

THE DECAYING WORLD: DAYS GONE

By

Lee Cordner

A Prelude to
"The Decaying World"

Copyright (C) 2014

leecordner@live.co.uk

FADE IN:

INT. DERELICT APARTMENT BLOCK - NIGHT

Moonlight spills through cracks in boarded windows shedding light upon two silhouetted as they sprint down the hall.

A horde of ravenous ZOMBIES pursue them at immense speed.

JOEL, 34, a disheveled wreck with a beaten face and weathered expression, swings a bloodstained fire-axe into a door.

MILLIE, 10, cute and caked in mud with very short tangled hair and torn clothes, enters first.

Zombies advance on the door.

INT. DERELICT APARTMENT - NIGHT

Joel SLAMS the door shut, puts all his weight against it as arms reach through and a cyclone of voracious sounds echo.

NOTE - Joel and Millie have Southern accents.

JOEL

Baby get the couch! Hurry!

Millie slides an overturned couch toward the door with all the might she can muster.

Zombies pound on the door forcing it open. Joel puts his back into it.

JOEL

AAAAHHHHHHH!!!!!!

A frail zombie bone SNAPS. Fingernails peel at the frame. Like a tsunami of hammers they bang.

Joel slashes a zombie's arm off, shoulder barges the door.

JOEL

Millie...

MILLIE

It's too heavy!

Joel acknowledges a bookcase.

JOEL
Bookcase, go.

Millie slides the bookcase toward the door.

A zombie scratches Joel's arm. He fights back the pain, backs into the door.

Millie gets the bookcase into position.

JOEL
Okay, tilt it.

Millie tries to lift the bookcase, not enough strength.

MILLIE
I can't!

JOEL
Millie look at me.

She looks at him.

JOEL
Everything's gonna be A-OK.

Joel nods to a window.

JOEL
See if there's a fire escape. Hurry now.

Millie runs to the window, peers outside --

EXT. DERELICT APARTMENT COMPLEX, ALLEY - NIGHT

Hundreds of ZOMBIES line a cluttered alleyway occupied by overflowing dumpsters and decaying corpses.

A fire escape is a window across from Millie.

INT. DERELICT APARTMENT - NIGHT

Millie turns to Joel.

MILLIE
The fire escape is a window across.

Zombies push the door further. Joel calls on all his strength and barricades the door with his body.

A zombie bites him on the arm. He drops the fire-axe.

MILLIE
(screaming)
Daddy!

Joel kicks the fire-axe to Millie.

JOEL
Smash the window.

MILLIE
But-

JOEL
Just do it! You don't have time!

Millie scoops the fire-axe off the ground, swings, does zero damage, tries again, misses.

JOEL
Just like a baseball bat. All your weight, move your shoulders. Like I taught you now.

Millie swings --

EXT. DERELICT APARTMENT COMPLEX, ALLEY - NIGHT

SMASH -- shards of glass rain down on a now ravenous and voracious zombie horde.

A shard nails a zombie in the eye.

INT. DERELICT APARTMENT BLOCK - NIGHT

More zombies pile against the door, at least twenty.

INT. DERELICT APARTMENT - NIGHT

Millie sweeps shards of glass from the window frame, looks out, left/right/down/up.

Joel uses his bitten arm to drag the bookcase closer. He pulls it down, barricades the door.

Joel removes his belt, fits it through the door handle and loops it around a vertical gas pipe, ties it off.

Joel moves furniture, places the couch firmly against the bookcase, drags a table in front.

MILLIE
Dad...your arm.

JOEL
It's okay.

MILLIE
But...please don't die like mommy.
Please.

Joel takes to a knee, sets a hand on her shoulder.

JOEL
You need to be strong now. Don't
you cry for me.

Joel presses a hand to her cheek, affords her a brave smile.

JOEL
You always were a fighter. Ever
since you were born. And you're
gonna make it, you hear?

Millie cries.

JOEL
Always remember: Stay outta cities.
Keep that hair short. And find
people you can trust.

He plants a kiss on her forehead.

JOEL
And always, always, keep movin'.
Don't stop. Don't shoot unless you
have to. And don't give up.

They stare one another in the eye.

JOEL
Can I count on that?

MILLIE
Yes.

The door splinters, zombie hands reach through.

JOEL
Here.

Joel hands her his gun.

MILLIE
There's only one bullet.

JOEL
I know.

MILLIE
I could-

JOEL
No. I couldn't die knowin' I'd put
you through that.

Joel examines outside.

JOEL
It's not that far a leap. I'll-

BANG. Joel freezes in fright...slowly turns...GASPS.

Millie lies dead on the ground with a bullet hole in her
head and blood pooling around her lifeless body.

JOEL
Oh no...no...
(breaks down)
...NO!

Joel cradles Millie as tears stream down her face.

JOEL
Why...!!
(hugs her close)
...no, baby, no...AAAAHHHHHHH!!

INT. DERELICT APARTMENT BLOCK - NIGHT

Even more zombies flood the corridor, rising and descending
from the stairs like a tidal wave of terror.

INT. DERELICT APARTMENT - NIGHT

Joel bawls.

JOEL
God...no...oh...

