

BERSERKERS (rev.2)

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. KISMET - ESTABLISHING

Nestled in the midst of an endless sea of Kansas wheat fields is a small farming community.

The highest structure in town is a white water tower. Painted on the tank in large lettering is:

KISMET, KANSAS - POP. 464

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

The streets are deserted with no sound except for a light breeze that dances a plastic shopping bag down the street.

Running footsteps break the silence. Doctor Gregory LASSEN (50's), dressed in a white lab coat, suddenly exits an alley and runs down Main Street.

Moments later, two men and a woman follow in chase. Their eyes wide and bloodshot. They are BERSERKERS.

The lead berserker gets closer and reaches with an outstretched hand. The tails of the lab coat tickle his fingertips.

The lead berserker's head suddenly explodes and the back of his head sprays onto his companions in chase.

CRACK!

The sound of a high-power rifle catches up to the bullet that decimated the berserker.

LASSEN

Holy...

Although the gun shot clearly startles Lassen, neither the sound or drenching gore has any influence on the other chasers.

CRACK!

LASSEN

...SHIT!

Another bullet finds it's mark in the neck of the second male berserker. His head falls limp to one side but he does not go down.

A geyser of blood pumps out of his neck. He merely slows his pace to a stop, goes to knees and falls forward.

The female berserker continues chase without slowing. She utters unintelligible rants of crazed excitement.

CRACK!

A bullet tears away her left arm at the shoulder with no effect to her pace.

CRACK!

Another bullet impacts her right elbow and the lower arm disappears. She continues the chase.

CRACK!

Her chest opens up and she tumbles forward like a rag doll.

Lassen turns his head and slows to a stop. He leans over with hands on his knees and vomits.

BILLY (O.S.)
Doctor Lassen? Is that you?

Lassen stands upright and looks around.

LASSEN
Yeah...who is that? Where are you?

BILLY (O.S.)
Billy Miller! I'm up here!

On the ladder of the water tower is BILLY (17). He wears a Kismet Varsity jacket and holds a scoped hunting rifle.

LASSEN
Oh thank God.

BILLY
Git your ass up here before any
more show up!

Billy slings the rifle over his shoulder and descends the ladder while Lassen runs over.

He lowers a short knotted rope at the bottom of the ladder for access as the ladder does not go to ground.

Lassen looks at the knotted rope and shakes his head.

LASSEN
You gotta be kidding me.

BILLY
Come on Doc! They heard those shots
and will be here in no time.

He struggles to climb the rope but finally reaches the bottom rung of the ladder.

BILLY

See? That wasn't too bad.

Billy grins and climbs up the ladder to the platform while Lassen follows cautiously.

BILLY

Watch out for that last step...
It's a slippery bugger!

Billy gives Lassen a hand onto the platform.

EXT. WATER TOWER - CONTINUOUS

The platform is open grating, has a handrail, mid-rail, and encircles the tank.

Lassen collapses on the platform and looks at his hands. He sees that a large blister had opened up on his left palm.

Billy squats nearby and puts a comforting hand on his shoulder.

BILLY

You okay Doc? That was a close one.
I mean, holy crap, old Miss Watson
damn near caught up to your ass!

LASSEN

(startled)

THAT was Betsy Watson? The grade
school teacher?

BILLY

Sure was! Damn, she was fast!

Lassen sits up and faces Billy.

LASSEN

Thanks for that, Billy. That was
some pretty damned good shooting.

BILLY

Don't thank me. Thank Suzy!

Billy motions behind Lassen. He turns to see Billy's girlfriend, SUZY (16), standing behind him.

SUZY

Hi, Doc.

Suzy wears Daisy Duke shorts, a red bandana halter top, and on her hip rests an AR-15 assault rifle with a red dot scope. A mid-western dream girl.

LASSEN

Suzy Duncan? YOU did that?

SUZY

Sorry for taking so long on Miss Watson.

(choking back tears)

She second grade teacher.

Lassen gets up and puts an arm around Suzy to comfort her. Billy looks uncomfortable.

LASSEN

Suzy, it's okay. They're not who they used to be.

BILLY

So, Doc...um...any idea of what the hell's going on?

LASSEN

(shrugging)

As a Family Practice Doctor, the CDC information I get is pretty diluted. Last I read was that it might be an infection linked to G.M.O. wheat products.

SUZY

G.M.O?

LASSEN

Genetically Modified Organisms. Companies have been modifying the DNA of seeds for years now.

SUZY

Wheat did this?

BILLY

Figures. Leave it to gluten to turn people into cannibals.

SUZY

Yeah, ick. Empty carbs.

BILLY

Suzy hasn't touched a carb in, like, forever, and I only eat meat and taters.

LASSEN

Huh, that's interesting. I've celiacs disease and can't eat

(MORE)

LASSEN (cont'd)
gluten at all. They might be onto something.

BILLY
Whatevers, it's done. Now what do we do?
(he looks past Lassen)
Oh, hold the phone...this one's mine!

Billy goes prone on the platform and aims into the street.

SUZY
You got it, babe.

A woman is being chased by a berserker wearing a Varsity jacket and looks about the same age as Billy.

Before Billy can take the shot, the woman is tackled and blood starts to spray in all directions.

SUZY
Is that Tucker?

BILLY
Yup, Tucker, the mother fu---

CRACK!

Billy's shot hits the mark and Tucker's head disappears.

BILLY
Never liked that dick.

Billy chambers another round and remains on target.

LASSEN
What're you doing? He's not getting back up after that?

SUZY
It's not Tucker we're watching.
It's the...

The woman begins to move. She rolls over, gets on her hands and knees, and looks right at the tower. She jumps up and starts to run towards them.

LASSEN
Holy shit.

This time, both Billy and Suzy fire.

CRACK! CRACK!

The woman takes two rounds to the chest and goes down hard.

LASSEN

I hadn't seen that before.

Billy sits up.

BILLY

Like I was saying...now what?

EXT. WATER TOWER - NIGHT

Billy and Suzy are huddled under his Varsity jacket asleep while Lassen sits shivering with knees to his chest.

Down on the ground, berserkers have gathered to a crowd of twenty. They all stare up at the three stranded survivors.

LASSEN

Think. Think. Think.

He stands and gets a drink of water from a valve on the side of the tank.

He drinks from cupped hands and suddenly shuts off the valve with an epiphany.

LASSEN

That's it!

EXT. WATER TOWER - MORNING

Billy and Suzy wake with the rising sun. They sit up to find Lassen sitting at their feet with a big grin.

LASSEN

Okay, okay, I think I got it.

BILLY

Got what?

LASSEN

A plan. The way I see it, these berserkers aren't zombies or the undead. They're alive, just like us. It's just that they're... well...

SUZY

A little fucked up in the head?

LASSEN

Yes, that's one way to put it. So... what does a human need to survive?

BILLY
Food.

LASSEN
And?

SUZY
Water?

LASSEN
Exactly! We can last weeks without food but only days, a week tops, without water. And we have all the water we need.

BILLY
So what's your plan?

LASSEN
We wait them out. Kismet is isolated with a small population of...
(looks up)
...four hundred and sixty two people. Subtracting us and the assorted kills, there might be just a couple hundred left.

SUZY
So we wait for them to shrivel up and die?

LASSEN
Bingo!

EXT. WATER TOWER - DAY

SUPER: Day Two

All three sit on the edge of the platform with arms resting on the mid-rail and legs swinging.

Berserkers continue to gather around the tower. They number over one hundred and all stare up at their captives.

Occasionally, a berserker goes into a frenzy and tries to climb the tubular tower legs without any success.

BILLY
See Mister Baldwin down there?
Watch this.

Billy snorts his sinuses and works up a big gooey spit. With deft precision, he lets it fly. Direct hit.

SUZY

Bullseye!

BILLY

Hey, Mister Baldwin! How do you
like that, you cheap bastard?

With the call of his name, Baldwin reacts with recognition
and looks right at Billy.

LASSEN

Really? Was that necessary?

BILLY

He owed me two dollars for his
newspaper from, like, eight years
ago.

Lassen shakes his head.

EXT. WATER TOWER - DAY

SUPER: Day Five

Lassen stands alone on the opposite side of the tank and
pees onto the growing crowd of berserkers.

He shakes it, zips and leans over.

LASSEN

Sorry, George! I couldn't help it!

He leans back against the tank and looks at his left palm.
The blister from climbing the rope shows signs of infection.

LASSEN

Shit.

Lassen tears a piece of his lab jacket and wraps his hand.

BILLY (O.S.)

Hey, Doc? You might want to see
this.

Lassen walks around the platform to Billy and Suzy.

LASSEN

What's up, Billy?

BILLY

Check out old Mister Johnson there.
He's acting kinda funny.

Johnson, an old farmer, is slowly moving about the crowd.
Every so often, he stops to smell another berserker.

LASSEN

What do you think he's doing?

SUZY

It's like he's smelling food at the market.

Johnson stops behind a younger woman and takes a big sniff. The woman appears dazed, as if she just woke up and doesn't know where she is or how she got there.

LASSEN

Look at her! It's like the infection is wearing off. I think she's becoming aware of...

Suddenly, Johnson leaps on the woman. He tears away pieces of flesh and begins to drink from an arterial flow.

Another male berserker watches curiously. He dives in as well and starts gnawing on her leg. Others follow.

LASSEN

Uh, oh. We're in trouble. They've discovered both a food source and hydration.

Billy and Suzy look to Lassen and each other.

EXT. WATER TOWER - DAY

SUPER: Day Ten

The gathering is half the size since they discovered their new food source. But remaining berserkers look healthy and rejuvenated.

Conversely, Lassen looks horrible. He's in a fetal position covered with the Varsity jacket and shivers from infection.

Billy and Suzy look emaciated as they stand over Lassen.

SUZY

He's not looking too good.

BILLY

Hey, Doc? What's going on with you?

Lassen holds out his left arm and pulls up his sleeve. Red streaks of infection run almost to his elbow.

BILLY

Oh, shit...that ain't good.

SUZY
Um, Billy. Come here.

Suzy leads Billy to the other side of the tank away from Lassen.

SUZY
What do we do, Billy?

BILLY
Geez, I don't know. I...
(he looks below)
What the hell?

Down below, all the berserkers have moved to their side of the tank.

SUZY
What is it?

BILLY
They're all over here!

SUZY
And...?

BILLY
They're not watching Doc, only us!

SUZY
Do you think...

BILLY
...they can smell his infection?
Doc's bad food!

Billy and Suzy run back around to Lassen.

BILLY
Hey, Doc! Doc!

LASSEN
(in delirium)
Wha...what is it?

SUZY
Doc! Your infection! They're not
interested in eating you anymore!

BILLY
Doc, I got an idea. But I need your
help.

EXT. WATER TOWER - MORNING

SUPER: Day Eleven

Billy is dressed in Lassen's lab coat and has his old bloody bandages wrapped around his head and wrists.

BILLY

Hopefully there's enough infection scent on these bandages and this coat to be ignored.

SUZY

If they show any interest, you get your ass back up here, okay?

BILLY

Don't worry about that. There are a bunch of people down there that I prefer not to be shit outta.

SUZY

Here. Take my AR-15. It's more compact than that bolt action of yours.

They swap rifles and Billy gives her a quick kiss. He starts down the ladder.

As he nears the bottom of the ladder, he notices that the crowd is still there. He looks up.

BILLY

Hey, Suzy? Move to the other side of the tank.

SUZY

Alright.

The berserkers begin to move to the other side of the tower. Only Baldwin remains staring at Billy.

After a moment, he too moves to the other side.

Billy drops the rope and climbs down. He runs over to Main Street and into the Pharmacy.

INT. PHARMACY - CONTINUOUS

He enters, grabs a reusable shopping bag and runs to the back room.

He sorts through the drug shelf and grabs a couple boxes of Z-Pack antibiotics.

On the way out, he stops to grab a couple rolls of toilet paper, soap, and, after another look around to make sure no one is watching, a box of tampons.

EXT. WATER TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Suzy is perched on the edge of the platform with rifle raised. She eyes the front door of the pharmacy through the scope.

CUT TO:

SCOPE P.O.V.

Billy exits the Pharmacy and runs right into a small crowd of six berserkers.

He comes to a stop and instinctively raises his hands in front of him to a defensive position.

SUZY (O.S.)
Don't breathe...please don't
breathe.

The crowd swarms Billy to sniff. The infectious bandages repel the berserkers and they turn away disinterested.

Billy slowly walks down the street and expels a huge breath. He enters the General Store.

SUZY (O.S.)
Oh...my...God. I think I just peed
a little.

INT. GENERAL STORE - CONTINUOUS

He enters and goes for the canned goods, beef jerky, and protein bars.

Billy jumps the counter and breaks open a cabinet for .308 and .223 ammunition.

This time he slowly exits back out to the street.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Billy hurries back up the street and slowly peers around a corner to look at the tower.

With Suzy back around front to spot for him, the berserkers are back at the bottom of the ladder.

BILLY
Shit.

Billy comes around the corner and waves his arms to get her attention.

Suzy, spotting through the scope, acknowledges and goes back around to the other side and the berserkers follow close behind.

Billy races to the tower. Baldwin seems to take notice and starts to walk his direction.

As Billy gets to the rope, he is met by Baldwin. The infectious scent has diminished and Baldwin lunges.

Unable to ready his rifle to fire, he swings it around and hits him with the stock to knock him down.

Billy starts to climb the rope. Baldwin scrambles back to his feet and jumps for his ankle.

EXT. WATER TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Suzy hears the commotion and runs back around to the ladder. She looks over the edge to see Billy ascend slowly but surely.

SUZY

Come on, baby. You can do it!

As he nears the top, he hands her the supply bags and the rifle. She sets them aside and reaches down to help him up.

Billy grabs her hand, looks up, and goes berserk. He lunges at her and tears at her throat.

Billy's eyes roll back in his head like a shark as he jerks the flesh off her neck and shoulder.

The frenzy stirs Lassen. He slowly sits up.

LASSEN

What the fuck? Billy! No!

Billy is startled and turns on Lassen. He gets within a couple feet and stops. He sniffs and turns up his nose.

As he goes back to feed on Suzy, Lassen grabs the AR-15 and blows Billy's head into thin air.

There's not enough of Suzy to waste a round. Lassen throws the rifle down and cries.

EXT. WATER TOWER - DAY

SUPER: Day Thirty-Two

A healthy and bearded Lassen sits on the edge of the platform and looks down on a wasteland of berserkers.

Hundreds of corpses are strewn about in varying degrees of decay. Only two living berserkers are in sight.

Lassen raises the AR-15 and sights through the red-dot scope.

CUT TO:

RED-DOT P.O.V.

A bearded Baldwin comes into focus with a red-dot between the eyes.

CRACK!

LASSEN (O.S.)
Done...and...

Baldwin drops from view and the scope pans over to a bearded old farmer Johnson with a red-dot above one ear.

CRACK!

LASSEN (O.S.)
...done.

Johnson drops from view.

CUT TO:

LASSEN ON PLATFORM

Lassen lowers the rifle, grins and stands.

LASSEN
Today's the first day of the rest
of my life.

He shoulders the AR-15 and starts down the ladder. As he goes over the edge, his foot slips and he falls backwards.

CUT TO:

LASSEN P.O.V.

With arms outstretched, the lettering on the water tank slowly retreats as he falls.

LASSEN (O.S.)
Shit. Kismet.

FADE TO BLACK