

Mercy

By

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Part 1 of 3 in the Zombie Trilogy

BLACK FRAME

The sound of rustling leaves under meandering footsteps.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The **BLACK FRAME** is actually the back of a **FEMALE ZOMBIES** tattered and torn shirt as it wanders aimlessly through an endless sea of forest. We follow closely behind.

In to the frame enters a **LARGE MACHETE** and with the skill and precision of a trained killer, it pierces Zombies skull, pinning it to the tree. Zombies body goes limp.

On the other end of the machete we see **DAVID**, tall and slender, sporting a dirty black hoodie with his face concealed by a black half mask. On his forearms, magazines are duck-taped as makeshift body armor. On his back, a worn book bag that looks to be packed full of stuff.

David scans his surroundings for any other potential threats before propping his leg up on the tree and yanking the machete free. Tucking his weapon back into its holster, he looks around once more but this time it is clear that he is looking for someone.

David exits the frame. **In B.G;** we see a couple zombies meander about at the edge of focus, unaware of David's presence.

As he walks, David pulls down his mask revealing his face. He isn't a grown man at all but a baby-faced kid no more than 18 years old. He begins calling out cautiously in a loud whisper.

DAVID

(Walking lightly)

Adam. Where are you?

(Beat)

Adam.

David stops and listens intently for any sound that might lead him to the person he is looking for but he hears nothing. After several beats, he gets moving again.

DAVID

(Walking, whispers)

Adam.

David stops and listens again, the hope fading quickly from his eyes. Some distance away he hears the faint sound of leaves rustling. Davids' eyes light up. He readies his weapon and makes a beeline in the direction of the sound.

(CONTINUED)

As David approaches, the sound of the leaves grows louder and louder. With his adrenaline pumping, David spots the source of the sound.

ADAM, a slender mid twenties man, is crawling along like a wounded animal, he too sports the same makeshift armor as David. As he crawls, his arms give out under the stress of his own weight, leaving him face down in the dirt. David, following closely and quietly behind, closes in on Adam, a million thoughts running through his head.

Using his foot, David cautiously rolls Adam over revealing that he is indeed alive but barely. David, with a measure of concern, drops to one knee beside Adam. Adam, his face clammy and about two shades too pale for his skin tone, musters a smile.

ADAM

It's about time you showed up. I thought I was going to have to crawl all the way back to camp.

David, relieved yet worried, forces a smile.

DAVID

How bad are you hurt?

Adam slowly pulls up his shirt, revealing several chunks of missing flesh on his torso. At the sight of this, David's face takes on a look of both horror and genuine concern.

ADAM

Other than looking like zombie swiss cheese, I'm fine.

DAVID

(A rising urgency in his voice)

We'll get you back to camp and Doc will fix you up.

ADAM

You know I can't go back. They'll put me down before I have a chance to turn.

DAVID

You don't know that. Jim got bit and he managed to beat it.

ADAM

They cut off his hand as soon as it happened. Come on man, its been too

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ADAM (cont'd)
long. You're a math wiz, what would
you put the odds at for my
survival?

DAVID
Why are we even talking about this.
We'll head back and figure it out
there.

ADAM
(*With conviction*)
What are the odds...

David cuts him off.

DAVID
Let's go.

David helps Adam up, throwing Adam's left arm over his
shoulder. The duo start to head back home.

EXT. WOODS - DAY - LATER

MONTAGE

- David and Adam move slowly through the woods
- Adam rests on a log while David retrieves water from a
stream
- David and Adam walk along. Adam munches a granola bar
while David sips water from a bottle

EXT. WOODS - DAY - EVENING

The afternoon light slowly dwindles as the two men creep
along. Adams' condition has severely deteriorated, the life
seemingly draining out of him right before our very eyes.

ADAM
(*Laboring*)
Stop.

DAVID
We gotta keep moving. It'll be dark
soon.

ADAM
(*Laboring*)
Stop!
(*Beat*)
I can't keep going.

(CONTINUED)

The duo stop abruptly. David eases Adam down who immediately sprawls out on the ground, no strength left in his body.

ADAM

You gotta get outta here.

DAVID

I'm not gonna leave you. You're my big brother. I'll let you rest for a few...

ADAM

(Labored yet stern)

You've got to go.

David's emotions are starting to show as he kneels down next to Adam.

DAVID

No, no, no.

ADAM

Listen to me. I don't have much time left.

DAVID

You're gonna be okay.

ADAM

I'm not and you know it. If I was anyone else in the world, would we even be talking about this.

DAVID

You're not anyone else, you're my brother, damn it! And I'm not leaving you here to die.

ADAM

(Labored yet soothing)

Listen... listen. You've got to put me down.

DAVID

(Shaking his head, distraught)

No! I can't... I won't do it. No!

ADAM

David, just listen to me. The clock is ticking. Whether it's now or a hundred yards down the road, you gotta do it. You can't let me turn into one of those mindless fucks.

(CONTINUED)

David's eyes well up. He tries in vain to hold back his emotions.

ADAM

This is what I need you to do.
You're gonna take that knife and
shove it straight through my skull.

DAVID

What if I can't do it?

ADAM

I know you can. You have to stop
looking at me as your brother. Put
it in perspective, if you don't do
it I'll be one of them. We always
said that if it came down to it, if
one of us got bit, that we'd do
what needs to be done. The time has
come, little brother.

David breaks down, sobbing.

ADAM

(Soothingly stern)
You gotta man up, kid.

DAVID

(Crying)
I can't. I can't do it. This isn't
how it's supposed...

Adam abruptly cuts him off. With the last bit of strength he has left, Adam makes his push.

ADAM

(Sternly)
It's not about what was supposed to
happen, it's about what's going to
happen. You can and you will! Man
the fuck up and do it! Take care of
your damn business. I didn't raise
you to be some little, crying
bitch. DO... IT... NOW!

Through Adam's eyes we see David, crying and angry, pull the over-sized knife from its sheath and plunge it into Adam's chest several times, blood splattering him, before leaving it impaled in him. We hear the raspy death rattle of Adam's last breaths.

Adam whispers his final words.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM (O.C.)

Thank... you.

(Beat)

Now... finish... it...

Continued through Adam's eyes, David removes the machete from Adam's chest and, with both hands, holds it high above his head. With brute force, David plunges the sword down into Adam's skull. Adam's eyes blink rapidly for several seconds. David reaches over and gently pushes Adam's eyes closed.

BLACK FRAME

We hear the last rattle from Adams' lungs as David sobs softly in the background.

INSERT TITLE CARD

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