

STEPHEN KING'S NIGHT SURF

BLACK

\*

SUPER

\*

"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

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FADE IN:

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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.

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BIG BOBBY (O.S.)

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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.

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DISSOLVE TO:

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EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAY

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Empty. Not a soul or car in sight.

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BIG BOBBY

\*

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

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EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

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

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\*

BIG BOBBY (O.S.)

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The kids are out of school--

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EXT. YARD - DAY

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Clothes on a clothes line swing in the wind.

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(CONTINUED)

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 1 \*

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

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.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

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. \*

3 EXT. VAN - CONTINUOUS - BERNIE'S POV

3

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.

3A INT. VAN (MOVING) - CONTINUOUS - BERNIE 3A

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:

4 EXT. THE OPEN ROAD - DAY 4

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

COASTAL ACCESS ROAD

5 OMITTED 5

6 EXT. WOODSY ROAD - CONTINUOUS 6

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

7 EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 7

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)

7 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

7A

Bernie enters from outside. He hears noises upstairs and ascends the stairs to--

8 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

8

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)

8 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 the 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.

\*

9 EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

9

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. \*

10 INT. STAIRCASE - DAY 10

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--

11 INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY 11

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.

(CONTINUED)



11 CONTINUED:

11

Bernie and Susie walk towards--

12 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

12

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.

12A INT. COREY'S ROOM - SAME

12A

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.

12 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - SAME

12

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.

12B MONTAGE

12B

- 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

13

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

14

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.

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.

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:

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

17

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

18

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  
Captain Trips, A6. Whatever you want to call it. Not AIDS. Not cancer. The goddamn flu.  
(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.

18 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 20

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 21

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

21A OMITTED 21A

22 OMITTED 22

23 OMITTED 23

24 OMITTED 24

25 OMITTED 25

DISSOLVE TO:





27 CONTINUED:

BERNIE  
I dunno, I'll go in and check.

COREY  
You do that.

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

28 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 28

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--

29 OMITTED 29

30 INT. UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 30

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--

31 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 31

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.

31 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 payloaders.

(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.

32 EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

32

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.

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:

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:

34 EXT. BEACH - SAME

34

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.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

Kelly wipes his tears and nods.

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

On Corey's words, we--

CUT TO:

35 INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME - THE WATER FAUCET

35

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.

37 EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

37

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.

38 EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS 38

Bernie and Needles jump the last few steps and run like hell. Behind them we see Corey, atop the hill, aiming.

39 EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS 39

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.

40 EXT. BEACH - SAME 40

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.

41 EXT. BEACH - FURTHER BACK - SAME 41

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

42 EXT. BEACH - SAME 42

Bernie and Needles keep running. Needles looks back and sees Corey and Kelly in pursuit.

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:

43 INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME - TELEVISION SCREEN 43

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?

43 CONTINUED:

43

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?

44 EXT. WOODS - DAY

44

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!

45 EXT. WOODS - ELSEWHERE - BERNIE AND NEEDLES

45

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 45A

The darkness falls.

46 OMITTED 46

47 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS - THE DRAWERS 47

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 47A

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

48 EXT. HOUSE - DUSK 48

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

49 OMITTED 49

50 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT 50

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

51 INT./EXT. VAN (MOVING) - SAME 51

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

52 EXT. WOODS - SAME 52

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.

53 EXT. ROAD - SAME 53

Bernie and Needles come out of the woods onto a dark road.

53 CONTINUED:

53

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.

54 EXT. WOODS - SAME 54

Corey and Kelly are close!

55 EXT. ROAD - SAME 55

The van speeds away as Corey and Kelly exit the woods. Corey  
screams in anger.

56 EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 56

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.

57 INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 57

Bernie, Needles, and Susie enter the house. The water's  
running downstairs.

SUSIE  
(calling out)  
Joan?



57 CONTINUED:

57

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

57A

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

58

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

58A

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

59

Susie slides open the tub door to reveal--

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

Joan lying in the bathtub, dead. Wrists slashed. Water stained red. Susie screams.

SUSIE

Bernie!

59A INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

59A

Bernie runs downstairs.

59B INT. DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

59B

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.

60 INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

60

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)

60 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.

61 INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 61

Needles runs downstairs and down the hallway. Towards--

62 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 62

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--

63 INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 63

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.

64 INT. DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 64 \*

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)

64 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 knees 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!

65 OMITTED

65

66 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - SAME - SUSIE AND NEEDLES

66

react to the gunshot.

67 INT. BATHROOM - SAME

67

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.

OMITTED

68 OMITTED 68 \*

69 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - SAME 69 \*

Susie rushes to the door. \*

NEEDLES \*

What are you doing? \*

SUSIE \*

I have to see if he's okay. \*

NEEDLES \*

No--! \*

70 INT. BATHROOM - SAME 70 \*

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

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

71A INT. STAIRCASE - SAME 71A

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. \*

71B OMITTED 71B \*

72 OMITTED 72 \*

DISSOLVE TO: \*

73 EXT. BACKYARD - SUNRISE - A WOODEN CROSS 73

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