



written by

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As an alternate Cold War erupts into total conflict, a man shelters his family in their bunker- forcing them to confront the ultimate question: when the world falls apart, who do you turn to for strength?

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1 EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

1

We open on a library, or rather, what's left of it. The building looks run down and nearly abandoned. Despite it's appearance, it is buzzing with life. A large line of people is pouring out of the door and around the building. Finally, we see the sign that used to say "Public Library", now covered with a make-shift sign. The sign, like the library, is in a horrid state of disrepair. The text is barely readable.

"Atlanta, GA Ration Distribution - District 15"

Our view is disrupted by a black car, parking. A man steps out, followed by the clicking sound of a cane hitting the ground. DENNIS BECKER looks up, follows the endless line of people with his tired eyes. He sighs, closes the door, and walks towards the library.

2 INT. LIBRARY - DAY

2

What was once a pinnacle of human literature has been reduced to nothing more than a grocery store. Bookshelves have been pushed aside or repurposed. Books are being used to level tables or as paper weights.

There are hundreds of people standing in line, awaiting their rations. Others are huddled around the TV set that is playing the 24/7 wartime information channel.

The building is full of windows, most of which are now obstructed by propaganda posters, PSA's, resume's, and other documents.

DENNIS enters through the doorway, looking just as run down and repurposed as the library. His eyes are tired, his tie is crooked and loose, his shirt is wrinkled, and he is clearly overdue on a shave. He has a badge pinned to his chest that reads "Civilian Defense - Director" with the seal of the state of Georgia.

He is noticed by the national guard officers and officials running the station.

RATION OFFICER 1  
'Morning Director Becker.

DENNIS acknowledges him and continues walking.

(CONT'D)  
Long night?

DENNIS

Yeah.

He begins approaching a man overseeing the rationing station, CAPTIAN LOWE. A couple catches his attention. The man slams his nearly empty ration book onto the table.

ANGRY MAN

This isn't enough. I have a whole family to feed. I have six children. SIX! The two oldest are 17 and 15, they eat more than I do. Why do we get the same rations as everyone else!?

DENNIS

(To CAPITAN LOWE)

How's it holding up?

CAPITAN LOWE

That should give you all the information you need. Three weeks into the cuts, I'm surprised it's not worse.

DENNIS

How many crates did you get yesterday?

CAPITAN LOWE

A hundred and forty-eight.

DENNIS

How many?

CAPITAN LOWE

Yeah. A lot less than two-hundred. Look at these people.

We see a slow pan of the whole room. Now in further detail, we see the desperation, impatience, and the overall tension between the civilians and the government.

They're barely getting enough. They'd be lucky to get drafted, at least then, they'd get a full meal. This should be illegal. I don't know how much longer we can keep this up.

DENNIS is confused, like his head isn't in the present

DENNIS

What?

CAPITAN LOWE

I said, I don't know how much longer we can keep this up. Are you feeling OK?

DENNIS

...just stressful times. That's all. How many-

CAPITAN LOWE

I hear you. We gotta be there for each other. No matter what. That's the only way any of us are getting out of this mess.

(Beat)

Did I tell you what my wife said to me last week?

DENNIS is distracted by a group surrounding the TV that is slowly increasing.

(CONT'D)

Dennis?

DENNIS

What's going on?

CAPITAN LOWE

Huh?

Then a burst of chatter starts, accompanied by gasps of disbelief from the people surrounding the TV. DENNIS breaks through the crowd to get up to the TV.

REPORTER (V.O.)

New York City has fallen. I repeat, New York City has fallen to Soviet forces.

(Continues over chaos)

Just moments ago, an atomic weapon was detected by the Department of Defense on a direct course to New York City. The United States Air Force shot down the warhead, but unfortunately, it was too late. One of the strongest cities in our nation, home to nearly eight Million people has been brutally

attacked...The skyline is gone, the light out, and all anyone wants now is to return to their home, now passed.

People begin screaming and shoving. ANGRY MAN jumps over the counter and punches the ration officer. As chaos unfolds, DENNIS tries to help, but his eyes are still locked on the TV. Besides the heavily muted environment, the REPORTER and DENNIS' breathing are the only things we can hear.

REPORTER(V.O.)

We are entering a truly unprecedented time. We will find ourselves exceedingly tested, not just as a nation, but as fathers, as husbands, and as members of the human race.

DENNIS abandons the chaos and runs straight for the telephone.

CUT TO:

TITLE SCREEN:

THE NUCLEAR FAMILY

3 MONTAGE - NEW YORK CITY 3

We see various WWII-style images and videos of the devastation of New York City.

4 EXT. ATLANTA SUBURB DAY 4

The montage ends with a shot of a car radio.

REPORTER (V.O.)

This destruction is the greatest we have seen in this country since the occupation of California over two years ago. When will they attack again? What state of this union will fall next? What more must we sacrifice for the security of-

A hand turns off the radio. DENNIS is stuck in traffic along a highway entrance blocked by a military checkpoint. Smoke is pluming up from behind the checkpoint from what appears to be a crashed vehicle. Soldiers are armed and ready, random civilians are being pulled out of their

vehicles and searched, and above all, no one is moving anywhere.

After a few enraging moments of waiting, he pulls onto the shoulder and drives up to the checkpoint. As he approaches, a confused CHECKPOINT OFFICER defensively walks to his car with his pistol at the ready. DENNIS rolls down the window.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
Corporal Becker!

He holsters his weapon and salutes.

(CONT'D)  
My apologies, I thought you were a civilian trying to skip the checkpoint.

DENNIS  
I understand. Look, I need to get to the capitol-

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
I'll stop you right there. See that car?  
(Referencing the crashed vehicle behind the checkpoint)  
He tried to get through without papers. He ramed us and crashed on the other side. We can't get anyone through till it's cleared.

DENNIS  
It's urgent. I'm meeting with the governor in 20 minutes.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
Did he send you papers?

DENNIS  
He just called after New York. It was urget, he didn't have time- sort all of that out.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
You of all people should know protocol here.

DENNIS  
I know, but it really is urgent.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
I'll see what I can do.

The CHECKPOINT OFFICER walks to his superior who looks back at DENNIS. After a few moments, he nods to the CHECKPOINT OFFICER who then waves DENNIS forward through the checkpoint.

Now on the other side, he can see the smoking vehicle. Next to it, a woman is being held on the ground in handcuffs, bleeding profusely. A man still sits in the driver seat of the vehicle, with several bullet holes across his body. He didn't crash. He was stopped.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER 2 notices DENNIS slowing down and approaches his car.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER 2  
Can I help you with something,  
Corporal?

DENNIS  
What's happening here?

CHECKPOINT OFFICER 2  
(Without hesitation)  
Routine search.

DENNIS glances back at the woman being held to the ground.

DENNIS  
Routine?

CHECKPOINT OFFICER 2  
Unless there's something else, it's  
best to keep moving.

DENNIS nods and drives on.

CUT TO:

5 INT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - DAY

5

HARTLEY, once a charismatic A-type whose winning smile earned him a near-unanimous election, now sits far beyond his depth.

His office, lit only by a single window framing a tattered American flag, is a chaotic mess-overrun by documents, propaganda posters, and relics of a campaign long past.

Hartley himself is a wreck: graying, unshaven, possibly drunk, and barely resembling the confident man still smiling from the faded posters on his walls. It's unclear when he last left the room-or cared to.

DENNIS bursts into the room. GOVERNOR HEARTLY stands, isolated by the window, and completely unstartled by DENNIS's abrupt entry. He just keeps blankly staring.

DENNIS

Kris, where is everyone else?

HARTLEY

In the state room, but I wanted to speak to you first.

DENNIS

Ok.

HARTLEY

Do you remember when you brought your family to my lake house last summer? Up in Martin?

DENNIS

Uh...yes. Why?

HARTLEY

It really helped us decompress from this damned war.

DENNIS

It was a nice break, yes, but don't you think-

HARTLEY

Every day, I think about the lake house. The isolation, the silence, the freedom. The kind that our country hasn't known for decades. Hell, the world hasn't known it either.

DENNIS

Governor, we should get in there and-

HARTLEY

You've been burning your candle at both ends for far too long Dennis.

He turns around.

(CONT'D)

Take some time. Take your family, and go somewhere like that lake house. Far from all this noise.

DENNIS

This is one hell of a time for a vacation.

HARTLEY

No better time, really. If anything, you're about to lose it. Look.

He turns back to the window. The tattered flag is flapping furiously in the wind.

(CONT'D)

When you've been in a place as long as we have, you start to pick up on things. Subtle things. Any one of us could look at that wind and know a storm's bound to hit.

DENNIS

(Lowly)

Kris-

HARTLEY

I think you better make sure you're gone before it does. At the end of the day, your family is all you have, and I don't think you want them to get caught in the rain. Excuse me.

GOVERNOR HEARTLY grabs a cigar and begins lighting it as he walks out of the room.

DENNIS

What are you trying to tell me? Kris!?

DENNIS follows behind, still confused. As he leaves, he notes the time, 2 PM.

6 INT. STATEROOM - DAY

6

We catch a glimpse of the clock that now reads 7PM.

We dolly out to see a long table in a room with no windows, only one door, a flag posted in every corner, and pictures of significant historical figures surrounding the

table. Maps of the state are thrown around the table with miscellaneous documents strewn around as well. The room has a smokey haze from the nervous cigars of everyone except DENNIS. A teletype machine sits on the desk next to Hartley.

HARTLEY

And how do we plan to fix that?

All of the officials sit in silence for a moment, DENNIS is clearly not paying attention.

SECRETARY FOWLER

I think we have to prepare for the worst.

Another spell of silence.

HARTLEY

I fear you're right. The public response so far-

OFFICIAL 1

And Washington's still quiet?

Hartley is hesitant to respond.

SECRETARY FOWLER

Orders have been vague at best. It's mostly just "Standby. Posture Readiness." Nothing but bureaucratic bullshit.

GENERAL STRAUB

Less than "bureaucratic bullshit." I've been told they're quietly pulling resources from frontline states. That is not just idleness.

OFFICIAL 1

Could it be strategic?

GENERAL STRAUB

No reason to change things now.

OFFICIAL 1

Unless they now realize a threat can appear anywhere.

GENERAL STRAUB

Yes, New York was unexpected, but the

frontlines still require more military power than-

HARTLEY

(Referencing the teletype machine)  
It's not strategic. I would know. I haven't heard anything either. Nothing but silence since this morning. If they were moving, they'd be sending them here, and we would know about it. We're on our own.

DENNIS

When we lost California, the feds didn't stop spouting orders for weeks. The President himself was on TV twice a day. Why the change?

GENERAL STRAUB

Nice of you to join the conversation Director Becker. California was the first. It was a shock. But since then, it's just been state after state. Nothing has changed, just gotten worse.

SECRETARY FOWLER

It has changed. We've only lost States in the west until now. No one expected that...New York would...

(Beat)

That's why people are scared.

DENNIS

Then we have to control the story. Tell them we have a plan.

GENERAL STRAUB

...when we don't?

DENNIS

We will. But we can't keep waiting for the feds to give us orders. People need a reason to think they won't die tomorrow...even if we don't know it's true.

SECRETARY FOWLER

Hope changes people.

DENNIS nods in agreement, followed by a few others.

HARTLEY

Then that's what we do. We tell everyone to stay home when at all possible. We tell them we'll increase security. Absolute obedience to curfews, searches and papers. What do we do about resources? The rations are-

DENNIS

We can't change the rations. Not again. The stations were already madhouses before. We don't have the manpower to settle riots right now.

The screen flashes with an image of the man in the stopped vehicle outside the traffic stop.

(CONT'D)

Above all, we need to reassure the people that they are safe. We tell them, we're still getting orders from Washington. That the President is not abandoning the American people.

GENERAL STRAUB

You think that will satisfy all of the-

He is interrupted by the teletype receiving a message, the first in days. Everyone watches anxiously as the machine slowly types out the message. GOVERNOR HEARTLY starts to look confused, the message is surprisingly short. He tears it off and reads it. He pauses for a moment, then stands up.

HARTLEY

Meeting adjourned.

He walks out of the room, leaving everyone in an anxious silence. They all stand up and follow the governor out of the room.

7 EXT. ROAD - DUSK

7

DENNIS is driving rather fast down the road, clearly disturbed by the events of the day. He sees propaganda signs planted in nearly every lawn. Some homes look more like barricaded war bunkers, others, entirely abandoned.

While driving, he passes a government building with a large air-raid siren on the top. His eyes are more focused on it than the road. Then, he sees the red flashing lights of a police car through the rearview mirror.

DENNIS

(Sigh)

Shit.

He pulls over. OFFICER JOHNSON gets out of his car, walks up, and knocks on the window before realizing who was in the car.

OFFICER JOHNSON

Denny! You are the last person I thought I'd see driving a big, black, government car.

DENNIS

(With a slight chuckle)

Denny?

OFFICER JOHNSON

18 years is all it takes? Coach Hardy, really?

(Beat)

Well, I can't blame you.

DENNIS

Yeah.

A moment of silence.

OFFICER JOHNSON

Well, I think you know why I stopped you.

DENNIS

Yeah, about that. The governor called an emergency meeting about everything that's happened, and that ran pretty late.

OFFICER JOHNSON

Well, normally I'd need some sort of verification or I'd have to take you in. But, I guess I'll call in a favor for an old buddy.

DENNIS

Thanks.

OFFICER JOHNSON

Don't sweat it. Just let the governor know to send you with papers. I'd think that curfew is only gonna' get worse from now on.

DENNIS

Copy.

OFFICER JOHNSON

Well, I'll let you get back to your family. I bet they haven't seen much of you these days. Take care.

DENNIS gives a slight wave of appreciation as he continues his drive home. We see a close up of OFFICER JOHNSON'S face still investigating DENNIS.

8 INT. BECKER HOME ENTRYWAY - NIGHT

8

The car parks in the driveway, headlights shining through the front window. JEFFY and VICTORIA BECKER anxiously peer through the window, in their pajamas.

The door opens.

JEFFY & VICTORIA

Daddy!/Pa!

They're quick embrace knocks DENNIS'S cane from under him, causing him to fall to his knees and meet them; partially against his will.

DENNIS

What are you two still doing up?

CAROLYN BECKER is seen standing in the hallway looking at the 3 of them, he face is faintly reflected in the glass picture frames on the wall. She is wearing a faded night gown with her hair wrapped up in a sleep cap. She is clearly upset but trying to save face in front of her children.

CAROLYN

I told them they could stay up till their daddy got home.

(With a look that could kill)

But I didn't expect you to be so late.

DENNIS

The governor called an E.M. I had no choice.

DENNIS painfully stands up to meet her gaze.

(CONT'D)

Can we talk about this after the kids are in bed?

CAROLYN

(Without breaking eye contact)  
Come on kiddos, let's getcha' in bed.

DENNIS looks down to notice that CAROLYN is not wearing her wedding ring.

9 INT. KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

9

DENNIS walks into the kitchen and sees a single plate of food sitting on the table. He sets down his things and grabs a bottle of gin from the cupboard and a glass. He then walks into the living room and flips the tv on. A news program begins playing titled "24/7 Wartime Information Channel" starts playing as he pours himself far more than enough gin and takes a stiff drink of it.

REPORTER (V.O.)

...we have one of our best reporters on the scene right now gathering as much information as he can. As of this moment, authorities have confirmed over 90,000 casualties with at least 200,000 still reported missing. This is truly a devastating moment for American history.

CAROLYN returns.

REPORTER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(Over dialogue)

President Eisenhower's response, however, remains unclear as he has made no official statement since this morning's attack. We urge all citizens to remain in their homes unless absolutely necessary. Please obey your state-mandated curfews and always keep an eye out for suspicious characters. If you notice any, contact your authorities as soon as

possible. If you believe an attack is imminent, please locate the nearest phone and dial 9-1-1.

CAROLYN

So, an "E.M." What was it this time? Governor needed help emptying a few bottles?

(beat)

Billiards maybe?

(beat)

Oh! Cards. I bet it was cards. I seem to remember that the Governor is a dirty cheat at poker-

DENNIS

He called the meeting after New York, ok? A big reason we lost so many is because they didn't have a plan. Governor doesn't want that to happen here too-

CAROLYN

You couldn't have called?

DENNIS

What?

CAROLYN

DENNIS! Let me tell you something: I got real excited when you told me you were finally gonna' have time to eat dinner with us. I prettied myself up, cleaned the house a little extra, and even got out the candlesticks from our weddin'. The kids got all dressed up in their Sunday clothes by themselves because they were gonna' eat a proper dinner with daddy.

DENNIS

Carolyn-

CAROLYN

NO, DENNIS! It's the same thing every time! You can't expect things to just get better on their own. You have to try. I'm doin' all I can for them-

(beat)  
And for you.

DENNIS  
I know mama. I really am trying. You know I want this to be better. But today was different, if-

CAROLYN  
I know, I know. If only the war was over, and you didn't have to stress all the time. I get it. And I know everythin' with your parents isn't helping either. But the war isn't ending anytime soon! It's been almost four years.

A moment of silence between them as DENNIS figures out what to say. All we hear is the TV program.

REPORTER (V.O.)  
In other news, the relocation of displaced citizens from last year's invasion of California, is still ongoing. While many have found refuge with friends and family, the housing market continues to crash, leaving many citizens homeless. If you or anyone you know may be able to take in a family or group of individuals, please contact

CAROLYN  
(At some point...)  
You had no problem making time when Frank and his family were here. Making sure they had food, a roof. Even helping them with a house. But when it's your own family needing you, you can't show up.

He looks at her.

I know it's hard for you.  
(beat)  
But it ain't just you daddy.

DENNIS'S attention is now drawn towards CAROLYN, but he still remains silent.

CAROLYN (CONT'D)

I love you. I do. But you know things aren't going well. I want to keep trying...

CAROLYN is overcome by emotion but is desperately trying to hold it in.

Try harder, ok?

DENNIS doesn't respond, but nods his head in acknowledgment.

CAROLYN (CONT'D)

Nothing? At all?

DENNIS

I'll do better.

CAROLYN

You're runnin' out of time, Dennis.

DENNIS looks at her again, and down to her ringless finger.

CAROLYN (CONT'D)

(dismissively)

Well, I'm taking the kids to MaMa's tomorrow. I better be off to bed.

DENNIS

Ok.

She starts to leave but stops in the doorway.

CAROLYN

I expect you to join me.

DENNIS

Mama I can't. I need to watch this program for the report I'm-

CAROLYN

The world is falling apart, Dennis. That's not gonna change. Don't choose them over us.

(Silence)

Anything?

(Silence, again)

Thirty minutes.

She exits before he has the chance to respond.

He glances at the clock which reads 9:23.

DENNIS

Thirty minutes.

The program continues as he slowly drifts off in a drunken slumber.

FADE TO BLACK:

SOLDIER 1 (V.O.)

WAKE UP PRIVATE!

10 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY (DREAM)

10

DENNIS is blinded by the morning light of Okinawa, Japan. He is surrounded by make-shift barriers and shelters laced with decimated trees, rock shards, and dirt mounds.

COMMANDER

The Japanese forces are advancing and we need to move. NOW!

The commander hurriedly runs off as DENNIS, still looking as old as he is now, scrambles to grab his gear. He begins running after the commander. As he runs off screen, we focus in on one item that he left behind, his pistol.

As DENNIS realizes this mistake and turns back, he now sees a Japanese SOLDIER standing at the top of the mound.

In a split second decision, DENNIS aims his rifle at the SOLDIER. A loud pop breaks the relative silence, followed by the soldiers body rolling down the mound.

After checking his surroundings for other soldiers, he approaches the the body, now lying face down. Looking closer, he sees the body's hair is now longer and grayer. Confused, he flips it over.

He immediately recognizes the face, that of an elderly woman, and pulls back in horror. The woman, contrary to his first thought, is still alive and gasping for breath.

At the sound of a gun cocking, he turns to see himself; much younger and cleanly shaven.

DENNIS

Wait!

Immediately, YOUNG DENNIS pulls the trigger. The bullet whizzes through the air and strikes DENNIS in the leg. He screams in agony and falls to the ground.

YOUNG DENNIS, also recognizing the nearly deceased woman, runs to her aid.

YOUNG DENNIS

No. No. No. Please! Please God, no!

The woman, touches his face, and releases her last breath. DENNIS, entirely unable to speak or react, watches as YOUNG DENNIS slowly stands up, grabs his rifle, walks towards DENNIS, aims his rifle at him, and--

BANG.

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

11

DENNIS jolts awake, spilling his half empty bottle of gin on his clothes. He takes a moment to get his bearings then sighs in frustration. After checking the TV and his notes, he glances up at the clock which now reads 3 AM.

DENNIS (O.S.)

Shit.

He slowly walks to the BEDROOM.

He carefully peers through the door to find CAROLYN already asleep. He lets off a sigh of disappointment and slips into the BATHROOM while unbuttoning his shirt.

As he takes off his alcohol soaked shirt and pants. We catch a glimpse of the letter he wrote to CAROLYN still in the back pocket.

With his clothes removed except for his undergarments, deep scars are seen in the same places as the wounds in the dream sequence.

He looks down to see a family photo with a young DENNIS, the woman from the dream and an unknown man. The photo is captioned: "Becker Family. April 8, 1937."

He flips the photo face down with some anger and shatters the glass in the frame.

After a pause, he just stares at himself in the mirror. The camera cannot see his reflection, only him. While there is no spoken dialogue, it's almost as if we can hear

his thoughts. He's not just staring in the mirror; he's having a silent conversation with himself.

After some resolution is reached, he flips off the light and walks over to the bed. He just stands and watches his wife for a moment. He lays in the bed next to her. He reaches out to put his arm around her, but hesitates. After his pause, he faces away from her.

FADE TO:

12 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (PAST)

12

A lamp turns on, illuminating the room more and giving it a warmer tone.

A title card appears that reads "Before".

CAROLYN and DENNIS are in bed, but different than before. Rather than facing different directions, they are laying in each others embrace. They both look tired, but not in the same way as before. Instead, its that all too common exhaustion that comes to parents of a newborn. They are both nearly asleep until they hear the sound of a child cooing. DENNIS looks up at the crib in the corner of the room where a newborn VICTORIA lays. They both sigh.

CAROLYN

I think this one's yours.

DENNIS

Wasn't I up last?

CAROLYN

Yes, but I did the two before that when you were asleep...and I make the milk. So, it's your turn.

DENNIS

You know, if you always pull the milk card, it's doesn't work as well.

She defiantly snuggles into the blankets. DENNIS starts to gets up. Slowly. And somewhat annoyed, but not at CAROLYN.

CAROLYN

She likes you. That's a good thing!

DENNIS

She's a baby, she doesn't know me yet.

CAROLYN  
(Softly laughing)  
And when she does, she'll love you  
even more.

He sits at the edge of the bed for a moment.

DENNIS  
It's just not something I'm used to. I  
didn't have a great example.

He says it like a joke but there's an undertone of  
seriousness in his words . CAROLYN puts her hand on his and  
just looks at him with an acknowledging smile.

CAROLYN  
You have me.  
(Beat)  
Your parents will be alright. Couples  
fight all the time. Especially at  
their age.

They laugh.

DENNIS  
Ugh, yeah. Don't get old please.

DENNIS stands up and begins to leave the room, stopping in  
the doorway for the rest of the conversation.

CAROLYN  
Oh, trust me, if I'm gonna look  
anything like my mother, I pray the  
day never comes.

They laugh again.

DENNIS  
Well, I'll be right back.

CAROLYN  
Yes, sir. Will you switch the lamp on  
your way out?

ON LAMP - CUT BACK TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

We see DENNIS again. The absence of the lamps glow bring us  
back to the cold bedroom of the present, illuminated by  
nothing but the moon. DENNIS sits up, grabs a blanket from

the foot of the bed and painfully slides to the ground. He looks at CAROLYN one more time, who hasn't moved. He lies on the ground, with his eyes completely open, trying to fall back asleep.

CUT TO:

13 INT. KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY

13

Morning in the Becker house is no less wild than you would expect any house would be. JEFFY is repulsed at the food on his plate while VICTORIA is feasting like it's the last meal she'll ever eat. CAROLYN is attempting to finish cooking breakfast for her husband while simultaneously wrangling her children. She looks beautiful, with her hair perfectly done, brightly colored dress without a single wrinkle, and flawless makeup accentuating her near perfect face. Far contrasting last night.

CAROLYN

Jeffy, go on and eat or you'll be hungry at MaMa's. And believe me, you don't want her cookin'.

She flips an egg.

VICTORIA

Why do we have to go to Ma Ma's? I want to play with Claire.

JEFFY

(Interjecting)

It's been a while since I've seen Tommy, too.

CAROLYN

Because Claire and Tommy live next door and MaMa's cabin is all the way up in the mountains and she wants to do something special for Jeffy's birthday. But I can ask their daddy if they can play tomorrow.

CAROLYN pours her self a cup of coffee and prepares it the usual way, a splash of cream, a spoonful of honey, and just a pinch of salt. As she's stirring, she briefly check's her reflection.

VICTORIA

I liked it better when they lived with us. We would stay up late every

night!

JEFFY

(Under his breath)

Shut up!

CAROLYN

What?

DENNIS enters, looking somehow more tired than last night.

(CONT'D)

(To the kids)

I'm not done with you two.

She flips the egg onto a plate of food and extends it towards him.

(CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I honestly expected you to still be on the couch this morning. Glad to see you can at least aim for the bed. Didn't quite make it though, did ya?

DENNIS

(Shamefully grabbing the plate)

My leg was hurting.

He walks into the LIVING ROOM and flicks on the TV while CAROLYN watches him from the kitchen for a moment. DENNIS is, of course, oblivious. She approaches him and leans down to whisper in his ear.

CAROLYN

(Passive-aggressively)

How about you turn that damn thing off and come eat with your family. Hm?

The two interchange looks. He is genuinely afraid of her "I'm going to kill you" smile. He turns the TV back off and sits at the table. CAROLYN sets a coffee down for DENNIS.

DENNIS

(Attempting a conversation)

So... how's school been for you two?

VICTORIA

Fine. My teacher told me I'm really good at math. I got all the answers

right in class!

DENNIS

That's good sweetie. What about you Jeffy?

JEFFY

(Somewhat dismissive)

I took a math test yesterday.

DENNIS

Oh. That's good...

(Beat)

...think you did well?

JEFFY just shrugs. Carolyn, to DENNIS, motions her eyes toward JEFFY. A genuinely oblivious look sits on DENNIS' face until thier interaction is interrupted by VICTORIA.

VICTORIA

So how about you daddy? What are you doing at work?

DENNIS

Well... a lot of people didn't make it after that attack in New York yesterday, so the governor and I are putting together a plan to help the state prepare for something like that.

(Now, mostly talking to himself)

There's a lot of variables like food, clean water, fallout shelters, that sort of thing. Nasty stuff. If it gets into the food, water, or even the air, it can make thousands of people sick even if they were nowhere near the explosion. It's a pain to try to-

He looks up at VICTORIA who is on the verge of tears, then to his wife who is clearly frustrated at him.

VICTORIA

Are we gonna get sick?

CAROLYN

(In an attempt to comfort her)

Oh no, no baby. You ain't gettin' sick, none of us are. Daddy sometime works with sick people, that's all.

Why don't you go finish getting ready.  
Ok? I'll be there in a minute. You  
too, Jeffy.

They agree and run off. CAROLYN stares at DENNIS who seems partially unaware of his lack of a filter.

DENNIS

Sorry?

CAROLYN

(Sigh)

Well, it's a start, I guess.

CAROLYN starts picking up breakfast and DENNIS, after checking his watch, sneaks into the LIVING ROOM.

He flips on the television set. He pulls out his notebook but immediately, the phone starts ringing. Somewhat irritated, he walks over to the phone.

DENNIS

Hello?

INTERCUT:

14 INT. - WHITEHOUSE - DAY

14

HARTLEY

Dennis?

DENNIS

Kris?

HARTLEY

I'm about to meet with the President.

(beat)

Something isn't right.

DENNIS

What do you mean? Are you at the White House?

HARTLEY

He called the meeting last night, I had to leave almost immediately-

DENNIS

(Interrupting him)

Kris...what's going on? First you were acting fishy yesterday, and now

this?

HARTLEY

I don't really know, but it can't be good. Just thought I'd tell you. If something bad happens I... I want you to be prepared.

DENNIS

I'll get to the board together. Call the stateroom as soon as-

HARTLEY

I'm not talking about the board.

DENNIS pauses and looks at CAROLYN from across the room who is now interested in her husband's phone call.

DENNIS

(Returning his focus to the call)  
Ok. Thank you, governor.

HARTLEY

If you don't hear back from me-

SECRETARY (O.S.)

Sir.

HARTLEY

They're starting, I have to go. Just be on the lookout. And...it might be a good time to start that vacation. The storm's coming in.

DENNIS

Kris-

HARTLEY

Godspeed, Dennis.

Hartley abruptly ends the call. DENNIS remains painfully uninformed and frustrated by that fact.

END INTERCUT

CAROLYN

What was that all about?

DENNIS

I'm not really sure.

He looks with anticipation towards the TV. Waiting for something that he isn't even certain will happen.

CAROLYN  
Is everything ok?

DENNIS  
Uh...yeah. He just wanted to make sure, I was caught up on everything.

CAROLYN  
Well, I guess I'll leave you to it then.

CAROLYN exits.

DENNIS  
(Not moving his eyes from the TV set)  
Yeah...

Suddenly, the program cuts to static. Frantically, he starts smacking the TV, hoping to get something back. His heart rate rapidly increases as indicated by his shortness of breath.

Nothing.

He looks to the bottle of gin in the kitchen and considers it for a moment. However, unsure the potential weight of the situation, he shakes of the urge. With a frightful motivation, he gets up and heads to his room.

15 INT. BEDROOM CLOSET - DAY

15

As frantic as before, DENNIS is seen pulling up his suspenders over his clothes and throwing a tie over his shoulder. Before leaving the closet, he looks down to a small safe on the ground. After some consideration, he kneels down and begins to open the safe. Once opened, we see the silvery surface of a revolver. Under the gun is a picture of a cleaner and younger looking DENNIS with his beautiful wife CAROLYN. On the back of the picture is a note that reads:

"Happy anniversary, my love! One whole year has passed since I became your wife. Can you believe that? I am so grateful to have you in my life, and I know our son will too.

With Love,

Your Favorite Wife, Carolyn"

He smiles at the note, looks at the picture one more time. We see a close up of the younger DENNIS. He picks up JEFFY's birth certificate which was situated next to the photo. He sets the picture and the certificate back in the safe and while losing his smile, reaches for the gun. He fiddles with the gun while looking at the rest of the items in the safe, a few cash wads and bullet casings. After some consideration, he sets the gun back in the safe, and closes it.

He walks back out into the BEDROOM, towards his nightstand. He opens a drawer to reveal a folded paper. When opened, it revealed as the letter he was writing the night before. He reads it one last time, and places it on top of CAROLYN's pillow.

16 INT. VICTORIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

16

CAROLYN walks in to see VICTORIA struggling to buckle her shoe. She is also seen wearing a very adorable dress...backwards.

CAROLYN

Oh dear, we can't go to ma ma's  
lookin' like that! She'll think your  
head is on backwards.

CAROLYN starts helping VICTORIA fix her backwards dress.

VICTORIA

(Gloating in her new dress)  
I think it's prettier like this.

CAROLYN

Oh honey, clothes aren't supposed to  
be worn backwards. Remember? I saw  
this dress at the shop and could just  
imagine how adorable you'd look in it.  
Especially, if it was on right.

She turns VICTORIA towards the mirror to see herself with the dress, now worn correctly.

(CONT'D)

I think my imagination was correct,  
don't you?

VICTORIA

Yeah.

They both laugh.

(CONT'D)

Do you imagine Jeffy in the store too?

CAROLYN

Of course! He's my strapping little man, how could I not?

VICTORIA

What about daddy?

CAROLYN

(Somewhat taken back)

You know, I do. In fact, just last week I walked by the tailor shop and saw a beautiful tuxedo. I thought your daddy would look rather dapper in it. All clean faced.

VICTORIA

He almost has a beard now!

CAROLYN

Oh, I know. He looks like he's been cleaning chimneys.

They both laugh again.

VICTORIA

Are you going to buy that tuxedo for dad?

CAROLYN

Hopefully.

(beat)

Hopefully.

(beat)

He would look good in it.

Returning fake smile, she starts helping VICTORIA with her old foe: shoe buckles.

17 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

17

We see the TV, still left on the static from earlier, rapidly cut to a blank screen. An eerily off tune version of the National Anthem begins playing. Text then slowly appears on screen that reads:

SLOW ZOOM OUT ON TV SCREEN

"CONTINGENCY MESSAGE WILL NOW BEGIN.

PLEASE COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING  
INSTRUCTIONS. GOD BLESS AMERICA.

The worst has come to pass. Despite the sacrifices of our citizens and the might of our armed forces, the UNITED STATES has been forced to surrender to her enemy.

They may have occupied our streets, but the enemy will never occupy our SPIRIT.

This is why all Americans are now called upon to ACT...to preserve the memory of the United States clear and bright...untarnished and uncompromised.

Know that I have already TAKEN ACTION. Now ALL AMERICANS- every man, woman, and child- are called upon to ACT before the moment passes by.

Let our united resolve echo through history: Even in defeat, we refused to yield.

Even in defeat, we claim VICTORY!

Dwight D. Eisenhower"

The following message then begins to play as "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL" is heard in the background, becoming more and more distorted as the message plays.

"HONOR LIBERTY BY TAKING THE FINAL AND  
GREATEST LIBERTY OF ALL. IT IS A

PRIVILEGE TO BE CALLED TO ACTION. YOU  
TAKE AMERICA WITH YOU.

WE WILL EACH BE REMEMBERED. USE THE  
METHOD MOST AVAILABLE TO YOU AT THIS  
TIME. YOUR COURAGE WILL INSPIRE  
OTHERS.

THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR.

ACCESS TO A LOADED FIREARM IS IDEAL.  
PLACE MUZZLE (HOLE OF GUN) UPWARD TO  
THE ROOF OF YOUR MOUTH. THANK YOU.

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR  
GOD.

IF THERE IS TIME... "VICTORY POSITION".  
REMEMBER THE 3 "F"s. FRONT LAWN, FACE  
UP, FEET TOGETHER.

FATHERS: TEND TO YOUR FAMILY BEFORE  
YOURSELF. USE A CALM TONE OF VOICE.  
EVERYONE CAN DO THEIR PART.

AS A CITIZEN YOU MUST ACT NOW. YOUR  
LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HAS BEEN ORDERED  
TO ENSURE YOUR COMPLIANCE. IT IS  
AGAINST THE LAW TO DELAY!

THIS MESSAGE WILL REPEAT UNTIL THERE  
ARE NONE LEFT TO HEAR IT.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!"

DENNIS, now visible in the frame, is speechless. Mixed with fear, confusion, and disbelief, he stands completely still, watching the message repeat until he is startled by a loud gunshot coming from outside. He runs to the door, opens it, and sees his neighbor across the Cul-de-sac holding a gun, as well as a person laying. Without a moment of hesitation, he runs out and across the street while yelling.

18 EXT. BECKER HOUSE - DAY

18

DENNIS

NO! DON'T!

He is running faster than he should; limited by his injured leg. He reaches out, in vain. A gunshot rings out,

stopping DENNIS in his tracks. DENNIS, with ringing ears, is now wearing full military gear, and clearly in distress. As he goes to run, a sharp pain hits his leg, and he collapses to the ground.

Everything is hazy. We now see DENNIS back in his normal clothes, kneeling in the ground and clasping at his chest, struggling to breathe. He tries to pull himself back into to the moment and looks up.

What he saw was, in fact, real. He just stares at the lawn, now filled with two corpses.

Then, his thoughts turn to his family, and he runs back just as quickly as he left. As he's running, he hears gunshot after gunshot, flinching with each one, as his neighborhood begins complying with the contingency order. He enters his house and slams the door shut, not hesitating to lock it.

19 INT. BECKER HOME (VARIOUS)- DAY

19

He now sees JEFFY who is innocently peering out the door. The dialogue is nearly inaudible.

JEFFY

(Noticing DENNIS)

What are those noises, pop?

DENNIS

(Pulling him back from the door)

Jeffy, go on down to the basement and open the shelter while I go get mamma and your sister.

JEFFY

But you said I can't-

DENNIS

That doesn't matter right now, just go open it.

DENNIS pushes JEFFY towards the basement and runs for VICTORIA'S ROOM.

DENNIS bursts in to see CAROLYN and VICTORIA looking at, but not through, the window.

CAROLYN

Daddy, what's goin' on. Are those gunshots?

DENNIS  
I'll explain later just get  
downstairs, now.

VICTORIA  
What's happening?

CAROLYN  
Come along, baby.

They all start running towards the STAIRWAY. As they descend,  
DENNIS stops and runs back upstairs.

CAROLYN (CONT'D)  
Where are you going?!

DENNIS  
I need to get something. Get in the  
shelter!

CAROLYN  
(More audible than previous lines)  
I expect you to join me!

DENNIS  
(With real intent)  
I'll be there.

The two exchange a look and run in their separate directions.  
DENNIS runs to his BEDROOM CLOSET and retrieves the revolver.  
He does a double take at the other items, and grabs the  
wedding picture. As he runs through the bedroom we catch a  
glimpse of his letter, still sitting on CAROLYN's pillow. He  
runs back down the stairs, nearly tripping over his injured  
leg, enters the bunker, and pulls the heavy door shut.