

The Chosen

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Based on an Original Idea by
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for the UK 2 Days Later Horror Film Competition

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EXT. - CEMETERY SIDEWALK - DAY

JASON (protagonist, male, early 40's) jogs down the sidewalk (RIGHT to LEFT) in front of a fenced cemetery, carrying a dirty pillow case "bag" half-full. Opening credits are shown during this protracted scene / sequence. At some point he hops over a dead, decaying body on the ground, laying across the sidewalk and partly in the street or gutter. There is trash and detritus scattered on the ground.

He turns suddenly and sharply off the sidewalk at some point away from the camera.

The scene switches...

EXT. - PARK FORESTED AREA - NIGHT

Jason is jogging / running away from the camera in a dark (-ened) forested path in the Park. (camera-wise, the same direction as he turned off of the sidewalk) At some point he exits into a wide open area, goes to the middle of the area and stops, breathing hard, looking around, even though he can't see anything.

Suddenly many flashlights come on at the same time in a wide, large circle around him and he is illuminated as if in a weak spotlight. We hear a voice on a loudspeaker.

POLICE DETECTIVE #1
Freeze. You're under arrest.

We next see Jason, freaked out, backing up slowly. And then a hand taser going off in someone's hand with the sparks and sound.

Then the taser being applied to Jason's back, and he reacts shaking and screaming as he goes to the ground.

Then handcuffs being put on him as he lays on the ground, being held down. (gloves on detective's hands? -- so you don't see that they are "zombie hands")

Then Jason being put in the back of a detective's car, with some flashing red lights.

Then a darkened police interrogation room, that you can't really see the walls of. There is a table and a chair in the middle of the room that are illuminated. There is briefly more light and then less light as the door is opened and Jason is ushered into the room and then the door is closed. Jason is sat down roughly in the chair, and his handcuffs are attached to the table. (?)

(CONTINUED)

We NEVER see the detective's faces. (in shadow, low shots, from the rear, angles, etc.)

POLICE DETECTIVE #2

I can't stay here for this. I don't know what I'll do. I don't trust myself to stay in control. Can you handle this?

POLICE DETECTIVE #1

Yes. No problem. How about some coffee?

POLICE DETECTIVE #2

Sure. And I need something to eat. Take it easy on him, will you?
(laughs derisively)

More light and then less light as the door is opened and closed. And then an "interrogation light" is turned on Jason.

POLICE DETECTIVE #1

Start talking. How many of you are there?

EXT. - BUSINESS AREA - DAY

Jason is jogging in an urban-residential area. He passes a building that has graffiti painted on the wall. In black it says "Can't we all just get along?", and below that, in red, it says, "Bite Me!"

Jason comes around a corner and there is a zombie standing there, somewhat dirty, disheveled and bloody-clothed, holding a bicycle like he is pushing it, snacking on a hand or foot. The zombie just looks at Jason, following him with his eyes, and Jason hesitates, a little startled, gets a mean/violent look on his face, but then warily keeps going.

Next Jason passes a non-zombie, who is filthy dirty and disheveled, looking in a trash can or bin, maybe with a shopping cart full of stuff like they are homeless. The person kind of waves and Jason and Jason nods slightly, barely acknowledging the person, and keeps going.

EXT. - HOUSE REAR - DAY

Jason throws the bag over a fence and hops the fence into his back yard and walks up on the back porch. He approaches a sliding glass door that is open several inches. A look of concern crosses his face as he enters (living room) warily and closes the door behind him.

INT. - HOUSE - DAY

JASON
Mara? (pause) Jade?

There is no reply. Jason stops, listening. He walks across the living room and enters the kitchen going to his left. He calls out again a little louder.

JASON
Mara?? Jade??

There is a noise behind him and Jason turns around quickly. Coming out of the dark laundry room is a MALE zombie. (LAUNDRY ROOM ZOMBIE) They both look at each other for a second, Jason in alarm, and the zombie with interest. The zombie growls / snarls.

Jason looks around and sees a large, black (, dirty?) cast iron skillet on the stove. He picks it up in a "swinging" threatening manner.

JASON
Stay back!

The zombie starts to advance toward Jason.

JASON
Stay back!

The zombie comes at Jason quickly and Jason swings and hits the zombie in the head, and blood sprays out of the zombie's mouth (and head) and it goes down to the floor. It starts to get up.

Jason then kneels down and violently slams the zombie's head three times with the skillet, getting sprayed with blood. (POV zombie) You hear a squishing-plop sound after the final hit, and you see the zombie's bloody brain slide across the floor and bounce against the kitchen wall.

Jason has a somewhat grossed-out grimace look on his face, and then his eyes go wide as he suddenly realizes that he has forgotten about Mara and Jade. He jumps up and runs toward the dark hallway.

(CONTINUED)

JASON
(frantically)
Mara!! Jade!!!

Jason searches for his wife and daughter in the bedrooms and bathroom but they are not there. He comes back down the hall into the front door foyer. There are photos on the foyer wall. One is of a younger Mara in a Belly Dancer's outfit. Another is Jade holding a black cat. The third is Jason and Jade, smiling during happier times, having a picnic at the park or pushing Jade on a swing. There is a note taped to the photo:

JASON -- WE WAITED AS LONG AS WE COULD. THE PANTRY IS BARE AND THE WATER BUCKET IS EMPTY. JADE AND I HAVE GONE TO LOOK FOR FOOD AND WATER. WE WILL MEET YOU BACK HERE. BE CAREFUL!! WE LOVE YOU!!! -- MARA & JADA

JASON
(to himself)
Empty? It was full before we left...

INT. - POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - EVENING

Jason is sitting in the interrogation room. There are crime scene photos of the dead zombie in his kitchen in front of him on the table.

POLICE DETECTIVE #1
(ALWAYS effectively unseen,
from the dark shadows)
"We"? Who is, "we"?

JASON
(tiredly, offhandedly, staring
down or off at "nothing")
Bentley -- our neighbor -- went out
with me to look for food. He
didn't make it.

POLICE DETECTIVE #1
I'm sorry to hear that.

JASON
(looking at detective)
Sure you are.

POLICE DETECTIVE #1
Who else was with you? How many
other killers?

(CONTINUED)

JASON

(V.O.?)

I did what anyone would do.

INT. - HOUSE - DAY

Jason moves decidedly into the kitchen. He opens drawers quickly, searching for something.

JASON

(angrily, stammering)

Where's all the God-damned
cu-cu-cutlery??

Jason grabs the counter and closes his eyes, breathing deeply, trying to gain control. He opens a "junk" drawer and pulls out a magnifying glass and tosses it aside, and then a pair of needle-nosed pliers, tries them out as a stabbing tool, and throws them back into the drawer. He walks back to the foyer. It is only then that he looks down and notices there is a bat leaning against the wall in the corner. He picks the bat up and looks at the photo on the wall again. (or he finds the bat in the park before or while being chased by the zombie there)

JASON

(to himself)

Where are you?

He seems to "suddenly get an idea", opens the front door and runs out.

EXT. - HOUSE FRONT - DAY

Jason runs down the walk and driveway, into and down the street. Jason runs across yards, down streets, through parking lots, and into an urban park. (quick segue)

EXT. - PARK - DAY

He crosses over a bridge with water under it, looking around, the baseball bat over his shoulder. He puts his hand to his mouth and starts to yell, but thinks twice and stops. Suddenly he turns around and his eyes get big as he looks up. We see a hulking INSANE CLOWN ZOMBIE (male, in a dirty, stained, torn, clown outfit, with fading makeup) standing there. (possibly holding helium balloons or a twisted balloon animal) He has a vicious, violent look on his face, and growls and comes at Jason.

(CONTINUED)

Jason swings at the Clown Zombie's head and connects. The bat breaks and the two pieces fly off. (out of Jason's hands -- we see the handle stick into the ground?) The Clown Zombie is mostly un-phased, his head having been knocked to his right, like he has been slapped. He looks back, even angrier, with a bloody wound on the side of his forehead. He scream-growls in anger and comes at Jason, who takes off running.

The Clown Zombie chases Jason through various parts of the park: through a baseball diamond, down a path, past some overpass columns, etc.

As they go past a fallen tree, you see a nude woman laying over it face down with her hands tied under the tree to her feet. Her hair is covering her face and she is bruised and dirty and bloody. There is a handle of a baseball bat sticking up, out of her rear. Jason runs by. As the Clown Zombie runs by, he looks at her and slows and hesitates slightly, but then keeps going after Jason.

Jason comes to another bridge that goes over a creek. He has a bit of a lead on the Clown Zombie and hesitates, then runs down beside the bridge into the creek, where we lose site of him. The Clown Zombie runs up, sniffs the air, and then runs down beside the bridge where Jason went. He goes into the creek and halfway across, stops again, and sniffs. Drops of water hit his head and face and he looks up.

Jason is standing on the bridge in the middle above the Clown Zombie, with a very large, wet rock sitting on the railing. He looks down at the Clown Zombie and pushes the rock off.

The Clown Zombie looks up with a confused, questioning look on his face, and we hear a sickening "crunch" as the film cuts to black.

INT. - POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - EVENING

Detective #1 loudly slaps a crime scene photo of the Clown Zombie down on the table in front of Jason. It shows the clown in the creek and his head is completely caved in, with the bloody rock, and blood in the water. (taking liberties with the pooling blood in the water time-wise)

POLICE DETECTIVE #1
Do you suffer from coulrophobia?

JASON
What??

(CONTINUED)

POLICE DETECTIVE #1
An extreme fear of clowns. Why else
would you kill that poor bastard?

JASON
(small snicker)
Gee, I wonder.

Police Detective #1 slams his hand down LOUDLY on the table,
making Jason jump.

POLICE DETECTIVE #1
I've had just about enough of your
crap! What makes you think you can
take the law into your own hands,
or do whatever you want? Especially
now. Yeah, you're the one we've
been looking for.

Jason doesn't respond. He just stares angrily and defiantly.

POLICE DETECTIVE #1
(like "twisting the knife")
And then there is this.

Police Detective #1 pushes a crime scene photo in front of
Jason, but we don't really see it well, although you get
brief, BLURRY glance of someone hanging from a chain by the
neck. (or not -- you might want to not show it well at all)
Jason's face darkens with pain and anguish. He looks away...

EXT. - PARK - DAY

We see blood running through water, and then Jason, who jogs
off the same bridge we last saw him on and into the park. He
is looking around. Off in the distance he sees someone
sitting in swings. He runs faster toward them.

As he approaches the swings, he slows, somewhat hesitating.
There is a young girl (JADE, 16 y.o., dirty clothes) sitting
in the swing, facing away from Jason, head down. She has the
same hair as his daughter in the photo.

JASON
(hesitantly, questioningly)
Jade?

Girl looks up slightly. (out away from Jason)

JADE
(weakly)
Daddy?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
It's getting dark, we've got to
move. Where is your mother?

Jason starts to move toward her, but stops...

JADE
(quietly)
Mommy killed herself.

JASON
What?? Oh, my God!

Jason puts his hands over his eyes, and through his hair. He doesn't know what to do or how to act. It is too much for him. But he's found his daughter.

JADE
I'm sooo hungry.

JASON
We'll find some food.

JADE
I'm sorry Daddy.

JASON
(finally approaching her)
It's okay honey. Everything is
going to be okay.

As Jason gets close to Jade, she quickly and violently turns around up and out of the swing, coming at Jason -- she is a zombie. She is growling and snarling and trying to bite him and he is fighting her off as best he can.

JASON
Jade! Stop! It's me!

She is strong, and he turns her around, facing away from him, with his arms around her, trying to stop her from biting him. Finally, he has no choice, and as they bump into the swing chain, holding her with one arm, he grabs the chain and wraps it around her neck, and then holds her tightly in both arms, leaning his head against hers.

JASON
I'm sorry... I'm so sorry...

Almost sobbing, he lifts her and drops, his full weight pulling her down. There is a sickening "snap"...

INT. - POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - EVENING

Jason is in anguish, filled with sorrow, but is emotionally drained and empty, so there is almost no reaction.

POLICE DETECTIVE #1
You killed your own daughter.

JASON
(angrily)
Who are you to judge me?

POLICE DETECTIVE #1
Get with the times. As far as
you're concerned, I am Judge, Jury,
and Executioner.

Jason looks down and then back up and starts to reply. You see a couple of drops of blood fall on the table.

Police Detective #1 jumps out of the shadows, snarling, and goes after Jason. (attempted "jump shot") Cut to black with cut-off screams of Jason.

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The ending credits will have V.O. radio and inserted TV and video news and other clips.

1) On-the-Scene crime scene news report. You see a body with a sheet over it in the background, near a swing, and some crime scene tape, etc.

REPORTER
(seen as a zombie, talking
into a microphone)
Is my makeup okay?

CAMERMAN
(off camera)
It's about as good as it's going to
get.

REPORTER
God, I hate The Weeps. Are we
rolling?

(CONTINUED)

CAMERMAN

(off camera)

Yeah.

REPORTER

Okay, here we go. Three, two, one... We're on the scene of a grisly murder. Slightly over one year after the Great Plague that devastated the world, things are just starting to get back to normal. And yet, crime and violence still plague the city. A young girl has been killed, reportedly by her own father. This man is reported to be armed and dangerous and on a city-wide killing spree. He has wounded and killed at least two dozen people in the last few weeks. Some are calling this Norm a psychopath and serial killer. Detective, what can you tell us?

POLICE DETECTIVE #1

(seen as a zombie)

No comment. Please move back and let us do our job.

POLICE DETECTIVE #2

(seen as a zombie)

We have a report of the suspect on the other side of the park.

2) Man on the Street interview:

ZOMBIE ON THE STREET

Look, I don't have anything against Norms. If they don't bother me, I won't bother them. Haven't we been through enough? Can't we all just get along? It's not like we're eating people's brains. (pause) Okay, we're eating some people's brains.

3) Radio V.O. (or TV talk show)

RADIO HOST

You're listening to WKZMB. This is Z-TALK, and I'm your host, Robert Savini. We continue now with our guest, Doctor George Rodriguez, from the ICDC. For those of you not

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RADIO HOST (cont'd)
paying attention, or with altered
mental faculties, that's the
International Center for Disease
Control. Doctor, please tell us
about your book.

DOCTOR RODRIGUEZ
Well, I think the title says it
all: "I'm A Zombie, You're A
Zombie, And That's Okay".

RADIO HOST
And that will be out this Fall?

DOCTOR RODRIGUEZ
Yes. We're having some printing and
distribution issues, as you can
imagine. The infrastructure is
slowly coming back, more and more,
day by day. So, in the Fall, with
some luck.

RADIO HOST
Perhaps you have a better
understanding of what really
happened. What is the State of the
World, if you will?

DOCTOR RODRIGUEZ
Well, reports are slow to come in.
But, as best we can estimate, about
20% of the population, worldwide,
died from the plague outright. In
the ensuing chaos -- violence,
disease, starvation -- and so
forth, about an additional 30% of
the population perished.

RADIO HOST
So, half of the world's population
is gone, is that right? About three
billion people?

DOCTOR RODRIGUEZ
Yes. In some ways we were...
lucky... that ...starvation... was
not as much of an issue as might
have otherwise been the case.
Without that scenario, the death
toll probably would have been much
higher.

RADIO HOST

And out of those of us left, how many are... "affected"?

DOCTOR RODRIGUEZ

I understand your reluctance to use the word "zombie", but, truth in advertising, shall we? Estimates are that well-over 98% of the surviving population are "zombies". Infection is mainly through contact with saliva and other bodily fluids, although, surprisingly, not as high with blood. There were very few cases of actual immunity to the disease. They are being studied, in hopes of finding a cure.

RADIO HOST

There are those, Doctor, who say, "Leave well-enough alone." We don't need to be "cured". This is the New World Order. We are in control now. We are the new human species, if you will. Stronger. Harder to kill. Agreed, oftentimes more aggressive, and with varying degrees of mental aberration. But "Survival of the Fittest". Right?

DOCTOR RODRIGUEZ

Yes, I am well aware of that sentiment. I talk about it in detail in my book.

RADIO HOST

We'll pause now for station identification. Back in a few with the Doctor. Stay tuned.

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