

ANTHROPOPHAGUS

written by

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REVISION 834

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FADE IN:

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

NATHAN, 10, stands on a small blacktop basketball court. FRANKLIN, 10, dribbles a basketball around Nathan and takes a shot. BRICK.

FRANKLIN

You playing or what?

Nathan continues to stand on the blacktop, in a daze as he stares directly at a large gray house on top of the hill yards away.

NATHAN

That is the scariest house I have ever seen--

Franklin strolls over to Nathan with the basketball.

FRANKLIN

That's old man Ponson's house, dude. Come on, forget about that. No one's ever seen the guy, anyways.

Nathan turns away from the house.

GABRIELLE, 10, and ASHLEY, 11, approach Nathan from the swing sets.

ASHLEY

He's a vampire, Nathan. He sucks on little boy blood and eats their eyeballs, I heard.

Nathan rolls his eyes.

NATHAN

I'm just wondering why no one's ever seen the guy.

Gabrielle reaches down onto the ground for a stick. She stays down and proceeds to draw into the dirt.

FRANKLIN

Hey, what are you drawin'?

Gabrielle looks up for a moment.

GABRIELLE

Somethin.

She looks back down. She draws a large circle, and gives it fangs and eyeballs. She then draws a body and limbs.

GABRIELLE

There's no man living there at all. My older brother told me that there's a giant monster living in the basement and it's just waiting for the right time to come out and eat everyone.

Ashley shakes her head and laughs.

ASHLEY

Boys. It just wants to eat smelly boys.

Franklin throws his basketball at Ashley's feet. It bounces away.

NATHAN

Better get it.

Franklin runs off.

Gabrielle and Ashley walk away from Nathan, giggling.

GABRIELLE

(Yells)

Better keep a close watch on that house, Nathan. The giant ball monster might eat you!

Nathan turns away. He examines the house once more.

NATHAN

(Mumbles)

Stupid girls.

Franklin rushes over and tosses the basketball to Nathan.

NATHAN

Hey, you wanna go check out that house sometime?

Franklin's eyes raise. He shakes his head. He walks away from Nathan.

Nathan takes a shot at the hoop. Swish.

NATHAN

No one wants to come with me, I'll go by myself.

He collects the basketball into his arms. He walks away.

INT. HOUSE - EVENING

Nathan enters his home. His mother, CLAIRE, 40's, wanders into the hallway from the kitchen with her oven mittens still in tact over her hands.

CLAIRE  
Nathan, go wash up.

Nathan flips his shoes into the corner next to the coat rack.

NATHAN  
What's for dinner?

Claire smiles.

CLAIRE  
Meatloaf.

Nathan's mouth shrivels.

NATHAN  
Disgusting!

Claire rolls her eyes at Nathan and points to the stairs.

CLAIRE  
Go wash your hands! Dinner's gonna  
be on the table in five minutes.

Nathan slouches his shoulders. He ambles his way up the stairs.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Nathan and Claire sit together at the dinner table. The front door swings open. Nathan's father, CHUCK, 40's, drags his feet into the kitchen.

CLAIRE  
How was work?

Chuck shrugs his shoulders.

CHUCK  
Same thing, dear. I make the  
patties, pack the fries into the  
little serving bags, and pour the  
drinks.

Nathan laughs.

CLAIRE

Very funny. Now, how was your real job?

Chucks smiles. He walks over to Claire and kisses her on the cheek.

CHUCK

Not too exciting. We signed a new client today, though.

Nathan's eyes widen.

NATHAN

Did you talk to Tucker Wiley about coming to the Aardvarks?

Claire looks to Chuck, puzzled. She rises and glides over to the stove top.

CLAIRE

Who is Tucker Wiley?

Chuck and Nathan look to one another, flabbergasted.

CHUCK

Claire, sweetheart, Tucker Wiley is only the greatest living professional Javelin thrower there is.

Claire nods her head, giving in.

CLAIRE

Right, right. Do you want any peas, darling?

Chuck shakes his head vigilantly.

CLAIRE

Nathan is having peas.

Chuck looks over to Nathan's plate. Nathan shovels his peas into a napkin and crumbles it up. Chuck and Nathan giggle.

CHUCK

Maybe some peas, dear. And no, Nathan, we didn't get to talk to Tucker. I have bad news, though. I heard he's going to play for the Boise Breadmakers.

Nathan throws his hands up in the air in complete disgust.

NATHAN

The Breadmakers! They're the worst team in the league!

Chuck nods in agreement.

CHUCK

I know. We tried, Nate. Outta our hands, now. Come on... Craig Gumley and Giovanni Sampson will for sure lead us to a title this year.

Nathan shakes his head. He scoops some food into his mouth.

Claire walks over to Chuck and places a plate in front of him.

CLAIRE

You boys better not be hiding these peas again. It's the last can, I didn't go to the store today.

Nathan and Chuck share another smile.

CHUCK

We love these peas, Claire.

Chuck winks at Nathan.

CLAIRE

Sure you do.

Claire drifts away.

CLAIRE

I have to go upstairs and get ready. It's meet the teacher night for Nathan's class.

Nathan jumps up from his seat.

NATHAN

Oh, alright, mom, but please don't say anything lame this time.

Claire clears the remainder of her food into the garbage can.

CLAIRE

I would never do that, Nathan.

Nathan places his hand onto the counter top.

NATHAN

Mom, last year you had to tell my teacher about the one time I wet the bed over summer, just to warn him. I had a really bad nightmare.

Claire smiles.

CLAIRE

I thought that he might need to know.

NATHAN

Mom, he was the gym teacher also. He treated me like a baby the entire year. I got picked last for kickball, and I think that if they could, they would have used me as a basketball.

Claire kisses Nathan on the forehead.

CLAIRE

No embarrassing stories. I promise.

Claire turns to Chuck. He is shoveling peas into his empty drink glass.

CLAIRE

Oh, Chuck... guess I'll get some more peas on the way home, too. You've got dishes and laundry duty.

Chuck rolls his eyes.

CHUCK

Aw, Claire, the game--

Claire shrugs her shoulders in a teasing fashion.

CLAIRE

Work on commercials. I've got to go get ready.

Claire hurries up the stairs.

Chuck runs over to the garbage can and empties his glass.

CHUCK

Why does she always gotta make peas, anyhow?

Nathan hurries over to the table and lifts his napkin. He lunges toward the garbage can and gets rid of his evidence.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nathan lies in bed, reading a comic book with a small flashlight. As he reads the pages, a red light seeps through the window ahead of him.

He places the comic book down onto his bed and slowly treads over to the window.

NATHAN

What is that--

He stares at the large gray house on the hillside ahead of him. The red light continues to grow brighter.

Nathan's bedroom door creaks open behind him. Nathan turns around.

Chuck stands in the doorway. The red light disappears.

CHUCK

Brought you a few cookies and a glass of milk. Don't tell your mother, though.

Nathan takes a deep breath. He hurries over and accepts the cookies and milk.

NATHAN

Thanks, dad.

Chucks smiles and nods.

Nathan turns back to the window to see that the light has gone.

CHUCK

Reading comics, eh? What do you got? The Blazing City Monkey? Or the Zombified Warlord?

Nathans shakes his head.

NATHAN

The Glorious Tree Creature.

Chuck laughs.

CHUCK

Oh, that's right. I had heard something about that before.

Nathan takes a bite out of a cookie.

CHUCK

Well, back downstairs for me. The polo match is still on.

Chuck backs away and leaves the room, closing the door behind him.

Nathan places the cookies onto the nightstand beside his bed. He crawls back in. The light outside the window reappears, a blazing red.

I/E. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Nathan and Franklin sit together on the bus.

FRANKLIN

You talk to your dad about Tucker Wiley?

Nathan nods.

NATHAN

It's no going to happen. He's going to the Breadmakers.

Franklin's jaw drops.

FRANKLIN

The Breadmakers? That's weak.

Nathan turns and stares out the window as they pass the hill leading to Old man Ponson's house.

NATHAN

That house was glowing last night, Franklin.

Franklin rolls his eyes.

FRANKLIN

Let it go, dude.

Nathan turns away from the window.

Gabrielle turns around on her seat in front of Nathan and Franklin.

GABRIELLE

I see that the monster didn't eat you up last night, Nathan. I guess that's a good thing.

The BUS DRIVER, 50's, ugly, looks up in the rear view mirror to see Gabrielle on her seat backwards.

BUS DRIVER  
 (Yells)  
 Hey-- sit down, little girl!

Gabrielle turns around.

GABRIELLE  
 I ain't no little girl.

Franklin leans forward.

FRANKLIN  
 (Taunting)  
 You got yelled at.

The bus approaches the front of the school and stops.

BUS DRIVER  
 Alright, you little scoundrels,  
 get off the bus. I'll see all you  
 little brats in eight hours.

The children rush off of the bus.

INT. PONSON'S HOUSE - DAY

The walls inside of the house are cluttered in photographs of people. Cracks fulfill the spaces that are not taken by pictures.

DR. PONSON, 60's, brittle and wrinkled, sits in a large red chair, facing the pictures on the wall.

In his lap rests a short, fat iguana.

DR. PONSON  
 What do you think today, Percy?  
 I've got a feeling that our  
 community is close to maximum  
 population.

Dr. Ponson rises. He walks over to a photo of a young girl.

DR. PONSON  
 Hm. Rachel Villman, aged 9, died  
 of a severe blow to the head.

Dr. Ponson places Percy onto a large scratching post.

DR. PONSON  
 A blow to the head would certainly  
 be something to struggle with--  
 but, I think that we can make do.

Dr. Ponson removes the picture of Rachel from the wall. He walks over to his coat rack and removes a coat. He reaches

behind the rack and lifts a large shovel.

DR. PONSON  
Stay here, Percy. I don't want you  
getting pneumonia again.

Dr. Ponson walks out the front door.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Dr. Ponson enters the graveyard from a long dirt path. He searches the area for Rachel's grave.

After a few steps, Dr. Ponson stands directly in front of a large tombstone, reading: "Rachel Villman". Underneath the name, a small inscription reads, "May Angels lead you in".

Dr. Ponson lifts his shovel from his side.

DR. PONSON  
Ah, there you are. Sweet girl.

Dr. Ponson begins to dig.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Nathan sits in the very back of the room, next to Ashley.

His teacher, MS. UNDERWOOD, 40's, ugly, stands at the front of the room, lecturing.

MS. UNDERWOOD  
There are several reasons why the  
United States is under a large  
economic crisis. Does anyone know  
what one of those reasons might  
be?

The class stares at her, dumbfounded.

MS. UNDERWOOD  
This country is not responding  
well to certain...actions. Does  
anyone know what those might be?

Again, the class sits in silence. Franklin raises his hand.

MS. UNDERWOOD  
Thank you, Franklin. Go ahead.

Franklin drops his hand.

FRANKLIN  
I have to pee.

Ms. Underwood hangs her head. She points to the hall pass.

MS. UNDERWOOD

Take the pass. Next time, try not to be so informative of which action you plan on following through with inside the restroom.

Franklin scurries over to the hall pass and exits the classroom.

MS. UNDERWOOD

Ashley, why don't you give us your opinion on the country's status on tax evasion?

Ashley gives Ms. Underwood a blank stare.

ASHLEY

The tax what?

Ms. Underwood buries her head into her right hand and groans.

MS. UNDERWOOD

Read chapter four in your history books. I need an aspirin.

Ms. Underwood sits at her desk.

Nathan continues to watch the house on the hillside.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Nathan and Franklin walk together along the sidewalk.

FRANKLIN

Ms. Underwood is one crazy goon, man. She talks on and on about things that I don't even understand.

Nathan spots a rock on the ground and continues to kick it forward as they stroll along.

NATHAN

I was reading in some of my comics last night about certain monsters. You don't think that Mr. Ponson could be some kind of monster or something, do you?

Franklin shakes his head.

FRANKLIN

No, he's just old and mean. I hear that he chews on wood and eats his pets after they die for meals. He's just tough is all.

NATHAN

Eats his own pets? That's gross, don't you think?

Franklin nods.

FRANKLIN

Yeah, but you gotta eat something.

A small blue car pulls up along the curb beside Nathan and Franklin. The window rolls down to reveal Nathan's mom, Claire.

CLAIRE

Hey, boys. How about a ride home? We can stop at Taco Prince.

The boys' eyes light up.

NATHAN AND FRANKLIN

Sure!

The boys hop into the car. Claire drives off.

INT. PONSON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - EVENING

Dr. Ponson sits at his table, eating a plate of food.

The clock on the wall behind him begins to tick.

DR. PONSON

Percy, our baking project is ready to continue on.

Dr. Ponson drops his fork onto his plate and marches over to the door to the cellar.

DR. PONSON

Keep watch, Percy. I'm going to work on my studies for a while.

Dr. Ponson opens the door and hurries down the stairs.

INT. CELLAR - EVENING

Dr. Ponson scatters around the cellar room. Against the walls are large pods filled with water and bubbles. He walks over to a table in the center of the room and place a large white cloth on top.

He limps his way over to a large cabinet and opens it. Inside is the body of a little girl.

He takes it out and places it onto the table in the center of the room.

DR. PONSON

You shall be a part of my family,  
little girl.

Dr. Ponson smiles and ambles his way over to a small turning tray. He wheels it slowly over to the operating table. Atop the turning table are scalpels and scissors. He lifts a scalpel.

I/E. CAR - EVENING

Claire drops Franklin off at his house.

CLAIRE

Good bye, Franklin. Tell your  
mother I said hello.

Franklin slams the door shut and walks to his house. Claire and Nathan drive away.

NATHAN

Mom, I was wondering about  
zombies--

Claire looks at Nathan with a playful smile.

CLAIRE

What about zombies, Nathaniel?

Nathan rolls his eyes.

NATHAN

Gosh, mom. Don't call me that.

Nathan reaches for his backpack. He unzips it and pulls out a comic book.

NATHAN

I think that there's something  
wrong with Mr. Ponson.

Claire stops at a light.

CLAIRE

He's an old, lonely man, Nathan.

Nathan flips through the comic book and lands on a page that shows a zombie, carrying an innocent person into a quiet graveyard.

NATHAN

He's a zombie, mom. I'm telling you.

The light turns green. Claire turns right and drives onto a street.

She pulls into a driveway.

CLAIRE

He's not a zombie, Nathan. He just wants to be left alone. We're going to leave him alone. Got it?

Nathan nods. He puts his comic book into his backpack and jumps out of the car.

INT. CELLAR - EVENING

Dr. Ponson stands over the operating table, mixing two beakers together. One beaker holds a red chemical, while the other holds a yellow chemical.

He pours the chemicals into a long, thin tube. The tube injects into the girl's body on the table.

DR. PONSON

Consume your nutrients, child.

Dr. Ponson creeps over to a large button on the wall and presses it. A hole opens up in the floor and a set of steps appear.

Dr. Ponson walks down the stairs.

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - EVENING

Dr. Ponson treads to the bottom of the stairs. He flips a switch to reveal light within the large room.

Pods are lined up and down the walls. In the center of the room are three long rows of operating tables.

Dr. Ponson approaches the first pod on his left. He opens the chamber to reveal an empty space. He smiles and begins to laugh.

DR. PONSON

You shall go right here, and you  
will be ready to make some friends  
by morning, my dear.

He turns and glides his way to the stairs.

DR. PONSON

Good night, family.

He proceeds to hike up the stairwell. The lights in the lab  
slowly fade away.

INT. LIVING SPACE - EVENING

Nathan sits on his couch, watching television. Chuck enters  
the room with a large bowl of popcorn and two drinks.

CHUCK

Here you go, pal. Got you a glass  
of soda, too.

Chuck sits down next to Nathan and places the popcorn onto a  
table in front of him.

CHUCK

What are we watching?

Nathan downs the volume.

NATHAN

A zombie movie.

Chuck reaches for some popcorn.

CHUCK

Any good?

Nathan nods his head and drinks some soda.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Franklin shoots baskets as Nathan sits by himself on the  
edge of the grass.

FRANKLIN

You want to play horse?

Nathan does not answer.

FRANKLIN

You're thinking about that weird  
old man too much. You're gonna get  
scared silly.

Nathan rises and treks over to Franklin.

NATHAN

I think he's a zombie, Franklin.  
I'm convinced.

Franklin ignores Nathan and continues to shoot baskets.

NATHAN

Haven't you ever seen the red  
light in the house? I've been  
reading about these things,  
Franklin. Their eyes glow red.

Franklin grabs his basketball and slams it onto the ground.

FRANKLIN

Nathan, we're too old to be  
thinking about that stuff anymore.  
You should be playing sports and  
going to movies. You and me, we  
should be liking girls, now.

Nathan raises an eyebrow.

NATHAN

Franklin, girls just get in the  
way.

Ashley and Gabrielle approach the boys from over the  
hillside.

ASHLEY

Hey, losers.

Gabrielle takes Nathan's comic book out of his hands and  
looks it over. She laughs.

GABRIELLE

This is really dorky, Nathan.  
Zombies? What is this?

Nathan bursts forward and rips the comic book out of  
Gabrielle's hands.

NATHAN

It's mine, don't worry about it.

Ashley and Gabrielle sit down on the bench beside the court.

A bright red light pokes through Dr. Ponson's windows.

NATHAN

Do you see that?

Franklin drops his basketball. Ashley and Gabrielle rise  
from their seats on the bench.

FRANKLIN

Maybe he's watching a movie or something.

Nathan takes a few steps closer to the hillside.

ASHLEY

What are you doing? Get over here. You don't know what's going to happen.

Gabrielle takes a few steps backward. She trips over her own feet.

GABRIELLE

I need to go home and get ready for dinner.

The children stand in a daze looking at the house on the hillside. The red light grows brighter.

NATHAN

I want to know what it is.

Nathan begins to tread closer to the the house. Franklin rushes forward and grabs Nathan.

FRANKLIN

No, Nathan. Not today. We need a plan.

Franklin drags Nathan away from the hillside.

INT. GROCERY STORE - EVENING

Claire pushes her shopping cart through the store, scooping up random items and hurrying along.

She rounds a corner. EARL/TUCKER WILEY, 30's, a tall polite man, stands in front of her.

EARL

Excuse me, ma'am.

Claire smiles.

CLAIRE

Quite alright.

Claire reaches into a freezer and grabs a bag of frozen peas.

EARL

Do you happen to know where the  
alabaster soap is?

Claire tosses her peas into her cart.

CLAIRE

Well, did you look in soap aisle,  
sir?

Earl shakes his head.

EARL

Where might that be?

Claire looks up at the signs above her. She points to the  
other end of the store.

CLAIRE

I'm sure that if you read the  
signs, one will have soap on it.

Earl looks at her, puzzled.

EARL

The signs, you say?

Claire looks up and points. Above her is a large sign with  
different foods listed.

CLAIRE

Those signs are there for you to  
know where all the food is.

Earl nods.

EARL

Why, thank you.

Earl limps away from Claire.

Claire meanders away, down another aisle.

INT. LIVING SPACE - NIGHT

Claire walks into the living space of the house. Chuck is  
lying on the couch, watching water polo.

CLAIRE

I got some peas. I also had a  
weird encounter with a very odd  
man in the grocery store.

Chuck pays no attention.

CLAIRE

I got pizza.

Chuck jumps off of the couch.

CHUCK

Where?!

Claire rolls her eyes.

CLAIRE

Nowhere, Chuck. I knew that you weren't paying attention to me!

Chuck sits back down.

CHUCK

Sorry, dear.

Claire sets her bags down on the table beside the couch.

CLAIRE

Where's Nathan?

Chuck nods to the stairs.

NATHAN

He's upstairs with Franklin.  
They're playing some kind of game.  
They wouldn't let me into the  
room.

Claire smiles.

CLAIRE

Aw, they're playing a little game.  
That's cute.

Claire sits down in the chair beside Chuck.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nathan and Franklin sit on the floor, reading comic books.

FRANKLIN

Why do you think it's a zombie,  
again? He could be a vampire, or a  
werewolf--

Nathan shakes his head.

NATHAN

He's weak. He doesn't have anything to eat. His eyes are glowing red, because he's already dead.

Franklin flips through his comic book.

FRANKLIN

Are we going to tell the girls?

NATHAN

No.

The door creaks open. Claire enters.

CLAIRE

You boys hungry?

Nathan jumps up from the floor.

NATHAN

Mom, we're busy.

Nathan forces Claire out of the door.

FRANKLIN

We need to find out more about Mr. Ponson.

Nathan nods. He walks over to the window and stares at the house.

NATHAN

What is he hiding?

Franklin rises and slides his way over to the window.

The boys examine the house.

I/E. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Nathan and Franklin watch Mr. Ponson's house on the hillside.

The bus stops at the corner on the bottom of the hill.

NATHAN

Why did we stop?

The bus driver opens the front door. RACHEL, 10, a pretty little girl, walks onto the bus.

Nathan is mesmerized.

FRANKLIN

New girl.

Nathan leans over the seat.

NATHAN

I see her.

Franklin watches Nathan as his eyes glaze over Rachel.

FRANKLIN

You have a crush.

Nathan's eyes squint. He turns away and stares out the window.

NATHAN

I was just curious about her.

The bus bumps along the road a couple blocks.

The bus pulls in front of the school.

BUS DRIVER

Get off the bus, pukewods.

The driver opens the door. The kids scatter off of the bus.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The children enter the classroom simultaneously. Nathan watches as Rachel enters the room and takes a seat in the front, near the door.

MS. UNDERWOOD

Settle down, class. Today, we've received a new student.

Ms. Underwood looks over to Rachel.

MS. UNDERWOOD

Rachel Ponson. Go ahead and stand up and tell us a little bit about yourself, Rachel.

Rachel bashfully rises from her seat.

RACHEL

I'm Rachel. I just moved her with my grandfather. He lives over on the hillside.

Nathan's eyes widen. He leans over to Franklin.

NATHAN  
(Whispers)  
That's Mr. Ponson's granddaughter.

Nathan and Franklin stare at Rachel intently.

Rachel sits down.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Nathan and Franklin sit across from Ashley and Gabrielle, eating their lunches.

GABRIELLE  
The new girl's sitting alone.  
She's weird, I don't like her.

Nathan turns and stares at Rachel.

NATHAN  
I think that we should ask her to  
sit with us.

The girls give Nathan a look as if he is crazy.

ASHLEY  
I don't think so, Nathan. She's a  
loser.

Nathan lifts his tray from the table and slowly glides his way toward Rachel's table in the corner of the room.

Rachel watches as Nathan places his tray onto her table, directly across from her.

NATHAN  
Hello, I'm Nathan. I'm in your  
History class with Ms. Underwood.

Rachel looks away.

NATHAN  
Where are you from? Do you like it  
here?

Rachel shoves the remainder of her sandwich into her mouth, quickly.

NATHAN  
I live down the street, just a  
couple blocks over. My friends are  
over there.

He points to the other side of the room.

NATHAN

They just didn't want to move in the middle of their lunch, don't mind them.

Rachel swallows her sandwich.

RACHEL

I'm from Sandersonville.

Nathan's eyes widen.

NATHAN

That's pretty close to here. Why didn't you go to this school in the first place?

Rachel smiles.

RACHEL

I was home tutored. I live with my grandpa, now.

Rachel points out the window.

RACHEL

Up on the hillside. He's not well, so I help take care of him.

Nathan nods.

NATHAN

old man Ponson.

Rachel looks at him confused.

NATHAN

It's uh-- we just know that he's old, that's all.

Rachel takes a sip from her can of soda.

NATHAN

You're welcome to eat at our table, you know.

Rachel shakes her head.

RACHEL

No, thank you. I like to be alone.

Nathan nods.

NATHAN

I understand. Well, I'll let you be alone, then.

Nathan lifts his tray and walks back to his lunch table.

Rachel watches him curiously.

I/E. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Nathan stares out of his window. Rachel sits down next to him.

RACHEL

Hello.

Nathan is startled. He turns to her, quickly.

NATHAN

Oh, hi... I--

Franklin walks onto the bus. He sees Nathan and Rachel and smiles, giving Nathan a thumbs up. He sits a couple seats in front of Nathan and Rachel.

RACHEL

Thanks for sitting next to me at lunch, today.

Nathan smiles.

NATHAN

You're welcome. I didn't mean anything bad about your grandpa, we're just curious about him is all. No one's ever seen him.

Rachel reaches into her backpack and pulls out a picture of Dr. Ponson. She hands it over to Nathan.

RACHEL

He sits in a big red chair every day, watching television and eating his meals, three a day. He hardly speaks.

Nathan looks over the picture. The iguana, Percy, sits perched over the top of the red chair.

NATHAN

He has a pet.

Rachel nods.

RACHEL

Percy. We bought it for him seven years ago. He's like a son to my grandpa.

Nathan hands the picture back to Rachel.

NATHAN

I'd like to meet him sometime. I can help him with his yard work, or house chores. I'd do it for free--

Rachel shakes her head.

RACHEL

Oh, no. I don't think it's such a good idea.

The bus takes off.

Franklin glances back every few seconds to watch Nathan and Rachel.

NATHAN

Does your grandpa enjoy living next to the graveyard? I always wanted to check it out-- my parents won't let me.

Rachel reaches into her pocket and pulls out a stick of gum.

RACHEL

Oh, he's just fine living next to it.

She puts the gum into her mouth.

NATHAN

What kind of gum is that?

Rachel hesitates for a moment.

RACHEL

Liver.

Nathan looks at her, confused.

NATHAN

What?

Rachel pauses and ponders the question for a moment.

RACHEL  
Peppermint.

Nathan nods.

NATHAN  
That's the best kind!

Rachel smiles.

RACHEL  
It's my last piece--

NATHAN  
It's ok.

Franklin gives Nathan a nod and smiles from his seat.

INT. CELLAR - DAY

Dr. Ponson stands in front of a table, with Percy sitting peacefully on his shoulder.

He reaches for tools and continues to work vigorously. His doorbell rings.

DR. PONSON  
My child must be home.

Dr. Ponson hurries to the stairs and marches upward.

INT. LIVING SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Ponson opens the front door. Rachel stands in front of him.

DR. PONSON  
Well, how did school turn out for you?

Rachel slips her way into the house.

RACHEL  
You did not give me enough lunch, father.

Dr. Ponson scratches his head, confused.

DR. PONSON  
You should not have hunger, yet.  
How does the civilization appear?

Rachel sits down, looking ashamed.

RACHEL  
I did not look for any possible  
locations, yet. I've met a boy.

Dr. Ponson sits in his large red chair.

DR. PONSON  
A boy? Does he have-- friends?

Rachel nods.

RACHEL  
Many. He's quite... nice.

Dr. Ponson pours a purple liquid into a large chalice. He drinks from it.

DR. PONSON  
I want you to bring him to me.

Rachel shakes her head.

RACHEL  
I can't. He's too kind.

Dr. Ponson hands the chalice to Rachel. She drinks.

DR. PONSON  
Each time you drink from this cup,  
you will grow hungrier.

Rachel sets the cup down onto the table beside her. Dr. Ponson hands her a plate.

DR. PONSON  
Eat these worms, child.

Rachel looks over the plate. She lifts a handful of worms and draws them closer to her mouth.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Nathan stands at the edge of the playground alongside Franklin. They examine Dr. Ponson's house from a distance.

NATHAN  
I want to see what is inside that  
house, Franklin.

Franklin takes a big gulp and nods.

FRANKLIN  
Are we ready for that kind of  
commitment?

Nathan nods. He reaches into his backpack and pulls out a

pair of goggles. He places them onto his face.

FRANKLIN

Did you bring me any goggles?

Nathan shakes his head.

FRANKLIN

Why not?

Nathan shrugs his shoulders.

NATHAN

I thought that you would bring  
your own.

Franklin reaches into his backpack and pulls out a pair of  
gloves and squirt gun.

NATHAN

Where's mine?

Franklin shrugs his shoulders.

FRANKLIN

Thought you'd bring your own, man.

Nathan and Franklin march up the hillside.

EXT. PONSON'S YARD - DAY

Nathan and Franklin slowly tread through Dr. Ponson's front  
yard, wearing their protective equipment.

The yard is covered in broken car parts and toys.

Nathan and Franklin sneak to the side windows.

NATHAN

There's an opening over here. Lift  
me up.

Franklin pushes Nathan up to the window.

FRANKLIN

What do you see?

Nathan searches the house. Everything appears normal.

NATHAN

A red chair. Some pictures on the  
walls. Looks normal.

Franklin pulls Nathan back down to the ground.

FRANKLIN

Let's just go home.

The front door swings open.

NATHAN

Did you hear that? A door.

Nathan and Franklin tip toe their way to the front of the house. They watch as Rachel stands on the porch step, feeding the birds off of the porch.

FRANKLIN

It's just your girlfriend. Let's go. I wanna shoot hoops.

They turn. Nathan steps on a small pile of leaves. Rachel looks over and sees the two boys sneaking away.

RACHEL

Hello?

Nathan turns around and faces Rachel shamefully.

NATHAN

Oh, hello, Rachel. We had just been wandering through the graveyard. We were on our way to the playground, now.

Nathan backs away.

RACHEL

I thought that you weren't allowed to go to the graveyard.

Franklin nudges Nathan gently in the ribcage.

NATHAN

Well, we snuck into the yard-- we were just curious. Come on, Franklin.

Nathan turns away from Rachel.

RACHEL

You came to see my grandfather, didn't you?

Nathan hesitantly nods.

RACHEL

He's not well today. He's in bed,  
resting. You'd better hurry home,  
now.

Nathan and Franklin turn and wander back into the town.

A telescope peeks through the side of the house. Rachel  
walks back inside.

INT. LIVING SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Ponson sits in a small black chair, gazing through his  
telescope.

DR. PONSON

Why did you chase those boys away,  
Rachel? Some of your brothers and  
sisters are growing even hungrier  
than you are.

Rachel hangs her head.

RACHEL

I'd like to be normal, father.

Dr. Ponson shakes his head.

DR. PONSON

Normal. What is normal?

Dr. Ponson closes the hole in the wall and packs away his  
telescope.

He turns to Rachel.

DR. PONSON

You need rest.

Rachel nods and walks over to the cellar steps.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nathan sleeps peacefully.

DREAM SEQUENCE- FIGHTING THE ZOMBIE

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DUSK

Nathan and Franklin tremble through the graveyard together.  
They search the graves endlessly, until they approach one  
grave with a large vacant hole.

FRANKLIN

Read the sign. What does it say?

Nathan steps closer to the grave. He brushes dirt off of the stone.

NATHAN

It's Old man Ponson's grave.  
Where's the body?

A large body appears behind Franklin. Nathan turns around.

NATHAN

Franklin, be-- behind you.

Franklin turns. The body pulls him away.

NATHAN

Franklin!

Nathan rushes after Franklin and the unknown figure. He pushes his way through tree branches and burrows his way through a thick mud.

He reaches the end of the graveyard, staring directly across the street at Dr. Ponson's house.

The figure drags Franklin into the house. Nathan turns around. Another figure scoops him up. Nathan screams.

END DREAM.

Nathan pops up in bed, breathing heavily. He searches the room around him and looks out the window. A light shines bright through Dr. Ponson's house.

I/E. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Nathan sits alone, watching anxiously as Rachel boards the bus.

She approaches Nathan.

RACHEL

Can I sit next to you?

Nathan nods.

NATHAN

Franklin isn't on the bus this morning. He must be sick.

Rachel shrugs her shoulders. She reaches into her backpack for a piece of gum.

NATHAN  
May I have a piece?

Rachel shakes her head.

RACHEL  
Last one.

NATHAN  
Oh.

Nathan turns and looks out the window.

RACHEL  
My grandpa wants to meet you.

Nathan turns his head toward Rachel quickly.

NATHAN  
Really? When?

Rachel thinks it over for a moment.

RACHEL  
Today after school.

Nathan shakes his head.

NATHAN  
I can't. I have to watch the  
javelin playoffs with my dad.  
He'll be disappointed if I miss  
it. Tomorrow?

Rachel nods.

RACHEL  
That would be fine.

Nathan smiles.

NATHAN  
Do you like comic books?

Rachel looks at him, confused.

RACHEL  
What are those?

Nathan reaches into his backpack and shows her a copy of *The Immaculate Sea Urchin*. Rachel flips through the book.

RACHEL  
What is this giant blob?

Nathan laughs.

NATHAN

A blob? No-- that's the urchin.  
He's the hero!

Rachel continues to search through the book.

RACHEL

Well, this is interesting.

Rachel closes the book and hands it to Nathan.

NATHAN

No, you can keep it for a while. I  
finished reading that one, anyhow.

Rachel smiles politely and shoves the comic book into her bag.

RACHEL

Thank you, Nathan.

Nathan nods. The bus comes to a halt.

BUS DRIVER

(Yells)

Alright, hurry up and get off the  
bus, you snot heads.

The children rush off. Nathan and Rachel sit in their seats and exchange smiles momentarily.

NATHAN

We better get off.

Rachel turns and hurries off of the bus. Nathan follows.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Claire sits alone on the couch, watching the afternoon news.

The REPORTER stands outside of a small grocery store.

REPORTER (O.S.)

As the mysterious man left the  
store with his soap, he took three  
hostages along with him. There  
have been no reports as of yet to  
where this man was headed. No  
trace has been found.

Claire places her hand to her mouth in fear.

CLAIRE

Oh my Heavens.

The reporter walks into the store.

REPORTER (O.S.)

This town has not seen such violence since the rugby riots in '93. Jim, back to you in the studios.

Claire rushes over to the phone. The television shows a man behind the store, carrying a woman over his shoulders. He walks toward the hillside.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Nathan opens the front door and drops his backpack against the wall beside him.

NATHAN

(Yells)

Mom-- I'm home! What's for dinner

Nathan wanders over to the couch and lies down.

NATHAN

(Yells)

Hey, ma-- what's it like to be in love? I gave this girl one of my comic books today. I think that I love her.

Nathan stares at the ceiling momentarily. He sits up and looks around. Claire enters from the kitchen.

CLAIRE

Ugh, why would you try to win a girl's heart with a comic book? I'm going to need to teach you a thing or two.

Claire sets a bowl of potato chips onto the table.

CLAIRE

Your father called a little while ago. He'll be home soon for the tournament.

Nathan smiles and rubs his hands together.

INT. PONSON'S HOUSE - CELLAR -DAY

Dr. Ponson sits in a little wooden chair. Franklin is strapped to a wall across from him.

Franklin opens his eyes, still groggy.

DR. PONSON  
Good afternoon. I am Dr. Ponson.  
What might your name be?

Franklin searches the room with his eyes aimlessly. He begins to tear up.

FRANKLIN  
Where am I? Where's Nathan?

Dr. Ponson tilts his head slightly, confused.

DR. PONSON  
Nathan? There are no names here,  
child. I am a Dr. You are my test  
subject.

Franklin kicks his legs and squirms around in his straps.

FRANKLIN  
I want to go home.

Dr. Ponson rises from his chair and walks over to his turn table. He lifts a small flashlight and shines it into Franklin's eyes.

DR. PONSON  
In the ground below us is a  
civilization that I have grown for  
years. They are my children. You  
are a mere maggot to their future.  
You are food, perhaps.

Dr. Ponson places the flashlight onto the turn table. He takes a tape measure and measures Franklin's head.

DR. PONSON  
I couldn't use you for other  
purposes. Your head is much too  
tall-- there's no room for  
acquisitions.

Dr. Ponson takes a need and injects it into Franklin.

DR. PONSON  
You may never wake up, but if you  
do, you'd want to thank one of my  
children for finding you.

Rachel pops out from the corner of the room. She hangs her head, ashamed.

Franklin passes out after the injection.

DR. PONSON  
Rachel, who is Nathan again?

Rachel steps out from the corner and drags her feet toward Dr. Ponson.

RACHEL  
She is a friend, father. I wish  
him no harm.

Dr. Ponson places his glasses onto the table beside him.

DR. PONSON  
You shouldn't forget how you were  
created. Without me, you would be  
rotting in the ground for an  
everlasting eternity. Take me to  
the boy, Rachel.

Rachel hangs her head. She walks over to her backpack in the corner of the room. She takes out a comic book.

RACHEL  
He gave this to me.

She hands the comic book over to Dr. Ponson.

DR. PONSON  
What is this vile garbage? An  
urchin?

Dr. Ponson tosses the comic book aside.

DR. PONSON  
Have you asked him to the house?

Rachel nods.

RACHEL  
Tomorrow.

Dr. Ponson rubs his hands together.

DR. PONSON  
Excellent. We will get a glimpse  
of the outside world.

Rachel sits on the ground beside Dr. Ponson and removes her shoelaces. She begins to chew on them.

DR. PONSON  
What are you doing? Prepare  
dinner.

Dr. Ponson takes the shoelaces away from Rachel. She scurries away and rushes up the stairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Nathan and Chuck sit on the couch watching the javelin tournament together.

CHUCK

Your mom says there's weird things going on.

Nathan shoves a handful of popcorn into his mouth.

NATHAN

What do you mean?

Chuck wipes his mouth with his sleeve.

CHUCK

Says the man in the supermarket the other day that she ran into was taking people to the house up on the hill.

Nathan's eyes widen.

NATHAN

Old man Ponson?

Chuck shrugs his shoulders.

CHUCK

I guess so. You know your mother. She's just looking for a good story.

Chuck slouches in his seat.

CHUCK

Come on, fellas! Things aren't looking too good-- did you see that last throw? Terrible.

The doorbell rings. Nathan jumps up and answers.

Franklin's father, HARRY, 40's, stands in the doorway.

HARRY

Hello, Nathan. I was wondering if Franklin was over here.

Nathan shakes his head.

NATHAN

I thought that Franklin was sick, sir. He wasn't in school today.

Harry grows concerned.

HARRY

He wasn't in school? Oh, God-- I sent him off. I watched him get onto the bus.

Nathan shrugs his shoulders.

NATHAN

Well, he gets on before me, sir. He wasn't there whenever I got on. We always sit together, I would have known.

HARRY

May I use your phone?

Chuck hurries over to the door.

CHUCK

Everything alright, Harry?

Harry's eyes grow into tears.

HARRY

Franklin's missing, Chuck.

Chuck backs to the table behind the couch and lifts the cordless phone.

CHUCK

Here, call the police.

Chuck hands the phone to Harry. Harry dials the police. Nathan hurries up the stairs.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nathan stares out his window toward the house on the hill. A glowing green light shines out from the house.

The light turns into a deep, dark purple. Nathan runs out of his room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nathan marches down the stairs.

NATHAN

I think I know where he is!

Nathan slides across the floor as he reaches the ground. Harry looks at him intently.

HARRY  
Well, where's Franklin?

Nathan opens the front door and points across to the house on the hill. The purple light continues to shine.

CHUCK  
What in the world--

Harry drops the phone.

HARRY  
Chuck, I think those are aliens.

Chuck reaches into his shirt pocket and pulls out a pair of glasses. He puts them on his face.

CHUCK  
What say we do about that? Get in the house, Nathan.

Chuck pulls Nathan back into the house.

CHUCK  
I'm calling the police. We'll get your boy back, Harry. Come inside for a drink.

Harry back away from the doorstep.

HARRY  
I can't, Chuck. My boy's lost. I need to find him. You'd feel the same way.

Harry runs away.

Chuck slams the door shut and locks it. Claire stumbles to the top of the staircase.

CLAIRE  
What's going on, Chuck?

Chuck picks the phone up off of the ground.

CHUCK  
Harry's boy's gone missing, Claire. Nathan's not going to school tomorrow.

Nathan barges into the conversation.

NATHAN  
But dad, I have to.

Chuck shakes his head.

CHUCK

No, Nathan. It's too dangerous.  
Not until we get to the bottom of  
this.

Nathan stomps his feet and rumbles up the stairs.

Chuck walks lazily back to his spot on the couch and watches  
the tournament.

INT. POLICE STATION - MORNING

A crowd of people stand in line at the town's police  
station. The POLICE CHIEF/KELCEY YINSON, 50's, enters from  
the back room.

POLICE CHIEF

We haven't had a crowd like this  
in... well, ever. What's the  
problem, folks?

Harry pops out from the middle of the crowd.

HARRY

My son has been missing since  
yesterday. You have not returned  
my calls since midnight last  
night. Do you have any leads?

The Chief scratches his head.

POLICE CHIEF

Sir, we are heavily investigating  
it.

He turns and looks to his two desk workers. One is playing  
solitaire on the computer, the other is working on a rubik's  
cube.

The Chief clears his throat.

POLICE CHIEF

I said-- we're looking into it.

He nudges the desk worker to the left of him. Each worker  
jumps from their seat to search through files.

HARRY

Well, that's better, then.

Harry takes a seat in one of the chairs against the window.

POLICE CHIEF  
Who else is here for a missing  
family member?

Every person in the station raises a hand.

POLICE CHIEF  
Yikes.

The Chief rushes to his office in the back.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Claire stands by the window curtains, watching as the school bus sits in front of the house.

Chuck walks into the living room with a cup of coffee in his hand.

CLAIRE  
Maybe you should just go out there  
and tell the driver that Nathan's  
not going to school.

Chuck glances out the window.

CHUCK  
He'll get the message in a minute  
or so. Bus drivers never wait too  
long for a kid-- it's a well known  
fact, dear.

Chuck sips his coffee.

Claire kisses him on the cheek and walks over to the steps.

CLAIRE  
Well, I'm gonna go upstairs and  
just check on Nathan.

Claire walks up the stairs. Chuck sets his coffee down onto the table beside him and pulls a pair of binoculars from the inside of his robe. He watches the bus.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Claire knocks on Nathan's bedroom door.

CLAIRE  
Nathan, sweetheart.

She opens the door slowly and peaks inside. There is a large mound in the middle of his bed. Claire smiles.

CLAIRE

I'll just let you sleep--

She closes the door gently.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Nathan's bed is covered in a mound of pillows and blankets, complimented by a volleyball for a head. He is gone.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - MORNING

Nathan stands on the bottom of the hillside, gazing at the top where the house lies. He reaches into his backpack and pulls out a squirt gun.

He puts on a pair of goggles, and straps an umpire's vest to his chest. Nathan reaches into his pocket and pulls out a piece of peppermint gum. He chews obnoxiously.

NATHAN

Alright, zombie. Here I come.

Nathan hikes up the hill. A bright orange light glows from the inside of the house, reflecting right off of his goggles.

I/E. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

The bus is empty. The driver pulls up in front of Rachel's stop and she climbs onto the bus.

She looks around and hangs in her head, disappointed. She sits down in the same seat that Nathan and she always sit in.

BUS DRIVER

Looks like you did your share of the work.

The driver pulls up in front of the school.

BUS DRIVER

Here or home?

Rachel looks out the window. The school is vacant.

RACHEL

Here.

The driver lets Rachel off. Rachel walks away from the school.

EXT. PONSON'S YARD - MORNING

Nathan stands at the edge of Dr. Ponson's yard, beside a gate that boasts a large gargoyle on top of it.

Nathan crouches down, holding his squirt gun in both hands, creeping closer and closer to Dr. Ponson's home.

He reaches the bottom step of the porch. A large red flight flashes. The front door swings open.

Nathan looks up. No one there.

He takes two more steps forward. Percy crawls out of the house. Nathan jumps back, watching the iguana squiggle its way right by him.

Nathan turns to see where the iguana goes. He redirects himself to the front of the house.

Dr. Ponson stands in the front doorway.

DR. PONSON  
Who might we have here?

Nathan takes one big gulp. He drops his gun to the ground.

NATHAN  
Are you Rachel's grandpa?

Dr. Ponson smiles.

DR. PONSON  
Nathaniel? Come inside, boy.

Nathan kicks his gun across the ground, breaking it. Water leaks out.

Nathan enters the house.

INT. PONSON'S HOUSE - LIVING SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Nathan stands in the doorway, slightly trembling.

NATHAN  
Your pet ran out of the house.

Dr. Ponson pours two drinks.

DR. PONSON  
Percy? He will return. He's very independent.

Dr. Ponson hands one of the drinks to Nathan.

DR. PONSON

Are you thirsty? Have a drink--

Nathan takes the cup from Dr. Ponson. He takes a large sip.

NATHAN

This is delicious. What is it?

Dr. Ponson smiles.

DR. PONSON

Something that I made last evening, with Rachel. She's a wonderful cook, too.

Nathan sits down in the large red chair.

NATHAN

I'm feeling dizzy.

Dr. Ponson takes his cup from him.

DR. PONSON

It's normal, Nathaniel. Please, relax. Take a load off.

Nathan closes his eyes.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Rachel continues to walk down the street, observing the town.

A small police patrol car pulls up alone the curb. The Police Chief rolls down the driver's window.

POLICE CHIEF

Why aren't you in school, young lady?

Rachel turns and looks at the officer, then continues to tread forward. The Chief drags his car ahead.

POLICE CHIEF

I'm speaking to you, little girl. You need to be in school. I'll give you a ride.

Rachel stops her progress. She bows her head.

RACHEL

No one's in school, today.

The Chief stops his car.

POLICE CHIEF

Where is everyone?

Rachel looks to the hillside.

INT. CELLAR - DAY

Dr. Ponson stands by his larger operating table, measuring a purple substance into a large beaker.

Nathan opens his eyes, coming into consciousness. He lies on top of the operating table.

DR. PONSON

I wanted you to see the new world  
I've been creating.

Dr. Ponson cranks the table so that Nathan lies, facing the wall before him.

Dr. Ponson removes a large white sheet from the wall. On the wall, he has painted a large mural.

NATHAN

What's going on?

Dr. Ponson takes out a large pointer. He directs Nathan through the mural.

DR. PONSON

We have here a town-- your town.  
The buildings are in flames, and  
the cars are substituted with  
large pods. Take a look down over  
here, if you will.

Dr. Ponson points to a little girl, holding an arm in one hand and smiling.

DR. PONSON

This is Rachel. She is already  
dead, Nathaniel. Already bit the  
dust.

Nathan looks confused and in a slight daze.

NATHAN

Where's Franklin? I--

Dr. Ponson rushes over to the operating table.

DR. PONSON

Shh, shh. Don't force out any words, Nathaniel. You have a chance to be one of us, now.

Dr. Ponson takes the large beaker and walks over to Nathan.

DR. PONSON

I will inject this into your brain. You will soon feel the hunger that the rest of us feel.

Dr. Ponson injects the liquid into a long tube, connected to Nathan's head.

INT. BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Claire tosses and turns. She is napping.

DREAM SEQUENCE- THE INVASION

EXT. HILLSIDE - DUSK

A massive crowd of people stumble down the hill, toward the town.

Bodies topple over. They stretch out their arms and continue to march forward.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Claire watches the people enter the town through her front window.

CLAIRE

Chuck!-- Chuck!

Claire wanders away from the window. She returns with a flashlight and a baseball bat in her other hand.

CLAIRE

Where are you, Chuck?

Claire searches out the window once more.

CLAIRE

Where's Nathan?

Claire turns. Chuck stands in front of her. His face is green, bruised and broken skin cover his body.

CLAIRE

Chuck? What's wrong with you.

Chuck stumbles forward. The front door breaks down. Emotionless people trek forward into the house.

Claire screams. Chuck hoists her over his shoulder and walks over to the doorway.

CHUCK  
We've been waiting for you,  
Claire.

Chuck exits the house, toward the house on the hill.

END DREAM.

Claire jumps up in her bed. She exits the room.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Claire slowly creaks open Nathan's door. She enters his room.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Claire walks over to Nathan's bed and removes the covers. Pillows, blankets, and a volleyball.

Claire rushes over to the doorway.

CLAIRE  
Chuck!-- Chuck!

Claire runs down the stairs.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

A crowd of parents stands at the bottom of the hillside, staring at the house on top of the hill.

Harry leads the way.

HARRY  
There's Ponson's house. I saw we  
just go in, no warnings. Take him  
down.

The Police Chief pulls up beside the playground. He rolls down his window.

POLICE CHIEF  
What's going on, here?

Harry steps forward.

HARRY  
You haven't been doing your job,  
sir. We're going to that house and  
finding the answers ourselves.

The Chief gets out of his patrol car.

POLICE CHIEF

Why would you want to do that?  
Allow the law to run its course.  
We'll find your answers.

Harry stomps his foot.

HARRY

When do you plan on delivering?  
Before or after my son is found  
dead?

The Chief scratches his head.

POLICE CHIEF

Well, now, I suppose before would  
be best.

Harry turns away.

INT. CELLAR - DAY

Dr. Ponson adds onto his mural with oiled paints. Percy  
crawls down the stairs.

DR. PONSON

Percy, you're just in time. I'm  
adding the town's wax museum to  
the scenery. I figured you might  
want to look it over, first.

Dr. Ponson sets his paints down. He ambles his way over to  
Percy and lifts him off of the ground. He walks over to the  
mural. Percy examines the scene, then licks it.

DR. PONSON

I assume that I've been granted  
your approval.

Dr. Ponson sets Percy down onto the ground. Percy hurries  
away.

DR. PONSON

A simple touch of purple to the  
faces and the picture may be  
complete.

Dr. Ponson dabs his brush in the puddle of purple paint and  
proceeds to add onto his artwork.

The living room door above him opens, then slams shut.

DR. PONSON

Rachel. Hm.

Dr. Ponson sets his paints down onto the table beside him

and lunges toward the stairs.

INT. LIVING SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Ponson stands by the door of his living space, searching outside.

DR. PONSON

There's no one here at all.

Dr. Ponson turns around. Earl stands before him, holding a bottle of alabaster soap.

DR. PONSON

Hello. You weren't due back until  
the other were able to roam free  
in the town.

Earl squirts some soap into his hands and rubs them together.

EARL

I do not like germs.

Dr. Ponson nods.

DR. PONSON

Yes, I know. I remember that being  
on your resume somewhere. You have  
a job, do you understand?

Earl sits down in the red chair. He stares at the pictures on the walls before him.

EARL

Are these all of the victims? Or  
were you planning on eating all of  
these people? You can't get to  
them all, you know.

Dr. Ponson walks over to the chair and places his hand on the back end.

DR. PONSON

These are your family members.  
They've been adapting. Their  
hunger grows.

Earl rises from his chair.

EARL

Where are they?

Dr. Ponson points to the cellar way.

DR. PONSON

In the laboratory. They've yet to adapt. Their systems are still very weak.

Earl walks over to the cellar door.

EARL

This is not what I wanted, Dr. I simply wanted to co-exist.

Dr. Ponson smiles.

DR. PONSON

I just realized that there were greater things to be done.

Earl walks down the stairs. Dr. Ponson follows.

EXT. HILLSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Harry's army marches its way up the hillside. Some carry baseball bats, while others hold cans of bug spray and fly swatters.

They reach the top of the hill, meeting face to face with the house atop the hill. A bright green light shines out from the basement windows.

HARRY

Down there. That must be where all the weird stuff is happening.

The Police Chief pulls up in front of the house. He gets out of the car. A school bus pulls in behind him. The driver gets out.

POLICE CHIEF

Folks, I asked you real nicely to allows us to do our jobs. Now, I'm going to have to restrain all of you.

Harry grins.

HARRY

Do disrespect to your authority, but what are you gonna do, officer?

The Chief laughs.

POLICE CHIEF

I'm not an officer. My name is  
Kelcey Yinson. I died fourteen  
years ago.

Harry looks at him, confused. Kelcey steps forward and rolls  
up his sleeves. A purple shaded liquid protrudes his skin in  
small amounts.

Kelcey pulls his night stick from his side.

POLICE CHIEF

I'm afraid I'm going to have to  
beat you to death, good sir. I'm  
just so hungry--

The Chief strides forward. Harry back away.

The bus driver catches up with Kelcey.

BUS DRIVER

Dr. Ponson wanted us to wait for  
the others, but I think that we  
can have this one to ourselves.

The front door swings open. Dr. Ponson walks outside.

DR. PONSON

Kelcey. What do you think you're  
doing?

Dr. Ponson walks off of the porch. Harry watches Dr. Ponson  
pass him by. Harry trembles.

DR. PONSON

(To Harry)

They mean no harm, sir.

Dr. Ponson pulls Kelcey and the bus driver over to the  
house. Harry backs away.

As Harry is stumbling toward the hillside, Kelcey approaches  
him and pulls him back over toward the house.

DR. PONSON

We talked it over, sir, and we  
feel that you might make the team.  
Unless you have some kind of  
reservations.

Harry shakes his head.

Kelcey drags Harry into the house. Dr. Ponson stands on the  
porch, searching the area. He smiles and walks inside,  
closing the door shut behind him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Claire paces throughout the living room with the phone right by her side. Chuck walks into the house.

CHUCK

Hey, hun.

Chuck kisses Claire on the cheek.

CLAIRE

Chuck, Nathan's gone.

Chuck drops his briefcase to the ground.

CHUCK

What do you mean?

Claire rushes upstairs. She hurries back down with a pile of pillows and blankets.

CLAIRE

He's gone, Chuck!

Chuck looks at the pillows.

CHUCK

Damn, he used my fuzzy pillow.

Claire's eyes widen.

CLAIRE

Chuck!

Chuck opens the front door.

CHUCK

Don't panic, yet! I'm going to go to the police station. Call his friends' parents and the school, just in case. He did really want to go-- I'll be back soon. Call my cell phone if you find anything.

Chuck leaves, closing the door behind him.

INT. CELLAR - DAY

Earl lands on the bottom step of the basement. He takes a glance at the room around him.

Nathan lies against the wall across from him.

Nathan opens his eyes and looks at Earl.

NATHAN  
Tucker Wiley?

Earl approaches Nathan and unstraps him from the wall.

EARL  
We need to leave, kid. You aren't  
safe here.

Nathan stumbles away from the wall, still groggy.

Earl holds him upright. Dr. Ponson comes down the stairs.

DR. PONSON  
What's going on, Earl?

Earl pushes Nathan aside.

Dr. Ponson treks forward with a large syringe in his right hand.

DR. PONSON  
You need rest, Earl.

Earl scoops up Nathan and pushes a large red button on the wall. They run down a second set of stairs.

INT. LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Ponson creeps his way slowly down the stairwell to the laboratory. Nathan and Earl hide behind two large pods.

EARL  
(Whispers)  
He wants to put both of us down.  
I'll distract him, but you need to  
find a way out of here.

Nathan nods.

NATHAN  
What is this place?

Earl catches his breath.

EARL  
His colony. It's growing.

Dr. Ponson reaches the floor of the laboratory.

DR. PONSON  
Come on, Earl. I'd just like to  
speak with you.

Earl pops out from behind a large feeding pod.

EARL  
Here I am, Dr. Ponson.

Dr. Ponson holds the syringe behind his back.

DR. PONSON  
I just think that you would be  
better suited for rest, Earl.  
You're the leader of this  
civilization. You are the father  
of this kind.

Earl steps forward. Nathan slides his way around to the stairs. He runs up.

DR. PONSON  
Take some time to relax.

Dr. Ponson pulls the syringe from behind him.

DR. PONSON  
Come here, Earl.

Earl treads forward, slowly.

EXT. HILLSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Nathan stumbles his way down the hillside, back into the town.

He bumps into Rachel.

RACHEL  
Nathan, what are you doing?

Nathan looks around the area, trembling.

NATHAN  
I need to go home.

Nathan passes her. Rachel turns and holds his comic book into the air.

RACHEL  
Do you want your comic book back?

Nathan continues to press forward.

NATHAN  
(Yells)  
Keep it!

Nathan hurries away to the playground.

Rachel looks to the house on the hill. Bright red and purple colors flash through the cellar windows.

RACHEL  
Oh, no. It's beginning.

She treads slowly up the hill.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nathan rushes into the house.

NATHAN  
Mom! Dad!

Claire hurries into the living from the kitchen, the cordless phone still in her hands.

CLAIRE  
Nathan! Where have you been?

Nathan tosses his backpack to the ground.

NATHAN  
Old man Ponson's house. Something big is going on, mom.

Claire dials the phone.

CLAIRE  
Chuck-- he's home. He was at Ponson's house... I know, I know. Just come home. We'll discuss it when you're here.

Nathan sits down on the couch. His legs shake violently.

Chuck opens the front door quickly.

CHUCK  
What's going on? Where's Nathan?

Claire treks over to the doorway.

CLAIRE  
How did you get home so quickly?

Chuck bends over, breathing heavily.

CHUCK  
I was in the tree house in the backyard, watching Ponson's house with the binoculars.

Claire hangs her head.

CLAIRE

Why didn't you just stay with me  
in the house, dear?

Chuck shrugs his shoulders.

CHUCK

I got comfortable. Nathan's got a  
nice little beanbag chair and  
everything--

Claire ambles over to Chuck. She slaps him across the  
shoulder.

CLAIRE

Something needs to be done about  
Mr. Ponson. He's causing a stir  
around the entire town. I want you  
to call your cousin, Donny.

Chuck shakes his head.

CHUCK

No way. Donny's mean, Claire.  
He'll rub it in my face how I  
couldn't take care of you guys. I  
can't do it.

Claire looks Chuck deeply into his eyes.

CLAIRE

Chuck, Donny is a detective. We  
need him to help us.

Chuck moans. He walks over to the phone and picks it up. He  
gives Claire a long stare.

Claire nods slowly.

CHUCK

Fine.

Chuck dials the phone.

INT. LABORATORY - EVENING

Dr. Ponson leans over a large rail atop the stairwell. The  
pods simultaneously open. Red, purple, and green beams shoot  
out from multiple pods.

Dr. Ponson lets out a large, gleaming smile.

DR. PONSON

You are free, my children. Go take  
what is rightfully yours.

Dr. Ponson presses a red button on the wall beside him. A large door opens on the side of the wall, revealing the hillside and view into the town.

DR. PONSON

You will enter the town and you  
will feed your bodies.

The pods are emptied with cleaned corpses. They stand motionless, staring down Dr. Ponson.

DR. PONSON

You live! Go-- roam free!

The bodies limp forward. They struggle to stand.

DR. PONSON

You will not allow this world to  
alienate you. Feed yourselves!

The bodies exit the laboratory.

Dr. Ponson laughs. Earl shakes his head at Dr. Ponson as he leaves the building.

DR. PONSON

I know that you long to eat flesh,  
Earl.

Earl ignores Dr. Ponson. He disappears down the hillside.

EXT. TOWN STREET - DAY

A mob of corpses crowds the streets. Children scatter from the playground. Business owners rush out of their stores, dodging purple skinned corpses.

Franklin, wearing shredded clothing, approaches Nathan's doorstep. He pounds on the door.

Chuck looks out the front window.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chuck turns toward the kitchen.

CHUCK

Honey! There's a purple boy on the  
doorstep.

Claire rushes into the living room. She sees Franklin standing in front of the door. He is drooling.

CLAIRE

Oh, dear Lord. That's Franklin,  
Nathan's friend.

Nathan hurries down the stairs.

NATHAN

Mom, there's people everywhere--

Chuck walks over to the closet in the hallway and reappears,  
holding a javelin in his right hand.

CHUCK

I think there's a war starting,  
here.

Chuck opens the door. Franklin treks forward. Chuck holds  
him back with his left hand.

CHUCK

Nathan, your friend here--  
something happened to him.

Chuck throws Franklin to the ground outside. Chuck runs out  
of the house with his javelin.

CLAIRE

Lock all of the doors, Nathan.

Nathan nods. He runs throughout the house.

INT. LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Ponson stands over Rachel as she lies on the operating  
table before him.

DR. PONSON

You disobeyed me, Rachel. You  
weren't to fall for the boy.

Dr. Ponson taps a large syringe. He injects it into a large  
tube.

DR. PONSON

I'm turning you to green. This  
will disable your hunger. You  
won't feel much-- just a little  
pinch.

Dr. Ponson watches as Rachel reacts to the injection.

RACHEL

I feel so tired.

Rachel's eyes begin to glaze over.

DR. PONSON

Just sleep, child. When you awake,  
things will be different.

Dr. Ponson walks away from the operating table.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Claire is boarding up her living room windows. The doorbell rings. She walks over to answer.

DONNY, 30's, long black coat, sunglasses, stands in the doorway.

DONNY

Hello, Claire. I couldn't help but  
notice-- there's some weird things  
going on outside.

Donny holds a purple arm in his hand. He tosses it to the ground.

DONNY

May I come in?

Claire nods. Donny enters the house.

CLAIRE

Chuck's in the basement--  
gathering all of our canned goods.

Donny takes out a notepad and pen.

DONNY

It seems your town is being  
overrun by some kind of...  
monsters.

Donny walks over to the basement doorway.

DONNY

(Yells)

Hey Chuck-- not even capable of  
running a proper town, eh?

Donny shakes his head and walks over to the living room.

DONNY

Boarding the windows. Sad-- sad.

Donny takes a seat on the couch. Nathan marches down the stairs.

DONNY  
Hello, Nathaniel.

Donny places his notepad onto the table in front of him.

DONNY  
Claire here was telling me about  
your friend, Franklin. I'm real  
sorry, pal. You want a mint?

Donny reaches for his pants pockets.

NATHAN  
No, thank you. I know who's doing  
all of this.

Nathan sits in the big brown chair across from Donny.

NATHAN  
The old man on the hill is making  
people into... creatures. I've  
read it before in my comic books.  
There's no stopping him, now.

Nathan cradles an aluminum baseball bat close to his chest.

NATHAN  
We just board the windows and live  
off of the food we have until we  
run out, then it's all over.

Donny lifts his notepad and begins to write.

DONNY  
That's interesting. And have you  
gone to the police, Claire? Why  
not have them check out the house?

Claire throws her hands in the air in disgust.

CLAIRE  
What, now? There's purple people  
roaming the streets, Donny. They  
are abducting people and taking  
them back to that old man's house.

Claire sits down and takes a deep breath.

CLAIRE  
It began the other day at the  
market. I met one of them.

She buries her head into her hands.

CLAIRE

He was too nice--

Chuck runs up the stairs wearing goggles and a large white apron.

CHUCK

I made weapons.

Donny shakes his head at Chuck.

DONNY

It's too late for that now, Chuck.

Donny peeks out a small crack between the boards on the windows. Purple people are wandering into houses and taking family members over their shoulders toward the playground.

DONNY

There must be a way to reverse the-- potion, or whatever this man is using. I need to get to the house.

Chuck leaves the room. He comes back with a box full of homemade weapons.

CHUCK

You can use these. Go on.

Chuck pushes Donny to the doorway.

DONNY

I may need a hand.

Chuck shakes his head.

CHUCK

No, no. You'll be fine. I see you brought your van. They won't be able to break into that.

Chuck pushes Donny out the door and slams it shut.

CLAIRE

Now why did you do that, Chuck? He may not make it.

Chuck grins.

CHUCK

I know. Alright, who wants peas?

Chuck walks into the kitchen.

EXT. PONSON'S YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Donny pulls up in front of the gate just beyond Ponson's yard.

DONNY

They coulda at least told me how  
creepy it was.

Donny gets out of the van and opens the sliding door, taking out some of the homemade weapons. He puts on his sunglasses.

DONNY

Alright, here we go.

Donny treads toward the house. Earl approaches from behind, coming from the graveyard across the street.

EARL

(Yells)

Sir! Sir--

Donny turns around. Earl is hobbling toward him.

DONNY

Christ.

Donny cocks his trigger.

EARL

No, please don't.

Earl bends over, catching his breath.

DONNY

Where did you come from?

Earl points to the graveyard.

EARL

We all did. He's taken our bodies  
and made them into something  
else-- something new.

Earl stumbles to the ground in front of Donny.

EARL

He gives us vaccinations,  
different colors, to crave  
something new.

Earl opens his shirt. An orange glow protrudes his chest.

EARL

I hunger for plants, but all of you in the town are not so lucky. Purple means people. You haven't much time.

Earl lies on his back.

DONNY

Are you alright?

Earl shakes his head.

EARL

I need plants.

Donny nods and looks around the yard.

EXT. TOWN STREET - EVENING

Residents scatter throughout the town. HAL, 50's, runs out of his hardware store hoisting a large block of wood over his head.

HAL

(Yells)

Come on you slime! Come and get some!

Hal flails the wood around aimlessly.

MARGARET, 60's, scurries out of her bakery, holding two pies in each hand. She throws them at two purple people.

MARGARET

I got two. We're not afraid of you!

One of the purple people lifts Margaret and hangs her over their shoulders.

MARGARET

I've been captured! My time is coming.

Margaret is carried toward the playground.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - EVENING

Donny and Earl stand in the graveyard. Earl gnaws on a radish as Donny examines a gravestone before him.

DONNY

This town is being taken over by zombies?

Earl spits out the end of his radish.

EARL

Not zombies. Reconfigured bodies, sir.

Earl approaches a large tombstone beside Donny.

EARL

This one's mine. I passed away about twenty years ago. Lung cancer. You don't smoke cancer sticks. They never warn you about em til it's too late, anyhow.

Donny nods.

DONNY

You know, the people in that town are going to be out to kill you all.

Earl shrugs his shoulders.

EARL

No matter. That's the same goal that we seem to have as well. Not me, anyway.

Earl points to his chest.

DONNY

Right, you're orange. Well I gotta let my cousin know what's going on. Excuse me.

Donny steps aside and dials his cell phone. Earl lies on the floor beside his grave.

DONNY

Chuck, hey. Listen, your town is being overrun by zombies. Sorry nothing I can do, really-- yeah, I'm leaving town in about five minutes. I made a friend, he eats plants. Weird. Anyhow, good luck with all of this. I'll leave the weapons on your doorstep, I guess.

Donny slams his phone shut and places it into his pocket. He looks Earl over as he continues to lie on the ground.

DONNY  
Hey, listen buddy, I gotta get  
going. It's been interesting.

Donny marches over to his van.

EARL  
Are you going to warn the others?

Donny shakes his head.

DONNY  
Nope, just leaving.

Donny drives away. Earl looks into the town.

EARL  
I was afraid that it might come to  
this.

Earl ambles his way over to the top of the hillside. He  
treads down the hill.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Nathan sits on the floor of his bedroom, searching through  
comic books. He hurries over to his closet and pulls out a  
tennis racket and a football helmet.

Nathan ties his bedsheets together and tosses them out the  
window. He searches the area. He climbs down the side of the  
house.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

Nathan scatters around the neighborhood, avoiding purple  
people and hurrying his way to the playground.

Purple people fill the streets, staring around aimlessly and  
tripping over their own feet.

Hal swings his block of wood around in vacant air.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - CONTINUOUS

Nathan reaches the playground. Normal people are lined up in  
long rows, unconscious. An army of purple people stands  
surrounding the mob of innocent people.

Nathan weaves in and out of unconscious people, playing dead  
for moments, then slides his way closer to the hillside. He  
begins his climb upward.

INT. LABORATORY - DAY

Dr. Ponson stands on the top stairwell, watching the town through a large telescope.

DR. PONSON  
Things seem to be working  
accordingly.

Earl enters the lab from cellar way.

EARL  
You made me orange. Why did you  
make me orange? I'm not like the  
others--

Dr. Ponson shakes his head.

DR. PONSON  
You are a star athlete, Earl. For  
Christ's sake, you can't eat your  
own teammates. That would be  
disastrous.

Earl glances down the hillside. The bodies are being placed into a large chamber in the center of the playground.

EARL  
What are you doing? This isn't  
what we discussed.

Dr. Ponson lowers his telescope and lets out a long sigh.

DR. PONSON  
Earl, we need to stock up on our  
meats. They are bringing the  
bodies here and we will store them  
in the pods. We will have it all,  
in the city.

Earl stomps his feet and lunges toward Dr. Ponson.

EARL  
I would have rather rested in  
peace.

Dr. Ponson and Earl struggled over the telescope. Dr. Ponson reaches into his lab coat and reveals a large syringe, filled with green fluid.

DR. PONSON  
You asked for this, Earl.

Dr. Ponson injects the green fluid directly into Earl's neck.

Earl stumbles around and falls to the ground. He opens his shirt and looks at his chest.

EARL

Green?

Dr. Ponson smiles.

DR. PONSON

You hunger for your own skin.

Earl passes out.

EXT. HILLSIDE TOP - CONTINUOUS

Nathan stands on the top of the hillside, staring through the windows of Ponson's house. He treks forward.

NATHAN

Prepare for your demise, Dr.  
Ponson.

Nathan around the side of the house. Voices rise from the road across from him.

NATHAN

Hello?

Nathan treads forward toward the road. He looks to the graveyard beyond him. A mob of souls stand over top of their graves.

NATHAN

Zombies.

He takes a couple steps closer. RACHEL'S SOUL stands at the edge of the graveyard.

RACHEL'S SOUL

The world is about to be overrun  
by cannibalistic people, Nathan.  
You need to stop them.

Nathan's eyes widen. He reaches into his backpack and pulls out a homemade hand gun.

RACHEL'S SOUL

Weapons will not work. You must  
use your imagination. Earl will  
help you.

NATHAN

Who is Earl?

Rachel points to a grave beside her with a large picture engraved on top of it. Nathan ambles forward and looks at

the grave closely.

NATHAN  
Tucker Wiley?

Rachel points to the name.

NATHAN  
Earl? But he--

Rachel extends her hand forward.

RACHEL'S SOUL  
He was the first of us, but Dr.  
Ponson's first failed. Earl is  
intrinsically good. He cannot  
kill.

Nathan nods.

NATHAN  
My hero is a zombie.

Rachel points to Dr. Ponson's house.

RACHEL'S SOUL  
You must destroy the hyperbolic  
chamber, Nathan. Earl understands  
what to do.

Nathan nods. The souls disappear. He turns and tip toes his way to Dr. Ponson's house.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Chuck and Claire sit on the kitchen floor, both eating a can of beans.

CLAIRE  
Did you offer any beans to Nathan?

Chuck nods.

CHUCK  
He was in bed, sleeping.

Claire rises and places her beans onto the table.

CLAIRE  
I'd better check on him.

She looks out the kitchen window. Purple people are stumbling around the yard.

CLAIRE

Well, he should be fine.

Claire takes her beans and sits back down on the floor.

CHUCK

You know, when this is all over, I was thinking about taking Nathan to Boise.

CLAIRE

It's too far, Chuck. Eat your beans.

Chuck shovels a spoonful of beans into his mouth.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Nathan stands on Ponson's front steps. A light rain begins to fall.

Nathan presses the front door open. Dr. Ponson stands on the porch behind Nathan, following him inside the house quietly.

INT. LIVING SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Nathan searches around the living area of Ponson's house. He looks at all of the pictures on the walls and examines a purple liquid puddle on top of the table next to Ponson's red chair.

A noise comes from the cellar steps. Nathan looks over.

NATHAN

Hello?

Nathan slides his feet toward the cellar door. Dr. Ponson creeps behind him, holding a syringe with purple liquid over his head.

Percy stumbles across the floor in front of Nathan. Startled, Nathan jumps backward into Dr. Ponson.

Nathan turns around slowly. Dr. Ponson stands behind him with goggles over his eyes and a long black lab coat.

DR. PONSON

I've been waiting for you to return, Nathaniel. You and Rachel will make an excellent King and Queen.

Dr. Ponson lunges forward with the syringe. Earl pops out from the corner of the room.

EARL

No, Dr.!

Earl pushes the syringe out of Dr. Ponson's hand. It nreaks and the liquid pours out into the carpet beside him.

DR. PONSON

Earl, you fool!

Nathan runs down the cellar steps.

INT. CELLAR - CONTINUOUS

Rachel lies on a table in the center of the room. Nathan hurries over to her and struggles to wake her.

NATHAN

Rachel-- Rachel.

He pushes and tugs on her arm.

Rachel opens her eyes.

RACHEL

Nathan. You've come for me?

Nathan nods.

NATHAN

We need to leave. Your-- Dr. Ponson is planning to take over the entire town.

Rachel shakes her head.

RACHEL

Not just the town, Nathan. The world.

Nathan looks around the room.

NATHAN

How did all of this happen?

Rachel looks over to the wall. A set of newspaper clipping are posted to a large bulletin board. Nathan approaches the wall.

NATHAN

What's this?

Nathan reads the clippings: "Scientist fails at human growth experiment; dies."

Nathan places his hand to his mouth in shock.

RACHEL

He's one of us, Nathan. He is dead.

Nathan hurries over to Rachel and attempts to untie her from the table.

NATHAN

We have to get out of here.

RACHEL

He wants to keep you.

Rachel searches the room with her eyes.

RACHEL

We would be in good hands.

Nathan backs away from Rachel.

NATHAN

We can't let him do this, Rachel.

Rachel leans her head back.

RACHEL

I am already dead, Nathan. What difference does it make to me? I can have a second chance at life. Help me, Nathan. Please.

Rachel looks at Nathan with a sense of hope.

NATHAN

My family?

RACHEL

I will be your new family.

Nathan shakes his head.

NATHAN

No. I can't.

Dr. Ponson stands behind Nathan.

DR. PONSON

You will, Nathaniel. There's no hope, now.

Dr. Ponson drags Earl on the ground beside him.

NATHAN

Tucker--

Dr. Ponson shakes his head in disgust.

DR. PONSON  
Your hero is a coward. He's no  
more a man than I am.

Dr. Ponson pushes Earl aside. His chest is red.

DR. PONSON  
Red plasma. Imminent death.

Dr. Ponson smiles.

Nathan backs into the corner of the room. Dr. Ponson slowly  
creeps forward. Rachel hops off of the operating table.

NATHAN  
Rachel, you weren't even trapped?

Rachel laughs.

RACHEL  
We need you, Nathan.

Nathan closes his eyes.

NATHAN  
Your not the same Rachel from the  
graveyard.

Dr. Ponson snickers.

DR. PONSON  
That girl is long past dead, boy.

Dr. Ponson and Rachel extend their hands and reach for  
Nathan. Nathan screams.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DUSK

Hal rushes into the playground with his large block of wood.  
The purple people attack him as he swings it over his head.

HAL  
I will not back down!

More purple people attack him. Hal falls to the ground,  
underneath a large pile of purple people. They back away  
from him.

Hal is purple.

HAL  
Something's wrong. Oh, no--

Hal stumbles away.

HAL  
I feel hungry.

Hal falls over and passes out. He opens his eyes, zombified.

The ground in the center of the playground opens. A large capsule protrudes through the grass and cement.

It lands above the surface. Two doors open on the front.

The police chief and bus driver stand in the doorway.

POLICE CHIEF  
Alright, numbskulls. You will escort the bodies into their proper chambers. We will store them for food until we find more. Start sending them in.

One by one, the human bodies arise and are pushed into the chamber.

BUS DRIVER  
Don't hurt any of them. We want healthy meat.

The purple people push the human bodies into the chamber.

POLICE CHIEF  
This isn't all of them.

The police chief stares at Nathan's house.

POLICE CHIEF  
Some of them are hiding.

The police chief smiles. He walks away from the chamber toward Nathan's house.

INT. LABORATORY - NIGHT

Dr. Ponson raises Nathan on a platform halfway up to the ceiling. A large ball of colorful energy sits in the center of the room.

NATHAN  
The colors--

Nathan looks out the window. The chamber is rising in the playground.

NATHAN  
Please, don't! You're making a mistake!

Dr. Ponson pulls a lever on the wall beside him. Nathan's

body lights up in four different colors: red, green, orange, and purple.

Dr. Ponson rubs his hands together.

NATHAN

You will be our king. I shall feed  
your hunger.

Nathan searches the room. On the side wall is a large rack filled with colored javelins.

One javelin, larger than the others, sits above the rack.

DR. PONSON

Don't you understand, Nathaniel?  
You will be great.

Nathan's body turns to a solid burnt red color.

NATHAN

I feel sick.

Dr. Ponson grins as Nathan's body color continues to fade.

INT. NAHAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The doorbell rings. Claire enters the living room. She looks through the peek hole, first.

CLAIRE

Chuck, it's the police.

Claire unlocks the door and opens it.

CLAIRE

Hello, officer.

The police chief steps inside.

POLICE CHIEF

Ma'am, you do realize that it is  
entirely unsafe to stay here,  
right? We've evacuated almost the  
entire town already.

Claire's eyes raise.

CLAIRE

Oh. I see. Alright, then. How will  
we get out, now?

The police chief looks out the door behind him.

POLICE CHIEF

I can escort you in my car, ma'am.  
Is there anyone else here in the  
house?

Claire nods.

CLAIRE

My husband and son.

The police chief nods.

POLICE CHIEF

Well, let's go, then.

Claire turns away.

CLAIRE

Chuck! Chuck, we have to go, now!

Claire hurries up the stairs.

The bus driver appears from the kitchen way, dragging Chuck  
along with him.

BUS DRIVER

Gave him a red one.

The police chief nods.

POLICE CHIEF

She went upstairs for the boy. Dr.  
Ponson already has him.

The chief smiles and heads up the stairs.

INT. LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Ponson takes off his black lab coat and opens his chest  
to reveal a purple glow.

DR. PONSON

Well, Nathaniel, I have been  
waiting for this day to come.

Rachel steps forward.

RACHEL

What would you like me to do,  
father?

Dr. Ponson ponders for a moment.

DR. PONSON  
Bring Earl to the stage. He will  
be the sacrifice to Nathaniel.

Rachel smiles and nods. She hurries up the staircase.

INT. NATHAN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Claire stands outside of Nathan's door, pounding with her fist.

CLAIRE  
Nathan, sweetheart, we have to  
leave now.

The police chief stands behind Claire, holding a large syringe filled with orange fluid.

POLICE CHIEF  
Nathan isn't home.

The chief injects the liquid into Claire's neck. She drops to the ground.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The bus driver and police chief load Claire and Chuck into the police car. They drive toward the playground.

INT. LABORATORY - NIGHT

Rachel drags Earl down the stairs. His hands are tied behind his back.

DR. PONSON  
Bring him to the stage in front of  
Nathaniel.

Rachel drags Earl over to a large platform on the ground in the center of the room. She drops Earl. Earl awakens on the impact.

EARL  
(Woozily)  
Wh-- what's going on?

Earl looks around. Nathan is on a platform above him. His skin is shaded purple.

EARL  
Oh, no. What have you done? He's  
just a boy--

Dr. Ponson approaches a large table beside Earl's platform with many buttons.

DR. PONSON

He will be our leader, Earl. And  
we shall call him Mortimer.

Earl turns to the rack of javelins. Nathan opens his eyes.

NATHAN

I'm so hungry.

Nathan's eyes turn yellow. He gazes down upon Earl.

DR. PONSON

Eat, Nathaniel, and you shall be  
great.

Nathan breaks free from his shackles. He falls down to the  
stage in front of Earl.

Earl crawls away from Nathan. He backs against the wall,  
next to the javelins.

EARL

Nathan, please. You do not know  
what you are doing. I can fix  
this.

Nathan treads forward quickly. He grabs Earl by the collar.

NATHAN

I just want to eat something.

Earl opens his shirt to reveal a red chest.

NATHAN

Red?

Nathan falls forward.

DR. PONSON

No. He's too weak! We didn't give  
him enough time.

Rachel rushes over to a large cabinet and pulls out a bowl  
of purple liquid.

RACHEL

He may drink this.

Rachel lunges forward toward the stage. Percy pokes out from  
behind Dr. Ponson's table and trips Rachel. The liquid  
splashes to the floor.

DR. PONSON

Percy, no!

Nathan lies on the platform, shivering.

Earl rises to his feet and removes the large javelin from the rack.

EARL

Dr. Ponson. This experiment is over, now.

Earl throws the javelin into the large colored ball. Sparks fly as the ball bursts into pieces.

DR. PONSON

No, Earl!

Nathan opens his eyes. His skin is flesh colored. He looks around the room. Earl, Rachel, and Dr. Ponson are skeletons.

Dr. Ponson and Rachel each leak purple fluid. Earl leaks a bloody red fluid.

Nathan rushes over to the window. The chamber is gone. There is no hole in the ground. TUCKER WILEY, 30's, stands in the center of the room.

NATHAN

Tucker Wiley! But you're right here--

Nathan points to Earl. Tucker smiles.

TUCKER

No. I was the iguana. Come on, kid. Let's get outta here.

Tucker and Nathan hurry up the staircase.

EXT. YARD - NIGHT

All the souls stand at the edge of the graveyard. Earl and Rachel stand beside each other, waving to Nathan.

Nathan and Tucker nod and walk down the hillside.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - NIGHT

All of the human bodies awake, searching the area aimlessly. Nathan hurries over to Chuck and Claire and hugs them both. All of the kids see Tucker and hurry over to him.

Franklin and Harry stumble over to Nathan's family. Franklin places his hand onto Nathan's shoulder and smiles.

Ashley and Gabrielle wake up next to each other. They look around. Their hair is messy. They begin to cry happily and hug each other.

Nathan looks up to Ponson's house. It sits on the hillside

in complete darkness.

INT. NATHAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

SUPER: "WEEKS LATER."

Nathan and Chuck sit on the couch, watching the javelin championship.

NATHAN

I can't believe you got Tucker Wiley to stay in town, dad.

Chuck smiles.

CHUCK

Only cost us a few hundred thousand.

Claire walks into the room.

CLAIRE

Peas, anyone?

Chuck and Nathan shake their heads rapidly. The doorbell rings.

CLAIRE

I'll get it.

Claire walks over to the door and answers.

Margaret stands at the door with a pie.

MARGARET

I baked you a pie, Claire. Is Nathaniel home?

Claire nods and motions Margaret to come inside.

Margaret places the pie onto a table beside the couch.

MARGARET

Nathaniel, hello. On behalf of the town I wanted to thank you.

Nathan turns to Margaret.

NATHAN

That's nice, thank you for the pie--

Nathan looks at Margaret. Her chest is glowing a bright purple.

MARGARET

We ALL wanted to thank you.

Margaret smiles. Nathan turns to Chuck. His chest is glowing red. Nathan glances at Claire. Her chest glows orange.

NATHAN

No. No!--

Margaret, Chuck, and Claire lunge forward at Nathan.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END