

WASTELAND

by

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EXT. CITY RUINS - DAY

A large city sits in ruins. The buildings are dilapidated, cars lay on their sides, all rusted and falling apart.

Skeletons cover the streets.

The sky is filled with a red dust. The wind BLOWS, the red dust flies through the air.

Two figures walk along the street. One is tall, the other is short.

They are both covered with layers of clothes, both have on goggles and hats.

The wind BLOWS hard, almost knocking down the two figures.

The tall figure, GERALD, 30's, has a large sack slung over his shoulder.

The short figure, DARIUS, 20, pulls a radio flyer wagon, behind him.

The two men make their way to a large building. The windows are nailed shut with wood, and the doors are off their hinges.

They enter.

INT. BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Gerald and Darius enter the building.

A large cabinet sits up against the wall. The two men grab it and pull it across the room and block the door.

Darius and Gerald take off their goggles and hats.

Their hair is matted, and their faces covered with acne. They both have dry, scabbed lips. Each have only a few teeth left in their mouths.

DARIUS

Do you think we got enough to last
us through the storm.

GERALD

I think so.

Gerald empties the bag he has slung over his shoulder.

Bags of popcorn drop to the ground.

DARIUS

The others will come looking for us
you know.

GERALD

And that's why I have this.

Gerald pulls out a sawed off shotgun from under his jacket.

GERALD (CONT'D)

Any of them motherfuckers try and
get in here.

Gerald PUMPS the shotgun.

GERALD (CONT'D)

I'll blow their damn heads off.

Darius starts to HACK. A blood, mucus mix shoots out of his
mouth and SPLATTERS onto the floor.

DARIUS

I'm not doing so good Gerald. I
feel the change coming on.

Gerald walks up to Darius and puts his hand on his shoulder.

GERALD

I won't let that happen Darius.

DARIUS

You can't stop it. You know that.

GERALD

Don't say that.

DARIUS

Promise me you'll take me out when
it happens, just like all the
others.

Gerald removes his hand from Darius's shoulder.

GERALD

You stop talkin like that.

Gerald looks down at the bags of popcorn.

GERALD (CONT'D)

Let's eat.

INT. BUILDING - NIGHT

Gerald and Darius sit across from each other. A fire is in between them, a pot hangs above the fire.

Gerald grabs the pot and dumps popcorn into a small bowl. He hands it to Darius.

DARIUS

Who would have know that the cure would end up being the worlds favorite snack. If only I knew earlier.

Gerald dumps some popcorn into his bowl.

GERALD

If only we all did.

DARIUS

I guess it was just blind luck you found me when you did, or the change would have already taken over.

GERALD

You just hold on. You'll be okay.

Gerald puts some popcorn in his mouth.

DARIUS

How long have we known each other now?

GERALD

Almost a year, heck, it might even be a year. I really don't have a good sense of time anymore.

DARIUS

I never told you about my family did I?

GERALD

I figured you would when you were good and ready.

DARIUS

I think I'm ready now. I don't have much time left, I can feel it.

GERALD

Stop talkin' like that. You don't know that.

DARIUS

I feel it. I feel it inside.

Darius takes a handful of popcorn and shoves it into his mouth.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

My little brother was the first one to change. He was only twelve. At first we didn't know what was wrong with him. We knew nothing about the change. One minute he was fine, the next, he turned into one of them.

GERALD

Who took him down?

DARIUS

I did.

INT. HOUSE - DAY - FLASHBACK

A BOY, 12, stands hunched over. His eyes are bright yellow. He has no lips and his teeth are like that of a shark's.

A lizard like tongue flickers in and out of his mouth. His hands are claws, his nose are just two slits.

BANG!

His head EXPLODES.

Darius stands before him with a shotgun in his hands.

INT. BUILDING - NIGHT

A hard wind BLOWS. The cabinet that blocks the door wobbles.

GERALD

Shit!

Gerald and Darius run towards the cabinet and catch it before it falls.

GERALD (CONT'D)
 We're gonna need something to hold
 this.

Darius looks across the room. There is a desk up against the wall.

Darius runs over and grabs the desk.

He drags it along the floor. He struggles.

GERALD (CONT'D)
 Come on Darius. I know you can do
 it.

Darius pulls harder. He builds momentum and drags it in front of the cabinet.

GERALD (CONT'D)
 Good work.

The two walk back to the fire and sit down.

The two grab some popcorn and eat it.

DARIUS
 My mother was next. It happened so
 quickly, just like my younger
 brother. Me and my father came
 back from gathering wood and found
 her.

INT. HOUSE - DAY - FLASHBACK

A MUTATED WOMAN, 45, RIPS apart a young GIRL, 14. She bites down on her neck and tares away her flesh. Blood GUSHES out.

Darius and his FATHER, 50, walk into the room. Darius's father has an axe slung over his shoulder.

DARIUS (V.O.)
 We found her eating my little
 sister.

A look of shock is on the two men's faces.

FATHER
 Margaret!

The mutated woman looks over and HISSES. Chunks of flesh drop from her mouth.

The mutated woman lunges towards Darius and his father.

Darius's father swings the axe and chops off the mutated woman's head.

INT. BUILDING - NIGHT

Darius wipes the tears that flow out of his eyes off with the back of his hand.

GERALD

You're father was next then wasn't he?

Darius shakes his head.

DARIUS

No. He didn't let it take him. He was a very proud man.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Darius's father sits in a wooden rocking chair with a shotgun on his lap. He rocks back and forth.

He takes the shotgun and puts both barrels in his mouth.

He pulls the trigger.

BANG!

The back of his head BLOWS out. Skull and brains SPLATTER all over the wall.

INT. BUILDING - NIGHT

Darius puts some popcorn in his mouth.

DARIUS

It was not long after that when I met you.

GERALD

I'm glad you told me, and I'm sorry.

DARIUS

Don't be. I think a lot of people had that experience.

(MORE)

DARIUS (CONT'D)

In fact, I'm pretty sure everyone
on the planet did.

GERALD

I know.

Darius stares at the bowl of popcorn.

DARIUS

Why is this the only thing to hold
off the change?

GERALD

It's something that we will never
find out. I think I was just
lucky. Since I was a kid this was
all that I ever ate. I had it in
the morning, in the afternoon, even
for diner, then after the world
became a wasteland, and people
started to change, I noticed that I
didn't. What was different about
me? Anyway, I just kept on eating
this. There must be more out there
like us. We can't be the only ones
that know. We just need to find
them.

DARIUS

What will happen when we run out?

Gerald rubs his chin.

GERALD

Then I guess it's over. Lets just
hope that it never comes to that.
We will find a way.

Suddenly a loud, deep HOWL comes from outside the building.

The two men jump to their feet.

Another HOWL. This one sounds much closer.

DARIUS

It's one of them!

Gerald runs over and grabs his shotgun.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

Do you think It know we're in here?

The cabinet falls back. The desk skids across the floor.

GERALD

Yup.

A large MUTATED MAN, with a lizard tongue and razor sharp teeth bursts into the building.

Gerald aims the shotgun. The mutant runs towards Gerald, and before he can get a shot off, he is tackled.

Darius leaps on top of the mutant. He tries to pull It off of Gerald.

The mutant reaches around with one of Its claws and grabs Darius by the neck.

The claws dig into his neck. Blood spills out/

The mutant throws Darius across the room.

Darius SLAMS against the wall and falls down to the ground.

The mutant looks down on Gerald. Slime DRIPS down It's fangs and out of Its mouth and lands on Gerald's face.

Gerald plunges one of his fingers into the mutant's eye socket.

The mutant SCREAMS.

Gerald pulls out the mutants eye.

Orange blood and eye jelly run all along his fingers.

Gerald pushes the mutant off him. He drops the eye onto the floor.

The mutant rises to Its feet. Orange blood GUSHES out of Its eye socket.

Gerald dives for the shotgun.

The mutant grabs him by the hair and pulls him closer.

Gerald and the mutant are face to face.

The mutant opens Its mouth.

A large wooden stake pierces right out of the mutants mouth. Orange blood SQUIRTS all over Gerald's face.

The mutant lets go of him and drops to Its knees.

Darius stands behind it. He runs over to Gerald and helps him up.

DARIUS
Are you okay?

GERALD
I'm fine. I think maybe we should
find a new spot.

Gerald hobbles over towards the fire. He turns around. Darius lies on the floor. He is curled up into a ball.

GERALD (CONT'D)
Darius?

No response.

GERALD (CONT'D)
Darius? Are you okay?

Darius's body starts to shake.

Gerald runs over to him. He turns him over.

Darius's eyes are closed.

GERALD (CONT'D)
Darius what's wrong boy?

Darius opens his eyes. They are bright yellow.

GERALD (CONT'D)
Oh no.

He backs up.

Large sharp teeth pierce through Darius's lips and RIPS the flesh away. Orange blood pours out.

Darius gets on all fours. He looks up at Gerald.

DARIUS
(with a deep grumble)
You know what to do.

Gerald shakes his head.

GERALD
No. I can't do it.

DARIUS
You have to. If you don't you know
I will kill you. I don't wanna
kill you. Please.

Gerald walks over to the shotgun that lays on the floor.

He picks it up.

He walks towards Darius. He looks into his yellow eyes. He
sees tears run down Darius's face.

DARIUS (CONT'D)
Please!

Gerald raises the shotgun.

GERALD
I'm so sorry boy.

DARIUS
Do it.

Gerald PUMPS the gun.

BLACK SCREEN

BANG!