

S-VIRUS

By

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S-VIRUS

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S-VIRUS

CHARACTERS:

Sarah, female, 30's

Jess, female, 20's

Kevin, male, 40's-50's

Kate, female, 20's

Amanda, female, 30's

Charlie, male, 60's and up

Meredith, female, 40's-50's

Emma, female, 40's-50's

Roy, male, 40's

Natalie, female, 30's and up

Thomas, male, 30's and up

Isabelle, female, 20's-40's

Josh, male, 20's-40's

Infected(2), any gender, any age

CHARACTER NOTES:

All roles are open to any ethnicity. Non binary actors can be cast in any role, and pronouns may be changed accordingly.

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PROLOGUE

Lights up on ABBY WILLIAMS, a television reporter, standing center stage, holding a microphone. She is calm and professional.

ABBY. This is Abby Williams, reporting live from in front of the Touchstone Medical Center, where the people suffering from a mysterious new virus are currently being treated. Since it is mainly spreading through saliva, the Government has given this new infection the name S-Virus. No casualties have been reported at this time. Symptoms of the virus appear to include an intense fever, difficulty breathing, and bouts of aggressive or violent outbursts. Whether the virus is a widespread threat or an isolated incident is unclear, but the CDC advises that you go seek medical help if you feel a high fever with rapid dizziness. More updates to come. This is Abby Williams, signing off. *(Lights go down, and then go back up again on Abby. She is shaken and nervous but is still trying to maintain professionalism.)* This is Abby Williams, reporting live from in front of the Touchstone Medical Center, which is still at full capacity for its second consecutive week. S-Virus cases continue to rise, with the amount of reported cases across the country reaching somewhere around six hundred thousand. While there is no news on whether any form of relief is on its way from the Federal Government, the President assures us that everything is under control. I had an interview scheduled with Dr. Marlow, but a group calling themselves the S-Virus Relief Force have commandeered the building and quarantined everyone inside. I have no idea what they are doing, and they have refused to give any comments. I will update you when I learn more information about them. The CDC continues to advise us to stay

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home as much as possible and keep a safe distance from those who may be infected. As of now, no vaccine for the virus has been found.

Remember that the virus spreads through infected saliva, and those that have the virus should be considered dangerous. Stay safe, and be careful. This is Abby Williams, signing off. (*Lights go off again and come back on. Abby's manner is panicked and frantic.*) This is Abby Williams, reporting live for possibly the last time. It's a fucking nightmare. The infected are everywhere, and the dead outnumber the living. We're hidden right now, but we won't be for long. I'm so scared. I'm so fucking scared. Is this ever going to end? We haven't heard a thing from the Government for days now. Have they abandoned us? Please. Stay inside. Hold your loved ones close, and do whatever you can to keep them safe. Maybe things will get better. Who knows? This is Abby— (*Heavy breathing is heard. Abby looks around fearfully and runs offstage. Loud, crazed screaming is heard, followed by screaming from Abby. Her microphone rolls onto the stage, and the lights go out.*)

ACT 1

SCENE 1

Two years later. Lights up on a rundown living room. It is late evening. There is a torn couch, with two busted chairs on either side of it and a coffee table in front of it. There is a front door that is locked. There is a kitchen (or what's left of it), with a blocked off back door offstage. Near the entrance to the kitchen, there is a round table with several chairs. There is another door that leads down into the basement, where all of the supplies are stored. There are a flight of stairs that leads to bedrooms. A group of 6 people are staying in this house. Two of the group's members, SARAH and KEVIN, have left the home to scavenge for supplies. AMANDA is anxiously standing in front of the table. MEREDITH and KATE, Kevin's wife and daughter, are sitting on the couch. Kate, a former nursing student, is putting a bandage on her

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mother's forehead. CHARLIE, the oldest member of the group, enters from the basement holding a clipboard, having just finished checking the inventory.

AMANDA. How bad is it?

CHARLIE. (*Handing her the clipboard*) Right now, unless there's a miracle, we won't be able to feed everyone today. And we're about out of meds too.

AMANDA. Shit.

CHARLIE. At this rate, I don't think we'll make it much longer.

AMANDA. We'll make it. We'll figure it out.

CHARLIE. What we need is a miracle. Or for Kevin and Sarah to start getting lucky.

AMANDA. Let's see what they find today. Maybe they will.

CHARLIE. I think my old pharmacy isn't too far from where they're going now. Maybe they could check there.

AMANDA. We've expanded their range three times now. I don't want them going more than a couple of hours away.

CHARLIE. I know. (*Amanda returns the clipboard to Charlie and crosses to sit at the table. Charlie joins her.*) I heard you and Sarah yelling the other day, and today you won't even look her in the eye. Is everything okay?

AMANDA. It's over between us.

CHARLIE. Oh.

AMANDA. She ended it.

CHARLIE. I'm sorry to hear that.

AMANDA. It's for the best. I was expecting it for a while now.

CHARLIE. If I'm being honest, so was I.

AMANDA. We don't see eye to eye on what needs to be done. I think she's been talking to Kevin too much.

CHARLIE. I don't know. I've seen her disagree with Kevin just as much as you.

AMANDA. I guess.

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CHARLIE. Well, if you need someone to talk to, I'm here.

AMANDA. You don't need to worry about me, Charlie. I should be worried about you. Your shaking's getting worse.

CHARLIE. I guess I'm not as subtle as I thought.

AMANDA. I want you to take my portion of the food today.

CHARLIE. Keep it. Please.

AMANDA. I don't need it.

CHARLIE. Trust me, I'm not that weak yet. My strength matches my good looks.

AMANDA. (*laughs*) Then you're perfectly fine. Well, at least try to rest when you need it. I don't want anything to happen to you.

CHARLIE. Fine. As long as you do the same. (*Amanda crosses to the couch, and sits by Meredith.*)

AMANDA. (*to Meredith*) How's your head?

MEREDITH. I'm fine.

KATE. It wasn't a deep cut. It could've been a lot worse. You need to be more careful.

MEREDITH. Kate, I told you. I just got a little dizzy. I must've stood up too fast.

KATE. You're starving, mom. (*To Amanda*) We all are.

AMANDA. I know. We don't have much left.

KATE. I want mom to have my portion today.

MEREDITH. I'm okay.

KATE. No, you're not! Please, just rest. (*To Amanda*) Can I talk to you for a moment? (*To Charlie*) Charlie, can you watch mom for a couple minutes?

CHARLIE. Absolutely. (*To Meredith*) I've been itching for another game of cards. Are you feeling up to it?

MEREDITH. Only if you're feeling up to losing again. (*Charlie joins Meredith on the couch, and they start playing a card game (Go Fish). Kate and Amanda cross away from them.*)

AMANDA. It's getting dark. They should be getting back soon.

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KATE. Dad wants us to leave again.

AMANDA. Jesus Christ. Kate. We've been through this.

KATE. Have we? Look, I know you don't like dad. But you don't even attempt to listen to him now. Or to any of us.

AMANDA. I do listen, but I'm not going to entertain crazy ideas that are going to get us all killed.

KATE. What are we supposed to do? We're starving here! Mom keeps getting weaker, and I don't have the medical supplies to keep patching her up. And that's if I even get the chance to. The next fall could fucking kill her!

AMANDA. So you'd rather an Infected do it first! I'm sorry. Look, let's just talk about it when they get back.

KATE. Fine. *(Kate returns to her mother's side and checks her bandage.)*

CHARLIE. Want us to deal you in?

KATE. No, thank you. *(There is a knock at the door. Amanda and Kate draw their guns and cross to either side of the door.)*

AMANDA. Who's there?

SARAH. It's us, Amanda. *(Amanda unlocks the door and opens it.*

SARAH and KEVIN, both carrying backpacks, enter.) Are you oka—

AMANDA. What did you get?

SARAH. All that was left. Or at least what we could find. *(Sarah hands her backpack to Amanda, and Kevin hands his to Kate.)*

KATE. You okay, dad?

KEVIN. I'm fine. We had a couple of close calls, but nothing we can't handle. *(Amanda and Kate cross to the couch, place the backpacks on the coffee table, and sit. Charlie and Meredith sit on the chairs flanking the couch. Sarah and Kevin stand behind the couch.)*

CHARLIE. Either of you need to sit?

SARAH. I'm okay.

KEVIN. Nah, I'm fine. Y'all sit. *(Amanda and Kate inspect the contents of the bag. There is some food and medical supplies, but not enough.)*

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AMANDA. Dammit. This was all that was there?

SARAH. Yes. We checked everywhere we could.

KEVIN. *(To Meredith)* What happened to your head, hun?

MEREDITH. It's nothing. I just tripped. I'm fine.

KATE. She got dizzy and fell.

KEVIN. She fell?

KATE. She's hungry, dad. She's getting weak.

KEVIN. Damn right she is. What do you expect when all she's eating is a single scrap a day?

AMANDA. We have 6 people to feed, Kevin. And it's not like you're bringing back full course meals.

KATE. *(to Amanda)* Hey, that's not fair!

KEVIN. *(to Amanda)* I don't see you heading out there and risking your ass!

SARAH. Come on. We don't need this right now. We got what we could get, and we'll check somewhere else next time.

KEVIN. There isn't a somewhere else! We've run our course here. We need to move on.

AMANDA. Oh, here we go.

KEVIN. Just hear me out. We ran into some people, while we were out.

KATE. What? What happened?

SARAH. They were friendly. They said they were from a settlement about 10 miles south from here called Meadowbrook and were looking for people who needed help. Apparently, they're very well stocked.

KEVIN. They grow their own food. When was the last time you ate something fresh?

AMANDA. Hold on. Did you tell them where we were?

SARAH. No. We just said we weren't far. They said we were welcome to join them at any time, and left.

KEVIN. We need to get there. Ten miles ain't too far.

AMANDA. And you just believed them? You don't even know who they are!

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KEVIN. They weren't lying.

AMANDA. How do you know?

KEVIN. I just know. I got a feeling.

SARAH. They seemed fine to me.

AMANDA. But you can't know for sure. Besides, we will never make it on foot. Not with the Infected roaming around.

KEVIN. We can make it! We have enough guns.

AMANDA. It's too big of a risk.

KATE. What's the alternative?

AMANDA. We'll just have to find somewhere a little farther out. *(to Charlie)* Let's try your pharmacy.

KEVIN. What?

CHARLIE. The pharmacy I used to work at is a bit farther out from where you're going now.

SARAH. I can head out tomorrow and check it out.

KEVIN. And what do we do when that pharmacy runs out of stuff? They grow their own food! Sarah, imagine not having to risk our lives every goddamn day!

SARAH. It sounds great, but—

KEVIN. But nothing! We're going!

AMANDA. No! I'm not going to let you get everyone killed, running off to find some place based solely on the word of strangers.

KEVIN. You'd just prefer we all slowly starve to death instead!

MEREDITH. Kevin, don't.

CHARLIE. Why don't we just talk about this later?

KEVIN. No, we're gonna talk about this now! We're going.

CHARLIE. Since when did you make decisions for the group, Kevin?

KEVIN. Since it was clear that some of us ain't thinking straight! I'm looking out for my family. That's all that matters to me.

CHARLIE. I guess some of us don't make the cut then.

SARAH. Enough! Why don't we just put it to a vote?

KEVIN. Fine.

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AMANDA. Fine. Charlie, we'll start with you. Stay or go?

CHARLIE. Look. Meadowbrook sounds amazing, but I don't think it's worth the risk. Not without a vehicle, at least. I don't think it's likely that all of us will survive the trip on foot. So I vote stay.

KEVIN. Goddammit.

AMANDA. Kate?

KATE. If there's a chance that this place is what they say it is, it's worth the risk. We're only barely surviving here, and we'll eventually run out of supplies. We have enough guns and ammo to make the trip and keep everyone alive. I vote go.

AMANDA. Meredith?

MEREDITH. I would like a day where I don't have to watch my husband leave, and wonder if I will ever see him again. If these people can grow their own food, then I think that's a chance worth taking. I just want everyone to be as safe as we can. I vote go.

AMANDA. It's safest to stay here, Meredith.

MEREDITH. For some of us, but not all of us.

KEVIN. So that's three votes for leaving, and two for staying. Sarah, you're up.

SARAH. Look, I understand the concerns about leaving. But I think that we need to leave here eventually, and our resources are almost gone. Call me crazy or too optimistic, but I believe Meadowbrook is as good as it sounds, and I think it will be worth the trip. I vote go.

KEVIN. Damn right.

AMANDA. Sarah, you can't be serious.

SARAH. Before we leave, Kevin and I should take one last trip to collect some more supplies.

KEVIN. Fine. I'm okay with that.

SARAH. I'm sorry, Amanda.

AMANDA. If anyone dies, I'm holding the two of you responsible.

KATE. Come on.

SARAH. That isn't fair. This is the right decision.

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AMANDA. I'm sure you believe that.

CHARLIE. Amanda, this isn't helping.

AMANDA. Fine.

CHARLIE. I think it's about time for dinner. *(to Sarah)* I'll draw a map for you after we eat. *(Charlie goes down into the basement to get the food they have stocked. Sarah tries to say something to Amanda, but Amanda crosses down into the basement to help Charlie before she can say anything.)*

MEREDITH. *(to Kevin)* I'm glad you're okay.

KEVIN. I'm fine, hun. Don't go worrying about me.

MEREDITH. You know that's impossible. *(Meredith and Kevin share a kiss.)*

KEVIN. You can have my share tonight. I'm alright.

KATE. No, Dad. She's having mine. You need to keep your strength up.

KEVIN. I don't want you going hungry tonight.

KATE. I won't be. *(Charlie and Amanda return from the basement and put the food on the round table. Charlie's hands start shaking, and he drops one of the items on the floor. He starts to try to pick it up, but Amanda gets to it first.)*

AMANDA. I got it, Charlie. Sit down. *(Amanda helps Charlie sit at the table.)*

CHARLIE. That's what I get for trying to rush.

AMANDA. *(to Kate)* Bring that food over here. *(Kate grabs the food from the coffee table and brings it to Charlie and Amanda.)*

CHARLIE. Thankfully, with what you *(indicating Sarah and Kevin)* found today, we have enough for everyone to eat tonight.

AMANDA. You're taking my portion today, and it's not up for debate.

CHARLIE. Can we vote on it? *(There is frantic knocking on the front door. Everyone freezes. Kevin, Sarah, Amanda, and Kate draw their guns and cross to either side of the door.)*

KEVIN. Kate, Meredith, stay back.

KATE. I'm not going anywhere, dad.

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KEVIN. Get behind me, at least.

KATE. I'm a better shot. (*Charlie stays at the round table, and Meredith remains sitting on the couch. Kate stands in front of Kevin, and Amanda stands in front of Sarah.*)

AMANDA. What do you want?

EMMA. (*offstage*) Please, let us in. We don't want any trouble.

KEVIN. Then turn the fuck around!

KATE. Dad!

AMANDA. Are you armed?

EMMA. (*offstage*) No, we don't have anything. Please. (*The screams of Infected are heard.*)

SARAH. Let them in.

KEVIN. What?

AMANDA. Sarah, I don't know—

SARAH. Open the damn door! (*Amanda finally relents and opens the door. EMMA and JESS rush inside.*)

EMMA. Thank you. Thank you.

KEVIN. I'm checking outside. (*Kevin rushes outside and closes the door behind him. A few gunshots are heard.*)

AMANDA. Are either of you bitten?

EMMA. She's clean, but I'm not. (*Emma shows a bite mark on her upper arm.*)

AMANDA. Shit! (*Amanda aims her gun at Emma's head.*)

JESS. No, don't!

EMMA. Wait, please! Let me explain.

SARAH. Amanda, hold on.

AMANDA. She's infected, Sarah!

EMMA. I just got bitten a couple of minutes ago!

SARAH. She still has a little while to start showing symptoms. We don't have to start shooting yet.

EMMA. Please! Let me talk, then do what you need to.

AMANDA. Fine. Who are you?

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EMMA. I'm Emma. And this is Jess.

SARAH. I'm Sarah. This is Amanda, Kate, Meredith, and Charlie. Kevin just ran outside. Please, sit down. Both of you. *(Sarah gestures for Emma and Jess to sit on the couch, and they comply. Meredith and Amanda sit in the chairs. Kevin rushes back in and closes the door behind him.)*

KEVIN. Shit! The roads are fuckin flooded with Infected! A herd's moving through.

SARAH. There's no way we can leave until they start to clear out.

KEVIN. Goddammit!

AMANDA. *(to Emma)* We'll hear what you have to say, and then you and your daughter are leaving.

EMMA. She's not my daughter. I found her—never mind.

AMANDA. What were you about to say?

EMMA. I—

JESS. My parents are fucking dead. Like everyone else's.

CHARLIE. I'm sorry to hear that.

AMANDA. What were you doing out there?

EMMA. We've been on the road for awhile.

SARAH. It's not safe to be out there unarmed. Where is your group?

JESS. We ran away—

EMMA. We don't have a group. We're alone.

AMANDA. I don't believe that. What was Jess about to say?

EMMA. Nothing.

JESS. It's okay. We were part of a group, but we escaped.

KEVIN. Escaped?

JESS. They're building a settlement up from the ground, but their leader, Roy, wants things done a certain way. His way. And he—*(Jess shuffles uncomfortably. Emma puts a comforting hand on her shoulder.)* Doesn't like mistakes. He says we are all his "family" but we have to contribute if we want to eat. We managed to escape a couple of weeks ago.

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AMANDA. Do you think they would follow you?

JESS. Yes. We asked if we could leave many times, but he would always tell us the same thing.

EMMA. “Families stay together.”

SARAH. Where is their settlement?

EMMA. I would guess it’s about a nine day walk from here.

KATE. Do you think they’ll find us?

EMMA. I’m sure they will be checking for us everywhere, and this place isn’t exactly hidden. So it’s possible.

AMANDA. What weapons do they have?

JESS. Roy started stockpiling guns when this shit first started. They have plenty, and he made sure we all knew how to use them.

MEREDITH. Do you think they would hurt us?

EMMA. They would do whatever it took to get us back. Roy might want some of you to join his group, and he doesn’t take no for an answer.

KEVIN. Oh shit. You’re bringing those fuckers here!

AMANDA. You need to leave.

JESS. What?

KATE. We can’t send them out there!

AMANDA. They can’t stay here. They’re putting us directly at risk.

EMMA. Wait! Look, I know I’m not going to make it, but—(*Emma stops mid-sentence, and painfully touches her head.*)

JESS. Please, Emma.

KEVIN. What the hell’s she talking about?

SARAH. She was bitten before she got here.

KEVIN. What? (*drawing his gun*) The fuck are we doing sitting around?

SARAH. (*lowering his gun*) Calm down. We’re going to take care of it. She’s still got time.

KEVIN. (*putting his gun away*) Fine.

EMMA. Please, you need to look after Jess. Keep her safe.

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JESS. I don't want their help.

AMANDA. Jess is not our responsibility.

KATE. We can't let her go out there! How do you know Roy won't just kill us when he checks here anyway?

AMANDA. I don't. All I know is if he finds Jess here, and we won't let him take her, that's putting a target on our backs.

KATE. That's a risk I'm willing to take.

KEVIN. Hold up. Why don't we let him take her?

JESS. (*overlapping*) No!

EMMA. (*overlapping*) What?

KATE. (*overlapping*) Dad!

MEREDITH. (*overlapping*) Kevin!

KEVIN. Think about it. He wants Jess back, whatever it takes. We could offer a trade. Get some supplies before we head to Meadowbrook.

JESS. Oh my god.

EMMA. You don't know Roy. He doesn't make deals. You try that, and he will kill you. All of you.

KEVIN. Not if we get the jump on him. He doesn't know that we know he's coming. We got plenty of weapons. We could ambush him.

SARAH. And get everyone killed in the process!

KEVIN. What do you suggest, then?

SARAH. She should stay with us.

AMANDA. Sarah, she's not our problem.

SARAH. Look. We don't know what Roy's group will do when they come here, if that actually happens. We do know that going outside right now, with all of the Infected around, is a death sentence.

AMANDA. Sarah—

SARAH. Do you really want to send her outside to die?

AMANDA. Of course I don't, but we need to think about the group. OUR group! Adding another mouth to feed is not what we need right now. We don't have enough food as it is.

SARAH. We will figure it out. We always do.

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KATE. If the Infected clear out soon, we may be able to leave before they even get here.

MEREDITH. That's true.

AMANDA. And if they don't?

KATE. Then we prepare for the worst.

SARAH. Let's put it to a vote.

AMANDA. Fine. I vote that she leaves. Charlie?

CHARLIE. I know the strain that adding another mouth to feed will have on us. But, I will never vote to let someone die, regardless of who it is. I vote that Jess stays.

AMANDA. Kevin?

KEVIN. If these people are as dangerous as you say, Emma, then I think you both need to leave. I'm sorry, but I have my family to worry about. Having you here will put them in danger.

AMANDA. Kate?

KATE. I'm not willing to lose my humanity, no matter how bad things get. I vote that she stays.

AMANDA. Meredith?

MEREDITH. When I look at them, I can't help but imagine if they were us, running from something and needing the help of strangers. I vote that Jess stays.

SARAH. And I vote stay, so we have a majority.

EMMA. Thank you so much.

CHARLIE. *(To Jess)* Welcome to the family.

JESS. Some fucking family. *(Emma starts breathing heavier.)*

AMANDA. *(indicating Emma)* Someone needs to take care of her.

KEVIN. I'll do it.

EMMA. *(stands, crossing away from them)* No! You stay the fuck away from me. I'll do it myself.

KATE. *(crossing to Emma)* I'll go with you. To pick up the gun.

EMMA. Thank you.

KEVIN. *(to Kate)* Wait. There's lots of Infected out there. It's not safe.

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KATE. I'll be fine. I'll head back if they get too close.

KEVIN. Be careful out there.

KATE. I always do. (*Jess, fighting back tears, crosses to Emma.*)

EMMA. Don't worry, they will keep you safe. I hope they do a better job than I did.

JESS. I...I...

EMMA. I know. (*They embrace.*) I hope you live a good life. (*Emma and Kate head outside. There is silence and stillness on stage.*

Eventually, a gunshot is heard. Jess crosses and sits at the round table, away from the others. Kate reenters. Sarah makes eye contact with Kate, and she nods. There's silence for several moments.)

KEVIN. It's getting late. We should probably go ahead and eat.

AMANDA. (*to Sarah*) We don't have enough food for everyone tonight, since we now have another mouth to feed. You figure it out. (*Amanda starts to head upstairs.*)

CHARLIE. Wait, Amanda. (*Charlie gets up, crosses to Amanda, and tries to hand her portion to her. She rebuffs him.*)

AMANDA. I told you. It's yours. Now please sit down and rest. I'll be fine. (*Amanda exits upstairs. Charlie sits in one of the chairs by the couch. Kevin and Kate sit on the couch.*)

KATE. You're still having my share, mom. And it's not up for debate.

MEREDITH. You can be incredibly stubborn, you know that?

KEVIN. She gets that from me, I'm afraid. (*Sarah passes food out to everyone, and then crosses to Jess and offers her share of food to her.*)

SARAH. Please, take this. You need it. (*Jess hesitates, then takes it. Sarah joins Jess at the table.*) I'm sorry about Emma.

JESS. Everywhere I go, people are either trying to kill me, or they're getting killed trying to help me.

SARAH. Emma's death wasn't your fault.

JESS. I wish I could believe that.

SARAH. How long have you known her?

JESS. For a couple of months, I think. She rescued me from—(*Jess*

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stops mid-sentence.)

SARAH. From where?

JESS. Never mind.

SARAH. It's okay. You can tell me.

JESS. No.

SARAH. Okay. Sorry. Go on.

JESS. We were on the road for a while. Then we met Roy. He seemed so nice. He told us he was forming a community and asked us to join him. We were barely surviving, so we went with him. We didn't find out who he really was until it was too late. He told me that, if I didn't work at the pace that he wanted...*(Jess starts to tear up and shows Sarah some bruises that were previously concealed. Sarah tries to put a comforting arm around Jess, but she resists.)*

SARAH. I won't let him take you back.

JESS. Why do you care? You don't even know me.

SARAH. Do I need to? Just because the world has gone to shit, doesn't mean that we have to as well. *(There is silence for several moments. Sarah notices Jess' bracelet.)* That's a nice bracelet.

JESS. My parents gave it to me. Each charm represents a memory.

SARAH. It's beautiful.

JESS. It was the last gift they ever gave me. They were on a cruise and never came back. I never got to say goodbye.

SARAH. I'm sorry. *(There is more silence. Then, Jess notices Sarah's ring.)*

JESS. That ring's pretty.

SARAH. Thanks. It was my mom's. She gave it to me on my eighteenth birthday. She said it would keep me safe.

JESS. Do you believe that?

SARAH. Not really. But, it meant a lot to her. And now, it's the last thing I have that reminds me of her. Plus, it seems to be working so far. *(There is silence for a couple of moments.)* Right when all of this started, my mom asked me to pick up some groceries. I said I couldn't, so she

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went instead. She got infected while she was out. I didn't find out until she bit a chunk out of my dad.

JESS. Shit. I'm sorry.

SARAH. I try to tell myself that it wasn't my fault, but I can't help but think that if I had just gone when she asked, my parents would still be alive. I think about it every day. *(They sit in silence. Having finished eating, Meredith and Charlie exit upstairs to rest. Kevin crosses to Sarah and Jess.)*

KEVIN. *(to Sarah)* I'm gonna go check outside one last time. Make sure the Infected are keeping their distance.

SARAH. You should get some rest. We'll be okay.

KEVIN. Nah, I'll be alright. Ya'll get some sleep. *(Kevin starts to exit but stops and turns around. To Jess.)* Look...I...I just wanted to say that I'm sorry. For how I acted back there. I wasn't thinking straight.

JESS. Fuck off.

KEVIN. I...okay. *(Kevin exits outside. Kate crosses to Sarah and Jess.)*

KATE. *(to Jess)* Hey. I'm sorry about your friend. And for my dad.

JESS. Thanks.

KATE. He can be a real asshole sometimes. I'm glad you're here with us. *(a little awkward)* I can show you around tomorrow, if you want.

JESS. Sure.

KATE. *(a little awkward)* Great. Good night. *(Kate exits upstairs. Jess smiles a little to herself. Sarah notices and smiles as well.)*

SARAH. *(standing)* Let's go upstairs. I'll show you where we sleep.

JESS. *(standing)* Okay.

SARAH. I know this has been an awful introduction into our little family, and you have every right not to trust us. But I want you to know that if you need anything, come to me. I will do everything I can to keep you safe.

JESS. Thank you. *(They exit upstairs. Lights go down.)*

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SCENE 2

Three days later. Lights up on the same rundown living room. Charlie, Jess, and Meredith are sitting on the couch, playing a game of cards. Kevin, Sarah, Kate, and Amanda are sitting at the round table. Amanda is taking inventory of what Sarah and Kevin have just brought back, with Kate placing the items back in the backpacks.

CHARLIE. *(to Jess)* Do you have any threes?

JESS. Nope. Go fish.

CHARLIE. Damn. I really am bad at this.

MEREDITH. How exactly can you be bad at Go Fish?

CHARLIE. I don't know, but I have found a way.

MEREDITH. *(to Charlie)* Do you have any sevens?

CHARLIE. Here you go.

MEREDITH. I win!

CHARLIE. Again.

JESS. Let's try a different game this time. Have you played Crazy Eights?

CHARLIE. Many times.

MEREDITH. Good idea. *(Charlie collects the cards, and shuffles them.)*

CHARLIE. *(to Jess)* I got a bracelet like yours for my granddaughter.

JESS. Really?

CHARLIE. Would you mind if I looked at it?

JESS. Sure. *(Jess takes off her bracelet and hands it to Charlie.)*

CHARLIE. I remember taking her to pick it out. She wanted us to get matching bracelets. I lost mine right around the start of all of this, not long after I lost her.

JESS. Oh.

MEREDITH. I hadn't heard that before, Charlie. I'm sorry.

CHARLIE. It's okay. She was too good for this world. *(Charlie hands*

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the bracelet back to Jess, who puts it on the coffee table. Charlie passes the cards out.)

CHARLIE. *(to Jess)* It's been awhile since I thought about her. Thank you.

MEREDITH. I was hoping I would get grandchildren some day. Kate has never been on board for that.

CHARLIE. It's not for everyone.

MEREDITH. Now, I'd just settle for her finding a good partner.

CHARLIE. I think she's a little preoccupied right now.

MEREDITH. Yes. I suppose so. *(They play in silence for a couple of moments. To Jess.)* I've seen the way she looks at you, though.

JESS. What do you mean?

MEREDITH. You two have been talking a lot.

JESS. *(nervously)* Well, yeah. She's great. *(Meredith chuckles.)* What?

CHARLIE. Leave her alone, Meredith.

MEREDITH. I'm sorry, Jess.

JESS. It's fine. *(Amanda is finishing inventory, and Kate picks up the backpacks.)*

KATE. Jess, can you give me a hand in the basement?

JESS. Sure. *(Meredith and Charlie give Jess a look, and she follows Kate into the basement.)*

AMANDA. Still no food. That's the second day in a row.

SARAH. I know.

KEVIN. We looked over every square inch of that place. There's nothing fucking there. Anything that was worthwhile was probably scavenged by somebody else.

AMANDA. Did you see anywhere else that you could check?

SARAH. No. The whole area is cleaned out.

AMANDA. Then we'll widen our search.

SARAH. I thought you didn't want us going much farther out?

AMANDA. I don't, but I don't see a better option.

KEVIN. There ain't nowhere else! You haven't been out there.

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(gesturing to Sarah) We have. It's time to move on to Meadowbrook.

AMANDA. Not this again!

KEVIN. We don't have any other fucking options!

SARAH. Kevin and I could try luring the herd further away. That would put more space between us and them.

KEVIN. That works for me.

AMANDA. Sarah, this is a bad idea.

SARAH. If Roy's group is on their way here, I want to get Jess as far away from them as I can.

AMANDA. Jess shouldn't even be our problem.

SARAH. She is our problem, whether you like it or not. You were outvoted. You both were.

KEVIN. Hey, come on—

AMANDA. Because you only care about what I think when the decisions are easy.

SARAH. You know that's not true.

AMANDA. Everything I have fought for has been for the good of the group. I can't say you have done the same.

SARAH. I will never be okay with willingly letting people die, regardless of how inconvenient it is for us.

KEVIN. We don't have time to deal with this shit. *(to Sarah)* Let's go deal with the Infected before it gets dark.

SARAH. Fine. *(Sarah and Kevin stand, draw their guns, and head towards the front door.)*

MEREDITH. Kev, where—where are you—*(Meredith suddenly collapses, hitting her head on the coffee table.)*

CHARLIE. Oh my god!

KEVIN. Oh shit. Mere!

AMANDA. *(calling into the basement)* Kate! It's Meredith. *(Charlie helps Meredith lay on her back on the couch. Sarah and Kevin cross to check on Meredith. Amanda stands off to the right.)*

KEVIN. Mere! Wake up. Goddammit, wake up!

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SARAH. Is she breathing?

KEVIN. I can't tell. (*Kate and Jess enter. Kate is holding both a wet cloth and a dry one, and crosses to Meredith. Sarah and Kevin get out of her way, with Sarah standing by Amanda, and Kevin pacing nervously behind the couch. Kate checks Meredith for breathing. Jess stays out of the way.*)

KATE. She's breathing. I think she just passed out. Dammit, she reopened her cut. (*Kate dabs the wet cloth on Meredith's forehead. To Charlie*) Do we have any food left?

CHARLIE. I'll check.

AMANDA. No, I'll check. (*Amanda exits into the basement.*)

KEVIN. She's gonna be okay. She's gotta be okay. (*Meredith wakes up and slowly sits up. Kate starts dabbing the reopened cut on her forehead.*) Oh thank god.

MEREDITH. Kate? Wha...what happened? (*Meredith tries to stand, but Kate stops her.*)

KATE. Hold still, mom. Your head's bleeding again. (*Amanda returns from the basement, with the last of the food.*)

AMANDA. This is all that's left. (*Amanda hands it to Kate, who gives it to Meredith.*)

CHARLIE. You passed out during our card game. You were winning, too.

MEREDITH. Oh...yes...

KEVIN. You're gonna be alright, hun.

AMANDA. (*to Kate*) Is she okay?

MEREDITH. I'm fine...I just...I—what was I saying?

KATE. She needs more to eat. I don't know how much longer she will last.

KEVIN. (*crossing quickly to Sarah*) Let's head back out. Check the pharmacy again.

SARAH. There isn't anything there, Kevin.

KEVIN. Yes, there is! We just need to look again. Come on!

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SARAH. Kevin—

KEVIN. No! There's something there. We have to—

SARAH. There's nothing there, Kevin! We can't.

KEVIN. What the fuck are we gonna do? I ain't gonna let her die.

SARAH. We will figure something out. (*Rapid gunfire is heard from outside.*)

KEVIN. Shit!

AMANDA. Get down! (*The group (excluding Jess) ducks in front of the couch, with Jess hiding behind the round table. Kate helps Meredith down, and Amanda helps Charlie down.*)

MEREDITH. What's going on?

KATE. Stay down, mom.

KEVIN. Are they fucking shooting at us?

KATE. I don't think so.

AMANDA. Sounds like they have semi-automatics.

CHARLIE. Let's hope they're friendly. (*The shooting stops. There are several seconds of silence. Nobody moves. There is a calm knocking on the door. Nobody moves. There is more knocking.*)

ROY. (*offstage*) Hello! (*Jess freezes up.*)

JESS. Oh my god...

SARAH. (*crosses to Jess*) Is that—? (*Jess nods.*)

KATE. Shit.

SARAH. We can't let him in.

KEVIN. You heard the firepower he has. He can just shoot the fucking door down!

AMANDA. We should talk to him. See what he wants.

SARAH. We know what he wants. (*to Jess*) You need to hide.

CHARLIE. (*to Jess*) Go hide in the basement. Behind the supplies.

SARAH. Good idea. (*to Jess*) I'll help you.

ROY. (*knocks again*) Hello!

AMANDA. (*to Sarah*) You hide her. I'll talk to him. (*Sarah and Jess go down into the basement. Amanda and Kevin draw their guns and cross*

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to either side of the front door. Kate helps Meredith sit back up, then crosses to the door, drawing her gun as well. Charlie sits with Meredith.)

MEREDITH. Wh-what's happening?

CHARLIE. It's okay. Just take it easy.

AMANDA. What do you want?

ROY. *(offstage)* Can you please let me in? I will explain everything.

KEVIN. How do we know you won't just gun us down when we let you in?

ROY. *(offstage)* You have my word.

KEVIN. Your word ain't shit! *(Sarah returns and joins them by the door.)*

AMANDA. Leave your weapons outside, and we'll open the door.

ROY. *(offstage)* How am I supposed to know that you won't just gun me down?

AMANDA. We'll put our weapons down too.

KEVIN. *(overlapping)* Hold on—

SARAH. *(overlapping)* Wait—

KATE. *(overlapping)* We can't—

AMANDA. You have our word.

ROY. *(offstage)* Now we have each other's words. Can we please speak face to face?

AMANDA. Fine. Give us a minute.

SARAH. Are we seriously letting him in?

KEVIN. And putting our goddamn weapons down?

AMANDA. You heard what they have. I don't think we have a better choice. *(Kevin places his gun under one of the couch cushions.)*

KEVIN. Well, I'm putting this here, just in case. *(Kate, Sarah, and Amanda place their guns in a corner. Amanda opens the front door.*

ROY enters, carrying a backpack. He is followed by ISABELLE and JOSH. Isabelle and Josh stay by the door. Roy looks around the room.)

ROY: Thank you for letting us in. *(offering his hand)* I'm Roy. That's

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Isabelle and Josh.

AMANDA. *(shaking his hand)* Amanda. That's Kate, Kevin, and Sarah. Charlie and Meredith are sitting on the couch. *(Roy shakes hands with Kate, Kevin, and Sarah as she introduces them.)*

ROY. Strong grips. All of you. That's good.

AMANDA. Mind if we check your bag?

ROY. By all means. *(Amanda searches through Roy's backpack, and finds only food, water, and a bottle of whiskey. Amanda holds up the bottle.)* It helps me sleep.

AMANDA. *(stands and joins the others)* He's clean.

ROY. *(looking around room)* Nice place you have here. Have you been here awhile?

AMANDA. Yes.

ROY. I can tell. Surviving this long, with a group of your size, couldn't have been easy. I'm impressed.

AMANDA. What do you want?

ROY. I'm sorry to bother you all. I really am. I just wanted to ask you a few questions, and then be on my way.

AMANDA. Okay. Ask.

ROY. Do you mind if we sit down?

AMANDA. Fine.

ROY. My friends can stand. After you. *(The group crosses to the couch and chairs. Charlie and Meredith scoot to the edge of the couch, with Kevin joining them, making sure he has access to his hidden gun. Amanda and Roy sit in the chairs. Kate and Sarah stand behind the couch.)*

AMANDA. Alright. What is it?

ROY. I have a community a good ways away. We're working hard to build something sustainable. Something great. Unfortunately, I've lost two of my people, and I'm trying to find them.

KATE. How exactly do you lose two people?

ROY. We had a couple of...disagreements. Emotions started running

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high, and things were said and done that I regret. With a group of your size, I'm sure that happens to you.

AMANDA. Maybe.

ROY. Anyways, I wanted to know if you've seen them. They're two women, named Emma and Jess. Emma's in her late thirties, and Jess is early twenties. Have you seen them, by any chance?

AMANDA. Never heard of them.

SARAH. We haven't had anyone come by here in a long time.

ROY. Really? I find that hard to believe.

KEVIN. There ain't that many people left.

AMANDA. We try to keep to ourselves. It's safer.

ROY. Less mouths to feed, that's for sure. But also less hands to help out.

AMANDA. We have all the help that we need.

ROY. I find that hard to believe as well.

KATE. Look, we haven't seen them. There are other communities out there. Maybe they went to one of them.

ROY. That's possible. We still have a few more stops. Well, we've taken up too much of your time. We should be getting back on the road. *(Roy stands and notices Jess' bracelet on the coffee table. He picks it up.)* Funny. Jess had a bracelet like this one. Exactly like it even.

CHARLIE. That was my granddaughter's. She's gone, so I keep it around so I can remember her.

ROY. Well, I'm sorry to hear that. *(Roy hands the bracelet to Charlie, who accidentally drops it on the table.)*

ROY. You're shaking. I guess that is to be expected with age.

CHARLIE. It happens every now and then. It's not a big deal.

ROY. It could be, depending on what needed to be done. *(Roy stands and crosses by the round table, examining everyone.)* Well, we should be on our way. There's just one thing that's been bugging me, that I need to know.

KEVIN. What's that?

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ROY. Where you're hiding them. Please don't pretend that I'm an idiot. I know that they're here.

SARAH. They're not.

ROY. You don't understand. I only want to keep them safe.

KATE. Maybe they don't need your protection?

ROY. How would you know? Because they told you some story about how badly I treated them?

KATE. Did you?

ROY. Like I said, we had our disagreements. But, that is to be expected when you have to make the hard choices. The ones that some people don't have the guts to make. The ones that sometimes hurt people's feelings.

AMANDA. Such as?

ROY. A fortress needs people to build it, and we don't exactly have construction crews anymore. Not everyone was willing to put in the work we needed, at least not at the schedule that was required.

KATE. So you forced them? Threatened them? Hurt them?

ROY. Ah, so you have spoken to them. I'm sure they showed off all of their bruises too. I'm not proud of that. But, when people push you, and push you, then that's what they should expect.

SARAH. You need to leave. We aren't hiding them.

ROY. But they did stop by here.

AMANDA. Yes. They stopped by a couple of days ago. They didn't stay.

ROY. Which way did they go?

AMANDA. They said they were heading to a place called Meadowbrook. I don't know where it is. *(Roy nods at Isabelle and Josh, who exit outside.)*

KEVIN. Where the fuck are they going?

ROY. To check the perimeter. Make sure we'll have clear passage when we leave. *(Meredith's forehead cut starts bleeding again, and Kate puts the rag against it.)*

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ROY. *(to Meredith)* What happened to you?

MEREDITH. I hit my head.

ROY. How?

MEREDITH. I—I—I can't remember.

ROY. Looks like she's in bad shape. Is she sick?

KATE. She'll be fine.

KEVIN. Just a little weak. We haven't had the best luck finding food.

ROY. Is that right? It can be hard to find what you need nowadays. Of course, my group has plenty of food. We have enough to last us for years. *(Roy crosses to his backpack, pulls out some food, and offers it to Meredith. To Meredith)* Please, take this.

MEREDITH. No, thank you.

ROY. I insist. *(Meredith relents, and takes it.)* There can be more where that came from.

SARAH. In exchange for?

ROY. I think you know. Tell me where they are, and we will leave and come back in a couple of days with enough food to feed your entire group for a year. How does that sound?

SARAH. Absolutely not.

AMANDA. How do we know you won't just shoot us?

ROY. I guess we'll just have to rely on each other's words.

KATE. No deal.

KEVIN. Wait.

SARAH. What?

KEVIN. We need that food.

KATE. Dad.

KEVIN. We aren't going to last without it.

MEREDITH. Kevin!

KEVIN. *(to Roy)* I'll tell you.

CHARLIE. Don't!

KATE. Don't you dare!

SARAH. No. They aren't fucking here, Kevin.

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KEVIN. I'm sorry. I really am. But Meredith ain't gonna last much longer. I need to do what's best for her.

SARAH. Kevin, please.

AMANDA. Sarah, he's right. We need it.

SARAH. No!

ROY. Where are they?

AMANDA. Emma is dead.

KEVIN. Jess is in the basement.

ROY. That's better. That wasn't so hard.

KATE. *(overlapping)* You bastards!

CHARLIE. *(overlapping)* How could you?

SARAH. *(overlapping)* What the fuck is wrong with you?!

AMANDA. This is about survival.

KEVIN. We're doing what needs to be done.

ROY. *(crossing to the front door)* That's right. Now—*(Roy knocks on the door. Isabelle and Josh enter, brandishing their semi-automatic rifles, and give Roy a handgun. Isabelle aims her gun at Kevin, Sarah, Amanda, and Kate and forces them over by the round table. Josh aims his gun at Charlie and Meredith, who are still sitting on the couch. Roy collects their guns from the corner and tosses them outside.)*

KEVIN. *(overlapping)* Jesus!

AMANDA. *(overlapping)* What the fuck!

SARAH. *(overlapping)* Oh my god!

KATE. *(overlapping)* What are you doing?

ROY. *(to Isabelle and Josh)* Don't let them move, and keep them quiet. *(Roy crosses to the basement and goes down.)*

KEVIN. Holy shit.

KATE. Shut the fuck up, dad.

KEVIN. Hey—

ISABELLE. Shut up.

JOSH. *(aiming gun at Meredith)* Not another word. *(There is silence for several moments. Jess is heard screaming, followed by a loud crash.)*

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Kate and Sarah try to head to the basement but are stopped by Kevin and Amanda.)

KATE. *(shaking them off)* Don't fucking touch me.

ISABELLE. Stay where you are. I won't warn you again. *(Roy enters from the basement, dragging Jess by the arm with him.)*

ROY. Get everyone together. *(Isabelle gestures toward the couch, and Sarah, Kevin, Kate, and Amanda cross and join Charlie and Meredith on the couch and chairs. Roy shoves Jess with the rest.)*

AMANDA. You gave us your word!

ROY. I gave you my word that I wouldn't just shoot you. And I haven't.

KEVIN. What about the fuckin' food? What about our deal?

ROY. Considering how much you all have lied to me already, I think it's fair to even the scale a bit.

KEVIN. You son of a bitch! *(Roy punches Kevin in the face.)*

KATE. *(overlapping)* Dad!

MEREDITH. *(overlapping)* Kevin!

ROY. Unless you want some of what he just received, I'd shut up. Now, we are just going to sit tight here until they arrive.

SARAH. Until who arrives?

ROY. Oh, did Jess not tell you?

KATE. Not tell us what?

KEVIN. What the fuck are you talking about?

ROY. My group received a visit from Natalie Jackson from the S-Virus Relief Force. She informed me that she was looking for someone. Someone who had escaped from her custody, and that it was vitally important that she get her back. So important, in fact, that she was willing to give me enough supplies to last a lifetime in exchange for her.

AMANDA. Why?

ROY. I don't know. I don't care.

SARAH. What does this have to do with us?

ROY. *(to Jess)* How about you fill them in, sweetheart?

JESS. *(pause, then)* They're after me.

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AMANDA. What?

SARAH. Why?

JESS. After the outbreak began, I was alone. I met Natalie, and she said that if I came with her, she'd keep me safe. She brought me and four others to a cell and kept us there.

SARAH. Why?

JESS. I don't know. They never told us.

KATE. What did they do to you?

JESS. They...*(Jess chokes up and cannot bring herself to continue talking.)*

SARAH. It's okay.

JESS. Emma was one of the guards looking after us. She broke me out, and we escaped.

KEVIN. So you knew these fuckers would be after you!

KATE. Leave her alone.

CHARLIE. She's already been through hell.

ROY. I was obviously going to hand her over, but she and Emma had already escaped. I assured Natalie that I could track them down, and she gave me this—*(Roy takes a small tracking device out of his pocket.)* — so she could find me again. *(Roy hits a button on the tracking device.)*

ROY. Now, all we have to do is wait.

SARAH. You can't do this.

AMANDA. You have what you wanted. Why don't you just take her and leave?

ROY. Because now I am down two people. And like I said before, a fortress needs people to build it. I am ready to forgive you all for your misgivings and welcome you into our family. At least, those who can contribute. We need strong people. People who can work hard, and long. People who can do things the right way. My way.

KATE. I'd rather die.

ROY. Well, that is the other option. Lucky for most of you, I can already see the strength you have. *(to Amanda and Kevin)* You didn't

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hesitate to sacrifice one, for the sake of the group. That's what it takes to survive. Something tells me that we aren't that different.

AMANDA. I'm nothing like you.

KEVIN. Fuck that!

ROY. You know it's true. You just aren't comfortable with admitting or acknowledging it. But I've seen it. So have they. (*gestures around the room*) And soon, you will too. You see, most of your friends have the potential to fit into our family, but I have no use for those two. (*Roy gestures to Charlie and Meredith.*)

KEVIN. What? Why the fuck not?

ROY. They're old and weak. They are a drain on our valuable resources. (*Roy orders Josh to move Sarah, Kate, and Jess back to the round table. Isabelle keeps her gun fixed on Amanda and Kevin. Roy draws his gun.*)

SARAH. What do you mean?

ROY. Let's be realistic. Do you really think they're going to make it much longer in this world? Any supplies that are used on them could have gone to someone who actually has a chance.

SARAH. That's not how the world works.

ROY. I'm afraid it is.

AMANDA. What are you going to do? Kill them?

KEVIN. No way! You ain't fucking touching her!

ROY. Don't worry, I'm not going to kill them. You are.

AMANDA. What?

KEVIN. No fucking way!

ROY. This is how things are going to go. (*Roy forces Charlie on the ground.*)

ROY. Amanda, you are going to kill Charlie, because it is for the good of the group. (*Roy hands Amanda his gun.*) Don't get any bad ideas.

AMANDA. No! I won't do this. I can't do this.

ROY. Yes, you can. And you will. Or I'll tell them (*indicating Josh and Isabelle*) to start shooting. You won't have a group anymore.

SARAH. He's bluffing! Don't listen to him.

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KATE. Amanda! Don't!

ROY. You know what the right choice is. You have until the count of three. One.

AMANDA. *(lowering her gun)* No!

ROY. Two.

CHARLIE. *(bringing Amanda's gun back up again)* Amanda. It's okay.

ROY. Thr—*(Amanda screams and fires, killing Charlie. She collapses in tears, dropping the gun, which Roy picks up.)* There. That wasn't so hard, right? *(Roy drags Charlie's body over by the front door. Amanda joins the others at the table. Roy returns and forces Meredith onto the ground.)*

KEVIN. Keep your fucking hands off of her! *(Kevin grabs the gun he hid inside the couch and aims it at Roy. He fires and the bullet grazes the side of Roy's face. Roy hits Kevin, knocking him back and making him drop his gun.)*

ROY. That was very stupid. *(Roy hits Kevin another time, leaving him on his knees.)*

MEREDITH. No! Stop!

KATE. Dad! *(Kate stands to help her parents, but Josh forces her back.)*

ROY. You're a tough man, Kevin. Dumb, but tough. I could use you. But you're going to have to prove yourself to me first. You're going to pick up that gun, and you're going to kill her.

KEVIN. Like hell I am!

ROY. She's a liability. Don't you care about the group?

KEVIN. Fuck the group! I ain't hurting my family, and you sure as hell ain't either. *(Roy kicks Kevin, knocking him to the floor.)*

KATE. No! Dad! *(Kate brushes past Josh, rushes at Roy, and tries to wrestle the gun out of his hand.)*

ROY. *(to Isabelle and Josh)* Don't move. *(Roy headbutts Kate in the face, puts her in a headlock, and points his gun at her head.)*

MEREDITH. Kate!

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KEVIN. Don't hurt her. Please!

JESS. No! (*Jess tries to stand, but Josh forces her back down.*)

ROY. Right now, Kevin, you have a choice. Who do you want to live?
Your wife, or your daughter?

KEVIN. (*standing*) Please! Don't do this. I'll do anything you want.

ROY. You already know what I want. Do it.

KATE. Don't do it, dad! Let him shoot me.

MEREDITH. No! Do it, Kev. Please.

SARAH. (*overlapping*) Stop this!

JESS. (*overlapping*) Oh my god.

ROY. The clock's ticking Kevin. (*Kevin picks up the gun.*)

KEVIN. Fuck. I can't do this.

MEREDITH. Yes, you can. Save Kate. Shoot me.

KEVIN. Goddammit. No!

KATE. Dad, don't shoot—

ROY. Let him make his choice. You have until the count of three. One.

KEVIN. I can't do this. I can't do this.

MEREDITH. Please, Kevin. Do it!

ROY. Two.

MEREDITH. He's going to kill our baby! Please!

ROY. Three. (*Lights go down.*)

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