
FATE

Violet Estabrook

Thank you for offering shelter to us, Petey Coltrain," sighed Mac as he and Dennis hoisted their Half-human friend into the Studio.

"No probl-" He started, stopping as Anna let out a loud groan. She looked Miserable, as she fought to keep control of her own body.

"What can we do for her now?" questioned Jeremiah, the look in his eyes still determined.

Just then, Petey Coltrain paced towards the back of the studio and began to move heavy furniture off to one side of the room. In the blink of an eye, he had managed to build a somewhat of a pen, complete with sturdy exterior. Zombie-proof perfection? "Perhaps your friend should stay in here, for safekeeping?" He commented, "And maybe I and Jeremiah can play some bluegrass for Anna while you two search for survivors, or just anything that can be plain useful." He continued.

Mac looked at Dennis, who nodded agreeingly. "Sounds like a great plan to me," commented Jeremiah from behind. Soon enough, after Taking a careful second to lock the door behind them, they were off. While on the roads, Dennis kept zoning out, still unable to comprehend his situation.

"Look, Dennis! It's a supermarket!" Suddenly, he snapped back into reality. "Do you think it would be safe enough to explore?" Excitedly pointing at the large building, Mac sure seemed to think so.

The eerie sight of the abandoned supermarket seemed to make the boy's skin crawl. with unfamiliarity. "What's waiting for us inside?" Dennis wondered. As they creaked open the broken-paned door, they pulled out their flashlight to check if they were alone. Mac, noticing nonperishables near that cash register, cautiously made his way left of the entrance. Dennis then headed down to the medical aisle, where he hoped to find antibiotics and other medical supplies. Just then, an audible "Show yourselves," echoed from the center of the store. Dennis and Mac, who were isles away from each other, then scrambled towards the exit.

"Who are you?" the voice then called; this time only louder.

"We are Dennis and Mac, and we're trying to survive this plague," responded Mac. Though not hearing any worded response, heavy breathing and loud, rushed footsteps now rang throughout the building; who is coming towards us? The boys then saw the shadow speed closer and closer. "It's a survivor!" Dennis cried. The shadowy figure slowly turned into the shape of a young woman with red, curly hair and dirtied clothes, "Hello! I'm Janet Ross and I haven't seen others in over two months!"

"I was a microbiology student, but now I am studying the virus causing the plague. I've tested on stray dogs who have been exposed to the zombie virus and have made many interesting conclusions - I know how to save the world!" Janet explained out of breath, "Let me help y-"

"Janet Ross, we currently have a friend of ours suffering from this zombie outbreak. We have so many questions, but we will have to let you answer them later. Come with us, we have shelter, supplies and safety." Dennis interrupted, intrigued.

Excitedly, she then rushed to a corner of the supermarket and grabbed a huge duffel bag. Sticking out of it were items identified such as microscopes, a lab coat, and a huge notebook. "She is for real - I have hope now that our team can fix this mess!" Mac beamed.

Just in time. They had all arrived just in time for sundown. "Petey! Jeremiah! You won't believe who we ran into!" Mac panted. As he explained to them about Janet, their faces suddenly twisted from exhausted to excited. Mac was so enthusiastic that he hadn't even realized that Janet was crouched over Anna's pen and smiling with passion. She then got to work and took out a syringe from her duffel bag.

Injecting a water-filled syringe onto the roof of Anna's mouth, Janet must have known what she was doing. She then proceeded to feed Anna liquid medication, the type that makes you sleepy. At that point, she paced away and stared at her counterparts, "Anna will be awake by morning if I have done my job." She started. "This zombie plague is caused by a virus which dehydrates body tissue. This can cause the mind to hallucinate and create a sort of mind control type experience for anyone infected, but it is easily treated when fluid is injected in the right spot. Now, let's get some sleep and hope that this works in the morning!"

As morning's rays shined into the studio, everyone was awoken bathed in sunshine.

"Anna?"

"Mac, Dennis, Jeremiah!"

Dennis couldn't believe his eyes: Anna was human again, And he and his friends were now on the way to saving the world.