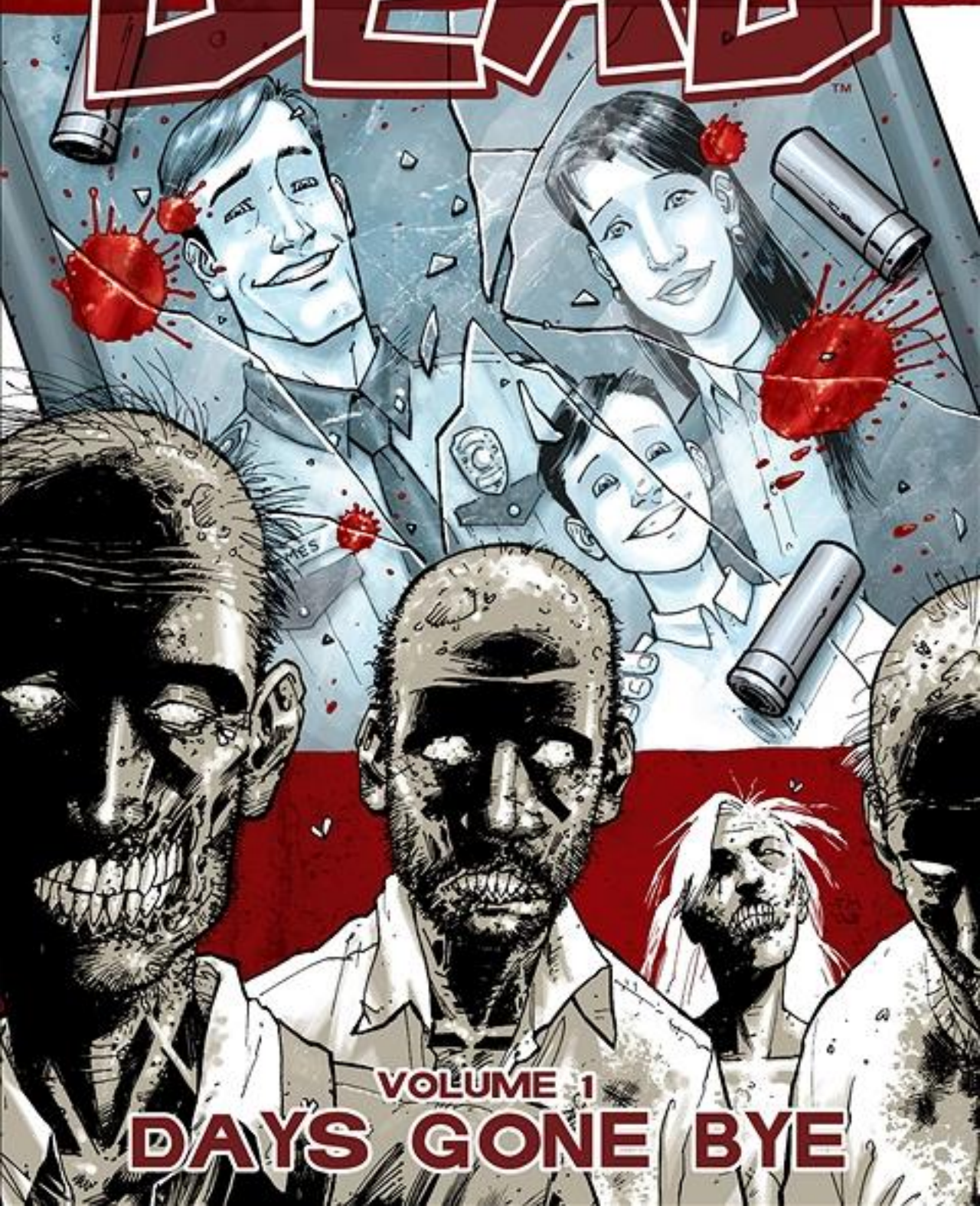


ROBERT KIRKMAN TONY MOORE

THE WALKING DEAD



VOLUME 1

DAYS GONE BYE

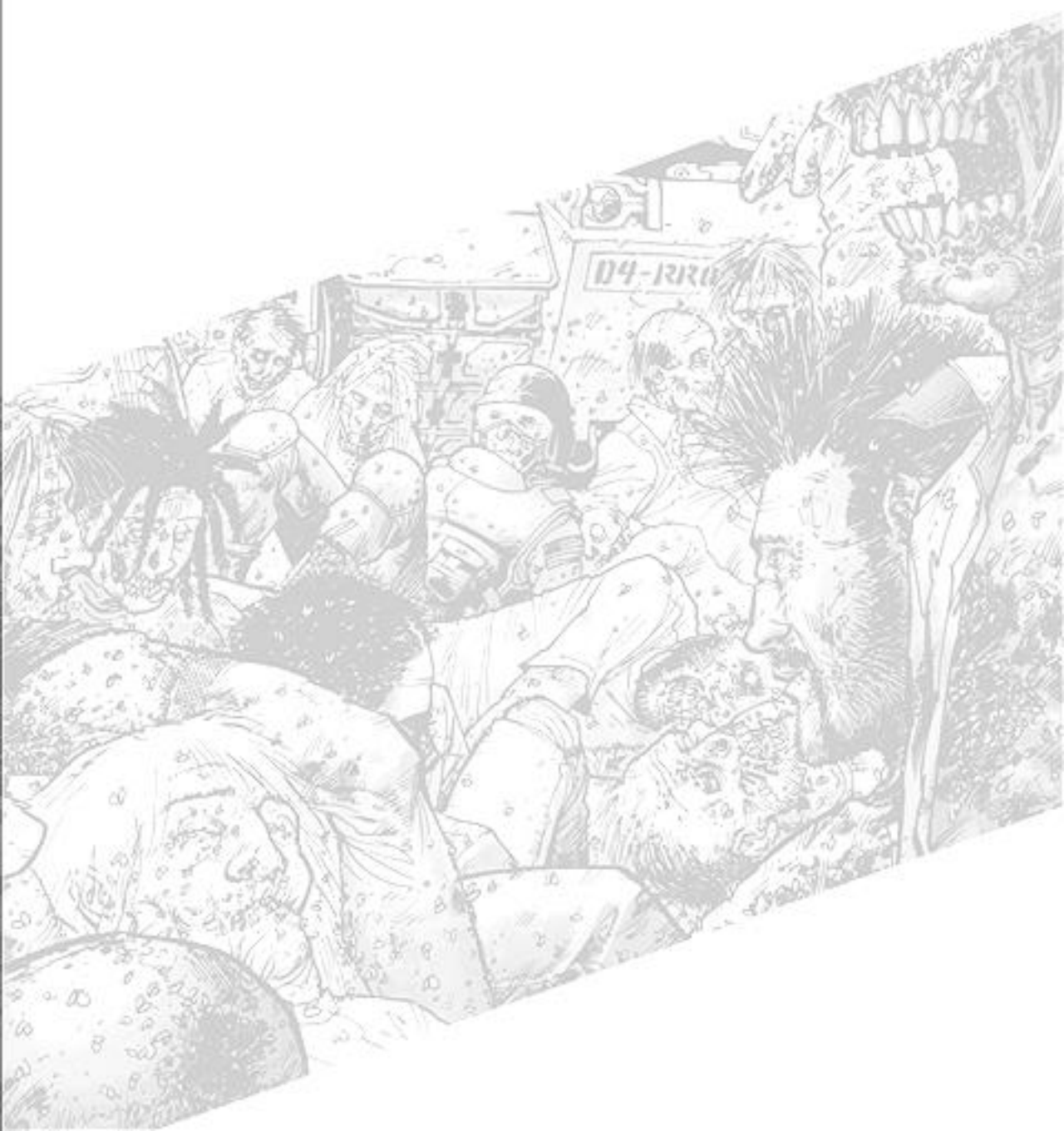
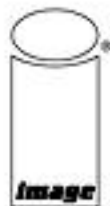


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TONY MOORE
PENCILER, INKER, GRAY TONES

CLIFF RATHBURN
ADDITIONAL GRAY TONES

INTRODUCTION

I'm not trying to scare anybody. If that somehow happens as a result of reading this comic that's great, but really... that's not what this book is about. What you now hold in your hands is the most serious piece of work I've done so far in my career. I'm the guy that created Battle Pope; I hope you guys realize what a stretch this is for me. It's really not that hard to believe when you realize that I'm delving into subject matter that is so utterly serious and dramatic...

Zombies.

To me, the best zombie movies aren't the splatter fests of gore and violence with goofy characters and tongue in cheek antics. Good zombie movies show us how messed up we are, they make us question our station in society... and our society's station in the world. They show us gore and violence and all that cool stuff too... but there's always an undercurrent of social commentary and thoughtfulness.

Give me "Dawn of the Dead" over "Return of the Living Dead" any day. To me zombie movies are thought provoking, dramatic fiction, on par with any Oscar worthy garbage that's rolled out year after year. Movies that make you question the fabric of our very society are what I like. And in GOOD zombie movies... you get that by the truckload.

With THE WALKING DEAD I want to explore how people deal with extreme situations and how these events CHANGE them. I'm in this for the long haul. You guys are going to get to see Rick change and mature to the point that when you look back on this book you won't even recognize him. I hope you guys are looking forward to a sprawling epic, because that's the idea with this one.

Everything in this book is an attempt at showing the natural progression of events that I think would occur in these situations. This is a very character driven endeavor. How these characters get

there is much more important than them getting there. I hope to show you reflections of your friends, your neighbors, your families, and yourselves, and what their reactions are to the extreme situations on this book.

So, if anything scares you... great, but this is not a horror book. And by that I do not mean we think we're above that genre. Far from it, we're just setting out on a different path here. This book is more about watching Rick survive than it is about watching zombies pop around the corner and scare you. I hope that's what you guys are into.

All story commentary aside, at the very least, even if you hate the thing... you've got to admit... it at least looks good. I've been working with Tony Moore for as long as I can remember. I've SEEN Tony's work, I KNOW Tony's work, I know it better than anyone, and I've got to say... just in case you didn't notice... Tony really pulled out all the stops on this one. I can really tell that he shares my immense love for the subject matter. This book

is really a thing of beauty. I couldn't be more pleased with how it turned out. I hope you all agree.

For me the worst part of every zombie movie is the end. I always want to know what happens next. Even when all the characters die at the end... I just want it to keep going. More often than not zombie movies feel like a slice of a person's life shown until whoever is in charge of the movie gets bored. So we get to know the character, they have an adventure and then, BOOM, as soon as things start getting good... those pesky credits start rolling.

The idea behind The Walking Dead is to stay with the character, in this case, Rick Grimes for as long as is humanly possible. I want The Walking Dead to be a chronicle of years of Rick's life. We will NEVER wonder what happens to Rick next, we will see it. The Walking Dead will be the zombie movie that never ends.













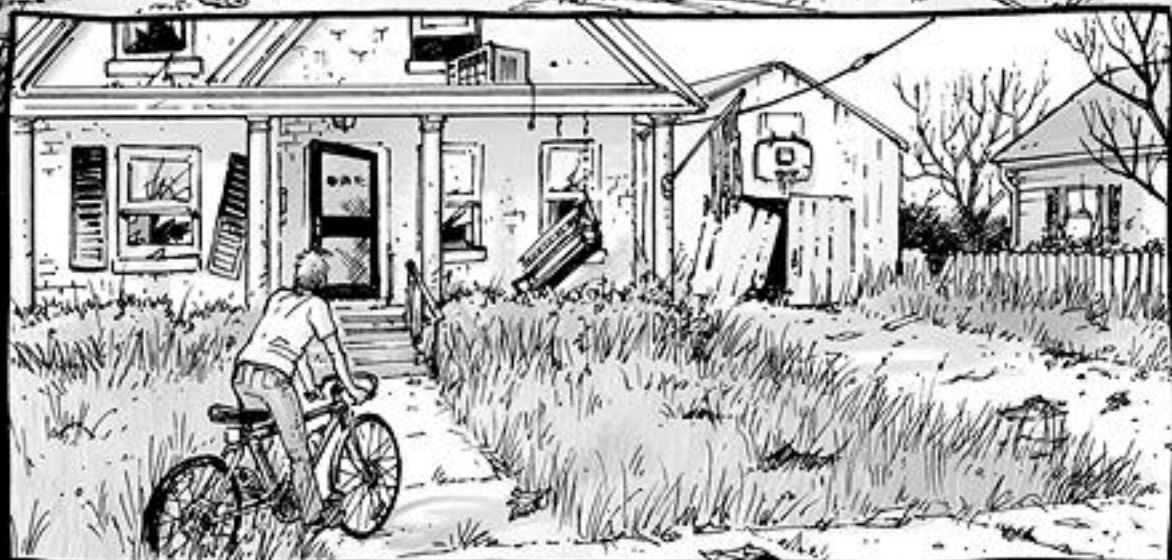














CLONG!







BEFORE THEY STOPPED BROADCASTING THEY TOLD US TO RELOCATE TO THE BIGGER CITIES. THEY SAID THEY COULD PROTECT US ALL THERE. I FIGURED I'D BE BETTER OFF TAKING MY CHANCES HERE.



MY IN-LAWS LIVE IN ATLANTA... THAT'S ONLY A FIVE-HOUR DRIVE FROM HERE. THAT'S PROBABLY WHERE MY WIFE WENT.



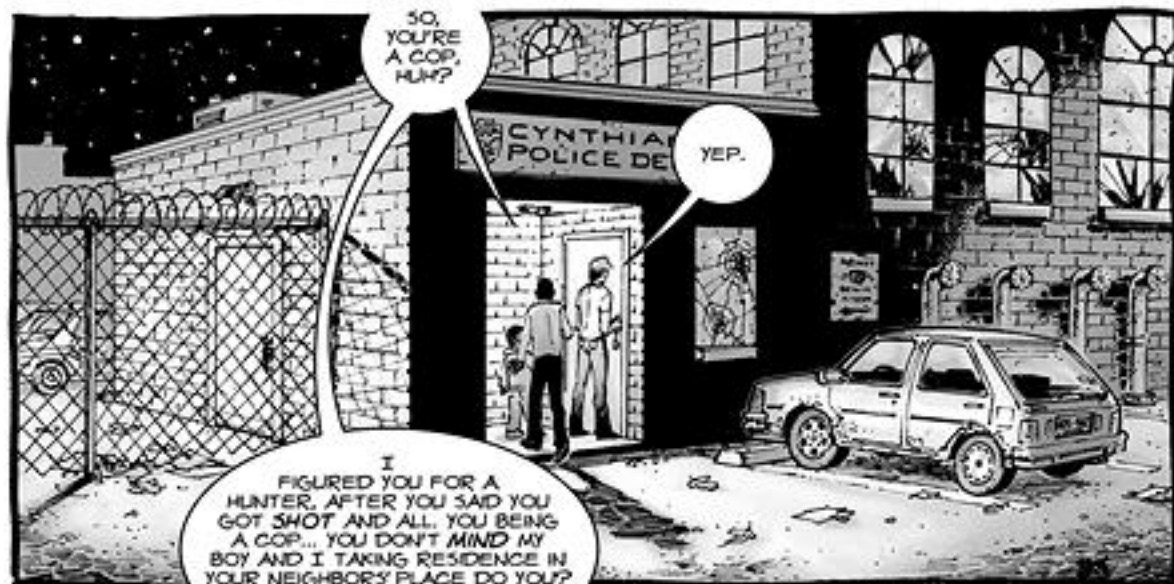
OH, YEAH... I'M SURE THEY'RE FINE.



WELL... I NEED A CAR IF I'M GOING TO GET TO ATLANTA...

WANT TO GO SHOPPING?









WOW.

GRAB A COUPLE FOR YOURSELF. IF WHACKING THOSE THINGS OVER THE HEAD WITH A SHOVEL DOES THEM IN... I'M SURE THOSE THINGS WILL WORK.

SHOULD SAVE YOU SOME EFFORT.



THE SHELLS ARE IN THE CABINET BELOW THE GUN RACK. MAKE SURE YOU SAVE SOME FOR ME. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.



CAN I--?

NO, DAMMIT. DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING.



BUT I'M OLD ENOUGH.

YES, YOU ARE... AND I'M GONNA TEACH YOU HOW TO USE ONE OF THEM TOMORROW... BUT UNTIL THEN THEY'RE OFF LIMITS.



ARE THERE ENOUGH SHELLS FOR BOTH OF US IN THERE?

WELL... THAT GETUP CERTAINLY SUITS YOU.



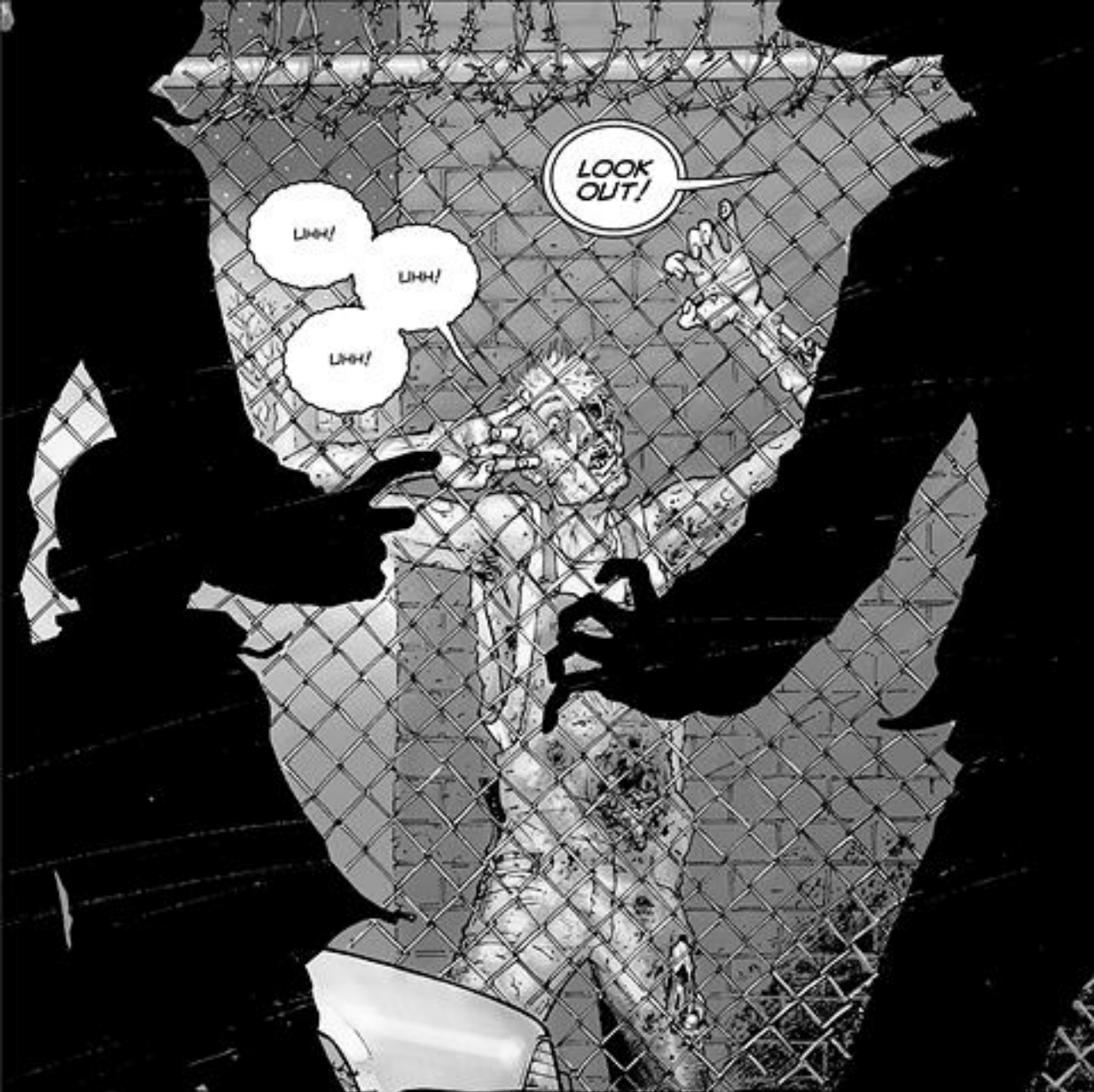
I KEEP A SPARE UNIFORM IN MY LOCKER.

I FIGURED IF I WAS GOING INTO A BIG CITY, AND THEY'VE GOT A TON OF PEOPLE MOLED UP THERE... I COULD GET AROUND EASIER BEING A COP SO I MIGHT AS WELL LOOK THE PART.



GRAB WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AND FOLLOW ME OUT BACK. I GOT ANOTHER SURPRISE FOR YOU.









BLAM!







DAWN
IT!











Y'KNOW... THAT'S A GOOD
IDEA, TALKING ABOUT THE
HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE
WILL SURELY GET MY MIND
OFF ALL THE MESSED
UP SHIT I'VE SEEN
RECENTLY...



I HAD
JUST GONE INTO
WORK THAT MORNING.
I WAS SITTING AT THE
STATION DRINKING MY
SECOND CUP OF COFFEE
FOR THE DAY. GILROY WAS
TELLING ME ABOUT THE
DRUNK THEY BROUGHT IN
THE NIGHT BEFORE....

...THEN
THE CALL
CAME.

IT WAS MY WIFE LORI,
HER WATER HAD
BROKEN NOT TEN
MINUTES AFTER
I LEFT. I GRABBED
MY COAT AND RAN
HOME TO GET HER.
GOT GILROY TO CALL
DOC STEVENS SO
HE COULD MEET
US AT THE
HOSPITAL.

I GOT HER TO THE HOSPITAL
WITHOUT A HITCH, ONE OF THE ONLY
TIMES I GOT TO USE THE SIRENS
ON MY CAR... IT WAS A SMALL
TOWN WE LIVED IN.

I HELD
HER HAND THE
WHOLE TIME. THERE
WERE SOME
COMPLICATIONS... AND
SHE HAD TO GET A
CESAREAN. I WAS
REALLY WORRIED...
BUT EVERYTHING
WENT OKAY.



THE
FIRST TIME
I LAID EYES
ON LITTLE
CARL...



I--



...

Y'KNOW...
ON SECOND
THOUGHT...

...THINKING
ABOUT
THE
GOOD TIMES
MAKES ALL THIS
SEEM SO MUCH
WORSE.







SHIT.



THUMP!











THEN YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN...

THAT'S NOTHING DOWN THERE... HAD YOU GOTTEN FIFTY MORE FEET INTO THE CITY BEFORE THEY ATTACKED... YOU WOULD NOT BE HERE RIGHT NOW.



WHAT?



C'MON... WE MUST HURRY!



WAIT!



NO.

NO WAY IN HELL...

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO.

LISTEN... IT'S EASY... I DO IT ALL THE TIME, WHEN WE CLIMB DOWN THIS BUILDING THOSE THINGS WILL STILL BE WAITING FOR US AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT BUILDING. AND THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF THAT ONE. ALL THESE BUILDINGS ARE FILLED WITH ZOMBIES.

TRUST ME.



GOD DAMN IT.









DON'T GIVE UP HOPE, MAN... I'VE SEEN ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE SURVIVED SOME CRAZY SHIT.

WE'VE GOT A GUY AT CAMP THAT ACTUALLY MADE IT OUT OF ATLANTA...





WE'RE MOSTLY LATECOMERS, PEOPLE THAT TRIED TO GET INTO ATLANTA TOO LATE... LIKE YOU, WE COULDN'T GET IN, SO WE SET UP CAMP HERE.



SO YOU'RE JUST CAMPING OUT HERE? IS THAT SAFE?



YEAH... WE'VE GOT SOME CARS FOR SHELTER... AND WE ALL TAKE TURNS KEEPING WATCH AT NIGHT. WE FIGURE IF WE STICK CLOSE TO THE CITY THEY'LL BE ABLE TO FIND US WHEN THE GOVERNMENT SORTS ALL THIS MESS OUT.



HOLY SHIT.





I-- I
WAS SO
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU.



IT'S
GOOD TO
SEE YOU,
MAN.



OH
MY GOD,
SHANE!



SHANE
HELPED US
GET HERE...
WE WOULDN'T
HAVE MADE IT
WITHOUT
HIM.



I GUESS I OWE
YOU MORE THAN
I'LL EVER BE
ABLE TO
REPAY.

RICK,
PLEASE.
IT WAS
NOTHING.

I HAD
TO MAKE UP
FOR LETTING
YOU GET SHOT
LIKE THAT...

MAN,
THAT WASN'T
YOUR FAULT.
BESIDES, I'M
FINE NOW.

FAIR
ENOUGH. LET
ME SHOW YOU
AROUND...







I'M SO GLAD YOU SAVED THIS FOR ME. I FELT NAKED WITHOUT IT.

IS HE ASLEEP?

YEAH... FINALLY.

WE CAN'T SLEEP ANYMORE UNLESS HE KNOWS I'M RIGHT NEXT TO HIM. NEVER REALLY HAD TO SLIP AWAY FROM HIM LIKE THAT... I USUALLY JUST LIE THERE AND LOOK AT HIM... HE'S--

YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT.

YEAH... I'M SORRY WE LEFT YOU, RICK

LORI, PLEASE. I UNDERSTAND THE CIRCUMSTANCES. YOU THOUGHT ATLANTA WOULD BE SAFER FOR CARL. I WOULD'VE DONE THE SAME THING.

THEY SAID PEOPLE WERE GOING TO STAY AT THE HOSPITAL WHEN THEY EVACUATED US. FROM WHAT YOU TOLD ME... THEY MUST HAVE ABANDONED THE HOSPITAL LESS THAN A WEEK AFTER WE LEFT.

YOU DID WHAT'S RIGHT FOR LITTLE CARL. I'M JUST GLAD SHANE WAS AROUND TO HELP YOU GET HERE.

I DON'T EVEN THINK I WOULD'VE FOUND THE WAY DOWN HERE WITHOUT HIM. LET ALONE SURVIVED AFTER WE GOT HERE.

YOUR HAND!

THAT'S JUST FROM THE IV. IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.

OH.



IS HE
ENOUGH
UP
THERE?

SO FAR
THAT'S ALL
WE'VE NEEDED.
LUCKILY THOSE THINGS
HAVEN'T COME AT US
IN ANY NUMBER.
MOST WE'VE HAD
AT ONE TIME IS
THREE.



THING IS... NONE OF
US REALLY SLEEP
ANYMORE. SOON AS
WE HEAR ONE OF
THE SHOTS, WE'RE UP
READY TO DEFEND
THIS PLACE.



WE'VE
ONLY GOT
TWO GUNS, SHANE'S
PISTOL AND DALE'S
RIFLE... BUT WE'VE
GOT SHOVELS AROUND
THE CAMP THAT WE
CAN HIT THEM WITH..
IT'S WORKED SO
FAR.



THEY
DON'T
COME VERY
OFTEN...



RICK...
YOU'RE
SHAKING.



THE
PAST TWO
DAYS... I'VE
BEEN SO WORRIED
ABOUT FINDING YOU
AND CARL... AND
GETTING HERE IN
ONE PIECE...

...I
HAVEN'T
HAD TIME
TO BE
SCARED.









CRAZY
OLD
MAN...



YOU READY? WE
SHOULD GET GOING
IF WE'RE GOING TO
FIND ANYTHING.



I'M
READY
WHEN YOU
ARE.



I'LL
TAKE
THOSE,
HON.

SCRUB
'EM REALLY
GOOD...
THEY'RE A BIT
FUNKY.



UH-HUH... DON'T
YOU HAVE SOME
ANIMALS TO TRY
AND SHOOT?

THAT'S
THE PLAN...
LOVE YOU.



I
LOVE
YOU,
TOO.

BE
CAREFUL.



CARL!

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?



OVER BY
SOPHIA'S CAR...
WE'RE GOING
TO PLAY IN
THE DIRT!



ALRIGHT, I'M GOING
TO GO WASH OUR
CLOTHES WITH DONNA
AND CAROL. YOU MAKE
SURE YOU AND SOPHIA
KEEP AN EYE ON
ALLEN. IF HE TELLS
YOU TO GET IN
THE RV, YOU
DO IT.

OKAY,
MOMMA.



DON'T WORRY. AMY
AND ANDREA ARE
GOING TO WATCH
THE KIDS.

ANYTHING
TO GET OUT
OF LAUNDRY
DUTY.

YOU'RE
DAMN
RIGHT!



NOT
IN FRONT
OF THE
KIDS.

OH,
BITE
ME.



STAY
SAFE.

ALWAYS.





I THOUGHT I'D TAKE LORI AND CARL DOWN HERE TO HER PARENTS AND COME BACK. I THOUGHT THIS THING WOULD BE OVER IN A WEEK. I DIDN'T WANT TO EXPLAIN **STOLEN GUNS** TO THE CAPTAIN WHEN I GOT BACK.

WELL... IF YOU HAD SEEN THE PLACE THE WAY I DID... YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT THE RULES. I DON'T THINK IT'LL EVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

DON'T SAY THAT, MAN... THIS WON'T LAST.

I DON'T KNOW, MAN... IT LOOKED BAD.

WELL... I'M GLAD YOU BROUGHT THESE GUNS.

WE JUST HAD DALE'S RIFLE AND MY SIDE ARM. SOMEONE HAD TO KEEP WATCH WITH THE RIFLE AT ALL TIMES... AND IT'S HARD AS HELL TO HUNT WITH A PISTOL.

JUST ABOUT ALL WE'VE HAD TO EAT WAS CANNED GOODS GLENN BROUGHT BACK FROM THE CITY.

MAN... WHAT'S UP WITH THAT GUY? RISKING HIS LIFE EVERY DAY TO GET TOILET PAPER AND CANDY BARS? I MEAN... IT'S A GREAT HELP, AND HE DID SAVE MY LIFE, BUT DAMN...

I HAVE NO IDEA... HE SEEMS TO KNOW HOW TO GET IN AND GET OUT BEFORE THEY GANG UP ON HIM. IT'S--

RUSTLE
RUSTLE







YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONSTANTLY KEEP WATCH. THEY'RE NOT THAT FAST. A GLANCE IN ALL DIRECTIONS EVERY FIVE MINUTES WILL DO IT.

I'M JUST BEING THOROUGH.



SO, ENTERTAIN US, LORI... HOW'D YOU MEET RICK?



I THINK THIS JOB IS MUNDANE ENOUGH WITHOUT ME PUTTING YOU BOTH TO SLEEP.

C'MON... I COULD USE A GOOD NAP.



ALRIGHT... BUT I WARNED YOU. RICK'S BROTHER, JEFF, IS MY AGE. I'M TWO YEARS YOUNGER THAN RICK. I MET HIS BROTHER SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.



IT STARTED WITH THE BROTHER? I'M ALL EARS.

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT... WE WERE FRIENDS.

JEFF INVITED ME TO A NEW YEAR'S PARTY. APPARENTLY RICK HAD BEEN MADE CHAPERONE BY THEIR PARENTS, WHO WERE ATTENDING A PARTY ELSEWHERE. I MET RICK THERE. HE WAS GOING TO COLLEGE FOR POLICE ADMINISTRATION... EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM WAS INTERESTING.





YOU
KNOW WHAT
IT'S LIKE THAT
TIME OF YEAR WHEN
YOU'RE ALONE... I
HUNG ON EVERY
WORD... EVERYTHING
ABOUT HIM WAS
PERFECT, AND
AT MIDNIGHT... I
HAD SOMEONE
TO KISS.

WE
REALLY
HIT IT
OFF.



WE
KEPT IN
TOUCH WHILE
HE FINISHED
COLLEGE AND
I ATTEMPTED
TO LAST MORE
THAN A YEAR
AT MINE...

...I
DIDN'T.



AFTER
COLLEGE WAS
OUT OF THE WAY,
I MOVED BACK
HOME AND THAT'S
WHEN RICK AND
I GOT REALLY
SERIOUS.

THE REST
IS PRETTY SELF-
EXPLANATORY.

SEE?
PRETTY
DULL.



I GOTTA
SAY, YOU TWO
LOOK GOOD
TOGETHER.

RICK
AND I ARE THE
MOST COMPATIBLE
PEOPLE ON EARTH.
WE ARE PERFECT
FOR EACH
OTHER...



C'MON...
LET'S GET
BACK TO
CAMP.

















JESUS, MAN!
DON'T SNEAK
UP ON ME LIKE
THAT!

SORRY...
I WAS JUST
TRYING TO GET
UP HERE WITHOUT
WAKING ANYONE
UP.

WELL, NEXT
TIME, THROW A
ROCK AT ME
OR SOMETHING...
YOU SCARED
ME HALF TO
DEATH.



ESPECIALLY
AFTER WHAT
HAPPENED
EARLIER TODAY.

YEAH... THAT'S
ACTUALLY WHAT
I CAME HERE
TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT.



OH?

WE NEED TO MOVE
CAMP. IT'S NOT SMART
TO BE THIS CLOSE TO A
CITY FULL OF THOSE
THINGS.



IT'S
JUST TOO
GODDAMN
DANGEROUS.

ARE YOU
CRAZY?!



WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN
THE GOVERNMENT
STARTS CLEANING
THIS MESS UP? THEY'LL
HAVE TO START WITH
THE CITIES... THEY'LL
FIND US FASTER
IF WE STAY
HERE!

WHEN ARE THEY
COMING SHANE?
TOMORROW? NEXT
WEEK? IT'S GETTING
REALLY DAMN COLD
OUT HERE AND IT'S
ONLY GOING TO
GET WORSE.



NOT TO
MENTION WHAT
HAPPENED
YESTERDAY.
IT'S TOO RISKY
TO STAY SO
DAMN CLOSE
TO THEM.









WHAT'S UP WITH JIM? IS HE... OKAY?

WELL... REMEMBER WHEN I TOLD YOU WE HAD A GUY AT CAMP THAT ACTUALLY MADE IT OUT OF ATLANTA ALIVE?

YEAH...

WELL, JIM'S THAT GUY.

AT THE TIME, YOU HAD JUST TOLD ME YOU THOUGHT LORI AND CARL WERE IN THERE... AND I WAS TRYING TO GIVE YOU HOPE.

THE THING IS... JIM GOT OUT OF THE CITY, BUT HE SAW HIS ENTIRE FAMILY TORN APART BEFORE HE DID.



HE TOLD THE STORY ONCE. IT WAS LIKE THEY WERE SHIELDING HIM FROM THE ARMY OF ZOMBIES THAT HAD SURROUNDED THEM. HIS WIFE, HIS SISTER, HER HUSBAND... BETWEEN THEM ALL THEY HAD LIKE FIVE KIDS. I CAN'T REALLY REMEMBER BUT I THINK HIS MOM MIGHT HAVE BEEN THERE TOO.

OH.



HE ONLY MADE HIS WAY THROUGH THE CROWD BECAUSE THOSE MONSTERS WERE BUSY EATING EVERYONE ELSE. HE SAID IT HAPPENED SO FAST HE DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE WHAT WAS GOING ON UNTIL HE HAD MADE HIS WAY TO SAFETY.



DAMNIT!

WHAT?



JIM'S GUN STORE IS FIVE BLOCKS FROM WHERE I FOUND YOU. I NEVER GO THAT FAR IN. THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN DO THIS.



FOLLOW ME. I'VE GOT AN IDEA.





NOW, I'VE SEEN SOME OF THEM MISSING HALF A FACE. THEY'RE UP AND MOVING, BUT BY ALL INDICATIONS THEY'RE NOT OPERATING AT PEAK PERFORMANCE.

SO I'M DEFINITELY NOT SAYING THEY'RE LIKE BLOODHOUNDS THAT CAN TELL US APART BY SMELL.



MAYBE IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THE FACT THAT WE DON'T STINK LIKE THEM, BUT I GOTTA THINK IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH OUR SMELL.

WE'VE BOTH GOT ARMS AND LEGS... IT SHOULD BE EASY FOR THEM TO MIX US UP... BUT THEY NEVER ATTACK EACH OTHER.



HERE. RUB THIS ON YOUR CLOTHES AND THEN STICK IT IN YOUR POCKET. I THINK A FEW PIECES FOR EACH OF US OUGHT TO DO IT.



WHACK!



SORRY... I JUST WASN'T EXPECTING THIS AT ALL THIS MORNING. I'M USED TO THE SMELL OF THE CITY BUT GETTING IT UP CLOSE LIKE THIS IS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT STORY.



WELL, IF I HAD KNOWN I'D BE DOING THIS TODAY... I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF BED.

WE'VE GOT TO GIVE THIS A SHOT, THOUGH.



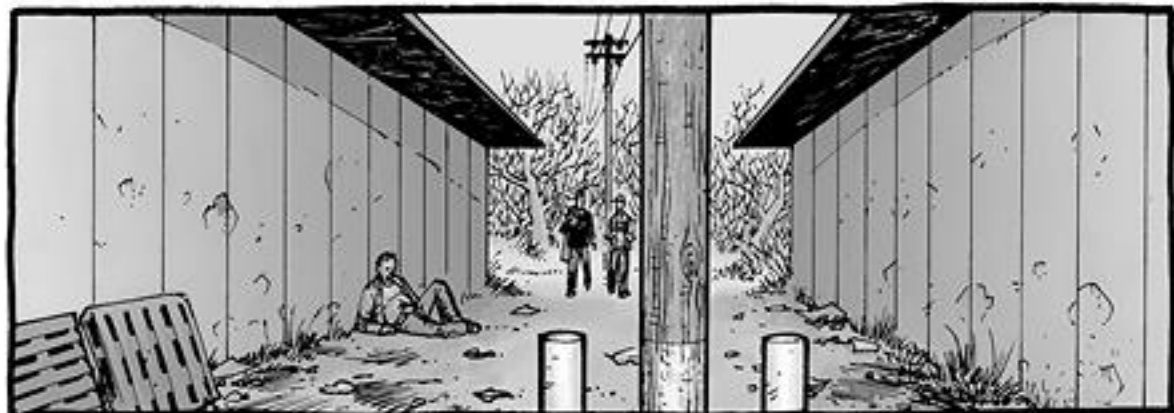
DON'T LET ANYTHING GET CLOSE TO YOUR FACE AT ALL. THESE THINGS ARE SO NASTY I'D HATE TO THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU GOT SOMETHING IN YOUR MOUTH. THEIR BITES ARE FATAL AND THAT'S JUST THEM MAKING CONTACT WITH BROKEN SKIN.



I DON'T THINK I'LL BE RUBBING THIS SHIT ON MY FACE ANYTIME SOON.



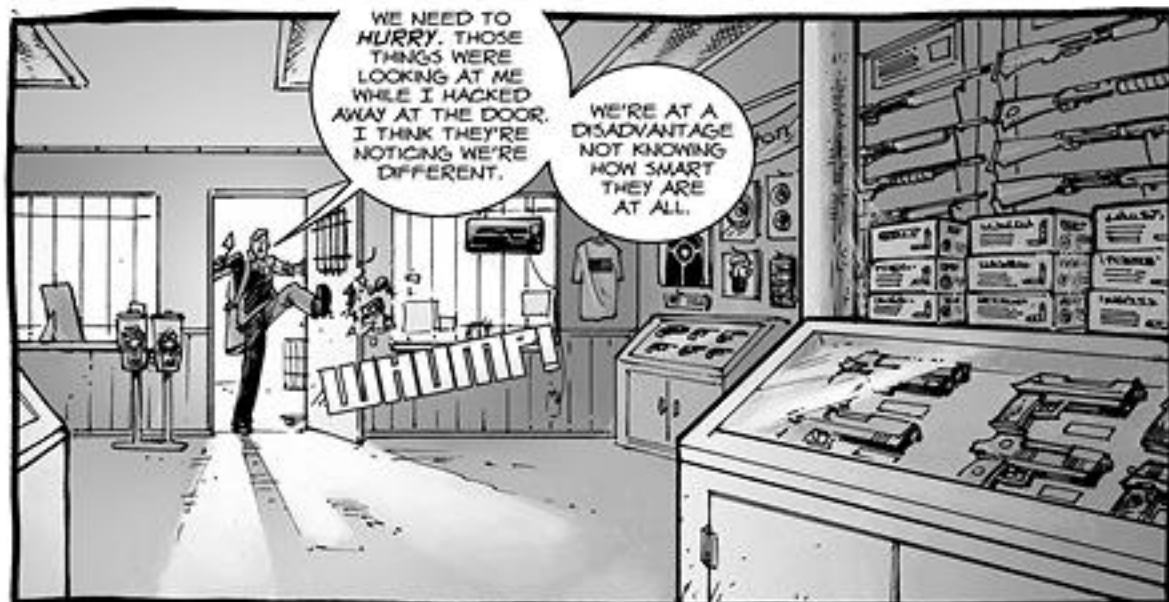




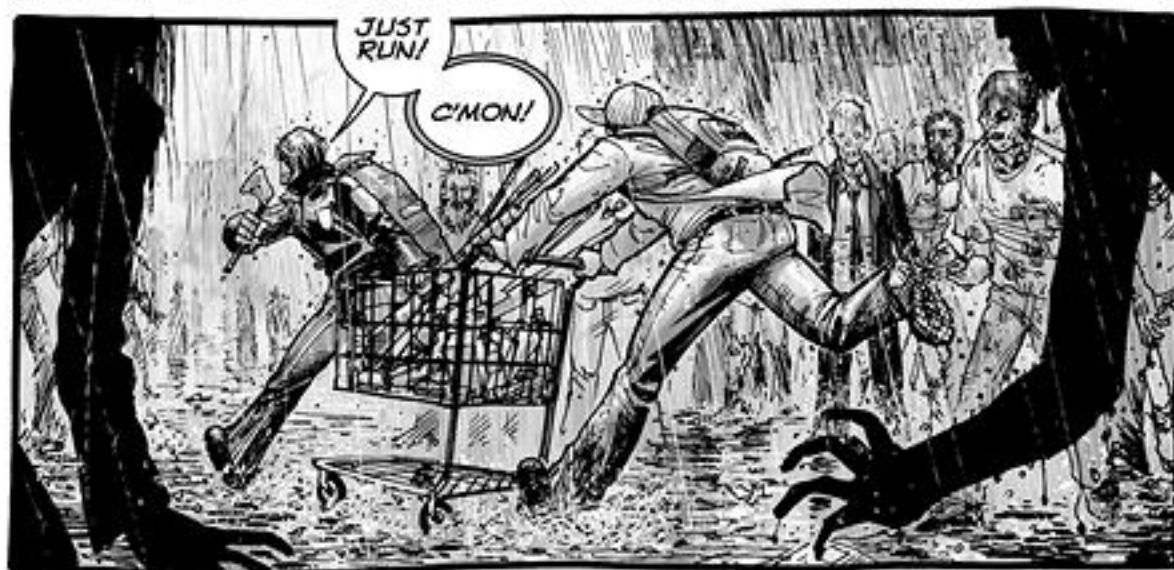


































GREAT JOB, SON! YOU'RE DOING JUST GREAT! I'M SO PROUD OF YOU.

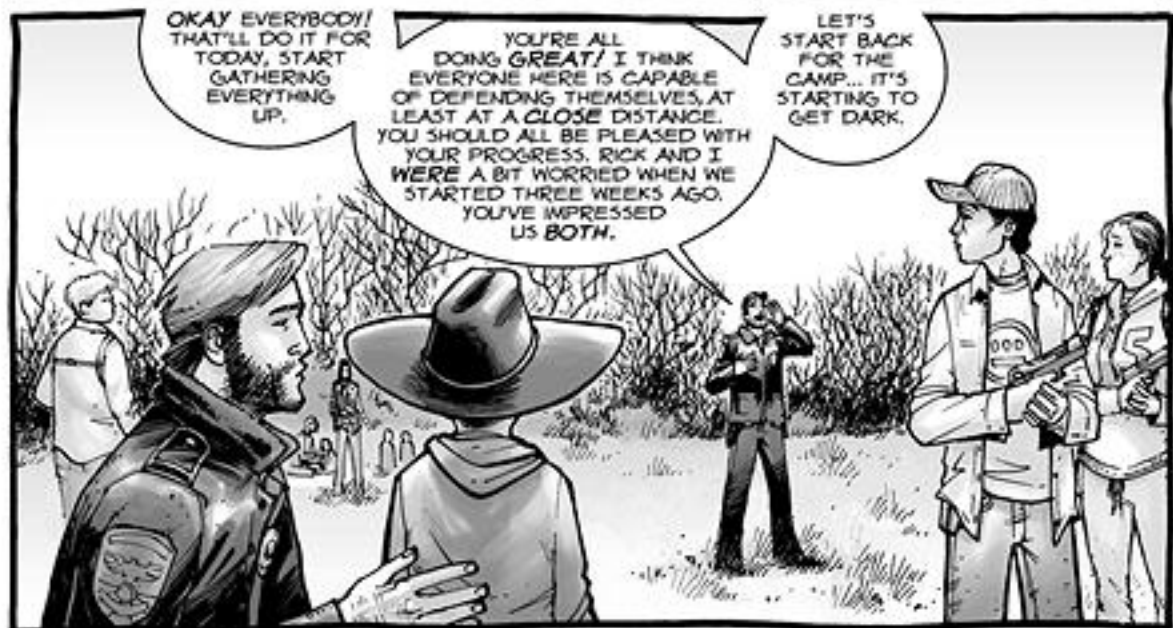
THANKS, DAD.



DOES THIS MEAN I GET TO CARRY A GUN NOW LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?



YEAH... YEAH, I THINK SO.



OKAY EVERYBODY! THAT'LL DO IT FOR TODAY, START GATHERING EVERYTHING UP.

YOU'RE ALL DOING GREAT! I THINK EVERYONE HERE IS CAPABLE OF DEFENDING THEMSELVES, AT LEAST AT A CLOSE DISTANCE. YOU SHOULD ALL BE PLEASED WITH YOUR PROGRESS. RICK AND I WERE A BIT WORRIED WHEN WE STARTED THREE WEEKS AGO. YOU'VE IMPRESSED US BOTH.

LET'S START BACK FOR THE CAMP... IT'S STARTING TO GET DARK.

ALSO, BEFORE WE GO... I'VE GOT AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE. I THINK IF ANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO CARL ON THIS SHOOTING RANGE, YOU'VE SEEN THAT HE KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE A GUN.

I KNOW HE'S YOUNG, BUT JUST FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, HE'S GOING TO BE CARRYING HIS OWN GUN FROM NOW ON.

I KNOW SOME OF YOU, MY WIFE INCLUDED, OBJECT TO THIS BUT WHEN I SAID EVERYONE NEEDS A GUN, I MEANT **EVERYONE**. I WILL BE RELYING ON YOU ALL TO HELP ME KEEP AN **EYE** ON HIM. HE'S TO KEEP HIS GUN HOLSTERED AT ALL TIMES, IF HE TAKES IT OUT **ONCE** WITHOUT DANGER PRESENT, I'LL BE TAKING IT AWAY.

PLEASE, LET ME KNOW IF YOU SEE HIM SO MUCH AS **ACT** LIKE HE'S GOING TO TAKE IT OUT.



DAMMIT, LORI... WILL YOU STOP? HE'S SAFER THIS WAY.



IS HE? HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE? HE'S **SEVEN** YEARS OLD, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE! THIS IS NOT A GOOD IDEA, BUT I GUESS THE END OF THE WORLD MEANS I'VE NO LONGER GOT A SAY IN PARENTING MY OWN SON.



SHIT LORI, YOU'RE OVERREACTING. THE FIRST HINT OF HIM TREATING IT LIKE A TOY AND I'LL NEVER LET HIM TOUCH IT AGAIN. IT'S IN HIS **HOLSTER** WITH THE **SAFETY** ON. IT'S JUST THERE FOR EMERGENCIES!

WHAT-EVER.



I WISH THIS PLACE WASN'T SO DAMN FAR FROM CAMP.

WOULD YOU RATHER A PACK OF THOSE MONSTERS FOLLOW THE GUN SHOTS RIGHT TO US?



YOU'VE GOT A POINT.





WELCOME
BACK! YOU
GUYS ALL
EXPERT
MARKSMEN
NOW?



JUST A
COUPLE OF
US. YOU COULD
PROBABLY USE A
LITTLE PRACTICE
TOO, Y'KNOW. YOU
DON'T NEED TO
STAY HERE AND
GUARD THE CAMP
IF WE'RE NOT
HERE.



THAT'S TRUE BUT
I'D HATE TO COME
BACK AND FIND A
COUPLE DEAD GUYS
DIGGING THROUGH
OUR STUFF,
STINKING UP THE
PLACE.

THE LONG
WALK THERE
ISN'T VERY
ENTICING
EITHER.



A LITTLE
EXERCISE
ISN'T A BAD
THING.

ALL EXERCISE
EVER DOES
IS MAKE YOU
TIRED. AND
WHO WANTS
TO BE TENSE,
TERRIFIED,
MISERABLE,
COLD, AND
TIRED?



LOOK AT
THE THREE OF
THEM... CARRYING
ON IN FRONT
OF GOD AND
EVERYONE. IT'S
UNCHRISTIAN.



SO'S BEING
JUDGMENTAL
IF I REMEMBER
CORRECTLY.



SAMPHIE



GOOD
ONE.



LORI TELLS ME DONNA JUST WON'T SHUT UP ABOUT YOU AND THE GIRLS LIVING TOGETHER IN THAT CAMPER. SHE STARTED RIGHT AFTER WE GOT BACK FROM TARGET PRACTICE A COUPLE DAYS AGO AND HASN'T LET UP SINCE.

PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY THING SHE'S TALKED TO ME ABOUT SINCE I LET CARL START PRACTICING WITH US.

DONNA AIN'T SHOWN A LICK OF GRATITUDE FOR ME SAVING HER LIFE. I DON'T SEE HOW ALLEN PUTS UP WITH HER.

THOSE POOR BOYS... THINK ABOUT HOW SHE'S GOING TO BE RAISING THEM TWINS.



Y'KNOW, I FIGURE YOU'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO HAVE TWO PRETTY YOUNG WOMEN KEEP YOU COMPANY. WITHOUT ALL YOUR CAMPING GEAR WE'D BE SCREWED.

THE SHOWER ALONE HAS MADE YOU ONE OF MY FAVORITE PEOPLE.



C'MON, GUYS... I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING WITH THOSE GIRLS. TO BE HONEST, I'M AN OLD MAN... MY PLUMBING AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE.



IT'S JUST-- AFTER LOSING MY WIFE NOT TWO MONTHS AGO... IT'S NICE HAVING THEM AROUND. THEY KEEP THE PLACE CLEAN... REMIND ME OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE WITH HER AROUND.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN YOURSELVES TO US... IT'S YOUR BUSINESS.

DONNA'S JUST AN OLD HOUSEWIFE WHO DOESN'T HAVE SOAP OPERAS TO KEEP HER SMALL MIND OCCUPIED. DON'T LET HER GET TO YOU.





DALE, THIS THING IS WORKING PERFECTLY... I DON'T KNOW HOW WE'D COOK ANY MEAT WITHOUT IT.

I DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT MY SUPPLIES... YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMETHING WILL COME IN HANDY WHILE YOU'RE OUT ON THE OPEN ROAD.



THAT REMINDS ME... I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT MOST OF YOU WERE DOING FOR A LIVING BEFORE ALL THIS SHIT STARTED HAPPENING.

LIKE YOU, DALE, DID YOU JUST TRAVEL?



PRETTY MUCH I WAS A SALESMAN FOR OVER ALMOST FORTY YEARS. I SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE BEHIND A DESK ON THE PHONE. THE WEEK AFTER I RETIRED THE WIFE AND I BOUGHT THAT CAMPER AND SET OUT TO SEE AMERICA.



WE WERE AT A CAMPSITE ABOUT EIGHTY MILES SOUTH OF HERE, COMING BACK FROM FLORIDA... THE NEWS HIT US A LITTLE LATE... WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON.

MY WIFE... NEVER LEFT THAT CAMPSITE.



AFTER I BURIED HER... I SET OUT FOR ATLANTA. I HAD SOME COUSINS THERE AND THE RADIO SAID IT WAS THE SAFEST PLACE NEARBY, OF COURSE... WHEN I GOT THERE IT HAD ALREADY BEEN BLOCKED OFF AND THE ARMY WAS STILL TRYING TO FIGHT BACK THE HORDES INSIDE. I ENDED UP OUT HERE.



ON THE WAY TO ATLANTA I FOUND AMY AND ANDREA BROKE DOWN... OUT OF GAS... GAVE THEM A RIDE.



ANDREA WAS DRIVING ME BACK TO COLLEGE. CLASSES WERE STARTING IN A FEW DAYS. I WAS A PHYSICAL EDUCATION MAJOR... A JUNIOR. AS FAR AWAY AS I LIVED I SHOULD HAVE JUST FLOWN BACK BUT WE ALWAYS ENJOYED OUR LITTLE BONDING TRIPS.

I WAS A CLERK AT A LAW FIRM... THAT JOB IS ONE OF THE FEW THINGS I DON'T MISS.

I WAS A... PIZZA
DELIVERY BOY IN
MACON, GEORGIA.
I WAS SWIMMING
IN DEBT AND WOULD'VE
GIVEN ANYTHING
TO GET OUT
OF IT...

THING IS...
NOW THAT IT'S
ALL GONE... I'D
GLADLY TAKE IT
ALL BACK IF
EVERYTHING
COULD GO BACK
TO NORMAL.

I MEAN...
WHO WOULDN'T
REALLY? BUT I
WAS IN BAD SHAPE.
ABOUT TO LOSE MY
APARTMENT... MY
CAR... I WAS GOING
TO HAVE TO BITE
THE BULLET AND
GO CRAWLING BACK
TO MY PARENTS
FOR HELP. I
NEVER WANTED TO
TALK TO THEM
AGAIN.

HEH...
NOW THAT
I KNOW I
COULDN'T
TALK TO THEM
IF I WANTED
TO... I KINDA
WANT TO.



I WAS A SHOE
SALESMAN. I RAN A
STORE IN THE MALL...
IT WASN'T ANYTHING
SPECTACULAR BUT
IT PAID THE BILLS,
WELL... MOST OF
THEM ANYWAY. LET'S
JUST SAY THE DEBT
PART OF GLENN'S
STORY HIT'S
PRETTY CLOSE
TO HOME.

WE LIVED
IN GAINESVILLE,
IT'S ABOUT FIFTY
MILES FROM HERE.
JUST LIKE EVERYONE
ELSE HERE... WE
CAME INTO
ATLANTA A LITTLE
LATE.

GLENN,
DALE AND THE
GIRLS HAD ALREADY
SET UP THIS CAMP
WHEN WE GOT HERE.
OUR CAR BROKE
DOWN ON THE WAY
AND WE WALKED
HERE. PIECE OF
CRAP NEVER
WORKED.



MECHANIC.











C'MON! IT'S
NOT SAFE
HERE!

NO.

NO.

NO.

AHH!

BLAM!

C'MON,
THERE'S NO
TELLING HOW
MANY THERE
ARE!

EEEEK!

GRUH.

SHIT!

SHIT!

BLAM!

AHH!

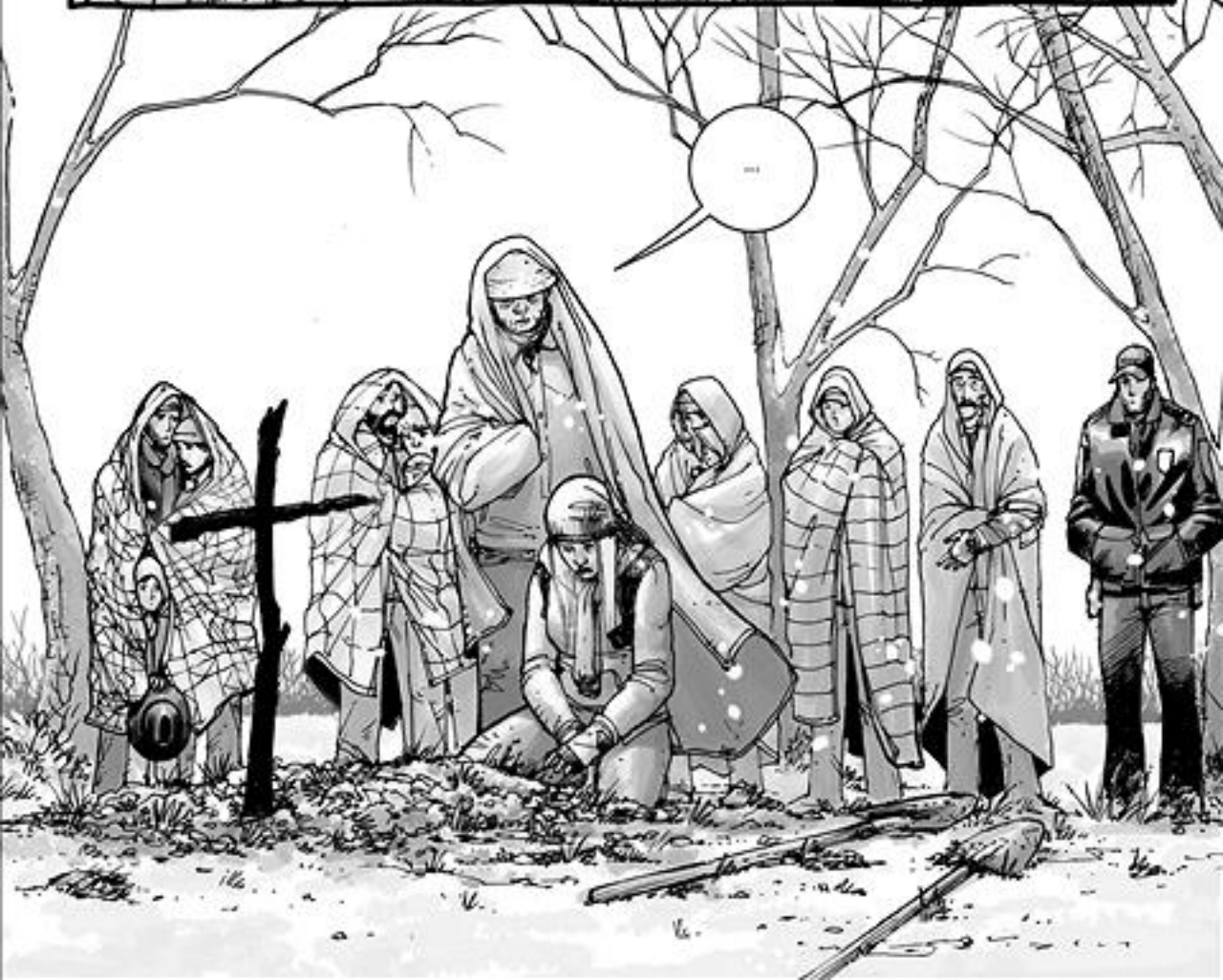
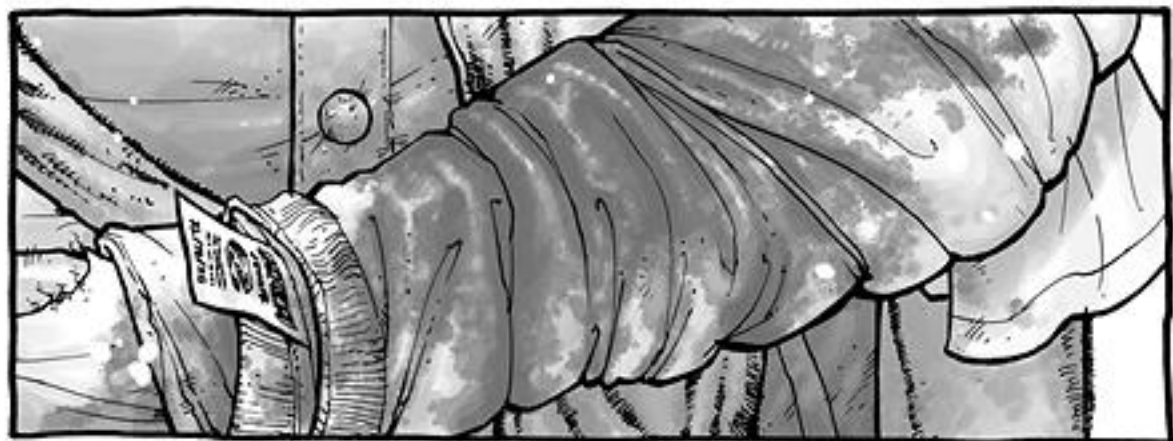






















WE DON'T HAVE TO GET AS MUCH AS USUAL, DAD. ANY'S DEAD... AND JIM'S TOO SICK TO EAT.



I KNOW, SON... I KNOW.



GOD DAMMIT, RICK! IT'S NOT MY FUCKING FAULT!!



LIKE HELL IT ISN'T! I TOLD YOU THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN! WE'RE NOT SAFE HERE! HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE HAVE TO DIE BEFORE YOU REALIZE THAT?!



IF I THOUGHT WE COULD SURVIVE ON OUR OWN I'D LEAVE THE REST OF YOU HERE AND TAKE CARL AND LORI WITH ME! WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE, SHANE! LET'S SIPHON WHAT LITTLE GAS WE HAVE OUT OF THE CARS AND INTO DALES CAMPER AND GO, TODAY... RIGHT NOW... LET'S JUST GET AWAY FROM THE CITY-- FIND SOMEPLACE SAFE!



THINK RICK! WE'LL BE LOST OUT THERE. THE ARMY IS GOING TO DRIVE THROUGH HERE ANY DAY NOW WITH SUPPLIES AND SHELTER AND ALL THIS WILL JUST GO AWAY... I DON'T WANT TO RISK BEING OUT IN THE COUNTRY... I DON'T WANT TO RISK BEING LEFT BEHIND!



WHAT ARE YOU BASING THAT ON? WHAT INDICATION DO WE HAVE THAT WE'RE NOT THE ONLY SURVIVORS?! WHAT WAS THAT ATTACK ON THE CAMP? ARE THEY HUNTING IN PACKS NOW? WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THEM!



WE'RE NOT SAFE!!

CARL!!













JUST GIVE ME A
FEW MINUTES TO
WAKE UP AND I'LL
BE READY TO
GO.



CAN
I GO,
TOOP?



SORRY, SON...
NOT THIS
TIME.

BUT
DAD!



C'MON,
RICK. WHY
NOT LET
HIM COME
ALONG?



BECAUSE...
WE NEED
TO TALK,
SHANE.



WHAT
DO WE
HAVE TO
TALK
ABOUT?

WHAT
THE HELL
DO YOU
THINK?



















IT
NEVER
SHOULD
BE, SON.

IT
NEVER
SHOULD
BE.



How many hours
are in a day
when you don't spend
half of them watching television?

When is the last time
any of us
REALLY
worked to get something that we wanted?

How long has it been
since any of us really
NEEDED
something that we **WANTED?**

The world we knew is gone.

The world of commerce and frivolous necessity has been
replaced by a world of survival and responsibility.

An epidemic of apocalyptic proportions has swept
the globe causing the dead to rise and feed on the living.

In a matter of months society has crumbled,
no government,
no grocery stores,
no mail delivery,
no cable TV.

In a world ruled by the dead,
we are forced to finally start living.



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DAYS GONE BYE



ZONE

