"The Red Death had come like a thief in the night. And one by one dropped the revellers in the blood-bedewed halls of their revel... and Darkness and Decay and the Red Death held illimitable dominion over all." -- Edgar Allan Poe

FADE IN:

EXT. CENTER OF TOWN - DAY

The traffic lights still work. Everything else is deserted. A flyer blows around on the ground: advertising the ANNUAL ANSON BEACH FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR.

BIG BOBBY (O.S.)
That was "Angie" by the Stones, I'm sure you dug that one, a blast from the past that's a golden gas, straight from the grooveyard, a platta that mattas. This is Big Bobby filling in for Fred this Fourth of July weekend.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAY

Empty. Not a soul or car in sight.

BIG BOBBY
Lots of folks probably hittin' the road this holiday--

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

An unattended swing set and jungle gym sit lonely by the side of the road.

BIG BOBBY (O.S.)
The kids are out of school--

EXT. YARD - DAY

Clothes on a clothes line swing in the wind.
CONTINUED:

BIG BOBBY (O.S.)
Mom and Dad out of work--

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The surf washes up on the sand. The sun is shining bright. The water is sparkling. Crosses made of driftwood sit in the sand.

BIG BOBBY (O.S.)
Everyone's headin' on down the beaches for this absolutely gorgeous weekend.

CLOSE ON PARKED CAR:

BIG BOBBY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
--so get out your sparklers and your bottle rockets, cause Big Bobby's gonna keep it rockin' all weekend long.

Sitting at the wheel of this car is a DEAD WOMAN. We keep moving to the back of the car to see a DEAD BABY in a car seat.

We TILT up to see--

A VAN approaches on the horizon. It's the only thing on the road. SWOOSH! It speeds past us as we--

CUT TO:

1 OMITTED

2 INT. VAN - DAY - VIDEO CAMERA P.O.V. ON BERNIE

21, handsome and brooding. Lost in thought. Sitting in a moving van, facing the window. Watching the world go by.

SUSIE (O.S.)
Hi there, Mr. Serious.

Bernie is staring out the window. Finally, he turns around. Stares at her.

SUSIE

lowers her VIDEO CAMERA. She's 19, sitting across from Bernie.

(CONTINUED)
SUSIE (CONT'D)
Come on. Say something profound. I love you.

BIG BOBBY (O.S.)
Yep. Things aren't what they used to be. Before the plague, this world had been doin' pretty good. Now it's all gone. Thanks to Captain Trips.

Bernie turns back to the window. In the back seat, KELLY, 18, a handsome jock in a varsity jacket, leans over.

KELLY
Corey, turn that shit off. It's depressing.

COREY, 22, the driver, turns off the radio.

KELLY (CONT'D)
Captain Trips. Why do they call it that anyway?

COREY
Shut up back there, I don't want to talk about it.

Kelly sits down.

BERNIE
looks up at Corey, bitter.

SUSIE
(quietly, re: Corey)
I know you don't like him. But maybe you could just pretend.

NEEDLES, 21, turns to Corey.

NEEDLES
Are we gonna be there soon? I gotta piss like a race horse.

COREY
I told you to go before.

Needles shoots him a look. Dick.

Kelly sits with his arm around JOAN, 17, a blond cheerleader. He reaches forward.
KELLY
(grabbing the video camera)
Hey Susie, gimme that.

JOAN
Are we there yet? My butt hurts.

KELLY
(moving in for a kiss)
You could sit on my lap.

JOAN
(kissing him)
Mmmm.

NEEDLES
Great. Now I gotta piss and puke.

Kelly points the camera at him.

KELLY
Hey Needles... I didn't get that. Could you say that again?

VIDEO CAMERA P.O.V.
Needles flashes him the finger.

BACK TO SCENE
Corey turns around.

COREY
Hey Kelly. Easy with dad's camera.

KELLY
Smile, big brother.

Bernie ignores everything, just staring out the window.

JOAN
Oh god, look at that.

EXT. VAN - CONTINUOUS - BERNIE'S POV

We see two sick TRAVELERS by the side of the road. One is PUKING his guts out. The other looks up at the passing van with pleading eyes. We make eye contact. The van slows down as time slows to a crawl.
INT. VAN (MOVING) - CONTINUOUS - BERNIE

Bernie turns away from the window, probably wondering what the world is coming to.

JOAN
I'm scared.

KELLY
Hey Corey, you're sure about this?

COREY
Mom and Dad's house is in the middle of nowhere. We'll be safe there.

Bernie looks down to--

THE DRAWING

It's a face frozen in a primal scream. We hear a screaming screech, on which we--

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE OPEN ROAD - DAY

The van speeds down the road. Past a sign--

COASTAL ACCESS ROAD

OMITTED

EXT. WOODSY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The van pulls down a quiet woodsy road. It continues until we reach--

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

It's a dark, modern summer house, which sits atop a hill overlooking the water.

There is a sign, which reads: THE PRINCES - 507 Prospero Lane.

The van pulls up in the driveway. Everyone climbs out, Corey, Kelly, Bernie, Susie, Joan, and Needles.

(CONTINUED)
The back of the van opens. Overnight bags are removed. Corey walks up to the front door and unlocks it. We hear the warning squeal of an alarm. Corey disarms it.

Kelly, Joan, and Needles follow Corey into the house.

KELLY
A weekend at the beach, a little time in the sun--

JOAN
Can't wait.

Bernie trails behind, with Susie by his side. They exchange a look.

7A INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY
Bernie enters from outside. He hears noises upstairs and ascends the stairs to--

8 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS
The living room is huge, encompassing a living room set-up and a kitchen area. To the rear is a patio which has been converted into a den/dining room.

Everything is covered with dust cloths and (on top of that) a lot of dust.

COREY (O.S.)
Our parents had the place completely remodeled. Seems like a waste of time now, huh?

JOAN (O.S.)
You think we’re the only people around here?

NEEDLES (O.S.)
Maybe we’re the last people on Earth.

KELLY (O.S.)
Shut up, asswipe.

COREY (O.S.)
The house is safe. Trust me.

NEEDLES (O.S.)
Who decorated this place, Gilligan?

(CONTINUED)
Bernie joins a tour already-in-progress. Kelly crosses to the kitchen.

COREY
It's just how they left it.

KELLY
(from kitchen)
Hey, Dad left beer.

NEEDLES
Hey Bernie, check out the decor. Very Cape Cod.
(spots KINETIC SCULPTURE)
Oh cool. I love these things.

Needles goes to the mantle to play with the kinetic balls.

COREY
Try not to break it.

Bernie shakes his head. Susie enters, unnoticed.

COREY (CONT'D)
Come check out the backyard.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Needles and Bernie explore the backyard. Corey stands to the rear, proud of his not-so-humble abode.

COREY
Beautiful, huh?

BERNIE
Quiet.

NEEDLES
At least they hired someone to cut the grass.

JOAN
(smiles coyly at Kelly)
I want to see the bedrooms.

As Bernie and Susie examine the view, we hear--

(CONTINUED)
JOAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Is that a hot tub?

KELLY (O.S.)
Great, huh?

JOAN (O.S.)
This place is incredible.
(beat)
Oh shit.

KELLY (O.S.)
What?

JOAN (O.S.)
I don’t know if I remembered to pack my sunscreen.

NEEDLES (O.S.)
Just go down to CVS and get some.

KELLY (O.S.)
I’m sure we have some somewhere.

COREY (O.S.)
Come on, let's get you all settled.

INT. STAIRCASE - DAY
Kelly and Joan lead the way. Corey brings up the rear with Bernie, Susie, and Needles, who is dragging behind. As Kelly and Joan rush down the stairs--

We hear a door slam, we go to--

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY
Corey, Bernie, Susie, and Needles reach the bottom. One of the doors is already closed.

NEEDLES
We've been here what, ten minutes?
(bangs on the door, with a smirk)
Don't forget the protection, buddy!

COREY
(motioning to the respective rooms)
We're sharing this one. Bernie and Susie, take my parents room.
Bernie and Susie walk towards--

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's gorgeous. Old pictures of the Prince family: MOM DAD, Corey, and Kelly, cover the dresser, undisturbed.

Bernie and Susie enter. Bernie sits on the bed, and starts to unpack his duffel bag. He is silent.

INT. COREY'S ROOM - SAME

Corey is unpacking his stuff. Needles checks out the baseball decorations... this is, after all, a 12-year old's room.

NEEDLES
(faux amore)
I guess that leaves you and me.

COREY
Shut up.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - SAME

A period of silence passes. Finally--

SUSIE
Keeping quiet isn't going to make things any better.

Bernie looks up.

BERNIE
I'm fine.

NEEDLES
(pops his head in)
Hey, you should see his old room.
(like a mushy grandma)
He was such a cute little boy.
(pauses)
I'm sorry, was I--?

BERNIE
No. Come on.

Bernie walks out after Needles. Susie sighs and follows him out.
1) A radio is turned on.
2) Dust covers are removed.
3) Beer is brought out.
4) Patio furniture is moved back out to the patio.
5) Clothes are unpacked.
6) The ladies put on their bathing suits, sunscreen.
7) Joan hangs up clothes.

BLINDS

A hand goes to open them.

COREY (O.S.)

Keep the blinds closed. We don't want any of the flu heads to know we're in here.

13 EXT. BACKYARD - DAY - LATE AFTERNOON

Raw burgers are tossed on the grill. Corey starts to cook as Kelly brings out a case of beer bottles. Needles rushes over to help him.

Joan and Susie head towards the beach, with T-shirts over their bathing suits.

KELLY

Hey baby, I'll be right down.

Bernie watches from the hill as the two girls walk to--

14 EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Joan takes off her T-shirt to reveal a daring bikini. Susie takes off her shirt to reveal a more conservative one piece. Joan notices Bernie watching from atop the hill.

JOAN

(re: Bernie)

Why doesn't he come down here?

SUSIE

Bernie?

JOAN

(heads towards the water)

What’s up with you two?

(CONTINUED)
SUSIE
Who knows.

JOAN
(getting into the water)
Do you love him?

SUSIE
(getting into the water)
Of course.

JOAN
Does he love you?

SUSIE
I think so. I don't know. His mind is always on so many different things, you know?

Joan suns herself as Susie continues--

SUSIE (CONT'D)
It was good at first. We had fun. We'd talk for hours. You know, it was really deep. I can't describe it, you know?

JOAN
He's hung like a horse and you don't want to let him go.

SUSIE
That's not true.

KELLY
(rushes in)
I'm hung like a horse!
(fake whinny)

Kelly rips off his shirt and runs into the water, grabbing Joan. She squeals with delight as they frolic and splash.

Susie steals a glance up at Bernie. They make eye contact. Bernie turns away.

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Bernie turns and walks towards Needles, who is strumming his GUITAR. Bernie pours himself a beer. Corey is still cooking by the grill.

BERNIE
You got a nice place here.

(CONTINUED)
COREY
It never used to be this quiet. The neighbors are usually out playing football.

NEEDLES
It's all a different game, now. (nervously puffs on his cigarette)

BERNIE
You okay?

NEEDLES
(nods)
Just a little cold.

COREY
Probably hungry. (flips a burger)
Dinner's ready.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

The group has gathered around a picnic table, which is covered with mosquito candles. They are all eating hamburgers and potato chips.

KELLY
(munching on chips)
Could I get the ketchup?

Bernie hands Kelly the ketchup bottle.

JOAN
(examining her burger)
I can't eat this. I'll get fat.

Kelly starts pouring ketchup on his burger.

KELLY
You look fine.

JOAN
I gained like three pounds in the last two months.

NEEDLES
Oh, shit, call the Paramedics. We're gonna have to get your stomach pumped!

(CONTINUED)
Kelly is still pouring ketchup on his burger.

SUSIE
Hey, Kel, you want some burger with that ketchup?

COREY
Cool it, that's our only bottle.

KELLY
Chill.
(passing ketchup along)

COREY
You'll be chillin' when we run out of supplies in a week.

BERNIE
What have you got for supplies?

COREY
Two freezers. A whole herd of meat. And a truckload of freeze dried veggies.

KELLY
Styrofoam broccoli. Yum yum.

COREY
Dad believed in survival.

NEEDLES
If we hold out that long.

KELLY
Nothin's gonna get us. We're immune, baby!

BERNIE
We hope.

KELLY
Don't start with that shit--

BERNIE
What do you mean, don't start, all I'm saying--

KELLY
I mean, Jesus--

BERNIE
All I'm saying is that we're not sure.

(CONTINUED)
COREY
They all say if you get the Hong Kong flu, then you're safe against Captain Trips. Just like the Chicken Pox--

BERNIE
Who's they?

COREY
They. Doctors and shit.
(off Bernie's look)
Besides, even if we hadn't had the Hong Kong strain, which we all did, nothing's gonna find it's way out here.
(grabs another burger)

DISSOLVE TO:

17 EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Corey and Needles are picking up after dinner. Kelly and Joan make out in the hot tub. Susie, now dressed for the cool evening breeze, walks out to the backyard. She spots Bernie sitting on the BENCH.

She walks towards--

18 EXT. BENCH - SAME - BERNIE

is watching the night surf. Susie sits beside him. He doesn't turn around.

BERNIE
The night surf is magnificent, isn't it? The thunder of the breakers. The delicate curls of foam. This'll go on as long as there's a moon to pull the water. Long after we're gone.

SUSIE
We have to talk.
(no response)
There's something you're not telling me. You owe me.

Bernie looks over at Susie. She's not backing down. They sit.

BERNIE
I told you about my last girlfriend, right?

(CONTINUED)
SUSIE
Maureen? From Derry?

BERNIE
But I never told you what happened to her.

Susie shakes her head.

BERNIE (CONT'D)
(sad smile)
One day towards the end of Senior year, after we'd been going out for six months. I was having an English test in Mr. Morin's class. I get called to the Dean's office.
(beat)
The night before, there was one of those terrible nor'easters. Maureen was working late, she was a cashier at the Stop and Shop. She was on her way home from work... Her tires were bald, she lost control, and--

Bernie pauses. He wipes his tears.

BERNIE (CONT'D)
Now people are dropping dead left and right from the flu.

SUSIE
Captain Trips--

BERNIE
(beat)
What do we got left? Two weeks? Two days?

SUSIE
Maybe we have Captain Trips right now. What are we going to do? What do you think we're going to do?

BERNIE
(beat, sighs)
I don't want to lose you.

(CONTINUED)
Susie cradles his head and kisses his forehead. He moves his face up and their lips meet. It grows into a passionate kiss.

DISSOLVE TO:

OMITTED

20 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - LATER

Bernie and Susie are lying in bed, asleep. Bernie's eyes open and he turns over and kisses Susie.

SUSIE
(mumbling in sleep)
Mmmf.

Bernie heads over to the door. He opens the door and sees--

THE SICK TRAVELER

From the road. Mucus pours out of his mouth. He reaches out to grab Bernie.

Bernie turns to wake Susie. Her body turns. She's dead.

21 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT - REALITY

Bernie jumps up in bed. He sees that Susie is still sleeping. He takes a deep breath and goes back to sleep.

21A OMITTED

22 OMITTED

23 OMITTED

24 OMITTED

25 OMITTED

DISSOLVE TO:
INT. MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

Bernie is sprawled out on the bed. We hear a GUNSHOT. Bernie's eyes shoot open. ANOTHER GUNSHOT. Bernie jumps up in bed.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY - THE BEAUTIFUL SKY

peaceful and pastoral. A SKEET flies into frame, then BAM! It shatters to pieces.

ON THE GROUND

Corey cocks his rifle.

Joan

Woo hoo! Good shot!

Corey levels his shotgun at the sky. Then--

Corey

Pull!

Kelly, who is standing beside him, launches another SKEET into the air. Corey fires. The skeet explodes. Bernie walks outside, rubbing his eyes.

Bernie

Skeet shooting. The indispensable rich man's sport.

Corey

They don't do this in Derry, huh? (offers gun) Want to try?

Bernie

Nah.

Corey

(raises gun again) Suit yourself. Pull!

Kelly launches another one. Corey hits the mark. The skeet explodes. Corey lowers the gun and turns around.

Corey (CONT'D)

Hey, what's up with Needles? He's been in the bathroom puking all morning.

(CONTINUED)
BERNIE
I dunno, I'll go in and check.

COREY
You do that.

Concern grows on Corey's face as Bernie heads into--

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS
Bernie enters, headed for the bathroom door. Susie is standing there, in a short nightshirt, making pancakes.

BERNIE
Hey, Needles? You okay?

We hear VOMITING coming from the closed bathroom door. Bernie knocks on the door.

BERNIE (CONT'D)
Needles?

Bernie passes through to--

OMITTED

INT. UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS
Bernie opens the door to find Needles slumped over the toilet seat. His skin is a pale green, his eyes sunken, and his lips dry and cracked. He collapses onto the floor. Bernie pulls him up.

BERNIE
Come on, lie down.

Bernie helps Needles walk to--

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS
Bernie helps Needles lie down on the couch.

NEEDLES
(rubbing stomach)
I think I've got it.

Bernie stares at him. Refuses to believe it.

(CONTINUED)
NEEDLES (CONT'D)
My head aches. My stomach aches. It hurts to piss.

BERNIE
Maybe it's just Corey's burgers.

Needles shakes his head.

BERNIE (CONT'D)
Or what about the Hong Kong flu? Remember when Susie had the Hong Kong flu? She wanted a Bible.

NEEDLES
Yeah. About a month before they started carrying bodies away in dumptrucks and burying them in mass graves with loaders.
(beat)
Bibles aren't gonna help us now.

Silence. The awful truth.

COREY (OS)
Bernie.

Bernie is startled by Corey, who was standing behind him.

COREY (CONT'D)
Come outside, breakfast is ready. (to Needles) Want some?

Needles emphatically shakes his head "No."

COREY (CONT'D)
Come on, Bernie.

Corey walks Bernie outside. Needles throws his head back and takes a deep breath.

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Kelly and Joan are sitting at the table, feeding each other. Corey is pouring himself coffee. Susie comes out and puts down the pancakes. She sits next to Bernie. They kiss.

KELLY
(smells the pancakes)
Yummy, yummy. Just like IHOP.

(CONTINUED)
SUSIE
Oh, gee thanks.

JOAN
(to Kelly)
Get me some, I'm hungry.

SUSIE
Be careful, you might gain an ounce.

As the others talk, Corey sits in thought. Glances towards the house.

JOAN
(to Corey)
You got any low cal syrup?

KELLY
(eating a pancake, at Joan's expense)
De-lish!

KELLY (CONT'D)
Where's Needles?

BERNIE
Inside.

COREY
(breaking his silence)
I think we should talk about him.

BERNIE
What's there to talk about?

COREY
He's sick.

BERNIE
He's got a stomach ache.

COREY
Maybe. Maybe not.

KELLY
You think it's something else?

COREY
I dunno-- maybe it is a stomach ache. But it might not be.

A beat passes as everyone ponders the possibility.

(CONTINUED)
KELLY
No, man, that's crazy. We're immune.

COREY
Maybe he lied and said that he had the Hong Kong so we'd take him with us.

BERNIE
Or maybe they were wrong.

KELLY
(in Bernie's face)
That's bullshit, we're fucking immune!

COREY
Hey.

Kelly calms down.

COREY (CONT'D)
The rational thing to do is to sit down and discuss what we're going to do about it.

KELLY
If he's sick, I don't want him anywhere near us.

SUSIE
He's probably just got a little bug--

KELLY
And maybe not. Maybe we already fuckin' got it.

JOAN
(repeating to herself)
We're going to die-- we're going to die-- (continues over--)

COREY
(silences the group)
Look, we came here to wait this thing out. To get away from it. Period.

KELLY
So what are we going to do about it?

COREY
I don't think we have much of a choice. We have to get rid of him.

(CONTINUED)
BERNIE
You're gonna abandon him?  For Christ's sake, there's nothing out there!

COREY
It's our only option.

BERNIE
Only option?

COREY
The longer he says, the more we're at risk.

Bernie looks to Kelly, who agrees with Corey.  Susie closes her eyes.  Joan is plain frightened.

BERNIE
This is bullshit.  I'm going inside to be with my friend.

Bernie angrily pushes his way inside the house.

The remaining group (Corey, Susie, Kelly, and Joan) still sits in silence.  Then--

JOAN
(sobbing to Kelly)
I don't want to die.

KELLY
(putting arm around Joan)
C'mon, let's go down to the beach.

Kelly and Joan walk away.  Susie and Corey are alone.  He sits in silence, rapping his fingers against the picnic table.  He is deep in thought.

SUSIE
I thought you were his friends.

No response from Corey.  Susie goes in the house.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER

A CLOCK ticks on the wall.  It's late-afternoon.

Bernie sits alone, watching--

KINETIC SCULPTURE

(CONTINUED)
Suspended, a ball swings down to hit the other three. The force of the ball in motion sets the ball at the other end in motion. Just like the tension in the house.

The room is eerily quiet: the clock, the balls, and Susie, who turns the pages of the book she's reading.

Needles stirs.

Bernie looks up. Watches Needles tossing and turning. Finally--

NEEDLES
I'm scared, Bernie.

Bernie nods gently and goes back to the balls.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - SAME

The water beats against the sand. A tattered doll washes up onto the beach.

Kelly sits on the rocks, sipping a beer. Joan is walking along the beach alone.

Corey walks up to Kelly.

KELLY
Back at school, I heard about a couple kids. They found this sick guy in the woods. He was behind the wheel of one of those old Lincolns. He was in the final stages... his head was all bloated to the size of a football and his neck looked like a sausage. He was all confused. They said he thought one of them was his grandmother.

(beat)
They burned him. They locked him in his car and burned him alive. They said it smelled like sweet Chinese pork.

(beat)
Why is this happening? What did we do to deserve this?

COREY
I'm not going to let it get us, Kel. I'm gonna keep us safe.
Kelly wipes his tears and nods.

COREY (CONT'D)
(sotto; to himself)
No matter what.

On Corey's words, we--

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME - THE WATER FAUCET
fills two glasses. Pull back to see--

Bernie at the counter, filling the glasses. Susie walks in and stands next to him.

SUSIE
(re: living room)
Do you really think he has it?

BERNIE
I don't know.

SUSIE
Maybe we were wrong. Maybe there is no escape.

Kelly enters and opens the refrigerator to look for something for himself.

BERNIE
(handing Susie a glass)
Maybe.

Susie leaves. Bernie walks past Kelly carrying the two glasses as--

Corey enters the house. He looks directly at Needles, then towards the kitchen. Susie notices.

SUSIE
What's up?

In the kitchen, Kelly GRABS Bernie. The glasses smash onto the floor.

BERNIE
Hey!

Corey pulls out a gun and levels it at Needles.

(CONTINUED)
COREY
Outside, now.

BERNIE
What the fuck is wrong with you?

Bernie is struggling to break free from Kelly's grip. His legs are kicking and flailing. Kelly is holding on tight.

Needles starts to stand. Susie stares at Corey. Joan enters, oblivious.

JOAN
Hey, has anyone--

She sees the gun. She freezes. The others pay her no attention.

COREY
(to Needles)
Come on. Get up.

Needles stands.

SUSIE
You can't do this.

COREY
This doesn't concern you.

JOAN
What's going on?

SUSIE
(ignoring Joan)
Needles, don't do what he says.

COREY
(to Susie)
Sit down!
(to Needles)
Come on.

Needles follows Corey towards the back door.

Bernie is still wrestling with Kelly. He smashes him against the counter, releasing his grip. Bernie opens a drawer, grabs a KNIFE, and runs towards Corey.
Corey shoves Needles into the yard, carefully keeping the gun trained on him.

JOAN (O.S.)
(hysterical)
What are you doing?

Bernie rushes out of the house behind them. Kelly is in pursuit.

KELLY
Cor!

Corey turns to see Bernie rushing after him. Bernie pushes Corey to the ground and punches him. Kelly rushes towards the house. Bernie is whaling on Corey. Then we hear a rifle being pumped.

Bernie turns to see that Kelly is holding Corey’s skeet shooting rifle, aimed directly at his head.

KELLY (CONT'D)
Let him go.

Bernie puts his arms up and steps away. Corey lies on the ground, blood gushing from his mouth.

COREY
Shoot him.

Kelly tightens the grip on the gun, intensifies his aim. Bernie backs up.

COREY (CONT'D)
Go on. Shoot him!

Kelly looks like he might, then lowers the gun slightly. Corey stares at him in disbelief.

Bernie pauses for a moment and then takes off running. He grabs Needles and pulls him along. They head down to the beach.

Corey climbs to his feet, wipes the blood off his face with his sleeve. He pulls out a gun.
Bernie and Needles jump the last few steps and run like hell. Behind them we see Corey, atop the hill, aiming.

Corey grabs a dazed Kelly, who has put his rifle down.

COREY
Pick up the gun, come on!

KELLY
But, they’re gone--

Corey shakes his head.

KELLY (CONT’D)
They ain’t coming back!

COREY
You want to get sick?

Kelly weakly shakes his head “No.”

COREY (CONT’D)
Do you want to get sick?

KELLY
No.

COREY
Then pick up the goddamn gun!

Kelly takes a breath and picks up the rifle. Corey reaches inside the house and pulls out TWO FLASHLIGHTS.

COREY (CONT'D)
It'll be dark soon.

Kelly follows Corey to the beach.

In the doorway, we see Joan, hyperventilating, tears flowing down her face. Susie stands next to her, shaking and thinking hard.
EXT. BEACH - SAME

Bernie and Needles run along the water. They keep looking over their shoulders. Nothing. They are getting further from the house. Woods run alongside the beach.

EXT. BEACH - FURTHER BACK - SAME

Corey and Kelly make their way down the hill, onto the beach. They see Bernie and Needles far ahead.

EXT. BEACH - SAME


The beach curves inward. Bernie and Needles disappear behind the bend.

NEEDLES
They’re coming!

BERNIE
Okay. This way.

Bernie turns and leads Needles INTO THE WOODS.

Corey and Kelly round the bend. Corey notices that the footprints lead into the woods, and the two follow.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME - TELEVISION SCREEN

The six pals frolic on an afternoon on the town, pre-Captain Trips.

WIDER

Joan sits on the couch, curled up in a fetal position. Her fresh tears sparkle in the blue glow of the television. She rocks back and forth, humming a lullaby to herself.

Susie approaches her.

SUSIE
Joan?

(CONTINUED)
No response. Susie approaches and touches her shoulder. She startles Joan.

JOAN
I think we should call their parents.

Susie stares at her. Poor girl.

JOAN (CONT'D)
Don't you?

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Bernie and Needles are tearing through the brush. Suddenly Bernie stops--

ANOTHER ANGLE

Corey and Kelly enter the woods. No sign of Bernie and Needles.

COREY
(calling out)
Come on, Bernie, give it up! He’s dead anyway. We’re doing him a favor!

EXT. WOODS - ELSEWHERE - BERNIE AND NEEDLES

press forward. Needles slips. He’s twisted his ankle under a log. His leg is cut badly. He sits in pain.

NEEDLES
I can’t do this.

BERNIE
You have to.

NEEDLES
Listen to him. I’m dying!

BERNIE
Not now. Not like this. Now, hold on to me.

(helps Needles up)
We are going to make it.

CUT TO:
45A EXT. HOUSE - DUSK

The darkness falls.

46 OMITTED

47 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS - THE DRAWERS

are thrust open. Susie is rummaging through the drawers. Joan stands behind her, watching.

JOAN
What are you doing?

Susie finds a KEYRING full of keys.

SUSIE
I’m going after them.

Joan shakes her head. She is too scared to even move. Susie crosses off camera. Joan follows and we--

CUT TO:

47A INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Susie rushes down the stairs. Joan follows.

JOAN
Promise me you'll come back. Promise me.
Please.

SUSIE
(motherly, consoling)
I want you to go lie down. Get some rest. I’ll be back as soon as I can.

Joan stares at her blankly.

SUSIE (CONT'D)
Keep the doors locked.

Joan nods. Susie rushes out the front door. Joan stands still watching as the door closes.

 Darkness closes in around her as we go to--
BLACK
EXT. HOUSE - DUSK

Susie runs out and gets into Corey’s van. She starts it up and drives off.

OMITTED

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Bernie and Needles are struggling the best they can. Corey and Kelly are not far behind. They have a flashlight.

INT./EXT. VAN (MOVING) - SAME

Susie is driving like mad. Her head swings back and forth, trying to locate her friends.

EXT. WOODS - SAME

Bernie and Needles keep running. Corey and Kelly are keeping a steady pace. Kelly is lagging behind.

    COREY
    Come on.

    KELLY
    For Christ's sake, it's dark out. We're getting lost.

    COREY
    Lost? We used to hide in these woods all the time!

    KELLY
    This isn't hide and seek.

    COREY
    (levels gun on Kelly)
    I'm not asking.

Kelly keeps moving.

EXT. ROAD - SAME

Bernie and Needles come out of the woods onto a dark road.
Suddenly, A HORN HONKS! Headlight sweep across their faces. The van swerves to avoid impact.

It’s Susie! She sticks her head out the window to face a disoriented Bernie and Needles.

SUSIE
Come on! Let's go!

They get in.

EXT. WOODS - SAME
Corey and Kelly are close!

EXT. ROAD - SAME
The van speeds away as Corey and Kelly exit the woods. Corey screams in anger.

EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER
The van screeches to a halt. Bernie, Needles, and Susie jump out. They rush towards the house.

BERNIE
What are we doing here? We've got the van, let's go!

SUSIE
Not without Joan.

BERNIE
Forget Joan! They'll be here any minute!

SUSIE
I promised.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS
Bernie, Needles, and Susie enter the house. The water's running downstairs.

SUSIE
(calling out)
Joan?
BERNIE
What, she's taking a bath? Christ, by the time she dries up, they'll fucking be here!

SUSIE
Go upstairs and make sure everything's okay.

Bernie and Needles head upstairs. Susie stares down the hall.

57A INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME
Bernie and Needles walk upstairs. It's quiet. All of a sudden, we hear a slight pounding. Bernie and Needles look up. The back door is ajar, slapping in the wind.

NEEDLES
(softly, nervously)
The door--

BERNIE
(slowly walking towards it)
Come on.

58 INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS
Susie walks down the hallway towards the bathroom. The sound of rushing water gets closer.

SUSIE
Joan? I'm back.

Susie passes to the bathroom door. It's closed. She knocks on the door politely.

58A INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME
Bernie approaches the open door. He looks around to see if there's anyone in the house.

He reaches the door and SLIDES IT CLOSED.

59 INT. DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - SAME
Susie slides open the tub door to reveal--

(CONTINUED)

SUSIE
Bernie!

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME
Bernie runs downstairs.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS
Bernie rushes in. He turns off the faucet. Takes one look at Joan's body and turns away.

SUSIE
(quietly)
I shouldn't have left her. I shouldn't have left her--

Bernie reaches for--

A KNIFE

lying on the floor. He puts it on the sink. He looks closely at Joan's face. The tell-tale swelling. Sunken eyes.

SUSIE (CONT'D)
She was sick.

BERNIE
What are you talking about?

SUSIE
You can see it. Look at her face.

BERNIE
Jesus.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME
Needles is pacing nervously. We hear something in the room. A snap. Is someone there?

NEEDLES
Hello? Who's there?

As Needles retreats with his back to the window--

(CONTINUED)
THE BLINDS WHIP UP!

Corey's head pops into frame! Needles pulls back from the window.

NEEDLES (CONT'D)
They're here!

Needles sees that the back door is being unlocked from the outside, and he runs downstairs. The back door bursts open. Corey and Kelly enter.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Needles runs downstairs and down the hallway. Towards--

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bernie and Susie are already inside. Needles enters. Bernie goes over to the door.

BERNIE
(to Susie, re: Needles)
Keep him safe.

SUSIE
What are you doing?

Bernie walks into--

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Bernie closes the bedroom door behind him. Kelly walks down the hall. They are face to face.

KELLY
Where's Needles?

BERNIE
I'm so sorry, Kelly.

Kelly freezes. What is he talking about? He sees the bathroom door, pushes past a solemn Bernie and heads in. We hear--

KELLY (O.S.)
NOOO!!!!

Bernie slowly walks towards the bathroom. Behind him, Corey descends the stairs.
INT. DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kelly takes a look at Joan's body. He starts to cry. He walks over to the body and cradles it in his arms. He's lost it.

Bernie stands in the doorway, watching.

KELLY
(quietly to Bernie)
You did this.

A beat.

BERNIE
Nobody did anything.

Kelly turns back to Joan.

KELLY
(staring at Joan)
No.

BERNIE
Look at her face. She's sick.

Kelly looks at her face. Sees the swelling. Corey enters, starts to talk but freezes when he sees Joan's body.

KELLY
(quietly)
You lied to us. You said we'd be safe.

Corey doesn't have an answer for that one.

BERNIE
He was wrong.

KELLY
(to Bernie)
SHUT THE FUCK UP!
(to Corey; hysterical)
It was all a lie. The Hong Kong flu doesn't make you immune. It doesn't do anything.

COREY
It was Needles. He infected her.

Corey picks up Joan's BLOODY KNIFE. Points it at Corey.

(CONTINUED)
KELLY
(advances towards Corey)
I trusted you.

COREY
Kelly, put the knife down.

KELLY
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

Kelly charges at Corey. Corey grabs Kelly's hand, trying to push the knife away from him. Corey kneels him in the stomach, and he falls against the faucet, busting his mouth open. The knife falls on the counter. Kelly returns with a forceful blow to Corey's face and he reaches for the knife. He moves in and...

A GUNSHOT!

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - SAME - SUSIE AND NEEDLES

react to the gunshot.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

Kelly stumbles backward, off of Corey. He looks over to Corey to see that he's holding a smoking gun. He looks down at himself. Sees that his own shirt is covered in blood.

Kelly's face is a mixture of shock and surprise. He collapses, dead.

Stone cold silence. Corey stumbles to his knees and crawls to his brother's dead body. He cradles it in his arms. What has he done.

BERNIE

towers over him. Watching.

COREY

looks up at Bernie and tightens the grip on his gun.
INT. MASTER BEDROOM - SAME

Susie rushes to the door.

NEEDLES
What are you doing?

SUSIE
I have to see if he's okay.

NEEDLES
No--!

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

A standoff! Susie turns the corner. Corey fires. Susie is thrown back.

Corey goes to fire again. Bernie runs out of the door.

INT. STAIRCASE - SAME

We hear a gunshot as Corey misses. Corey chases Bernie up the stairs. Corey grabs Bernie's leg, trying to trip him. Bernie reaches for a cane that sits at the top of the steps. He turns to swing at Corey with it. Suddenly--

BLAM

CGI: Corey's chest cavity explodes.

Suddenly, Corey slowly slumps to the ground. Behind him, we see--

SUSIE

holding the shotgun. She lowers the gun, her injured shoulder slumped to the side.

Bernie takes a deep breath and descends the stairs. They hold each other, sobbing.

NEEDLES

begins to ascend the stairs beneath them. Relieved to see that they are alive.
73  EXT. BACKYARD - SUNRISE - A WOODEN CROSS
sits in the ground overlooking the water.
Bernie smiles and looks back to the grave.

    BERNIE
    (to the grave)
    So here we are. The whole human race
    wiped out. Not by nuclear weapons, bio-
    warfare, pollution, or anything grand
    like that.
    (drinks from the glass)
    It was just the flu.
    (to himself; finishing drink)
    Just the flu.

Susie approaches Bernie, consoling him. They stand and walk

towards the house. As we pull back--

    BIG BOBBY (O.S.)
    (radio announcer)
    This is Big Bobby comin' at ya live on
    this gorgeous Sunday morning. Just got
    an update from the Center of Disease
    Control. Two million dead and climbing.
    (coughs)
    I'm not feeling too good right now folks,
    think I'm gonna sign off for a while--
    (cough)
    Hang in there everyone, stay cool, stay
    healthy, and remember... no one's scoring
    the game anymore.

    FADE OUT

    THE END