

Camille Gardner

THE RUN

“Mac picked up a long slat of wood, and Dennis grabbed a dented garbage can lid. Neither had much faith in their makeshift weapons.”

Mac and Dennis guarded Anna and Jeremiah as the zombies lurched towards them. Their eyes were glowing red, and with each step taken, they would stumble. Dennis was about to throw his weapon, when Anna reached out her hand. “Stop”, she said. She had tears in her red eyes. “Anna?”, said Jeremiah. She stepped away from the others and turned to face the zombies. The zombies were about 20 yards away when Anna reached into her pocket.

“Anna whats going on?”, said Mac. Anna didn’t answer, just stared back at Mac. She hadn’t taken her hand out of her pocket. “I can’t do this,” Anna said in frustration. “Can’t do what?”, asked Jeremiah. He was on the verge of crying when Anna ran up to him and bent down. “Promise me you’ll keep this and read it carefully, and if I ever see you again.....well just remember, I didn’t mean for any of this to happen.” She reached into her other pocket and pulled out a piece of paper, It was folded into a square and on the top it read “I’m sorry.” Tears rolled down Jeremiah’s face, “ Anna what do you mean?”, he said. “Just promise me”, a tear rolled down her cheek. “Okay..”, said Jeremiah.

By then zombies were 10 yards away. Anna stepped back out to the zombies. Her left leg started vigorously twitching. Mac and Dennis watched in horror as her left arm started twitching too. She took her hand that had been sitting in her pocket and a grey sphere appeared. It had buttons and switches all over it. “What is that?”, said Dennis. Mac shrugged, he hadn’t seen anything like it. Anna turned to face them, “This is a smoke bomb, when I say go , I need you guys to run back into the car.” “But what about you?”, said Mac, “We can’t just leave you with them!” “I’m turning into one of them Mac”, “I started this mess!” Anna collapsed to the ground. “Anna!”, Jeremiah screamed. He started towards her when she put her twitching hand out, “Don’t!”, she said. Jeremiah retreated back in fear of her twitching arm.

The zombies had gotten closer and Mac and Dennis knew time was running out. “Jeremiah I know you’re only little but you have to understand that Anna...she’s not getting better,” said Mac. “We’d better listen to what she says,” said Dennis. Jeremiah nodded as he clutched the note Anna gave him to his chest. Anna started to count, “1, 2, 3...GO!”, she shouted. The three ran back to the car as smoke surrounded them. Before Dennis got in he glanced back at where Anna was standing, there he saw her twitching as tears rolled down her cheeks, smoke surrounding her, he was beginning to lose sight of her. “Goodbye,” he whispered, he didn’t want Jeremiah to see him cry. Dennis got into the car, the three of them sat and waited until the smoke cleared out.

Once it was cleared, every zombie was out of sight. Except for about 20 zombies laying on the ground. Anna was nowhere to be seen. “Will we ever see her again”, asked Jeremiah. “I don’t know,” said Mac. His voice was raspy from all the smoke. “Jeremiah do you still have the note she gave you?”, said Dennis. “Yeah, can you read it?”, said Jeremiah. He was very heartbroken about Anna being gone. “Sure”, said Dennis. He cleared his throat. “*Whoever finds this note, I’m so sorry.*”

I didn't mean for any of this to happen. As you probably know the plague is spreading and it's all my fault. My dad is a scientist, he works from home, but occasionally would go out for important trips. One night while he was out, I decided to take a look at his new project. He said this was very important and I should stay out of his lab at all times. If only I had listened....I walked into his lab and I saw the new project. All you need to know is that when I was there I had also been looking and comparing other projects so when I got a text saying he was five minutes away from home, I rushed to put everything back and accidentally mixed up two projects which resulted in the plague. When my father left for work the next day he didn't come home and that's when the plague was announced. It's all my fault....but I have a plan I'm gonna try to find a solution or a cure. I made this mess so I'm gonna clean it all up. If you are reading this, I'm so sorry and stay safe.

-Anna (2356 Sunnydale Lab)

"Wow, I can't believe it," said Dennis. Mac was so shocked he was unable to speak. Jeremiah had something else on his mind. "Didn't you say there was an address?", he said. "Yeah, it's to some lab or something," said Dennis. "Maybe Anna is headed there!", said Jeremiah. Shortly after he said this, he began to doubt it. Anna was turning into a zombie, how could she possibly make it back to Sunnydale. Dennis saw Jeremiah's expression and knew what he was thinking. "Hey, maybe we can continue what Anna was trying to do," said Dennis. "You mean find a cure?", said Mac. Then there was silence, while everyone was thinking, Jeremiah put his hand out. "Let's do it for Anna, for the world," he said. Without hesitation the others put their hands on top of Jeremiah's. "For Anna, and the world!", they all said as they threw their hands in the air. And with that, Mac, Dennis, and Jeremiah began their mission to find a cure.