

THE FALL

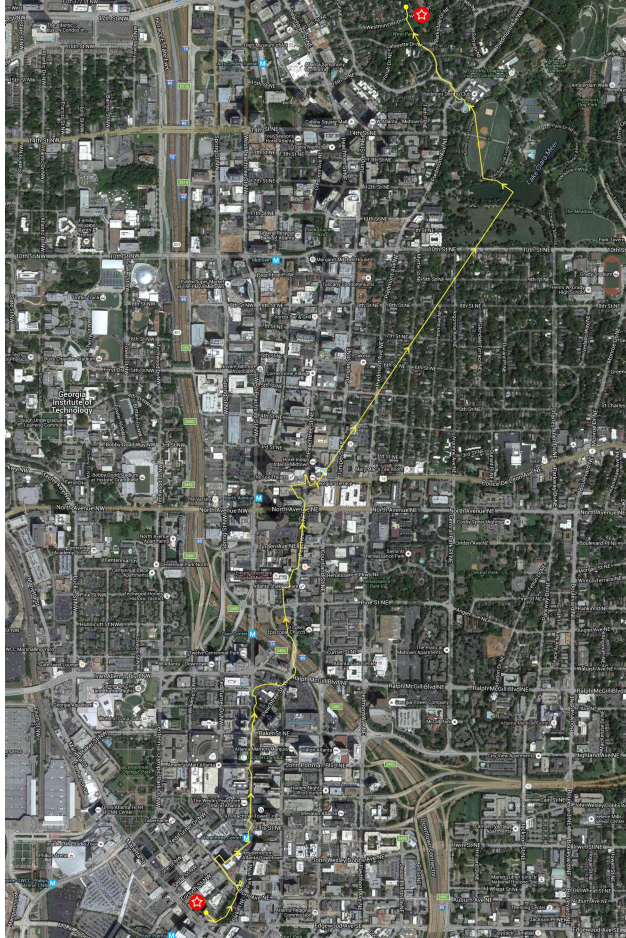
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Real time. One shot.

For a detailed map, go to: www.tinyurl.com/thefallmap



ON WHITE

Paper shuffling and pens writing on -

A DOCUMENT

Last page folded over to the top -

Two 'SIGN HERE' ARROW STICKERS -

MALE HANDS. Signing at the first arrow -

SAMUEL GIRARD

Moving aside for FEMALE HANDS. Signing at the second arrow -

MEGAN GIRARD

ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

SAM (40s) watches MEGAN (40s) finish signing -

An ATTORNEY (50s) signing the row of copies next to her -

She finishes and moves over to the WINDOW -

Downtown ATLANTA in the Fall -

Green, orange and gold beneath an overcast midday sky -

Looking down on a LARGE PARK among the SKYSCRAPERS -

The Attorney signs the last copy and stands -

SAM

That's it?

ATTORNEY

That's it. I file with the Judge
this afternoon, he signs off on it,
but that's all on your part. Why?
Was there something-

SAM

No, I just- I mean, eighteen years
and it comes down to a couple of
signatures.

ATTORNEY

Hey, you did it right. Amicable and
uncontested wins every time if you
can. Not many can though. But then,
the first divorce is always the
hardest...

MEGAN
I don't plan on the opportunity for
a second...

Hands them both a folder -

ATTORNEY
You know, everyone says that. But
then time and space and what have
you, and you never know. I've been
married five times, divorced four.

MEGAN
You didn't learn your lesson after
the first?

SAM
Or at least the second?

ATTORNEY
I'm an optimist.

Getting ready to leave -

ATTORNEY (CONT'D)
Where did we land on the new wills?

MEGAN
We're ... still debating...

SAM
They don't need to be done today.

ATTORNEY
Well, you don't need them until you
need them, but better to have them.

Ushers them out to the -

ATTORNEY'S RECEPTION

He speaks rapid-fire as he walks them to the exit -

ATTORNEY
I'll be in touch if there are any
problems. There won't be, so don't
expect me. My bill is in the mail.
Remember all the money you saved in
mediation before you open it.

They all stop. Shake hands -

SAM
Thanks. I guess.

MEGAN
Yeah, thank you.

ATTORNEY
Not a problem. If only they could all go so smooth. And hey, divorce can be highly contagious, so don't be shy about passing my card around if your new situation inspires friends or family to transition. I mean, God forbid, of course...

Lets them out to the -

FOYER

Holding the door for parting comments -

ATTORNEY
You want some free advice? Go and get a drink together. Right now. One or two. Nothing stupid. Have a few laughs. Do the rest of this as friends. I've got three kids from different marriages, but we all do Thanksgiving together. Ex-wives and everything. It's screwed up, but it's beautiful. Drive safe now.

He smiles. Salutes. Closes the door. A sign reading -

WEINSTEIN, LEVINE & KOLBRENNER, ATTORNEYS AT LAW

They stand for a moment, shell-shocked, then head for the -

HALL

A tense walk -

SAM
Did you want to- ?

MEGAN
I can't. This whole thing has my blood sugar through the roof and I've gotta get Emma across town for her therapist appointment.

SAM
You didn't tell me she was back-

MEGAN
I didn't tell you, because you didn't care last time.

SAM
I didn't not care. I just thought
it was drastic. I still need to
know. I want to be there.

MEGAN
You'll just be sitting around,
flipping through magazines in the
waiting room like I do, but fine -
I'll text you her dates.

SAM
No, I want to come to this one.

MEGAN
Today?

SAM
Yes, today. I'll follow you there.

Megan rolls her eyes as they reach the -

ELEVATORS

Megan hits the DOWN BUTTON. Sam hangs back -

SAM
You're keeping the name?

MEGAN
Well, it's the kids' name too...

SAM
Okay.

MEGAN
And all my clients know me as
Girard. And it's a whole thing to
get it changed. You have to get new
credit cards, passport, license-

SAM
It's fine. I'm not making it a
thing. I just assumed you'd go back
to Patterson. That's all I meant.

MEGAN
We really need to sit down and
finalize the wills. Like soon.

SAM
Mine's not changed. Everything goes
to the kids.

MEGAN
Yeah, but we need to talk about
where they go if something ever
happened to both of us.

SAM
Well, there's a lot less likelihood
of that now.

MEGAN
I know, but I want to make sure
Emma ends up with someone who
understands her condition.

SAM
It's generalized anxiety. She's not
wheelchair-bound. She doesn't need
to be bathed and spoon-fed.

MEGAN
Well, it's not your bed she's
sleeping next to every nigh-

Megan's phone *PINGS* with a text message -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
And that's her...

She swipes her phone -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
"How much longer will you be?"

She starts replying, interrupted by another *PING* -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
"Scottie is watching the YouTube
videos with the cursing."

SAM
Wait, are they there on their own?!

MEGAN
It's part of her therapy. It's
meant to boost her confidence by
giving her more responsibility.

SAM
She's twelve...

MEGAN
I sat for my brother and sister
when I was twelve. And cooked
dinner. And did the laundry...

A *WHOOSH* as her text reply sends -
DING! Elevator doors open and they step into the -

ELEVATOR

Megan hits the GROUND FLOOR BUTTON. Doors close -

MEGAN
What are you planning for Thursday
night?

SAM
I'm not. If you're doing lunch at
your Mom's, they'll be bloated
messes by the time I get them.
Maybe order in if they want.

MEGAN
Are you- ?

SAM
Football and wings.

MEGAN
That's your Thanksgiving?

SAM
What else am I gonna do? It's not
like I can fly in and out of
Chicago for lunch. I'm stuck here.

MEGAN
Stuck here?!

SAM
You know what I mean.

MEGAN
No. I don't. But if you think it's
a burden to-

SAM
Don't make it something it's not. I
want the kids Thursday night.
That's more of a priority to me
than going home for Thanksgiving.

MEGAN
You know, I think if you've lived
in a place for twenty years, you
can maybe start thinking of it as
your home.

SAM
It's not a matter of time...

MEGAN
Well, I'm sorry if you feel like I lured you down to Atlanta and trapped you in a place you hate for nothing.

SAM
I don't hate it here. And it wasn't for nothing. I never said that.

MEGAN
You can always drop by Mom's-

SAM
I'm fine. I'm thankful for football and buffalo win-

Megan's CELL PHONE starts RINGING. Checks the display -

MEGAN
It's Steph. She's in Beijing...

She swipes to answer -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
Heyyy ... I think so. I'll check, but it should be fine ... Oh, wow! What time is it over there? ...

V O O O o o o o m. Elevator stops. Lights out -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
Shoot. Sorry. Power just went out in- ... Really? ... I'm in-

Megan lowers her phone to see the call DISCONNECTED -

SAM
It'll kick back on in a second.

She's about to hit REDIAL when -

She notices the BATTERY INDICATOR dropping -

From 85% to 2% in less than five seconds -

Then it shuts off. Total darkness now -

MEGAN
Battery's dead. Where's your phone?

SAM
Mine's in the car.

MEGAN
Of course it is. It's always
everywhere except on you.

SAM
Hold on...

SHLINK - FSHH - FSSH - and then there is LIGHT -
Sam holds up a CHICAGO BULLS BRANDED ZIPPO LIGHTER -

MEGAN
So, you're smoking again...

SAM
I'm not smoking. I always carry it.
Holds the lighter up to the Control Panel -

MEGAN
You'll carry a lighter you don't
need, but not a phone that you do.
Megan tries the DOOR CLOSE and DOOR OPEN buttons. Nothing -

SAM
For someone with claustrophobia,
you're really down on this lighter
right now.
CALL BUTTON. Nothing -

MEGAN
What if the kids or I needed you in
an emergency?
ALARM BUTTON. Nothing -

SAM
When have I ever not been there in
an emergency?
She raises her eyebrows at him -

SAM (CONT'D)
After that one...
Keeps pressing. Angrily and rapidly. Stops -

SAM (CONT'D)
I think you almost had it...

Trying her CELL PHONE again -

MEGAN
I just charged this in the car on
the way over here. Please don't
burn yourself with that thing.

SAM
Just call her back later. I'm sure
she'll survive until then.

MEGAN
She said they just lost power too
before the phone cut out...

Okay, that's weird -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
We're gonna be late.

SAM
They can't start the session
without her.

He moves the flame around. Looking for anything -

MEGAN
No, but they can bill us a fifty
percent cancellation fee.

SAM
Of course they can. Hold this...

Gives her the lighter. Pulls out a BOTTLE OPENER KEYRING -

Wedges it in the crack of the door -

MEGAN
That seems real safe...

Gets his fingers in the gap. Pulls hard -

Inner doors open -

Between floors. Outer doors closed on both levels -

He kneels down and POUNDS on the lower outer door -

A few moments -

Then a muffled voice -

LOBBY GUARD (O.S.)
Power's out!

SAM
Oh, really?

LOBBY GUARD (O.S.)
Yeah.

No shit -

SAM
Can you maybe release the lock on
the outer doors?

LOBBY GUARD (O.S.)
I don't think I'm allowed to.

SAM
Well... I'm the Fire Marshal, and I
say you're allowed. Things are
getting heated in here.

MECHANICAL CLANKING -

Then the LOWER OUTER DOORS slide open -

The LOBBY GUARD (30s) looks up at them -

LOBBY GUARD
Y'all stuck, huh?

MEGAN
Just a little.

Sam crouches -

LOBBY GUARD
Woah, I don't think-

Jumps down into the -

LOBBY

Sam puts his hands out for Megan -

LOBBY GUARD
Are you really the Fire Marshal?

SAM
No. But I know him. If he calls or
drops by, tell him Sam Girard
tricked you into doing this.

Helps Megan down to the floor -

MEGAN
I'm so sorry, sir. I just get real
jittery in small spaces and we're
running late...

Lobby Guard nods and puts his head in the elevator shaft -

SAM
You should close that up and lock
it again. It's really dangerous.

Sam and Megan heading for the exit -

MEGAN
I hope you didn't just get that
poor guy fired.

Lets her go first through the REVOLVING DOOR out to -

ONE PARK TOWER

Sam joins Megan outside the 32 FLOOR GLASS BUILDING -

A crowd of confused ONLOOKERS on the sidewalk -

All traffic has stopped -

At least six FENDER BENDERS up and down the street -

MOTORISTS getting out of their CARS -

Yelling. Confronting. Blaming -

Then panicked SCREAMING across the street -

An OLD LADY (70s) trying to hold an OLD MAN (80s) up -

But he buckles to his knees, clutching his chest -

MEGAN
Sam, help-

Sam and Megan rush out on to -

PEACHTREE STREET

Hurrying in between STOPPED CARS as MOTORISTS get out -

Reaching a group of people in front of the -

ATLANTA FROM THE ASHES STATUE

Bronze sculpture in front of WOODRUFF PARK -

The Old Man now on his back. His wife crying next to him -

SAM
Everyone back up a few paces...

OLD LADY
Are you a doctor?

SAM
No, but I was a paramedic.

Loosening the guy's clothing. He's turning blue -

OLD LADY
He has Atrial Fibrillation. But he
has a pacemaker for this...

Eyes glazing over. No breath. Mouth foaming -

Sam starts chest compressions -

The CROWD just standing around and watching -

SAM
Stop gawking and call an ambulance!

ONLOOKER #1
Nobody's cells are working...

Sam looks around. Everything is so still. Unnervingly quiet -

Looks at the guy's WATCH. No hands ticking -

SAM
Megan, go see if one of these
stores has a landline.

She breaks away from the pack. Hurries back on to -

PEACHTREE STREET

MOTORISTS out. Hoods popped. Inspecting engines -

Crossing between cars again. Approaching -

THE WILLIAM OLIVER BUILDING

Art deco apartment block next to One Park Tower -

One of the street level STORES is -

PARK PLACE JEWELRY

JEWELER (60s) standing in the doorway -

MEGAN
I need to use your phone. There's a
man having a heart at-

JEWELER
I know. I already tried. Everything
is down. I just sent my son up
Marietta to look for an ambulance.

Looks around for other options. Nothing -

Back over to -

PEACHTREE STREET

Crossing between cars -

An eerie *HOWL* from the sky. Drawing closer -

Everyone on the street stops to look up -

A commercial AIRBUS A330 overhead. Coming from the north -

Low. Too low. No engine noise -

Just the *WOOOOOSH* of wind as the plane glides in the sky -

She pans her head as the plane's shadow passes over -

ONLOOKERS turning in place -

Low enough now to see the shaking of descent -

MEGAN
Sam...?!

Megan hurries back over to the -

ATLANTA FROM THE ASHES STATUE

Sam still doing chest compressions, but looking at the plane -

Its shadow across the FIVE POINTS INTERSECTION -

Then over the COCA-COLA SIGN atop the OLYMPIA BUILDING -

Disappearing from view -

Tense moments of shock and silence. Then -

B O M -

The ground RUMBLING from the impact -

A massive FIREBALL erupting into the sky, just blocks away -
SCREAMS. Shock. CRYING. Panic. ONLOOKERS dispersing -
Sam shakes his head at Megan and stops compressions -
Megan shaken -

MEGAN
I was parked down there...

The Old Lady looks at the commotion going on around them -

OLD LADY
What's happening?

MEGAN
I'm not sure, ma'am. But it's not
safe here.

OLD LADY
I can't leave him-

MEGAN
We're not going to leave him. We're
just going to get you somewhere
safe until we can get an ambulance
here to help.

The Jeweler joins them from across the street -

JEWELER
It has to be an EMP or something. I
saw a program about these things.
They take out power grids, cell
towers, everything. They finally
did it...

SAM
We don't know what it is.

ONLOOKER #1
It could be a solar flare. That
does the same thing, doesn't it?

SAM
Nobody knows what it is. The best
thing we can do is get everyone as
far back as possible until we do
know what's going on.

MEGAN
Ma'am...

SAM
Megan, we have to go.

MEGAN
I know. I'm trying.

SAM
If she wants to stay, let her stay.

MEGAN
We can't leave her here.

SAM
We can't force her to do something
she doesn't want to do.

MEGAN
This was your job-

SAM
My job was to help people who can't
help themselves. I can't do
anything here. I don't have any
gear and I'm not about to drag some
old lady away against her will...

JEWELER
I'll stay with her. I'm waiting for
my son to get back anyway.

Leans down to the Old Lady -

JEWELER (CONT'D)
Ma'am, my son has gone for an
ambulance. He'll be back soon, so
I'm going to wait here with you.

She nods -

MEGAN
You're going to be okay, ma'am. God
bless you, sir...

Megan angrily follows Sam towards the park -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
I can't believe you. Would you have
left her on the job?

Up the steps to the -

CHESS COURT

Outdoor tables, chairs and chess sets abandoned -

SAM

Yes. Because that wasn't my job. My job was to be the only calm person on the scene. If I stopped to hold everybody's hand through an emergency, I'd have been handing off way more stretchers to the Coroner than the E.R.

MEGAN

And you absolutely have to be so blunt about it?

Up more steps into -

WOODRUFF PARK

Heading towards the middle of the park -

SAM

Sometimes. No, most of the time. In that situation, the people around you are more likely to be a noose around your neck than a lifeline.

MEGAN

This explains so much...

SAM

Megan, you have no idea what I did.

MEGAN

Because you never told me anything.

SAM

I'm not that much of an asshole.

MEGAN

Oh, there's a higher level now?

Parents pulling their kids off the ATL PLAYGROUND -

They reach the crowd. Together. Talking. Tense. Frightened -

Sam and Megan look around. The city is so quiet -

The FLAMES and BLACK SMOKE still high in the distance -

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Someone will be coming, right?

SAM

If they can. We had attack drills-

Other ONLOOKERS overhear this -

SAM (CONT'D)
-But I don't know what this is.

ONLOOKER #3
Are you a cop?

SAM
No. I was a paramedic.

ONLOOKER #3
So, it is an attack then?

This sets the crowd off -

SAM
I didn't say that. I said I've been
trained for that. But I don't know-

ONLOOKER #4
Isn't this supposed to happen right
before a nuclear attack?

SAM
It's not a nuclear attack. You'd
still be trying to turn your phones
back on when the bomb hit. That's
how little warning you get with an
EMP before a nuclear-

ONLOOKER #3
EMP?!

Megan pulls Sam aside -

MEGAN
If it is an attack, what were you
meant to do?

SAM
Go to the Emergency Ops Center in
Cobb County-

ONLOOKER #5
Oh God - it's another plane...

They look up. Further in the distance -

Another COMMERCIAL AIRLINER gliding down from the clouds -

Then ANOTHER -

Soon, there are a DOZEN AIRLINERS falling from the sky -

Coordinated perfectly. Like a flock of birds -
 Now overhead. Too fast to see clearly -
 Chaos on the ground. People looking for shelter -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
 Are they going to Cobb County?

SAM
 They're not ours. Come on...

Sam leads Megan away. North. Through the crowd. To the -

WOODRUFF PARK FOUNTAIN

Large round pool with a tiered cascading fountain -

MEGAN
 Where are we going?

SAM
 Home.

They follow the path around past the -

WOODRUFF PARK READING ROOM

A public outdoor common area with a LENDING BOOTH at center -
 Tables. Chairs. Books. Games. All turned over in the panic -
 Stepping over a fallen table on their way across to -

AUBURN AVENUE

Where a STREETCAR is stranded in the middle of the road -
 The PASSENGERS inside BANGING on the windows and doors -

MEGAN
 They're trapped in there!

He wants to argue. But it'll be quicker to just act -
 He doubles back as Megan reassures the passengers -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
 Hold on...

Sam picks up a METAL CHAIR from the Reading Room -
 Carries it back over to the STREETCAR -

Megan pushing her hands out to the passengers -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
Move back ... move back ...

They see Sam coming with the chair and move away -

He pulls the chair back and swings it at a STREETCAR WINDOW -

CLANG - it chips the window and vibrates the chair -

The passengers recoil -

And again - CLANG -

Again - CRACK - glass splintering now -

One more - CRAAAASH - the glass shatters -

Sam uses the chair legs to clear glass from the window frame -

A passenger hangs their coat over the edge -

Megan and Sam start helping people out on to the street -

PASSENGER
Thank you thank you thank you...

SAM
Get inside...

Passengers stopped to watch the sky. Stunned silence. Until -

The BOMBERS start dropping on approach -

The furthest away first, then moving forward -

Like a coordinated falling wave -

And in the distance, they can hear CONCUSSIVE BLASTS -

Sam turns and grabs Megan's arm -

SAM (CONT'D)
Go!

And they run. The wave of diving BOMBERS almost there -

Barely making it to the -

INTERNATIONAL PEACE FOUNTAIN

As two BOMBERS swoop down over Woodruff Park -

Carpet bombing the park with BRIGHT BLUE ORBS OF LIGHT -
Which EXPLODE with a series of *CONCUSSIVE BLASTS* -
Sam pushes Megan down into a GARDEN BED -
But just as the BOMBERS reach Auburn Avenue -
They swiftly break off down parallel streets -
Continuing their bombing run down PEACHTREE and PINE -
The noise trails off into the distance -
Sam looks up, still covering Megan's head -
No fireballs. No shrapnel. No debris. Nothing -
He stands. Helping Megan out of the garden bed -

SAM
Are you okay?

MEGAN
Yeah, I just banged up my knee.

They move to the clearing. Surveying the horizon -
Thousands of BOMBERS swooping down over the city -
Leaving trails of FALLING BLUE LIGHT as they go -
A wave of *CONCUSSIVE BLASTS* following immediately after -
It is both terrifying and awe inspiring -
They walk slowly back out to -

AUBURN AVENUE

Where the last PASSENGERS are climbing out of the STREETCAR -
Others picking themselves up off the road -
Others still with a frozen gaze at the sky -
Sam leads Megan around stalled cars towards the intersection -

MEGAN
It all looks the same...

But something is not right. Noise up ahead -
A MOTHER yelling at her YOUNG CHILD (7) -

Squatting in front of him. Shaking his shoulders -
 But he just stares up at the sky -

INTERSECTION PEACHTREE STREET & AUBURN AVENUE

Megan reaches the Mother. Getting frantic now -

MOTHER
 Say something!

She stops at her side -

MOTHER (CONT'D)
 He won't move, he won't look at me,
 he won't say anything...

Sam arrives. Looks the kid over -

SAM
 He's in shock.

The Mother strokes her son's face. No response -

SAM (CONT'D)
 I'm just gonna take his pulse.

She nods as Sam reaches for the boy's bare wrist -
 ZAP. Sam pulls his hand back -

MOTHER
 What is it?

SAM
 It's okay. Just static.

He reaches for the boy's wrist again -

ZAP. Recoils again. Looks at Megan with concern -

MOTHER
 What's wrong with him?

Sam stands and looks around -

That's when he notices the other FROZEN PEOPLE -
 Some looking up. Some mid-stride. Some sitting -
 Looks up PEACHTREE STREET to see more of the same -
 And again behind the trees in WOODRUFF PARK -

Like STATUES -

MOTHER (CONT'D)
What's wrong with him?

He looks back at the Mother stroking her son's face -

She's wearing GLOVES -

He pulls out a HANDKERCHIEF and covers his hand with it -

SAM
It's clean, I promise.

Then he takes the boy's wrist. No shock this time -

Holds and concentrates for a few moments -

SAM (CONT'D)
His pulse is normal.

Relief, but confusion -

SAM (CONT'D)
Get him inside somewhere and lie
him down on his side. Put your coat
under his head and elevate his
legs.

The Mother picks her son up -

He slumps over her shoulders like a rag doll -

MOTHER
Will he be okay?

He hesitates -

SAM
He should come out of it soon. It's
just shock.

MEGAN
There's an Operations Center in
Cobb County. They'll be sending
emergency workers down here soon.

SAM
Just keep him comfortable and
monitor his pulse.

MOTHER
Thank you.

They watch her leave -

MEGAN
Will he be okay?

Sam walking over to another STATUE -

SAM
If it's shock, he'll be fine. But I
don't think it's shock.

Hesitates, then touches their cheek. ZAP. Recoils -

Sam moves on to another STATUE. Frozen in a fleeing pose -

Leans down. Stares into their eyes. No movement -

MEGAN
What?

He stands sharply and looks around -

SAM
They're paralyzed...

Walks to another -

MEGAN
How can you tell?

Looks this one in the eyes too -

SAM
We had a call out years ago for a
hit and run. Shattered spine. Full
paralysis. Couldn't even blink...

She follows him to another STATUE -

SAM (CONT'D)
We thought he was dead, but he
still had a strong pulse, so we
intubated him. I've never forgotten
the look her had in his eyes. It
was just horror. Like, "I'm still
in here and I know everything
that's happening to me"...

She sees it too -

SAM (CONT'D)
And he was. His MRI showed full
brain function and reactions. He
was just trapped in his own body.

Shakes his head -

MEGAN
It could be a neurotoxin...

SAM
There's still a lot of us
unaffected outside the blast
radius. Those kinds of weapons
don't discriminate. It's like
they're under anaesthetic...

MEGAN
We need to get back to the kids.

Across the road to the outdoor area of a -

STARBUCKS

More STATUES. Sitting. Standing. Ducking for cover -

MEGAN
We should be going up Peachtree...

People sheltering inside the store -

SAM
The Buick's a '68. No onboard
computer. An EMP doesn't affect
batteries or mechanical engines.

Stepping out on to -

LUCKIE STREET

Narrow city side street -

MEGAN
So you do think it's an EMP then?

SAM
Maybe.

A DINER CUSTOMER emerges from the LANDMARK DINER -

DINER CUSTOMER
Are those people dead?

SAM
No.

MEGAN
It's just shock. Emergency services
are on their way from Cobb County.

He nods and goes back inside -

SAM
Stop telling people that.

MEGAN
Why?

SAM
Because we don't even know if
anybody is coming yet.

People in the window of the RIALTO CENTER FOR THE ARTS -

Sam gestures for them to stay inside -

SAM (CONT'D)
Only the people under those planes
were affected, and we don't know if
they're coming around again.
They're all safer inside.

Reaching the -

AAA PARKING LOT

A few people already there. Checking their engines -

Sam gets his KEYS out -

Megan follows him over to a -

1968 BUICK SKYLARK

Immaculate condition. Matte black. Chrome trim and wheels -

Sam unlocks and opens the door -

Immaculate, except for an old CHICAGO BULLS BOBBLEHEAD -

Reaches in for his SMARTPHONE -

Dead. Pockets it -

Puts the key in the ignition. Turns it. Nothing -

Turns it again. Nothing. Not even a choke -

Pops the hood as he gets out -

SAM
It doesn't make sense...

Lifts the hood. Looks inside -

SAM (CONT'D)
It's a point and condenser
ignition. The only electronics in
this car are in the radio.

Checks the BATTERY TERMINAL and CABLE CONNECTORS -
Back to the car. Reaches in for some JUMPER CABLES -
Then back to the engine -
FIRST CLAMP on the battery's POSITIVE TERMINAL -
Holds the other end's SECOND CLAMP close to the first -

SAM (CONT'D)
Just back up a little.

Hesitates. Touches the clamps together. Nothing -

SAM (CONT'D)
It's not an EMP. EMP's don't kill
batteries.

MEGAN
What would?

Closes the hood and puts his hand on it -

SAM
Nothing that I know of.

Stares emotionally for a moment. As if to say 'goodbye' -
Then starts across the -

AAA PARKING LOT

Megan follows -

MEGAN
Will they be able to fix this?

SAM
Who?

MEGAN
I don't know. Whoever's in charge
of fixing things like this...

It sinks in -

SAM
There's nobody coming.

Megan shocked -

SAM (CONT'D)
No electricity. No batteries. No
communications. No coordination.
There's nobody coming, Megan.

She stops abruptly -

MEGAN
My insulin. It was in the car...

Genuine concern from Sam -

SAM
When was your last shot?

MEGAN
About two hours ago.

SAM
Okay. You'll be fine. You've still
got an hour or so-

MEGAN
Yeah, in a stress-free situation.
And my sugar was already up...

She's already looking anxious -

SAM
Okay. Just ... stay calm. There's a
pharmacy right near Peachtree
Center. We'll stop there and get
you a dose to keep you going until
we get home. Come on...

Out on to -

FORSYTH STREET

BOMBERS still overhead. An endless moving formation -

SAM
If we have to go on foot, we go on
foot. We can be there in an hour.

MEGAN
Emma's gonna be freaking out right
now. The first time I leave her
alone to show her the world keeps
turning when we're not there, and
now it stops. And if she freaks
out, Scottie will freak out, and-

SAM
I know. But they know the drill.
They know what to do.

Megan lagging behind -

SAM (CONT'D)
Come on.

MEGAN
I can't walk in these...

She kicks off her HEELED SHOES -

SAM
Then why wear them? You hate heels.

Continues barefoot -

MEGAN
I thought I had to be presentable.
I didn't know you were just going
to show up in jeans and a t-shirt.

SAM
There's no dress code for divorce.

A stream of people ushered into the ATLANTA FULTON LIBRARY -

Megan looks up at the BOMBERS overhead -

MEGAN
Who do you think they are?

SAM
Somebody really good at hiding
secrets. There's not many places in
the world you can build and house a
fleet of planes like that without
someone seeing it.

They reach the -

INTERSECTION FORSYTH STREET & PEACHTREE STREET

Survivors up and down Peachtree Street -

Some trying to move the STATUES. Others ignoring -

MEGAN
If Steph's power went out at the
same time, this must be happening
in Beijing too...

SAM
Well, I can't see something this
big being confined to just Atlanta.
It wouldn't make sense to knock us
out without taking everyone else
down at the same time.

Then *SCREAMS* from down Peachtree -
They look down to see people running towards them -
Others under cover, looking up at -
Another wave of *BOMBERS* dropping down. Same as before -
Can already hear the distant *CONCUSSIVE BLASTS* -

SAM (CONT'D)
Come on!

Sam leads Megan across to the -
PEACHTREE CENTER STATION
The sheltered entrance to the subway -
ESCALATORS descending down into darkness -
A line of people rushing down -
Panic from the streets as the *BLASTS* grow near -
Sam and Megan get a few steps down the escalator -
Then hit the deck just in time to see -
BOMBERS SWOOPING BETWEEN BUILDINGS -
Carpet bombing Peachtree again with the *BLUE LIGHT ORBS* -
People on the streets still scrambling for cover when -
The *CONCUSSIVE BLASTS* explode all around them -
This time they see it all -
People just freezing mid-run -
Others freezing while hopelessly trying to hide -
Others frozen looking up, shielding their eyes -
The *SOUND WAVES* rippling over their skin in an instant -

Leaving them as still as STATUES -
 Moments pass as the sound trails away -
 Sam and Megan crawl up. Staying under cover -
 Megan stares at a MAN close by. Face FROZEN in desperation -
 Those who managed to get to cover are emerging in the street -
 Some running to companions who didn't make it -

SAM
 Come on. Keep moving.

Sam and Megan get to their feet -
 More SCREAMS and panic. People running for cover -
 The BOMBERS breaking gaps in their formation -
 Allowing LARGER AIRCRAFT - 'THUMPERS' - to drop vertically -
 The BOMBERS resuming formation when they're through -
 The THUMPERS descending slowly -
 Black. Boxy. Illuminated by BLUE LIGHT underneath -
 Spread out across the skyline and hovering into position -
 Coming down straight on the tops of TALL BUILDINGS -
 They wait for some sort of impact -
 Nothing. They're landing. One after the other on rooftops -
 Sam and Megan exit cover and back on to -

PEACHTREE STREET

Sticking close to the building walls -
 People out on the DINING TERRACE of THE ELLIS ON PEACHTREE -
 Sam and Megan passing underneath -
 GASPS and SCREAMS from above them -
 They stop. The situation immediately clear -
 Across the street and back at the GEORGIA PACIFIC BUILDING -
 The 52 floor skyscraper roof clouded in DUST -

Debris raining down the sides of the building -
People on the street trying to get clear -
Sam and Megan leave the cover of The Ellis' terrace -
Looking back at the GP BUILDING as they move -
Megan holding her mouth in shock, when -
A SMALL CHUNK OF GREY BRICK lands just feet away -
CRACKING the road with the impact -
Then another. A little larger. CRACK -
They look up. A DEBRIS CLOUD atop THE ELLIS BUILDING -
More debris coming down -
A CHUNK OF BRICK bouncing off the awning above the patrons -
They SCREAM and retreat inside as Sam and Megan cross the -
INTERSECTION ELLIS STREET & PEACHTREE STREET
Debris of all sizes hitting the ground behind them - CRACK -
Then beside them - CRACK CRACK -
Then in front of them - CRACK CRACK CRACK -
They dodge their way over to the -
RITZ CARLTON AWNING
Taking cover in a section of the REVOLVING DOOR -
Patrons on the DINING TERRACE at ATLANTA GRILL next door -
Watching the destruction on the building tops -
People dodging debris on the streets -
Some of the STATUES not so lucky -
A THUMP as a piece of CONCRETE bounces off the awning -
Then a CRACK as it breaks on the sidewalk nearby -
The patrons at ATLANTA GRILL yelling at them to move -
So they run back out on to -

PEACHTREE STREET

Crossing and dodging more falling debris until they reach -

200 PEACHTREE STREET

And take shelter in the more solid entrance -

Just in time to see a larger piece of CONCRETE falling -

And WIPING OUT the RITZ CARLTON AWNING -

The patrons at ATLANTA GRILL jumping back -

Unaware of the EVEN LARGER chunk of CONCRETE falling above -

Megan tries to YELL out -

Getting their attention just as -

C R A A A S H - THE WHOLE TERRACE IS CRUSHED BY DEBRIS -

Megan stares, shell-shocked, at the scene -

Sam looking back down Peachtree -

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE pouring out of the buildings -

He leads Megan by the arm back out on to -

PEACHTREE STREET

Joining a rush of people fleeing the Downtown area -

And even more exiting buildings beside them as they go -

Out of the ATLANTA BRAVES ALL STAR GRILL -

Out of the WESTIN PEACHTREE PLAZA HOTEL -

Out of the HARD ROCK CAFE -

Just a sea of people evacuating buildings -

And surging up Peachtree Street -

Sam looks up -

DEBRIS and SMOKE atop most of the major buildings -

Debris raining down on the street -

More and more people pouring out of buildings -

A COP up ahead at the PEACHTREE CENTER MALL -
 Directing dozens of people down the ESCALATORS -

COP
 It's safer underground...

Sam and Megan through the crowd and past the Cop -

COP (CONT'D)
 You're safer underground, sir...

But they continue on to the next storefront -
 Where they duck inside the -

CVS PHARMACY

Past the people sheltering at the entrance -
 Into the darkness -

RUFFLING and CLANKING all around until -
 SHLINK - FSSH - FSSH - light -

Sam leads Megan towards the PRESCRIPTION COUNTER -
 The ZIPPO LIGHTER illuminating LOOTERS already at work -
 People rummaging behind the counter -

SAM
 Wait he-

MEGAN
 I know what I need...

Sam gives her the LIGHTER -
 And she climbs over the counter to the -

PRESCRIPTION STORAGE

Directly towards the back of the aisles -
 LOOTERS sweeping the shelves around her -
 But she heads straight for a GLASS DOOR REFRIGERATOR -
 Its door ajar, already cleaned out -
 Looking around frantically for a moment -

Then back to the counter -

Climbing over to -

CVS PHARMACY

And giving Sam the LIGHTER -

MEGAN
They're out.

SAM
Sold out, or cleaned out?

She shakes her head. Sam shouts -

SAM (CONT'D)
DID ANYONE TAKE INSULIN?

Nobody responds -

They immediately set out for the exit -

SAM (CONT'D)
We'll find another one. Or there's
the Emory Hospital on the way...

More LOOTERS and people seeking shelter -

Sam closes the LIGHTER as they reach the daylight -

Exiting back on to -

PEACHTREE STREET

The COP still directing people in the background -

COP
You're safer underground...

But they continue on -

Barely meters away when they hear the CRACKING -

Another meter or two before they hear the CRASHING -

Turning back to see GLASS RAINING FROM ABOVE -

Then looking up to see -

The SKYWALK between two buildings BREAKING away and FALLING -

Sam and Megan sprinting away when they hear -

COP (CONT'D)

GET OUT O-

C R A A A A A A A A A A S H H H H H -

The Skywalk debris comes right down on top of the crowd -

Blocking off the street -

Exploding into a CLOUD OF DUST behind Sam and Megan -

As they sprint to keep ahead of it -

Pivoting off to the side of the street and into -

WELLS FARGO BANK

And closing the glass door just as -

The wave of dust *WHOOSHES* past. Engulfing the crowd -

Silence. Then a FIGURE approaches and pulls on the door -

An out-of-breath DUSTY MAN ducks inside -

He closes the door again. Confused. Panicked. Exhausted -

DUSTY MAN

They're everywhere...

SAM

Who?

DUSTY MAN

We were at Olympic Park when they landed...

MEGAN

Landed? Who landed?

DUSTY MAN

I don't know what they are...

Sam and Megan trade looks -

DUSTY MAN (CONT'D)

I don't know what I saw, but I don't think they were people ... I lost my family in the rush. We're from Connecticut. We don't even know the area...

With tears in his eyes -

DUSTY MAN (CONT'D)
I don't even know where they'd go.
My phone's out, and-

MEGAN
If you made it, I'm sure they made
it too.

DUSTY MAN
We had a stroller for our boy and-
... I just ran. I didn't know what
to do ...

MEGAN
Nobody knows what to do...

DUSTY MAN
Would you have run off on your
family in this?

They hesitate -

DUSTY MAN (CONT'D)
Yeah. Exactly. I gotta go back over
there. I have to see...

MEGAN
You can't go back if-

DUSTY MAN
I need to go back.

They don't know what to say. It hits home for them -
He nods and stands. The debris cloud still thick -

SAM
We've gotta keep moving too.

Sam helping Megan up, as -
Dusty Man exits into the bewildered crowd, just as -
SCREAMS in the distance. The crowd's pace accelerating -
But there's nowhere for them to run, when -
The TRAIL OF BLUE LIGHT ORBS rain down over them -
Sam and Megan LEAPING back away from the window -
Covering their faces as the CONCUSSIVE BLASTS roar past -
The glass door vibrating as the sound trails off -

Looking up to see the STATUES outside. Hundreds of them -
 And DUSTY MAN right in the middle. Frozen -
 They slowly open the door and exit back out to -

PEACHTREE STREET

Megan staring back at DUSTY MAN as Sam leads her away -
 It's a sea of STATUES now as they cross the -

INTERSECTION PEACHTREE STREET & HARRIS STREET

But the THUMPERS are still kicking up debris on the rooftops -
 Hundreds of people still flooding out into the streets -
 Out of the FIDELITY BANK up ahead -
 And the HYATT REGENCY across the road from that -
 Looking both ways down Harris Street -
 It's the same situation everywhere -

SAM
 They're not destroying the
 buildings. They're driving people
 out into the streets...

He leads Megan to the left hand side of -

PEACHTREE STREET

Keeping under building awnings and terraces -
 They keep moving through the THINNING DEBRIS CLOUD -
 Sticking to any cover the buildings can provide -
 Then more SCREAMS from behind -
 People scrambling around in the still settling debris -
 And then they see THEM. Just barely -
 TALL FIGURES - 'SLIMS' - shrouded in the DUST CLOUD -
 Sending the crowd fleeing when -
 THUMP - another SLIM drops from the sky ahead of them -
 Megan and Sam quicken their pace. Looking back and up to see -

A DROPSHIP hovering above the buildings -
 Ejecting more SLIMS down to the streets -
 THUD - THUD - THUD -
 Each landing firmly on their feet -
 The CROWDS knocking people over to get away -
 The DROPSHIP ascending sharply after unloading its cargo -
 As Megan and Sam reach the -
INTERSECTION PEACHTREE STREET & BAKER STREET
 Battling through the thick crowd of SURVIVORS and STATUES -
 The DROPSHIPS hovering across the skyline -
 Megan fighting the crowd to stay with Sam -
 More SLIMS raining down in the distance -
 THUD - THUD - THUD - THUD - THUD -
 Each one landing closer and closer -
 The DUST CLOUD still too thick to make out anything clearly -
 The panic reaching a fever pitch that almost drowns out the -
 CONCUSSIVE BLASTS from behind -
 And to the sides -
 Sam twists in the sea of people, holding Megan's arm -
 Seeing the BLUE LIGHT of the BOMBERS swooping in -
 From down PEACHTREE -
 And from both directions on BAKER -
 Sam forcing a path through the people -
 Managing to reach the pavement at -
HARDY IVY PARK
 The trail of FALLING BLUE LIGHT almost converging as -
 Sam and Megan sprint for the -

CARNEGIE PAVILION

A sheltered four pillar marble monument -
 Leaping behind one of the large MARBLE COLUMNS when -
 The entire area EXPLODES with BRIGHT BLUE LIGHT -
 Followed by the deafening *CONCUSSIVE BLASTS* -
 Then silence -
 Megan pale and out of breath. They look across to see -
 Two CONSTRUCTION WORKMEN (50s and 20s) also sheltering there -
 They all look out at the intersection -
 It's like a still frame photograph of a panicked crowd -
 Except for the 7 FOOT TALL SLIMS walking among them -
 DUST still lingering in the air. Obscuring them -

WORKMAN ONE

Bet you didn't think you'd wake up
 to an alien invasion this morning.

SAM

You don't know that's what it is.

WORKMAN ONE

You think our enemies got hold of
 space age technology and sent a
 bunch of robot terrorists here to
 kill us? Jesus christ...

SAM

They're not dead. It stuns them. It
 doesn't kill them.

WORKMAN ONE

You haven't seen it yet. Just wait.
 You're in for a show...

In the distance, the SLIMS plucking through the STATUES -
 Too far to see what they're actually doing -

WORKMAN ONE (CONT'D)

Notice how the big ships flush the
 people out of the buildings so the
 little ones can swoop in? That's
 textbook hunting.

MEGAN
Why are they doing this?

WORKMAN ONE
Why does anybody invade anything?
Resources. It's always about
resources. Every invasion in
history is about showing up and
taking what somebody else has. Why
should we think it's any different
when it happens to us?

Workman One watching with macabre fascination -

WORKMAN ONE (CONT'D)
They're injecting the people with
something.

MEGAN
What...?

WORKMAN ONE
Probably venom to break down their
insides. Make them easier to eat.

SAM
Where do you get this shit from?

WORKMAN TWO
I've seen it too.

WORKMAN ONE
I know plenty about nature. I watch
a lot of Discovery channel. You
wouldn't believe the amount of
predators that stun their prey just
to keep them alive while they eat
them. They get off on it.

SAM
Don't listen to this asshole. The
only one getting off on anything
here is him.

Shrugs and smirks -

WORKMAN ONE
Sure. Don't listen to me. I'm just
the asshole who's kept him alive
the past half hour.

SAM
Megan, let's go...

Sam and Megan back out of the monument -

WORKMAN ONE

Y'all have a nice apocalypse.

Keeping an eye on the activity around them -

Until they are shrouded by the plants and trees of -

HARDY IVY PARK

They turn and sneak through -

Keeping as quiet as possible -

Using the cover of trees -

As they pass an ART DISPLAY -

Then on the sidewalk and out to -

WEST PEACHTREE STREET

Sneaking between stopped cars -

BOMBERS still overhead. THUMPERS still kicking up debris -

SLIMS working through the STATUES on the main streets -

Sam notices Megan leaving a trail of blood -

SAM

Your foot...

She lifts her right foot. A deep cut -

MEGAN

I didn't even notice it...

They continue walking. Megan now with a limp. Into the -

PCA STAR PARKING LOT ONE

Now using the parked cars as cover -

MEGAN

That stupid old man is going to get
that kid killed.

SAM

He sure as hell isn't doing him any
favors.

Until a wall in their way forces them briefly back out on to -

WEST PEACHTREE STREET

Around the entrance of an UNDERCOVER PARKING LOT -

SAM
We can't stop and help every
complete stranger we come across.

And into -

PCA STAR PARKING LOT TWO

Then continuing together among the cars -

MEGAN
And yet, we wouldn't even have
Scottie if it weren't for a
complete stranger stopping to help
me when I couldn't get hold of you-

SAM
I get it. It's not the same thing.

Megan biting her lip with each step -

SAM (CONT'D)
How is it?

MEGAN
I wish you hadn't told me, because
now it really hurts.

Sam looks around. Notices a CHURCH across the street -

SAM
Hold tight. We're going to stop and
get you patched up.

They step out on to -

PORTER PLACE

A small and quiet street. A door open at the side of the -

ATLANTA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PASTOR GARDNER standing in the doorway -

PASTOR GARDNER
Quickly - come in...

SAM
Do you have a First Aid Kit?

SAM
 Sit.
 She does. Shuffles across. He sits next to her -

SAM (CONT'D)
 Foot.
 She puts her foot up on his knee -

MEGAN
 "Sit. Foot." Real nice bedside manner. I'm not Reggie, you know.
 He presses his HANKERCHIEF against her CUT -

SAM
 Well, you're doing a lot better with commands than he ever did.

MEGAN
 He was a good dog. Stupid as all heck. But a good dog.

SAM
 Yeah. He was.
 Megan still shaky and pale -

SAM (CONT'D)
 How are you doing?

MEGAN
 My mouth is dry and my head is pounding. But that feels like a small problem compared to what's out there.

He looks around at the other people -
 Some huddling together. Others praying -
 Pastor Gardner returns with WATER, a MED KIT and SNEAKERS -

PASTOR GARDNER
 See how these feel...

Sam opens the kit -

MEGAN
 Thank you so much, Pastor. God bless you.
 Takes out some GAUZE, BANDAGES and ANTISEPTIC -

PASTOR GARDNER
And you too. God bless you. Let me
know if you need anything else.

He leaves as Megan opens the WATER BOTTLE -

Megan winces as Sam wipes her foot with ANTISEPTIC -

SAM
You're all sticking with the God
thing, even with all this?

MEGAN
Especially with all this.

Megan gulps down the water -

Almost emptying the bottle in seconds -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
That boy and his mother. He
couldn't have been a year older
than Scottie. I don't know what I'd-

SAM
Don't think about it.

MEGAN
How can you not? How can you see
things like that and not feel
anything?

SAM
I've never seen anything like that.

She winces again as he presses the GAUZE on her wound -

MEGAN
You know what I mean. You never
talked about that stuff. You just
came home every day like you'd been
at an office desk all night.

He starts wrapping her foot with the BANDAGE -

SAM
I feel plenty. I just don't let it
rule me, or I'd never be able to
keep moving forward. Acceptance is
not the same thing as callousness.

MEGAN
Okay.

Stops bandaging -

Gives her the stern and serious look -

SAM

What's the most important thing
right now? Right this very second?

MEGAN

Getting home.

SAM

Right. Why?

MEGAN

To make sure the kids are safe.

SAM

Right. Because their safety trumps
everyone else's. Because they're
our responsibility. So, you need to
make that decision. You need to
reconcile that we're not going to
be able to stop and help every
single person along the way. Now,
is that selfish? Probably. But it
is what it is. Maybe things get
better tomorrow. Maybe we can play
action hero and Mother Teresa then.
But not until we know the kids are
safe. They're the only people we
owe anything right now. Because
they're our responsibility.

Starts bandaging again. Megan wipes her eyes -

MEGAN

Do you think they're okay?

SAM

They're smart. They know what to do
in emergencies. They know the plan.

MEGAN

I know, but ... Emma...

SAM

She'll step up, Megan. She's not as
helpless as she thinks. Here...

Takes a PHOTO out of his WALLET and hands it to her -

Her face brightens behind the tears -

MEGAN
You keep an actual printed photo...

SAM
Of course.

A girl and boy - EMMA (12) and SCOTTIE (7) -
Standing outside in their school uniforms and backpacks -

MEGAN
All of mine are on my phone...

SAM
Well, you already know how I am
with my phone. My wallet, I always
have...

MEGAN
Look how unimpressed she is to be
posing for this. She refused to
even stand next to him. But he's
just smiling away anyway...

He fastens her dressing with a BANDAGE CLIP -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I said you didn't care.
You are a great dad.

She holds the photo out to him -

SAM
Keep it in your pocket.

She does. He helps put the first shoe on -

MEGAN
Okay then. If we get separated, or
something happens to me and I don't
make it, you have to make sure you
get home to the kids.

SAM
You're gonna be fine.

MEGAN
How many of those people out there
do you think said the same thing
three seconds before they were hit
by whatever the heck's going on?

Next shoe -

SAM
Of course I'm going to the kids...

MEGAN
Even if I get all frozen up like
those other people...

SAM
We can sit here and play what-ifs
for hours, or we can just get on
with it. So, let's get on with it.

He helps her to her feet -

Pastor Gardner approaches -

SAM (CONT'D)
Stay together. Look after each
other. Get home. That's our focus.
Nothing else.

MEGAN
Okay.

PASTOR GARDNER
Are you sure you won't stay? It's
getting worse out there...

SAM
That's why we have to go.

They walk back towards the -

VESTIBULE

Pastor Gardner follows them -

MEGAN
Thank you. For everything.

PASTOR GARDNER
You'll make it. I'll say a prayer.
God will watch over you both.

Sam shakes his head -

SAM
We have to go...

PASTOR GARDNER
Stay safe. And God bless you.

Megan follows Sam back out on to -

PEACHTREE STREET

As they cross to the other side -

SAM
Well, we're definitely going to be
just fine now that he's saying a
prayer for us. Maybe these other
poor assholes should have dropped
in for a blessing this morning.

Further back, SLIMS picking their way through the crowd -

Other survivors cautiously navigating the streets -

Sam helps Megan across -

RALPH MCGILL BOULEVARD

Looking both ways -

Just as chaotic as everywhere else -

Reaching the -

MAYOR'S #1 PARK

A small corner park next to the OVERPASS -

Not much cover, but they stop and crouch near some trees -

Looking back DOWNTOWN at the CHAOS inching further -

Other SURVIVORS swarming their way -

SAM
We need to get ahead of the crowd,
or we're easy targets for the
bombers.

Megan nods in a daze -

SAM (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

MEGAN
Just a little nauseous.

SAM
Hospital's right across there. Stay
close. Move quickly.

She nods and follows Sam on to the -

PEACHTREE I-85 OVERPASS

Twenty or more cars stalled on the road ahead -

They walk swiftly but quietly until -

They see a BODY next to an OPEN CAR DOOR -

On its back. Pale. Features sunken. Eyes milky white -

They stop in shock. First victim they've seen up close -

SAM
Don't look at them.

They gather themselves and move around it -

Until they pass ANOTHER -

Then ANOTHER TWO -

And then the CREAKING of a car door up ahead -

As a SLIM stands up into view in the middle of the overpass -

They stop in their tracks, still facing its back -

Quietly ducking behind the NEAREST CAR just as it turns -

Peering around for their first clear look at a SLIM -

TALL. THIN. HUMANOID. LARGE BLACK EYES. ROUGH GREY SKIN -

Their breathing accelerates when they see -

The SLIM pulling a STATUE by the face from a car -

Five MECHANICAL TENDRILS snaking out of its arm -

The TENDRILS worming their way into the person's head -

Through the mouth, nose and ears -

The body WRITHING and CONVULSING as it happens -

Sam and Megan watching in horror until -

The SLIM turns and drops the LIMP BODY with a sickening THUD -

They both cover their mouths -

Looking back to see the other SURVIVORS getting closer -

Sam nods and starts crouch walking around the car -

Megan follows. Slowly. Quietly -
Over to the back of ANOTHER CAR -
A swift *CREAK* and a *CRACK* stopping them again -
Sam peers around to see -
The *SLIM* throwing a car door aside with a *CLANG* -
Then *RIPPING* another *FROZEN BODY* from a car -
Sam ducks down again just as the *TENDRILS* snake out -
Enough distraction to move again -
More distance this time. Crouching. Slowly. Quietly -
The horrible *SLURPING* sounds making them wince -
Navigating around more *DISCARDED BODIES* -
Then another sickening *THUD* as a body is dropped -
Just as they make it to the cover of ANOTHER STALLED CAR -
The *PASSENGER* still in this one. Frozen. Waiting -
Megan almost hyperventilating now as -
HEAVY FOOTSTEPS draw near -
They freeze still and hold their breaths -
The *FOOTSTEPS* stopping very close by -
A moment of silence -
Then the *CREAK* and *CRACK* of another car door -
It's the car they're sheltering beside -
They hold their breath as the door drops with a *CLANG* -
Then the sound of *SHUFFLING* inside the car -
Sam can't help but look up at the window -
Just in time to see a *SLIM* hand grabbing the *PASSENGER* -
And dragging them out of the car by the face -
Turning to the other *SURVIVORS*, now on the overpass -

Sam angrily motions for them to duck down -
Then the *SLURPING* sounds start -
Sam gets down on all fours. Megan follows -
Crawling slowly and quietly to the NEXT CAR -
Trembling with fear, but advancing anyway -
Until the *THUD* shakes Megan, making her *YELP* slightly -
Sam pulling Megan to cover just in time -
As the *SLIM* turns sharply and looks around -
Sam and Megan shuffling around the car quietly -
As *HEAVY FOOTSTEPS* close in on their position -
They make it to the front cover of their car just as -
The *SLIM* reaches their prior position to find nothing -
Sam and Megan crossing behind the *SLIM* -
Quicker now, but still with light footsteps -
Taking cover behind ANOTHER CAR in the next lane -
The *SLIM* tearing off another car door - *CREAK* - *CRACK* -
Sam peers over the hood of the car -
The *SLIM* hoisting ANOTHER STATUE into the air -
The next few cars are further ahead and spread out -
Sam and Megan trade fearful looks -
Then crawl to the furthest car in the RIGHT LANE -
Shuffling around quietly, out of sight -
Wanting to take a breath, but the *SLURPING* rattling them -
They stare down at the I-85 FREEWAY below -
HUNDREDS OF STALLED CARS stretching off to the horizon -
DOZENS of *SLIMS* ripping off doors and pulling out people -
A trail of DISCARDED BODIES strewn across the freeway -

The sky blanketed with BOMBERS -
THUMPERS working atop buildings right across the skyline -
The DROPSHIPS hovering low and ejecting SLIMS -
Just a panorama of horror and chaos -
Another THUMP breaks them out of their daze with a wince -
Then a SHUFFLING approaching -
Looking right to see THREE SURVIVORS moving towards them -
Crouching, but moving a lot quicker and noisier -
Sam shaking his head and muttering -
 SAM (CONT'D)
 ... not here ... not here ...
Another CREAK and CRACK not even deterring them -
 SAM (CONT'D)
 ... god damn it...
They reach Megan and Sam just as the CLANG sounds -
The THREE SURVIVORS sheltering behind the car -
They nod at Sam. But he's stone-faced in reply -
They all react to the SLURPING -
The THREE SURVIVORS all peering over the trunk to see -
The SLIM dangling a CONVULSING BODY -
Just meters away from them, back turned -
They duck back down, all shocked -
 SURVIVOR ONE
 What the hell is it doing?
Sam angrily SHUSHES them -
SURVIVOR ONE pulls out a PISTOL -
Sam grabs the PISTOL by the barrel and shakes his head -
They stare each other down-
Until the THUMP jolts them -

SURVIVOR ONE (CONT'D)
 ... don't touch me ...

He tries to pull the pistol back away from Sam's hand -

SAM
 ... you can't help them ...

But Sam has a firm grip on the BARREL -

All staring at each other as HEAVY FOOTSTEPS move closer -

Sam peers through the CAR WINDOW to see -

The SLIM at the next car over -

Sam ducking down with the CREAK and CRACK -

Survivor One gripping the PISTOL angrily -

Sam looks at the CONCRETE PLANTER BOXES along the sidewalk -

Then back through the CAR WINDOW again -

The SLURPING sounds coming from the SLIM, back turned -

He shoots a glare at Survivor One -

Then leans in to Megan -

SAM (CONT'D)
 ... I want you to crawl ... use the
 planter boxes as cover until you
 can get to the next car ...

MEGAN
 ... what about you? ...

Sam looks at the THREE SURVIVORS, then back to Megan -

SAM
 ... we'll take it in turns ...

Checks the SLIM again. Still SLURPING -

SAM (CONT'D)
 ... go ...

Megan nervously begins crawling -

Makes it to the FIRST PLANTER BOX -

Sam watching the SLIM -

Nods at Megan. She starts crawling again -
Survivor One getting angrier by the second -
Megan makes it to the SECOND PLANTER BOX -
Stops when she hears the *THUMP* of the body -
Survivor One seething. The others frightened -
Sam watching the SLIM moving around the car -
Looks over to Megan just as -
Survivor One pushes Sam away with a *THUMP* against the car -
The SLIM turning sharply at the sound, just as -
Survivor One pops up from behind the car -
Getting off four shots - *BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM* -
The shells just *CRUMPLING* and falling off the SLIM -
Sam yells to Megan -

SAM (CONT'D)

RUN!

As the SLIM charges over to the car -
Grabbing Survivor One by the arm -
Then *FLINGING* him through the air and over the overpass -
The other survivors *SCREAMING* and huddling together -
Cut by a distant but distinctly *BLOODY SPLAT* below -
Megan on her feet and running now -
Sam trying to scramble away from the others when -
The SLIM violently *PUSHES* the car -
DEMOLISHING the CONCRETE PLANTER BOX behind them -
Then *CRUSHING* the people between the CAR and the GUARD RAIL -
More *SCREAMS* of horror and *GURGLES* of pain -
Sam's leg trapped in twisted metal -
Megan almost to the other side -

The *CRUNCHING* and *CRACKING* of the GUARD RAIL -
Sam gritting his teeth in agony, struggling when -
The GUARD RAIL BREAKS AWAY and -
THE CAR AND THE GROUP OF PEOPLE PLUMMET OFF THE OVERPASS -
Sam and SURVIVOR TWO grabbing hold of the WIRE FENCING -
Dangling and swaying while the CAR hits the INTERSTATE first -
Followed immediately by SURVIVOR THREE -
Hitting the CAR WRECK with a horrific *SPLAT* -
Sam desperately pulling himself up the WIRE FENCING -
The SLIM letting out a *HIGH-PITCHED SHRIEK* above -
SURVIVOR TWO loses their grip and falls -
Sam cringing at the *SPLAT* as the WIRE starts to give way -
But he reaches up to grab hold of a METAL POST -
Wincing as he pulls himself up to the OVERPASS -
All of his effort into sliding his torso on to solid ground -
Rolling on his back and GULPING air -
Looking across to see Megan panicking at the other end -
He rolls over to his belly -
Commando crawls away from the devastation -
Looking back to see the SLIM distracted -
More SURVIVORS trying to cross the overpass -
The SLIM charging at them amidst *SCREAMS* of panic -
Sam uses the opportunity to scramble to his feet -
Hobbling quickly towards Megan -
Looking back to see the SLIM attacking the SURVIVORS -
BODIES flung around like rag dolls -
Sam hobbles on as Megan beckons him forward -

SAM!
MEGAN

He looks back to see -
SURVIVORS making a desperate break past the SLIM -
SCREAMING and sprinting across the overpass -
Unaware of the BOMBER swooping in above them -
Sam fighting the pain and running to join Megan on -
PEACHTREE STREET
As the targeted strike of BLUE LIGHT falls behind -
Megan pulling Sam into a nearby GARDEN BED -
Watching the SURVIVORS as they're frozen mid-run -
The look of desperation on their faces when -
The *CONCUSSIVE BLAST* ripples across their skin and clothing -
Leaving a field of STATUES -
The SLIM walking among them as the BOMBER breaks away -
The SLIM completely unaffected by the blast -
Sam and Megan shuffle back into the cover of trees -
Completely exhausted and battered -
Getting to their feet on the other side of the GARDEN BED in -
EMORY HEALTHCARE PARKING LOT
Still too stunned to talk, they push forward -
Keeping to the cover of the parked cars -

MEGAN
I thought you were dead...

SAM
Then why the hell were you still
standing there?

He immediately regrets saying it -
They continue weaving through cars -

Silence as they move through the lot -
Taking in the destruction across the skyline -

MEGAN
Do you think they feel it?

He shakes his head -

SAM
I hope not. But I have a bad
feeling they probably do.

They exit the Parking Lot on to -

PINE STREET

Helping each other across the road towards -

EMORY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL MIDTOWN

The SECURITY BOOTH empty and GATES open -

They pass through. No activity ahead -

Megan short of breath and struggling -

SAM
Almost there...

Down the road -

MEGAN
Just a little ... blurry.

Past a TREE-LINED GARDEN -

SAM
Just hold on.

She nods -

They reach the entrance to find the doors open to the -

EMERGENCY ROOM

Looking in cautiously -

The dark WAITING ROOM turned into a makeshift triage -

But no sound or movement inside. No people. Abandoned -

SAM
HELLO?

A distant *THUMP* from somewhere in the darkness -
 Then the *SHADOW* of a *FIGURE* coming towards them -
 They quickly back up and out to -

EMORY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL MIDTOWN

As a *LOOTER* with an armful of *MEDICAL SUPPLIES* emerges -

SAM

Do you have any insulin there?

Passing them by with no response -

Then *ANOTHER SHADOW* approaching. Faster -

A Doctor, *HARRIS* (40s), exits quickly -

DOCTOR HARRIS

Move, move...

Shaken. Pale. *SCRUBS* covered in blood -

SAM

Harris?

DOCTOR HARRIS

They're in there right now. We
 couldn't do anything...

They follow Harris along the side of the building to the -

HOSPITAL GARDENS

Using the surroundings as cover -

DOCTOR HARRIS

I was on my lunch break an hour
 ago, and now this...

Sam stops him for a second -

SAM

John, we need insulin. Is there any
 left in there?

DOCTOR HARRIS

Maybe in the pharmacy. But I
 wouldn't go in there. Between the
 looters and those things, I barely
 got out myself.

Megan grips Sam's arm -

MEGAN
I can keep going...

She's lying, but they continue on -

SAM
Did you hear anything? Was there a warning?

DOCTOR HARRIS
Nothing. Everything's down.
Generators are dead. Batteries are dead. They just drained from a full charge to nothing in seconds. Just like that. Even backup units that weren't connected to anything. Can't raise Cobb County.

Still making sense of it himself -

DOCTOR HARRIS (CONT'D)
We lost everyone on a machine in I.C.U. We had everyone else pushed up against windows for natural light. Had people out looking for candles and lanterns. Then they just hit. It was so fast.

The path ends and they exit back on to -

PEACHTREE STREET

Where they join other SURVIVORS. Scattered and cautious -

The sky still blanketed by BOMBERS -

DOCTOR HARRIS
You got a smoke?

SAM
I don't-

There's no point -

SAM (CONT'D)
I don't have any on me. This is-

MEGAN
Megan. The wife who thought she kept him cigarette-free for the last eight years.

DOCTOR HARRIS
Oh. Sorry. John Harris.

Then a WOOOOOOOOOOOSH from behind them -
 They turn and look back down towards the OVERPASS -
 Another ship. Larger still. A HAULER. Hovering in place -
 A VORTEX OF BLUE LIGHT funneling down from beneath -
 Dozens of HUMAN BODIES sucked upwards into the light -
 Spinning and tumbling like debris in a tornado -

MEGAN
 What are they doing with them?

Continuing. Keeping to the sides of the buildings -

DOCTOR HARRIS
 I just opened one of them up-

SAM
 Them...?

They reach the -

INTERSECTION PEACHTREE STREET & LINDEN AVENUE

More SURVIVORS approaching from both directions -
 Running from more HAULERS in the distance -

DOCTOR HARRIS
 No, one of the bodies. After
 they're done with them. She was
 missing thyroid, thymus, adrenal
 glands, pancreas, uterus. I didn't
 get to the brain, but...

Continuing on -

PEACHTREE STREET

The buildings still shaken by THUMPERS -

SAM
 Kidneys? Liver? Heart?

DOCTOR HARRIS
 All intact. Whatever they're using
 drills a pathway to what they need,
 and makes a mess of it in the
 process. But they're only taking
 the major endocrine organs.

SAM
They're all hormonal glands...

Harris nods -

SAM (CONT'D)
It's us. We're the resource.

The realization chills them until -

B O O O O O O O O O O O O O O M -

An EXPLOSION atop the BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA BUILDING -

The crowd looks up at the FIREBALL, but continues on -

FLAMING PAPER and DEBRIS raining around them -

They move to the opposite side of the street -

DOCTOR HARRIS
The fact they're leaving other
major organs means they know our
endocrine system.

SAM
They know exactly what to take.
They're farming us.

Harris nods -

The CROWD getting thicker and more anxious at the -

INTERSECTION PEACHTREE STREET & NORTH AVENUE

Harris starting to turn right down North Avenue -

SAM
Where are you headed?

DOCTOR HARRIS
Home. If it's still there. At least
until morning. Then maybe come back
and see if there's anything left.
If there's anyone left to help.

SAM
Good luck.

He nods and keeps walking -

Up ahead, another FIREBALL atop the AT&T BUILDING -

Further in the distance, MIDTOWN also under heavy attack -

SAM (CONT'D)
 We gotta get off Peachtree. If we
 get to Third, we can zig-zag
 through the side streets until
 we're closer to home.

So they continue up -

PEACHTREE STREET

Until the SCREAMS at their back make them turn -
 DOZENS OF SURVIVORS turning up Peachtree from North Avenue -
 Sam and Megan immediately breaking into a sprint -
 Towards the WINDSOR CONDOMINIUMS at left -
 The BLUE LIGHT glowing from around the corner behind them -
 They vault up the stairs towards the row of STORES -
 As the BOMBER pivots -
 Bombing the crowd surging up Peachtree -
 Sam and Megan making it to the -

LAZ PARKING LOT

Beside the WINDSOR CONDOMINIUMS -
 Heading for the cover of the NEAREST CAR as -
 The BOMBER sweeps past in a flash of BLUE LIGHT -
 Before breaking off and soaring up into the sky -

SAM
 Come on...

Sam leads Megan through the parking lot -
 The CONCUSSIVE BLASTS not even phasing them anymore -
 Past one row of cars when -
 A SHADOW from directly above causes them to stop -
 As a DROPSHIP hovers into view over the condominiums -
 They look around for their options but -
 The DROPSHIP starts ejecting SLIMS -

So they push forward as fast as they can -
The *THUD* - *THUD* - *THUD* - behind them -
As they make it to the GATE and out on to -
PONCE DE LEON AVENUE
Where other SURVIVORS are also darting around frantically -
The SLIMS clearing the PARKING LOT FENCE with quick leaps -
As Sam and Megan duck behind a VAN for cover -
The SLIMS moving through the crowd like dancers -
Slashing people aside here -
Tossing people through the air there -
Megan spots a SURVIVOR commando crawling towards them -
Injured and desperate in the chaos when -
THUD - a SLIM jumps down on top of him -
Pinning him under foot then -
SKLITCH - a STINGER extends from the SLIM'S forearm -
And quickly JABS it into the guy's lower back -
He FREEZES in place. Like a photograph. Paralyzed -
The SLIM turning its attention back to the scattering crowd -
Sam and Megan up on their feet -
Running back towards Peachtree when -
WHIIISK - a STINGER sails within an inch of Sam's ear -
Embedding in a wall with a *SKLITCH* -
Megan pulling Sam down to the ground beside another CAR -
The SLIM moving swiftly towards their position -
They scurry around to the back of the car -
The SLIM almost there -
It's just open ground everywhere they look -

Sam looks back through the window to see -
Nothing. But a SHADOW above -
And the SLIM lands on the roof of the CAR with a CRUNCH -
The WINDOWS BLOWING OUT and SPRAYING GLASS over them -
The SLIM staring right down at them when -
Its HEAD suddenly jerks backward with a violent THUNK -
The CRACK of the RIFLE FIRE ringing out immediately after -
The SLIM crumples backwards off the car and to the ground -

SWAT ONE (O.S.)
MOOOOOOVE!

Coming from behind them -
The CRACKLING of RIFLE FIRE erupting from everywhere -
Pinning the SLIMS down -
And pushing them back -
Sam and Megan joining the SURVIVORS fleeing towards the -
INTERSECTION PEACHTREE STREET & PONCE DE LEON AVENUE
Where SWAT and MILITARY are dug in behind VEHICLES -
Laying down COVERING FIRE on the SLIMS -
The crowd turning down on to -
PEACHTREE STREET
And into the arms of more WAITING FIGHTERS -
Sam and Megan stopping at the corner of the FOX THEATRE -
The FIGHTERS inching forward, still BLASTING at the -
SLIMS not taking real damage, but falling back anyway -
Sam watches from the corner as they retreat -
Then disappear -
Moments pass and the firing stops -
FIGHTERS corralling SURVIVORS into the FOX THEATRE -

SWAT TWO
Keep moving... off the street...

Other FIGHTERS back into their fortified positions -

Sam looks up to see SNIPERS on nearby rooftops -

Leads Megan with the rest of the crowd -

SAM
Are you okay?

She nods, in a daze, still pale and shaky -

SNIPER
Yo - Chicago!

Sam turns to see SNIPER (40s) catching up beside them -

SAM
Hey. What's going on here?

Other FIGHTERS covering the entrance to FOX THEATRE -

SNIPER
We're scratching and denting our way through. Haven't figured out how to kill them yet, but we can definitely lay down enough fire to put them on their ass.

They turn to take cover in the -

FOX THEATRE ENTRANCE

Dozens of SURVIVORS huddled while FIGHTERS cover them -

SAM
Where'd you guys come from?

SNIPER
All over. We're setting up a base and shelter at Grady High.

SAM
You've got comms?

SNIPER
Nope. Just picking up guys along the way. We're setting up posts every block from here to there, then we'll wave it clear down the line. Try and get as many people as we can over there before dark.

MEGAN
We've got two kids at home in
Ansley Park.

SNIPER
Don't worry. We'll get you close.
Just sit tight.

Sniper watches another FIGHTER across the road -
Posted at the corner, looking down Ponce De Leon -

SNIPER (CONT'D)
I ain't seen you around in a while,
Chicago. They move you to a desk?

SAM
Classroom. They've got me training
the new techs and running public
certification workshops.

SNIPER
Sounds like babysitting.

SAM
I was done. I'd seen enough.

Turns to Megan, clearly exhausted and struggling -

SNIPER
She okay?

SAM
She's diabetic.

SNIPER
Okay. Hang on. We'll get you what
you need. We've got meds at Grady
... I'm Deke, by the way, seeing as
though this rude asshole isn't
going to introduce us...

MEGAN
Megan.

SAM
Deke is the blunt instrument of the
APD. His wrecking crew keeps EMT's
in overtime.

SNIPER
God sends me the bad guys, and I
send them to you. We're just paying
it forward.

Sam shakes his head -

SNIPER (CONT'D)
I always wondered what his better
half was like. How'd a good
Southern girl end up with a mop boy
like Chicago?

MEGAN
He saved my life.

SNIPER
For real?

She nods -

MEGAN
I was in Chicago with my friends.
Drinking too much. Not eating
enough. Not watching my blood
sugar. And I ended up in
hypoglycemic shock on the dance
floor in a bar. And he was the
paramedic riding in back with me on
the way to the hospital.

SNIPER
So, that's how he rolls, huh?
Creeping on patients...

MEGAN
No, I made the doctor give him my
number next time he was in.

She's in a daze, but manages half a smile -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
He checked on me the next day, and
we stayed in touch when I got home.

Sam remembering, clearly for the first time in a long time -

SAM
Then she bought me down here after
my brother died.

SNIPER
Were you close?

SAM
We were twins.

SNIPER
Damn. I'm sorry, man. Truly.

SAM

It's okay. The rest of my family were fighting over organ donor authorizations and funeral arrangements while his life support was still beeping. And this girl from Atlanta, who I helped once, does this huge thing for me. Sends me an email with an airline reservation. Just like that, out of nowhere. A weekend off from all the bullshit...

It hits them both as he says it -

SAM (CONT'D)

Moved down here a month after that.

It sinks in with a genuine silence -

SNIPER

That's a hell of a story, Chicago. Maybe that why me and my lady didn't make it. We just hooked up at a house party. No story to it.

Still nothing from the FIGHTER on the corner -

SAM

What's at Grady High?

SNIPER

Shelter. Meds. Regroup. Pool ammo. Plan for whatever's next.

SAM

You think there is something next?

SNIPER

There's always something next. Maybe not something you like, but something.

Then a HAND WAVE from the FIGHTER on the corner -

SWAT TWO nods and looks back at the sheltering SURVIVORS -

SWAT TWO

Okay, we're clear to move. We're going block-by-block. Follow the officers ahead of you. We'll be covering you from the back and sides. Do what we do. Do what we tell you to do.

The SURVIVORS move forward -

SWAT TWO (CONT'D)
Don't panic unless we panic. If you
fall out of formation, you are on
your own again. Stay together and
follow.

Assembling in a group behind SWAT TWO -

More FIGHTERS on the street, weapons ready, give the nod -

SWAT TWO leads the SURVIVORS out into the open -

Moving ahead briskly and confidently -

Sam and Megan letting the nervous SURVIVORS pass -

SNIPER
Stay on me and stay together. I'll
clear you that path home.

He slaps Sam on the shoulder and follows them out to -

PEACHTREE STREET

FIGHTERS everywhere providing cover -

The group walking cautiously towards the intersection -

SNIPER aiming to the right -

Advancing to -

INTERSECTION PEACHTREE STREET & PONCE DE LEON AVENUE

SNIPER swings his aim to the left and -

KRAK KRAK KRAK - opens fire on approaching SLIMS -

The rest of the FIGHTERS spinning and opening fire -

The CROWD ducking as bullets fly over their heads -

SLIMS coming from everywhere down Peachtree -

Out of buildings. From tops of buildings -

SWAT TWO
MOVE, MOVE, MOVE!

The FIGHTERS laying down cover fire -

Directing the SURVIVORS left down -

PONCE DE LEON AVENUE

Sam and Megan sticking together through the chaos -
Looking back to see MORE SLIMS coming from the right -
Out of the LAZ PARKING LOT -
Some of the FIGHTERS pivoting to fire upon those ones -
The CROWD scattered all over the place now -
Some running up Ponce De Leon until they see -
EVEN MORE SLIMS approaching from ahead -
FIGHTERS falling back from their forward positions -
They're getting boxed in -
The GUNFIRE doing nothing but slow the SLIMS temporarily -
Sam looks across to the side of THE GEORGIAN TERRACE HOTEL -
Small SHELTERED SERVICE STAIRWELLS beside the entrance -
He drags Megan through the crowd, keeping low -
The SLIMS converging on the SURVIVORS and FIGHTERS -
Sam and Megan make it to the -

TERRACE STAIRWELL

Hobbling down the small flight of stairs -
GUNFIRE and SCREAMS and CHAOS at their backs -
Sam tries the HEAVY DOOR, but it's locked -
Megan looks back up the stairs to see -
A SLIM fighting its way through the crowd with ease -
Sam tries the door again -
Pushing. Pulling. Kicking -
It's no use -
They sink down out of view in the small dark space -
Wincing at the SCREAMS and GUNFIRE above -

Until a SURVIVOR appears at the top of the stairs -
 Turning to enthusiastically wave over more SURVIVORS -
 But not even getting his foot on the top step when -
 SKLITCH - he's hit in the side with a STINGER -
 A split second later, the BLUE LIGHT engulfs him -
 Sam and Megan shielding their eyes -
 Then covering their ears for the CONCUSSIVE BLAST -
 Then silence -
 Looking up to see the survivor now a STATUE -
 But frozen mid-step, he loses balance and FALLS FACE FIRST -
 His body SLIDING hopelessly down the stairs -
 Coming to a rest next to a terrified Sam and Megan -
 They both just stare in shock -
 Megan straining her eyes and swallowing with a dry mouth -

MEGAN
 I don't know if I can keep going...

SAM
 ... I'm gonna get us out of here
 ... just focus ... think about Emma
 and Scottie and focus ... I met you
 in worse shape than this ...

Sam slowly starts up the stairs on his hands and knees -

MEGAN
 ... Sam! ...

Laying down at the top step for a better view outside -
 STATUES everywhere. Survivors and Fighters alike -
 DOZENS of them frozen on the street and the sidewalk -
 The SLIMS spread out over the area -
 He looks straight ahead through the sea of STATUES -
 To see a PARKING GARAGE directly across the street -

He scurries down to Megan -

SAM
 ... we can't stay here ... there's
 a parking garage across the street
 and construction sites around it
 ... if we get over there, we can
 use it as cover until we're out of
 the area ...

MEGAN
 ... are they still out there? ...

SAM
 ... yes ... but they're spread out
 ... we can cut through ...

MEGAN
 ... through? ... through what? ...

SAM
 ... the people ...

MEGAN
 ... no ... no ...

They're both terrified and frustrated now -

SAM
 ... we don't have a choice ...
 they'll find us down here anyway
 ... we have to try, at least ...

She shakes her head, but she knows -

SAM (CONT'D)
 ... I'll go first ... when I'm
 halfway, you follow my path ...
 inches ... move slow through the
 crowd ... if they're near, we
 freeze ... when they move, we move
 ... okay? ...

She reluctantly nods -

MEGAN
 ... inches ...

Sam reaches over to the BODY beside them -

And pulls out the STINGER with a *SKLITCH* -

SAM
 ... just in case ...

And he starts crawling up the stairs again -
Megan following close behind -
Sam stands against the wall at the top step -
Megan squatting in a lookout position -
The SLIMS still spread out -
He looks down at her quickly then steps carefully out on to -
PONCE DE LEON AVENUE
And inches his way next to the FIRST STATUE -
Freeze. Eyes scanning. Clear -
Inching with light steps to the NEXT STATUE -
Freeze. Eyes scanning. Clear -
Inching with light steps to the NEXT STATUE -
Freeze. Eyes scanning. *SLUUUUURP* -
A SLIM among the STATUES, but facing away -
Inching with light steps to a HUDDLE OF STATUES -
Freeze. Eyes scanning -
Looks over his shoulder to Megan in the STAIRWELL -
She scans the scene, she nods to him -
Inching with light steps to the NEXT STATUE -
THUMP. Freeze -
HEAVY FOOTSTEPS - Sam holds his breath -
The *FOOTSTEPS* closer - Sam stares dead ahead -
A SLIM ARM moving past his eyes -
And grabbing the STATUE next to him by the head -
Sam slowly moves his eyes across to see -
The SLIM turning and hoisting the STATUE in the air -
The TENDRILS making their way into the body -

The *SLURPING* sound enough distraction -
Inching with even lighter steps to the NEXT STATUE -
Freeze. Eyes scanning. Panic. Taking a chance -
Inching sideways with light steps to another STATUE -
THUMP. Freeze -
FOOTSTEPS behind him. He holds his breath -
But they pass him by and grow lighter -
He turns his head slowly to look back at Megan -
She's standing in the STAIRWELL now -
Scans the location of the SLIMS -
Then nods to Sam as she steps out next to the FIRST STATUE -
He turns back. Takes a breath -
Then inches with light steps to the NEXT STATUE -
Freeze. Eyes scanning. Clear -
Inching with light steps to a HUDDLE OF STATUES -
Freeze. *SLURPING* from a couple of places. But none close -
Inching with light steps to the NEXT STATUE -
The PARKING GARAGE is just meters away now -
THUMP. Freeze. Eyes scanning. Activity behind -
He turns his head slowly to look at Megan -
She's frozen next to ANOTHER STATUE as a SLIM passes her by -
He can see the sweat on her forehead and fear in her eyes -
He watches the SLIM pick up another STATUE further away -
He nods to her -
She inches forward to the NEXT STATUE -
Sam turns forward. Eyes scanning. Clear -
Inching with light steps to the NEXT STATUE -

Freeze. No more STATUES -
But the cover of a GARDEN BED is only steps away -
This time he slowly pans his head. From left to right -
The SLIMS occupied with the crowd. He closes his eyes -
And inches his way to the cover of the SHRUBS -
Then quick and quiet steps undercover at the -
PARKING GARAGE
He backs into the darkness just enough -
Looking out at Megan in the middle of the STATUES -
He scans the scene. Clear. Gives her the nod -
She inches forward to the NEXT STATUE -
Freezes -
Sam scans the scene. Gives her the nod -
She takes a step when *THUMP* -
Sam looks over to see a SLIM dumping a body on the street -
Then walking back through the crowd -
Megan frozen in fear as it gets nearer -
Sam motions for her to stay calm -
Then it stops -
Right in front of her -
Sam holding his breath along with Megan -
The SLIM reaching out for her face -
Sam ready to yell or charge when -
The SLIM drops its hand -
And continues past her -
Sam breathing a sigh of relief until -
It stops again. Just feet away from her -

The SLIM picking up a STATUE right near her -
They lock their eyes together through the SLURPING -
A calm comes over her face while she waits -
Then a sudden WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH -
Megan's eyes open wide -
The SLIMS all turn their attention up to the sky -
Letting out high-pitched SHRIEKS -
Sam scrambling back to -
PONCE DE LEON AVENUE
Taking cover among the SHRUBS to get a better look -
It's a HAULER hovering at the INTERSECTION -
An OPENING on the bottom spinning with BLUE LIGHT -
Creating a VORTEX over the STATUES -
Within seconds, they're spinning and tumbling upwards -
Rag dolls caught in a whirlwind -
Sam looks to Megan, still frozen next to the SLIM -
Pure fear -
The HAULER moving slowly towards them -
Sucking STATUES up as it goes -
The SLIMS firmly planted on the street, unaffected -
Sam panicking -
He looks back to Megan -
It's getting closer now -
STATUES just meters from her now being sucked up -
Sam and Megan lock eyes -
She sadly shakes her head at him and mouths 'go' -
He stands and watches, helpless -

The HAULER moving into position over her -
 She closes her eyes -
 But Sam SPRINTS out into the street -
 Catching her waist just as she's LIFTED OFF THE GROUND -
 The closest SLIM reacting, but too late -
 They're already in the -

VORTEX

Sam and Megan gripping each other in the BLUE LIGHT -
 Spinning around and upwards -
 Tumbling like clothes in a dryer with the other STATUES -
 Until they're finally sucked up into the -

HAULER

And dumped among a huge pile of HUMAN BODIES -
 The interior gloomy, but lit by PULSING LIGHTS -
 Sam and Megan scrambling away from the opening -
 Narrowly missing being buried by more STATUES -
 Plastering themselves against a wall -
 Then the STATUES stop -
 The VORTEX winds down -
 The OPENING folds shut -
 And they feel the hauler ascending higher -
 They look at each other, catching their breath -
 Her shock gives way to anger -

MEGAN
 What did you just do?

SAM
 I-

MEGAN
 We had a deal...

SAM
I know.
He struggles for something -

SAM (CONT'D)
I panicked. I just did it.

MEGAN
The kids-

SAM
I know.
He can only shake his head, still in shock -
Thinking in silence for a few moments -
The BODIES sliding with the movements of the ship -
He shakes his head -

SAM (CONT'D)
This has to be going somewhere.
Most of these people are still
alive. They still need them. If
they're keeping them alive to
extract their hormones, then they
can't be taking them anywhere that
will kill them on the way.

MEGAN
Yeah, maybe just to the other side
of the darn planet. You promised,
Sam. Why did you do that?

They both lean their heads back in defeat -
And there's a long, painful silence before -

SAM
It wasn't an accident. With Tony.
He killed himself.

MEGAN
What...?

SAM
The day Scottie was born, when you
couldn't get hold of me, that was
the anniversary of when I found
him. I was out driving.
She's having trouble absorbing it -

MEGAN
I didn't know any of this...

SAM
I didn't tell anyone. Nobody knows
except me. And now you.

MEGAN
Not even your family?

SAM
Especially not my family. They
didn't need to know that. It
wouldn't change anything. It would
have made things a hundred times
worse. With their friends, their
Church ... everything.

MEGAN
You found him?

SAM
Yes.

MEGAN
Oh my gosh. Sam...

SAM
I got a pulse back, but I don't
know how long he'd been there. They
said he was brain dead when he
arrived at the E.R. If I had found
him a few minutes earlier-

MEGAN
You can't blame your-

SAM
I don't. I don't blame myself. He
wasn't doing it for attention. He
wanted it. It's on him. He left a
sorry note. Literally. It was the
word 'sorry' written with a Sharpie
on the back of a Staples receipt,
taped to the wall. So I took it
down and burnt it.

MEGAN
I don't know what to say...

And for a few moments, she doesn't -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
Why didn't you tell me?

SAM

Because I don't like thinking about it, believe it or not. Seeing yourself submerged in a bathtub isn't something you can shake off easily. But I managed to when I met you, and it wasn't going to benefit anybody by bringing it all out again for a pity parade.

Megan is speechless -

SAM (CONT'D)

I just took his stupid car and I took his stupid dog and I came down here to not have to live with the mess he left there.

Now she's angry -

MEGAN

So, I've just been a distraction for the last twenty years?

SAM

That's not what I'm saying. Don't make it into a thing about-

MEGAN

No. I will. I will make it into a thing. A big thing. The whole reason we are where we are is you not telling me anything.

SAM

You don't want-

MEGAN

That's bullsh- crap. That's crap. Don't act like you're protecting my delicate sensibilities by sparing me the details. Those details are who you are. Who you've been the last twenty years.

SAM

So I tell you, and then what?

MEGAN

Then everything. Everything. Then I know every time you grunted something off or went silent, it wasn't something that I did.

Furious, exhausted, defeated -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
Then I know the whole reason you
never wanted to visit your family
in Chicago is because you can't be
around them, knowing what you know.

Her eyes welling up now -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
Then I know whenever you zoned out,
working on that stupid car, when
all the kids wanted is for you to
play with them, I would have known
you were in your head and not just
being an a-hole.

She's stripping him to the bone -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
Then I would know why the only time
I've ever seen you cry is when
Reggie died.

And now he's welling up too -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
And I could have had your back. I
could have defended you. But I
needed to know. That's all I ever
wanted...

And he's just staring at her, mouth agape, until -

SAM
I'm sorry.

And she breaks down -

MEGAN
Why did you wait until the end of
the world to tell me?

He's crying. Shaking his head -

SAM
I don't know.

MEGAN
You do know. You do.

She hits him in the shoulder -

SAM
I didn't realize how much it
affected you until you filed the
papers. And after that, saying I
was lying for twenty years would
have been gas on the fire.

MEGAN
And now it's nothing. The biggest
drama in our lives is now the most
trivial, meaningless thing in the
universe.

They just stare at each other through wet eyes -

SAM
I am sorry. For everything.

She manages half a sad laugh -

MEGAN
It doesn't matter now.

SAM
It matters more now.

She wipes her eyes and puts her head back -

He stares at her for a while longer, then does the same -

They sit in silence -

The rocking of the hauler swaying their heads gently -

Then Megan's eyes dart open -

MEGAN
Are we going down?

Sam opens his eyes too -

He starts to get to his feet -

Rocking and swaying off balance -

SAM
I think we are...

He holds himself steady on Megan's shoulder -

And then she uses the wall to stand herself -

They look at each other in confusion, then -

A WHIRRRRRRRRR as the OPENING spreads apart -
They fall back to their knees -
Scrambling over BODIES and STATUES to see -
The OPENING revealing the ground below them -
They're maybe thirty storeys up -
Flying slowly over SUBURBAN HOUSES -
SURVIVORS, SLIMS and FIGHTERS scattered through the streets -

MEGAN
Where are we?

He shakes his head -
Then a ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ as a RING OF BLUE LIGHTS flickers on -
Rotating slowly around the OPENING -

SAM
Wait - that's 9th street. I think
we're heading towards Piedmont
Park. We're definitely getting
lower...

He kneels upright and looks around -

MEGAN
What do we do?

SAM
This thing doesn't land. But we
can't wait for it to stop, or that
vortex will just suck us back up...

Megan looking down through the OPENING -

ABOVE 10TH STREET

Hovering over STALLED CARS -
SURVIVORS racing up and down the street -
All heading for PIEDMONT PARK -

ABOVE PIEDMONT PARK

The largest public park and gardens in all of Atlanta -
Hundreds of SURVIVORS converging in the grassed areas -

In the distance, SLIMS also headed for the park -

HAULER

He's got it -

SAM
The lake.

MEGAN
What?

SAM
We jump. If we get over the lake,
we jump.

MEGAN
We're too high up. That fall will
kill us.

He secures the STINGER in his waistline -

SAM
We were as good as dead two minutes
ago. You're the one who believes in
fate and miracles.

ABOVE PIEDMONT PARK

Further in. Descending slowly still -

SURVIVORS on their way towards the front of LAKE CLARA MEER -

Then SCREAMS from the west -

A GIANT CROWD of people swarm into the park -

Entering from the south west from 10th street -

Hundreds of them. SCREAMING in panic -

Moments of confusion and disorientation until -

A large GROUP OF SLIMS follows close behind -

The existing crowd in the park breaking into a panic -

HAULER

Sam readying himself -

SAM
You need to decide...

MEGAN
It's chaos down there. We'll be
right in the middle of it...

He nods -

She sits up and looks around -
Sees a SWAT STATUE in the pile of BODIES -
Crawls over and reaches for the BELT -
Pulling out a GLOCK 21 PISTOL -

SAM
Do you even know how to shoot?

MEGAN
I'm Southern. My daddy taught me.

She grips it and moves back to the OPENING -
The RING OF BLUE LIGHT rotating FASTER -

ABOVE PIEDMONT PARK

It's chaos on the ground -
One of the SLIMS letting out an *EAR-PIERCING SHRIEK* -
The wave of SLIMS surging forward -
Swiping people aside and into the air like dolls -
A BATTLEFIELD of SLIMS and SURVIVORS and FIGHTERS -

HAULER

The RING OF BLUE LIGHT faster still -
A VORTEX starting to form from the edges in -

SAM
Get ready...

Megan sweats fear and clenches her fists -

ABOVE PIEDMONT PARK

A wave of BOMBERS swoop down over the treeline -
More panic and *SCREAMS* as SURVIVORS try to outrun them -
But there's no hope -

The BLUE LIGHTS and *CONCUSSIVE BLASTS* raining on them -
From above, it looks like a breaking wave of light -
Leaving fields of STATUES in its wake, and continuing on -
The hauler lower and closer now -
Reaching the shoreline of LAKE CLARA MEER -

HAULER

Sam and Megan look at each other -
The RING OF BLUE LIGHT faster still -
The top of the VORTEX almost fully formed -
They both stand -
Hold hands -
And leap out into the -

OPEN AIR

Falling a lot faster than they anticipated -
The HAULER moving away overhead -
They close their eyes and straighten their bodies like pins -
GULPING AIR just before they break the surface of -

LAKE CLARA MEER

Sinking deep as BLUE LIGHT washes over the surface above -
Dozens of other PEOPLE with them -
Some not lucky enough. Sinking in STATUE form -
Sam and Megan hold their breath, looking up -
As the *CONCUSSIVE BLASTS* create ripples across the surface -
Dozens of other STATUES falling into the water like bricks -
Sam and Megan swim underwater for a serene moment -
Resurfacing in the middle of the lake -
Taking giant gulps of air -

The scene all around them is utter devastation -
An entire field of STATUES from where they came -
The SLIMS picking through them at will -
DROPSHIPS swooping down, ejecting more SLIMS on to the field -
But then a GIANT SHADOW slowly moves over them from behind -
They paddle and look up to see -
An even bigger ship - a CARRIER - rolling over -
Modular in design. As big as a city block -
It just descends and hovers slowly -
They swim for the other side of the lake -
Scrambling up on to the shore -
Other SURVIVORS desperately doing the same -
Megan still gripping the GLOCK in her trembling hand -
Drenched. Tired. Panicked. They head across a -

WALKING PATH

On the other side of the lake -
Sam and Megan duck down in the treeline outside -

ACTIVE OVAL

A huge quartered sports field -
Hundreds more SURVIVORS already making a run for it -
Sam looks to Megan -
They're both bruised, battered and exhausted -
But she looks like death -

SAM
We can do this.

She nods -

SAM (CONT'D)
We're almost there.

She nods again -
Then they stand -
Hold hands -
And they run -
Joining the other SURVIVORS in a mad sprint -
Making progress as the SHADOW above grows LARGER and DARKER -
They look back to see the CARRIER descending -
Right into the middle of the oval -
Sam and Megan veer left to get out of the way -
Continuing on -
Then looking back to see -
The CARRIER landing with a C R U N C H -
Right on top of dozens of SURVIVORS -
They continue running -
Making it to the top quarter of the oval -
As DROPSHIPS swoop overhead -
THUD - THUD - THUD - THUD - THUD - THUD -
Ejecting SLIMS all around them -
They dodge and weave until -
C R E E E E A K - the doors on the CARRIER open -
A split second of anticipation until -
DOZENS of huge DOG-LIKE CREATURES charge out -
Bigger than buffalo. Hairy. Slobbering mouths of sharp teeth -
Sam and Megan not letting go of each other -
Running faster -
The DOGS rounding up and trapping SURVIVORS behind them -
The HAULER overhead, sucking people into its vortex -

Sam looking back to see -
One of the DOGS breaking away from the others -
And beginning a CHARGE right for them -
They're going as fast as they can -
But the DOG bounds across the field effortlessly -
Gaining on them as they reach a SOLID WALL -
Sam leaping up and grabbing hold of the top of the wall -
Pulls himself up -
Megan holding her arms up -
DOGS and SLIMS rounding up SURVIVORS all over the field -
Sam grabs Megan's hand -
The stray DOG bearing down on them -
He pulls her with everything he's got -
The DOG just meters away as -
Sam and Megan tumble over the wall into -
PIEDMONT DRIVING CLUB
Landing on the paving next to the POOL -
Then a CRUNCH as the DOG hits the outer wall -
They breathe the tiniest sigh of relief before -
Another CRUNCH, leading to a CRACK in the wall -
Then another - CRUNCH - CRACKS SPLINTERING -
They scramble to their feet -
Running past umbrellas and deck chairs just as -
The DOG bursts through the wall with a thunderous CRASH -
Sam and Megan out into the -
PIEDMONT DRIVING CLUB PARKING LOT
Running in terror -

Hearing the DOG leaving a trail of destruction behind them -
Not even daring to look back as they hit -

PIEDMONT AVENUE

Weaving through STALLED CARS -
As the DOG bursts through the CLUB GATES in pursuit -
Then they're straight on to -

15TH STREET

The CRUMPLING and CRASHING of CARS behind them -
The DOG bounding over and pushing the CARS aside -
Sam pulls Megan down behind a PARKED TRUCK -
They plaster themselves against it in terror -
As the DOG races right past them -
But not far before it realizes -
Megan switches off the SAFETY on the GLOCK -
The DOG kicking up dirt as it turns and doubles back -
Megan aims the GLOCK at the approaching DOG -
BLAM - BLAM - BLAM - BLAM -
Chest. Leg. Neck. Side -
The DOG lets out a YELP as it nosedives on the road -
Tumbling head over tail -
Ending with a CRUNCH into the side of more PARKED CARS -
Sam and Megan don't even wait for confirmation -
They're already up and running -
Veering down -

LAFAYETTE DRIVE

PEOPLE peering out through their BOARDED WINDOWS -
Sam and Megan drenched, dirty and bloodied -

Still joined at the hand -
 Following the road as it bends West -
 Where they stop dead in their tracks -
 BODIES on the road, all along the street -
 They continue cautiously. Megan panicked -
 MEGAN
 Sam-
 HOUSES on fire or torn through violently -
 SAM
 It doesn't mean anything.
 BOMBERS overhead -
 MEGAN
 This is our home-
 SCREAMS in the far distance -
 SAM
 We're not there yet. It doesn't
 mean anything.
 SMOKE and FIRE rising up across the skyline -
 Megan breathing heavy and shaking again -
 Then a SCREAM from a nearby HOUSE -
 They don't even need to turn -
 They can hear the CLOMPING of the DOG on their tail -
 Slower. Gushing blood. But still in lopsided pursuit -
 They make a break for the treeline at -
WINN PARK
 Uncoupling their hands -
 Each taking shelter behind a different TREE -
 As the DOG barrels forward -
 Knocking down a SMALLER TREE as it bursts into the park -
 And again realizing the misdirection before it gets far -

Until they're out front of the -

GIRARD HOME

The FRONT DOOR wide open -

Sam stops Megan from collapsing -

He helps her across the lawn -

Up the steps to the -

PORCH

The wooden boards *CRACKING* under their feet-

The PORCH SWING swaying and *CREAKING* in the slight breeze -

The door *SCRATCHED* and hanging by one hinge -

Megan holding her mouth as they cross the threshold into the -

FRONT ENTRANCE

It's a disaster zone -

Everywhere they look, their possessions destroyed -

They move over to the BASEMENT DOOR -

The KEY still in the lock. Try the handle -

Locked. Their hearts sink -

They step quietly into the -

LIVING ROOM

More destruction -

TV smashed. Couches torn apart. Coffee table broken -

Then into the -

DINING ROOM

The table overturned. Chairs smashed. Curtains shredded -

Tears streaming down Megan's face -

Sam's welling up too -

Into the -

KITCHEN

Smashed dinnerware. Fridge tipped over. Food strewn about -
Megan picks up a MINECRAFT LUNCHBOX from the floor -
She's ready to collapse when -
There's a THUMP from upstairs -
They both look up and then to each other -
Then head back to the -

FRONT ENTRANCE

And turn up on to the -

STAIRS

Each step *CREAKING* as they ascend -
Megan holding the GLOCK -
Sam gripping the ALIEN STINGER -
Reaching the top and into the -

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Nothing -
They tread quietly into the -

MASTER BEDROOM

Nothing -
Back out into the -

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

And across the hall to -

EMMA'S BEDROOM

Nothing -
Until a SHADOW passes behind them -
Followed by a distinct *CREAK* -
They turn and move back out to the -

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Looking down the far end towards Scottie's room -
Moving slowly towards it -
Then a *CREAK* from behind -
Then swing around -
TO COME FACE TO FACE WITH A SLIM -
Hunched over beneath the low ceilings -
They scramble backwards as it *SWIPES* at them -
BLAM BLAM - Megan firing off shots -
No effect. But this thing is not good in small spaces -
Sam lunges forward -
CRASH TACKLES its lower legs -
Sending it off balance and *CRASHING* through the railing -
Sam managing not to go over too -
The SLIM landing with a *THUD* below -
But quickly rolling away, out of sight -
Sam and Megan racing back to the -

STAIRS

Taking two or three at a time -
Bounding down and back to the -

FRONT ENTRANCE

Following the sound of *CRACKING* and *CRASHING* to the -

DINING ROOM

A quick glimpse of the SLIM -
And they follow it around into the -

KITCHEN

Where it's waiting for them -

Sam's head nearly taken off with the swipe of a STINGER -
He falls back -
BLAM BLAM - more shots from Megan -
The SLIM deflecting them and scattering -
Knocking over UTENSILS and PANS as it flees the room -
Megan helps Sam to his feet -
She takes the STINGER off him and hands him the GLOCK -
She motions him to go back to the Dining Room -
He shakes his head -

MEGAN
... trust me ...

She pleads with his eyes -
So he nods -
Megan steps quietly through the debris in the kitchen -
And then around into the -
LIVING ROOM
And she FREEZES when she sees the SLIM -
Its back turned to her -
She waits -
It finally turns and catches sight of her -
And immediately FIRES a STINGER at Megan -
It soars past her face and sticks in a wall -
And Megan doesn't flinch -
Doesn't even blink -
The SLIM approaches cautiously -
Sam appearing behind it, GLOCK raised -
She gives him a subtle head shake as the SLIM reaches her -
It looks her over -

Stares her in the eyes -
Then puts its hand on her forehead -
Sam watching in shock, not sure what to do -
As the TENDRILS begin snaking their way out of its arm -
It stops and cocks its head at her -
SKLITCH - Megan stabs the STINGER up through the SLIM'S arm -
The TENDRILS retract instantly -
The SLIM stumbles to the side, *SHRIEKING* -
Megan grabs the OTHER STINGER embedded in the wall -
Lunging forward and driving it deep into the SLIM'S chest -
It goes through the skin with ease -
Sam rushes in from the Dining Room -
BLAM BLAM CLICK CLICK CLICK - knocking it to the ground -
The SLIM pulls the STINGER out -
Drops it, turns over and tries to crawl away -
But Sam scoops up the STINGER -
Stabbing the SLIM in the lower back -
And that's when it happens -
CRACKS in the skin on its lower back GLOW BLUE -
There's a *HUMMING* and *SHUFFLING* coming from the SLIM -

MEGAN
What did you do to it?

They back up -
Then there's a *HISSESSSSSSSSSS* -
CRACKS all over its skin spreading and GLOWING -
They back up a little further -
But then the SKIN OPENS UP LIKE A BLOOMING FLOWER -
And an ALIEN falls out and to the ground with a *THUD* -

The SKIN is actually ARMOR -
A series of TUBES runs from the arms of the ARMOR -
And into VEINS on the ALIEN'S BACK -
They back away from it in shock -
It SQUEALS and crawls for shade against the wall -
The TUBES ripping out of its veins -
BLOOD and ORGAN SLUDGE leaking over the floor -
It's 5ft tall. Pale. Frail. Hairless -
They can't move. They just watch this thing struggling -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
It doesn't like the light.

They approach slowly and cautiously -
Its features becoming more visible now -
Almost TRANSLUCENT SKIN showing the VEINS underneath -
RED BLOOD seeping from its WOUNDS -
Patches of its skin burning RED and BLISTERING -
And then it HISSES pathetically at them -
It's no danger now, but they can see its face -
Its features are almost human -
Mouth and nose a little smaller -
BLACK EYES a little bigger -
And they can see its organs through its skin -
Heart. Kidneys. Lungs. Everything in place -

SAM
Maybe this is why they need our
hormones. To adapt to our world.
Become more like us...

MEGAN
Or they were already like us, and
they're trying to get it back.

They watch the rise and fall of its chest -
And they recognize shock in its eyes -
The ALIEN turns its gaze towards the FRONT ENTRANCE -
Then its chest drops -
Its eyes grow pale -
And it dies -
Leaving a bloody streak as it slumps to the floor -
Megan drops the GLOCK and picks up a STINGER -
And they stare at it for a moment -
Until Megan collapses on to a COUCH -

SAM

Hold on.

Sam races from the room -
Megan pale, short of breath and eyes fluttering -
The sounds of Sam rummaging through the kitchen -
She stares up at a FAMILY PORTRAIT on the wall -
No expression. Just slow blinking and breaths -
Until Sam races back in -
And heaves her up into a seated position -
He quickly unpacks a VIAL and SYRINGE -
Measures out a dose of RAPID-ACTING INSULIN -
Lifts her shirt to reveal a zigzag pattern of NEEDLE MARKS -
Pinches some skin near her belly button and injects -
He looks to her, and she nods in appreciation -

SAM (CONT'D)

How did you know?

MEGAN

That one outside the theatre didn't
do anything to me. It touched me
and looked at me, then walked away.

Sam starting to put it together -

SAM
Because you're diabetic...

MEGAN
What good are organs that don't
work properly...

Then a *MUFFLED THUMP* from below jolts them -

Sam helps Megan up -

They take the *STINGERS* and quietly move to the -

FRONT ENTRANCE

Shallow steps across to the *BASEMENT DOOR* -

Sam turns the key to unlock the door -

Puts his hand on the handle -

Hesitates. Then opens it slowly -

Megan following Sam down the -

BASEMENT STAIRS

The steps *CREAKING* as they slowly descend -

Both wielding *STINGERS*. Ready for anything -

And then -

Faint light below -

They raise their *STINGERS* as they step out to find the -

BASEMENT

Lit by a *CANDLE* -

Boxes of *CANNED FOOD* and *BOTTLED WATER* nearby -

Their eyes just starting to adjust to the low light -

The faint sound of *SHUFFLING* across the room -

From a *CUPBOARD* beneath a *WORK BENCH* -

They inch forward -

Gripping the *STINGERS* and advancing on the *CUPBOARD DOOR* -

Then a *MUFFLED WEEPING* -
 Sam motions for Megan to stop -
 They both drop their *STINGERS* to the floor with a *CLACK* -
 Inciting a *BUMP* and *MUFFLED SQUEAL* from the *CUPBOARD* -
 Their eyes well up -

MEGAN
 Come out. It's us.

There's a silence that seems to hang forever -
 Then a *C R E E E E A K* as the *CUPBOARD DOOR* opens -
 And *EMMA* pokes her head out -
 Sam and Megan rushing over -
 Helping Emma out of the cupboard -
 She's gripping a *LARGE KITCHEN KNIFE* with white knuckles -
 Determined to steady the shivering of her body -
 Megan puts her hand on Emma's -

MEGAN (CONT'D)
 It's okay now...

She doesn't want to drop the *KNIFE* -
 Sam puts his hand over both theirs -

SAM
 You did good. It's okay...

 She lets go of the *KNIFE* and it hits the floor with a *CLANG* -
 They start hugging and kissing her like crazy -
 Then seeing the shadowed outline of *SCOTTIE* still hidden -

EMMA
 He won't move or say anything...

Sam and Megan trade concerned looks -
 Sam kneels down and leans into the cupboard -

SAM
 Scottie...

He won't move -

Sam takes out his ZIPPO LIGHTER and flicks it open -

SAM (CONT'D)

It's me, buddy. We're home.

He still won't move. Staring into nothingness -

Sam extends his shaky hand out towards Scottie's -

He hesitates a moment -

Then touches it -

Scottie refocuses his gaze on the CHICAGO BULLS LIGHTER -

Then on to Sam's face -

Then bursts into tears as he scurries forward -

Sam and Megan helping him out -

Then taking turns at hugging their children -

EMMA

I bought the food and water down
when I heard the explosions. But
then that thing broke in and I
couldn't get all -

SAM

It doesn't matter. You did good.

EMMA

I put Scottie in the cupboard first
to make sure he was safe...

Megan breaks down as she hugs her daughter -

MEGAN

That's so brave, darling. You're so
brave. You did the right thing.
Thank you so much, baby...

SCOTTIE

We didn't know if you were coming
back...

SAM

Of course we were coming back.
Nothing was ever going to keep us
from getting back here.

They all collapse in the corner -
Sam holding Emma. Megan holding Scottie -
And they just sit, huddled together -
Exhausted and relieved -
And it's a long moment before they look to each other -
For longer than they've looked at each other in years -
They made it here together -

MEGAN
What do we do now?

He struggles for words -
Then finally shakes his head -

SAM
Whatever we have to.

So they just hold their kids close in the candlelight -
Because soon -

THE WINTER