

Ava Brown

THE CURE

Dennis got out of the car, Jeremiah & Anna following behind him. Mac grabbed a pocketknife out of the glove department, then caught up with them.

“Alright,” Mac sighed. “We’re here, I guess. What now?” He turned to Dennis.

“I... I don’t know-” Dennis began to think of ideas.

“What if Petey got turned while we were driving over?” Jeremiah said, his voice was shaky, and you could see the fear in his eyes.

“I mean... There’s a possibility...” Mac replied.

“There’s only one way to find out.” Dennis turned to look at the radio station and started to walk towards the entrance.

The others followed behind him. They were almost to the door when Dennis heard a strange sound coming from behind him. He turned to see what it was and- it was 3 zombies creeping up on them!

“Everyone! Watch out!” Dennis yelled, grabbing the closest object on the ground to him: a glass bottle.

Dennis threw the bottle at one of the zombies, causing it to fall to the ground. While Dennis was grabbing the bottle, one of the zombies snuck up behind Jeremiah. The zombie was just about to get Jeremiah when the door to the radio station busted open.

When the zombie turned its head to see what happened, Mac pulled Jeremiah away from the zombie and swiftly opened the pocketknife he had grabbed earlier and thrown it directly at the zombie’s chest. The zombie’s body crashed onto the floor right in front of Mac and Jeremiah, with the handle of the pocketknife sticking out of its ribcage.

“Y’all alright?” A male voice came from a dark figure standing at the radio station door.

The dark figure stepped out of the shadows, to reveal that it was Petey Coltrain.

Mac laughed, “We came here to see you! Thank goodness you’re alright.”

They all began to walk towards him when all of a sudden Anna pulled Dennis by his sleeve.

He turned to her, “Hm?”

She was shaking, and her voice was gradually getting quieter, “W-wasn’t there a... another zombie?”

“What do you mean?” Dennis asked.

“Like... there were 3 zombies, not just 2-” Anna stopped mid-sentence.

Suddenly, Dennis felt a cold presence on his right shoulder and immediately froze, “There isn’t a-”

A moan came from behind him, and he instantly knew- there was a zombie right behind him!

Mac and Petey were talking when Petey noticed what was going on and pointed it out to Mac.

Mac turned to see it and yelled, “Dennis, duck!”

Dennis quickly cooperated, but by the time Mac had even grabbed a weapon, the zombie scratched Dennis right across the back. He hunched over, holding his stomach as the zombie got knocked over. His shirt was ripped, and he was gasping for air.

Mac ran over to help Dennis, and examined his mark, “The scratch... It’s deep. The zombie must’ve had some pretty long nails to cause this much damage.”

Jeremiah came over to help as well. By the time Dennis was stable again, the sun was beginning to set. They turned to see where Petey had gone, and he wasn’t there.

They looked all around when Anna spotted him running into the nearby forest, “There! Should we follow him?”

Mac and Dennis nodded at each other, then ran into the forest. Jeremiah and Anna followed shortly behind and soon caught up when the two boys stopped running. There was a bright white light coming from a cave, and they slowly walked into it, making sure to make as little noise as possible. They got pretty far into the cave when they reached a metal door. Dennis slowly opened it to reveal a... control panel? There was rustling coming from a corner covered in boxes, but they all ignored it. They began reading the labels when they approached a big switch labeled, ‘Plague Turn On/Off’. It was flipped up, so it must’ve been turned on.

Mac reached his hand out to flip it down when Petey jumped out from the corner covered in boxes, “Wait!”

It was too late, Mac had flipped the switch, and instantly Anna & Dennis’s marks had been removed. Petey started to fade, revealing that he actually *was* a zombie!

Everyone exchanged looks, eyes widened, eyebrows raised, and jaws dropped.

Finally, Dennis began, “I think... That was the ‘cure’! Let’s go check!”

They all ran back out, and everything was back to normal, except one thing: Petey was gone.

~~~~~1 Year Later~~~~~

“Hello and welcome back to Survivor Gang Radio 103.7!” Anna, Dennis, Mac, and Jeremiah all said in unison, “Today we’ll be playing some throwback music: bluegrass.”