

# **THE DAY EVERYTHING CHANGED**

Written by Bill Albert

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BLACK

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

TITLE OVER: CASSIDY

EXT. BRICK CANYON - DAY

It is an abandoned building, quiet and cold, with very little movement. Finally, someone enters and looks at the camera. She is CASSIDY, 20, tall, sexy, armed and tough. She is looking around continuously, her senses aware of anything going on around them as she talks to the camera.

CASSIDY:

I wondered if you'd be here.  
Still have a camera? Not so many people have them anymore, not much you can do with them, you can't broadcast anymore, but you said you wanted to talk about the last day. It's one of those things everyone remembers. Like where were you? That's really what you want to know isn't it? Yes? Well, I was getting ready for a performance, I used to sing a lot. I was in the dressing room, getting make up on, and worried I'd screw up the words.

(laughs)

Yeah, I never got over that. No matter how many times I went on stage, no matter how many songs, I always worried about the words. Somebody once said the trick wasn't remembering them, it was just getting them in the right order. Suddenly I heard all the footsteps as people moved outside. There were no alarms or anything like the building being on fire, so I couldn't figure it out. One

(MORE)

CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
of the techs said you had to  
see it to believe it.  
(MORE)

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

Cassidy tenses up, looks around, when nothing happens, she realizes they are safe.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
They were right. We stood there  
staring with our mouths open.  
Probably not a good impression.  
(MORE)

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

She freezes and looks into the sky. The camera follows her gaze and we see the tail end of something very big and menacing patrolling overhead. Back to Cassidy.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
We never had expected it to be  
the day that everything changed.  
We thought we were so tough,  
so invincible, because we had  
digital watches, cell phones  
and the internet. They took  
out the internet in about  
3 seconds. That was it. They  
were here. Everything changed.  
Some people adapted, other's  
didn't. They still needed some  
things like food, clothes and  
they kept that going. A lot of  
people were assigned to a trade  
like that. Some people never  
had to work before, money meant  
nothing and they had it the  
hardest.  
Some people took the easy way  
and got an easy life.  
I wanted to teach, I wanted to  
learn, but no one has time for  
that anymore. I had a choice.  
(MORE)

SFX - RUMBLING

She pulls her weapon and the camera gets close to the ground. Her weapon is electronic, some sort of laser. After a pause she comes back to the camera.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

So, I adapted. I had to. Everything had changed and the old rules didn't apply anymore. I was surprised how much I like it.

BLACK

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

TITLE OVER: DAVID

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

INT. NICE APARTMENT - DAY

SFX - occasional SIRENS and LASER FIRE outside

Inside there is a man, DAVID, 40s, calm, nothing to worry about, sitting in a nice comfortable chair. The sounds outside don't distract him.

DAVID

Well, I was a lawyer. A very good lawyer, I have to admit in all honesty. I had plenty of clients and they were all happy with my services. I told them how gaining trust was the most important thing. They had to get my trust, the trust of the judge, the trust of the jury, even the trust of their opponent to win a case. I was in court, the jury had just brought in a verdict, in my favor of course, when they arrived. Out everybody went to see the invasion ships in the sky.

(MORE)

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

DAVID (CONT'D)

(comfortable, ignores the noise)

It was quite a sight, those  
bristling ships up there on  
the horizon. Brown and gold  
colors, those thrusters and  
the steady rumbling. There  
was no doubt in any one's mind  
everything was different,  
everything changed. We saw a  
few attacks on them by the  
Air Force, but it was no match  
to them. Some people went  
running in to check online  
or their cells. I knew that  
it was pointless. I decided  
to be ready for them.  
Everybody needs a liaison,  
someone to represent them, to  
be a go between. I'd spent a  
great deal of time learning  
and studying things. I knew  
how things worked from the  
inside, that was how I became  
a successful lawyer, and I  
figured, no matter why they  
came here, they would be smart  
enough to know what I meant.  
There was a need for people like  
me. We needed it, the government  
needed it, the government had  
it, and they wanted someone who  
worked the system. I made sure  
they picked me.  
Sell out? No, I don't think of  
it that way. There were lots of  
people who made deals with them.  
I just knew how to do it properly.  
From the inside, as it were. I  
told them what they wanted to  
hear. Parts of it were true, parts  
of it weren't, but by then it  
didn't matter. They trusted me.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

You trusted me. I can see by the look on your face what you are thinking. I'm not going to turn you over to them, don't worry. I want you to keep doing what you are doing. You keep finding people who talk and when you find the ones out to sabotage the new leaders, you bring them to me. You make me happy, I make you happy. Trust me.

BLACK

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

TITLE OVER: ELLEN

INT - RESTAURANT KITCHEN - DAY

ELLEN, 30's, despite her age she looks terribly worn out. She hasn't been working hard for very long. She's in a big restaurant kitchen and is terribly out of place.

ELLEN

(looks at camera and laughs)

It seems kind of appropriate that you are using that camera. I recognize the model. They were built to last but nobody expected them to last beyond the end of the world.

(serious)

Well, the end of the world as we knew it.

(pause)

I remember when they said "they" had come. I didn't know who they meant. I wasn't expecting anyone. Finally, I was escorted outside and looked up at the sky to see all those ships. They seemed so small I thought they were models, or drones. I laughed

(MORE)

ELLEN (CONT'D)

thinking it was a joke. Then they got closer and closer and bigger.

(uncomfortable)

Even then I didn't think it would affect us. It never did. Nothing ever did. We survived everything. We were immune, nothing could touch us, we thought. By the end of the first day it was a different story. The phones were dead, pagers, Bluetooth, iPad were blank. The only information we got was what they told us. I even remember saying we could make them an offer. That would fix it. "There is nothing in the world that lots of zeroes can't fix." That's what dad used to say. He bought congressmen with zeroes. I guess that's what they wanted. Zero. After a few days we started to get hungry. The servants were gone, traitors every one of them, and the larder was empty. No one to go to the store. Honestly, I wasn't even sure where the store was.

(pause)

I finally got hungry enough I went to the street. Found a group of kids, think they were homeless, couldn't tell, and offered them money to get food. Money was no good anymore, they said, and I said they obviously weren't educated enough to understand. They were lower class kids.

(massages her wrist)

Found a group of people and offered them a gold watch. One guy said it wasn't a strong

(MORE)

ELLEN (CONT'D)

enough metal to do much with and offered me a few meals for it. I laughed, it was a gold Rolex watch, cost more than most people made in a year. He looked back and said I obviously wasn't hungry enough. A day later I traded the watch for a loaf of bread, some vegetables, and a ham. Luckily, it was already cooked.

(vacant)

Guess those mornings spent with Rosa and the kitchen staff when we were kids paid off. I knew enough about cooking to find a shelter and take up...

(swallows hard)

a trade.

(puts on a dirty apron)

We had twenty people working for us. Now I serve three hundred a meal. It's amazing what it's like the first time you are really hungry.

(looks at camera)

We built them to last.

BLACK

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

TITLE OVER: FRANKLIN

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Down wooden stairs into a dark, stone basement. There are lots of crates and things covered. Further back and find FRANKLIN, 21, ragged, torn clothes, a punk, sitting alone with a toolbox next to him. He continually looks at the box.



FRANKLIN

Well, here it is. Here is the treasure I told you about. It was the first thing I figured they'd take when they came. Of course they wouldn't want us to have it. They'd demand we turn them in. I figured that, so did lots of others, and we immediately started hoarding them. A group of ten of us went into a Mart and got everything we could. I figured no need to pay for it, no way we could with all the systems gone. No way they could call for help either.

(laughs)

You should have seen them. Leftist assholes expecting us to at least-

(MORE)

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

Franklin protects his weapons. A few deep breaths before calming down.

FRANKLIN (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah, I figured the leftists wanting ID's. Told them to get out of the way or we'd make sure they worked right then and there. They backed off pretty quick and out we went. After that we went to the specialty stores. The chained and locked doors were no match for us. We got what we wanted and we were locked and loaded.

(opens the toolbox and pulls out handguns)

This one was my favorite. Got five of them the first night and plenty of ammo. We figured we'd need more than this, needed heavy stuff, and went to the National Guard Armory for that. Went in

(MORE)

FRANKLIN (CONT'D)

like old Jake Rambo and got the heavy stuff. Took out any defenses they had. They just weren't ready for us.

(pulls out more powerfully marked items and indicates covered boxes around him)

By the first dawn after the day they came we had picked the city clean and I figured go into hiding. I set up this place here. Finally, the damn army and air force started fighting back. Planes, bombs, missiles. It was like the freakin' Fourth of July! One by one we shot at their ships... We kept waiting for them to use nukes. Take one ship out in one flash... They never did... Then things went silent. Very silent. No more planes or missiles.

(holds gun gently)

They never did want our guns.

(confused)

Mikey, my buddy, asked if the army couldn't hurt them what could we do. He was stupid enough to say maybe they didn't think explosive rounds and armor piercing bullets were a threat to them. Idiot. I figured we just had to wait. We could take them out one bit at a time. Wait for their alien boots to hit the ground. We were ready when they finally revealed why they were here...

(pause, feeling alone)

Fired clip after clip into their troops in the first wave. Kept firing until there was nothing to fire. Then they walked away. Three of us, Josey, Mikey and me, crawled back here. Buried Mikey

(MORE)

FRANKLIN (CONT'D)

and the rest a day later.  
Told Mikey we'd hold up the  
fight.

Protect our rights and our  
guns and keep hitting them.  
So, I'm keeping them hidden.  
Protecting them and waiting  
till we need them.

(off)

Before he died Mikey asked me  
one more question. Always asking  
questions, Mikey was. When  
they took over they changed  
everything but they didn't  
take anything. Didn't take  
our guns, didn't want our money,  
didn't need our materials.  
What did they want?

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

A deep vibration and dust falls around him as he looks into the  
ceiling.

BLACK

TITLE OVER: GEORGIA

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

It is noticeably quiet with very few patients. Those that we see  
have very minor injuries. GEORGIA, 40s, a doctor, surprisingly  
tired, is waiting.

GEORGIA

(calm)

Well, this is what it's like  
most days. The healthcare  
profession isn't what it  
used to be. When I was an  
intern we'd have days  
where there were more patients  
than we could handle. We'd  
never admit it, of course.  
We'd call people in, keep

(MORE)

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

going, and making sure we got them through. Cured as many as we could. We still get the accidents now and then, we still provide emergency care, but there are fewer long term healing cases. It's been that way since they came.

(MORE)

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

She looks around to make sure nothing vibrated loose or off a table. Rolls her eyes and looks back.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

Once they had established that they were in charge, and the resistance started to die down, they made the peace offering. All we heard was there was a lot of information coming that we, the medics, should be aware of. I remember what that was like. All the information that they gave us that day, that hour, that minute. It was like a miracle. Even with all the experts we had at the university looking in there was no doubt what they were giving us was accurate. Cancer, cured. Dementia, cured. Diabetes, cured. Common cold.

(pauses, enjoys it)

Despite everything we said the people in charge, correction, the people who used to be in charge, ordered us to hold back the information.

They didn't trust them. I can't say, even seeing it before my eyes, that I blamed them. We

(MORE)

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

needed more proof. I don't think anyone expected for us to get it that fast. No one expected what we got.

(shivers)

We were going to meet them face to face. That scared a lot of people. What would their faces look like? Dripping fangs? Bug eyed monsters? Three fingers? No, that wasn't what they looked like.

(touches her own face)

They looked like us. They were us. I saw the results of the exams. I saw the blood tests, skin tests, MRI and X-ray results. They were us. So, the cures were approved and out they went. People were cured. People were happy. Too happy to question it. Too happy to wonder why?

BLACK

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

TITLE OVER: HENRY

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

The shelves are half empty, no fresh items or soda, only prepackaged food remains. HENRY, 50, bald, he's been very sick, sits behind the counter with a notebook in front of him.

HENRY

I'm really just here for inventory. Someone comes in, takes what they need, and I write it down. Done.

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

Help yourself to what you want.  
Not really sure why they even  
lock the doors at night. It's  
been that way since the fighting  
stopped. The first couple days we  
threw everything we had at them.  
Planes, tanks, missiles, everything  
short of nukes right at them. It  
didn't affect them at all. They  
had things around them, they  
called them shields, some sci-fi  
thing like that, that protected  
them. Across the world all hell  
broke loose. They never fired back,  
they didn't hurt us, just let us  
keep hitting them until we  
finally stopped. Done.  
We waited, then they started  
curing people.  
Everything changed that day.  
This was part of it, you see.  
All that stuff we used to do  
every day they didn't need  
anymore. They shut down stuff  
we didn't need but kept things  
going that we did. For a while  
there it was kind of nice. I had  
it made. After the cures took  
effect my cancer was gone.  
Done.  
Completely vanished from  
my body, your body, the whole  
planet was cancer free.

(pauses)

That took a bit of getting  
used, too. No chemo, no exams,  
it felt good. I felt good. So good  
that when they asked for something  
back-- I know, I should have been  
upset, but they healed me.  
If they wanted something,  
no, I didn't have one of my own to  
give, I just shrugged it off.  
I know, you think I'm a selfish old  
bastard, maybe I am, but I'm

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

alive and cancer free. Other than that it didn't affect me. Maybe I'm a rat bastard about it. At least I'm a healthy rat bastard. I can live with that.

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

Henry isn't affected by the vibration at all.

BLACK

TITLE OVER: IRENE

INT. CHILDREN'S ROOM - DAY

IRENE, 27, a healthy young mother, is sitting on the floor next to a crib. She occasionally looks fondly with toys from her toddler daughter.

IRENE

Dad felt as good as he'd been in years. His diabetes was gone. Just like that. No pills, insulin, anything anymore. No more daily needle pricks. He felt so good at what they did. We all were. So many people were better, feeling good, and we never expected anything from it. Looking back at it now we were being pretty naive about it. They gave us so much. People were happy and healthy but still a lot of distrust. Too much mystery about them. So, finally, they agreed to go public and meet face to face. Everybody in the world was watching that day. The day everything changed. 5 leaders from around the world meeting with them on an open stage. I know my heart was pounding when their flag ship landed. Some people were protesting, warning it

(MORE)

IRENE (CONT'D)

was a trap, but no one in the world could avoid watching it. Aliens? E.T.? People from another world landing on our planet, peacefully willing to meet with us? Lots of people debated what they would look like. I held my breath when the doors to the ship opened and they stepped out. I guess our imaginations had made us a little crazy. They looked just like us. Like anyone you'd see walking down the street. There was no way to tell, but those people were right. It was a trap.

BLACK

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

TITLE OVER: JAY

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JAY is 22, clean cut, neatly dressed, comfortable, sitting in a very nice, well-furnished living room.

JAY

Honestly, I can't figure out what people were complaining about. We got everything we needed and didn't have to do anything for it. You should all have been happy. It was the closest you could ever get to being me. Don't trust them. Don't trust them. Why the hell not? They cured people. People weren't getting sick. People didn't have to work hard anymore. They got what they needed thanks to them.

(MORE)



JAY (CONT'D)

Just let it be. Right?  
Why did people complain?  
I think they just like  
complaining. Then they  
wanted to fight. People,  
our people, were upset  
because other people, also  
our people, weren't resisting  
them. Why?  
They were doing so much to  
help us out. Why argue when  
someone does something nice  
for you? Fight all you want  
but leave me out of it.  
Nothing to do with me. Right?

(MORE)

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

JAY (CONT'D)

Okay, that day, the day  
they, those people, made  
it clear what they wanted.  
It was a little upsetting,  
but, I knew, deep down, I  
was okay. Pick a side!  
People were demanding we  
pick a side. Some were upset  
that I wasn't going to. Why  
give up all this luxury?  
It really had nothing to  
do with me.

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

Jay looks at the ceiling and shrugs.

BLACK:

TITLE OVER: KAREN

SFX - EXPLOSIONS, COMMANDS, other sounds of COMBAT

EXT - CITY BATTLEFIELD - DAY

A few seconds of running then a nearby explosion and hitting the ground, stunned, a few people run past then getting up with the camera and going for cover.

KAREN, 20, an Army Captain, armed, tattered US army gear and uniform

KAREN  
Get down!! Stay down!!

Karen ducks out as they hear vehicles passing by. There is an EXPLOSION and WEAPONS FIRE in the distance. Another EXPLOSION further off. They wait for a moment as silence falls.

KAREN  
It worked! That's at least a scout team of aliens down for the count. Whew. Intel really came through on that one.  
(laughs)  
Intel and luck. That's been the biggest thing about this one. It kind of feels like we had to learn to fight all over again. All the stuff we'd gotten used to, radar, electronic surveillance, instant communications all gone by a higher technology. But we fight, keep fighting, and hope everyone else is.  
(MORE)

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

She looks up. The TONE is soft, in the distance, and there are no immediate threats.

KAREN (CONT'D)  
I suppose we should have expected that when they arrived. Those first couple days we fired everything we had at them and nothing could  
(MORE)

KAREN (CONT'D)

touch them. They weren't afraid of us. we didn't have anything that could hurt them. After a few days, and the better things got, I guess we didn't think we needed to hurt them. Until that day. Actually, that is why I'm sure we aren't alone in this battle. I have no proof, no way of backing it up, but I guarantee you there are people all over the world fighting them. Even the people who praised them are fighting against them now. I wonder how long it took them to figure that out. They were so sure we couldn't hurt them with our stuff and they had so many people kowtow to their offerings they weren't protecting their stuff.

(pulls an electronic tube from her pack, it is a sophisticated device not of this world)  
Stronger, more destructive and more powerful than anything we've ever seen. Powerful enough to destroy them.

(puts device safely away)  
Trusting us wasn't really their mistake. I can't help but think that. That wasn't what did it. That wasn't why they failed. Coming here wasn't a problem. All the things they gave us were miracles. We would have made deals with them. Traded things. Given them anything they asked for.  
Except that.

BLACK

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

TITLE OVER: LYNN

INT - SCHOOL ROOM - DAY

LYNN, female, 30s, sitting alone at the desk in the room.

LYNN

It was really a peaceful invasion. I mean, that's what historians will call it. The Peaceful Invasion. Never in our history have we seen anything so well planned. They just quietly came in and sat in the skies across the planet. Right then and there they took over and there was nothing we could do to stop them. We couldn't hurt them at all and, wisely, they didn't hurt us at all. They never made a move against us, in fact, they were nice to us.

They gave us cures for things, made us healthier, solved so many issues and gave us ways to produce food so we could easily feed the world. We liked them. They were so kind to us we didn't realize just how soft we were being. I mean, deep down, we really didn't want to resist. We liked it.

I mean, it's an old trick, isn't it? Give someone something they need or like. Then give them more. They'll get so used to you giving them something nice, they'll get used to it, then when you ask for something back they'll just give it to you. Like they

(MORE)

LYNN (CONT'D)

are rewarding you for rewarding them. Everyone will be happy. That's the way it worked for 8 months. It's almost hard to believe that they were so smart about everything else that they so badly underestimated the reaction that day. Everything changed in one instant. They could have asked for land, food, air, money, anything else and mankind would have gladly handed it over for what they had done for us. They wanted the one thing we wouldn't give up. They wanted our children.

BLACK

EXT - STREET CORNER - DAY

An angry mob on a street cornering an alien and beating them.

BLACK

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

TITLE OVER: MASON

INT - BEDROOM - DAY

MASON, 35, male, broken, in his 10-year-old daughter's bedroom.

MASON

I think about her every day. These are the toys we got her on her last birthday. She loved ponies. I told her someday we might get her one when she was old enough.

(laughs)

(MORE)

MASON (CONT'D)

Is it like a license for a car? Do you have to be old enough to drive a pony?

(pause)

They didn't wait very long, did they? It was hours after they said they wanted children that they started taking them. I don't know why, maybe they just thought we'd give them up, or figured we didn't care, I don't know. Their troops just swept down, landed, and picked them up. Off they went into the sky.

(pause)

I was waiting outside to pick her up and bring her home. Somehow, I knew. I just knew it when they came running out of the school screaming and yelling that she was gone. I watched it go into the, what is it, mothership?

(pause)

Mothers? Kind of appropriate. I stood there screaming into the sky. Hoping they could hear me. Hoping, just maybe, I could get their attention. Just as soon the fighting began. Mobs of people going after them. Hunting them down like animals. Vicious mobs, angry mobs, blood thirsty mobs. We'd find them and kill them without thinking. It never occurred to any one of us, really.

(pause)

How, when it came down to it, they looked just like us.

BLACK

EXT - STREET CORNER - DAY

The angry mob on the street moving away. The body is so badly beaten it's hard to tell if it's alien or human.

BLACK

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

TITLE OVER: NATE

INT - LABORATORY - DAY

NATE, 28, male, is at a laboratory desk.

NATE

Since I was a kid I wanted to be a scientist. It's as simple as that. The rest of the kids in school were joining teams, watching games and all that sports stuff. Me? I couldn't tell the difference between a shortstop and a field goal. It was all the same to me. It just wasn't my thing, but how the body worked was. There are 206 bones in the human body. I could name all of them by the time I was 8. Metabolism, easy, cellular structure, got it, but immunity system, now there was a challenge. How did it work? How did you get it to work? That was why those...gifts that they gave us excited me so much. Cure things. Alzheimer's was a thing of the past. Unbelievable, they had gone beyond anything we had ever imagined building up immunity to diseases.

(MORE)

NATE (CONT'D)

Cures? Make sure that you can't even get a cancer and you won't need a cure for it. It was brilliant. Well, we thought it was brilliant, they thought it was brilliant. It seemed like a perfectly natural way to deal with things.

Natural. That's the key word. Nature has its own rules and its own way of doing things. For so long there was always the debate of just because we can build some things it doesn't mean that we should. We can build bombs and weapons, should we? Lots of debates about that over the years. It never occurred to anyone that nature may have other plans.

(MORE)

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

NATE (CONT'D)

We didn't know, they didn't tell us, what they had eventually done. Prevent this from happening, prevent that from happening, cure this, cure that. It never occurred to them that there might be some sort of trade off. Bad things couldn't reproduce in their systems. Eventually, neither could good things. Their race was slowly dying. Nothing could get them sick but they couldn't have children anymore. That's why they came here. They wanted ours.



BLACK

TITLE OVER: OLIVIA

EXT. SMALL TOWN SCHOOL - DAY

A fire truck outside a school. No fire anywhere but firefighters with hoses. OLIVIA, 28, firefighter, is sitting near the truck with a wet fire hose in hand.

OLIVIA

I think they just figured we'd give them over. Give them the kids they wanted. They weren't going to hurt them, they promised, just needed them to rebuild their race. Take them from their families and everything they've known to be breeding stock on another world? Not going to happen.

Not sure how they decided where to go first. It could have been just random or maybe it was something else. I'll let smarter people than me figure that out. I thought, since we were a relatively small community, they might come here.

We didn't have a large force to protect us. It's not like, with their weapons, our forces could do anything anyway. So we had to come up with something else.

Fair enough it was one of the kids who saw their ship coming down. She spotted it coming out of the clouds. It was slow and quiet. I thought it was just out for a country drive. It landed on the field and a dozen of them came marching out, armed and

(MORE)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

ready, with their weapons drawn. They knew we couldn't really hurt them. Our guns, rifles, were useless with the defenses they had. I think the truck and the hoses there just didn't register with them.

They walked into the courtyard and demanded we bring the children out. They stood there and waited. When we refused they brandished their weapons and repeated their orders. I remember Captain Stanley looking back at us and simply said "Give it to them."

When it came down to it, they were people just like us. Humans, human like.

Lasers, phasers, tazers, whatever the hell they're called didn't matter after that point. Defenses like their armor and whatever electronics they had just couldn't stand up to the 290 psi of a firehose.

Maybe it protected them from the impact when they hit the wall but by then it was too late. High tech versus pure brute power.

By the time they realized what was going on we were on them. Couldn't make heads nor tails out of how the suits they wore work but plastic wire ties were enough to hold them down. As for the weapons, good or bad, it looks like triggers are a universal constant.

The aliens left us alone after that. We had prisoners and we had weapons so they stayed clear of our children.

At least they did.

BLACK

SFX - TONE and VIBRATION

TITLE OVER: PATE

EXT - A TRAILER COURT - DAY

PATE, male, 19, wearing confederate flags on a leather jacket.

PATE

I was right then and I'm  
right now. Plain and simple.  
Give them the kids. Why  
didn't people understand  
that? Good for them, good  
for us. A win, win situation.  
Look at it this way. They  
give us all that stuff,  
cures, technical stuff,  
we're better. All they want  
is some kids in return? Why  
the hell not?  
They get what they want. They  
get to keep their kind going.  
They get to try and rebuild  
and return to their planet.  
They have less to worry about.  
They survive and prosper.  
They win.  
We get food, we get medicine,  
we get technology. We also  
get rid of those types we don't  
want. The Mexicans coming across  
the border with their bastard  
children. The blacks in the  
ghettos and the grease balls  
in the streets. Hell, give them  
the slants, too. They won't go  
back where they came from so  
send them someplace else.  
We survive and prosper.  
We win.

BLACK

TITLE OVER: QUINTON

EXT - BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

Explosions and fire dying off in the background. QUINTON, 21, male, US army tough guy.

QUINTON

WHOOOYAA!!!!

Awesome, brother. Take  
the mother DOWN!

Whew. Well, that went good.  
They really didn't see that  
was coming. They didn't know  
we even were there until it  
was too late. After that it  
was start taking things out  
bit by bit until it started  
collapse on its own.

You can tell, you know? When  
you're inside something and  
have done enough damage to  
it that there's no stopping  
it. That sense kicks in that  
says it's time for withdrawal.  
Strategic withdrawal? It  
started shaking more than  
just the regular vibration.  
That was when we pulled back  
and headed back to the scout  
ship we commandeered.

Scout ship? Wow. I'm talking  
like them.

We managed to keep the ship.  
I figure when all this is over  
someone from NASA or the Air  
Force or whoever will start  
to look at it, dissect it, and  
figure out how it works. Who  
knows? Maybe the prisoners will  
tell them as some kind of deal.  
Plea bargain?

(MORE)

QUINTON (CONT'D)

The bigger ships. The saucers that sat in the skies all those months. I'd never really thought about it before but they weren't really what I expected. I thought they'd be weird colors or shapes in them. Something strange and, well, alien about them. But it really wasn't like that at all, you know?

They were nice. Some of the places we saw, stuff like canteens or common areas, looked like something you could find anywhere here. Chairs, tables, sofas, even screens that looked like TVs on the wall. I wonder if they ever got together and watched football, or whatever they would have called it.

I remember in this one area there was a white table with a vase in the center. There was, of all things, a flower in it. A flower! Millions and millions of miles to an alien planet and they brought flowers.

Before I could do anything we were ordered out. The ship was going down, and so were we if we didn't get moving. Before I know it, we were packed into the scout ship and hanging on as they flew like mad men.

Bouncing around to get us down on the ground away from the crash site.

Bring that mother down. It'll take years to get through that wreckage. After the fires stop who knows what'll be left.

I wonder if the flowers will survive.

BLACK

TITLE OVER: REANN

INT - MILITARY HANGER - DAY

REANN, 35, wearing some type of uniform, vaguely Air Force.

REANN

There's always been a debate about whether it's the ground war or the air war that decides the winner. Desert Storm was one lots of people debated about. Was it the air war taking out their defenses that caused them to pull back or the ground war hitting them in the face? I guess it really depends whether you're fighting the ground war or the air war on which side you pick in that one. I suppose since this one involved alien ships it will be called an air war though most of it took place on the ground. I'm guessing they were so high tech they were used to dealing with high tech enemies. Their combat was all geared to high tech. They could deflect missiles and anything we could throw at them. Their computer systems couldn't be breached by cyberattacks. EMPs would only damage us and not them. But any kind of personal shields they had couldn't stand the force of a water cannon or a wooden battering ram. Come to think of it the same thing that stopped them from

(MORE)

REANN (CONT'D)

reproducing stopped them from  
defeating us.

They were so dependent on  
technology they were completely  
unprepared for the forces of  
nature.

It didn't hurt that Einstein,  
and others, were on our side.

She climbs exits the hanger, her uniform looks more alien than  
US, and puts on her helmet as she climbs into an alien scout  
ship. She is the pilot and quickly takes off.

BLACK

TITLE OVER: SHARON

EXT - HOUSE PORCH - DAY

SHARON, 40's, worn out, not sleeping well, nervous, on a back  
porch of her home.

SHARON

Nobody blamed me until that  
day. They all seemed to  
understand. When they came  
they needed people to help  
with languages. Someone to  
help translate for them. I  
spoke 27 languages. Chinese,  
Japanese, French, Russian,  
some nobody else even speaks  
regularly anymore. Azurian.  
Like that. I figured they'd  
need an interpreter and made  
it known. I'd done government  
work and figured they owed  
me a favor.

People all thought I was so  
lucky. When their cancer went  
away they were thanking everyone,  
including me. Everybody felt  
good. Sure, I got a few extra  
benefits and I shared whatever

(MORE)

SHARON (CONT'D)

I could with my friends. They were happy to take them. When that day came, the day the made it clear what they wanted, people weren't so accessible anymore. I didn't know, nobody did! I wasn't guilty of anything. They should have known that many of them had to have known that, but sometimes guilt by association is enough. That was all it took. "They came for our children and you helped them." No, I didn't help them. Why won't people believe me?

BLACK

TITLE OVER: TRENT

EXT - HIGHSCHOOL - NIGHT

TRENT, 30, grungy, heavily armed and looking for trouble, is guarding the entrance to a school. There are no signs of students. That has been combat and damage in the school.

TRENT

The first few days, well, we weren't doing very good. Lots of small strikes, mostly using brutal force, against their posts and camps on the ground. They just weren't prepared and 9 times out of 10 they withdrew. That was it. Turned tail and ran. That 10th time though, when they were in the up position and decided to fight, that was when things went really bad really fast.

(MORE)



TRENT (CONT'D)

They were going in force to the Coal Hill School. They demanded we turn the children over that day. It wasn't going to happen. We had the place surrounded, and I mean surrounded! A complete circle of cars, squad cars, trucks, cement trucks, even an ice cream truck that jingled into the circle. Their strike team came straight at us from the south road. They hit us hard. They took out our first line with lasers, whatever they call them. They zapped right through. Scared a lot. Semi-trailers, big mothers, gone in the first volley. Lost about 20 guys, too. Before we knew it, they were inside the circle and rushing into the school. They were ready to take the children. I wonder what they thought when they found the mannequins we'd put in the rooms. Sacks of whatever, boxes, shirts filled with books, balloons with smiley faces on them. Hope they appreciated that. All the high-tech gadgets they had led them into a maze. Sounds, shadows, things that go bump in the night. Enough to keep them busy and off balance. By the time they knew what was going on we had them surrounded. Almost. At least smart enough to know when they are getting their asses kicked. They

(MORE)

TRENT (CONT'D)

called in air support to get them out. Those bigger ships came in and picked the half that were left up. I mean up. We beat them back for the last time, but we still lost a lot. It's one of those things you see and hear a lot about but still not ready for it when it actually happens in front of you. One second, they are there, the next they are gone. It's the smell that lingers afterwards. They burn briefly and disappear. The burned blood smell remains.

BLACK

TITLE OVER: ULRICK

EXT - SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

ULRICK, 50, male, gray haired and peaceful, but still a sense of someone very tough.

ULRICK

I'll never forget the day they started moving. After they arrived they just sat there, wherever they were at, and never moved. Their ships held a position and no matter what the weather was, sat in that exact same spot. A blizzard in northern Russia couldn't move them. Neither could hurricane force winds in the Atlantic. Somewhere got a permanent eclipse. There was also that vibration that came from them regularly,  
(MORE)

ULRICK (CONT'D)

and the humming that went with it. It wasn't loud, just enough to get noticed, but they started to worry it's repetition would have an effect on structures. In some cases it did. Personally, I never got used to it. Sometimes it was just a mild annoyance, sometimes it was an earthquake, but it was always there. It was like a reminder that they were up there keeping an eye on us. Like overlords ringing a bell to get everyone to look at the castle. That moment, when they started moving, I think we all knew what was going on. It wasn't just thinking that the children were safe that got me. No more vibrations 72 times a day. It was the silence that was coming. Of course, the cheers of billions of people came first. It was like music.

There were a few of them that came through here. The ships were starting to withdraw. We definitely had them on the run once we got the info we needed. They were so certain they had us under control and were so happy with the rewards they gave us they never expected, when it came right down to it, that not all of us were like them. It's really funny, I suppose. Kind of an important high-tech lesson that we've all heard a million times. The signal went out and their defenses

(MORE)

ULRICK (CONT'D)

were gone. No shields or electronic armor to defend them and their whole armada started to fall. No matter how much you trust someone no matter what they say or do, never give them your passwords.

Luckily, we weren't like them. I found one that had been stranded here. It was on the run and hiding. It's weapons were exhausted. No power. It's communications didn't have the accuracy or the range anymore. I killed him with my hands.

BLACK

TITLE OVER: WILLIAM

INT - MEETING HALL - DAY

WILLIAM, 20, more muscles than brains. Wearing symbols of control and power.

WILLIAM

They weren't like us. They thought they could just come in and take over. Sprinkle a few baubles for us to get our trust. Amaze us with their achievements and advances. Then just help themselves to us. Take who they want to serve their needs and think we're just going to say okay?

They weren't like us. Come on! Who does that? Who goes and takes over another race just to make their lives better? We'd never do that!

(MORE)

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

No how, no way.  
That's why they failed.  
They weren't like us.

BLACK

TITLE OVER: XANDER

INT - PRIVATE STUDY - NIGHT

XANDER, 30, glasses, sophisticated, surrounded by books.

XANDER

After a few days the celebrations wore off. People started looking around and a lot of us were asking "Now what?" and "What happens next?"

At first the answer was to just go back to what you were doing before. Go back to your lives, your jobs, your way of doing things, but that wasn't possible for everyone. Some of those jobs we had before didn't exist anymore. We still had the cures they gave us. People were healthier than we'd ever been. The processes they gave us were also still there. We could grow food at incredible speeds and feed everyone. It was like there really wasn't a class system anymore. Money had been completely erased when the banking systems were shut down. That's when it started. People who'd been rich before demanded that they should be rich again. They had all this money before they arrived. Ok, well, where is it now? They

(MORE)

XANDER (CONT'D)

just wanted it again and they wanted everyone to say it was okay and just accept it.

Not everyone did. That's when a real revolution began. Wall Street in New York is now a pile a rubble. We have to remind people that it wasn't the aliens that caused a civil war. It was us.

BLACK

TITLE OVER: YALE

INT - YARD SHED - NIGHT

YALE, 22, inside a shed with weapons mounted on walls, stuffed animal heads, a hunter.

YALE

I saw the celebrations everywhere. Seven days of cheers and parties and music. Okay?

I didn't let it distract me though. I knew there were things we needed taken care of. Okay, things that needed removed. Their ships were gone, their fleet withdrew, but there were ground forces that were left behind. Another thing that made them not like us.

The first night we went hunting. Found three of them in hiding in an abandoned building. They claimed they weren't aliens. "If you ain't then why are you hiding after the fleets pulled out?" They said they hadn't known the fleets were gone. Yeah, okay, everyone on the planet knew.

(MORE)

YALE (CONT'D)

We didn't believe it. They even made up a family history to prove they were one of us. We weren't buying it. Without their shields and armor the bullets did the same thing to their bodies. Okay, they looked like us, even on the inside, but they weren't. We could tell.

BLACK

TITLE OVER: ZAC

EXT - CITY STREET - DAY

ZAC, 20, average, everyday individual on a busy street. It looks so normal.

ZAC

It's been ten months now and the fighting officially stopped. As of today, everything has changed. All sides coming together to settle their grievances in peace. The new world begins today. They stopped hunting for aliens, too. They found hundreds and killed everyone in the first few months. Lynch mobs, I think that's what they called them, without justification or trial. Guilty because we think you're guilty. Mostly it's all settled down. It doesn't happen so much, anymore, they claim. They claim. As of today that's all changed and everyone will focus on rebuilding and repairing what  
(MORE)

ZAC (CONT'D)

was damaged in a civil battle.  
I wonder how many people here  
will ever understand that.  
The worst of it came from  
battles with themselves.  
Not from us.

He shuffles uncomfortably, then gets up and disappears into a crowd of people who look just like him.