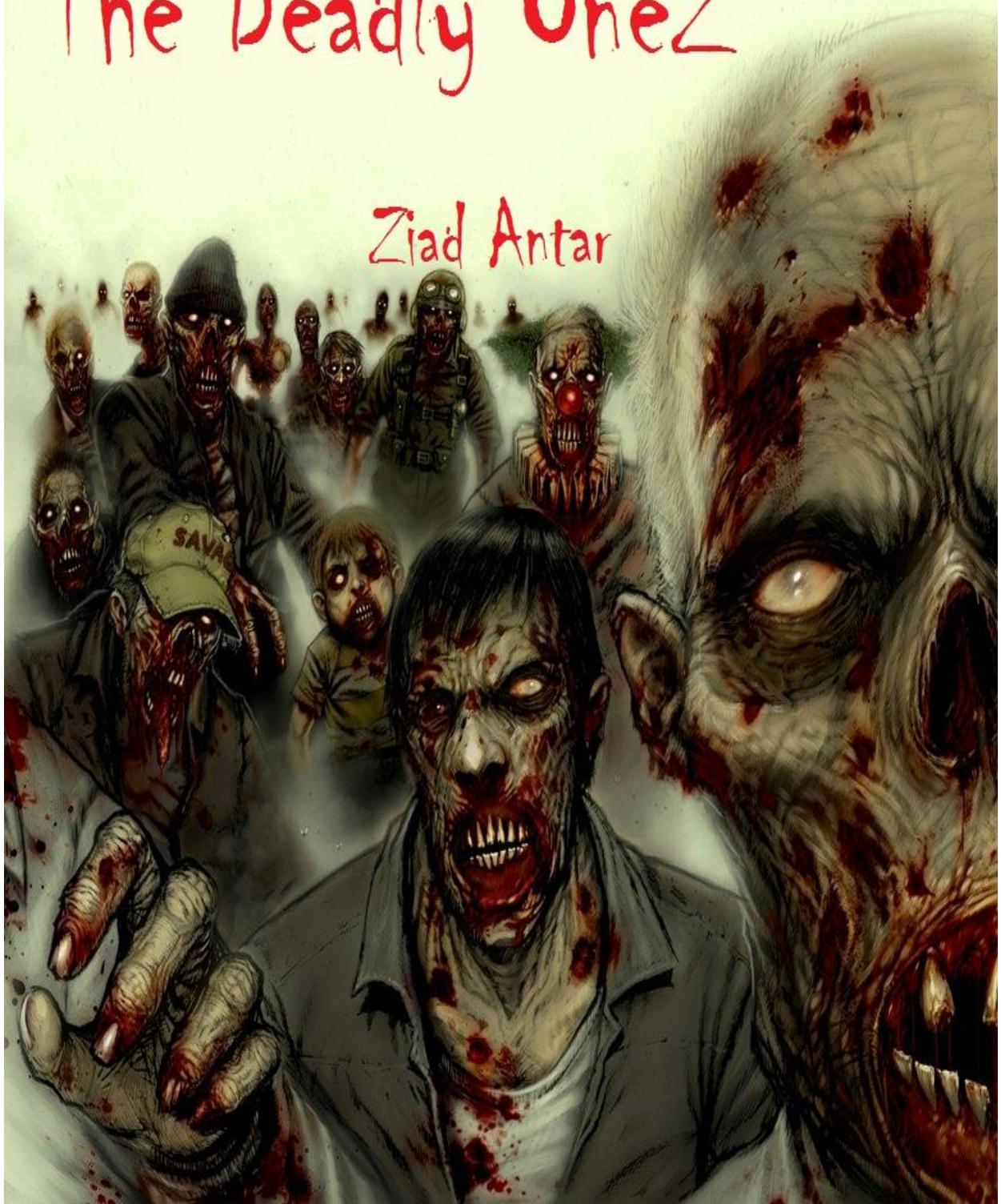


The Deadly OneZ

Ziad Antar



The Deadly

OneZ

Ziad Antar

This book is dedicated to:

My family who support me in everything.

I wish you a great life full of happiness.

With love and respect –Ziad.

Introduction

“Life’s short” we’ve heard this phrase hundred –if not million- times in our life, you waste your time they say “life’s short don’t waste it”, you sleep till 4pm you hear the same thing, sometimes you even do nothing wrong and still receive the same old “life’s short”.

How can you know that? Can you know when will you die?

If life is so short why do we study in school and then in universities?

Why bother meeting, dating and having a family with someone if life’s short?

What if we lived in a world where taxes and payments aren’t our main issues?

What if we lived in a world where one simple mistake means you’re dead?

What if something happened which made you face the fact that you will die sooner no matter what happens? Would you call life short?

Disasters happen, people die, nations demise.

What if we lived in a world, when you die you just can simply come back again?

We heard about the apocalypse, people die and the end of the world.

Cut “the end of the world” statement and replace it with “the end of the living”. People die and live again! Not as before but in a reckless manner, where they don’t just stand and stroll but kill and eat any flesh that encounters them.

Lots of people call them zombies others call them monsters, some refer to them as the living dead, names differ but it’s one figure.

The dead are living and walking, the humankind running and hiding.

A story about a group of university students who live through what they call “living hell”, dealing with uncanny problems, protecting their loved ones, struggling for survival.

After all life’s isn’t short if you come back from the dead.

Episode I

Gradu-death-ing.

Thursday 20-12-2012 \ Dier Atyeh –Damascus Suburbs - Syria

-10:24- Apartment \ Dier Atyeh

“Hey wake up man!”.....

“HEY! Ziad WAKE UP! It’s almost 11am you’re going to be late for your project presentation!” said Ayman.

Barely opened his eyes and answered him “OK OK, I’m up... ugh”.

It was the morning of a cold day 20th of December 2012.

Ziad and Ayman are senior students in a university studying computer engineering, and in this exact day they are going to present a project for their graduation it was about a plastic home which has sensors to light, heat and voice, they called it “The Plastic house”.

-10:37- Apartment

Ziad woke up and entered the living room where Ayman was having his breakfast.

“I can’t believe it man, we’re going to graduate this semester, you believe it was 5 years?” said Ziad

Eating and talking Ayman answered “Uhm... I... um... can’t believe ... it ... uhm yeah... just wash up ... umm um... and get dressed!”

Not wasting a minute Ziad washed his face, brushed his teeth and put on his suit

“I do look good in a suit!” said Ziad with a glamorous smile.

“Yeah young tom cruise won’t stand a chance with you, let’s go” said Ayman sarcastically from the other room.

Both got dressed up and not a minute later they went to the university.

-10:56- Conference Room \ University

“You nervous?” asked Ayman.

“Ugh never been more nervous in my life, more that the time I had my first kiss” answered Ziad.

“Hehe I’m shaking myself” followed Ayman

“Ok enough with the blabbering prepare yourselves we’ll start in couple minutes” Said the Dean of Engineering Dr. Zuhair, 42 years old and CE graduate with Masters and PhD in Electronics and Electrical Engineering.

“Asshole!” whispered Ziad.

Both Ziad and Ayman got everything ready in a minute and started their presentation.

For 14 minutes everything was going perfect the presentation was fluent and solid until suddenly the lights went off, but the generator didn’t turn on.

“What’s going on? Someone go check why there’s no electricity!” said the dean.

The assistant of the dean, Dr. Maher quickly went out of the room to see what the problem was.

“What do you think professor Zuhair? Are we doing well?” asked Ayman

Dr. Zuhair looked at him in a scary glance “Heh really? After the whole presentation we’ll see how good you both are!”

“Told you, an asshole” Ziad whispered to Ayman.

The generators turned on.

“Finally, come on carry on with you plastic house!” said the dean.

“Shouldn’t we wait for Dr. Maher to come? He is within the committee” asked Ziad.

“No” said the dean in an angry manner “you only got 40 minutes, and stop wasting my time”

The presentation kept on going Ziad and Ayman were doing great with some minor mistakes.

-11:38- Conference Room

After presenting and testing the project, the committee discussed it with both of the students asking couple questions about the plastic house, when suddenly Dr. Maher entered the room and quickly went towards the dean and whisperer in his ears for a while.

The dean stood up looking slightly worried and said

“OK nice work, could’ve been much better but nice work!”

Both Dr. Maher and Dr. Zuhair left the room, while the rest of the committee prepared to leave the room.

“....So?” Ayman asked Ziad.

“Just a minute, till they leaves” answered Ziad

Couple seconds and everyone but Ziad and Ayman left the room.

“Yes, we nailed it!” yelled happily Ziad.

“*laughs* Yeah thank god, it could have been worse but we did great!” said Ayman with a grin.

“Wanna grab a bite?” asked Ziad.

“I just had breakfast, but what the hell” answered Ayman.

Both of them grabbed their stuff and left the room heading towards the cafeteria.

While walking in the campus Ziad noticed something.

“Hey an hour ago there was at least hundred students around here , now it’s more like a cemetery less than ten students just wandering, what’s wrong?” asked Ziad.

“I don’t know, are we gonna have something to eat soon or not? My stomach is growling” said Ayman.

“You love eating more than you love your mom!” said Ziad sarcastically.

-12:30-Cafeteria

Ziad and Ayman entered the cafeteria

“Put the stuff on some table I’m gonna get two sandwiches, you don’t want more than one right?” asked Ziad.

“*laughs* Yeah one is enough... for now, thanks” answered Ayman.

Ziad went to the counter to get the sandwiches while Ayman went to a table and put the laptop and the plastic house on it, and glanced around inside the cafeteria and outside it.

“Ziad’s right, outside there’s no one fine! But the cafeteria with only couple guys and girls is kind of strange!” thought Ayman.

Ayman sat down and started playing on his phone.

“Two salami sandwiches please!” said Ziad to the cashier “Where’s everyone?”

The cashier Aziz answered “I don’t know someone said the highway into Damascus is closed”

“When did that happen?” asked Ziad mysteriously.

“About an hour ago, since then people started to talk and in ten minutes everyone started to leave the cafeteria!” answered Aziz.

“Did you hear why the highway was closed?” asked Ziad again.

“I don’t really know I keep calling my friend in Damascus but it seems that the network is out of order now, maybe a technical problem” answered Aziz.

“Maybe...”said Ziad “Thanks a lot, take care!”

“You too” said Aziz.

Ziad grabbed the two salami sandwiches and headed back to Ayman.

“Here, the cashier said something about closing the highway into Damascus, you heard anything like that?” asked Ziad.

“I don’t know, I’m trying to call my family to tell them about our great presentation but the line is dead” said Ayman.

Ziad ate a bite and reached for his cell, called his brother Ahmad.

calling *connection error*

“Are you getting the same message that says ‘connection error’?” asked Ziad.

“Yeah been getting it for a while, I thought it was my cellphone but seems that something is wrong with the network” answered Ayman.

Ziad stood up and went towards another table where two guys are sitting.

“Excuse me guys, um do you have coverage in your cellphones?” Ziad asked the two strangers.

“No we got no bars, you?” one of them said

“Same here, do you know what happened?” Ziad asked them.

“Before the network went off we heard that the highway into Damascus and Homs was closed, but I don’t really know why” answered the other guy “some people talked, nothing is certain for now”

“Thanks anyway” said Ziad and went back to his table.

“Hey while you were talking to those guys I saw Adnan walking fast towards the back door of the university so I went out and yelled for him and asked him what’s wrong!” said Ayman.

“Yes..!” said Ziad with full attention.

“Yeah, he was out of breath like he was running from someone” said Ayman “He said that the highway to Damascus and Homs is closed and he was going to get into his car to go back to Aleppo, that’s all he said and then went away quickly!”

“That’s weird!” said Ziad “Next week is final exams, they start in two days why would he leave?”

“I don’t know buddy, let’s finish and get back to the apartment!” said Ayman.

-13:16- University Campus

After they finished their sandwiches they both went out of the cafeteria and walked in the campus towards the main gate of the university, while walking towards the main gate suddenly

Bomb explosion in distance

“What the hell??” asked Ziad frightened “What the hell was THAT?”

“Sounded like an explosion! The voice came from north” answered Ayman “Let’s find a taxi and get back to the apartment we can try landlines or the internet to find out what’s happening”

“Good enough!” said Ziad, while they exited the main gate Ziad noticed that the security cabinet was empty which was weird because it’s never empty, people come in and out all the day.

As they reached the street outside the main gate they noticed only two taxis out there, they called one and got inside, and on the way to the apartment

“Why there are only you and other taxi?” Ziad asked the driver

“I don’t know an hour ago people started leaving, and taxis too!” answered the driver.

In a couple minutes they reached their destination, as they stepped out of the taxi Ziad said “Looks like the lights are still out the restaurant’s sign is off and if you look around you can see nobody, it’s getting weirder, let’s go up!”

-13:35- Apartment \ Dier Atyeh

While walking up the stairs Ziad and Ayman noticed their neighbor, Ayman asked him “Hey Michael you know why the lights are off? And what’s the reason behind the cellphone’s problem?”

Michael said quickly “I don’t know...” and entered his apartment then locked the door.

“Stupid!” Ziad said.

They continued upstairs, and entered their apartment.

“I’ll check the internet for some information, you use the telephone and call someone who can tell us something about what’s going on!” said Ziad

Ayman rushed into his room to try the telephone, while Ziad opened up his laptop and tried to get online but apparently not only the lights were off but the internet as well.

Ayman came out of the room

“Not working” Ayman said disappointed.

“Same here, the internet is off too” said Ziad “What the hell is going on? It’s getting from weird to horrible!”

“Maybe it’s a technical problem or something, look I’ll head down to the market and bring some juice, you want something?” asked Ayman.

“Just a chocolate bar and ask Rawad if he knows something!” answered Ziad.

Ayman went out of the apartment, and Ziad tried to turn on the generator's light but seems like the generator wasn't turned on

“Just perfect!” said Ziad in an angry manner.

He lighted a cigarette and stood in front of the window

“The hospital's lights are still on, and I began to wonder that people left the city”
Ziad wondered optimistically.

Meanwhile, Ayman was going to the market.

He entered it.

“Afternoon Rawad!” said Ayman

“Hey Ayman, how are you?” asked Rawad

“Great thanks” answered Ayman while getting a juice “Hey you know what's wrong? Why the lights, phones and the internet are off?”

“I really don't know much, but my brother a minute ago got back home to Qarah, he was there just two hours ago, and he heard something about the government closing the in-out highways of all major cities for some medical thing, that must have something to do with what's happening!” answered Rawad.

“All major cities?” said Ayman surprised “What the hell is going on? If the road to Homs and Damascus is closed for real that means we are trapped in here until they open it again”

“Maybe, I don't know” said Rawad

“Here” Ayman gave Rawad some cash “Thanks!” and then he left the market.

-14:44- Highway to Damascus

Car horns ... *car horns*...

“Move it!”

“Either go on or get back you’re blocking the road”

“Move your car!”

“TELL THAT TO THE 100 CARS INFRONT!”

20km till Damascus and the highway is filled with hundreds of cars, people arguing and shouting.

Inside one of the cars “Honey this jam has been going on for more than an hour it’s better to head back home or try to squeeze your way forward, Mahmoud is getting sleepy!” said Fatima to her husband.

“How am I supposed to get outta of this quandary? There’re at least 20 cars behind us and more than 100 cars ahead!” answered Tarek.

“Pfft... the day that my sister will get engaged we get in this jam, bad luck can’t stop getting to me!” said Fatima frustrated.

“Honey I’ll go out and check if we can drive out of the road back home, you check the phone again if it works!” said Tarek and got out of the car.

Tarek got out of the car and looked ahead.

“I’ll be damned! Cars are lining up thousands of them, I’m pretty sure we won’t be getting to Damascus anytime soon” Tarek thought to himself.

While Tarek was looking aside the road for a safe route for his car so he and his family could head back home when suddenly aircrafts started flying quickly towards Damascus, more than ten airplanes along with some choppers.

“What the hell?” Tarek wondered “Sukhoi and Mil Helicopters? The last time I saw those decades ago, if something that serious was happening I’d better take my family home”

Tarek rushed to the car got inside and started the engine.

“What was that? Why airplanes flying? Is this a war?” Fatima asked terrified.

“....”

“We’re getting back home...” said Tarek

Explosion in distance

“OH MY GOD, Tarek please get us outta of here” cried Fatima.

“May Allah have mercy on us!” prayed Tarek.

Explosions in distance

He turned the car and into the side of the road and started driving backwards while everyone was trying to move forward and backwards, people were screaming and leaving their cars just running in different directions after the explosions.

-18:51- Apartment \ Dier Atyeh

Ziad and Ayman were sitting in the apartment while the lights were still off phones and the internet was still out.

“What do you think is happening?” asked Ayman

“How will I know? Might be anything ...” Ziad answered.

voice of airplanes passing by

“It’s been going on for a while now, what’s with the airplanes?” Ziad asked

“Well I’m not an expert in such things but airplanes are used in wars, you think it’s the same deal with Israel all over again?” Ayman said.

“War huh? I don’t see any tanks nor soldiers, whatever man I’m gonna go try to sleep didn’t get much sleep yesterday, good night!” said Ziad and went to his room.

“Night!” said Ayman.

Ayman stood up and looked out of the window

“Hours ago everything was fine, but electricity, cellphones and internet are out for more than six hours is something weird, we had such problem before a lot, a black out in the electricity but this! It’s freaky...” Ayman wondered to himself.

Ayman grabbed a chocolate bar, and went to his room.

-23:33- Command room in Damascus

“Sir we’ve attacked the area couple times but they’re still appearing in other places!” said the lieutenant to the general.

“Get rid of them DAMN IT!” said furiously General Ali “Just kill them, I don’t know what’s wrong with those freaks, but eating human flesh is just insane!”

“Yes sir!” said the lieutenant.

General Ali started walking forward and backward

“What the hell has gotten into those people? I’ve seen thieves, murderers and rapists, but cannibals? Not one but dozens of them, how did that happen?” General Ali wondered to himself.

“Sir!” said the lieutenant.

“Speak up lieutenant!” said General Ali.

“We have a problem sir, those freaks are surprisingly enlarging we are facing not just twelve hot spots but its more than thirty now, we are almost losing control in the northern area of Damascus, people are starting to freak out, what should we do?” said the lieutenant.

“WHAT? Thirty? Minutes ago we were closing on them, and now we are cracking down in the northern zone? Call upon the security forces and ask for Colonel

Khalil to close the entrances in and out from Damascus in the northern region!”
said General Ali.

The lieutenant got dismissed, while General Ali rushed to captain Rami

“Take twenty men and head to the president quick and tell him we are lost
command of north Damascus and we’ll be facing a Code Fatal if this keeps getting
worse” said the General “and tell him to leave Damascus it may be compromised!”

Captain Rami took no further seconds and went out.

Friday 21-12-2012 \ Dier Atyeh –Damascus Suburbs – Syria

-9:21-Apartment \ Dier Atyeh

Ziad woke up and got out of his room, noticed the apartment's door is open

“Damn it Ayman you forgot to...”

While talking he looked left and saw a man was standing in a crooked way towards the corner and facing his back to Ziad “Hey mister, who are you and what are you doing here?” Ziad asked.

“...”

The strange man said nothing...

Ziad grabbed a knife from the counter and walked slowly towards the man

“HEY! I'm talking to you WHO ARE YOU?” Ziad shouted.

Not a second after the man turned slowly while his back was still crooked

“Ughmmm...” growled the man, and started to walk slowly towards Ziad.

Ziad went backwards “WHAT THE HELL? What happened to your face? Get back I SAID GET BACK...” yelled Ziad.

sound of a metal blast

“AHH!” screamed Ziad.

Ayman suddenly got out of his room and stroke the man on his head with an iron pipe the man fell down but was still growling.

“*gasp* drag him with me from his feet outside the room quick!” said Ayman.

They grabbed the man from his feet quickly to the corridor outside the apartment and then rushed inside again.

Click

“We better keep it locked! *gasp*” said Ayman.

“Calm down man, what’s going on? Who is that freaky man? How did he get in here? And why the hell his face was like that?” Ziad asked mysteriously.

Ayman checked the door again and sat down on the sofa

“I woke up an hour ago and when I opened the curtains I saw a woman with white jacket crawling in the middle of street, opened the window and yelled for her but she didn’t respond and kept crawling, I put on my coat and rushed out the apartment but on the stairs there was this man just standing at the end of the stairs and staring at me, just seconds and his started to go up the stairs, I told him about the lady outside but he said nothing as if he was deaf, when he got close to me HE WANTED TO BITE ME, I quickly kicked him down the stairs and fell on my back, but he stood up again after falling 12 stairs as if nothing happened to him, that’s when I got inside the apartment and hid in my room, I forgot to lock the door that’s how he got here” said Ayman terrified.

“Wow that’s some freaky man!” said Ziad “and what’s with the pale and snot dripping face?”

“I don’t know, it’s like he was sick or something, but I don’t know why he tried to bite me!” answered Ayman.

“Look let’s just calm down, and we should think about what to do” said Ziad.

“Alright we still don’t know what’s going on, maybe he was a sick person, but we should go to the university, we’ll talk to anyone there and ask about what’s happening” Ziad added.

“Ok I’ll get dressed and we’ll go!” said Ayman.

Ziad and Ayman got dressed then Ziad walked towards the door, put his ear on it heard nothing from outside “I think he left!” said Ziad then opened the apartment’s door slowly and looked outside “We’re clear, let’s head out!” Ziad added.

-9:55-Outside of the apartment

Ziad and Ayman got out of the apartment and started walking down the street looking for someone “where are the taxis?” Ayman asked “they’re always here!”

Ziad noticed a car far along the road “there!” said Ziad.

They both started walking towards the car till they reached it, Ayman looked through the glass inside the car and saw no one inside “where’s the driver?” Ayman asked.

“I don’t have a clue!” Ziad answered.

They both started staring along the road in both ways without seeing anyone.

“It’s a long way to the university, we can borrow this car, and I see no reason not to use it” Ziad said wondering.

Ayman raises his shoulders “maybe!”

Ayman sat in the passenger’s seat and Ziad in the driver’s seat and started driving towards the university.

-10:08-The University’s entrance & Campus

Ziad drove through the main door looking into the security cabinet and seeing no one inside “empty again?” Ziad said “I know it is Friday but the security have no days off”.

He kept driving through the campus they kept looking around but saw no one around.

“This is getting creepy!” Ayman stated.

“Uhm...!” Ziad nodded.

They reached the area in front of the university's main building, Ziad parked the car then he and Ayman got out of the car.

They both started walking towards the main door, Ayman looked around while walking

“What the hell? Where is everyone, not a single person?” said Ayman.

“I know it's freaky, let's just get inside!” said Ziad then they entered the main door.

-10:25-University's main building

When they entered the building Ziad said “I'll go check the student's advisor!”

“OK, I'll look around and see if I can find someone” Ayman said.

Ziad went into the student's advisor's room but saw no one inside so he got back to the lobby “He's not here!” said Ziad, Ayman came to the lobby and said that he found no one either.

“We should check out our dean upstairs maybe he's there” Ziad said.

They went through the lobby and up the stairs till they reached the 2nd floor and still they saw no single soul in the hallways of the 1st and the 2nd floor , so when they reached the dean's office Ayman tried to open the door but it's looked “well! He's not here!” Ayman said.

“OK this is freaking me out there can't be no one in this university” Ayman stated.

They started walking back while passing the bathroom they heard a voice from inside

“Did you hear that?” Ziad asked.

“Yeah it's coming from the bathroom!” Ayman answered.

Ziad opened the bathroom door and saw the janitor standing there two meters away with his pale skin and mucus dripping out of his nose.

“Hey are you ok?” Ziad asked the janitor.

The janitor said nothing but started walking towards them and growling “OK I think he is sick just like that other guy” Ayman said terrified “close the door! We should get out of here!”

Ziad closed the door, he and Ayman ran back towards the stairs but they stopped.

“Oh my god! That’s our dean Dr. Zuhair he looks sick too!” Ayman said

“Dr. Zuhair!! You hear me?” Ziad yelled but Dr.Zuhair didn’t answer but started walking towards them.

“We can’t go down ...” Ziad said. He turned behind to find the janitor was getting closer to them so pointed towards the physics lab next to them “let’s get in there!” Ziad said. He and Ayman ran into the physics lab and Ayman closed the door.

-10:51-Physics lab

“What was wrong with them?” Ayman asked scared

“First the man in our apartment, now the janitor and the dean?” Ziad said “they don’t just look sick they are crazy!”

The two crazies started banging on the door and Ayman kept holding the door and yelled “what should we do now?!”

“The door is the only way out!” Ziad answered “keep holding the door I’ll check the windows”

Ziad opened a window looked down and said “it’s impossible to get out of here its more than six meters down, we should find a way to avoid those crazies outside”

“But how?” Ayman asked.

-11:12-Physics Lab

sound of metal banging

“They stopped banging on the door” Ayman said worried when suddenly a voice from outside said “is anyone in there?”

“Yes we are trapped in here, me and my friend” Ayman yelled and opened the door slowly “be careful!” Ziad stated.

“I’m fine I’m not like them, I was hiding in an office” said the Stranger and entered the physics lab.

“We should get of the building find some safe place, those two won’t hurt us but I believe others heard us and soon will come here” the stranger added.

“We don’t know you but you are the first sane person we’ve seen since yesterday” Ziad said with cautious then he and Ayman followed the stranger down the stairs to the lobby.

-11:24-Main Building & Campus

While the three of them were running down the stairs Ziad asked “who are you?”

“I’m Khaled studying medicine senior year, you guys?!” Khaled said.

“I’m Ayman this is Ziad CE senior year too” Ayman answered.

They reach the lobby “no one got here yet, hurry!” said Khaled then he ran towards the main door with Ziad and Ayman.

Outside the main building they stood in front of the door “look some of them heard us and are gonna come after us” said Khaled “we should go to the gym it’s safe I guess”

-11:40- Gym

They started running towards the gym getting past cafeteria and avoiding all the crazies they saw on the way, Khaled opened the gym's door while saying "Ok we're here we..." a crazy pushed Khaled outside while grabbing his arm and bit his left shoulder when suddenly Ziad kicked the crazy down on the floor and helped Khaled getting inside the gym, Ayman got inside and closed the door then locked it.

Ziad put Khaled on the floor in the gym with blood all over Khaled's shoulder.

Ayman asked frightened "Is he ok?"

-12:19-Gym

"I'm fine it's just a scratch" Khaled said.

Ziad reached for his pocket brought out some tissues and covered the wound

"That should hold it, the bleeding stopped" Ziad said.

Ziad sat on the floor in shock and started to talk "Oh my god, what was wrong with that guy? He bit you! That's crazy what's wrong with those people? What if my family is in danger? I gotta check on them but there's no cellphone network or internet, what should we do?"

"Hey calm down I'm sure they are fine, just sit down I'll go check on the front door and see if it's solid" Ayman said trying to calm Ziad down and then went to the front door.

Khaled stood up and went to Ayman "we should barricade the door and good so none of those crazies can get in" said Khaled to Ayman.

"Ok let's search for something to seal the door" said Ayman.

-13:08- Command room in Damascus

“Sir!” said Captain Rami “we are losing control of Damascus, almost 90% of the city is out of control to those freaks”

“WHAT?” yelled General Ali “what happened?”

“I don’t know sir it’s impossible to believe but they seem to get more and more people, and most of our force teams either dead or we lost contact with them and the security force’s headquarter has been taken by them and Colonel Khalil is missed” added Captain Rami.

“I can’t believe those freaks are causing so much detriment” said General Ali concerned “go and tell our pilots to prepare the choppers we’re evacuating everyone outside of Damascus”

-22:02- Gym \University

Back in the gym Khaled was starting to feel dizzy and light-headed “damn it I can stand up, it’s roller coasters in my head” said Khaled while sitting on the floor.

“You’re probably just tired you’ll be fine, try to get some rest” said Ayman. Then went to the front door of the gym and looked outside through the window “there are dozen crazies out there but good thing no one seem to come here!” thought Ayman to himself then looked back and saw Ziad has already fallen asleep but Khaled was flipping left and right trying to sleep.

“If you want anything during the night just wake me up and try to sleep, good night!” said Ayman to Khaled.

“Thanks man, night!” Khaled answered.

(24 Hours ago Thursday night)

-22:13-Entrance of Dier Atyeh

“Finally we are here at last” said Fatima.

“Yeah finally, even it took us hours through that route road but I’m happy about the idea of reaching home” said Tarek and drove his car through the town’s streets and looked around “the lights are off here too!” added Tarek.

They reached their home all of them got out of the car and got inside the house.

“I’m gonna lock the door and put Mahmoud in bed, I still feel scared from what happened back there” said Fatima frightened so locked the door and took Mahmoud to his bedroom.

Tarek took off his jacket and put it on the sofa then sat down tired

“Pheww... I still can’t figure out the purpose of the airplanes” thought to himself.

Fatima came out of Mahmoud’s bedroom and sat next to Tarek

“He fell asleep seconds after lying on the bed” said Fatima “what happened back in the highway? Are there gonna be a war?”

“Don’t stress yourself, I’m sure it’s some sort of a military training!” answered Tarek.

“And what about the phones and the lights?” Fatima asked again.

“We experienced such things before nothing to worry about I’m so tired I ought to sleep!” Answered Tarek “let’s go sleep and don’t worry about anything darling”

Tarek and Fatima went to the bedroom to sleep.

(Next day, Friday Morning)

-6:04-Tarek's House \ Dier Atyeh

Fatima woke up while Tarek was still asleep, she went to the kitchen to make some breakfast and she noticed the lights were still off, she grabbed a phone in the kitchen and the line was dead, she opened the fridge but there's no bread

"Pfft... great!" said Fatima angrily.

"Good morning sweetie look who's up early!" Tarek said when he entered the kitchen with Mahmoud "good morning mommy!" said Mahmoud.

Fatima smiled and said "good morning sweetie and my precious baby!"

"Mahmoud go brush your teeth!" Tarek said to Mahmoud and asked Fatima "what's wrong? You seem troubled"

"We don't have bread we should buy some!" Fatima answered.

"Ok I'll wash my face and go out and buy some, anything else?" Tarek asked.

"Y'know as long as you're going I'm coming with you we need some tissues and other groceries!" Fatima answered, Tarek tried to say something but Fatima talked quickly "I know you're gonna tell me to stay but I need to get some personal things, but I'm not leaving Mahmoud home so I'll bring him with us"

"Stubborn as always" Tarek stated, then he went to the bathroom washed his face while Fatima was telling Mahmoud to get dressed.

Tarek got out the house with Mahmoud, Fatima grabbed her white coat and out of the house she went and locked the door, all of them got in the car and drove off.

Saturday 22-12-2012 \ Dier Atyeh –Damascus Suburbs – Syria

-8:02- Gym \ University

Ayman woke up and saw Ziad already was awake and staring through one of the windows “morning man, how you holding up?” Ayman asked Ziad.

“I’m sorry about yesterday I just lost it, I’m doing fine thanks” Ziad answered.

“No problem, I’m gonna go check on Khaled” said Ayman and then started walking towards Khaled who seemed to be sleeping, Ayman touched his forehead

“Whoow... he’s burning up!” Ayman thought to himself

“*dry cough*... *dry cough*... I’m not feeling very well ...” said Khaled

Ayman stood up and ran to Ziad “Hey Khaled is burning up and coughing like hell, looks like he’s down with cold!” said Ayman.

“Let me see how bad is it” Ziad stated and checked on Khaled.

“He is temperature is high and his face looks pale” Ziad said “look Ayman you stay here and take care of him and look out for Mahmoud he is still asleep, I’m gonna go get some pills from the hospital and some food from the cafeteria, I’ll get back as soon as I can it won’t take more than an hour!”

Ziad went to the front door examined the outer area and ran out “lock the door” said Ziad and ran towards the cafeteria, while Ayman was locking the door of the gym.

-8:59- Campus & Cafeteria

Ziad ran swiftly through the campus avoiding couple crazies and then reached the cafeteria’s front door.

“Hope I see no crazies inside” said Ziad and entered the front door.

“Oh great as if I was praying for them to show up” said Ziad sarcastically and ran quickly towards the kitchen’s door managed to maneuver and after he reached the door he looked back and said “they are so slow”.

He quickly grabbed as much sandwiches as he could and put them in a bag before even the crazies reached the kitchen’s door, then ran outta of the kitchen avoiding them and through the main door of the cafeteria to the campus.

He looked around then ran in the hospital’s direction

“If I keep running they can’t reach me!” said while running.

-9:49- Hospital’s entrance

He reached the hospital’s entrance when suddenly stopped

“Basel?” Ziad said shocked.

(Half hour ago – Gym)

Khaled coughs repeatedly

“Be right, hang on in there!” said Ayman and went running around the gym and searching one of the rooms “white sheets and towels, great!” stated Ayman.

He grabbed a towel, wetted it with cold water from the bathroom’s sink then hurried back to Khaled and put the cold-wet towel on his forehead “this should help a little!” said Ayman.

Khaled coughs

“I feel cold...!” said Khaled while shaking.

Ayman went back to the room and grabbed a sheet and while getting out of the room he noticed some tennis rackets near the door so he grabbed couple of them and got back.

He put the sheet on Khaled “Hang on there, Ziad just went out to get you some pills that’ll help you...!” Ayman said when Khaled stopped coughing.

“Khaled you ok?” Ayman asked “can you hear me?”

Ayman shook Khaled’s shoulders then slapped his face two times but no response from him.

“Is he dead?” Ayman said freaked.

-10:02- Hospital’s entrance

Ziad saw his friend Basel standing facing the hospital’s door.

A tear dropped from Ziad’s eye and he started walking towards Basel

“Thank god you’re fine I was worried you were like those freaks” Ziad said.

Ziad put his hand on Basel’s shoulder when suddenly the latter turned quickly and jumped on Ziad, both of them fell on the floor Ziad resisted, pushed him and ran towards the hospital’s door then looked back at Basel

“What the hell is happening?” Ziad yelled and then went inside the hospital.

-10:39- Gym

Ayman kept looking through the window looking around

“He’s late, what’s taking him so long?” Ayman thought to himself when he suddenly heard a voice from behind, a voice more like a humming.

He turned back and saw Khaled was trying to get up

“Oh, you’re fine thank god” said Ayman and went to Khaled then reached his hand offering help so he could stand up when suddenly Khaled tried to grab him so Ayman pushed him away and went backwards till he reached the wall, Khaled stood up and started walking towards Ayman.

Ayman noticed that Khaled wasn’t walking straight and was growling so Ayman yelled “Hey stop walking! Khaled it’s me Ayman”

But Khaled didn’t stop walking so Ayman grabbed a tennis racket and started hitting Khaled on the waist but Khaled tried to grab Ayman as if he didn’t get hit.

Ayman hit Khaled’s leg and broke it and caused him to fall on the floor, so Ayman stopped hitting him but Khaled started crawling and grabbed Ayman’s foot, that’s when Ayman started hitting him on the head non-stop while blood was splashing all around from Khaled’s head.

Finally Khaled stopped moving and Ayman sat down on the floor next to him with his shirt and hands full of blood and brain parts were on the floor

“What have I done?” Ayman said.

-11:24-Gym

While Ayman was still in shock and sitting one meter away from Khaled’s body someone started banging on the gym’s door

“Open up Ayman it’s me” Ziad yelled from outside.

Ayman didn’t move a muscle as if he didn’t hear Ziad yelling...

“HEY! Open the damn door they’re all over the place!” Ziad yelled again.

Ayman snapped out and heard Ziad’s voice so he rushed to the door and opened it, Ziad got in and said “what took you so long?”, Ayman said nothing “...”

Ziad walked inside and unexpectedly dropped the bags of food and pills.

“WHAT HAPPENED?” Ziad yelled.

(An hour ago at the Dentistry section in the university)

-10:43- Bathroom

A kid was standing on a toilet inside the bathroom scared and crying wiping his tears when he suddenly heard a voice of footsteps outside the door.

He went to the door opened it slowly and started looking around but he saw nobody, so he got out of the bathroom and walked through the hall till he reached the lobby of the main building that's when he stopped and started crying cause he saw three guys eating some dead girl's guts.

They heard his crying and started walking towards him the kid started running away from them and reached the front door of the building that lead out to the campus.

When he's outside he didn't stop running but kept on till he reached the cafeteria and stopped because the front door was filled with crazies, so the kid turned his back and started running to the gym.

-11:32- Gym

The kid kept running towards the gym gasping and crying till he reached the door, tried to open it but it didn't budge when suddenly heard a voice from inside

“WHAT HAPPENED?”

He started crying and yelling loud asking for help but the crazies were getting closer to him, he decided to run away from the gym when suddenly Ziad opened the door and saw the kid running then said “get inside kid!”

The kid ran quickly inside then Ziad tried to shut the door but one of the crazies got his hand inside, Ziad kept trying to close the door and yelled “stand back kid!”

He opened the door kicked the crazy away from the door and shut it.

-12:02- Gym

The kid ran towards the wall freaked out, when Ziad tried to approach him the kid ran away from him

“Hey hey! I’m not gonna hurt you, you’re safe here I promise, are you ok? And how did you get here?” Ziad said.

The kid said nothing but didn’t run away from Ziad when got close to him.

“You’re safe here kiddo don’t worry, I’m Ziad by the way!” stated Ziad

The kid wiped his tears and said “I’m Mahmoud!”

“OK Mahmoud I don’t know how did you get here but I’m assuring you this gym is secure and we have food over there and some sheets you can use it as a bed, come with me go I’ll give you something to eat” Ziad said to Mahmoud, so the little kid said “ok!” and went with Ziad.

Ziad took out two tuna sandwiches and gave one to Mahmoud, Ziad looked at Ayman but he’s still sitting on the floor and leaning on the wall.

Ziad started eating the sandwich and talking to Mahmoud.

-19:32- Gym

After finishing talking to Mahmoud and putting him to sleep Ziad went to Ayman and said to him “Hey man what happened with Khaled?”

“...” Ayman said nothing.

“Look! Take a deep breath and tell me what happened!” Ziad insisted.

Ayman gasped and stared talking “when you left his temperature raise so I got him a wet towel and put it on his head but he kept saying that he is freezing so I searched for a blanket to cover him but when I got back he was already unconscious, I tried to wake him up but nothing happened so I didn’t know what to do then when I was staring through the window I heard him say something but

turns out he was just like those freaks tries to bite me, I tries to push him away but he kept coming at me so I started hitting him on the head till he stopped moving, I don't know why I did that but I was scared and I didn't know what to do, everything happened so fast”

And Ayman started to cry, so Ziad put his hand on Ayman's shoulder and said

“You did what you thought was right, I'd have done the same thing if I were you”

“You should go sleep man” Ziad added.

Ayman stood up and laid on one of the sheet trying to sleep and Ziad went to check on Mahmoud who was sound asleep.

Ziad sat on a sheet he said to himself

“I wonder where Kamal is”

Sunday 23-12-2012 \ Dier Atyeh –Damascus Suburbs – Syria

-6:02- Kamal’s House \ Dier Atyeh

He keeps walking around his living room then looks outside the window

“Two days and no police or rescue team came, and those savages are still walking around” Kamal said to himself.

“Someone will come for the rescue for sure, I’ll keep waiting!” he added.

-10:34- Gym \ University

Yawns

Ziad woke up while everyone’s still asleep he looked around but didn’t see Mahmoud anywhere.

“Mahmoud! Mahmoud!” he yelled.

He stood up and started to run around the gym when suddenly Mahmoud came out of the bathroom “I’m here!” Mahmoud said.

“You scared the hell outta of me kiddo” Ziad said “and good morning!”

“Good morning to you Ziad” Mahmoud replied.

“What’s all that screaming?” Ayman asked while yawning.

“Sorry man it’s nothing” Ziad answered.

Ziad started to bring out some tuna sandwiches from the bag while Ayman was washing his face and then they all sat and started to have their breakfast.

While eating Ziad said to Ayman “You know with all this mess and those crazies I forgot about Kamal”

“That’s right, but I think after all this happened he must’ve traveled back to Lattakia and let me eat my sandwiches because eating and talking isn’t my hobby” Ayman answered.

“*laughs* fair enough, but I think we should go visit his house just in case he is still there, plus his house would be a good shelter for us” Ziad said.

Ayman nods “Mm... Aowight” Ayman said mouthful.

-11:02- Gym

After they finished breakfast Ziad started to pack the food and medicine in the bag and grabbed a tennis racket, while Ayman was checking the front door.

Ziad grabbed Mahmoud’s hand and said “always keep close to me you hear me?”

Mahmoud nodded “alright”

“Oh yeah I didn’t introduce you two to each other” Ziad stated “Mahmoud this is my friend Ayman, Ayman this is Mahmoud”

“Ok hey there kiddo, the area outside the gym is clear but around the campus there are lots of them” Ayman said

Ziad looked outside “Ok the second we get outside we run like a bolt towards the car in the front of the main building, I know there are so many of crazies out there but if you keep your speed up they won’t be a problem, trust me they are slow”

After he finished talking Ayman opened the door and they all ran outside and kept running through the campus maneuvering all the crazies till they passed the cafeteria, when Ziad stopped “God! They are all over the car, look at me we don’t have time to stand here, Ayman take Mahmoud and go right I’ll go get their attention to drive them away from the car, you start the car and get me now go!”

Ziad ran towards the car “HEY, HEY IDIOTS!” he yelled while running towards them.

The crazies around the car heard his voice and quickly turned and started chasing him so he ran backwards towards around the cafeteria and yelled “Go! Start the car, I’ll lure them around and you meet me and the front door of the cafeteria”

-11:24- Campus

Ayman and Mahmoud ran towards the car and got in while Ziad was still running towards the cafeteria with more than twenty crazies behind him.

Ayman starts the cars *Engine rumbles* “come on come on” he said.

Engine started “Yes, hold on kid this ride may get a little bumpy” he said and started driving towards the cafeteria’s door

“There he is!” Mahmoud yelled.

Ziad kept running till he passed the cafeteria’s door, reached the car and quickly got in “drive drive drive!” Ziad yelled.

Ayman hit the paddle and turned the car around hitting couple crazies

“Whew it’s better than movies” Ayman said and kept driving towards the main gate of the university then got out and minutes later he reached Kamal’s house.

-12:03- Kamal’s house \ Dier Atyeh

After they reached the house they got out of the car towards the house, Ziad started knocking on the door and yelling “Kamal! Are you still? It’s me Ziad!”

Ayman noticed that the yelling drove the crazies’ attention in the houses nearby.

Ziad kept on yelling “Come on be home man!”

“We should bail it’s obviously he’s not here, and the crazies are close” Ayman said.

Ayman ran back to the car with Mahmoud and Ziad when suddenly Kamal opened the door and yelled in joy “Ziad is that you?”

Not a second after he said that he looked at his left and one of the crazies tried to grab him so he rushed inside the house with the crazy chasing him inside too.

Ziad, Ayman and Mahmoud rushed inside the house after them, Ayman locked the door and said to Mahmoud “stay close to me!”

Ziad looked around and heard a growling voice coming from the end of the hall, so he ran to the end of the hall and saw the crazy banging on the bathroom’s door so he hit the crazy on the stomach with the tennis racket but it didn’t affect him instead it turned towards Ziad and started chasing him so Ziad started going backwards when Ayman yelled from behind “the head keep hitting the head”

Ziad started hitting the crazy’s head till it fell on the floor and started crawling so he kept hitting the head with the blood shattering all around it on Ziad’s shirt, jeans, hands and face till it stopped moving.

Ziad stopped hitting and stared at the body

“I murdered a person” he thought to himself.

-12:43- Kamal’s House

Ziad looked at his bloody hands and said “I think it won’t hurt us anymore”.

Kamal opened the bathroom door rejoiced about them coming

“I’m so glad you both are still alive!”

Kamal tried to hug Ziad but the latter stopped him “you don’t wanna get all this blood on your shirt” Ziad said and tapped Kamal on the should “It’s good to see you alive too”

Kamal hugged Ayman and greeting the Mahmoud “and you would be?” Kamal asked the Mahmoud.

“I’m Mahmoud” answered

“Good to meet you, Ziad I have clean clothes in the bedroom get washed and meet us in the living room” Kamal said.

Ziad nodded and went to the bedroom.

Kamal, Ayman and Mahmoud got in the living room when Ayman said

“You’ve been here since it all started? You saved food too?”

“Yeah before it all started I’ve had enough food for days, and yeah the house is secure enough” Kamal said and Ziad entered the room.

“So Mr. Survivor how did you hold up for the last two days in here?” Ziad asked.

“I was just telling Ayman, before it all I had food stock for days and the day it happened I woke up in the morning on the sound of my door knocking there was some lady with white coat asking for some bread for her family...” Kamal said when Mahmoud interrupted and said “Mommy!” and started crying.

“Mummy? What is it Mahmoud?” Ziad asked Mahmoud.

“*crying* That was my mom trying, we went out the first day out to get some bread but all the markets were closed so dad started to go around houses letting mom ask people for some bread while he protected me in the car” Mahmoud said while crying.

“And where are your parents?” Ziad Asked.

“*crying*” Mahmoud kept on crying.

“Lady with a white coat I think that was the same one I was crawling outside our apartment days ago” Ayman stated and when Mahmoud heard him and ran out of the room crying.

“Oh crap!” Ayman said “I’ll go comfort him” and went after Mahmoud.

“Poor kid” Kamal said.

“Yeah, and again I’m so glad to see you alive” Ziad added.

“I’m glad to see you too man, but what’s the wrong outside?” Kamal asked.

“Still not certain about what’s going on but it’s mad out there people has gone crazy they eat human flesh, the first day it happened we encountered one but got out of the situation safely then we went to the university and met some guy Khaled and we hid in the Gym but Khaled had been bitten by one of the crazies” Said Ziad

“Crazies?” Kamal asked “that’s a creepy name”

“Yeah we don’t know what to call them, so the night of that day Khaled got sick and the next day he blacked out and then started acting like the crazies, I didn’t discuss this with Ayman before for a reason but I think it’s something like a virus, cause Khaled didn’t show anything wrong till after he got bitten” Ziad said.

“Logical point” Kamal added “they are damn disgusting with the snot and other fluids all over their faces”

“Yeah they are” Ziad said “hey! Do you know anything about Marwa?”

-13:51- Living room

“Well I’ve been meaning to talk to you about this” Kamal said.

“What is it? Tell me!” Ziad stated.

“I don’t know where is she or if she didn’t leave” Kamal said.

“Maybe I can help you man, what dorm does she live in?” Ziad asked.

“Really? You would help?” Kamal responded “Thanks man you’re the best, she lives in the 3rd Girls’ dorm room number 334”

“No problem buddy, she is your girlfriend and my friend” Ziad said “I’ll go pack what I need and go out in minutes while there’s still light out”

While Ziad was leaving the living room Kamal said “you’re not going alone I’ll come with you”

“No it’s better if I’m by myself I’m faster, don’t worry if I found her I’ll bring her back safe and sound” Ziad said “you just keep this house safe!” then left the room.

Ziad went to the bedroom where Ayman and Mahmoud are and said to them

“I’m gonna go solo to get Marwa from the university please Ayman watch over Mahmoud and if I don’t come back in six hours come search for me in the 3rd Girls’ dorm, but I think I will make it before that”

“You’re going out alone?” Ayman said shocked “It’s dangerous”

“I know but alone is much better, like that I’m faster” Ziad said then leans towards Mahmoud “You’ll be fine kiddo” said Ziad then leaves the room.

“Good luck and get back alive man” yelled Ayman.

-14:11- Kamal’s house & University

Ziad got the bag with the tennis racket and while he was walking towards the front door of the house Kamal yells from behind “Wait up!”

“Here this would be useful more than the racket” Kamal said and handed Ziad a baseball bat.

“Sure it would where did you get it?” Ziad asked.

“A gift that I never made a use of it from my uncle in the U.S” Kamal replied.

“Thanks!” said Ziad and then checked out the windows then went out the house to the car when Kamal yelled “Good luck!” and locked the door.

Ziad started the car and started driving towards the university till he reached the main gate and through it then he took a left towards the girls’ dorms, past the 1st and the 2nd dorm till he reached the 3rd dorm and parked the car in front of the main door, got out and looked up on the building

“Darn it! Hundreds of girls live here if not crazy already” Ziad said and went up the stairs and got inside the front door.

-14:39- Girls’ dorm \ University

Ziad entered the dorm and then reached the 1st floor’s hall so he looked left and right and saw nobody so he went up the stairs till the 2nd floor then heard a growl from the end of the hall so he glanced at the end of the hall and saw couple crazy girls just standing so he decided not to alert them and kept on going up the stairs to the 3rd floor then stood in the hall and said bewilderedly

“No one? That’s more than great, I thought this would take hours but seems like an hour thing” then he walked through the hall of the 3rd floor looking at the doors on his sides “310... 311...312...” he whispered while walking till he reached the room number three hundred thirty four, that’s when he opened the door carefully and slowly then peeked a look inside and saw no one inside so he got inside and looked around the room but there was no sign of Marwa.

crack

A sound of something fell on the floor came from the bathroom so he started walking towards the bathroom door slowly and when he put his hand on the door’s knob someone from inside pushed the door slamming it with Ziad which caused him to fall on his back then a girl from inside came out hitting Ziad with an umbrella yelling “leave us alone!”

“It’s me Ziad!” he yelled but the girl kept on hitting him, so Ziad took a look at the girl while covering his face and yelled again “MARWA! It’s me Ziad”.

Marwa stopped hitting Ziad and said “Oh Ziad...” after she said that some crazy girl entered the room and attacked Marwa, so Ziad stood up and pushed the crazy girl away “I’m sane, this one trying to bite you is insane” said Ziad to Marwa while the crazy girl still growls and started hitting it in the head till it stopped moving.

“We should go quickly” Ziad said to her while Marwa froze shocked from what he did “you killed her!” she stated.

A girl gets out of the bathroom scared “What happened?”

-15:37- Room 334 & 3nd Girls’ dorm

“Who is that?” Ziad said.

“I’m Farah who are you? And what happened?” Farah replied.

“No time to talk we should move out of here, Marwa’s screaming must’ve alerted the crazies in here” Ziad said but the girls didn’t move

“Fine stay here, it’s either you come with me and live or stay here to die” he said assertively with an angry manner.

Both of them got scared and followed Ziad who walked close to the room’s door and checked the hallway outside then said to the girls

“Ok it’s easy if you do what I say, there are couple crazies out there, our goal is to get out of the dorm but first we gotta get down to the 1st floor, those crazies are slow movers we’re gonna run as fast as we can and I’ll be pushing them out of the way so we can run past them, keep close to me ok?” Ziad said.

Marwa started to cry and refused to leave the room along with Farah but Ziad said “I came here to bring you back to Kamal I’m not leaving you here”

Marwa wiped her tears and said joyfully “Kamal? You saw him? Is he okay?”

“He is doing fine, let’s move you two” Ziad said.

Marwa looked at Farah and said “let’s go” Farah answered “OK”.

They started sprinting through the hall till they reached the 1st crazy so Ziad hit it with the bat pushing it aside so they avoiding it and Ziad did the same with the second crazy and before they reach the stairs Ziad kicked the crazy standing on the stairs and they went down the stairs quickly when Farah said “I forgot my wallet in the room” and Ziad answered angrily “WHAT? Shut up and keep running”

They reached the 2nd floor and quickly kept going down the stairs to the 1st floor, when they reached the 1st floor Ziad suddenly stopped and said “Shhh... no body say a word” Marwa stumbled into Ziad and Farah looked through the hall and saw more than forty crazies so she screamed “AAAAAAAAAaaaaaaaaah!” and ran upstairs.

The crazies heard Farah’s voice so they started chasing Ziad and Marwa.

“FARAH! Get back here they are chasing us from upstairs too” Ziad yelled

Marwa tried to go upstairs but he stopped her and she said “we can’t leave her”

He grabbed her hand and runs towards the closest room, they got inside the Ziad locked the door and pulled the desk to seal the door more, he checked the room and it has no crazies inside it and Marwa started crying

“We left her out there alone!” she said

“There was nothing we could do if we went after her we would’ve got trapped by hundreds of those crazies and die, and I’m not taking that risk” Ziad answered.

There’s no time for crying we must find a way, and the crazies started banging on the room’s door.

Ziad went towards the window looked through it and said to Marwa

“It’s only three meters down we can jump down”

While crying she replied “NO! I won’t jump”

“Ok fine don’t jump, go through the door it’s safer” he replied sarcastically.

“Don’t be rude, I might break my leg jumping that high” she said angrily.

“You won’t I’m gonna grab you after you jump down, you’ll be fine” he said.

Marwa hesitates “I don’t know I’m scared” she said when a sound of a crack came from the door that’s when Ziad said “Come on the door won’t hold for long I’m gonna jump and you go after me, you’ll be fine I promise”

Ziad stood on the window “Damn!” he whispered the jumped and yelled “AAaaaaah” and he landed perfectly “Phew thank god” he said “Come on Jump”

Marwa stood on the window and another sound of crack came from the door and she said “I’m scared” then Ziad yelled from down “quickly before they break the door”.

She looked down crying when suddenly the room’s door got broken so Marwa panicked, tripped and fell outside the window.

-17:03- Outside of the 3rd girls' dorm & Dier Atyeh

Marwa tripped and fell down “Oh crap!” Ziad said while standing down and opening his arms.

She fell on Ziad and both of them tumbled on the floor but Ziad caught her.

“See? Not so hard after all” he said.

She got off his arms and stood up cleaning her clothes “thank you!” she said.

“Don't mention it!” he replied “they are getting out of the dorm we should get to the car, let's go”

They started running towards the car till they reached the car and got inside, so Ziad started the car and began driving backwards away from the crazies and then went to the main door of the university

“Finally we're out of that hell hole!” he said relieved “are you okay?”

“I'm fine thanks again” she replied.

“You're welcome” he answered.

He kept driving towards Dier Atyeh and through the streets which were starting to get fill with crazies.

They finally reached Kamal's house, got out of the car and ran towards the house while Ziad was yelling “Kamal open the door!”

Kamal heard his voice and quickly opened the door for both of them then locked it.

-17:24- Kamal's House

After Ziad and Marwa got inside Kamal locked the door and turned to Marwa and a tear came down “Thank god you're alive” he said and hugged her while she was crying and said “I missed you” then Kamal looked at Ziad and hugged him

“You don't know much I appreciate it thank you!” he said to Ziad.

“Woo... no problem man you’ve done the same for me I’m just glad you’re both okay” Ziad said “I’ll leave you two to catch up” then Ziad went to the kitchen and saw Ayman and Mahmoud eating, as soon as Mahmoud saw Ziad he ran to him and hugged him “I’m glad you’re back” said the kid to Ziad.

Ziad was surprised but not so much because the kid lost his parents so Ziad held him and stroke his hair “I’m glad to see you too kiddo, now got finish your meal” said Ziad.

Ayman looked at Ziad smile “Glad to see you back in one piece man” said Ayman.

“Thanks” Ziad replied “hey I need to discuss something meet me in the living room in five minutes I’ll go tell Kamal and Marwa, I gotta hit the restroom”

Ziad went to the hall and told Kamal and Marwa then went to bathroom.

-17:48- Kamal’s House

Ayman, Mahmoud, Kamal and Marwa were sitting in the living room when Ziad entered and started talking “listen up guys I don’t know what's happening out there or why is it happening , but what I’m sure about is that no one will come to rescue us not the police or the fire department no one , I think they are all messed up too and I don’t know how to describe the things out there, but from what I know they walk slow and their weak point is the head, but the most dangerous thing is their bite is fatal, one bite from them and you’ll be just like them in matter of hours, that what happened with Khaled back in the university, and I know for sure those crazy people out there aren't the same as there were they are mad people they eat human flesh, yesterday I encountered one of my good friends Basel he tried to bite me even after I talked to him, those mad people out there are zombies not humans”

Mahmoud got scared and Kamal asked “what if that was just an illness and with the proper cure they can get back normal as before?”

“Maybe it is an illness maybe it’s not, we can’t do much about it, what I suggest to do is that we gather as much food and gas as possible and head back to Lattakia tomorrow and not hide here” Ziad said.

Marwa interrupted “Why Lattakia? We should go to Hamah it’s the nearest”

“I know Lattakia is further but it’s our best chance most of us know people in there and we can check on our families” Ziad added.

“What about my family?” Marwa asked furiously.

“Wanna check on them? Nobody’s holding you” Ziad said angrily.

Marwa stormed out of the room gloomy.

“Easy on her man she’s a girl after all” Kamal said to Ziad.

“That’s exactly the problem, she talking emotionally not rationally, I proposed going to Lattakia because we know lots of people there and when we ensure our safety there I’ll go with you to Hamah to check on her parents” Ziad stated.

“You make a logical point there” Kamal said “I’ll go talk to her and calm her down” then he left the room.

Ziad looked at Ayman and said “We’ll discuss going to Aleppo to check on your dad after we get to Lattakia”

“I know and I’m sure he’s doing ok in there” Ayman replied “and I too think we should go to Lattakia first”

“You get me” said Ziad “hey Mahmoud why don’t you go bring some cards and I’ll teach you some tricks?”

“Yippy I love tricks, I’ll go get them” said Mahmoud and went searching for cards around the house.

-18:14- Kamal’s House

After a while Ziad went to Ayman and said “we should get out and look for cars, we need enough gas for the trip to Lattakia can you help me out?”

“It shouldn’t be so hard because the parking in front of this house has some cars that we can get gas from, let me go get my coat then we’ll go” Ayman replied.

Ziad looked at Mahmoud and said “hey there why don’t you go brush your teeth and get some sleep, we’re going on a trip tomorrow”

Mahmoud asked Ziad “is it like a cool trip?” Ziad looked at him confused when Ayman entered the room and said “yeah like super cool, go get some sleep”

“Ok!” said Mahmoud and left the room.

After that Ziad went to the kitchen where Kamal and Marwa were sitting

“Hey Kamal I’m gonna need you house key, tube and a gas container” Ziad said

“Why?” Kamal questioned

“Ayman and I are going out to get enough gas for the trip to Lattakia” answered Ziad and Marwa said “Pfft!”

Kamal gave Marwa an angry look then said to Ziad “the key is on the counter in the hallway and check out the closet near the front door you’ll find a tube but I don’t have a gas container maybe you can find something else useful in there”

“Thanks, I’ll check it out” said Ziad and went to the hallway.

He grabbed the keys and walked towards the front door where Ayman was waiting

“Just a second” said Ziad then opened the closet near the door and looked inside “uha! Here is a tube and a big bucket should do it” he added.

Succeeding that he shut the closet’s door and said to Ayman “you ready?”

“Sure thing!” he answered Ziad “let’s get some fuel”

-18:46- Outside Kamal’s house

Ziad opened the door then he and Ayman got out of the house and while Ziad was locking the door Ayman pointed to a car “let’s try that one” he said.

Both of them ran across the street carefully.

“Ok now I’m gonna try to pump some gas out of the car and you keep guard” said Ziad

“Ok I’m on it” replied Ayman

After couple minutes “I’m done from this car, how’s the area looking” said Ziad

“I can see two zombies far on the right and the left is clear” answered Ayman

“I have half of bucket we need another car and we’ll have more than enough gas for the trip to Lattakia” Ziad stated.

“Alright let’s get to the next car” said Ayman then he and Ziad ran to another car so Ziad started pumping gas while Ayman kept guarding.

-19:21- Outside & inside Kamal’s house

“Come on hurry they are getting closer” said Ayman.

“That’s the fastest that I can get, I’m almost done” replied Ziad.

“There are more than a dozen zombies on the right and ten getting so close on the left, we have a minute at most” Ayman said assertively.

“Ok I’m done here too, let’s go!” said Ziad and ran with Ayman towards the front door of Kamal’s house avoiding the zombies, they got inside the house and Ziad locked the door.

“Pheww that was close” Ayman stated.

“Yeah we made it, I’ll go talk to Kamal about barricading the windows and the door” Ziad said then went to the kitchen where Kamal and Marwa

“We’ve got more than enough gas for the trip tomorrow, now we should barricade the exits in your house; the front door and the windows” Ziad said “you and Ayman barricade the windows and I’ll take care of the front door”

Marwa looked at Kamal and said “I’ll help you with that” and went with him.

“Ok then” said Ziad and went to the hallway then stood in front of the door and looked around the noticed a big cabinet so he pulled it and put it against the front door “that should do it” he said.

-20:30- Kamal’s house

“All the windows are barricaded now” said Kamal.

“The front door as well, thank you all, now we can safely sleep tonight” said Ziad.

“Yeah...!” said Marwa while rolling her eyes.

“Look honey you can sleep on my bed I have an extra mattress I can sleep on it” said Kamal “Ziad and Ayman I have the huge sofa in living room that can be pulled to become a bed, I’ve already prepared it with pillows and blankets so Mahmoud is sleeping there, I’m sure you’ll be comfortable, good night guys”

Ziad and Ayman replied “good night!” then Kamal went with Marwa.

“Finally some sleep I’m so damn tired from today” said Ziad while walking with Ayman to the living room.

“I can’t wait to get out of this Dier Atyeh, I’ve always hated it” Ayman added.

“Me too” said Ziad “good night”

“You too” replied Ayman.

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-6:03-Kamal's house

Ziad woke up on the sound of Ayman packing up stuff with Mahmoud

“Am I the only one asleep?” Ziad said.

“Yeah sleepy head get up and pack your stuff” Ayman said.

Ziad stood up and before going to the bathroom Kamal entered the living room

“you're up great! We woke up an hour ago packed all the food and tools we need for the trip” said Kamal to Ziad.

“*Yawns* that's great I'll go wash my face then I'll pack all my stuff” added Ziad.

-6:38- Kamal's house

Everyone packed their bags and was ready to go that's when Ziad grabbed the baseball bat and everyone else except Mahmoud grabbed a tennis racket.

“Stay close to me ok?” Ziad said to Mahmoud

“I will” the kid answered.

Ziad checked the area outside the door and saw one zombie was standing close to the door and the others were in the street.

“Alright there's one zombie outside the door I'll open the door and hit it away so we can go through” said Ziad “and we're all packed so ready let's go”

Ziad opened the front door and quickly hit the zombie on the head so it fell on the floor “go go!” Ziad yelled then the group started running towards the car and zombies in street were chasing them.

Ziad got in the driver's seat, Ayman next to him and the rest sat behind.

“Start moving!” yelled Marwa frightened.

“I didn’t plan on staying you know” Ziad replied and started the car while zombies were banging on the windows of the car.

Ziad drove off the sidewalk hitting couple zombies then away from them heading towards the highway.

A minute later he reached the highway took a right turn and kept on driving.

Driving on the highway for couple minutes till they passed a sign that said

“Lattakia 250km”

(Last night – Somewhere in Lattakia)

“Shut the door and be here tomorrow at the same time” said the manager of the shop to the kid.

“Ok Mr. Ibrahim I will, good night” the kid replied to the manager.

(Today)

-7:12- Somewhere in Lattakia

The shop’s door was half closed and a bloody handprint was on it, but inside the shop was the manager was eating flesh meat of some little kid’s body.

-7:49- Highway

“I hope everything is ok in Lattakia” said Kamal hopefully

“Let’s hope that it’s not hell there as it is here” said Ziad when they passed a sign that said “← Lattakia 200km --- Homs 10km→”.

“Here we go!” said Ziad while driving.

(To be continued...)
