

When I Fall

written by

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MONTAGE

A collection of quick cut news reports, Public Service Announcements, mixed footage and social media videos starting with a report of an asteroid from outer space landing in a field in mid Idaho. Then comes a report of scientists breaking open the asteroid to reveal glowing alien crystals followed by a social media theorist discussing the presence of the crystals. The crystals get moved to a scientific lab.

A news report follows stating multiple scientists who had touched the crystals have started growing crystals on their skin. Another news report states the same scientists have grown erratic and two were missing.

The next report states that multiple individuals have reported being bitten and slashed and feelings of being lightheaded. More crystals have been spotted growing through Idaho.

Another report states one of the scientists has been caught with large crystals growing out of his body and being completely insane. He is killed by the government and we cut to two podcasters discussing the events so far. Then there's a cut to a person explaining a map with crystal sightings in multiple other states

The final few cuts are a video on social media showing an encounter with one of these crystal humans, a video from a doctor discussing the symptoms and describing the crystalization of the human brain, causing total insanity, but many symptoms are still unknown.

Finally the montage ends with a Public Service Announcement declaring a nationwide state of emergency.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Inside a dining room we see a typical American family of four: A FATHER (Mid 40s, casual, quiet) A MOTHER (Mid 40s, kind, talkative) A SISTER NAMED GIGI (8, sweet, innocent) and A BROTHER NAMED RIDER (16, typical teenage boy) all eating spaghetti and meatballs for dinner. It's a quiet, cozy setting. Before eating, they pray.

MOM

Thank you, Lord, for this food, for
our family, and for all the
blessings in our lives. Amen.

Everybody says Amen and starts eating.

MOM (CONT'D)

Did you kids hear the news? Your school's cancelled tomorrow.

GIGI

Really? How come?

MOM

The outbreak's gotten too close to our area.

RIDER

Work got cancelled too.

GIGI

How come nobody told me about this?

RIDER

We're telling you now.

MOM

You guys need to be safe out there. This virus is some crazy stuff.

RIDER

Yeah.

There's silence. Rider gets a text from his girlfriend HAILEY. It says:

COME OVER TN I'M BORED

MOM

Well anyways, just try not to be around too many people for a little. We'll be okay.

DAD

Rider, can you help me move stuff out of Joe's place tomorrow?

RIDER

Yeah.

MOM

So Gigi what'd you do at practice today?

GIGI

We got to try out the batting cages today.

MOM

Really? How'd that go?

GIGI
It was good. They even let Sarah
pitch to us.

MOM
Did you get a lot of hits?

GIGI
Yeah!

MOM
Nice.

DAD
Are you ready for your first game?

GIGI
Mm hm.

DAD
Coach say what position you're
playing?

GIGI
Third base.

DAD
Nice, nice.

Rider finishes his meal and gets up to clear his plate.

RIDER
Thanks for the dinner Mom. I gotta
go to Hailey's house real quick.

MOM
Okay, but I want you to come back
tonight. I think it's better if we
stay close.

RIDER
Sure.

Rider says bye to the rest of his family and goes out.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Rider leaves his house and gets in his car, a cheap bucket
for a teenager's first car, and drives off.

EXT. HAILEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rider hops out of his car and goes to Hailey's front yard after locking up. He looks to his left and sees a small blue crystal out of the ground in the distance.

HAILEY (16, Rider's girlfriend, sweet) opens the door and hugs him, pulling him in.

INT. HAILEY'S HOUSE - HAILEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rider and Hailey are making out on Hailey's bed. RNB music is playing softly in the background and the room is gently lit.

They take a break from kissing and lay on the bed together.

RIDER

Hey isn't this shit kinda crazy? I mean, crystals growing out of people? What the fuck is that?

HAILEY

Yeah, for me it's the fact they crystalize your brain and turn you into a zombie. That's fucked.

RIDER

Seriously.

HAILEY

It shouldn't last too long though, they can probably stop it before it goes international.

RIDER

COVID lasted for years.

HAILEY

I doubt this'll be like COVID. We can't have two mass pandemics in our lives.

Hailey smiles.

HAILEY (CONT'D)

One's enough.

Rider smiles and they kiss again and start making out.

The RNB music gradually gets louder as the camera pans outside through the window.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The RNB music plays into the scene as a man stumbles into the street outside bleeding and with small blue crystals poking out of his skin. The music goes quiet as his body twitches and he stumbles out of frame.

INT. HAILEY'S HOUSE - HAILEY'S ROOM - MORNING

Rider wakes up beside Hailey. He checks his phone to see two missed calls and a voicemail from his mom. He plays it.

MOM (VOICEMAIL)

Hey Rider, I wish you'd come home but whatever. Can you get Gigi a bag of candy when you come back? She's been bugging me all night but I'll let you deal with it. Anyways, love you. I'll see you later. Oh, yeah, and if you're gonna use my car fill it up with gas! Okay? Okay, love you. Bye.

It hangs up. Rider gently wakes up Hailey.

RIDER

Hey, I gotta go.

HAILEY

(Sleepy)

Okay.

RIDER

Love you.

HAILEY

You too.

Hailey closes her eyes and Rider kisses her forehead. He gets up and heads out.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rider pulls up to his house and sees a broken window. Puzzled, he investigates it and heads through his backyard.

In the backyard there is a broken sliding glass door.

RIDER

Hello? Is there anybody there?

There's no answer. Rider walks into the house and calls out again.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

There's no answer. He sees blood on the floor and then he sees his mom on the floor face-down.

RIDER

Mom?

Rider cautiously approaches his mom and sees her neck ripped up. His mom twitches suddenly and lunges at Rider from the ground. She's a zombie now and has small blue crystals poking out of her face.

Rider starts crying in fear and runs away. He makes his way to his sister's room and opens the door to see his zombified sister staring at him on the floor.

RIDER (CONT'D)

No, no, no, no..

Rider yells in fear and backs up against the wall. He starts yelling for help.

CUT TO BLACK.

A phone rings and an officer answers.

OFFICER (V.O.)

Hello?

(pause)

I understand, please vacate the house and find a safe area but try to keep an eye on the infected. Help is on the way.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - MORNING

Rider is sitting in his car traumatized, unable to focus on anything, dried tears. He sees 3 cars pull up to his house with government officials exiting from them. One OFFICER knocks on his window.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rider gets out of the car and sinks to the ground, completely devastated. Some neighbors are outside of their houses, confused.

OFFICER
I'm sorry this had to happen son. I
truly am.

Rider doesn't say anything.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
We're gonna have to ask you
questions, of course.

RIDER
I- I just don't want to be talked
to right now.

OFFICER
I understand, but-

Rider doesn't say anything again.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
Later then. But I come with worse
news unfortunately.

The officer looks at Rider's house.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
We're- we're

The officer puts his head down.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. We have to- For the
safety of everybody else. We-

RIDER
There's gotta be a cure right?
Experimental? You can't do that.

Rider sees a few armed soldiers enter his house. He screams
and begs, flailing around but the officer secures him and
hugs him.

RIDER (CONT'D)
(Screaming)
No!! Let me go!

Rider sobs into the officer's arms.

OFFICER
Come on, let's get in.

INT. OFFICER'S CAR - MORNING

Rider gets laid into the backseat curled up and crying. The officer starts driving and gets another call.

REPORT (RADIO)

There's been another report of
alleged infection in South San
Diego.

RIDER (TO OFFICER)

Please sir, don't let my sister
die. Please do something.

OFFICER

There's nothing I can do kid. I'm
sorry.

The radio turns back on.

REPORT (RADIO)

There's been two reported sightings
of infected persons in Bankers
Hill.

Rider looks out the window and hears gunshots from inside his house. He yells and presses his face against the window. He cries against the window as the car keeps driving away from the house.

The officer keeps driving without talking though hes clearly mournful. Reports keep coming in every couple of seconds and a little later an infected person with orange crystals is stumbling across the street.

OFFICER

Jesus.

(to Rider)

Just stay here, okay?

The officer gets out of the car.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

The officer gets out of his car and draws his handgun on the infected. He aims it, then nervously closes his eyes to shoot it. He sheds a tear and gets back to his car.

OFFICER

Infected down in Downtown.

INT. OFFICER'S CAR - MORNING

The officer gets back in the car and starts driving again, taking a deep breath. Rider is slumped against the window, staring outside. A new report radios in about another infected spotting. After a couple seconds of silence, the officer speaks up.

OFFICER

I- never just killed a civilian
like that. I don't even know.

Rider stays silent.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

But that's our orders you know.
Shoot on site. It's hard to
believe.

(pause)

It's easier to close your eyes.

RIDER

Where are you taking me?

OFFICER

A newly built safe zone. The
disease is hitting us hard all
across the city.

(pause)

What's your name? If you don't mind
me asking.

RIDER

Rider.

OFFICER

I'm Mark.

They keep driving in silence as another report radios in.

EXT. SAFE ZONE - MORNING

Officer Mark helps Rider out of the car and out into the safe zone, where they push through a crowd of people waiting in line and through a security checkpoint. Rider is tested by people in lab coats and is verified, making it past the checkpoint.

Mark guides Rider to a FEMALE VOLUNTEER (30s).

MARK

Alright, I've gotta go back out there but this woman will help you with everything you need. There's clothes, food, beds, all you need. Okay?

Rider nods and hugs Mark. He cries on Mark's shoulder.

MARK (CONT'D)

You're gonna be okay.

Mark goes back out the checkpoint and Rider goes with the woman.

INT. WELLNESS ROOM - LATER

Rider is sitting in a large room full of beds and refugees. He is laying on a bed replaying the voicemail his mom left him.

The door to the room opens and Hailey comes in. Rider is shocked as Hailey heads over to him crying. Rider stands up and they hug.

HAILEY

Oh my god Rider, I'm so sorry.

They hug for a while then Hailey sits on the bed. She starts crying again which causes Rider to cry again and they hug.

HAILEY (CONT'D)

I don't know what to do.

RIDER

Just stay here for a while.

HAILEY

Rider, my family's leaving. We have family in Texas, and the virus hasn't hit there yet.

RIDER

What?

HAILEY

I think I can convince my parents to take you too. Come with me.

RIDER

Hailey, I don't think I'm gonna make it.

HAILEY

What do you mean?

RIDER

My whole family's gone. I can't go on living. Everything's fucked up.

HAILEY

No Rider. No, no that's not, don't say that.

As Rider talks he starts to break down.

RIDER

I have to stay here but I can't live with it much longer. I was supposed to come home that night and I probably would've got home late enough to stop the zombies from getting in. I would've been awake.

HAILEY

No, we don't know that. You could've died too. Look, I'll come back to visit you as soon as it's safe. Stay alive, for me. Okay?

RIDER

(sullenly)

Okay.

HAILEY

You really do have so much time left. Things'll get better, just not for a while. But they will get better.

(pause)

Hey, look at me.

Hailey lifts Rider's head and looks in his eyes.

HAILEY (CONT'D)

Promise me you won't kill yourself.

RIDER

Promise you'll come back for me then.

HAILEY

I will. I promise.

RIDER

Ok.

INT. WELLNESS ROOM - DAY

Rider is sitting at a table in the wellness room for lunchtime alone. There are some people around the room talking to each other. Rider hasn't touched his food.

Officer Mark comes into the room and sits with Rider. He has a cup of coffee.

MARK

Hey.

RIDER

Hi.

MARK

You doing better?

RIDER

A little.

MARK

Good, good.

Mark notices that Rider isn't eating.

MARK (CONT'D)

You should eat when you can. It's not good to starve yourself.

RIDER

Maybe tomorrow.

MARK

That would be good. Take care of yourself okay?

Rider nods.

EXT. ROOF - SUNSET

Rider and Mark walk up onto the roof of a building overlooking the checkpoint. There are multiple smoke signals and occasional gunshots in the background. A couple people are also watching, sitting and talking.

MARK

Jesus, this is unbelievable.

RIDER

Yeah.

MARK
Do you need anything?

RIDER
No.

MARK
Alright.

They go to some seats and sit down together.

INT. WELLNESS ROOM - NIGHT

The lights are out and everybody is in their beds. Rider sits alone staring emptily at the floor.

Visions pop into the head of his dead family and he puts his hand on his forehead.

INT. WELLNESS ROOM - DAY

Rider is eating his food and looks exhausted. Mark comes in again.

MARK
You look exhausted.

RIDER
I can't sleep that much.

MARK
You want coffee?

Rider nods and Mark hands him his cup. Rider takes some sips and offers it. Mark shakes his head no.

MARK (CONT'D)
I'm glad you're eating.

RIDER
I'm leaving today.

MARK
Why?

RIDER
I have to go home for a little bit.

MARK
Are you sure? It's not safe over there.

RIDER
Yeah, I have to.

MARK
Okay. Then you're coming back?

RIDER
I don't think so. I don't really
like it here.

MARK
I don't think you should go. I'll
head up for you.

RIDER
You're not my fucking dad. I'm
going.

MARK
Let me come with you then.

RIDER
No.

MARK
How are you gonna get there without
a car?

Rider sighs.

INT. MARK'S CAR - DAY

Rider and Mark are driving together. They look out the window
to see zombies everywhere. Mark hands Rider a gun.

MARK
Just watch out.

They pass government agents with bodies lined up in rows
being burnt. The agents are heavily armed and stare down the
car but Mark and Rider keep driving.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Mark and Rider arrive at the edge of the town. There are
bodies everywhere and an intense dread in the atmosphere and
some crystals scattered around. Rider sheds a tear.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - DAY

Rider and Mark arrive outside Rider's house. They both get out of the car and walk up to the front door. The house has a DO NOT ENTER sign in the lawn with many other houses having them too. Rider cuts in front of Mark.

RIDER
Wait outside.

MARK
Sure?

RIDER
Yeah.

Mark takes a step back as Rider goes in.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rider steps into his house. The lights are out and the sun is shining in from the blinds. He sees four body bags laying side by side on the floor. It's his family.

Rider looks at the bodies, too many emotions in his head. He just stares for a while, contemplating. Then he pulls out a KNIFE and presses it to his arm.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - DAY

Mark is waiting patiently outside and sees a VIOLET CRYSTAL ZOMBIE, a man still somewhat human, but clearly gone. It starts running towards Mark, followed by a horde of 30 or so zombies with variations of crystal colors.

Mark goes into his trunk and grabs his shotgun. He fires off a few rounds as the zombies get closer before running in the house.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mark locks the door and sees Rider sitting against the wall with blood streaming down his arms.

MARK
Rider..

Mark runs into the bathroom and comes out with bandages. He patches Rider's wounds who snaps out of his haze, clearly confused. Mark radios in for help.

MARK (CONT'D)
I'm gonna get us out of here.
You'll be okay.

RIDER
I came to bury them. But I guess I
forgot.. how it is.

MARK
I can do it.

Rider nods.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DUSK

Mark has three holes dug in the backyard and is burying
Rider's mom. His dad and sister are already in their graves.

As he carries the body to the final grave, a crystal poking
out of the mom's head is poking out of the body bag as well
and rubs against Mark's wrist. He just wipes it off and puts
her in the grave.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Rider looks out the window. The zombies are gone now. Mark
comes back in after finishing the burial.

RIDER
I'm gonna stay here. I'm moving
into a house down the street.

MARK
We should go back, Rider. This
isn't a good place.

RIDER
I just need a couple weeks here.
Then we can go back. Or you could
right now if you want.

MARK
I'll stay.

RIDER
Thank you, seriously.

EXT. STREET - DUSK

Mark and Rider get back in the car.

INT. MARK'S CAR - DUSK

Mark and Rider are driving and Mark notices a weird feeling. Rider's looking out the window as Mark pulls up his sleeve to see a nasty rash forming.

EXT. NEW HOUSE - DUSK

Rider gets out of the car with Mark outside a pretty nice house.

RIDER

What do you think? Could we live here for a little?

MARK

Yeah, but I actually can't stay. I have to go back to San Diego.

Rider is surprised by Mark's sudden switch up, but doesn't know what's happening yet.

RIDER

Oh..

MARK

Are you sure you can survive out here? I'll have someone come up.

RIDER

Why are you leaving?

MARK

I gotta get back to work. You know.

RIDER

Oh, okay. Right.

(beat)

Okay, trust me. I'll take care of myself. I'll be back to San Diego in a few weeks to see you.

Mark painfully nods. He goes in his car and hands Rider his coffee mug.

MARK

Uh, take this.

Mark gives Rider a smile.

RIDER

Okay?

Mark takes his shotgun off his back and drapes it over Rider's shoulder.

MARK

And this.

Then he gives Rider a walkie talkie.

MARK (CONT'D)

Keep this with you.

Mark goes back to get in his car.

MARK (SHAKILY) (CONT'D)

Rider, I.. I need you to take care of yourself okay?

RIDER

Yeah.

Mark nods and gets back in his car.

RIDER (CONT'D)

Bye!

MARK

Bye!

Rider goes into his new house and Mark starts his car.

INT. NEW HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Rider looks around his new house then looks outside his window. Mark's still in the street, just sitting in silence. Rider knows something's up.

Mark drives off.

INT. NEW HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rider is laying in his bed looking up at the ceiling. The walkie talkie buzzes.

VOICE (WALKIE)

Rider Williams?

Rider sits up and talks into the walkie.

RIDER

Here.

VOICE

This is Officer Barnes of the San Diego Police Department. Mark Beckett told us to contact you.

RIDER

Oh yeah, what is it?

VOICE

Officer Beckett killed himself after dropping you off and wants us to pick you up.

Rider's eyes widen. He is in disbelief and hysteria.

VOICE (CONT'D)

He contacted a crystal out there and ended his life to avoid infection. He messaged us before he did so. We're sending a rescue team up there.

RIDER

No.. let me stay. I don't wanna go back.

VOICE

Are you sure?

RIDER

Yes, yes.

VOICE

It's not recommended.

RIDER

I know.

VOICE

If you ever need assistance, radio us. Stay safe.

Rider tosses the radio aside and stares at the wall.

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPER: 4 YEARS LATER

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

A now 20 year old Rider wakes up from his bed in a new empty house. He gets dressed, puts Mark's handgun in his waist, and puts a black crystal necklace around his neck.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Rider walks out of the house to a ruined empty ghost town, nearly unrecognizable from before. He's living in a different house, a fancy house with a reinforced gate. Crystals of different colors are frequent around the town.

He hops the gate then casually walks to his car, a nice fancy car (preferably a Porsche) and gets in.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - MORNING

Rider gets in the car and looks in the rear-view mirror. He sees a blue crystal zombie distantly straggling in the background. In his car there's a shotgun, duffel bag, basketball and axe in the backseat. He drives off.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - MORNING

Rider pulls into the driveway of an abandoned house. He gets the shotgun and duffel bag out of his backseat and goes in the house.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - MORNING

Rider enters the abandoned house with his shotgun drawn. He explores the house for a little before finding a liquor cabinet. He takes several bottles and puts them in the bag.

Then he gets upstairs and opens the door to a room. It's a little kid's room, full of toys that haven't been touched in years.

He goes into the master bedroom next and goes through the drawers. He sees money and grabs it then heads down to the garage.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - GARAGE - MORNING

Rider gets in the garage and is scared by a rat. He finds a box of canned food and checks their expiration dates, putting some in the bag. He then manages to find some blu-ray movies in a box that he dumps into his bag. Rider laughs.

RIDER
What the fuck?

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - MORNING

The garage door opens and Rider comes out with his bag. A green crystal zombie walks in a close vicinity to him so Rider aims his shotgun and shoots the zombie.

He gets back in his car and drives off. The zombie gets back up and slightly heals, struggling about.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Rider drives to a park with a basketball court. There's three blue crystal zombies straggling about. Rider hops out the car with the basketball.

He pulls out his gun and kills all three zombies then starts to play basketball.

We see a TIME LAPSE as Rider plays basketball until dusk. He gets back in his car and drives off.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rider gets back to his house and hops the fence again with his duffel bag. He goes around the back of the house where there's two generators and he turns them on.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rider gets into his house and goes to his pantry. It's full of canned foods.

Right next to that is the liquor cabinet filled with all kinds of alcohol. He puts all the alcohol away except for a bottle of Hennessy that he takes with him.

He goes to the kitchen and opens a cooler with a couple soft drinks in it. He grabs a coke and makes himself a drink.

After that he makes a quick peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Then he puts a CD into a CD player connected to a projector in his living room as he sits on the couch alone.

He watches a movie while eating and drinking. He gets frustrated and gets up to grab the Hennessy again. He looks into the bottle and downs a big gulp, then another, then another.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Rider wakes up hungover on the couch. The projector is just displaying no signal. Rider stumbles over to a radio and talks into it.

RIDER

Hello, is anybody there? It's
Rider, requesting a delivery.

A few seconds pass with no answer. Rider closes his eyes and sighs.

RADIO

Rider, it's Joe. What would you
like to request this time?

RIDER

A hundred gallons of gas, a box of
soda, a box of chocolate bars, and
shit,

(pause)

Uh, 5 pounds of chicken, 3 pounds
of ground beef, 3 pounds of steak,
10 pounds of assorted vegetables,
10 pounds of assorted fruit, 5
loafs of sourdough bread, 5 boxes
of pasta, 5 boxes of mac and
cheese, 5 cans of pasta sauce, 2
cartons of eggs and like 3 pounds
of salmon.

RADIO

Are you sure? That's an expensive
delivery.

RIDER

Yeah man it's fine. I hit some
houses recently.

RADIO

That's \$9,000.

RIDER

Alright.

RADIO

Rider, how have you been holdin' up since the power and internet got disabled?

RIDER

Just living on generators.

RADIO

There's room in San Diego. It's a lot better than how you're doing right now.

RIDER

I already said I'm staying here. There's nothing for me in that big city. This has always been my home.

RADIO

I get it, but it's gonna get harder over there. We got electricity and internet.

RIDER

That's nice for you, but I'm okay.

RADIO

Your delivery should be there tomorrow.

RIDER

Alright, thanks.

RADIO

Take care.

Rider gets off the radio and lays back down again.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rider hops the fence to his house again, this time not as smooth. Still, he gets to his car and drives off.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DAY

Rider goes into another deserted house wielding his shotgun. He looks around to see a confederate flag and other white trash decor.

He walks around to see a locked door.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - DAY

Rider grabs the axe from his car.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DAY

Rider uses the axe to chop through the locked door, and makes his way into the room. He sees a safe, an expensive scoped assault rifle, and multiple filled magazines for the gun.

Rider hits the safe with his axe multiple times, grunting and yelling until finally the safe breaks open.

A couple thousand dollars are in the safe as Rider, sweaty and tired, grabs it and the assault rifle, and heads out.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Rider gets to his room and tosses all his stuff aside.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

A close up on the empty Hennessy bottle Rider had been drinking. It suddenly explodes as we see Rider was using it as target practice for his new rifle. He's laying on the roof shooting things.

He looks to his right and sees a green crystal zombie in the distance. He aims and fires, but misses. He fires and misses again. Finally on the third shot we see a little pop and the zombie goes down before getting up again.

He looks to his left and sees the supply truck incoming. He stands up and puts his gun away as the truck nears his home.

He makes his way down and waits for the truck to get to his driveway. First a heavily armed soldier hops out of the passenger seat, then JOE (Guy from radio, 40s, old fashioned) gets out of the driver's seat followed by 2 young men in the backseat.

Rider manually pushes part of the gate open and steps out to greet Joe.

JOE
How are ya Rider?

RIDER

Hanging in there, I guess.

Joe looks around the desolate area.

JOE

You get lonely out here? You always make it sound like paradise but to me it's just an empty desert.

RIDER

I get lonely most days but it's nice, I don't mind. Money can be easy to come by, and though the zombies don't bother me much, there's still enough to kill. It's quiet too.

JOE

Yeah, until ya get a damn cult or Nazi group to pass by. We don't got them in San Diego.

RIDER

They don't come around too often and I've never been around them face to face.

JOE

Well we'll get ya stuff dropped off and let you have the town to yourself. Where's the money?

RIDER

Oh, I gotta grab it. I'll be back.

Rider heads into the house as Joe looks around again. He shakes his head and lights up a cigarette.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Rider is counting the money on his bed. He gets the \$9000 and heads back out.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rider comes out and gives Joe the money. He goes in the car and starts putting it in a money counting machine.

RIDER

You got a money counter in your car? That's impressive.

JOE
They just put 'em in all the
trucks. It makes our job easier.

RIDER
Yeah, but you guys upped your
prices.

JOE
You ain't heard? A new wave of reds
and violets hit the area so trips
are more dangerous. 1 in 5 trucks
don't make it home.

RIDER
Damn, I didn't hear that.

JOE
I mean, it's God's miracle I'm
still here.

RIDER
You still believe in God?

JOE
Yeah. And you should.

RIDER
Nah. God wouldn't let the world get
to this point.

The counter finishes counting the money. Joe waves the two
young men who start grabbing supplies and bringing them into
the house.

JOE
Plus those Liberty Boys rob and
kill us all the time. Shit's
dangerous.

A TIME LAPSE occurs as all the guys except the armed guard
bring things from the supply truck to the house until it gets
dark.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rider is having a beer with Joe and the other guys sitting in
lawn chairs outside.

JOE
You know, I see why you like it out
here sometimes.

RIDER

Yeah.

JOE

But you need a woman in your life.

Joe chuckles.

RIDER

I had one, back before the
apocalypse.

JOE

She turn?

RIDER

Nah, not that I know. She went to
Texas with her family. She said she
was gonna come back for me, then
never did.

JOE

That's rough.

RIDER

I still wonder why she never came
back. It doesn't make sense.

JOE

You never went looking for her?

RIDER

Once, two years ago. I made it to
New Mexico, but there's a lot of
zombies and crazies out there.

JOE

Sure.

RIDER

I just think she's dead by now. She
would've come back.

The armed guard sees a green crystal zombie approaching in
the distance and calls out before shooting them down. The
zombie tries to get up but the guard empties the rest of the
clip into the zombie's head. It doesn't get up this time.

JOE

You gotta come visit San Diego one
day. It couldn't hurt.

RIDER

Maybe one day.

Joe checks his watch.

JOE

Well, we gotta head back. See ya
Rider, assuming I make it.
(grin)

RIDER

Safe travels.

Joe pats Rider on the back then the guys get back in the truck and drive off. Rider is alone again.

Rider reaches in his jean pocket and pulls out a photo of his family. He puts his head down for a second.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Rider is sleeping deep in the night when we hear engines, yells of glory, and gunshots outside.

This wakes Rider up and he looks through his window. Through the window we can slightly see a group of white men driving 4 wheelers and motorcycles yelling and some shooting guns into the air.

These are the Liberty Boys, a white supremacist post apocalyptic group that goes around murdering people.

They drive off into the town out of sight. Rider pulls his big gun out of the closet and sets it on his bedside table before going back to bed.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

With his new ingredients and generator working Rider is making himself steak and eggs. Sometimes in the distance we hear gunshots from the Liberty Boys.

Rider pours some alcohol to accompany his breakfast.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rider looks around, then hops the fence and ducks into the neighborhood.

EXT. BUILDING - DAY

Rider climbs up to the roof of a tall building and manages to spot the Liberty Boys' camp from the distance. He looks through his scope and sees heavily armed people.

He moves the scope around and sees a horde of zombies migrating North of town.

He moves the scope a little to the right and sees a small marijuana farm.

EXT. TOWN - SUNRISE

A car drives into town.

INT. CAR - SUNRISE

A GIRL (AALIYAH, 19, mixed, relaxed) and her FATHER (RANDY, 68, black, old school) are in the car. Aaliyah is driving and they're playing RNB. There's a black crystal hanging from a string on the rear-view mirror.

AALIYAH

But out of all the places in Italy,
which place was your favorite?

RANDY

Man, I'd say Milan.

AALIYAH

God, I would love to go to Milan.

RANDY

It's beautiful.

AALIYAH

Hopefully one day.

They pass a park.

RANDY

This was the park the east-side
kids hung at. Me and your uncle
fought a couple of those guys here.

Randy chuckles and continues to look around.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Turn right here.

AALIYAH

Okay.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Rider is going through pictures of his family in a photo book. He has a deep sad look on his face and looks at a particular photo of him smiling with his sister as kids.

INT. AALIYAH'S CAR - MORNING

Aaliyah and Randy arrive in Randy's old cul-de-sac. There's a somewhat high density of zombies in the area. Mostly blue and green crystal zombies with a red crystal zombie as well as a yellow crystal one.

AALIYAH

What should we do?

RANDY

Let's get out here. We're gonna have to hurry to the house.

AALIYAH

Just get out now?

RANDY

Yeah, these guys can't be that fast.

AALIYAH

What about our stuff?

RANDY

Just come back for it! They ain't gonna take it.

Aaliyah parks the car and opens the door.

EXT. AALIYAH'S CAR - MORNING

Aaliyah gets out and runs to the other side to help her dad out of the car. The zombies notice them and start walking slowly.

Aaliyah runs to the trunk to get her dad's cane and then the yellow and red crystal zombies start sprinting towards the car.

RANDY

Oh lord!

Aaliyah looks and reaches into the trunk.

RANDY (CONT'D)
Aaliyah, run!

Randy gets back in the car.

INT. AALIYAH'S CAR - MORNING

Randy tries to head into the driver's seat. The yellow crystal zombie runs up to the car and smashes through the window, reaching in and grabbing Randy's leg. Randy screams.

Aaliyah has a handgun now and tries to shoot the zombies but the safety's on.

RANDY
Turn off the safety!

Randy reaches in the back and tries to get a beer bottle from the floor.

EXT. AALIYAH'S CAR - MORNING

Meanwhile the red crystal zombie rushes at Aaliyah and slams her to the ground. She yells but gets the safety off and shoots the zombie, who falls beside her. Her ears start ringing.

Aaliyah gets up covered in zombie blood and almost pukes.

INT. AALIYAH'S CAR - MORNING

The zombie squeezes Randy's leg badly crushing the bone. Aaliyah runs up from behind and shoots the zombie in the head, causing it to fall on the broken window.

EXT. AALIYAH'S CAR - MORNING

Aaliyah pulls the zombies out of the car and on to the ground. She opens the door and sees another zombie, which runs at her but she guns it down.

She pulls her dad out of the car and they hurry to the house.

RANDY
Aaliyah, are you okay?

AALIYAH
(frantic)
Yeah, which house is it??

Some of the other zombies notice them and shift a little bit.

RANDY
That one right there!

He points to a house a couple houses down and Aaliyah heads over there, holding her dad in one arm and a gun in the other.

RANDY (CONT'D)
Under the rock!

Randy points and Aaliyah picks up a rock from the lawn. She grabs the key from under it and unlocks the door. She runs back to Randy and gets him in the house before getting the key again and locking the door.

INT. RANDY'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Aaliyah sets Randy on a couch in the living room. Aaliyah is shaking and traumatized. She sits on the floor and starts crying in confusion and fear.

RANDY
Hey, it's okay, we're here. Come here.

Aaliyah gets up and Randy hugs her. She puts her face in his shoulder and sobs.

RANDY (CONT'D)
This is my mom's couch. I haven't sat here in 35 years.

Randy smiles. His leg is very broken.

AALIYAH
Are you okay?

RANDY
I hope.

Randy lets out a heavy sigh.

RANDY (CONT'D)
At least we made it.

AALIYAH

I'll go look for something to help you but I'll get our stuff from the car when it's not as dangerous.

RANDY

Okay, thank you.

INT. RANDY'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - MORNING

Aaliyah looks at herself in the mirror. She's bloody and scared. She tries to turn on the water but there is none.

She goes in the bottom cupboard and finds gauze bandages. She also tries to use an old towel to wipe off the blood, but it doesn't do much.

INT. RANDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Aaliyah comes back on and starts patching up her dad's leg.

AALIYAH

Dad, there's no water here.

RANDY

Then we'll just have to use the lake to bathe. We'll go over tomorrow.

AALIYAH

Okay.

Aaliyah pulls out her phone and tries to go on it.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)

No service either.

RANDY

Don't worry, we're only here for a week.

EXT. BUILDING - SUNSET

Rider climbs up to the roof of the watching building again, this time with a bag. He gets set up and reaches in his bag to get a candy bar. He eats it as he looks through the scope at the Liberty Boys camp.

He sees two of them riding on 4 wheelers back to camp with some dead animals, a group of 3 smoking weed and some others just around the camp. There is a green zombie strung up on a pole for torture. Rider mutters to himself.

RIDER
Come on, just leave.

INT. RANDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Randy is sleeping on the couch and Aaliyah is in a chair drawing in her sketchbook. There's a couple candles lit. Aaliyah gets up and looks out the window.

There's only two green crystal zombies outside and they don't seem provoked. Aaliyah gently shakes her dad awake.

AALIYAH
Dad, I'm gonna go get our stuff now.

RANDY
Oh, okay. Be careful.

EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - NIGHT

Aaliyah quietly gets outside and slowly makes her way over to the car, watching the zombies the entire time.

She makes it to the car and opens the trunk. She quickly takes out two suitcases and a bag and puts them on the ground.

She closes the trunk, grabs them, and runs back to the house. She gets in the house and slams the door shut.

INT. RANDY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aaliyah gasps and slowly sinks to the ground against the wall, collecting herself.

RANDY
Are you okay?

AALIYAH
Yeah.

RANDY
Alright. Get some sleep cuz tomorrow we're going to the house.

AALIYAH

Okay.

Aaliyah goes in the bag and gets a bottle of water. She pours it on her hand and washes her face to get some blood off.

EXT. BUILDING - MORNING

Rider is back at the building watching the Liberty Boys and sees Randy and Aaliyah's car driving into the neighborhood. The Liberty Boys notice too.

RIDER

What?

Aaliyah parks in the driveway of a house and gets out. She helps her dad out of the car. The Liberty Boys talk to each other and watch Aaliyah and Randy enter the house. They don't notice the Liberty Boys who start walking towards the house.

INT. HOUSE - MORNING

Aaliyah and Randy make it into the house. Aaliyah smiles. She starts looking around the house.

RANDY

Be careful, you never know what could be in the house.

AALIYAH

Dad?

RANDY

Yeah?

AALIYAH

What's one place you wanted to go to that you never did?

RANDY

Hawaii.

AALIYAH

Shit, Hawaii would be incredible.

A Liberty Boy looks through the window at Randy, who doesn't notice. The Liberty Boy disappears.

Aaliyah comes back to the front where her dad is.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)

Dad, do you need help?

RANDY
Oh, it's fine.

There's a loud knock at the door that scares both of them. They then hear glass shatter and look at each other.

AALIYAH
What's happening?

RANDY
I don't know.

A Liberty Boy walks into the room with an assault rifle in his hands. Aaliyah yells and Randy opens the door to see another waiting.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

The Liberty Boy throws Randy on the ground and grabs Aaliyah by her hair. She yells and starts clawing at him who pulls her hair hard and kicks her to the ground. She tries to run but more Liberty Boys arrive with guns pointed.

LIBERTY BOY 1
Don't fucking move!

Aaliyah freezes.

AALIYAH
No, please! Please!

A Liberty Boy pushes her to the ground. One of the Liberty Boys talks to the one who just talked.

LIBERTY BOY 2
What should we do chief? I say have some fun.

LIBERTY BOY 1
Rough em up a little bit.

A Liberty Boy kicks Aaliyah in the face. She starts crying and pleading. Another hits Randy in the face the butt of his rifle. Randy falls unconscious. Then Randy gets kicked in the ribs.

The beating continues with the Liberty Boys saying slurs and groping Aaliyah. We back up and see Rider stealthily walk up with his gun.

Not noticed by the Liberty Boys, Rider finds a good angle to shoot and aims his gun.

He starts shooting, hitting two Liberty Boys before ducking into the backyard of the house he's in front of. The Liberty Boys return fire and charge after him.

Back to Aaliyah and Randy, who are beaten and traumatized, with Randy knocked out and Aaliyah giving an empty stare at the ground. One of the Liberty Boys is still alive and turning all over the ground. Gunfire is heard in the background.

Aaliyah gets herself up and carries her dad over to a house. More Liberty Boys pop out of the camp and shoot but miss as Aaliyah makes it into the backyard.

EXT. BACKYARD - MORNING

Rider hops the fence to a backyard while getting chased and goes into the house next to the one Aaliyah and Randy are at.

INT. HOUSE - MORNING

Rider runs to the front door and opens it, then going up the staircase and waiting in the shadows with his gun drawn.

The Liberty Boys run in the house yelling and rush towards the front door when Rider pops out and shoots at The Liberty Boys.

Only one of them manages to get a shot off which misses Rider as they all fall. Rider walks up on them and finishes them off. He reloads his gun and heads out.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Rider engages in a shootout with the remaining Liberty Boys. He lets off a couple shots and goes back into the house.

EXT. BACKYARD - MORNING

Rider goes back into the backyard and hops the fence into the same backyard Aaliyah and Randy are in. Aaliyah screams but Rider comforts her.

RIDER

Shh, I'm not here to hurt you!

Aaliyah pulls out her handgun.

RIDER (CONT'D)
Hey, hey don't shoot me, I'm your
only chance at surviving.

He waits a second for her to calm down a little.

RIDER (CONT'D)
It's okay, it's okay.

AALIYAH
Please, I don't wanna die.

RIDER
Look, I need your help. I need you
to shoot at those guys from the
house a little bit. I'm gonna go in
from the back to kill them, all you
gotta do is buy me time. Can you do
that?

AALIYAH
I- I don't know.

RIDER
All you have to do is shoot at them
when they look like they're coming
out, okay?

AALIYAH
Okay, okay.

RIDER
Lock in okay? You can do it, I
promise. Just distract them.
There's not a lot of ammo, so just
do it a little, okay?

Aaliyah nods. Rider hops the fence into another backyard,
leaving the gun for Aaliyah. She picks it up and goes inside
with her still unconscious father.

EXT. HIDEOUT - MORNING

Rider sneaks his way to the gate of the hideout as Aaliyah
can be heard shooting infrequently. Rider hops the gate and
now is in.

INT. HIDEOUT - MORNING

The three remaining Liberty Boys are huddled up looking out the window with their guns and Rider sneaks in through the door. He raises his handgun and coldly aims at the back of their heads.

INT. HOUSE - MORNING

Aaliyah is hiding behind the wall holding the gun when she hears a lot of gunshots from the hideout. She peeks out with her gun raised.

EXT. HIDEOUT - MORNING

Through Aaliyah's POV we see the door of the hideout. For a second nothing happens then there's two more gunshots.

After a few seconds Rider finally walks out of the hideout.

RIDER
It's okay, they're gone.

INT. HOUSE - MORNING

Randy starts to wake up and Aaliyah rushes over to him.

AALIYAH
Hey, it's okay. It's over now.

Rider makes it to the door. He waits in the doorway and Aaliyah looks over to him.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
Thank you. Without you- they
would've done horrible things.

RIDER
Are you okay?

AALIYAH
Yeah, I think so. Who are those
guys?

RIDER
The Liberty Boys, a white
supremacist group.

Rider sighs.

RIDER (CONT'D)
You need to have better awareness
out here.

There's silence. Aaliyah has her head down.

RIDER (CONT'D)
I'm Rider.

Aaliyah puts her head up.

AALIYAH
Aaliyah. And Randy.

She motions toward her dad.

RIDER
You guys need to get cleaned up. My
house is like a 5 minute walk from
here. There's water, food, and
other stuff you might need.

Aaliyah reluctantly nods.

AALIYAH
Okay.

RIDER
Here, I'll go get my car really
quick and pick you guys up. I don't
want him walking so stay here.

AALIYAH
Are you sure it's safe?

RIDER
Only eight of them came into town
and I counted how many I shot. I'm
pretty sure they're all dead but in
case one isn't just try to hide
until I get back.

AALIYAH
Stay safe okay?

RIDER
You stay safe. I'll be fine.

Rider and Aaliyah share a glance before Rider heads out.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rider gets back to his car and unlocks it.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - MORNING

Rider goes in the back and puts the shotgun and axe in the front seat. He takes out empty bottles of alcohol and throws them into the street. Then he gets in his car and starts to drive off.

INT. HOUSE - MORNING

Aaliyah is helping a concussed Randy.

RANDY
What's going on?

AALIYAH
The attackers are gone. Somebody saved us.

RANDY
Saved us?

AALIYAH
Your head got hurt. Try to just relax.

RANDY
Ugh.

Rider pulls up in his car and gets out. He comes inside to help get Randy up.

RIDER
Hey man, you okay?

RANDY
I'm dizzy.

RIDER
Let's get in the car. Come on.

RANDY
Who are you?

AALIYAH
He's the one who saved us.

RANDY
What?

AALIYAH
We'll talk later, just get in okay?

Aaliyah gets up with Randy and Rider guides them out.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Everybody gets out of the house. We see the aftermath of the battle, with bodies on the street and blood stains on the ground. Randy's head is bothered by the sunlight as he tries to avoid looking at it.

Randy gets in the backseat and Aaliyah goes to the other side. Rider gets in and shifts it out of park.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - MORNING

Rider starts driving. Randy has his head down and Aaliyah is spaced out, still shook. Rider looks back for a second.

RIDER

There's water somewhere back there.
Give it to him.

Rider looks back forward as Aaliyah looks for the water. She finds a water bottle and gives it to Randy who starts drinking it.

AALIYAH

Thank you for all you've done.

Rider nods as he keeps driving. There's silence until they arrive at Rider's house.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rider gets out and opens the door for Randy. Aaliyah gets out.

RIDER

(to Aaliyah)

I made it so the only way in or out
is to hop the fence. We're gonna
have to get him up there.

Randy gets out.

RIDER (CONT'D)

(to Randy)

You think you can get up there?

RANDY

I'm not sure.

Rider looks at his patched up leg.

RIDER
Alright then. Aaliyah, come help.

Rider gets up to the top of the fence and starts pulling Randy up. Aaliyah guides his legs up until he makes it to the top with Rider. Aaliyah gets up as Rider hops down on the other side.

RIDER (CONT'D)
Okay, now lower him down.

Aaliyah holds Randy and slowly lowers him down as Rider grabs him on the ground. Finally, Randy makes it. Rider sets Randy and reaches for Aaliyah. She jumps down and Rider slightly catches her. Aaliyah is a little surprised but just brushes it off.

Rider unlocks the door and opens it.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Rider gets in and Randy and Aaliyah follow behind. Rider turns to Aaliyah.

RIDER
Let's get him sat down on the couch over there. There's a shower over there for you, I just have to turn on the generator.

AALIYAH
(reluctantly)
Okay.

Aaliyah takes Randy to the couch. He lays down and rests. Rider goes into his room and comes out with a shirt and pants.

RIDER
You can change into these for now.

AALIYAH
Thanks.

RIDER
I'm gonna head out to bury the bodies but there's food and drinks and everything. Just don't go in my room.

He points to his room. Aaliyah nods. Rider goes in his room real quick and Aaliyah looks around at the house.

She's curious. A couple seconds later Rider comes out in a jacket and heads out the door.

EXT. HIDEOUT - DAY

Rider drags the last body into a pile of eight bodies in the dirt outside the hideout. There's a giant hole dug in the ground. He has all the guns in a pile as well as some of their valuables.

He rolls the bodies into the hole and gets his shovel. He shovels dirt into the holes.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SUNSET

Randy wakes up from his nap. Aaliyah is cleaned up with a little bandage on her head and she's eating cereal.

AALIYAH

Are you feeling better now?

RANDY

Yeah. So what's going on?

AALIYAH

We got attacked by some white supremacists and then this guy named Rider killed them all and took us here. We're safe, I think.

RANDY

We can't trust anyone out here, especially some guy living alone in the middle of nowhere.

AALIYAH

Yeah but I don't know. He seems different. He seems normal.

RANDY

Normal? Why is he out here alone?

AALIYAH

It's not our concern. We'd be dead by now if he wasn't here, that's all I know.

RANDY

I'm hurt pretty bad. It's gonna be hard for me to go anywhere for a while.

AALIYAH
That's not good.

Just then Rider opens the door and gets in the house. He's got a sack with guns and valuables.

RIDER
Oh, you're up. How are you feeling?

RANDY
My ribs, they might be broken. But
I think my concussion's gone. I
can't walk.

RIDER
I can't really help, sorry. But you
can stay here for now.

He turns to talk to Aaliyah.

RIDER (CONT'D)
There's an extra bedroom over there
to the right. Do what you want, but
I'm gonna shower and then go to
sleep.

AALIYAH
Wait, you're not gonna eat?

Rider chuckles.

RIDER
Thanks for looking out for me, but
I'm not hungry.

AALIYAH
That's not good for you.

RIDER
I just killed and buried 8 people
so I might've lost my appetite a
little. I'll see you tomorrow
though.

AALIYAH
Okay.

RIDER
Good night.

Aaliyah nods and Rider goes into his room.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Rider wakes up and hears noise coming from inside the house. He puts on some clothes and walks into the living room.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Aaliyah is making eggs and bacon for breakfast while Randy is reading. Rider is shocked.

RIDER
What are you doing?

AALIYAH
Making breakfast?

There's silence.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
Oh, sorry! Was I not supposed to touch your stuff?

RIDER
Oh, no. It's fine I guess.

AALIYAH
Do you want any?

RIDER
Uh, no thanks.

Rider goes out onto the front porch.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rider looks out at the tarnished town. His stomach grumbles and he considers going back in for food, but just hops the fence to go to his car.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Aaliyah is watching him leave through the window. He drives off and she goes back to making food.

EXT. CLIFF - MORNING

Rider pulls up to a cliff overlooking a forest. Here he gets out while eating candy and sets up a gun on the cliff. There's shells all over the cliff, he's clearly been here many times before.

He leans against his car and takes in the view. There are a couple zombies throughout the forest.

We get a MONTAGE of Rider shooting zombies from the cliff, eating snacks, and drinking as the time goes from morning to dusk.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Rider gets back late once again. Randy is reading and Aaliyah is drawing.

RIDER
Hi.

AALIYAH
Hi.

Aaliyah smiles. Rider goes to his fridge.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
I need your help.

RIDER
What's up?

AALIYAH
Me and Randy left most of our stuff at our house. Can we drive over there to get it?

RIDER
Uh, sure. Right now?

AALIYAH
Yeah.

Aaliyah looks to Randy.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
We'll be back soon.

RANDY
Be careful with him.

Rider is taken aback.

RIDER
What does that mean?

AALIYAH
He's just grumpy. Don't let it bother you.

RIDER
Let's go.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - NIGHT

Rider gets in his car and Aaliyah hops in the front seat.

AALIYAH
Where'd you get this car?

RIDER
Uptown they have a lot of fancy cars. I went up there one day and got me one.

AALIYAH
Oh okay.

Rider starts the car.

RIDER
Give me directions.

AALIYAH
Yeah, I got you. Well, do you know Howard Street?

RIDER
Yeah.

AALIYAH
It's over there.

Rider starts driving.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
So, it's not my business but how come you live alone all the way out here?

RIDER
Uh, I grew up here and never wanted to leave. And I like being alone.

AALIYAH
Yeah, but no internet or resources or anything? It's hard to live like that.

RIDER
I got used to it.

AALIYAH

What do you do over here?

RIDER

Just do stuff, you know.

AALIYAH

Like what?

RIDER

Like I play basketball, drive,
shoot, drink and break into houses.

AALIYAH

Does anyone else even live here?

RIDER

Yeah, the mayor. But he just stays
inside, sitting on his money. I've
been waiting for him to die, so I
could get that shit.

AALIYAH

Oh.

Rider keeps driving.

RIDER

Hey, uh, do you have any music
downloaded?

AALIYAH

Yeah, what you be listening to?

RIDER

Shit, I don't know.

AALIYAH

Ugh.

RIDER

Ugh?

AALIYAH

Who doesn't listen to music?

RIDER

I just do other stuff. Music's not
really my thing.

Aaliyah connects her phone to Bluetooth.

MUSIC CUE: 2 ON BY TINASHE

AALIYAH
This a classic.

RIDER
This song's kinda familiar. I think
I've heard it before.

Aaliyah sings along smiling.

EXT. TOWN - NIGHT

The music plays as there are shots of the abandoned town at night, with zombies roaming around.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - NIGHT

Rider turns the music down as they pull into the cul-de-sac. He sees the aftermath of what happened when Aaliyah and Randy were attacked.

RIDER
Jesus. What happened here?

AALIYAH
The zombies attacked us and we
barely survived. I had to kill
them.

RIDER
Damn.

Rider sees a giant strong scarlet crystal mutated looking zombie roaming the cul-de-sac with two smaller red zombies with it.

RIDER (CONT'D)
Oh shit.

AALIYAH
I've never seen that color crystal.

RIDER
Scarlet, one of the most rare.
They're very tough, so be careful.

Rider reaches into his backseat and grabs an assault rifle.

RIDER (CONT'D)
Stay here.

Rider gets out of the car and Aaliyah looks in the backseat to see all of Rider's weapons.

AALIYAH

Shit.

EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - NIGHT

Rider starts walking with his assault rifle and sprays the zombies. He empties a full clip and the two little zombies are dead but the big scarlet one gets up and starts running towards Rider.

Rider throws his rifle to the ground and pulls out his handgun and shoots the big zombie in the head a couple times.

The zombie takes the bullets and swipes at Rider. Rider ducks and shoots the zombie again, who slams into him, pushing him on the ground.

Aaliyah opens the door carrying a shotgun. The scarlet zombie knees Rider in the ribs and squeezes him, causing him to gasp for air.

Aaliyah cocks the shotgun.

AALIYAH

Rider!

Rider gasps then clenches his teeth and empties the rest of the clip into the zombie's skull. Aaliyah fires the shotgun, exploding the zombie's skull and scaring Rider who covers his face falling to the ground.

The zombie falls to the ground and Rider gets up, scanning his body.

RIDER

What are you doing with that?

AALIYAH

I was about to save you!

RIDER

You would've ended up killing me.

AALIYAH

You act like I didn't kill all these zombies here.

RIDER

You got lucky.

AALIYAH

I can probably shoot better than YOU.

Rider laughs.

RIDER
Did you see any crystals touch me?

AALIYAH
Just your shirt.

Rider takes his shirt off and throws it to the ground. He's in good shape and Aaliyah blushes. Rider notices and blushes too.

He goes into his trunk and puts on a tank top.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
Mm.. my stuff's in that house over there.

Aaliyah points and Rider goes over to the house. Aaliyah wraps the shotgun around her back, and smiles a little before following him.

INT. RANDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rider gets in the house and Aaliyah follows. It's dark so Rider and Aaliyah turn on their flashlights as they start grabbing stuff. Rider grabs a towel.

AALIYAH
You think it'll be a problem for humanity?

RIDER
I don't know. Maybe.

AALIYAH
I don't really think so because most of the people left are capable of surviving. All the weak people are gone now.

RIDER
That's not true. They just live in cities.

AALIYAH
Cities with army guards on standby and impenetrable walls. The worst of the outbreak is over.

RIDER
Gloves?

AALIYAH

Uh.. try under the sink.

Rider goes over as Aaliyah heads outside with stuff to load into the car.

EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - NIGHT

Aaliyah loads stuff into the car and Rider follows, wearing gloves.

RIDER

So where'd you come from?

AALIYAH

Up north in Berkeley.

RIDER

Oh yeah? How's it up there?

AALIYAH

Oh it's cool. They've got a pretty big settlement over there.

Rider opens the trunk as they put their bags in, then takes out his axe. Aaliyah looks in confusion.

RIDER

Why are you out here anyway?

AALIYAH

My dad wanted to come back cuz he grew up here and to get my mom's valuables. She lived here too. Then we're gonna move out to San Diego in about a week but since my dad's hurt we have to stay for a little longer.

RIDER

What happened to her?

AALIYAH

She was a nurse that got bit early on in the infection.

RIDER

That sucks.

AALIYAH

What about your parents?

RIDER

Oh you know, they're out in another state somewhere. Or maybe they're dead by now.

AALIYAH

How come you didn't go with them?

RIDER

I, uh, got kicked out of the house.

AALIYAH

Oh man.

RIDER

Yeah.

Rider grips his axe and goes to the scarlet crystal zombie's body.

AALIYAH

What are you doing?

RIDER

Harvesting these.

He chops into the zombie's skull multiple times, which has a strong crystal layer. Aaliyah looks at him crazy. Finally he cracks the skull open and scoops out the crystalized brain.

AALIYAH

Okay, what the fuck are you doing?

RIDER

This is a scarlet zombie. They're extremely rare and hard to kill. A brain is very valuable.

Without touching it, he slides the brain into the towel and pulls the towel up, delicately carrying the towel to the trunk without touching the brain.

AALIYAH

There's value in zombie brains?

RIDER

Only scarlet and violet. Maybe orange.

Aaliyah's puzzled.

RIDER (CONT'D)

Red, green, blue and yellow are all common. Scientists are working on a cure or something.

AALIYAH

I didn't even know scarlet and violet existed.

RIDER

This could mean a scarlet crystal cave nearby. The scarlet ones tend to stay close to the cave.

Rider smiles.

RIDER (CONT'D)

Okay, you ready to go?

AALIYAH

Yeah.

RIDER

I'll take your gun.

Aaliyah hands him the shotgun and he puts it in the backseat. Then he hops in the driver and Aaliyah hops in the front.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

A quick shot to indicate it's morning now.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Randy and Aaliyah are awake and talking.

RANDY

Did you get hurt at all last night?
Was he being weird?

AALIYAH

No dad, he's not what you think.

RANDY

Did you ask him why he's out here?

AALIYAH

He lived here before.

RANDY

Where's his family?

AALIYAH

They abandoned him. Look, just take it easy on him. He never did anything to you.

RANDY

He's problematic. They wouldn't just leave him.

(pause)

I'm just worried about you.

AALIYAH

I know.

RANDY

We know what happened with Johnny. I'm trying to keep you safe.

AALIYAH

I'm grown now, trust me. I'm not leaving you this time, I promise.

Rider comes out of his room tired.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)

Do you want to eat this time?

RIDER

No, I gotta go.

Rider grabs some protein bars from the pantry.

AALIYAH

Can I go with you?

RIDER

Huh?

AALIYAH

I don't like being here all day.

She turns to her dad.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)

Will you be okay?

RANDY

I don't like you going out. It's dangerous.

Aaliyah gets frustrated.

RIDER

It's fine. You can come.

RANDY
I don't think she should.

RIDER
I'll keep her safe. I've been doing
my routine for three years, nothing
will happen.

AALIYAH
(to Randy)
There's everything you need here.
Do you need me to give you anything
before I leave?

RANDY
No.

AALIYAH
Okay. Love you.

RANDY
Love you too.

Rider grabs more snacks and he leaves with Aaliyah. Randy
lies alone.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - MORNING

Rider and Aaliyah get in and Rider starts his car.

AALIYAH
So what do you do when you go out?

RIDER
Play basketball and then there's a
view I go up to. I just hang out
there all day shooting and shit
like that.

AALIYAH
Fun.

There's silence as Rider drives.

RIDER
You might get bored though.

AALIYAH
We'll see.

Aaliyah smiles.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - MORNING

Rider and Aaliyah go to a basketball court and start shooting around.

AALIYAH
Did you play basketball before?

RIDER
In middle school, but I was ass.

AALIYAH
I never played.

They keep shooting around but the chemistry isn't strong.

RIDER
I told you you'd be bored.

AALIYAH
It's fine.

RIDER
Let's go to the view. That'll be better.

AALIYAH
Okay.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

They get to the cliff and get out of the car. Rider goes to the trunk and has Patron and a juice as a chaser. Aaliyah looks back and sees him pour the juice and alcohol into the cup then take a shot. Rider winces a little.

RIDER
Do you drink?

AALIYAH
A little.

Rider pours a shot for Aaliyah into the same cup.

RIDER
Sorry, I only have one cup.

He passes Aaliyah the cup and she takes the shot, cringing immediately.

AALIYAH
Ugh!

Rider chuckles. Rider opens his duffel bag and pulls out a handgun.

RIDER

Let's see if you're a good shot.

Aaliyah grabs the gun and shoots at a bottle set up on a stump, and shoots a full clip but doesn't hit anything.

RIDER (CONT'D)

Aw.

Rider pulls out his handgun and aims at the bottle. He fires three times and hits it on the third.

AALIYAH

Whatever.

EXT. FOREST - DUSK

It gets later as we see a green crystal zombie stumbling around in the woods. In the background Rider and Aaliyah can be heard shooting guns faintly.

EXT. CLIFF - SUNSET

Rider and Aaliyah are eating sandwiches on the hood of Rider's car looking out at the forest. Both of them are buzzed too.

AALIYAH

So in all the years since you've been alone have you met anybody?

RIDER

You guys are the first and I only met you by coincidence.

AALIYAH

How was your life before everything?

RIDER

It was good. I was happy. What about you?

AALIYAH

It was bad.

RIDER

How come?

AALIYAH

It was just bad, you know, and I was a bad kid. I ran away a couple times and I wasted the last good years not appreciating them.

Rider sighs.

RIDER

Well we've still got a while. There's gotta be a couple good years ahead of us.

They stare out into the forest. Aaliyah slowly rests her head on Rider's shoulder. After a couple seconds Rider slides his hand to Aaliyah's and holds her hand.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - NIGHT

Rider and Aaliyah get back in the car.

RIDER

Do you want to keep driving through the town?

AALIYAH

Yeah, but we gotta get back to my dad.

RIDER

Okay.

Rider starts his car and Aaliyah plays another song.

MUSIC CUE: LOVE. BY KENDRICK LAMAR

RIDER (CONT'D)

Alright, what are the top things from before that you miss?

AALIYAH

Do people count?

RIDER

Nah, like things.

AALIYAH

Okay, uh- school because of my friends. I wasn't really good in school. Then concerts, restaurants, parties and.. I don't know. What would you say?

RIDER

I gotta throw school in there too,
and restaurants, then sports and
dates. I've never been to a concert
though.

AALIYAH

Really? Why?

RIDER

Like I said, I don't listen to
music that much. Not enough to go
out and see it.

AALIYAH

What a tragedy.

RIDER

What's something you wished you did
before the virus?

AALIYAH

I mean I wanted to become famous. I
wanted to move to a studio in New
York and become an actor and
musician but I guess I couldn't
have done anything about that.

RIDER

I wanted to be a paleontologist
when I was a kid.

Aaliyah laughs. Rider grins.

RIDER (CONT'D)

What?

AALIYAH

Really?

RIDER

Yup. But I gave up on my dreams
well before the virus.

AALIYAH

Why?

RIDER

I got a job and a girlfriend and I
was ready to live the typical
American life. You know I like it
simple.

AALIYAH

But that's not enough for me, I'd never be content with that life. I want to do more and go places and die happy.

RIDER

Well, we both didn't get what we want.

AALIYAH

What happened to your girlfriend?

RIDER

She left too.

AALIYAH

Oh.

RIDER

What about you? Did you have a man before the infection?

AALIYAH

Yeah, I ran away with him and he got arrested. But he was kind of a bad guy so...

RIDER

Yeah.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rider and Aaliyah get out of the car and hop the fence again. Rider goes first and reaches to help Aaliyah. She hops down and Rider catches her with his hands around her waist. He holds on for a little longer then lets go. Aaliyah smiles and blushes.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Randy is passed out with a bottle of Rider's alcohol nearly empty and a glass. Rider and Aaliyah open the door to see Randy sprawled on the couch.

AALIYAH

Oh God, I'm sorry.

RIDER

It's fine, I'll clean him up.

AALIYAH
I'm gonna make dinner then.

RIDER
Okay.

AALIYAH
Are you gonna eat?

RIDER
Yeah.

Aaliyah smiles. Rider puts the bottle and glass away and goes to his room. Aaliyah starts cooking and Randy wakes up groggily. Rider comes out with a blanket and tries to give it to Randy.

RANDY
I don't need that.

Randy gets out of bed and stumbles over to the door. He opens it and stumbles out. Aaliyah is about to follow him but Rider stops her.

RIDER
It's fine. I should talk to him.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Randy stumbles around the lawn as Rider walks out. Randy falls onto the grass.

RIDER
Come on.

RANDY
What do you want?

RIDER
I'm just trying to help you guys out.

RANDY
Stay away from my daughter. She doesn't need you.

RIDER
Let's go.

Rider tries to pick up Randy who swings on him and hits him in the face. Rider stomps on Randy's ribs and pins him down. Randy gasps for breath.

RIDER (CONT'D)
Why are you hitting me? Are you
stupid?

RANDY
Get off of me!

Randy tries to escape but can't get up. Eventually Randy calms down. Rider lets go and Randy heads inside embarrassed.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Aaliyah finishes making her salmon dinner and brings it to the table. Rider sits down with her and Randy is sitting in shame.

AALIYAH
You know what you need? A record
player.

RIDER
I guess since I have company now.
Thanks for the dinner by the way.

AALIYAH
Yeah.

RIDER
What's your favorite movie?

AALIYAH
Um, I don't know. I like *Soul Food*
a lot.

RIDER
Soul Food?

AALIYAH
It's good. I don't watch a lot of
movies though.

RIDER
I've never even heard of it.

AALIYAH
I don't know if it's your kind of
movie.

RIDER
Okay. Did you ever travel before
the outbreak?

AALIYAH

Yeah. New York was my favorite.

RIDER

I wonder what it's like now.

AALIYAH

I heard it got closed off after half the city got wiped out. But where was your favorite vacation?

RIDER

The only place I went was LA. And San Diego of course.

AALIYAH

Damn, you haven't done much have you?

RIDER

And you've done too much. I don't know how we get along.

AALIYAH

Probably trauma. Isn't shared trauma a thing?

RIDER

Yeah, but people say opposites attract so I don't know. But either way, I'm glad we met, just too bad it's under these circumstances.

AALIYAH

Yeah, but I'm glad too.

They make eye contact and smile. Randy comes out of his room.

RANDY

Rider, I've been wanting to talk to you.

RIDER

What?

RANDY

I want to apologize for what I did. I was drunk and not thinking straight.

RIDER

The only reason you're still here is because of Aaliyah.

RANDY
Well, I'm sorry.

Everyone in the room is silent.

AALIYAH
I'll let you guys talk.

RANDY
Thank you.

Aaliyah gets off and heads into the highway. She looks back at Rider for a second then goes to her room.

RIDER
Go ahead. And grab a drink.

Randy grabs a glass of whiskey and some cups then sits at the table.

RANDY
A couple of years ago Aaliyah ran off with her boyfriend, Johnny. They got arrested and while Aaliyah was in jail her mom died. I bailed her out and she promised to change but lately it's been looking like that all over again.

RIDER
Hm.

RANDY
I know I've been a bad dad since the apocalypse began but I'm really just trying to keep her safe. I'm sure you know, in this life we have to make choices to survive.

RIDER
Sure.

RANDY
Why do you live out here alone anyways?

RIDER
I'm from here. My family left but I wanted to stay.

RANDY
But do you like it out here? It's so grim.

RIDER

I just never wanted to leave. I'm comfortable.

RANDY

Well, I personally want to thank you for saving me and my daughter. And providing for us.

Rider nods. He raises his glass for a toast.

RIDER

So.. good?

Randy raises his glass.

RANDY

Good.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Aaliyah walks out of her room having just woke up. Her hair is frizzy and she's rubbing her eyes.

Rider and Randy are at the table having coffee. They look up at Aaliyah.

AALIYAH

Good morning.

RIDER

Good morning.

RANDY

Morning.

AALIYAH

Today's my birthday.

RIDER

Really?

RANDY

Wait, already?

AALIYAH

Mm hm.

RANDY

It's already the 6th?

AALIYAH

Yup.

RIDER
Well we have to do something.

AALIYAH
Like what?

RIDER
I'll be back.

Rider gets on his boots, grabs a gun and gets ready to leave.

AALIYAH
Okay? Bye.

RIDER
Bye.

Rider nods to Randy and leaves.

INT. HIDEOUT - MORNING

Rider is back in the hideout of the Liberty Boys. He takes his axe to a safe he finds until it finally breaks open. Thousands of dollars fall out.

EXT. HIDEOUT - MORNING

Rider takes a box the Liberty Boys had that has weed and rolling papers.

EXT. MALL - DAY

Rider drives into the parking lot of an abandoned mall.

AALIYAH
The mall?

RIDER
You don't think it would be cool to be in an abandoned mall all alone?

AALIYAH
True. Was it lit before the apocalypse?

RIDER
Yeah, I mean there's not too much to do here so everyone went here.

INT. MALL - DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Rider and Aaliyah get into the mall. They're in an abandoned department store. Rider puts on a sun hat from a mannequin. Aaliyah looks back and laughs a little.

AALIYAH
Nice hat.

RIDER
So..

Rider tries to think of something to say.

RIDER (CONT'D)
Actually I don't know.

Aaliyah laughs.

RIDER (CONT'D)
What's your favorite color?

AALIYAH
Hm. I'd say jade green or lavender.

RIDER
Oh. Fancy.

AALIYAH
What about you?

RIDER
Black.

Aaliyah groans.

AALIYAH
That's not even a color.

She takes off Rider's hat and puts it on.

They go to the Polo section and Rider takes down two black hoodies. He gives one to Aaliyah, who puts it on.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
Twinning.

They make it to the jewelry section. There are just a couple things left and the glass is broken.

RIDER

Most of the stores took back their jewelry when the apocalypse started but this location didn't for some reason.

AALIYAH

But why is it almost all gone?

RIDER

Looters. But anyways, which is your favorite?

AALIYAH

I guess that one.

She points to a small cross necklace. Rider grabs it and puts it on her.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)

Thank you.

INT. MALL - DAY

Rider and Aaliyah exit the department store to the main part of the mall. It's completely empty and worn out.

AALIYAH

Have you been here since the outbreak?

RIDER

No.

AALIYAH

So what made you wanna go?

RIDER

You.

Aaliyah blushes.

RIDER (CONT'D)

Well I wanted to show you something cool, you know?

AALIYAH

Yeah.

Aaliyah starts walking down the broken escalator.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)

Come on.

Rider smiles and starts heading down with her.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - SUNSET

Rider drives back up to the cliff with Aaliyah. They park at the same spot and Rider opens his glove box. Inside is the box of weed and papers.

AALIYAH
Oh shit. When'd you get that?

RIDER
At some point.

Rider tries to roll a blunt but can't do it.

RIDER (CONT'D)
Can you- Do you know how to do this.

Aaliyah takes the box and starts rolling the blunt.

RIDER (CONT'D)
I've never been a big smoker.

Rider looks at Aaliyah. Aaliyah looks back.

AALIYAH
What? Be careful now.

RIDER
My bad, my bad. Come outside when you're done.

Rider opens the car door and heads outside.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

Rider sits on a rock overlooking the forest. Aaliyah comes out with the blunt rolled and hands it to Rider.

Rider takes out a lighter and lights the blunt, then takes a puff and coughs.

Aaliyah laughs then sits on the ground next to him and takes a hit of it too. She passes it back to Rider who hits it again, coughs, and passes it back.

Rider puts his arm around Aaliyah who leans on him as they look out into the sunset. Aaliyah offers him the blunt again but he just looks at her.

There's a pause then they both go in for a kiss. Their lips touch and they back away slightly before going back again and kissing.

They stop kissing for a second as Aaliyah hits the blunt one more time and blows smoke into the wind as they share a longer kiss.

EXT. CLIFF - LATER

Rider and Aaliyah are cuddled together under a tree laughing. Both their eyes are red and it's sunset now.

RIDER

Fuck.

AALIYAH

What?

RIDER

I just feel so good. I haven't felt like this in so long.

AALIYAH

Me too.

They listen to nature for a second.

RIDER

What do you miss?

AALIYAH

What?

RIDER

Like, what, what do you miss?

Aaliyah laughs.

AALIYAH

What are you talking about?

RIDER

No, like-

Rider smiles.

RIDER (CONT'D)

Time goes by really fast, you know?

AALIYAH

Yeah.

Aaliyah looks at Rider who looks back. She laughs again. He starts laughing too.

RIDER
No, but.. I miss my family.

Aaliyah starts laughing and Rider starts to tear up.

AALIYAH
It's okay.

RIDER
Why couldn't I have been there to
save them?

AALIYAH
Save them?

Rider looks at her with sadness.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
It's okay, I'm here. Just look at
how pretty the view is.

Rider looks out into the sunset for a while and rests his head in Aaliyah's lap.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Aaliyah gets out of the driver's seat and Rider gets out of the car with her. He's better now and is telling Aaliyah a story. They walk towards the house.

RIDER
And remember, I was in middle
school. I didn't try out in high
school. But anyways, I checked this
kid, and, and..

They reach the gate and Aaliyah climbs up.

AALIYAH
Come on. Let me help you.

Rider takes Aaliyah's hand and she pulls him up, but he falls down and they both fall off the fence, landing in Rider's front yard. Rider starts laughing again.

They lay on the ground for a second, looking at the stars.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
Look at all those stars. You know
we can see 20 quadrillion miles
away right now? At least.

Rider laughs.

RIDER
Is that even a real number?

Aaliyah smiles.

AALIYAH
I'm serious. It's crazy.

After a second of laying down, Aaliyah gets up and pulls up
Rider. They hold hands.

RIDER
We should go back out.

AALIYAH
No, I'm gonna go to sleep. You
should too.

They walk in the house together.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rider and Aaliyah get in the house and Randy is making a
cake.

RANDY
Hello!

AALIYAH
Is that a cake? You made it?

Randy nods and smiles.

RANDY
It's a piece of shit though.

Aaliyah looks at the cake. It's messy and looks terrible. She
laughs.

AALIYAH
I love it.

RANDY
This is why I don't bake.

Aaliyah turns to Rider.

AALIYAH
Do you have any board games?

RIDER
Life and Monopoly.

AALIYAH
Oh my God, Life is my favorite.
Grab it.

Rider goes to grab it as Randy cuts the cake. Rider comes out with the game and grabs champagne as well.

RIDER
Can Aaliyah drink?

RANDY
I guess so.

Randy serves the cake and puts a stick in Aaliyah's. Meanwhile Rider pours the champagne.

RANDY (CONT'D)
Um, there weren't any candles so
we'll just have to light this.

Aaliyah laughs.

AALIYAH
Okay.

Rider hands Randy a lighter and Randy lights the stick. It burns and Rider and Randy sing happy birthday.

After the song Aaliyah tries to blow out the candle but takes a couple blows. Finally it goes out and they cheer.

Aaliyah takes a bite of the cake then takes a drink of champagne. She coughs.

RANDY
Is it good?

Aaliyah laughs while coughing.

AALIYAH
It's really dry.

RANDY
Yeah, well..

Rider raises his glass.

RIDER

We've got alc, we'll be okay.

Everybody toasts and drinks champagne.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Everybody is playing Life and drinking. Randy and Rider are on the couch and Aaliyah is laying on the floor. The board game is on the floor.

Everybody is drunk and rowdy, laughing and chatting. It's Aaliyah's turn, so she spins the wheel. She lands on a payday space.

AALIYAH

Ayee, payday!

Aaliyah takes money and play goes to Randy. Randy spins and gets a family path. He spins to get triplets.

RIDER

Damn Randy, you've been busy.

RANDY

I get around.

Aaliyah laughs. Randy and Rider drink more.

AALIYAH

Okay.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Randy is passed out on the couch and Rider is laying on the floor with Aaliyah. They're both very tired and drunk, sort of just mumbling incomprehensible things.

Aaliyah rests her head on Rider's chest and closes her eyes. Rider stays up for a few more seconds, slowly closing his eyes too.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - SUNSET

The sun rises to indicate time passing.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Aaliyah gets out of her room and Randy is asleep. She goes to the dining table and sees a note from Rider.

It says I'LL BE GONE ALL DAY AND MAYBE TOMORROW. STAY SAFE -
RIDER

EXT. SCARLET CAVE - MORNING

Rider steps outside of his car with his axe and sees a cave with a scarlet crystal visible. It's emitting an ominous aura. Rider walks in slowly and puts on gloves as he walks.

INT. SCARLET CAVE - MORNING

Rider heads through the entrance and pulls his gun out of his waistband. He looks up and around seeing glittering scarlet crystals and hearing strange whispers.

He keeps walking in carefully and a giant scarlet crystal zombie walks in front of Rider, not noticing him. Rider stops in his tracks. This zombie is very mutated and closer to a crystal-alien-monster than a human.

Rider pulls out a big knife and viciously stabs the zombie in a weak spot in the head. The zombie lets out a shriek and swipes at Rider. He ducks and avoids it, pulling out another knife to stab the zombie in the chest.

The zombie kicks Rider with tremendous force, and Rider falls on the ground out of breath. He growls in frustration as he shoots the zombie three times in the head. The zombie falls to his knees and Rider shoots him again point blank, finally killing him.

Rider spits on him then takes his axe and is about to start chopping crystals, then looks up and sees multiple scarlet zombies headed in his direction.

Rider knows this is too much even for him. But for a second he freezes, wondering if he just ran in the horde and died fighting. Something about that is alluring to him.

RIDER

Fuck!

Rider runs out.

EXT. SCARLET CAVE - MORNING

Rider runs out of the cave into his car and starts it. Zombies start piling out of the cave full speed and Rider drives off just in time.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - MORNING

Rider is driving out of town. He's driving fast and speeding past a lot of zombies. There's a lot more than in the town.

As he keeps driving zombies start to appear in the road, and he has to swerve around them.

RIDER

Fuck.

He looks to his side and sees a yellow crystal zombie horse galloping around frantically.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Randy and Aaliyah are arguing.

RANDY

Why would he leave without telling us? What don't I know about?

AALIYAH

I don't know where he is!

RANDY

Then this is our chance to go Aaliyah.

AALIYAH

You're still hurt.

RANDY

I'll be okay! I can get a doctor in San Diego.

AALIYAH

I'm not leaving! We have a better chance of surviving here than going out on our own!

RANDY

This is bullshit. It's supposed to be us against the world!

AALIYAH

He saved our lives, fed us, and
gave us a place to sleep.

RANDY

Come on Aaliyah, we should just
leave.

AALIYAH

I think we should stay, just for a
little longer.

Randy sighs in frustration and sits back down.

EXT. SAN DIEGO CHECKPOINT - MORNING

Rider arrives as the checkpoint to enter San Diego. He sees a
delivery truck exit. Two armed guards come out and go to the
car.

GUARD

Step outside of your car.

Rider opens the door and steps out. The other guard pats him
down.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Name and reason for your visit.

RIDER

Rider Williams, for supplies.

The other guard writes that down.

GUARD

Do you have any weapons and or
substances in the car?

RIDER

Yes, I have multiple weapons and
some alcohol as well as a
collection of sealed scarlet
crystals I'd like to sell.

GUARD

Leave them in the car. You'll
receive payment as you enter San
Diego accordingly.

RIDER

Okay.

GUARD

We're putting your vehicle in storage for now. You can claim it when you leave. Have you had any sickness or symptoms of sickness in the last month?

RIDER

No.

GUARD

Follow me. You have to be medically cleared to enter.

Rider nods and goes into the checkpoint.

INT. EXAM ROOM - MORNING

Rider walks through a metal detector then takes off his shoes and belt as he is scanned for any wounds and crystals. Then a doctor in a full hazmat suit collects a blood sample from him.

DOCTOR

You'll have to wait in that room until your blood sample is cleared.

RIDER

Okay.

INT. WAITING ROOM - MORNING

Rider gets in the waiting room. There are a couple people waiting and an armed guard. A TV is playing that Rider looks at.

INT. WAITING ROOM - LATER

Rider is sleeping in a chair when a doctor comes out and talks to the armed guard. The guard nods and wakes Rider up.

Rider gets shook awake and gets up.

GUARD

Here. For the crystals.

The guard hands Rider an envelope with \$50,000. Rider looks in disbelief.

EXT. SAN DIEGO - NIGHT

Rider makes it in and it's nighttime. It's pretty busy and there's buildings with electricity. There are people out on the streets chatting.

Rider walks down the lively boardwalk and looks at the beach. People are out partying and it causes Rider to smile.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Rider sits in a nice restaurant. He has a sweatshirt on while everyone is wearing nicer clothes and shooting him glances. The WAITRESS comes over after he looks at the menu for a little.

WAITRESS

Hello, how are you doing?

RIDER

Good, you?

WAITRESS

Good. What can I get started for you?

RIDER

Whatever is your best wine.

WAITRESS

Sure! But would you happen to have your ID?

RIDER

ID? Actually I never got one. I forgot about laws.

WAITRESS

Are you from out of town?

RIDER

Yeah.

WAITRESS

Well I can't serve you alcohol if you don't have a valid ID, sorry.

RIDER

It's fine, I'll just get a Shirley temple. And then can I get a Fra Diavolo? Is that how you say it?

WAITRESS
Yeah. Anything else?

RIDER
Not for now.

WAITRESS
Okay, I'll have it out for you in a little while.

RIDER
Thanks.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Aaliyah is eating dinner with Randy.

RANDY
Do you want to go for a walk?

AALIYAH
Yeah, sure.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Aaliyah helps Randy down the fence. They start walking.

AALIYAH
How are you holding up?

RANDY
A little better I think.

AALIYAH
Good, good.

RANDY
We should be able to leave soon.

Aaliyah sighs.

AALIYAH
Dad, you keep saying that but you're hurt. I don't want you to push yourself.

RANDY
Aaliyah we've been here long enough. We can get our car and go to San Diego.

Aaliyah sighs again.

RANDY (CONT'D)
Are you catching feelings for him?
You promised from now on we would
stick together.

AALIYAH
I thought you guys made up!

RANDY
We did, but it's still family
first! I love you!

Aaliyah hugs Randy.

RANDY (CONT'D)
If I'm alive by the time countries
open up again I'll take you
anywhere. I promise.

AALIYAH
Okay.

RANDY
I'll go get the car and pick you up
here.

AALIYAH
No, it's fine, I'll get the car.
Just be careful.

RANDY
Help me back in the house. I'm
gonna grab some supplies.

AALIYAH
Okay.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Rider gets his food. He thanks the waitress and tries it.

RIDER
Damn that's good.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Rider gets into his hotel room and turns on the TV. The news
is on, which Rider hasn't seen in years. He smiles.

EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT

Rider steps out to see the San Diego view. It's still as pretty as before the apocalypse, and a little quieter. His lights a cigarette.

A WOMAN (40s) in the hotel room next to him steps out to her balcony too.

WOMAN

Hello.

RIDER

Hi.

They sit in silence looking out at the city.

WOMAN

It's nice tonight.

RIDER

It is. It's my first time over here since the apocalypse.

WOMAN

Oh yeah? What do you think?

RIDER

I mean, it's crazy. But I like it.

WOMAN

Sure.

RIDER

The girl I live with wants to move here with me.

WOMAN

You don't want to?

RIDER

I don't know.

WOMAN

Well, do you love her?

RIDER

No.

WOMAN

Oh..

RIDER

Well, I just met her, but I'm attached to her. I never looked at the stars until she showed me.

The woman smiles.

WOMAN

That's sweet. I hope you figure it out.

RIDER

Me too.

Rider flicks his cigarette off the balcony and looks up to the stars.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Randy is waiting with his bag and Aaliyah arrives in the car. She gets out and climbs the fence.

AALIYAH

Hold on, I have to get some things real quick.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Aaliyah grabs some of her stuff and writes a note to Rider. Then she runs out.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Aaliyah helps Randy over the gate and they both get into the car with supplies.

INT. AALIYAH'S CAR - MORNING

Aaliyah is driving and looking back at the town. Her eyes are watery.

RANDY

It's okay. It was a tough choice.

AALIYAH

It's just not right how we left him.

RANDY

I know.

AALIYAH

He treated us so well.

RANDY

He did and I regret how I acted towards him but now we can have a new life in a nice city.

AALIYAH

Shouldn't we have waited for him to come back?

RANDY

I think he just left. He might've been scared of people after being alone for so long.

AALIYAH

I don't think so. That doesn't seem right.

They drive past the scarlet crystal cave. She slows down and stops the car for a second. The cave is still emitting an ominous aura.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)

That's the hive for the strong zombies.

RANDY

Shit, it looks scary.

AALIYAH

Yeah.

Aaliyah stares for a couple seconds longer then starts driving again.

INT. POLICE STATION - MORNING

Rider heads into the police station and an OFFICER greets him.

OFFICER

How can I help you sir?

RIDER

I'm trying to find the grave for an officer named Mark Beckett.

OFFICER

Yes, he was my friend. I could give you the location of his grave site.

RIDER
Yeah, I'd appreciate it.

EXT. GRAVE - MORNING

Rider is looking around the graveyard before finding Mark's grave. A LADY (50s) is there. Rider stands behind her.

LADY
Oh, hello.

RIDER
Hi.

LADY
Did you know him?

RIDER
Yeah, he saved my life.

LADY
He's my husband. It's our anniversary today.

RIDER
Oh. I'm sorry for your loss.

LADY
Yours too.

The lady gets up.

LADY (CONT'D)
If you wish you can have a moment with him.

RIDER
Thank you. I'll make it quick, it's just that it's my first time visiting him.

LADY
Oh, okay then.

The lady backs up and Rider kneels down to the grave, talking to Mark.

RIDER
Thank you. I wish I could've saved you. If I was me today, I could've.

Rider looks down and presses his hand to the grass.

RIDER (CONT'D)
I really could've. You didn't
deserve to meet me.

Rider looks at the grave in shame.

RIDER (CONT'D)
I don't wanna let you down any
more. I'm not gonna waste the
chance you gave me, I promise.

Rider fights back shedding a tear.

RIDER (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

Rider gets up and starts to walk away.

LADY
Done already?

RIDER
Yeah.

LADY
Oh okay, well have a good day.

RIDER
You too.

Rider walks off.

INT. RECORD STORE - DAY

Rider walks in a store with records and DVDs. The CLERK talks
to him.

CLERK
Hello sir, how can I help you?

RIDER
I'm looking for a record player and
some movies.

CLERK
Okay, is this your first record
player?

RIDER
Yeah.

CLERK

Alright well this one right here is nice and easy. Pretty affordable too.

The clerk shows Rider a record player.

RIDER

Okay, I'll get it. Where are the R&B albums?

CLERK

Oh, over there.

The clerk points to a section. Rider starts to head over.

CLERK (CONT'D)

Hey, what movies are you looking for?

RIDER

I think it's called *Soul Food*?

CLERK

Actually we got it for black history month. It should be right over there.

Rider goes to a section the clerk points to and finds it. He sees *Brown Sugar* next to it and grabs them both. As Rider goes through the R&B and rap albums he talks to the clerk.

RIDER

So how do you guys get all these records and CDs?

CLERK

A lot of donations and some pickups from deliveries.

Rider gets some records and goes to check out.

CLERK (CONT'D)

I haven't listened to this one. Have you?

RIDER

Oh no, these are for a girl. I don't listen to music and I haven't heard of either of these movies.

CLERK

Whatcha into then?

RIDER
I don't know.

CLERK
Alright, well you're all set. We'll
call it \$500.

Rider gives the money to the clerk.

CLERK (CONT'D)
Have a good one.

Rider nods and heads out.

INT. AALIYAH'S CAR - MORNING

Aaliyah and Randy are far out of town now. The gas is low and
there are a lot of zombies around.

AALIYAH
Dad, we should turn around. We need
more gas and Rider has a lot.

RANDY
What if he's back by now? He might
kill us.

AALIYAH
I don't think we're gonna make it
to San Diego. I'd rather take my
chances with him.

RANDY
Okay, but just for one more night.

AALIYAH
Okay.

Aaliyah turns around and they head back towards town.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Rider walks up to a receptionist with all his stuff.

RECEPTIONIST
Hello.

RIDER
Hi. I'm leaving and am trying to
pick up my car.

RECEPTIONIST
Okay. Name?

RIDER
Rider Williams.

RECEPTIONIST
It says you don't have an ID.
What's your car type?

RIDER
Porsche.

RECEPTIONIST
Where are you headed?

RIDER
Around San Bernardino.

RECEPTIONIST
Are you sure you don't want to wait
until morning? It's a dangerous
drive.

RIDER
I'll be fine.

The receptionist gives him the keys.

RECEPTIONIST
Level 4B.

EXT. GATE - DAY

An armed guard opens a gate leading out of San Diego and
Rider drives his Porsche out of it. Then he drives off back
home.

INT. AALIYAH'S CAR - DAY

Aaliyah and Randy are back on the outskirts of town when the
car runs out of gas.

AALIYAH
Fuck!

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Aaliyah and Randy get out of the car. Aaliyah grabs their
bags from the trunk.

AALIYAH

Do you know the way home?

RIDER

Yeah, I think so. We're on the east
and he lives on the west so it's a
walk. But at some point we'll
recognize something.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Aaliyah and Randy are passing through town square.

RANDY

I know where to go.

They pass an alleyway that has three zombies eating a deer,
two red and one violet. The violet crystal one is hovering
slightly above the ground. Though scared, Aaliyah and Randy
try to pass but the violet zombie sees them.

It starts rushing at them and Aaliyah hurries to grab her gun
from her bag. She shoots down the zombies but the other two
run at them. Randy starts trying to run but he falls.

AALIYAH

Get up!

Aaliyah shoots at the zombies but misses most of her shots,
killing a red one. The violet one jumps on Randy and grabs
his face, with his crystal fingernails digging into his face
as Aaliyah kills the other one.

The zombie looks into Randy's eyes and grins a little, it's
clearly smarter than others, and Randy freezes in fear. He
knows he's been infected.

Aaliyah sees what's happened to her father and freezes. She
shoots the zombie on Randy then drops to the ground.

More zombies start appearing in the distance and start
running.

RANDY

Aaliyah! Aaliyah!

Aaliyah starts crying, which causes Randy to cry. The zombies
get closer and Aaliyah panics.

AALIYAH

Just come with me!

Aaliyah drops her bags and carries Randy who's still crying.

RANDY
Aaliyah, no.

Aaliyah is delirious and can't think.

AALIYAH
No, no, no, no this... this...

Aaliyah looks at Randy's face. There are some claw marks. She collapses to the ground in shock and starts sobbing. Randy is sobbing as well.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
No..
(scream)
No!

Aaliyah screams again, a harsh crying scream. Randy grabs hold of Aaliyah and pulls her close but the zombies begin to close in.

RANDY
Aaliyah, you're gonna have to leave me.

AALIYAH
I'm not gonna leave you! I promised.

RANDY
You're fast enough. I'm already done.

Aaliyah and Randy are both crying.

RANDY (CONT'D)
Look at me.

They make eye contact.

RANDY (CONT'D)
I'm proud of you for sticking with me. I love you...

Randy breaks down.

RANDY (CONT'D)
I'll always love you. In life, in death and anywhere else.

Randy tries to grab the gun from Aaliyah but she holds on.

AALIYAH
We should die together.

RANDY
No, no. Live, for me.

Aaliyah loosens her grip and Randy grabs the gun.

RANDY (CONT'D)
Promise me you'll come back to bury
me.

Aaliyah nods while crying. She puts her head on his shoulder.
The zombies enter the alley Aaliyah and Randy are in.

RANDY (CONT'D)
I love you, so much.

AALIYAH
I love you too.

They hug one last time as Aaliyah lets go and has to run
away. She starts sprinting while crying.

Aaliyah leaves and Randy's alone with the zombies. He gets
bit on the shoulder again and puts the gun to his head,
pulling the trigger. The bullet goes in his head and he dies
instantly, falling on the ground blood leaking.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - EVENING

Rider finally gets back to his house. He gets out of his car
and hops the fence with his belongings. He notices the lights
are off.

RIDER
Hm.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - EVENING

Rider opens the door and goes in his house. Nobody's there.

RIDER
Hello? Aaliyah?
(pause)
Randy?

He turns on the lights and sees the emptiness.

RIDER (CONT'D)
Um..

He sees the note on the table which reads:

RIDER, I'M SORRY BUT ME AND RANDY ARE GOING TO SAN DIEGO. HE NEEDS A DOCTOR AND I WISH WE COULD SAY GOODBYE BUT WE HAD TO GO. YOU SHOULD COME FIND US IN SAN DIEGO ONE DAY. I DON'T WANT TO WASTE WHAT WE HAD. - AALIYAH (and a smiley face written)

Rider takes a second to go back over the note, confused. He puts it down and searches the rest of the house for them.

RIDER (CONT'D)
What the fuck?

Rider takes the DVD for *Soul Food* and throws it across the room. Then he takes a record and smashes it on the ground.

Rider shakes his head in frustration and goes to the alcohol cabinet. He takes a bottle of vodka and is about to drink it but instead throws it on the ground, shattering it.

He takes a different drink and drinks it. He looks at a picture of his family on the wall and grabs his car keys, taking the alcohol with him.

He then grabs all of his guns.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Aaliyah runs and finally makes it to the street Rider's on. She approaches his house to see his car driving off in the direction of the scarlet crystal cave.

She yells out but he doesn't notice her.

EXT. SCARLET CAVE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Rider gets out of his car and looks into the mouth of the cave. Everything around him is dark except for the red glitters inside the cave.

INT. SCARLET CAVE - NIGHT

Rider heads in slowly with an assault rifle ready. He steps over the zombies he killed before and goes deeper into the cave.

He's a little stumbly and drunk, even throwing up a little in the cave.

Deep in the cave he sees a gathering of scarlet crystal zombies.

These zombies are far into the mutation process, much more crystal alien than human by now. He waits.. One of them sees him..

Rider aims his gun and starts firing. The shots are loud and as he keeps shooting his ears start ringing until the ringing muffles the gunshots.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Aaliyah is running in the direction of the cave and hears the gunshots. She's far, but could make it.

INT. SCARLET CAVE - NIGHT

Rider keeps shooting and now the ringing is all we hear. We're in Rider's head now. He empties the clip and unloads then reloads.

He hears memories of his family and Aaliyah, Mark, and Randy in his head as he lets loose. The zombies are pushing forward, though a lot are falling.

Rider empties the other clip and pulls out his handgun, picking off a few as his ears start bleeding.

One stronger zombie pushes forward and charges at Rider. This thing no longer resembles a human, more a transformed crystal monster. It rips off the rock and smashes it into Rider's head, who tries to dodge but gets hit and falls.

The monster tries to stomp on Rider's face but he rolls out of the way and almost touches a crystal. Rider gets up and runs but the monster kicks Rider to the ground.

Rider looks up to the ceiling at the dazzling crystals and closes his eyes..

AALIYAH runs in and shoots the monster with the five bullets left in her gun. The monster is barely affected. Aaliyah's gun empties and she panics, looking up at the monster speechless.

Rider gets up and grabs Aaliyah. They run out of the cave together.

EXT. SCARLET CAVE - NIGHT

Rider and Aaliyah get to the car and Rider grabs the axe and shotgun from the backseat. The scarlet monster runs out after them.

Aaliyah runs around the car and Rider hands the shotgun off to her. She shoots the monster while Rider runs behind with an axe. He sticks the monster in its back while Aaliyah shoots again. The monster finally falls to a knee.

She clips Rider with some pellets who yells in pain. He powers through the pain and pulls out his knife, jamming it into a weak point in the monster's shoulder.

Aaliyah points the gun at the monster's face and finishes it off. Aaliyah helps Rider up.

RIDER
You did shoot me.

Aaliyah smiles a little.

AALIYAH
Are you okay?

RIDER
What?

AALIYAH
Are you okay?

Rider takes a while to process it as his hearing is damaged.

RIDER
Yeah. Are you?

AALIYAH
Yeah.

RIDER
Why'd you come back? What do you want?

They look at each other for a second and Aaliyah hugs Rider, crying. Rider hugs her back as Aaliyah cries hard into Rider's shoulder.

AALIYAH
We went to get my dad a doctor. A-

Aaliyah slides on the ground and Rider sits with her.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
The zombies.. they attacked us..
They killed Randy..

Rider exhales and looks towards the sky.

RIDER

Shit..

Rider holds Aaliyah's hand, then gets up. Rider opens the trunk and pulls out a box of grenades from the Liberty Boys. He grabs a grenade and looks at Aaliyah. She grabs one too and they pull the pins and throw them into the cave.

RIDER (CONT'D)

Blowing up zombies helps.

Aaliyah's not in the mood for jokes but she appreciates Rider. The grenades explode in the cave and knocks them both off their feet. Zombies screech from inside. After some shock they get back up.

RIDER (CONT'D)

Fuck!

They get back up and grab two more grenades.

AALIYAH

Why'd you come here?

RIDER

I was mad and wanted to blow off some steam. Kill zombies like I always do.

AALIYAH

But..

Aaliyah looks at the cave and knows what Rider was thinking.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)

We should just go home.

Aaliyah takes the pin off and tosses the grenade into the cave as hard as she can. Rider throws his too and there's another explosion. The zombies screech again.

Aaliyah and Rider get in the car.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - NIGHT

In the car Aaliyah is in the passenger seat with her head resting looking out the window. Rider starts driving.

RIDER

I don't know what to say to you,
but I'm here if you need someone.

AALIYAH

I was gonna kill myself right there with him but he told me to stay alive. For him.

RIDER

Wow.

AALIYAH

What?

RIDER

I lied to you about my family. They didn't leave me.

AALIYAH

What do you mean?

RIDER

I went to my girlfriend's house to stay the night and zombies broke into my house that night. They turned my whole family and the government killed them.

AALIYAH

Oh my God. Rider, why didn't you tell me?

RIDER

I didn't trust you, but I just wanted to tell you, I know what you're going through. And that morning when I first saw them...

RIDER (CONT'D)

I wanted to kill myself too, and my girlfriend told me the same thing your dad said to you. One time I even tried to kill myself and this guy saved me, then he died because of me. So sometimes I still feel it but years later I met you and your dad so at least I lived for something.

AALIYAH

Does it get better?

RIDER

Yeah, but not too much. I still think about it almost every day and some nights I can't sleep, and just think *what would happen if I did kill myself?* Some nights I really want to die and some nights I really want to live.

Tears start to form in Rider's eyes. He wipes them before they can stream.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The car arrives and they both get out. Aaliyah turns to Rider.

AALIYAH

Can you bury my dad? I can't do it, and I don't want him out there. I.. I can't see it.

RIDER

Where is he?

AALIYAH

In an alleyway by town square.

RIDER

Okay, I can.

AALIYAH

Thank you.

Aaliyah hugs Rider again.

RIDER

We're gonna be okay. I promise you that.

Aaliyah nods and gets out of the car.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aaliyah opens the door sees the mess Rider made.

She sees the DVD for *Soul Food* on the ground and picks it up then goes to pick up the glass Rider broke, looking up to a bottle of Patron.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

Rider drives up to where Randy's body is. We can't fully see it yet as Rider hops out of his car.

Rider walks up to see Randy's body, which is ripped apart and mutilated from the zombies.

RIDER

Damn.

Rider takes a deep breath then opens the backseat and picks up Randy. He sets Randy in the back and closes the door, heading to the front of the car.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - DAY

Rider takes a deep breath and puts his hand to his forehead again. He takes a drink of water and turns his car on.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rider gets back in his house. Aaliyah is laying on the couch with Patron on the table. She looks very rough and talks to Rider in a slur.

AALIYAH

Did you do it?

RIDER

Yeah.

AALIYAH

Was it bad?

RIDER

Yeah.

AALIYAH

Take me tomorrow.

RIDER

Okay.

(pause)

You should try to sleep. You're not looking so good.

Rider takes the Patron from her.

AALIYAH

I'm sorry for leaving. I am.

RIDER
I know. It's okay.

Rider goes into his room to sleep. Aaliyah rests her head and closes her eyes.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - MORNING

Rider and Aaliyah are driving to Randy's grave. Rider is drinking coffee out of Mark's mug.

RIDER
I think I'm gonna stop drinking
that much.

Aaliyah nods.

AALIYAH
That's good.

Rider takes a sip of coffee and passes it to Aaliyah, who takes a sip.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
Thanks for burying my dad. I
couldn't see him.

RIDER
Yeah.

EXT. HILL - MORNING

Rider drives up a grassy hill. Randy is buried here. Rider and Aaliyah both get out and Aaliyah looks around.

AALIYAH
I like it here.

Rider sips his coffee as he looks out into the morning. Aaliyah goes up to Randy's grave.

We don't hear what Aaliyah's saying to her dad, but she's talking and Rider's just standing. A few seconds after Aaliyah comes back over with fresh tears and hugs Rider.

Rider hugs her back and she sniffles in his arms.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)
I don't know how to go on.

RIDER

I didn't either. But I went on
anyway. Things'll get better, just
not for a while. But they will get
better.

AALIYAH

What if.. what if we went to San
Diego together?

RIDER

I've lived here my whole life.

AALIYAH

But do you want to live here your
WHOLE life?

Rider looks out into the distance.

RIDER

I don't think so.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rider and Aaliyah get back home. Aaliyah walks into the
kitchen.

In the kitchen Aaliyah has the record player secretly set up.
She puts on the record for *Ashanti* by Ashanti, and goes to
the song *RESCUE*.

Rider looks in surprise.

RIDER

When'd you set that up?

AALIYAH

When you were sleeping.

Aaliyah sings along casually and walks up to Rider. She
reaches her hands out and Rider holds them. She sways with
Rider, quietly humming the song and rests her head on his
shoulder.

It goes on for a little bit as they sway to the song.

RIDER

I'll go to San Diego.

AALIYAH

Really?

RIDER

Yeah.

Aaliyah smiles.

AALIYAH

Really??

RIDER

Yeah.

Aaliyah excitedly grabs his hand.

RIDER (CONT'D)

I've been here long enough. Let's go chase your dreams.

AALIYAH

What about your dreams?

RIDER

I'll just follow your lead.

Aaliyah smiles again.

AALIYAH

Yeah, yeah! Fuck it, let's go.

RIDER

Fuck it.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Rider and Aaliyah are in his room and Rider opens his safe. He has around \$100,000 saved up. Ashanti is faintly playing in the background.

RIDER

We'll call the right people about the scarlet cave. There's a lot of money in that.

AALIYAH

Yeah, for sure.

RIDER

Do you wanna watch your movie tonight?

Aaliyah smiles.

AALIYAH

Yeah!

RIDER

So are we really doing this? Are we just leaving tomorrow or what?

AALIYAH

Are you ready to leave tomorrow?

RIDER

Yeah, but I have to do something before we leave.

EXT. RIDER'S OLD HOUSE - DAY

Rider is face to face with his old house, Aaliyah by his side.

RIDER

I don't come here often but..

(beat)

I only go through the backyard.

Rider opens the fence and Aaliyah follows him into the backyard.

EXT. RIDER'S OLD HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Rider leads Aaliyah into the backyard where there are three graves with wood crosses and one of the graves has a kid teddy bear.

Aaliyah grips Rider's hand tightly.

AALIYAH

We'll come up a lot. To visit them and my dad.

Rider nods and sits down. Aaliyah sits with him and holds him close.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rider and Aaliyah are cuddled up together watching the end of *Soul Food*. Aaliyah is visibly tired. The last scene and then credits start playing.

AALIYAH

What'd you think?

RIDER

It was cool. Kind of cheesy though.

AALIYAH

Huh? How?

RIDER

Like no way the whole family would be together again.

AALIYAH

That's the whole point of the movie!

RIDER

Yeah, I know, but I don't know. I still liked it though.

AALIYAH

Yeah.

Aaliyah yawns.

RIDER

Do you want apple juice?

AALIYAH

Huh? Sure.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)

Why apple juice?

RIDER

I told you, I'm stopping drinking. As much...

AALIYAH

Yeah.

Rider goes to the kitchen and gets two glasses of apple juice. He sips his a little and goes to give Aaliyah hers, but she's barely awake.

AALIYAH (CONT'D)

Sorry, I'm just tired.

Rider smiles and sets her juice down. He wraps the blanket around him and puts a pillow under her head. He turns the TV off and puts on a coat.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - ROOF - NIGHT

Rider uses a ladder to climb up to the roof of his house. He lays on his roof looking out at the stars and listens to the sounds in the distance: quiet zombie grunts and crickets.

INT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rider is sitting on the couch and Aaliyah is making breakfast.

AALIYAH
What do you want to do in San Diego?

RIDER
What do you mean?

AALIYAH
There's so much opportunity there.
I'm gonna do something with music,
I know that.

RIDER
I was thinking of just helping you.

AALIYAH
Like what??

RIDER
I don't know. I'll like.. work for
you or something.

Aaliyah sighs and brings eggs and bacon to the table.

AALIYAH
We're gonna have to work on that.

Rider grins.

EXT. RIDER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rider and Aaliyah leave the house with a couple bags packed. Aaliyah is holding Rider's hand, but lets go as she goes to the car and Rider stays behind for a second.

He looks at his house, then looks at the other houses on the block. He sighs and heads toward the car, putting the bags in the back then opening the front door.

INT. RIDER'S CAR - MORNING

Rider gets in the driver's seat and starts the car. He holds Aaliyah's hand on the center console then sighs before starting to drive.

Aaliyah connects her phone to the car and plays PYRAMIDS BY FRANK OCEAN.

AALIYAH
Here we go.

EXT. ROAD - MORNING

The music keeps playing as the car drives off, out of town,
to San Diego in an overhead view.

We keep zooming out further and further until we reach space
and see a GIANT WHITE CRYSTAL slowly heading in Earth's
direction.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.