

At Night

By

Carter Carroll
and Chad Hill

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. ALICE'S HOUSE

Alice, a woman in her mid-30s, is standing in her kitchen, preparing dinner. Some children can be heard in the background, along with the news on the TV. A scene of normalcy.

Suddenly, Alice's phone lights up. A siren begins to blare from it. As she reaches for the phone, the same siren can be heard in the distance. The TV cuts to a breaking news.

REPORTER (ON TV)

Breaking news tonight, many cities across the Eastern Seaboard are experiencing attacks from swarms of rabid creatures. The attacks began as night has fallen. The creatures have remained unidentified at this point, but the President has declared a national state of emergency and the Pentagon is recommending everyone seek shelter
immed-

Images of destruction, crowds running, military response flash across the screen. The feed cuts to the New York City skyline, where buildings are smoking. All of the lights in the buildings flicker out. Alice's eyes get wide.

Alice is still processing. PAIGE, her 9-year-old daughter, looks at her.

PAIGE

Mom, is Dad gonna make it home
okay?

Alice continues to stare at the TV. She holds Paige close.

A deafening, low-toned drone swallows up all other sound, seeming to come from everywhere and nowhere. Alice and Paige cover their ears. The windows in front of them shatter.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. DUSK. FARM HOUSE KITCHEN

The room is lit by kerosene and crank-powered lanterns, with what little sunlight remains filtering in through the window. JOHN, a man in his early-40s, sits with ADAM, his teenage son, and DYLAN, who is 5.

They are hurriedly finishing their meal. Dylan plays with a toy truck on the table, accidentally losing his grip and pushing it too far. It crashes into Adam's hand. Adam playfully pushes it back, smiling.

John looks through the door into the next room, where...

INT. DUSK. FARM HOUSE PARLOR

Paige lay on a cot, with an IV drip in her arm. Alice is replacing the bandage on her other arm. Alice looks at her, tenderly and mournfully.

ALICE
(whispers)
My Paige...

John walks over to them.

JOHN
How is she?

ALICE
Not well. There's no infection, but she's still feverish. We ran out of antibiotics today.

John shakes his head, disappointed.

An alarm goes off. Alice and John both look up.

JOHN
Alice, it's time.

ALICE
Help me with her.

John puts one arm under her to help her up. ALICE grabs the IV and they walk to the basement door. Adam rushes in front of them with Dylan, shotgun in hand.

INT. NIGHT. BASEMENT

The children sleep restlessly in the light of the lanterns. John and Alice sit facing the one door. John's shotgun is leaning against the wall.

ALICE
Will the door hold this time?

John looks at her, exasperated but understanding.

JOHN

I reinforced the mounts and the
locks. A bomb could go off and it'd
hold.

ALICE

It didn't the other night. Woke up
to an open door and Paige...

Alice can't say the words.

JOHN

Alice, you need to sleep.

ALICE

I can't get any down here, John.
Still doesn't feel safe.

JOHN

It'll be fine.

ALICE

The kids feel it too.

John lets out a long sigh - the kind that comes from knowing
you've failed in some way.

JOHN

That door is stronger now than it
was the day this house was built.
And it's been a few nights since we
last heard one of those things out
there.

Dylan walks up to the pair, sleepily. Alice picks him up to
sit him on her lap.

ALICE

Doesn't mean we need to get
complacent.

(pause)

And what're we gonna do about
Paige? She's not improving.

JOHN

I'll go into town in the morning.
See what I can find. There's one
drugstore I haven't tried yet.

ALICE

By yourself?

John nods.

ALICE (CONT'D)
That's absurd. You can't go alone.
Take Adam.

JOHN
You can't do everything around here
by yourself.

ALICE
I don't care. I want you to come
home safe.

JOHN
And I can do that fine without
risking Adam's life too. We don't
need another one hurt.

Alice isn't convinced, but knows she won't win the argument.
She bites back a retort.

DYLAN
Can you bring me back a toy when
you come home?

JOHN
I think I can manage that, Little
Dyl.

John smiles, then looks at Alice. She smiles faintly.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I promise. I'll be back.

INT. MORNING. FARMHOUSE.

Alice and Adam watch as John's truck pulls away down the
road.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIDDAY. FARM - FIELD

ALICE filling in a hole with dirt. First shot is from inside
the hole. She finishes filling in the hole, wipes the sweat
from her brow. She looks at her watch and looks up at the
sky, wondering where John might be. She shakes her head and
continues back to the house. The wide shot reveals that there
are more than one of these holes that have been dug recently.

As she's walking, Alice notices one of the older holes down
the row. The surface is aged, but a pile of freshly disturbed
dirt is next to it. She walks over.

She stops at the hole. A thick, black substance covers the dirt inside the hole, and is smeared across the grass next to it, as if whatever it came from had been dragged away. She follows the line of the smear with her eyes, out to the woods.

EXT. MIDDAY. FARM - WOODS

ADAM is in the woods. He carries a rifle on his shoulder and a pistol on his side. He also has a small bag on his hip, with something inside. He bends over to check a trap that had been set off. Looks at it, no sign of blood. He resets it, releases a sigh and keeps walking. He comes up to the fence and notices that one of the posts is almost out of the dirt.

He starts pulling it out to try to reseal it, when his walkie talkie makes noise. ALICE comes over the radio.

ALICE

Hey Adam?

ADAM

Yes ma'am, I'm still checking the perimeter.

ALICE

Seen anything yet?

ADAM

A few traps had some squirrels, and one of the big traps had been set off. The fence was damaged, too.

ALICE

Well see if you can figure out what did it. I found something strange up here.

As she says it, he notices a pair of tracks trailing back into the woods from the busted fence. A faint, black smear accompanies them.

ADAM

Copy that. Have you heard from Dad?

ALICE

No, John hasn't radioed in. He should be back soon.

Adam's radio beeps.

ADAM

Copy tha-