

THE ART OF DATING IN THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

Written by

Eric Toms

Eric@erictoms.com
408.480.1438 cell
5102 Wilderness Lane
Culver City, CA 90230

FIRE!

TITLE CARD: **THE ART OF DATING IN THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE!**

Swirling red and yellow, but it's being pushed back by something. Suddenly, dressed in a heavy yellow uniform and helmet, with YELLOW AIR CANNISTERS strapped to his backs is a FIREFIGHTER wielding a giant WATER HOSE.

EXT. CONCRETE BUILDING/PARKING LOT - DAY

A small group of mid-Western townfolk stand in a wide open field and look on at a large building engulfed in flames.

Amongst the people is DARLENE, early 40s, girl-next-door good looks, has a look of being crushed by life

DARLENE

Oh my gosh. Oh, I hope those guys are safe up there.

TONY (O.S.)

If you was up there you'd be pissing your pants, huh?

Darlene turns as her husband TONY, 40s, lug of a guy who used to be in good shape and wearing John Deere everything, nurses a BEER.

DARLENE

Oh well, you never know.

TONY

No way! You could never do something like that. You'd be all crying like--

(silly voice)

Boo-hoo-hoo! Tony I wish I was makin' a casserole!

(thinking to himself)

That sounds good. Make a casserole tonight.

DARLENE

You're probably right. It is awful high, and it must be hot, don't'cha know.

TONY

Bet you anything their balls are sticking to their thighs.

DARLENE

(whisper)

Please put that beer away. There are law enforcement around. And please stop talking about balls.

TONY

These are firefighters, not cops. What are they gonna do? Throw an axe at me? And most these guys have balls. Ain't that right, old timer?

JOHN SR

Big enough to choke a horse.

The "old timer" is JOHN STRONG SR, mid 60s, wild white hair, wire glasses and dressed in a tan leisure suit. He's glued to his iPhone that's playing the film TOP GUN.

DARLENE

Hi Mr. Strong. Oh, you got an iPhone. Got any apps?

JOHN SR

Just got Top Gun. That's all I need.

DARLENE

You think John Jr is gonna make it?

JOHN SR

John's like Goose in Top Gun: strong, brave man, but not the hero of the story. Also, it's best if he keeps his shirt on at the beach.

Darlene is distracted by a pig SQUEAL. She looks to a distant field and sees the strangest fucking thing ever - a pig froths at the mouth and attacks a terrified bear!

A WHITE VAN pulls up and an OLDER SCIENTIST in a white lab coat shoots the pig with a DARTGUN.

The pig passes out and is carried into the van by YOUNG SCIENTIST in a similar white lab coat, then the van speeds away.

DARLENE

Did that pig take down a bear?

TONY

Darlene, will you shut your pie hole! Ain't no bears this far south 'less something chasin'em. Hmm... pie sounds good. Make pie too.

JOHN SR

I can't even tell where John is.

DARLENE

Oh, he's second from the right. See? The one with the broad shoulders.

TONY

Now how in the hell can you tell that?

DARLENE

(smiling)
Hmm? Oh, I dunno.

INT. CONCRETE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

The smoke clears, revealing metal walls now charred black. DUMB FIRE FIGHTER runs to one of the three doors in the room. The man in the front of the line takes notice.

JOHN

Test that door. Test that door!

But Dumb Fire Fighter opens the door to find a FIREBALL hurdling towards him!

John leaps, grabbing him by the arm and throws him out of the way just as flames spill into the room. John swings the door shut.

Two men test a door and try to open it, but it's locked. They try knocking it down with their shoulders.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Make a hole.

They move aside as John takes an AXE from his belt.

OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR - CONTINUOUS

BOOM!

The door explodes and when the dust settles John is standing in the doorway looking big as a mountain.

JOHN

Let's go.

On the floor are a number of MANNEQUINS. John picks two up and races them --

EXT. CONCRETE BUILDING/PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

-- next to an awaiting AMBULANCE.

JOHN

(to mannequin)

You're going to be okay!

The other Fire Fighters fumble and drop their mannequins as John races back inside.

We can now see that the men have the word TRAINEES written on their suits. This is a FIRE TRAINING FACILITY.

EXT. FIRE TRAINING TOWER/ROOF - MOMENTS LATER

John holds the door open and one-by-one the Fire Fighters run out and LEAP OFF THE ROOF. After the last man John slowly moves to the ledge.

On the ground is a SAFETY PAD that the firefighters have been landing on. Everyone watches John. He stands there, balls his fists, and then --

BLECH!!

His gas mask fills with PUKE and he passes out. Tony's LAUGHTER echoes from below.

EXT. FIRE TRAINING TOWER/PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Tony is nearly doubled over in laughter, as Darlene's face turns to sadness. John Sr resumes watching TOP GUN.

TONY

Oh, well excuse me if a dude puking in a gas mask ain't the funniest thing! Har-har! Har --

FIRE CHIEF (O.C.)

Tony! Is that a Goddamn beer?!

Tony hides the beer behind his back.

TONY
What? No, it's --

John Sr hits Tony's arm, knocking the beer on to the concrete; it lands with a SMASH.

TONY (CONT'D)
Shit! Let's go.

The crowd slowly disperses.

EXT. FIRE TRAINING TOWER/PARKING LOT - LATER

CRAPPY COLLEGE ROCK SONGS fill the air.

Now with his helmet and gas mask off we can finally see the firefighter we were following: JOHN STRONG, 40s, great mustache, strong physique, but looks like he enjoys a good hamburger.

He's been cleaned up and wakes up on a COT next to the mannequins. Bits of the tower are still on fire.

FIRE CHIEF, 50s, blank expression, wearing a hat that reads FIRE CHIEF, stands over him.

JOHN
Did I throw up?

Fire Chief nods.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Did I jump?

Fire Chief shakes his head.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Shit.

Fire Chief walks to a nearby CONTROL PANEL, presses a LARGE RED BUTTON and the remaining flames immediately extinguish.

Fire Chief joins the other Trainee Fire Fighters.

FIRE CHIEF (O.C.)
Pay up. Told you he'd puke.

EXT. COTSWOLD SWINE GENETICS - MORNING

A line of EMPLOYEES file in the front door. Everyone is wearing WHITE COVERALLS, except John who wears BLUE.

INT. COTSWOLD SWINE GENETICS/JANITOR'S CLOSET - LATER

Seated on top a BOX OF BLEACH in a tiny room with BROOMS, BUCKET, MOP, AND TOILET PAPER is John drinking from a MUG that reads: FIRE FIGHTERS DO IT ON LADDERS.

I/E. JOHN'S HOUSE - EVENING

John slows to a walk in front of a two story, white house with a small porch and an EXTREMELY TALL FENCE with GATE. He takes his keys from his pocket, but stops dead... the door is slightly open.

He pushes it wide open and stares down a hallway.

JOHN

Hello? Is anyone here?

The only sound is the WIND BLOWING. John steps inside and makes his way down the hall.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is a mess. Furniture overturned, curtains off the track, a hole in the wall. The TV is on, but the screen is blue.

From his point of view John can see the top of a pale, bald head on an overstuffed lounge chair, and hears LABORED BREATHING.

JOHN

Hello?

Slowly the person in the chair turns with a outstretched hand, gasping for breath, and eyes that have no focus. John is startled, but then --

JOHN SR

(coughing)

Shut the damn door. It's freezing!

JOHN

For God's sake, Dad! What happened to the house?

JOHN SR

Ah, there was a mouse. You want some cake?

He scoops up some CAKE, eating it with his bare hands. The cake used to say: CONGRATS FIRE FIGHTER! John investigates and is taken back by the DEAD MOUSE.

JOHN

Dad! Get a plate. That's why we get mice in the first place.
(pointing to mouse)
You could at least throw it out.

JOHN SR

No! He's to be left there as an example to the others. Come watch this with me.

John mouths along with John Sr's next line. He's heard this a million times.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)

Top Gun! The greatest damn movie ever shot.

John starts cleaning and picks up a FRAMED PHOTO. It's of John Sr, much younger, with a PRETTY GIRL in a white dress. FOURTEEN YEAR OLD JOHN JR, with mustache, stands next to them with a soured expression.

JOHN

Dad! Why is my uniform on the ground?

It's too late, the movie is on and John Sr is in heavy reminiscing mode.

JOHN SR

There was this girl, and she asked: "what are you doing here?" And I told her I was the safety coordinator. And I asked her: "what are you doing here?" And she said: "I'm the caterer." And then I said: "Well you certainly are a dish!"

(laughing)

Oh man! Did that ever get her! She said her name was Cheryl and --

John is putting garbage into a TRASH BAG and looks up to see TWO BRONZE FIREMAN'S AXES mounted on PLAQUES over the fireplace. They both read, FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE, but one says **1973-2010** and the other **1948-1987**.

He glances out the window.

JOHN

Dad! How long has there been a hole in the fence?

JOHN SR

I dunno. Week?

JOHN

A week?! I'll fix it when I get home.

JOHN SR

Fix me a sandwich before you go.

John slams his fist against the wall! He storms into his --

BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is spare and very neat. POSTERS with people climbing mountains and quotes like, STOP WISHING, START DOING. John begins packing.

HALLWAY

Without getting up, John Sr cranes his neck and looks down the hall.

Intercut between Hallway and John's room.

JOHN SR

What are you doing?

JOHN

Packing.

JOHN SR

Why?

JOHN

Because I'm leaving Kasota.

JOHN SR

What?

JOHN
I SAID I'M LEAVING --

JOHN SR
No, I heard you. I meant 'what'
like, why?

JOHN
Gee, let me see: I'm single, I live
with my father, I've failed the
fire fighter's exam every year for
twenty years, and everyone in town
thinks that's hilarious. Pretty
compelling reasons!

JOHN SR
What about me?

JOHN
What about you, dad? You watch
that God damn movie like Tom Cruise
is paying you.

JOHN SR
But it's my house.

JOHN
No, you gave up your half to mom in
the divorce, and when she died she
left it to me. That makes it my
house.

John zips up the backpack and stomps into the --

LIVING ROOM

He's about to walk out the door when John Sr stands.

JOHN SR
Where you going?

JOHN
I'll let you know when I get there.

JOHN SR
No.

John stops.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
You're mad at me, fine. I'm an old
asshole, someone should be mad at
me, but I have to know where you're
going... so... where you going?

John looks out the door. The street is empty. A NEWSPAPER
tumbles by in the wind. John drops his BACKPACK on the
floor.

JOHN
I don't know.

John Sr squares off with his son.

JOHN SR
Well, um... it's... it's okay.

John Sr slaps his son on the shoulder. They're bad at
feelings 'n stuff.

JOHN
Thanks.

John slaps his dad on the shoulder.

JOHN SR
I-it looks bad sometimes, but...
the sun always rises.

John Sr slaps John on the shoulder.

JOHN
Okay. Thanks.

John slaps John Sr on the shoulder.

JOHN SR
Good. Good.

BEAT

John Sr slaps him on the shoulder then sits down in his
chair.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
Come on, watch this with me.

JOHN
No thanks. I'm gonna be in the
basement.

INT. BASEMENT - EVENING

He opens a very worn CASE. Inside is an old, but well loved SAXOPHONE. He reaches inside the case and takes out a very old BIRTHDAY CARD. Inside reads: JOHN-JOHN, IF YOU CARE ABOUT IT THEN IT'S IMPORTANT. LOVE MOM.

He smiles and looks up at a picture of a very young John with a kind faced woman, no doubt his birth mother. In the picture he is a little boy sitting on her lap at a birthday. He's holding the saxophone.

John brings his lips to a SAXOPHONE and soulfully plays "CARELESS WHISPER" BY GEORGE MICHAEL.

Another picture shows young John holding a TROPHY and standing with his father and mother. John is the only one smiling.

A picture of John and his mother in the hospital.

John finishes the song and puts his saxophone down.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

John is standing in front of the gap in the fence, nailing WOODEN PLANKS. He looks into his neighbor's yard and sees a PICNIC TABLE with PAPER PLATES, a sign that reads HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

Through the window he can see Tony sitting on the couch YELLING at his TV. He gets up.

JOHN
(to himself)
Don't come outside. Don't come
outside. You're thirsty. Yeah, go
get a beer.

He sees Tony cross to his kitchen and open the refrigerator. He opens a BEER and takes a swig.

JOHN (CONT'D)
(to himself)
There ya go. Now go sit back down.
Go sit down and yell at your TV --

Tony looks towards the TV, but then looks outside and sees John.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 (to himself)
 Oh shit.

He goes back to mending the fence. Tony walks outside.

TONY (O.C.)
 Heads up!

WACK!

John is hit in the stomach by a football.

TONY (CONT'D)
 (laughing)
 Whoa! Look out!

Tony trots over.

TONY (CONT'D)
 Got a piece of you there, didn't I
 John boy? I'm surprised that
 target is so big. Looked like you
 puked up most everything the other
 day!

Tony laughs loud and long, slapping a unenthusiastic John on
 the belly.

JOHN
 So, happy birthday... I guess?

TONY
 Yeah. Guilty! Darlene's ain't
 till December.

JOHN
 (to himself)
 September.

TONY
 The boys from Cotswold were
 supposed to come over, but Darlene
 screwed up the invite. Women, am I
 right?!

JOHN
 I wouldn't know.

TONY
 Yeah, you're weird. Man, that pass
 was just like the game against St.
 Peter High back in '91, remember?

JOHN
Don't think I recall that game.

TONY
Come on in the house. I got the
game on tape.

JOHN
Oh, I really need to finish this.

TONY
Come on, man! I mean, what else
you got going on?

John stares at Tony.

JOHN
I'm thinking.

INT. TONY AND DARLENE'S HOUSE - LATER

John sits emotionlessly staring at a POORLY STUFFED BADGER sitting on top of the TV that plays a VHS of a HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME. Tony is on his feet, beer in hand.

TONY
I stuffed that myself. Darlene
loves it. Oh, See? Then this guy
comes outta nowhere! And what do I
do? Check this out. BOOM! I flat-
back that son-a-bitch!

Laughing, Tony raises his hand for a high five. John reluctantly accepts with a WHACK!

TONY (CONT'D)
WOOO!
(yelling)
Hey Darlene! Get off your ass and
get us a few beers!

INT. TONY AND DARLENE'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Darlene puts down he copy of FIFTY SHADES OF GREY on the table and walks to the living room, shoulders hunched.

JOHN
Hello Darlene.

DARLENE

Hi John. You did a really great job at your exam the other day. I was cheering for you.

JOHN

(bashful)

Thank you.

TONY

Yeah, till you tossed cookies in your face mask!

(to Darlene)

So where's the beers?

DARLENE

Would you like another pop?

JOHN

That would be nice, thank you.

They smile at one another.

TONY

Hey! Speaking of pop, get that beer or I'll pop you in the head.

Tony laughs. Darlene backs out of the room and into the-

KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

JOHN (O.C.)

That isn't necessary.

TONY (O.C.)

(laughing)

Oh hell, I'm just fool'en. Don't want nothin' bad happening to Darlene. I'd starve!

Darlene blows her nose into a TISSUE. She wipes the tissue on the rim of Tony's beer can.

TONY (O.C.) (CONT'D)

See, the joke there is that I have trouble taking care of myself, so I'd never let Darlene go --

JOHN (O.C.)

Oh, I got it.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Darlene walks in with a TRAY holding a BEER and a COKE. She passes them out.

JOHN

Thank you.

Something out the window catches Tony's attention.

TONY

Oh man! No way.

He heads out the front door. John follows him.

EXT. TONY AND DARLENE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tony stands on the front porch LAUGHING.

TONY

Hey Wool Banger! What you do'en,
boy?

Tony is yelling at a skinny man in his 30's who is pushing a black motorcycle with poorly fabricated BATWINGS on the sides. He's dressed in black BODY ARMOR fashioned to look like Batman. This is LEONARD.

LEONARD

M-my b-bike ran out of g-g-gas.

TONY

No s-s-shit!
(laughing)
Now just what are you wearin'?

LEONARD

M-my body armor.

TONY

Well damn, Wool Knocker. You ain't
gonna need no body armor going that
slow!

Tony laughs and slaps an unimpressed John on the back.

JOHN

Would you like some gas, Leonard?

The bike suddenly shifts and topples over. Leonard tries to catch it, but falls over with it. He gets up and assumes a pose as if it never happened.

JOHN (CONT'D)

If you'd like you can leave your bike on the side of my house.

LEONARD

O-okay. Thanks, John. I have to go n-now.

Leonard runs down the street in his Batman armor.

TONY

What a weird-o. You know he lives out in a bunker, right? He *has* to live out there. Court orders. He's a sheep rapist.

JOHN

I don't think that's true.

Tony sips his drink and suddenly SPITS!

TONY

What the shit is this shit?
Darlene!

Tony pushes past John and goes back inside. John follows him.

INT. TONY AND DARLENE'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tony gets up and gets in Darlene's face.

TONY

You listen to me! I did not fight... for my country... in the Coast Guard... in San Diego... to have LIGHT beer in my house.

(to John)

John, I'm so embarrassed.

John gets between the two of them.

JOHN

I assure you there is no need to yell.

TONY

Yell? Brother, when I start yelling you'll know it. Now sit your ass down and watch the game.

JOHN

I think I have to go.
(to Darlene)
Thank you for a lovely time.

John starts heading for the door.

TONY

Fine! Go home to daddy. I'm sure you have to get up early to go fail something.

(to Darlene)

This is all your fault. Just like getting the date wrong on my birthday invitations!

John stops, balls his fists, and turns.

DARLENE

I-I'm sorry Tony, but I was positive I put the right dates.

TONY

You're getting awfully lippy. We're gonna have to do something about that.

JOHN

Do not talk to her in that tone.

TONY

(laughing)

John, listen: do not make me introduce you to --

(raising right fist)

Marky Mark

(raising left fist)

And the funky bunch.

John punches Tony in the nose. Tony falls onto his butt with a dazed look on his face. Darlene rushes to him.

DARLENE

John! What are you doing?

JOHN

He shouldn't talk to you like that.

A brief smile ALMOST comes across Darlene's face, but it fades. Tony holds his bloody nose.

TONY
(unintelligible garble)
Murf a hurffen hurf!

DARLENE
You should go before you make
things worse.
(BEAT)
Please.

John, confused, walks to the door.

JOHN
I'm sorry.

EXT. TONY AND DARLENE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

John quietly leaves and walks back to the hole in the fence.

JOHN
(to himself)
Damn it.

He nails in the final wooden plank, completing the fence between the houses.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - EVENING

John walks in to find John Sr right where he left him: on the couch in front of the TV. His eyes are closed and he's snoring like a chainsaw. John grabs a BLANKET and puts it on him. He jerks awake and slaps John on the face!

JOHN SR
Oh my gosh! I'm so sorry, son.

JOHN
It's okay. Sorry I woke you.
Night.

JOHN SR
No, no, no. Come here and watch
this with me.

JOHN
I've got work tomorrow.

JOHN SR
Come on. Please?

John sighs and sits down.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
Atta boy! Did you know that I was
the one who had to tell Anthony
Edwards to put his shirt back on?
Awkward conversation.

Together the two men sit in silence and watch the volleyball
scene from Top Gun.

EXT. COTSWOLD SWINE GENETICS/PARKING LOT - MORNING

John parks his PICK-UP TRUCK and walks inside alongside
everyone else. A blue speck in a sea of white overalls.

INT. COTSWOLD SWINE GENETICS/PRODUCTION FLOOR - LATER

The size of a warehouse, this room is bright and sterilized.
Employees wear disposable gloves and hair nets. There are a
number of LIVE BOARS calmly standing on top of STEEL TABLES.

John wheels in his MOP and BUCKET then stops dead in his
tracks at the sight of Darlene. She's dressed as the other
employees standing at a table with a placid boar.

JOHN
Darlene? You work here?

DARLENE
Today is my first day. The bank
raised our interest rates, so here
I am.

JOHN
Well now, officially everyone in
Kasota works here.

As they talk, Darlene puts on gloves and grabs a LARGE
PLASTIC VIAL. She places it under the boar and starts
TUGGING REPEATEDLY.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I'm very sorry about hitting Tony.
I shouldn't have done that.

DARLENE
 (head down)
 S-sometimes Tony asks for it.

JOHN
 Asking for it or not, I shouldn't
 have done it.

DARLENE
 Sometimes I add packing peanuts to
 his dinner.

John laughs with a SNORT. They smile at one another longer
 than friends should.

SQUEAL!

DARLENE (CONT'D)
 I think he's all done.

JOHN
 Oh. Oh! I'll leave you to it.

Darlene grabs the vial, now filled with CREAMY LIQUID, and
 CAPS it, unsure what to do next.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 You have to take it to the drop off
 center. I'm happy to show you, if
 you'd like.

DARLENE
 (laughing)
 Yes please.

INT. COTSWOLD SWINE GENETICS/HALLWAY - LATER

John waits outside a door, staring at a sign with a CARTOON
 BOAR that reads: WHY BUY THE BABY MAKER WHEN YOU CAN JUST BUY
 THE BATTER? Darlene walks out and they head back together.

JOHN
 You know this facility produces
 some of the highest quality
 livestock seed for the entire
 world?

DARLENE
 And here I just thought I was
 jerking off pigs.

JOHN
 (laughing)
 Well, there's that. But you're giving life to a new generation.

DARLENE
 You know a lot about this job. We should switch.

JOHN
 (laughing)
 You're too pretty to be a janitor. Besides, my hands are rough. I'd feel bad for the boar. It's alright, not what I want to do, but they offer medical and dental.

DARLENE
 It's got to be tough, supporting you and your dad.

JOHN
 Um, I... it is.

DARLENE
 I'm sorry. I shouldn't have... I'm sorry.

JOHN
 Don't be. I give him a hard time, but I like having him there. At least he was a fire fighter.

DARLENE
 You'll get there.

JOHN
 Thanks. I just don't want to be known as the guy who cleaned up pig cum.

Darlene laughs. A woman, 40's, wearing the same white coveralls, but hers are stained. This is TINA.

TINA
 Oh, hey Darlene.

DARLENE
 Hey Tina. How are you?

TINA
 It's so good to see you out of the house and working.

DARLENE
Yeah, how 'bout that.

TINA
Ever since high school I knew you
were cut out for this work.

They both laugh.

TINA (CONT'D)
We should get together at lunch.

DARLENE
Yeah, let's do that.

TINA
Alrighty, bye-bye.

DARLENE
Bye.

Tina walks down the hall.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
What a cunt.

JOHN
Whoa! Did I miss something?

DARLENE
She and I were both up for
cheerleading captain in high
school.

JOHN
Yeah, I remember. You were
something.

DARLENE
(regretfully)
I was.

Suddenly, YOUNG SCIENTIST busts out of a nearby door!

YOUNG SCIENTIST
I won't do it! I won't do it!
You're playing God!

Young Scientist marches down the hall. The OLDER SCIENTIST
Darlene saw in the white van (60s, bald, white lab coat) runs
into the hallway. He composes himself upon seeing John and
Darlene.

OLDER SCIENTIST

Oh, um, hello there. That was...
nothing. Say, how would you two
like to make fifty dollars?

JOHN

I don't think the lady would be
interested in anything like that...

OLDER SCIENTIST

What? No. I just need you to hold
down a pig while I put a syringe in
it's who-ha.

JOHN

Oh. Sure.

DARLENE

Yeah, that's fine.

INT. COTSWOLD SWINE GENETICS/OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The walls of the room are lined with various MACHINES. On
the far wall is a CHALK BOARD covered with equations. In the
center of the room, surrounded by lights, is a PIG on a steel
table.

OLDER SCIENTIST

My associate, and others like him,
believe that "God" gave us these
brains then expected us not to use
them for the betterment of human
kind. What if I told you that
immortality was within our reach?

DARLENE

Oh, that's nice.

OLDER SCIENTIST

But not just immortality, but
bodies capable of amazing feats of
strength and speed. Our species
may have begun as cowards in caves,
but soon we will be Gods!

BEAT

JOHN

Is this going to take long? I have
to mop up pig sperm.

BANG!

They look to see another FROTHY MOUTHED PIG in a row of cages. His eyes are a sickly red and yellow. He BANGS his head on the wall, ripping through the flimsy tin and starts biting at the HEALTHY PIG in the next cage.

THUMP!

A DART hits the pig in the neck and it passes out. John and Darlene turn to see Older Scientist with a TRANQUILIZER GUN.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Is this safe?

OLDER SCIENTIST

It isn't not safe. Hold him down.

JOHN

Good luck with you abomination.

(pointing to the door)

Darlene?

OLDER SCIENTIST

Hey! I'll have your jobs. Now get back here.

JOHN

(emotionless)

Oh my. Where else could I possibly find a job in the custodial arts?

Good day sir.

He walks for the door, but Darlene is frozen.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Darlene?

DARLENE

I'm sorry, John. I really need this job.

John looks at her meek expression, and sighs.

INT. COTSWOLD SWINE GENETICS/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tony, now with a BANDAGE across his nose, sneaks into the hallway and takes out a small FLASK. He unscrews the top and takes a swig.

JOHN (O.C.)

What if you grab it like this?

DARLENE (O.C.)
 Yours is so big and hairy.
 (laughing)
 So's mine.

Tony finds a door and peers through its small window. He can barely make out John and Darlene.

TONY
 (to himself)
 What's this turd puppy all about?

JOHN
 Okay, put it in now.

INT. COTSWOLD SWINE GENETICS/OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

John and Darlene hold down the docile pig. Older Scientist picks up a STAINLESS STEEL PHALLIC SYRINGE.

OLDER SCIENTIST
 Be men, or be more than men. Be steady to your purposes and firm as a rock. This ice is not made of such stuff as your hearts may be...

DARLENE
 Speaking of ice, you may want to warm that up --

Older Scientist "injects" the pig with the syringe at the same moment Tony throws the door open!

TONY
 You're dead, John boy!

The pig's eyes go wide! It bucks and the syringe flies into the air, SMASHING to pieces on the floor. John grabs Darlene and they duck, as Older Scientist and Tony are struck in the face by a CREAMY SUBSTANCE.

DARLENE
 Tony, honey. Are you okay?

TONY
 Well, I just got a facial from a pig - SO NO! I AM NOT OKAY!

Darlene rushes to his side.

DARLENE
 (whispered)
 You might want to wipe your face --

Tony wipes his face with his sleeve, but misses some that's on his nose.

GIGGLE

Tony turns to John who is trying to stifle his laughter.

TONY
 I gonna end you John Strong!

DARLENE
 Tony stop!

Everyone turns to see Darlene with her hand over her mouth.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
 We-should-just-take-the-rest-of-the-
 day-off-and-go-home-okay-this-was-a-
 terrible-mistake-but-we-can-come-
 back-to-work-tomorrow-because-we-
 both-need-our-jobs... right?

TONY
 Yeah. Yeah. See you around, John
 boy.

JOHN
 Darlene --

DARLENE
 Stop it, John. Please, just leave
 us alone.

She takes him by the arm and leads him out the door.

TONY (O.C.)
 I'ma kick that pig's ass too!

John shakes his head and sighs.

OLDER SCIENTIST
 Well... let's get him back on the
 table.

John walks out of the room.

OLDER SCIENTIST (CONT'D)
 Hey! This pig isn't gonna fuck
 itself!

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - EVENING

John stares out the window at Darlene and Tony's house while John Sr watches the TV.

JOHN
Maybe I should go over there, just
to check in.

JOHN SR
Um-hm.

JOHN
I mean, he was pretty upset.

JOHN SR
Um-hm.

JOHN
What do you think, dad?

JOHN SR
Um-hm.

JOHN
Dad?!

JOHN SR
Did you know that none, *none* of
these guys were professional
volleyball players? They're just
naturally great.

JOHN
Are you even listening to me?

JOHN SR
Hell John, they're fine. Married
couples row, and you should keep
out of it. She's not your wife.

INT. TONY AND DARLENE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tony comes downstairs dressed in pajama bottoms and a bathrobe drying his hair with a towel. Darlene is curled up in a chair with a book.

TONY
That shower made me feel...
hungry.

DARLENE

Oh, well I can heat you up some
casserole or --

TONY

Meat. I want meat.

DARLENE

Okay, um, the steaks are frozen,
but I can make you a burger.

She crosses to the --

KITCHEN

-- and takes RAW HAMBURGER MEAT out of the refrigerator. As she unwraps it Tony's eyes start twitching. Darlene opens cabinets.

DARLENE

You want some Ranch dressing on
your burger?

Tony lunges for the raw meat and starts devouring it!
Darlene gasps!

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Tony! What are you doing? Don't
you want me to heat that up?

Tony eats the entire thing and throws open the refrigerator door. He grabs DELI MEAT, LEG-OF-LAMB, RAW BACON, and shoves it into his mouth!

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Tony, you're scaring me.

Tony stops and looks Darlene up and down. Tony's eyes are suddenly red and yellow.

TONY

MEAT.

He lunges for her! Darlene screams and jumps out of the way!

DARLENE

What are you doing?!

He chases her down a hallway and she runs inside the --

BEDROOM

-- and locks the door.

THUD! THUD! THUD!

The top of the door smashes open and Tony reaches for her!
Darlene screams!

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Out the window John sees the STUFFED BADGER SMASH through
Tony and Darlene's window. She sticks her head out --

DARLENE
SOMEBODY HELP!

INT. TONY AND DARLENE'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tony is nearly through the door when --

BOOM!

The back door nearly explodes, and standing there, holding a
BRONZE FIREMAN'S AXE, is John.

DARLENE
John!

She runs into his arms.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
It's okay! Everything's fine!
He's just a little bite-y!

JOHN
Let's get you out of --

Tony bursts through the door and lands on top of John. Tony
bites, his mouth is inches away from John's neck. He gets
his foot on Tony's stomach and pushes him off. John leaps up
and throws the axe at Tony, landing in his chest.

DARLENE
Tony! No!

JOHN
Oh my God! Tony, I'm sorry --

Tony screams and lunges for them! John grabs Darlene's hand
and they race down the hallway to the --

KITCHEN

DARLENE

He's hurt! I'll get cotton balls!

Tony races down the hall and leaps at John, who grabs the protruding axe handle, keeping him at distance. As they struggle John sees the basement door off the kitchen.

JOHN

Open the door!

Darlene races for the door and opens it, revealing a staircase leading down. John swings Tony around in a circle and pushes, releasing the axe from his chest and sending Tony flying down the stairs.

THUD! CLANG! CRASH!

DARLENE

Do you think he's okay?

They slowly walk to the top of the stairs and see Tony's body at the bottom, his neck unnaturally twisted to the side.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Tony... honey? Do you still want that casserole?

Tony stands up and starts up the stairs.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Tony?

JOHN

Darlene! Get back!

He's nearly at the top when John slams the door shut.

THUD! CLANG! CRASH!

John pushes the TINY LOCK on the knob.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I'm gonna call the police.

DARLENE

What are you going to tell them?

JOHN

I don't know, but at least he's contained.

John picks up the phone and dials.

DARLENE
I'm trying to think: is the cellar
door locked --

BOOM!

DARLENE (CONT'D)
It's not. It's not locked.

They run out the front door --

EXT. TONY AND DARLENE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

In the moonlight they can see Tony running into the night chasing what looks like the same bear that the pig chased down earlier.

He turns a corner and is gone.

OFFICER FLOYD (O.C.)
(on phone)
Kasota Police Department? Hello?

John brings the phone to his ear.

JOHN
Floyd? You're not gonna believe
this...

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - LATER

John, Darlene (stunned looks on their faces) and John Sr sit side-by-side on the couch watching Top Gun. The Volleyball scene is on. John Sr brushes popcorn off his belly.

JOHN
Sorry about the door. I can fix
that.

DARLENE
John, if it hadn't been for you I'd
be --

JOHN
Darlene, you are a strong and
capable woman. You'da been just
fine.

Darlene looks around the house at the HALF EATEN CAKE on the side table, clothes laid over the backs of chairs, the dead Christmas tree. She sees John's saxophone.

DARLENE

I didn't know you played the saxophone.

JOHN

It was a gift from my mother.

DARLENE

She was very pretty.

She points to the picture of John Sr, pretty brunette, and fourteen year old John.

JOHN

That's not my mother.

JOHN SR

That's John's step-mother, Cherly. Met her while working on a little film called Top Gun.

DARLENE

Oh, that's very exciting.

JOHN SR

She is... was... amazing.
(leaning in, whispering)
Jewish.

DARLENE

Oh my.

JOHN SR

We got married when you kids were in high school.

DARLENE

Goodness, I'm surprised you remember that we went to school together.

JOHN SR

I probably wouldn't have if it hadn't been for the those pictures.

JOHN

Maybe you'd be more comfortable in the kitchen --

DARLENE
What pictures?

JOHN SR
All those pictures John has.

JOHN
It was two pictures and she'd given both of them to me.
(to Darlene)
You're cheerleading picture and your prom picture.

JOHN SR
Yeah, but prom picture had the fella cut out of it --

JOHN
(pointed)
Thank you, father. We've had a harrowing night. I'm sure Darlene doesn't want to reminisce.

PHONE RING

DARLENE
If it's Floyd can you ask if Tony is okay?

John gets up and answers it.

JOHN
Hello?

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

OFFICER FLOYD, 50s, glasses, in great shape, speaks on the phone at the front desk of the small station. Behind him is a row of JAIL CELLS. Following conversation is intercut.

OFFICER FLOYD
Hey John, it's Floyd.

JOHN
Did you get him?

OFFICER FLOYD
Yeah, and I gotta tell you if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes I never would have believed it.

(MORE)

OFFICER FLOYD (CONT'D)
I mean, Tony has a six inch hole in
his chest and it took three of us
to bring him down.

JOHN
Do you have any idea what's wrong
with him?

OFFICER FLOYD
I've seen some Phencyclidine cases
where men had sustained injuries
and continued fighting, but this is
in another league. He should be
dead.

John peers around the corner at Darlene. She has a desperate
smile on her face. John gives her a thumbs up.

OFFICER FLOYD (CONT'D)
I'm gonna call the Center for
Disease Control in the morning and
get them out here. Maybe they can
make heads or tails outta this
thing. Now I know she's had a
tough night, but I sure appreciate
Darlene coming down here and
talk'en to Tony. Maybe she can
calm him down.

JOHN
Sure, we'll be right down. Thanks
Floyd.

OFFICER FLOYD
No worries. See you when you get
here.

Floyd hangs up the phone, and starts writing a report. On
his arm is a LARGE BANDAGE.

INT. PICK UP TRUCK - NIGHT

Darlene sits quietly as John drives.

DARLENE
Sorry the house was so messy.

JOHN
No, it looked fine. Sorry I got
blood all over your place. I'm
sure that'll come out with some
soda water.

DARLENE
 Sure. You betcha.

Darlene puts her hand over her eyes and quietly cries.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
 Tony's not going to be okay, is he?

JOHN
 It's been a trying night.

DARLENE
 (now openly crying)
 He was going to fix the toilet. It runs at night. He said it was an easy fix, but I don't know. I don't know those things.

JOHN
 I can take a look at it for you.

DARLENE
 (near hysterics)
 John! It's not just that! I was supposed to get him a... a, um... I wrote it down...
 (pulling out a NOTE)
 A new flapper. I meant to, I swear! Maybe if I'd gotten that...

She buries her head in her hands and cries. John, confused and kind of scared, looks at her.

JOHN
 Um, yeah. I... I can look at that for you.

DARLENE
 (calming down)
 You just don't get women, do you John?

JOHN
 Darlene, I'm not exactly sure what's going on here, but believe me when I say that I will look after any and all of your maintenance needs. That is a promise.

DARLENE
 (smiling)
 You're sweet.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

John parks his truck on the side of the building and they get out. The doors to the station fly open and Fire Chief runs out holding his hand over his bloody shoulder.

JOHN
Chief?

Without looking back Fire Chief scrambles into his EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRUCK and speeds away! Darlene and John exchange a look as he grabs his axe from the truck.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

The front desk is empty. The PHONE is off the hook and is BEEPING.

JOHN
Hello? Floyd?

John starts walking towards the cells.

DARLENE
John, wait --

JOHN
It's okay, I'm just gonna go in the back and --

TOILET FLUSH! A door flies open!

FAT DEPUTY (O.C.)
Excuse me!

John and Darlene catch their breath! FAT DEPUTY walks out with a FOLDER tucked under his arm. He moves quickly to John's side.

FAT DEPUTY (CONT'D)
Where do you think you're going?
Put that axe down.

John sets the axe down on a WOODEN CHAIR.

JOHN
I'm sorry. We got a call from Flo -
Officer Floyd to come down.

FAT DEPUTY

Well that doesn't mean you get the
run of the station. Have a seat
and someone will be with you
shortly.

From behind the front desk leaps Officer Floyd, now with grey
skin and blood-red eyes, and lands on Fat Deputy. He sinks
his teeth into his neck and blood sprays onto John.

FAT DEPUTY (CONT'D)

OH GOD!

JOHN

Jesus!

DARLENE

Mother fucker!

John punches Officer Floyd in the face, knocking him off of
Fat Deputy.

JOHN

Darlene! Follow me!

John, dragging Fat Deputy by the shirt, and Darlene dive into
one of the cells and SLAM the door shut just as ZOMBIE
OFFICER FLOYD slams against the bars!

JOHN (CONT'D)

Get away from there!

DARLENE

What's wrong with him?!

John is too busy attending to Fat Deputy's wounds. He opens
the bloody shirt.

JOHN

Look at me: what happened to Floyd?

FAT DEPUTY

(raising a finger)

... he bit him.

John and Darlene look to see ZOMBIE TONY in the cell! He
grabs Darlene's arm!

DARLENE

JOHN!

John leaps up, grabs Tony's hair and slams his head repeatedly on the bars until he lets go. They tumble back onto Fat Deputy.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
Oh heavens! I'm so sorry.

JOHN
He's dead.

DARLENE
What?!

JOHN
Let's not panic.

DARLENE
NO! NOW IS THE TIME TO PANIC!

John looks at Zombie Floyd and Tony clawing at the bars.

JOHN
God damn, you're right.

John pulls the REVOLVER and HANDCUFFS from Fat Deputy's belt and aims at Floyd.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Get out of the way, Floyd. Get out of the way!

Just then Fat Deputy opens his blood red eyes! He grabs at Darlene and pulls her close! She grabs his neck and keeps him at arm's length. John turns the gun on Fat Deputy.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Darlene! I can't get a shot--

Darlene grabs the KEYS off Fat Deputy's belt and stabs him in the eye! Fat Deputy's body goes limp.

JOHN (CONT'D)
So... alright, that's good.

John shoots Zombie Floyd in the leg who falls to the floor, giving John time to handcuff him to the bars.

DARLENE
What's wrong with them?!

She pulls the key from the Fat Deputy's eye and hands them to John.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
Sorry they're gross.

John takes the key dripping in blood and wipes it off on Zombie Floyd's uniform. He unlocks the door and they carefully maneuver out of the cell and down the hall.

Darlene takes a moment to look back at Zombie Tony, still clawing at the bars. She rests her hand on the wall --

DARLENE (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry --

-- and accidentally presses a BUTTON.

All of the cell doors swing open.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
Holy crap!

Zombie Tony races down the hall for her. With a swing of his axe John cuts off Tony's leg then they race for the front door.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

They burst out the front doors and lean against a post catching their breath.

JOHN
We should get my dad and head to
St. Peter.

DARLENE
I killed that man.

John puts his hands on her shoulders. She stares blankly.

JOHN
There was something wrong with him.
You saved our lives.

DARLENE
I stabbed him in the eye with a
key. No one deserves to go out
that way... maybe Obama.

Darlene hugs John.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
I don't know what'd I'd do without
you, John.

JOHN
Me? You're the badass who beat up
Mr. Ruiz when he tried to look at
the cheerleaders in the showers.

DARLENE
(laughing)
What? I'm not that person anymore.
Now I'm -- SHIT!

They turn to see Zombie Tony crawling out of the building.
His body is half way out when John throws his whole weight
against the door. It swings closed and cuts Zombie Tony in
half!

DARLENE (CONT'D)
You're okay, honey.

John throws up on Zombie Tony!

JOHN
Sorry 'bout that.

John and Darlene stare stunned, as Zombie Tony's torso keeps
crawling towards them.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Okay, we should um, go now.

DARLENE
Yes please.

EXT. POLICE STATION/SIDE OF BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

He hands Darlene the REVOLVER as they head to John's truck.

JOHN
Do you know how to use one of
these?

John grabs the keys from his pocket when a SHORT and TALL
ZOMBIE DEPUTIES stagger around the corner!

Darlene raises the gun and pulls the trigger - **BANG, BANG,
BANG, BANG, BANG, BANG, CLICK.**

She missed the Zombie Deputies completely, but the tires on John's truck are now flat and steam HISSES from the radiator.

DARLENE

Not really, sorry.

John hits Tall Deputy in the face with the butt of the axe then embeds the blade into Short Zombie Deputy's neck. He pulls on the handle, but it's stuck.

JOHN

Get in the car!

They race past the dazed Zombies and get in the POLICE CRUISER.

John turns the key, fires up the engine and steps on the gas, running over Tall Zombie Deputy.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Sorry!

With dust flying into the air the Cruiser makes it to the road with Short Zombie Deputy, axe still in his neck, chasing after them.

INT. POLICE CRUISER - MOMENTS LATER

Darlene grabs the RADIO RECEIVER and presses a button.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION/JAIL CELL - CONTINUOUS

The WALKIE-TALKIE on the dead Fat Deputy's belt CRACKLES.

DARLENE (O.C.)

Hello? If anyone can hear me --

Zombie Floyd's walkie-talkie CRACKLES.

DARLENE (O.C.) (CONT'D)

-- we're under attack by aliens --

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Short Zombie Deputy shuffles down the street with the axe in his neck.

DARLENE (O.C.)
 -- or zombies or something. Help
 us!

INT. POLICE CRUISER - CONTINUOUS

DARLENE
 Is there anyone there?

JOHN
 Maybe we should try a different
 channel...

He leans down to change the channel on the radio.

DARLENE
 JOHN!

John turns to see an EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRUCK ON FIRE driving right towards them! He turns the wheel and crashes into a large POST. The AIRBAGS deploy and the seat belts hold. Dazed, John shakes Darlene.

JOHN
 Are you okay?! I'm really sorry
 about that.

DARLENE
 (dazed)
 Oh... it's okay. Are we there
 yet?

John grabs a SHOTGUN from the center console and opens the door.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

John holds the shotgun up, scanning the area. He pulls Darlene out of the car.

JOHN
 Okay, we gotta move.

CREAK!!!

DARLENE
 Look out!

She pushes John to the ground at the same second the post falls on the cruiser, crushing it.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
That could have ended worse.

Getting to their feet.

JOHN
Yes, but not by much.
(looking at his CELL
PHONE)
That was the cell tower.

His cell phone reads: NO SERVICE.

DARLENE
Well, you know... accidents
happen.

A SCREAM in the distance!

JOHN
We should get off the road.

She grabs his hand as they run down the street of this terrifying new Kasota.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

They slow at the front steps of the house. The door is locked.

JOHN
Now he listens to me?!
(KNOCKING)
Dad? Dad?

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE/BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

John Sr is sitting on the toilet with his pants down. He's holding a HAND MIRROR so he can see the TV.

SMASH!

JOHN SR
John? That you?

Something blocks his view.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
 Outta the way. The volleyball
 scene is --

ZOMBIE FIRE CHIEF staggers into the bathroom!

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
 Holy hell! Chief? Get outta --

Zombie Fire Chief lunges at John Sr. He's able to hold him
 at arms length.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
 This is inappropriate!

He grabs a CAN OF SPRAY AIR FRESHENER and sprays it with no
 effect. He throws the can away and fumbles for a weapon. He
 comes up with a PLUNGER. He sticks it on the zombie's face.

JOHN (O.C.)
 Dad? Dad?

JOHN SR
 In here, but - close your eyes!

John and Darlene come around the corner; Darlene looks away.
 John grabs the Zombie Fire Chief, hurls him into the bathtub
 and fires the shotgun!

BAM!

Everyone covers their ears as the Zombie's head explodes.

DARLENE
 THAT WAS LOUD!

JOHN SR
 NEVER FIRE A SHOTGUN IN AN ENCLOSED
 ROOM! ALSO, YOU KILLED THE CHIEF!

JOHN
 WHAT?
 (rubbing his ear)
 ARE YOU...

JOHN SR
 YEAH, ALL DONE.

He pulls his pants up and flushes.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
HI DARLENE.

DARLENE
HELLO MR. STRONG.

JOHN
THESE THINGS ARE ATTACKING THE
WHOLE TOWN, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF
HERE.

JOHN SR
WHAT? NO. THIS IS MY HOME --

He looks at the now headless Zombie and throws up.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
SORRY.

JOHN
IT'S OKAY. I DID THE SAME THING.

John sees his SAXOPHONE and slings it over his shoulder.

JOHN SR
OKAY, LET'S GET TO YOUR TRUCK.

John and Darlene sheepishly look at one another.

DARLENE
WAIT, DIDN'T LEONARD LEAVE HIS
MOTORCYCLE HERE?

As they head out the door John Sr finds his WEDDING PICTURE shattered on the ground. He picks up the photo and carefully puts it into his pocket.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

They hurry outside to Leonard's motorcycle, still laying on its side.

JOHN
(rubbing his ear)
It's out of gas.

DARLENE
I have a can in my garage.

EXT. TONY AND DARLENE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

John tries to open the garage, but it's padlocked.

DARLENE

I don't have the key.

John hits the padlock with the butt of the shotgun until it breaks. He lifts open the door and ZOMBIE TINA pounces on top of him! John Sr pulls her off only to have the Zombie land on top of him!

JOHN

Dad!

John Sr holds the Zombie's face away from him. Darlene grabs a HAMMER and bashes Zombie Tina in the head repeatedly, blood running down and onto John Sr's face.

DARLENE

Um, keep your mouth closed, Mr. Strong.

She turns the hammer around and embeds the claw into the Zombie's head. It goes limp and John Sr pushes it off.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

(to Zombie Tina)

And that's why you lost cheer-captain to me in high school, fat ass!

John Sr gets to his feet and Darlene hands him a tissue.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Sorry about that.

JOHN SR

Oh, no problem.

She grabs the GAS CAN and hands it to John. They race to the motorcycle and begin fueling it.

DARLENE

So how are we going to do this?

JOHN

Do what? Oh. I figure I'll drive, you'll be behind me, and my dad will be behind you.

DARLENE

Okay. It's just that me between
two men... might look a bit...
obscene.

JOHN

Right.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

The motorcycle crawls down the street as Darlene sits in the front with John, reaching over her to drive, and John Sr behind him.

JOHN

Oh no.

Ahead of them buildings line either side of the street, and three turned over cars block the road.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Get off and I'll turn around.

John Sr and Darlene get off the bike.

DARLENE

(whisper)

John?

She points to ZOMBIE HOTDOG MAN still handing out flyers. He doesn't seem to notice them. John turns the motorcycle around and starts the engine.

VAROOM!

Zombie Hotdog Man suddenly looks up and starts racing towards John!

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Hurry!

JOHN

There's no time!

He gets off, but suddenly a HORDE OF ZOMBIES start surrounding them. John Sr raises the shotgun.

CLICK

JOHN SR

Uh-oh.

DARLENE

There!

He turns as Darlene runs to the --

I/E. KUNG-FU SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

She tries the door, but it's locked.

JOHN

Step aside.

He kicks it open and they run inside, throwing a TABLE in front of the doorway.

GROAN

DARLENE

Oh come on!

They spin around. The room has one wall of mirrors, padded floor and various TROPHIES on shelves.

Coming towards them are THREE ZOMBIES dressed in KUNG FU GI'S. One of them is KUNG FU GUY.

JOHN

Well, here we go.

John swings the shotgun. Kung Fu Zombie catches the gun in mid-air, rips it from John Sr's hands and flings it behind him - hitting one of the other Zombies in the head.

JOHN SR

Holy crap --
(turning to John)
Ninja Zombies!

JOHN

Maybe it's some sort of muscle memory.

DARLENE

What? They can't fight. That's cheating!

John grabs a TROPHY and NUNCHUCKS from the wall and tosses them to Darlene and John Sr.

JOHN SR

Hey chop suey, let's dance.

He swings the nunchucks and it hits the Zombie on the head.

THUNK!

The Zombie is completely unfazed.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
These seem more effective in
movies!

Darlene swings her trophy at the Zombie.

The Zombie blocks and the trophy is sent flying into the mirror. It SMASHES scattering shards on the ground.

John throws multiple punches. The Zombie easily blocks them. Out of ideas John kicks the Zombie in the crotch. The Zombie ambles forward.

The Zombie leaps on top of Darlene. She grabs a MIRROR SHARD and jams it into the Zombie's ear. Blood sprays onto Darlene as the Zombie goes limp.

DARLENE
My God, that's gross.

John Sr ducks down, crawls between the Zombie's legs, stands up and wraps the chain of the nunchucks around the Zombie's neck. Its head actually pops off and it's body falls to the floor.

John grabs the Zombie by the neck and the waist, and with a primal SCREAM picks him up and throws him head first into the wall.

The Zombie's body, head now crushed, slowly falls, revealing a hole.

JOHN
Everyone okay?

DARLENE
What's through there?

INT. HARDWARE STORE - NIGHT

BANG! BANG! BANG!

The trophy comes through the wall making a hole large enough to crawl through.

John comes through and helps Darlene. They walk away as John Sr gets stuck.

JOHN SR
(to himself)
Me? Oh, I'm fine thanks.

JOHN
Find anything you can use as a
weapon. I'll sweep the store and
make sure nothing is hiding in
here.

John Sr squeezes through the hole and lands with a THUD.

DARLENE
Do you really think these things
are zombies?

JOHN
Who knows? I've never seen a
democrat up close.

John walks away as Darlene helps John Sr to his feet.

DARLENE
Bet you're sorry you didn't stay in
California.

JOHN SR
After John's mother passed Cheryl
and I had to move back.

DARLENE
He's been amazing tonight. You
must be so proud of him.

JOHN SR
I... a man grows on his own...
John is good... excellent
perseverance.

DARLENE
No offense Mr. Strong, but you're
not great when it comes to
feelings, are you?

JOHN SR
No! No, no, no. But you know...
he knows... stuff.

DARLENE
Did you tell Cheryl you loved her?

JOHN SR
 Everyday.
 (taking out her picture)
 Would'a been impossible not to.

DARLENE
 You ever tell John?

John Sr flips the picture over and looks at Fourteen-year-old John.

JOHN SR
 He's a good son, and I'm lucky to --

John appears out of nowhere.

JOHN
 Dad.

JOHN SR
 JESUS, YOU ASSHOLE! What the hell
 is the matter with you?! I'm
 sorry, I didn't mean that; you
 scared me.

JOHN
 Sorry. I found something. Can you
 take a look at it?
 (to Darlene)
 You gonna be okay for a bit?

DARLENE
 I'm sure I'll be fine. Besides,
 what's the worst that could happen?

JOHN SR
 Being torn limb from limb by the
 very people you've known your whole
 life.

DARLENE
 (to John)
 Hurry back.

As John and his dad jog to the back of the store, a HAND
 reaches through the hole in the wall.

INT. HARDWARE STORE/HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

John shows his dad a metal box. In it is a MICROPHONE RECEIVER and a DIAL.

JOHN
Can you call out with this thing?
It looked old, so...

JOHN SR
So it reminded you of me?

JOHN
... yes.

John Sr takes the receiver and presses the button.

JOHN SR
Mayday, mayday. Can anyone hear
me? Mayday --

EXT. HARDWARE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Through the LOUDSPEAKERS John Sr's voice comes through.

JOHN SR (O.C.)
-- mayday. If you can hear me then
come back.

Zombie Hotdog Man turns his head and GROANS.

INT. HARDWARE STORE/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

JOHN
Does the knob do anything?

JOHN SR
(turning the knob)
Let's see.

EXT. HARDWARE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Their voices are AMPLIFIED LOUDER.

JOHN SR (O.C.)
Test, test, test. Eh, this thing
is busted.

JOHN (O.C.)
 Look, since we're alone I have to
 ask you something.

Multiple Zombies are gathering outside the store, pawing at
 the window.

INT. HARDWARE STORE - CONTINUOUS

John and John Sr's voices come over the PA SYSTEM.

JOHN (O.C.)
 If anything happens... you're a
 real fire fighter, you can keep her
 safe.

JOHN SR (O.C.)
 John, you're as brave a fire
 fighter as I've ever met.

Darlene sees the zombie hoard through the windows. She turns
 and runs towards the back of the store, a HAND narrowly
 missing her.

HARDWARE STORE/HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

JOHN
 But I couldn't pass the test.

JOHN SR
 It's just a stupid test.

JOHN
 That would have been nice to hear
 twenty years ago.

JOHN SR
 Don't go gettin' pissy at me!
 You're the one who pukes on a step
 ladder!

Darlene covers the microphone.

DARLENE
 That's the intercom - they're here!

JOHN
 Everyone grab a weapon. We're
 leaving here in ten seconds!

John grabs a SLEDGE HAMMER. Darlene gets a MACHETE. John Sr
 fumbles behind the counter.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Dad?! Come on!

JOHN SR
Where-is-it? Where-is-it? Ahh!

He pulls out a small REVOLVER.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
I told Tom a hundred times to get
rid of this thing. Thank goodness
he was dumb.

John Sr tries to hop over the counter, but trips and falls.
John rolls his eyes and helps him up.

JOHN
Get to the back of the store! I'll
re-enforce the door.

John Sr and Darlene race for the back of the store. A HAND
reaches out and trips John, knocking him to the floor and
sending the sledge hammer sliding out of reach.

Zombie Tony crawls out from the display rack.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Dad!

They turn.

JOHN SR
Is that Tony?

John desperately searches for a a weapon and sees a NAIL GUN
DISPLAY. Grabbing one he shoots Zombie Tony in the head
repeatedly.

John scrambles to his feet, grabbing a BASEBALL BAT as he
runs. Zombie Tony crawls towards them, now with a dozen
nails protruding from his head.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
Are those brads? You should'a used
framing nails --

JOHN
Not now, dad!

EXT. LOADING DOCK - DAWN

The heavy double doors fly open as two ZOMBIES (Short Deputy with John's axe still protruding from it's neck, and Dumb Fire Fighter) rush them. John Sr shoots one in the head and John bashes the other in the head with the bat.

DARLENE

I'll see if any of those cars have keys in them.

John pulls his axe from the dead Short Deputy Zombie's neck.

JOHN

I'll take that back, thank you very much.

He's face-to-face with his dad. He smiles.

JOHN SR

You look good holding that.

John smiles. John Sr's face twists and he SPUTTERS.

JOHN

Dad? What is it?

JOHN SR

Ge-ba-GET OUT OF THE WAY!

He pushes John aside just as a car runs right into him and comes to a stop. The door opens and a NERDY GUY falls out of the drivers side, a huge bite mark on his neck.

DARLENE

Oh, children.

In the backseat are two LITTLE GIRLS. Darlene opens the door, but they're Zombies!

DARLENE (CONT'D)

OH! CHILDREN!

The Little Zombie Girls get out of the car and start chasing Darlene.

SLICE! THWACK!

John's axe cuts off one's head and splits the other down the middle. He runs to John Sr who is lying behind the car.

JOHN SR
 I'm okay, but my leg is busted up
 better than a... something at a
 something - just got hit by a car!

John picks him up and puts him in the backseat of the car.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

John sits in the driver's seat and Darlene gets in the passenger side.

JOHN
 This is embarrassing.

DARLENE
 What's the matter?

JOHN
 I can't drive stick shift.

JOHN SR
 Are you kidding me?

JOHN
 My truck's automatic!

DARLENE
 Here.

She crawls over John, taking WAY too long. John Sr rolls his eyes. They get situated and Darlene is about to close the door when Nerdy Guy begins to stir.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
 Sir? Are you okay?

He turns and GROWLS. He's a Zombie!

DARLENE (CONT'D)
 You're good - we'll send help.

She hits the gas and the car takes off with a SCREECH!

INT. CAR - DAWN

JOHN
 Oh my God.

Out the window they can see ZOMBIES chasing people down, crawling in windows of homes, and tearing doors down.

They hear a GROWLING sound in the car.

DARLENE
What is that?

JOHN SR
Great googly moogly!

John and Darlene look in the back seat. There in a baby seat is a ZOMBIE BABY.

DARLENE
(cute)
Awww!

JOHN
We have to get rid of it. Here,
unlock the seat.

John Sr unlocks the baby seat.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Now throw it out the window.

JOHN SR
What? You throw it out the window!

JOHN
It's a zombie.

JOHN SR
It's a baby!

JOHN
It's a zombie baby!

DARLENE
Shit!

They turn to see an OVERTURNED TRUCK in the road.

SCREECH!

Everyone braces themselves as Darlene slams on the brakes. The baby seat, with baby, flies out the front window.

Silently, everyone puts on their seat belts.

JOHN
 We're pretty far out of town.
 Maybe we can walk the rest of the
 way to St. Peter?

John Sr CLEARS HIS THROAT and points to his leg.

JOHN SR
 Very thoughtful of you.

JOHN
 Are you kidding me? All I do is
 take your feelings into
 consideration.

JOHN SR
 This is because of Cheryl, isn't
 it?

JOHN
 No dad! It has nothing to do with
 Cheryl!

DARLENE
 Wait!

The men stop arguing.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
 Leonard!

JOHN
 Leonard?

JOHN SR
 I heard he bangs the wool, if you
 know what I mean.

DARLENE
 He lives in a bunker. It'll be the
 safest place for miles.

JOHN
 Yeah. Great thinking.

EXT. EDGE OF TOWN - CONTINUOUS

In the foreground we see a CATERPILLAR crawling on a LOG.

Behind it the car backs up. The blinker flashes. They turn
 onto a dirt road.

A BIRD swoops down and eats the caterpillar. A ZOMBIE HAND grabs the bird.

INT. CAR - DAY

The car RUMBLES along the dirt road amongst the wood. Darlene has a look of shock on her face as she looks in the back seat.

SNORE

John Sr is passed out, mouth open, hands on his crotch.

DARLENE

How does he do that?

JOHN

Anywhere, any time. It's remarkable. Speaking of remarkable, good call on Leonard's place.

DARLENE

Well, when we saw him the other day. You know, me you and T-Tony...

She puts her head down. John looks terrified and has no idea how to react.

JOHN

Oh, hey... there, there. Don't cry.

DARLENE

Cry? I'm pissed. I spent twenty years with that piece of shit.

JOHN

Well, there must have been good times, right?

DARLENE

Sure, at first. Then he just got meaner and meaner. And I kept thinking to myself: hang in there, it'll get better. I was so stupid.

JOHN

It's not fair to you, putting yourself through that pain over and over.

DARLENE

Like trying to be a fire fighter?

JOHN

That's different. The men in my family have been fire fighters for generations. It was expected. My dad and I spent a lot of time training together. He's a powerhouse.

John looks in the rearview mirror at John Sr SNORING and drooling.

DARLENE

I did leave him... once. Ran off to the big city; Grand Rapids. Everyone was in such a hurry. It wasn't for me.

JOHN

Oh wow.

DARLENE

He eventually caught up with me, he always comes for me. Convinced me to come back. He was one hell of a lover back then. Oh, sorry.

JOHN

No worries. Talk as you like.

DARLENE

John?

JOHN

Hmm?

She points and John sees he's bent the steering wheel.

JOHN (CONT'D)

These things are very flimsy. So um, I noticed that when we stab these things in the head they seem to stay down.

DARLENE

Ugh, I don't want to even talk about those things. I watched Tony turn into... *whatever* right in front of me. They all remind me of him. Thanks, by the way, for saving my life a dozen times.

JOHN

Me? No, you're the one that's been saving everyone's skin. Dad and me probably would have argued ourselves to death.

DARLENE

Please! I'da been the first one eaten if it hadn't been for you.

JOHN

You were the one who dispatched that Deputy using a key, remembered the motorcycle, warned us in the hardware store. It's not fair you have the looks and the brains.

DARLENE

I did all that?

They smile at one another. John laces his hand with hers.

THUNK!

DARLENE (CONT'D)

What the crap?!

The car stops, jerking John Sr awake.

JOHN SR

Maverick!

EXT. DIRT ROAD - CONTINUOUS

John gets out of the car and finds the wheel is stuck on the stomach of a ZOMBIE who is still alive.

JOHN

Try the gas.

The tire spins and sprays the Zombie's guts into the air. The Zombie reaches and snaps at John.

JOHN SR

(from the backseat)

You have to stick something under the wheel.

JOHN

I know, dad

He looks around, but can't find anything. After a moment he reaches down and rips the arm off the Zombie and jams it under the wheel.

DARLENE
Oh, that's clever.

JOHN
Try it now.

The tire spins, but finally catches and rolls over the Zombie.

POP!

JOHN (CONT'D)
Damn-it. The rib punctured the
tire.

Darlene helps John Sr out of the car. They all examine the tire.

JOHN SR
Why didn't you move him? I got rid
of the monster baby.

JOHN
The laws of physics took care of
the monster baby. You did nothing.

JOHN SR
I undid the seat belt thing!

DARLENE
Wait --

JOHN
It's a baby harness; not that you
would know.

JOHN SR
What's that supposed to mean?

DARLENE
Shut up! If this *thing* is out
here, then how many others have
made it this far?

In the distance they hear a GROAN.

JOHN
 She's right.
 (to John Sr)
 Come on.

He grabs his axe, and lifts John Sr onto his shoulders in a fireman's carry.

GROAN

John and Darlene spin around. A group of Zombies is running towards them.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Go! Go! Go!

They race into the --

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

All around them are more and more Zombies.

JOHN
 Dad, shoot'em!

John Sr raises the gun, but he can't keep it steady. He shoots a tree. Another hits a Zombie Woman in the boob.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Come on, dad!

JOHN SR
 Yeah, because this is easy!

John Sr lifts the gun, but loses his grip and drops it.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
 Shit.

JOHN
 What is it?

JOHN SR
 Nothing. I just... I'm proud of you.

JOHN
 Thanks, dad.

JOHN SR
 Yeah, yeah.

DARLENE
There it is!

In the distance is a large hill that looks as though the front was sheered off, and on the face is a large metal door and a few small windows covered by metal roll-down shutters.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
Those ugly bitches are gaining!

EXT. LEONARD'S COMPOUND - CONTINUOUS

They reach the front door and he lets John Sr down. He POUNDS his fists on the door.

JOHN
Lenard!

DARLENE
Open up, please!

JOHN SR
Come'on sheep fucker!

JOHN
Dad!

DARLENE
John!

He turns. The Zombies are right on top of them. Swinging his axe he decapitates one and splits the head of another.

A slot on the door opens and a pair of eyes peer out.

LEONARD
Identify y-yourselves.

JOHN SR
Damn it, Weird-O! You know who we are!

DARLENE
There are people out here trying to kill us!

INT. LEONARD'S COMPOUND - CONTINUOUS

Leonard looks up at a series of MONITORS. They show the Zombies swarming the area and John fighting them with his axe. He bubbles with excitement!

LEONARD
Oh my G-god! Oh my G-god!

EXT. LEONARD'S COMPOUND - DAY

A Zombie is racing towards Darlene. John throws his axe, killing it before it reaches her.

He turns to see four Zombies in a row racing towards him. He sees a METAL POLE protruding from the ground.

He rips it out and sparks fly. He drives the metal pole through all four of the Zombies, skewering them. He retrieves his axe, but he's surrounded.

JOHN SR
Open the goddamn door!

LEONARD
How d-do I know you're not o-o-one
of them?!

DARLENE
Leonard, these things are going to
kill us!

LEONARD
You should have b-built a b-bunker!

John pushes a group of zombies back with his axe. One bites at him, catching his sleeve and ripping it off.

JOHN
Hurry!

DARLENE
Leonard! If you do not open this
door I will rip your eyes out of
your head and stick them up your
ass, so you can see what an asshole
you are!

Leonard's demeanor changes.

CLICK

The door opens and Leonard steps out.

LEONARD
Don't t-touch anything!

DARLENE
Thank you!

JOHN SR
Thanks Weird.

DARLENE (O.C.)
Mr. Strong?!

JOHN SR (O.C.)
What? He's weird.

John pushes the zombies back and races for the door.

JOHN
Thanks.

LEONARD
L-look out!

Leonard lifts a AUTOMATIC HANDGUN and shoots a Zombie wearing an NPR T-SHIRT.

JOHN
Thanks for killing that zombie.

LEONARD
It was a zombie?

INT. LEONARD'S COMPOUND - CONTINUOUS

This looks like a cheaper BATCAVE: MONITORS and COMPUTERS, a large BAT SYMBOL, his BODY ARMOR in a GLASS CASE, and every wall covered in GUNS and KNIVES.

JOHN
Thank you for letting us in.

LEONARD
S-sure.

JOHN
Look, we need to get help. Do you have a radio?

LEONARD
S-sure. Top-of-the-line. That a-
antenna can reach C-China.

JOHN
Antenna?

LEONARD
Yeah. The big metal p-pole just
outside.

JOHN
I have bad news...

Everyone stares at John.

JOHN (CONT'D)
One of the Zombies knocked it down.

LEONARD
W-what about cell phones?

John looks bashful.

DARLENE
There's a problem with the cell tower.

JOHN
I knocked it over with a car.

LEONARD
W-why? By the way, d-don't touch my stuff.

DARLENE
We have to warn people. Back at the car I saw a man who was bitten turn into one of those things.

JOHN SR
So?

DARLENE
If Tony, one man, managed to turn the entire town into monsters, then how long will it take before they infect the entire world?

JOHN SR
100 years?

JOHN
No dad, it'd be days!

JOHN SR
Okay. The way she said it I knew it was either going to be a really high number or a really low number.

LEONARD
(excited)
Man!

Everyone gives Leonard a confused look.

LEONARD (CONT'D)
 Sorry. It's just this k-kinda
 validates a lot of life choices
 I've m-made.

DARLENE
 It sounds like someone has to go
 out there and fix the antenna.

JOHN
 I'll go. Leonard, you sure this
 place is safe?

LEONARD
 Yeah. That's the whole p-point of
 a bunker. Not to be im-im-
 impolite, but you're all going,
 right?

JOHN SR
 Why would we want to go out there,
 wool banger?!

He points to a MONITOR that shows dozens of Zombies just
 outside.

LEONARD
 This is my home. You d-don't build
 a bunker in the woods because you
 want to make f-friends.

JOHN SR
 (to himself)
 You do it to invite sheep over.

DARLENE
 Well, some men know how to take
 care of one another.

She attempts to take John's arm, but he stops her.

JOHN
 Leonard's right. There are some
 things you just don't do. You
 don't steal a man's wife, if you
 kill something you bury it --

JOHN SR
 That mouse had to be made an
 example of!

JOHN

-- and you don't barge into a man's house and tell him what's what. We'll go, Leonard. Is there another way out of here?

LEONARD

(ashamed)

Y-yeah. There's a back door.

JOHN

Let's go.

LEONARD

W-wait. Maybe I can help you.

INT. LEONARD'S COMPOUND/COMPUTER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Cue: DRAMATIC MUSIC

Leonard dramatically hops into a HIGH TECH looking chair and presses a button on the arm-rest. A COMPUTER rises from the BLACK DESK in front of him. On the screen is a PINWHEEL LOAD SCREEN.

BEAT

Everyone quietly looks around the room and waits.

BEAT

LEONARD

I-it's updating.

They nod.

BEAT

DARLENE

This is a very nice bunker.

LEONARD

T-thank you.

BEAT

The computer starts. A CURSER opens a file titled: DISASTER SCENARIOS. The file opens and he scrolls down a list: TERMINATORS, DINOSAURS, OBAMA. He clicks on ZOMBIES.

DARLENE

Do you know how to turn everyone back into regular people?

The computer screen shows the zombie hoard outside. A FILTER turns everything BLUE.

LEONARD

T-this is a heat signature. W-warm colors are yellows and r-reds. Cold colors are b-blues and b-blacks.

DARLENE

All the people are blue.

LEONARD

T-that's because they're already d-dead.

This news has a big impact on everyone.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

I'm s-sorry, but you have to keep that in mind. These things c-can't be reasoned with or bought. The only way to stop them is to k-k-k-k-k-k--

John and Darlene look at one another. John Sr slaps Leonard on the back of the head.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

KILL THEM! From what we've seen the only way to stop them p-permanently is to d-destroy the cerebral c-cortex.

John, John Sr and Darlene all nod politely.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

S-shoot them in the head.

Oh!

DARLENE

Oh!

JOHN SR

JOHN

Pretty smart.

LEONARD

I-I like to read. That and W-World of Warcraft. The b-back door is this way.

JOHN

Thanks again, Leonard.

John offers his hand to shake, but Leonard hugs him.

LEONARD
B-be safe, John.

JOHN
We will. At least you're safe for
now.

CRASH!

Leonard jumps up as an arm comes through the side of the
metal shutter. They brace the shutter closed.

LEONARD
The on line s-store guaranteed
these up to 1,400 PSF!

With a disappointed look John Sr points to a STICKER. It
reads: MADE IN CHINA.

JOHN
Everybody grab a weapon.

LEONARD
Hey!

Everyone looks at him.

LEONARD (CONT'D)
You could say p-please or
something.

John Sr grabs a .45 SEMI AUTOMATIC HANDGUN and an M4 MACHINE
GUN, John grabs a KNIFE, an UZI and a BANDOLERO of HAND
GRENADES. Leonard turns to Darlene with a REVOLVER.

LEONARD (CONT'D)
Here. This'll w-work for ya.

DARLENE
That's very sweet honey, but I'm
not very good with those.

Darlene pulls a SHOTGUN off the wall and cocks it.

LEONARD
Oh.

DARLENE
What are you taking?

Leonard grabs a GLOCK 17 HANDGUN, MARLIN 1894 CB RIFE, AR-15 ASSAULT RIFLE, SMITH & WESSON MODEL 59 9MM HANDGUN, HENRY BIG BOY PUMP RIFLE, FN PS90 RECOILLESS RIFE, BROWNING AUTO-5 SHOTGUN, a REMINGTON 870 SHOTGUN, and a DUFFLE BAG.

JOHN

Um, Leonard? You're probably gonna have to put some of those back.

LEONARD

J-John, I have thought this through. Trust me.

DARLENE

Honey, that's a lot of guns.

LEONARD

Yeah. I know.

JOHN

What's in the duffle?

LEONARD

C-C-C-C4.

JOHN SR

Weird! Put some back.

LEONARD

Let me tell you p-people something:
I have been p-planning for this for
a LONG time--

He tries walking towards them, but falls to the floor under the weight of the guns.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

Okay.

CRASH! Another roll shutter pops open and arms come through.

INT. LEONARD'S COMPOUND/GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

John opens a heavy door to a large, indoor garage. He throws his gun, saxophone and axe inside a JEEP and helps Darlene with John Sr.

LEONARD

I t-think we might want to take my
other t-truck.

Leonard pulls the tarp off his FV433 ABBOT SPG COMBAT TANK.

JOHN

Oh --

DARLENE

-- my --

JOHN SR

-- America!

INT. TANK - DAY

John Sr and Darlene sit down in the back, as Leonard scrambles around pressing buttons and sorting their equipment. John sits in the driver's seat and looks at the controls. It's a STICK SHIFT.

JOHN

This is embarrassing.

JOHN SR

Are you kidding me?!

Darlene and John once again crawl over one another.

DARLENE

We're getting pretty good at this.

Darlene settles into the driver's seat and John sits down next to his dad. John Sr shakes his head disappointingly.

JOHN

My truck's automatic.

She starts the Tank and it RUMBLES to life.

LEONARD

Here.

Leonard hands everyone a WALKIE-TALKIE then flips on what looks like a RADIO mounted to the tank. A light glows RED.

JOHN

What is that?

LEONARD

It's like a t-transponder. It'll --

Darlene steps on the gas and the tank tears through a METAL DOOR. Leonard is thrown against the wall.

LEONARD (CONT'D)
 (muffled)
 Wait!

EXT. FIELD - DAY

The tank flies out of the garage and across a field, running down Zombies as it goes.

INT. TANK - CONTINUOUS

A tear rolls down Leonard's face as he looks out the window at his now destroyed bunker/home. Suddenly, he remembers something!

LEONARD
 Stop!

DARLENE
 What?

Leonard crawls over Darlene and slams on the brake!

DARLENE (CONT'D)
 What's the matter? Why'd you stop us? And if you make some Goddamn 'woman driver' crack I'll punch you in your sheep loving balls!

EXT. TANK - MOMENTS LATER

Leonard, Darlene and John are standing on top of the tank. Leonard points to a sign that reads: DANGER! MINE FIELD!

LEONARD
 You drove us into the m-middle of my m-mine field!

JOHN
 Why the name of the Latter Day Saints would you have a mine field?!

LEONARD
 Why in the name of Ch-Chuck Norris's beard would you just step on the gas in a tank?!

DARLENE

I'm trying to save your life from
that!

John points to a lone Zombie ambling towards the tank.

LEONARD

I wanted to be left alone!

JOHN

Look! I'm sorry we--

POP!

They look to see that the zombie has exploded on the mine.
They look at one another.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON: a HAND flipping a switch on a CB RADIO. The
SPEAKERS give some FEEDBACK.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Zombies amble around aimlessly, until they hear someone
playing "CARELESS WHISPER." They all amble towards the
sound, which is of course coming from --

EXT. TANK - CONTINUOUS

-- John playing his saxophone on top of the tank. He plays
with incredible emotion, and all around him Zombies are
wandering into the field and EXPLODING.

The song ends and they can see that the Zombies have created
a path for the tank! Everyone CHEERS!

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

As they congratulate one another on top of the tank Zombie
Tony, still missing the lower half of his body, crawls
towards them.

DARLENE

Sorry I threatened your 'sheep
loving balls.'

LEONARD

I n-never touched any --

JOHN

No time!

The tank rumbles out of the field and right over Zombie Tony's arm, crushing it to nothing. With ONE ARM he crawls after them.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - DAY

The tank rumbles to a stop. The lid opens and everyone climbs out.

LEONARD

N-now it's just a straight shot to St. Peter! We made it!

Darlene, John Sr and Leonard hug and SLAP each other on the back, but John just feigns a smile.

JOHN SR

Oh thank God. I have got to piss like a race horse.

He starts peeing off the side of the tank.

JOHN

I'm going back.

LEONARD

W-what?

DARLENE

No!

JOHN SR

John?!

(to himself)

Oh, damnit. I peed on myself.

JOHN

Look, right now whatever this is it's small. I can contain it here. Darlene, you were right: if this gets out it could kill millions. Hell, maybe the whole world. You go on to get help... I need to go back.

Leonard hands him his axe, Uzi, handgun, grenades, walkie-talkie, and the duffle bag.

LEONARD

Betcha you're wishing I'd brought more guns now?

JOHN
 (laughing)
 Yes sir, I am.

LEONARD
 T-thanks for... b-being nice.

JOHN
 Keep them safe.

Leonard nods. John moves to his dad.

JOHN SR
 Got a plan?

JOHN
 I'm gonna try and corral them into
 one place.

JOHN SR
 I guess you're the one leaving this
 time.

BEAT

John Sr SLAPS his son on the shoulder.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
 Be smart. Stay safe.

John SLAPS his dad on the shoulder.

JOHN
 Keep everyone safe.

John SLAPS his dad on the shoulder.

DARLENE
 Just hug. Please, just hug each
 other.

John and his dad look at one another and move awkwardly close together. They chicken out and shake hands, SLAPPING one another on the shoulder.

John moves to Darlene.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
 You can't go. I need you.

JOHN
 You're still not paying attention.
 You don't need anybody.

DARLENE
Fine, then I want you!

JOHN
I want you too. I'll be back.

They hug.

John hops off the tank and starts walking.

DARLENE (O.C.)
Hey!

He turns to see Darlene hop off the tank and run to him.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
Take this.

John closes his eyes and parts his lips. Darlene pecks him on the cheek.

JOHN
Um, thank you.

JOHN SR
You know, before I went to Vietnam
your mother gave me a blow --

JOHN
THANK YOU, DAD.
(to Darlene)
I'll come back. Promise.

They watch as John walks back towards Kasota, Minnesota.

LEONARD
We should g-go.

The tank engine starts up with a ROAR which bleeds into the sound of --

EXT. KASOTA STREETS - AFTERNOON

-- A Zombie ROARS.

A dozen meander as John races from one building to the next, keeping low. He peeks his head out and scans the area.

EXT. KASOTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE - CONTINUOUS

He slips inside, past a small group of Zombies.

INT. KASOTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Windows are smashed, lights flicker, and furniture is over turned. John makes his way down the hall, but a Zombie reaches for him!

He swings his axe killing the Zombie and pinning it to the wall, but before he can remove it another Zombie rushes him. He jams his handgun in its mouth and --

BANG!

EXT. KASOTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE - CONTINUOUS

All of the Zombies turn and begin walking towards the sound of the GUNFIRE.

INT. KASOTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE/HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

A group of Zombies walk in the front door. He turns to run when a Zombie grabs him! It bites at him, but gets a GRENADE stuck in his mouth.

John notices the PIN is missing!

Grabbing the Zombie's collar he swings him around into the advancing hoard. He jumps over a table for cover just before--

BOOM!

Pieces of the Zombies limbs land all around him with a BLAT.

John opens his eyes and sees a sign that reads: KOSOTA RADIO.

INT. KASOTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE/RADIO STATION - CONTINUOUS

He locks the door. Fairly untouched radio equipment, shelves of records and tapes. He opens the duffle bag and takes out grey blocks of C4, a SMALL REMOTE, and DETONATORS.

POUND, POUND, POUND!

He jumps as more Zombies pound on the door. He shoves detonators into the C4 and flips a switch. The light on the SMALL REMOTE glows red. He looks through the records and smiles.

EXT. KASOTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE - AFTERNOON

FEEDBACK followed by...

KENNY LOGGINS'S "DANGER ZONE" being played over the loud speakers. All of the remaining Zombies race towards the community college.

INT. KASOTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE/RADIO STATION - MOMENTS LATER

John is collecting his things.

POUND, POUND, POUND!

Through a small window in the door he can see a mass of Zombies. He finishes just as --

BOOM!

The door flies open and Zombies come running!

He races for the side door, grabbing a METAL POLE as he goes.

INT. KASOTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE/GLASS HALLWAY - EVENING

It's a long hallway with floor-to-ceiling windows and a doorway on the far side.

John locks the door and laces the metal pole through the door handles.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

John holds the door closed as he looks over his shoulder. A hoard of Zombies are pounding on the glass. Finally, it breaks and they begin spilling in.

Through the window in the door John can see the C-4. He's too close and he knows it. He takes the small remote from his pocket and holds his finger over the button.

JOHN

If that's the way it has to --

BOOM!

The glass hallway is blown to pieces and all of the zombies killed! John stands in shock. When the smoke settles he can see through the very large hole Leonard's tank.

CRACKLE

LEONARD
(over walkie)
John? You okay? Over.

Just then the hatch opens and Darlene pops her head out. He grabs his walkie-talkie from his hip.

JOHN
Gosh you look nice.

LEONARD
(over walkie)
And y-you're very attractive man.

GROAN

The door John is standing against is starting to break apart. He grabs his things and races for the tank.

EXT. KASOTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE - CONTINUOUS

Arms are visible through the crack in the door.

JOHN
Get down!

John leaps on top of the tank and jumps --

INT. TANK - CONTINUOUS

He holds Darlene close and presses the button on the small remote.

BOOM!

The entire building EXPLODES!

DEBRIS and ZOMBIE BODY PARTS fly everywhere.

When the dust clears the hatch opens and everyone climbs out, standing on the tank. Darlene grabs John, burying her head on his chest. Still in an embrace--

JOHN
Thought I told you to go?

DARLENE
I asked the guys to turn around.

JOHN SR
She was pretty forceful.

LEONARD
I was s-scared.

John holds her at arms-length.

JOHN
It's good to see you.

DARLENE
John?

JOHN
Yes, Darlene?

DARLENE
Did any of the boar spunk get on
that crazy scientist?

JOHN
I sorry, I don't know. Why?

He turns and sees what she does: the other half of the town,
all zombies, staggering towards them with Older Scientist in
the lead.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Leonard?

LEONARD
Um, we have a p-problem here. The
tank won't start and the g-gun
won't move.

JOHN SR
What do you mean?!

LEONARD
Well, I never fired it before! I d-
didn't know that'da happen!

JOHN SR
They're getting closer!

Scanning the area John sees their escape!

JOHN
Come on!

They run for the --

EXT. FIRE TRAINING TOWER/PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Leonard makes it to an open door. John and Darlene run with John Sr falling behind.

JOHN
Come on dad.

JOHN SR
Hold your damn --

From out of the shadows two ZOMBIES leap on John and Darlene. Time slows down. Leonard raises his gun, but can't get a shot. John Sr watches Darlene and his son get pulled to the ground.

He has to make a decision: who is he going to save?

He furrows his brow and grabs the Hotdog Man Zombie on John; throwing him off.

JOHN
No! What are you doing?! Save her-

The two men watch as Darlene takes a KNIFE from her pocket and stabs the zombie in the forehead. It goes limp. John smiles.

JOHN SR
Well, fuck-a-duck. I didn't see that coming.

From behind, John Sr is bit on the neck by the Hotdog Man Zombie he just threw off of his son.

JOHN
Dad!!!

BOOM!

Leonard shoots and the Hotdog Man zombie's head explodes.

LEONARD
G-get inside! They're c-coming!

John and Darlene grab John Sr and drag him inside the --

INT. FIRE TRAINING TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Leonard closes and locks the heavy door.

JOHN

Okay, we have to... um, we have to
get him up and, um... why are you
two just standing there?!

Leonard and Darlene are frozen. Tears roll down Darlene's
face.

JOHN SR

(whisper)
It's okay.

JOHN

What?

JOHN SR

It's okay. You did a great job.

JOHN

(laughing/crying)
Your neck says otherwise. I guess
I really let you down, huh?

JOHN SR

Your mother and I were always so
proud of you. You didn't need to
pass any dumb test to show me
you're a fine man.

POUND! POUND! POUND!

Leonard looks to the door. It's beginning to bow.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I made you watch Top Gun
so many times.

JOHN

It's... it's a pretty good movie.

JOHN SR

It's a piece of shit. "Your ego is
writing checks your body can't
cash," who talks like that?

POUND! POUND! POUND!

Leonard touches John's shoulder.

JOHN

Not yet!

JOHN SR

Hey.

John Sr wraps his arms around John. He squeezes his dad tight then realizes that John Sr is taking the BANDOLERO OF GRENADES off of him. They get to their feet. He puts his hand on Darlene's shoulder. They smile.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)

(to John)

You're a good man. Get a move on now.

He limps to a side door.

JOHN

Dad?

JOHN SR

Yeah?

JOHN

You can be my wingman anytime.

JOHN SR

I love you.

JOHN

I love you too, dad.

JOHN SR

Hey Leonard.

Leonard lifts his head. He's crying.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)

Nice shot, wool banger.

Leonard rolls his eyes and shakes his head.

EXT. FIRE TRAINING TOWER - CONTINUOUS

The Zombies are pounding on the large front door, and don't see him slipping out the side door.

JOHN SR

Hey!

The Zombies turn.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
 You bastards look worse than a...
 something at a something - just got
 bit by a zombie!

They race towards him. He pulls pin, after pin on the
 grenades.

JOHN SR (CONT'D)
 Oh God -- AMERICA!

The Zombies envelope him and --

BOOM!

INT. FIRE TRAINING TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Huddled, Darlene wipes a a tear from John's face. They
 smile.

John grabs three YELLOW AIR CANNISTERS and GAS MASKS from a
 steel cabinet.

JOHN
 (passing them out)
 Put these on.

Darlene and Leonard put the canisters on their backs.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Okay, open the doors.

LEONARD
 W-w-w-w-

DARLENE
 What?!

JOHN
 Trust me. I'm a janitor.

Leonard opens the doors. There are scattered Zombie parts
 everywhere. The remaining Zombies see the door open and rush
 for it. Darlene raises her shotgun and shoots one - two -
 three Zombies dead.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Damn.

DARLENE

I think I'm getting the hang of
this!

Darlene's shotgun finally CLICKS. No more shells.

JOHN

Everybody upstairs!

John fires his Uzi, killing a few Zombies before running out of bullets. They throw down their now empty weapons. They all start up the stairs, but Leonard slows.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Leonard, go!

LEONARD

I-it's just that those guns were
really expensive.

DARLENE

Let them go, honey.

They race upstairs. John looks back at the Zombies.

JOHN

Hey! Up here!

The Zombies begin up the stairs.

EXT. FIRE TRAINING TOWER/ROOF - MOMENTS LATER

The door bursts open and they spill out. John lodges his PRESSURISED CANNISTER against the door, wedging it closed.

John races to the ledge and watches as the Zombies file into the building.

LEONARD

W-w-what's the plan, John?

JOHN

We wait.

When the last Zombie comes inside he aims his bronze axe. He furrows his brow and throws!

It files through the air and hits the LARGE RED BUTTON.

INT. FIRE TRAINING TOWER - CONTINUOUS

The Zombies meander up the stairs. The pipes begin to CREAK.

Older Scientist Zombie turns towards the sound. It focuses on a SMALL NOZZLE.

It lets out a loud ROAR as FIRE SHOOTS FROM THE NOZZLE!

The Zombies burst into flames!

EXT. FIRE TRAINING TOWER/ROOF - CONTINUOUS

DARLENE

The building's on fire!

JOHN

That's the plan.

LEONARD

How do we get d-d-d--

He runs to the ledge and peers over. On the ground is the SAFETY PAD. John goes pale.

DARLENE

What's the matter?

JOHN

Nothing. I'm fine.

DARLENE

So what's happening here?

JOHN

Jump far enough so you clear the building. Lay flat and cross your arms. You're going to be okay.

DARLENE

John this sounds like a horrible idea.

POUND! POUND! POUND!

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Aren't they all dead?

JOHN

The top floor doesn't burn. It's a safety precaution, in case some rookie gets cold feet.

DARLENE

John, I really don't want to jump.

JOHN

Trust me, neither do I.

LEONARD

What choice d-do we have? We're in a zombie infested b-building that's on fire!

JOHN

Right. Darlene, you go down first.

DARLENE

No. I'm staying with you.

POUND! POUND! POUND!

JOHN

You have to!

DARLENE

No, John. I'm not leaving you.

LEONARD

H-hell, I'll go.

JOHN

Okay, but be careful.

Leonard stands up on the ledge.

LEONARD

(to himself)

M-making professions of love when zombies are g-gonna eat your face off.

POUND! POUND! POUND!

John turns. The door is cracking.

JOHN

Maybe a little hustle.

DARLENE

John!

JOHN

Sorry.

(to Leonard)

Doing great.

CRACK!

Part of the door is broken away and smoke is billowing out.
An arm pokes out.

LEONARD
G-g-g-geronimo!

Leonard leaps through the air!

Darlene turns into John's chest.

Leonard lands on the pad.

DARLENE
Is he okay?

John looks over the side. Leonard waves.

JOHN
Yeah... he's...

John PUKES and passes out.

DARLENE
John?!

Darlene kneels by him and pats his face, but he's out cold.
Darlene start COUGHING, as flames lick the sides of the
building and smoke fills the air.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
John?!

CRASH!

The door finally gives way and a few burnt Zombie bodies fall
to the ground. The pressurised cannister rolls to her feet.

From the smoke, with only one arm, a head with a dozen nails
protruding from it, a torso, and on fire, is ZOMBIE TONY
crawling towards her.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
Are you KIDDING ME?!

EXT. FIRE TRAINING TOWER/PARKING LOT - EVENING

POLICE CRUISERS arrive and two STATE TROOPERS meet Leonard.

TALL STATE TROOPER
Are you okay, sir?

LEONARD
S-shut up and help them!

He points to --

ROOF

Darlene grabs John, but he's too heavy. Zombie Tony moves closer and closer. Darlene panics.

DARLENE
He's too big, I can't throw him off
the...

She begins crying. Zombie Tony is nearly at John. The smoke makes her choke.

Zombie Tony reaches John, grabs his leg and --

BANG!

Is knocked in the side of the head by Darlene, wielding the pressurised cannister.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
No! No more!

She hits him again with another BANG!

DARLENE (CONT'D)
You had me for too long!

BANG! Zombie Tony flips over on his back, looks at her and GROANS!

DARLENE (CONT'D)
You're getting awfully lippy.
We're gonna have to do something
about that.

She raises the cannister and slams it down on his face.

SPLAT!

She races to John, lies her back on his chest and grabs his arms.

GRUNTING, she sits both of them up. She struggles to stand, but slowly lifts him. She walks, step-by-step, to the ledge.

She sees the safety pad below, surrounded by STATE POLICE CARS.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
 John, forgive me if I don't make
 it.

And she jumps. They fall...

...through...

... the air.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. FIRE TRAINING TOWER/PARKING LOT - EVENING

John wakes up on a COT next to DEAD ZOMBIES. He's been
 cleaned up. Darlene is standing over him.

JOHN
 Did I throw up?

Darlene nods.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Did I jump?

Darlene shakes her head.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Shit.

DARLENE
 It's okay. I jumped for us.

She helps him to his feet.

JOHN
 Thank you.

DARLENE
 I'm so sorry about your dad.

JOHN
 I'm thankful for the time we had
 together. I'm sorry I wasted
 twenty years trying to be a
 fireman.

DARLENE
 What? You're not going to give up,
 are you?

JOHN

The world has been trying to tell me it was a bad idea for a long time. I was just too stubborn to listen.

DARLENE

So what are you going to do?

JOHN

Somebody has to clean this place up. Luckily, I've been trained in the custodial arts. What about you?

He holds her in his arms.

DARLENE

I think I have to be on my own for a while.

JOHN

That's... um, good.

DARLENE

I need to make sure I'm grounded, so when the right guy comes along I'll be ready.

John nods his head and looks around, not sure what to do. She grabs his face.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Don't worry, I already picked out the guy.

They're about to kiss when --

LEONARD (O.C.)

Here you go.

John's bronze axe comes between them. Leonard is holding it like a happy puppy.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

I w-was gonna head home, but thought I should grab this for ya first. D-don't worry, I'll leave you two alone.

JOHN

Leonard, I'd like to thank you for everything.

They shake hands. Darlene kisses him on the cheek.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Don't go away, okay.

LEONARD

I won't.

SCREAMS!

An EMT is on the ground SCREAMING, and standing over him is the YOUNG SCIENTIST ZOMBIE! It's about to leap on top of him when -

CRACK!

The brass axe flies through the air and embeds itself into the Zombie's head, sending it flying back ten feet.

It lands on the ground dead.

Everyone is in shock, and turns to see Darlene in a throwing stance. She straightens up and puts her arm around John.

DARLENE

America.

As the sun sets and the Fire Training House burns brightly behind them, John and Darlene kiss passionately and everyone erupts into APPLAUSE!

FADE TO BLACK.

END CREDITS

EL FIN