow out of
their campaigns tomorrow. They're
announcing an endorsement for us
with a promise to convince their
supporters to do the same.

TIMOTHY
That's fantastic news sir.

JED
The should place us 12 points
within Senator Knowels and
President Atwell in the poles.

The Senator leans back comfortably in his chair with a look
of a cat that just swallowed the canary.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD
That's not all, everyone is putting
all the leftover money from their
campaigns into our SuperPac.

TIMOTHY

An Independent with a shot to win
The Presidency. Thought I'd never
see the day.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD

All thanks to Jed.

JED

All I did was crunch the numbers
and gauged the mood of the average
voter, sir.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD

That's a load of crap. Tim, I swear
my right hand to God, each one said
that anything less would be
detrimental to true American
decency.

JED

Well sir, I--

SENATOR SCHEFIELD

They said after seeing the data, it
was like angels singing in unison.
And after talking to you, it was as
if you were inside their heads.

JED

I wouldn't exactly say that sir.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD

You have your hands on the pulse of
the people. Which is why I want you
on my staff, full time. You'll be
working with Tim on strategy and
statistics.

JED

I really don't know what to say.

TIMOTHY

I do. Welcome aboard.

SENATOR SCHEFIELD

You sure your family won't mind us
stealing you from them?

JED

My family is very supportive sir.
They'll be happy to hear the news.

SENATOR SCHEFFIELD

So that's a yes, then? Good. Every bit of research and analysis we come up with, I want your eyes on it.

JED

Yes. Yes sir. Thank you for the opportunity. Now if you'll excuse me, I have some campaigning I still need to do. Found a voter I think I can swing our way.

SENATOR SCHEFFIELD

My God, son. Are you always working?

JED

Every vote helps, sir.

INT. ZOO ATLANTA - PICNIC AREA - SAME

SHAWN CORBIN (12), a sheepish daydreamer, sits alone in the picnic area as the three bullies approach.

The boys surround Shawn at the table.

JOSH

Hey.

SHAWN

Hello.

JOSH

What's your name?

SHAWN

Shawn. What's yours?

JOSH

My friends and I here were wondering something, Shawn.

SHAWN

What is it you want to know?

EXT. ZOO ATLANTA - GORILLA DECK AREA - SAME

Alarms BLARE while a RECORDED VOICE broadcasts on loud speakers: ESCAPED ANIMAL. DO NOT APPROACH. PLEASE SEEK IMMEDIATE INSIDE SHELTER WHILE OUR KEEPERS HANDLE THE SITUATION.

Visitors take cover as Taz DASHES through the group towards the picnic area.

Dr. Shephard, along with the Male Keeper, now armed with a tranquilizer rifle, keep chase.

The Male Keeper takes aim and fires off a tranquilizer dart, missing the beast.

MALE KEEPER

Damn it.

The Keeper grabs the walkie from his belt.

MALE KEEPER (CONT'D)

He's heading toward the picnic area.

EXT. ZOO ATLANTA - PICNIC AREA - SAME

The bullies surround the boy, slowly moving closer and closer toward him. Teachers from both schools appear distracted by the groups of clamoring kids.

JOSH

Your school, it's for, you know.

SHAWN

What do you mean?

JOSH

You know. The different ones?

SHAWN

Different ones?

JOSH

Freaks, you freak.

ADAM

The marked ones.

DERRICK

Yeah, the unwanted.

JOSH

Are your parents still around, or do you live there also?

DERRICK

Bet his parents left him, heard that happens all the time.

Stacy approaches.

The three boys get up from the table and face her.

STACY

You three need to grow up.

JOSH

Really? Pretty sure we're more grown up than you.

Sounds of people panicking cry out in the background.

STACY

Just because you're a couple of years older and behind as many grade levels, doesn't make you more grown up. Just means you need to learn how to read.

Josh, Adam and Derrick get up from the table and surround Stacy.

ADAM

Little girl with a big mouth.

Taz runs through the picnic area and up to Adam and Derrick, pushing them to the ground.

The two classes run from the area.

Shawn grabs Stacy's hand as they run away and join the class.

Taz focuses his attention on Josh as the other two boys scurry.

Josh jumps over to the other side of the picnic table, placing it between him and the large primate.

Taz and the bully circle the table, eyes locked on each other.

MARY

Somebody help him!

Taz hurls the picnic table over Josh's head. He approaches the child, knuckles pounding the ground with every step he takes.

The Male Keeper and Dr. Shephard make their way through the large crowd.

The Male Keeper takes aim.

DR. SHEPHARD

Wait, he's too close. You hit Taz with that, he could flinch and send the kid flying. You really want to risk it?

Taz moves up to less than a foot away from the boy, paralyzed with fear.

MALE KEEPER

Unless you got a better idea.

Stacy stands in front of the crowd of onlookers. A voice rings out from all around her.

VOICE

Help the child.

Stacy looks around.

VOICE (CONT'D)

You know what to do.

Stacy starts to head towards Taz.

SHAWN

What are you doing?

STACY

It's OK. I'll be fine.

Stacy walks out into The Keeper's line of sight.

MALE KEEPER

What the hell?

Stacy rests her hand upon Taz's shoulder.

STACY

Taz. It's OK. He's not going to hurt anyone. You've made your point.

Taz turns around, looks at Stacy with an expression of calm and affection, then refocuses his attention toward Josh. Taz moves closer to Josh's face.

STACY (CONT'D)

If you don't go back to your enclosure, your keepers are going to have to hurt you. Please, I don't want to see that.

Taz lets out a massive dominant ROAR.

Josh faints. A patch of moisture begins to form on the front of his pants. A separate and more discolored spot appears on the backside.

STACY (CONT'D)
Now that's gross.

Taz grunts.

Stacy gently takes his hand and escorts him over to The Keeper.

STACY (CONT'D)
I'll see you again someday. I promise.

Taz places his forehead upon Stacy's and strokes the side of her cheek gently with the back of his hand.

Stacy takes Taz's hand and places it into the palm of The Male Keeper.

STACY (CONT'D)
He'll behave now. No need to use your rifle.

MALE KEEPER
Thank you.

As Taz, The Male Keeper and Dr. Shephard head back toward the gorilla enclosure, Taz stops, looks back, raises his hands and signs the words: Behave yourself, my friend.

Stacy answers in sign-language: You also, friend.

The three continue back to the enclosure.

Shawn walks up to Stacy.

SHAWN
How did you do that?

STACY
I have no idea.

INT. MCCORD RESIDENCE - ATLANTA, GA - SAME

On top of a bookshelf, pictures of William McCord and his family over the last thirteen years stretch from end to end.

Below and on the left and right sides of the bookshelf; various books on genetics and viruses written by William.

In the middle section: a framed obituary showing the passing of his wife, Jennifer McCord along with various knick-knacks, candles among pictures of her and the family.

WILLIAM MCCORD sits on the couch watching the evening news.

TV #1

Senator Knowels today praised the passing of The Genetic Registration Act and vows to uphold the new law at any cost. In national news, Steven Jaetson, former CDC Director and head of the Genetic Legislation Oversight Committee, resigned today saying--

The doorbell rings.

William mutes the TV, gets up and answers the door.

Jedidiah Saunders stands on the other side.

JED

Hello, I represent the campaign to re-elect Senator Kevin Schefield. Is there a Mr. William McCord here?

WILLIAM

Yes, that's me.

JED

Excellent. May I get you to spare a few moments of your time?

WILLIAM

Sure, why don't you come on in and have a seat. Anyone representing Senator Schefield is ok in my book.

Jed steps into the house.

JED

Thank you.

William sits back down in his chair as Jed takes a seat on the couch in front of him.

WILLIAM

My wife and I voted for him last election. You can count on our vote this time as well.

JED

Thank you. We feel that people like Senator Knowels do not represent values that are appropriate for the future of our children.

WILLIAM

I agree. People who use fear to drum up votes and pass legislation worry me.

JED

We believe all of us should be focusing on understanding. To be completely honest, there is another reason why I'm here.

Jed reaches into his jacket pocket.

William starts to tense up a little. Now a little unsure about the strangers intentions.

WILLIAM

What's going on? What are you--

JED

Sorry, let me explain. We met a long time ago.

William looks at Jed, trying to remember his face.

JED (CONT'D)

It was back when I had dreadlocks and a beard.

William smiles.

WILLIAM

Holy shit. The homeless man. Now this is a surprise. I never thought I'd see you again. Jed was it? At least that's what the doctor said.

JED

Same here. Dr. Montgomery told me who was taking care of my hospital stay. When I saw your name on the list for our campaign's meet and greets, I had to see if it was you. I hope you don't mind.

Jed pulls out a plain white envelope from his pocket.

WILLIAM

Of course not. You're obviously doing better. No longer homeless I take it.

JED

After I left the hospital, I decided it was time to get my life back in order.

Jed hands over an envelope to William.

William opens the envelope. Inside, a check made out to William from Jed in a large amount.

WILLIAM

What's this?

JED

That should cover all the out of pocket expenses you had to pay for my stay in the hospital. No more, no less.

WILLIAM

I can't accept this.

JED

After I left the hospital, I went out and saw just exactly how inhuman people could be.

WILLIAM

How so?

FLASHBACK

An image of a WOMAN holding a paper-bag being chased by three BRUTISH-LOOKING MEN down an alley.

JED (V.O.)

There was a woman. She was trying to get back home to her son. Three men were harassing her. I had to intervene.

Jed raises his hand towards the men as an INTENSE BLUE LIGHT shines from his eye sockets.

END FLASHBACK

WILLIAM

What happened to them?

JED

The woman was knocked unconscious
before I could help. By the time
she woke up and we headed back.

Jed pauses with a solemn look on his face.

JED (CONT'D)

We couldn't make it back in time to
help him.

Jed notices the picture of The President handing a document
to William rests on a mantle. The document reads: For
Outstanding Service and Research.

JED (CONT'D)

You still work for the CDC?

WILLIAM

Not anymore.

Jed notices the shrine dedicated to Jennifer. A look of
sadness overcomes his face.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

My wife Jennifer.

JED

How'd she--

WILLIAM

Cancer. A little less than a year
now.

JED

My condolences.

WILLIAM

What happened to the woman?

JED

I married her.

The front door opens.

DELILAH MCCORD (28), daughter to William, cheerful with a
confident demeanor and pregnant enters.

DELILAH

Hey dad.

WILLIAM

Jed, this is my daughter Delilah.

JED
Pleasure to meet you.

DELILAH
Nice to meet you. How do you and my
father know each other?

JED
You can say we ran into each other
a while back.

DELILAH
How so?

WILLIAM
Jed's the man I almost ran over.
Back on the day of The Enders
breakout.

DELILAH
Really? Wow, last we heard was that
you just got up and walked out of
the hospital.

JED
If I caused you and your family
undue stress during that time--

DELILAH
Good to know you're OK.

Delilah grabs her stomach.

DELILAH (CONT'D)
Oh boy. She's really kicking today.

Delilah takes hold of one of Jed's hands.

DELILAH (CONT'D)
Here, feel.

Jed tenses up.

WILLIAM
Maybe Jed doesn't want to.

Delilah places Jed's hand on her stomach.

FLASHBACK:

An image of two human-insect like creatures, similar to the
one in Stacy's dream, flash in Jedidiah's memory.

One male, the other, a pregnant female.

The unborn child reaches out to its father, putting its hand next to the father's from inside the womb.

END FLASHBACK

JED

It's OK.

Delilah giggles.

DELILAH

She really likes you. I've never felt her behave like this before.

JED

My children were the same way. I could just be around my wife and they would start kicking. Twins.

DELILAH

How did she get any sleep with you in the same bed?

JED

The couch and I became old friends real fast. I'm afraid I must be going. Other houses and people to visit.

Jed heads towards the front door.

WILLIAM

Stop by anytime, Jed. It's good to know you're doing OK.

JED

It was nice meeting you Delilah. Mr. McCord. Maybe we'll all meet again someday.

Jed exits.

INT. INMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL - ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - ATLANTA, GA - LATE AFTERNOON

A typical School Administration office. Multiple desks for multiple secretaries along filing cabinets with computers fill the room. Two offices. One for the Principal and Vice Principal.

Laura and Peter enter the main office.

A SECRETARY at the main desk greets them both.

SECRETARY

Hello Mr. And Mrs. Schwartz,
they're waiting for you in the
Principal's office. Go right on in.

Laura and Peter walk into the office.

Principal Marcus, sits behind his desk while Stacy sits in
one of the two chairs in front.

STACY

Mom, Dad.

PETER

Hey sweetie.

LAURA

We got here as soon as we could,
Principal Marcus.

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

Please, have a seat.

LAURA

We heard on the radio that there
was an incident with an escaped
gorilla?

STACY

You guys should have been there.
Taz was incredible.

PETER

Taz?

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

Stacy, why don't you get your
things, get ready for your parents
and wait outside the office.

STACY

Yes sir.

Stacy exits.

PETER

What exactly happened?

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

One of the male silverbacks escaped
from its enclosure and ran amok
through the zoo.

LAURA

Yeah, we heard that much on the radio on the way over.

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

Taz, the gorilla, came close to seriously assaulting a few of our students.

PETER

How bad was it?

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

A few bumps and bruises. The only thing truly damaged was a child's pride.

PETER

I'm not exactly following here. How is our daughter involved?

Principal Marcus turns around to reveal footage of the incident playing on YouTube.

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

He seemed to understand her. What she wanted him to do, he did it.

Peter and Laura watch as Stacy calms the gorilla down.

LAURA

My God.

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

If it wasn't for her, that boy would've been ripped apart. The local news outlets have been calling, asking about her.

PETER

We'd appreciate it if you kept our girl out of the spotlight.

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

Her face is out there, won't take long before the world finds out who she is.

LAURA

And we'll handle it when it does. This is an issue we need to discuss as a family first.

PETER

We would prefer people not jumping to conclusions about Stacy, Principal Marcus. With everything happening to children nowadays--

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

Let me reassure you both that we take hate crimes very seriously here. I've seen her placement test results. Her IQ is through the roof. Has Stacy ever shown signs of being an Ender's child before?

PETER

No. As far as we've seen, she's just gifted.

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

There was another school that had a student of theirs involved in all of this. We had to exchange some personal information. They may be contacting you later.

PETER

Which one was it?

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

Ennoble.

PETER

The new charter school that opened a few months ago.

PRINCIPAL MARCUS

Ennoble's getting more pressure than us for a comment. I would expect someone from there to reach to you by then. We've already planned an assembly for tomorrow about this for the students.

LAURA

Thank you Principal Marcus. Peter, I think we should be going now.

Peter and Laura stand.

**EXT. INMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL - HALLWAY OUTSIDE ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE - ATLANTA, GA - SAME**

Stacy sits patiently in a chair just outside the door.

LAURA
Ready munchkin?

STACY
Yes ma'am.

PRINCIPAL MARCUS
See you tomorrow Stacy.

STACY
Yes sir.

PETER
Thanks again Principal Marcus.

PRINCIPAL MARCUS
You're welcome.

EXT. INMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - SAME

The Schwartz family leaves the school and piles into the family car.

TWO MEN, far off in the distance, take pictures of the family as they leave.

INT. ZOO ATLANTA - GORILLA ENCLOSURE - NIGHT

Samantha Carr and Dr. Shephard observe Taz in his enclosure.

Taz sits in the middle of the room scraping away at the floor with a sharpened metal pipe.

SAMANTHA
How long has he been doing this?

DR. SHEPHARD
Ever since we got him back here.
We're still trying to repair the door to his original space.

SAMANTHA
Keep him in here. This will do just fine. We'll be setting up a lab in here. Witnesses said he used sign language with the girl.

DR. SHEPHARD
A deaf couple noticed it.

SAMANTHA

How long have you been teaching him?

DR. SHEPHARD

He was part of a study in his childhood but they stopped that years ago. Said he never took to it. Will he be OK?

SAMANTHA

That's no longer your concern doc.

Dr. Shephard starts to leave.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Mind that everything you've seen today is considered classified per the agreement you signed.

DR. SHEPHARD

Yes, I understand.

SAMANTHA

He'll be treated well. You have nothing to worry about.

Dr. Shephard exits.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

What the hell is going on?

PULL BACK ABOVE TAZ

Frame moves outward above Taz's head. Taz moves out of the shot. An ancient Sanskrit word is etched in capital letters on the concrete floor: VAJRA.

FARTHER OUT: A circle of symbols from multiple religions, some Eldermite in origin, representing STRENGTH and ENLIGHTENMENT surround Vajra.

INT. MEDICAL FACILITY - SURGICAL ROOM - SIBERIA - NIGHT

SUPER: DAY THREE OF THE GREAT PLAGUE -- THIRTEEN YEARS AGO

A MAN (53), rests in a hospital bed unconscious while machines monitor his health.

TWO PHYSICIANS in biohazard suits enter.

Dialogue in italics will be spoken in Russian.

RUSSIAN PHYSICIAN #1
*A week ago he was just a farmer,
now he's a science experiment.*

RUSSIAN PHYSICIAN #2
*Is it true what they say? He's the
first?*

RUSSIAN PHYSICIAN #1
*I don't put faith in rumors. Only
what I'm told. I suggest you do the
same.*

The First Physician pulls a tray out from a cabinet, then another.

RUSSIAN PHYSICIAN #1 (CONT'D)
*Don't forget, what we do here today
is to help the rest of us.*

The First Physician opens a second cabinet and fills the tray with various scalpels, a chest opener and a circular bone saw.

RUSSIAN PHYSICIAN #2
*True, but I would be more
comfortable if he was at least
legally dead first.*

The Second Physician prepares a syringe as he walks toward the patient.

RUSSIAN PHYSICIAN #2 (CONT'D)
I know he's about to be, but still.

ALARMS

The Man goes into an extreme seizure.

All electronic equipment in the room shuts down, the room goes dark.

EMERGENCY LIGHTS

The same blue light emanates from all around.

Suddenly, with extreme force, the two men go sailing across the room. Their bodies take out lab equipment as they slam up against the double-door entrance.

INT. HALLWAY - SIBERIAN MEDICAL FACILITY - SAME

The blue light continues to shine through the gaps around the entrance.

Sounds of clothing and flesh being ripped apart.

A pool of blood seeps underneath the doors.

THE END