

Pyrrhic - 10 pages

FADE IN:

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Three survivors walk a lonely road.

A bearded man in his 50's - ROY. Alongside him 14 year old ALICE and 8 year old SAM. All three look starved, exhausted. Each carries a bag on their back, full of their belongings so they have to wear more of their clothes than normal for such a fine day.

The road is half concrete, half grass. Nature slowly takes over. Ditches and trees on either side. Soon the road will be swallowed completely by green.

The day is bright, sun shining, no wind. Silent.

Alice eyes a house up ahead, poking out from weeds.

ALICE

That house looks pretty good. Might find something useful.

ROY

No. We've enough for now.

Alice considers his answer.

ALICE

I'm going anyway.

She walks faster.

ROY

You're not going.

Alice turns around, continuing her walk but looks at him.

ALICE

What's my name?

ROY

...Alice.

Alice frowns, turns back and marches on.

ALICE

I'm going anyway.

Roy watches her walk on, looks at Sam who gives him an inquisitive look.

EXT. OLD HOUSE - DAY

Alice treks through the high grass, over a collapsed, rotted gate. She approaches the house's open entrance.

SAM(O.S)

Hey.

Alice turns back around. Sam stands there.

SAM

Can I come too?

Alice spots Roy at the road, looking in at them, then down the road.

ALICE

What did Roy say?

SAM

Nothing, he's going to watch the road.

ALICE

Fair enough. Let's go.

Sam accompanies Alice inside.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Weeds have broken the house's floorboards. Walls crumbled. Nothing inside the house.

Alice scans the area, keeps Sam close.

ALICE

You look around here and I'll take upstairs.

Sam nods and goes left. Alice right.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

A soft breeze rustles the tree leaves overhead Roy. He glances up the road, then to the house.

He stares, deep in thought. He pulls up his sleeve. His arm has a deep scar, a word carved into it.

Bishop.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Alice makes her way up a partially collapsed stairs to the
ATTIC

Sunlight shines in on from an opening.

She takes a step but her foot breaks through the floor.
Quickly she pulls herself loose.

SAM(O.S)

Alice?!

ALICE

Ya Sam it's me!

SAM(O.S)

Are you going to fall on me?!

ALICE

Maybe, just stay in the corner till
I get down.

SAM(O.S)

OK.

Alice makes her way through discarded rubbish of no use to
anyone. bare feet of a deceased family behind them. Barely
acknowledges the all too familiar sight.

She checks a large wardrobe standing in the corner. She
approaches it, but slips again, foot going through the
floor. She instinctively reaches for the door of the
wardrobe.

Yet, this merely brings down the wardrobe.

It cracks, buckles, collapses. Almost on Alice only for her
reflexes to escape it's path.

The wardrobe hits the floor. Breaks through it. Takes part
of the ceiling with it.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Roy watches the house and the crashing sound from it.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Alice sits up on the floor as the last of the wreckage falls to the level below.

ALICE
Sam?

She scramble to her feet to get downstairs.

DOWNSTAIRS

Alice hurries as quick as she can over debris to the back room. Roy enters the house.

ROY
What happened?

ALICE
The ceiling fell.

ROY
Where is he?

ALICE
Who?

ROY
You know who.

ALICE
I'll get him. Just wait here.

Alice goes to the back room.

BACK ROOM

She crawls up the rubble. Spots Sam inside a fridge on it's side, door gone.

ALICE
You're quick.

Sam smiles.

Roy appears behind Alice.

ROY
Is he there?

Alice ignores his question, climbs over to get Sam.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Alice brushes off some dust from Sam's back as they get out onto the road from the house. Roy stands, waiting for them, not happy. He pulls up his sleeve to reveal the Bishop scar.

ROY

Do we know how far away?

SAM

The man said next cathedral, take the highway.

ROY

Right.

SAM

You remember?

Roy smiles, a little embarrassed.

ROY

A little bit.

ALICE

What's his name?

Sam looks at him, hopeful.

ROY

No, I don't know.

ALICE

It's Sam.

They continue on in silence.

EXT. ROUNDABOUT - DAY

They move past deserted and stripped car shells.

On the horizon is a dead city. The sun sets behind them creating a haunting silhouette.

INT. CITY - HOTEL - NIGHT

In the last rays of light before nighttime. Roy steps on broken shards of glass in his torn, taped together shoes.

(CONTINUED)

ROY

Stay close.

He beckons Alice and Sam carefully in through the open window of the long ransacked hotel reception. Their shoes in better condition.

The whole hotel empty, dark and lifeless.

ALICE

High ground here would be good.

She turns back to Roy who helps Sam over the smashed glass pieces.

ALICE

Right?

He nods.

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

The night sky livens up with the rattling chug of a single rust bucket of a helicopter. It's single light shines towards the city.

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT

Roy, Sam and Alice huddle against a wall in the dark. All sounds kept to a minimum.

Roy notices Sam repeating in a low whisper.

SAM

I'm Sam. She's Alice. You're Roy.

He hugs him with one arm.

Alice looks at Roy.

ROY

What?

ALICE

Usually you say something like, I'll remember tomorrow or something. Being stubborn.

ROY

Really?

(CONTINUED)

Roy smiles. Alice smiles a moment before turning away to rest.

ALICE
Ya. You're stubborn.

INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The single light from a flashlight hovers along the empty corridor.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

In the distance the light aircraft moves, past the window. Roy stands. As does Alice and Sam. Roy goes closer to the window.

ALICE
Is that Bishop?

ROY
Maybe.

The single light appears on the floor.

TWO SCAVENGERS rush them. One swipes at Roy with a Stanley knife. Another, QUINN, stands by the door holding a flare gun and flashlight.

QUINN
The girl Colin!

Alice attacks Colin, he manages to grab hold of her though whilst shoving Sam to the floor.

The attacker strikes again, misses. Roy swings his fist, knockout.

Quinns eyes go wide, He takes Alice from Colin.

QUINN
The boy too! The boy!

Colin turns to grab Sam. But Roy gets to him. They struggle until Roy manages to fling Colin at the window. Straight through it.

A quick scream before Colin is gone from the room.

Roy turns back.

(CONTINUED)

QUINN

Wait! Are you-

-An arrow flies through the Leader's neck from behind. He collapses forward onto Alice, choking on blood.

Roy spots a soldier. Clad in advanced tech armor, battered and broken from years of intense use.

The attacker though sticks Roy in the kidneys with the Stanley knife. He collapses.

Instantly a flare strikes into the attackers bust open face.

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

The light aircraft moves through the night The flare sparks out from the window. A second of light in the dark.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The attacker screams in agony. He's blind.

Roy gazes up, Alice drops the flare gun from her hands. She hurries over to the distraught Sam, comforts him.

They move to Roy, who groans holding his side.

ALICE

Roy?

They look back to the soldier. He Pulls off his cracked visor, PYTHON.

PATTON

Orion get up. Now dammit!

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

The helicopter chugs through the night towards the building.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Roy ties a bed sheet around his wound under the light from the flashlight Sam holds. Python ties the scalded attackers hands behind his back.

(CONTINUED)

PYTHON

That's them. You ever see them
flying one of our planes before.
Disgusting.

ROY

Who are you?

PYTHON

You don't remember?

ROY

Bishop.

PYTHON

Bishop? Not you as well.

Roy reveals his scar of Bishop.

ROY

Which one are you?

Python pauses, glares at him.

PYTHON

I'll explain when we have time. You
can move right?

Roy nods.

PYTHON

Good.

Pulls the arrow from Quinn.

PYTHON

Take that.

He hands Alice the arrow. The helicopter closer.

ALICE

What do they want with me and Sam?

PYTHON

They don't want you they want me.

He kicks the attacker to sit on the ground. Checks the
pockets of the dead and the attacker.

ALICE

What do they want with me and Sam?

(CONTINUED)

PYTHON

They don't want you two, they want me.

Python looks to Roy. Their eyes fixed on each other. Roy remembers, but he preferred if he had not.

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

The helicopter approaches the hotel, The side door opens. A scaly wing stretches out followed by a thin scaly arm with razor sharp claws.

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT

The aircraft's light shines up over the blinded attacker. He cowers stuck in the same spot. A low alien hiss and growl rises up as a distorted shadow looms over him.

INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Roy leads the children down the stairway. Alice carries the crossbow. Roy roughly grabs it from her.

ALICE

Hey!

They keep moving, except Alice.

ALICE

Asshole.

Roy grabs Alice.

ROY

We have to go Alice.

ALICE

Let go of me.

Python gets into the stairway.

PYTHON

Orion.

ROY

Keep them and you away from us.

Roy breaks through the stairs door, leaving with the children.