

Braulio



THE BATTLE OF THE APOCALYPSE

When Dennis regained consciousness, he was hanging upside down from his seat. The truck was flipped over and damaged beyond repair. It had been hours since Anna had made Dennis lose control of the car. Remembering her, he quickly unbuckled and jumped out of the car. The reddish colors of the evening tinted the sky, but he saw no sign of his friends. He began wandering around, looking for them.

“Anna?”, he called out. “Dennis? Jeremiah?” No answer. He looked up at the hills surrounding him. At the top of the nearest one was a small building with a radio tower. Probably where Petey “The Muskrat” Coltrain broadcast his bluegrass music. Could Mac and Jeremiah have reached their destination safely? If so, where was Anna? Suddenly, a pain from his left arm made him wince. He turned to look at it and widened his eyes at the addition to all the scratches and bruises he’d earned in their crash. An ugly purple bruise was spreading around his arm and making his veins bulge. Had Anna done this? Or someone, or *something* else. He managed to convince himself he would be all right. He had to find out what had happened to his friends, and it wouldn’t be safe to stay there anymore. The sound of people came from deep in the forest, so he began running up the road that led to the radio station, the only place the remaining humans left were safe.

When Dennis arrived at the main entrance, he hesitated. What if it was a trap? But his thoughts were interrupted when the door slowly creaked open to reveal Jeremiah’s overwhelmingly hopeful face.

“Dennis?”, he cautiously said.

“What’s going on?” asked a voice.

“It’s Dennis!” replied Jeremiah happily. Footsteps echoed until Mac was visible.

“Hey! Where were-” Mac stopped talking as Dennis groaned and twitched violently and for the second time today, blacked out.

When Dennis awoke, he was lying down on a makeshift bed. A woman’s voice asked gently, “Are you awake?”.

“Y-Yeah” .

“Well, then let me introduce myself. I’m Dr. Ruby Coltrain, Petey’s wife, and one of the doctors that first tried to find a cure for the plague we nicknamed the ‘purple undead’, but when the zombies took over the major cities, I had to move here.”

“And *have* you found one?” asked Dennis hopefully.

She grabbed a vial with a yellow liquid inside from the counter and shook it, making the liquid slosh around. “Your friends were pulled out of the car by Anna, but Petey and I brought them here. They wanted to look for you but-” Dennis felt as if he lost control of his body. He tried to step back but his body started acting on its own, attempting to grab Ruby. Then, a sharp sting from his back made him jolt back to reality. He turned around and saw Anna and a man holding syringes. The man had a sly smile that made Dennis identify him as Petey Coltrain. Dennis looked down at Anna’s leg and realized her purple mark was gone.

“You’re not infected anymore!” he said, surprised.

“Neither are you”, she answered. Then, Mac and Jeremiah burst into the lounge looking worried.

“They’re coming,” said Mac nervously.

“Who?” asked Dennis.

“For the past few days there’ve been zombies wandering in the forest, and now we know that they’re all here, every infected person in the world”

“But we’ve a plan that just might make the plague die out,” said Anna optimistically.

They explained it, which Dennis thought sounded crazy, but agreed it was the only way. Suddenly, the station started shaking with the pounding of billions of people. They all scattered to their places and the Battle of the Apocalypse began.

The metal doors crumpled like aluminum cans as 7 billion people tried to enter the building. The others climbed on to the roof trying to find other entrances but instead found a helicopter piloted by Ruby and Petey Coltrain flying away with bucketfuls of the cure to spray on the infected. Mac and Dennis grabbed hoses and they too washed the zombies with the life-renewing antidote, while Jeremiah and Anna tried to comfort the people that had been turned back into humans, and as more people were cured, more joined the cause. Finally, the last group of zombies turned back to humans. As the last two people turned back, Mac and Dennis noticed Jeremiah running to a man and a woman. They walked up to them and asked, “are these your parents?”. Jeremiah nodded through tears of joy. They nodded encouragingly and turned around. As Mac and Dennis faced the rising sun, they made a promise to themselves. No matter what challenges they faced, they would triumph. They would survive for the beginning of another day.