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Ten Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse – The Musical

A Musical in one-act

Book by Don Zolidis
Music by Billy Recce
Lyrics by Billy Recce and Don Zolidis

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Musical Comedy

Cast: 7W 5M, + ensemble

When zombies attack, a ragtag group of survivors are thrown into a chaotic fight for their lives! Enter Jimmy, Christy, Susan and Sam: four not-so-qualified heroes who stumble through ten outrageous methods to survive the zombie apocalypse. As they try sacrificing friends, weaponizing song and dance and even leaving the planet, each new promising idea keeps coming up short. With a cheeky score, sarcastic narrators and undead mayhem, this hilarious story turns the end of the world into a show-stopping, brain-eating, laugh-out-loud adventure! Based on the play 10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse by Don Zolidis.

Cast of Characters

NARRATOR 1 (male)
NARRATOR 2 (female)

The Survivors:

GIRL (could be the same actress as CHRISTY)
NANNA (could be the same actress as SUSAN)

CHRISTY
JIMMY
SAM
SUSAN

Casting: The same four survivors appear in every scene. If you'd like to use other actors, feel free to have different groups of actors play each scene. The survivors perhaps should be color-coded by costume, so if you use different actors for each scene, try to keep them identifiable by being in the same color.

ZOMBIES: A minimum of three zombies are required. More could certainly be used.

The cast size is probably infinitely expandable.

One last note on violence: A number of times in this play, zombies eat survivors. This should be cartoonish and ridiculous, not scary. Lots of loud eating noises, belches, ketchup. Feel free to be as silly as possible with this. Dragging characters off-stage and eating them loudly in the wings is almost always funny.

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A blasted, ruined hellscape.
Maybe there's an Arby's.

Overture.
NANA slowly makes her way across the stage, using a walker.

"Ten Ways"

NANA

I'M JUST A GENTLE GRANDMA
I'M USUALLY AT HOME, WITH TWO KITTIES THAT I WATCH
BUT I'M OFF TO SEE MY GRANDSON TIMOTHY
AND GIVE TO HIM SOME HOMEMADE BUTTERSCOTCH
I HOPE I DON'T RUN INTO ANY TROUBLE
I HOPE OUT OF MY GLASSES I CAN SEE
AND I HOPE I DON'T RUN INTO ANY SHADY CHARACTERS
She looks around and whispers
LIKE A Z-O-M-B-I-E
ZOMBIES pop up in various locations on the stage.

ZOMBIE 1

Brains!

ZOMBIE 2

Brains!!

ZOMBIE 3

Brains!!!!

NANA

Well, Dang it!
Nana tries to move away from the zombies, but she's quite slow.
One zombie begins to follow her, also quite slow.
A GIRL appears, and hides behind something.

GIRL

GO GRANDMA GO GO GRANDMA
YOU CAN DO IT
GO GO GRANDMA!
Nana pauses to take a breath. The Zombie continues to move ever-so-slightly closer.

GIRL

GO FASTER
GO GO GRANDMA
YOU CAN DO IT!
GO GO GRANDMA
Zombie catches Nana.

NARRATOR 1 enters, dressed like a doomsday prepper. Possibly he is wearing body armor, or hunting equipment, or has strings of small dead rodents hanging from him.

NARRATOR 1 *(to the audience)*
And that's why you don't see many old people in zombie movies. Let's just freeze this, shall we?
Narrator 1 waves his hand at the Zombie, who does not stop munching on Nana.
Zombie continues to snack on Nana in the background.
We've all seen the reports, we know that-
Zombie continues eating Nana, perhaps is pulling at her arm.
I said stop that. Off. Get off the stage.
Zombie shuffles off, disappointed.
Now – as I was saying, we've all seen the reports of the inevitable. It's only a matter of time folks.

TONIGHT WE BRING TO YOU
A VITAL PSA
AND THOUGH ITS FINDINGS MIGHT BE TROUBLING
WELL, SOMEONE HAS TO SAY
THAT THE END IS COMING SOON
THIS COULD BE YOUR FINAL CHANCE
AND EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A MUSICAL
WE'RE NOT JUST HERE TO SING AND DANCE (2 MEASURE)

WE'RE HERE TO TELL YOU THE
10 WAYS, 10 WAYS
10 WAYS
TO SURVIVE THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE!
NARRATOR 2 enters. Narrator 2 is dressed for an entirely different play. Looks dressy.

NARRATOR 2 *(to Narrator 1)*
Stop there. Stop there. We all know there's no such thing as zombies. They're imaginary, just like affordable healthcare.

NARRATOR 1
Really? Is that why the government spent 10 million dollars preparing for it?

NARRATOR 2
Huh. Seriously?

NARRATOR 1

And do you think our federal government would squander hard-earned tax dollars from all of these loyal citizens without a very good reason?

NARRATOR 2

Probably.

NARRATOR 1

Honestly, the way things are going, a zombie apocalypse would be a welcome occurrence.

ALL THE WARNING SIGNS WERE THERE
IN BOOKS AND MOVIES AND TV

NARRATOR 2 *(holding up the play version)*

THEY EVEN PUT THEM IN A PLAY
YOU CAN PRODUCE FOR A MODEST FEE

NARRATOR 1

BUT THIS IS NOT THAT KIND OF PLAY
THIS IS A GORY, NASTY MESS

NARRATOR 2

BUT IF YOU'RE TAKING NOTES A PLENTY
THEN YOU'VE GOT NO REAL NEED TO STRESS
BECAUSE YOU'RE GETTING THE

BOTH

10 WAYS, 10 WAYS
10 WAYS
TO SURVIVE THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE!
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9….

They look to the Zombies to continue counting.
They can't.

ZOMBIES

Brains.

JIMMY, CHRISTY, SUSAN, and SAM enter cheerily.

JIMMY, CHRISTY, SUSAN AND SAM

JIMMY, CHRISTY, SUSAN AND SAM
THEY'RE OUR FRIENDLY HEROES
JIMMY, CHRISTY, SUSAN AND SAM
ARE GONNA DIE
AT SOME POINT
MOST OF THEM
SEVERAL TIMES
BUT DON'T FREAK OUT, THEY'LL BE OK

THERE'S NOT MUCH LOGIC IN THIS PLAY,
THEY'LL DIE, THEN COME BACK RIGHT AWAY
Susan falls off-stage, dying, then comes back onstage immediately in the exact same outfit, played by a different actor.

SUSAN 2

Sometimes played by different actors.

JIMMY, CHRISTY, SUSAN AND SAM

SOMETIMES PLAYED BY DIFFERENT ACTORS
JIMMY, CHRISTY, SUSAN TOO
AND SAM AREN'T QUITE THE CHOSE FEW
IF THEY SURVIVE THEN SO CAN YOU
JUST DO WHAT WE TELL YOU TO!

ALL 4 + NARRATORS

JUST DO WHAT WE TELL YOU TO!

ALL

CUS THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH TIME
BEFORE THIS THEATRE'S OVERRUN
BY A HOARD OF THE UNDEAD,
AND IT WON'T BE A LOT OF FUN
THEY'LL EAT THE WHOLE BOX OFFICE STAFF
OVERINDULGE ON OUR STAGE CREW
THEN ONCE THEY GET OUR UNDERSTUDIES
WELP, IT'S ONLY US AND YOU

AND OUR 10 WAYS
10 WAYS
10 EASY WAYS
TO SURVIVE THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE
THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

NARRATORS

THERE'S PROBABLY MORE THAN TEN, BUT LET'S START SMALL—

1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6 ,7 8, 9
Grandma rises once more, now a zombie

GRANDMA

10!

ALL

ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE!

Method 1: Sacrifice the Weak

NARRATOR 1

Method 1: Sacrifice the Weak!

The Survivors enter.

JIMMY

Come on, once we make that ridge we'll have a good vantage point!

SUSAN

It's no use! We're all gonna die!

JIMMY

Snap out of it Susan! I love you!

SUSAN

I just met you!

JIMMY

I must warn you: I fall in love quickly and then I fall out of love equally quickly.

SUSAN

I love you too!

JIMMY

Too late I've moved on! Come on people!

Susan runs off.

SAM

Who put you in charge, anyway?

JIMMY

I did. You got a problem with that?

SAM

No. I was just wondering. Hey is that girl single now?

Sam dashes off.

JIMMY

Focus people! Move it!

Christy enters, limping.

Come on Christy!

She falls down.

CHRISTY

I'm hurt! I can't make it!

“Leave me Behind”
LEAVE ME BEHIND
I GUESS THAT HERE’S WHERE IT ENDS
I’VE MADE PEACE WITH MY FATE
I’LL ONLY BE DEAD WEIGHT,
AND A BURDEN TO MY FRIENDS.

SO, LEAVE ME BEHIND.
DON’T EVEN STOP THERE TO GRIEVE.
AND WHEN I’M FINALLY GONE,
DON’T WEAR THIS TRAGEDY ON
YOUR SLEEVE
GO OFF AND LEAVE ME BEHIND

JIMMY
Ok.
He starts to leave

CHRISTY
Wait!
LEAVE ME BEHIND.
JUST STAY FOR ONE MORE REFRAIN.
I HAD THIS WHOLE SONG PREPARED
AND IT CAN’T GO UNSHARED
BEFORE THE ZOMBIES EAT MY BRAIN.
LEAVE ME BEHIND.

JIMMY
THAT’S WHAT I HOPE TO ACHIEVE

CHRISTY
TRUE ME, I HAD A GOOD RUN
WE HAD SOME LAUGHS, AND SOME FUN

JIMMY
BUT WE’VE
Gotta go.

CHRISTY
No. I totally understand.

JIMMY
Do you? Cause it kind of seems like you’re stalling me by singing.

CHRISTY
Oh well I mean. You could drag me off while I keep singing.

JIMMY

Christy—when those zombies come to get you, the fact that you're a good-sized meal is going to keep them occupied for a while so the rest of us can get away.

CHRISTY

Right!
GO OUT AND LIVE, JIMMY
LIVE THE LIFE YOU ALWAYS PLANNED
GET A HOUSE WITH YOUR LOVE
ON A BEACH SOMEWHERE ZOMBIE FREE

DON'T THINK ABOUT ME, JIMMY
THOUGH IF YOU DID, I'D UNDERSTAND–
CUS THE LIGHT IN MY EYES
AND MY STELLAR HAIRDO
THAT LOOKED GREAT EVEN THOUGH
WE DO NOT HAVE SHAMPOO

JUST GO
TURN THE PAGE
GO AHEAD, IT'S MUCH SAFER OFFSTAGE

JIMMY

Yup. I agree.

CHRISTY

But what if – okay hear me out – you were so noble that you ironically sacrificed yourself for me?

JIMMY

You just spent this whole song trying to convince me to leave you, and it worked.

CHRISTY

But picture my life:

I'LL GO OFF AND LIVE, JIMMY!
SINCE THE ZOMBIES ATE YOUR WHOLE
BEANIE BABY COLLECTION
WHAT REALLY WILL YOU LIVE FOR?

I'LL MISS YOU A LOT, JIMMY!
I FEEL IT IN MY KIND HEARTED SOUL
YOUR COMPASSIONATE SPIRIT
I HAVE TO COMMEND
IF YOU'D LIVED, I'D HAVE LOVED YOU

BUT JUST AS A FRIEND

HAVE I MADE MY CASE?

JIMMY

NOT QUITE.

CHRISTY

WELL, I TRIED.
TIME TO BELT OFF MY FACE.

Zombies start entering. Jimmy is over it and speaks over Christy's final verse trying to get through to her.

LEAVE ME BEHIND
YOU'VE GOT SO MUCH TO LIVE FOR
THOUGH YOU CAN'T SING LIKE I DO
THERE'S PROBABLY SOMETHING THAT YOU
COULD CONTRIBUTE THE WORLD, I'M SURE.

JIMMY *(underneath)*

Ok fine! If we leave now, we can make it. Let's go. Just..stop singing. Hello, Christy?

Jimmy leaves. Christy makes it to centerstage, perhaps finding her spotlight. She's feeling *it.*

CHRISTY

SO LEAVE ME BEHIND
BUT JIMMY DON'T MISPERCEIVE
WHEN ZOMBIES GNAW ME LIKE STEAK,
ALL THAT GORE'S GONNA MAKE YOU HEAVE

FEEL FREE TO LEAVE ME BEHIND.
JIMMY, PLEASE LEAVE ME BEHIND.
WHY WON'T YOU LEAVE——

She looks around. Notices Jimmy is gone.

Hey. Where did everybody go?

The zombies eat Christy.

NARRATOR 1

Ding!

NARRATOR 2

I think we need to fight them zombies.

NARRATOR 1

How can you fight them when it's impossible?

Method 2: Overwhelming Firepower

NARRATOR 2

Method 2! Overwhelming firepower!

The Survivors rush in.

SAM

This is where we make our stand!

SUSAN

I'm frightened!

CHRISTY

No one cares about your little emotional issues all right?

JIMMY

I can't do it! I'm going to let them eat me!

SAM

Get a hold of yourself Jimmy!

JIMMY

Slap me!

SAM

No!

JIMMY

Do it!

SUSAN

Okay!

She slaps Jimmy.

JIMMY

Thanks.

SAM

Now listen up troops. We've only got a few minutes before the zombies cross that ridge so it's time for me to give an inspirational speech.

CHRISTY

Can I sit down for this?

SAM

Go ahead and sit. Sit for yourself. Sit for this country. Sit for humanity. I want you to sit for everyone you've ever loved, the girl you loved desperately and never found the courage to talk to –

JIMMY *(to SUSAN)*

Hey can I talk to you about something?

SAM

It can wait, Jimmy.

SUSAN

After the inspirational speech.

JIMMY

Okay.

"Unbelievable Pain"

SAM

YOU MIGHT THINK TO YOURSELF—
SELF—
WHAT CAN I DO?
AGAINST AN ARMY OF THE LITERAL UNDEAD.
WELL, WE'RE ALL LIKELY TO DIE,
SO, DON'T THINK TOO HARD.
THINK ONLY OF THE FEELING
YOU'LL BE FEELING
WHEN THEY KILL US ALL INSTEAD.

THE PAIN WILL BE UNBELIEVABLE
THE PAIN WILL BE UNEXPLAINABLE
LIKE A MILLION TINY DENTISTS
MAKING A MILLION ROOT CANALS INSIDE YOUR BRAIN
UNBELIEVABLE PAIN

But I know you can take it! You'll face that horde of zombies with a smile on your face and a song in your heart! A smile that is nearly perfect thanks to the work of dental professionals! And as the zombies tear you apart you'll experience the kind of agony that only those dentists could provide!

CHRISTY

What is it with the dentists?

SAM

WELL,

YOU MIGHT THINK TO YOURSELF—
SELF—
HOW DENTISTS THAT SMALL
COULD INFLICT THE KIND OF PAIN OF WHICH I SING
WELL, THEY'VE ALL GOT TINY DRILLS
AND THEY'RE ALL IN A BAD MOOD
THEY'RE GONNA TAKE THEIR MOODS OUT ON US
WITH SAID DRILLS
AND WE'LL ALL FEEL THE WHOLE DARN THING.

The other survivors look disturbed.

JIMMY

Um…

SAM

THE PAIN WILL BE UNBELIEVABLE
THE PAIN WILL BE INDESCRIBABLE
LIKE A BILLION TINY DENTISTS
WHO PLAY LOUD MUSIC SO THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU COMPLAIN
UNBELIEVABLE PAIN
UNBELIEVABLE PAIN
Everybody!

ALL *(horrified)*

UNBELIEVABLE PAIN

SAM

Sorry. What was I talking about.

JIMMY

You were inspiring us?

SAM

Oh right. Um…shoot. Where was I? Uh….lots of zombies. Pain. Tiny dentists. Fight them. That's right—we need to fight them.

SUSAN.

But how are we going to do that? There's just four of us!

JIMMY.

and two of us are girls!

SUSAN.

Now is not the time for sexism, Jimmy!

JIMMY.

By the way I still wanted to tell you something—

SAM.

Guys?

The Zombies appear

ZOMBIES

UNBELIEVABLE PAIN
UNBELIEVABLE PAIN

CHRISTY

This is it! We're going to die!

SAM

Oh—you know what I forgot?

Music cuts out.

I just happened to find a cache of experimental weapons from that time we were hiding out in the Pentagon.

Sam produces ridiculously sized weapons.

Near as I can tell, we've got a couple of thermonuclear flash grenades, a fusion rifle, an ion-gravity disrupter antimatter cannon, and a baseball bat.

JIMMY

Dibs on the baseball bat! I played a lot of baseball in high school so I figure that—

CHRISTY

Swing away, Jimmy!

ALL

THEIR PAIN WILL UNBELIEVABLE
THEIR PAIN WILL BE INDESCRIBABLE
UNLESS THEY DON'T FEEL MUCH OF ANYTHING
IN WHICH CASE LET'S NOT WASTE TIME TRYING TO EXPLAIN
UNBELIEVABLE PAIN
UNBELIEVABLE–

Susan presses a button.

Sound effect. The lights flicker. All the zombies die.

SUSAN

Well that was cool.

SAM

Pretty lucky that we found that stash of experimental government weapons no one ever knew about.

CHRISTY

yep.

JIMMY

Oh hey Christy—I wanted to tell you...that I have feelings for you.

CHRISTY

Oh.

JIMMY

You wanna go out?

CHRISTY

Um... I'm actually in a relationship right now.

JIMMY

Oh. with Sam?

CHRISTY

No.

JIMMY

Well…

CHRISTY

yeah. I guess I'm just holding out hope that we're not the only people left on earth and want to keep my options open.

JIMMY

Oh.

CHRISTY

and I don't want to ruin our friendship.

JIMMY

Sure.

He turns to Susan

SUSAN

I'm not attracted to you either.

JIMMY

Right.

Jimmy looks around. Susan exits.

UNBELIEVABLE PAIN

NARRATOR 2

Ding!

NARRATOR 1

Now I know what you're thinking: What if we don't manage to find a secret supply of experimental high-powered weapons the government hasn't been telling us about?

NARRATOR 2

What are the odds of that happening?

NARRATOR 1

Pretty slim, but still. You just might need another option.

Method 3: Join the Zombies.

NARRATOR 2

Method Three: Join the Zombies!

The SURVIVORS enter.

JIMMY

Let's stop here!

SAM

I can't walk another inch!

JIMMY

I'm tired of your whining! Suck it up!

SAM

Why do you always have to be so mean to me?

SUSAN

Guys! We're running out of options!

SAM

I know, but he doesn't have to be so unpleasant all the time.

JIMMY

I'm being unpleasant? I'm not the one who threw away their French fries without sharing!

SAM

I *asked* you if you wanted some!

JIMMY

I did! I did want some!

SAM

How was I supposed to know that? Body language?

JIMMY

Maybe you could have concluded, since we're all starving to death, that maybe it's not a good idea to throw away food!

SAM

You know what, ever since this whole apocalypse started, you've been really rude.

JIMMY

Rude? *RUDE?!*

CHRISTY

Guys. Guys. We're losing sight of what's important here: We still have our health.

JIMMY

No we don't! I'd have my health if I had more French fries!

SUSAN

Oh man. Look. Zombies.

Zombies enter.

ZOMBIES

Brains.

CHRISTY

SAM AND JIMMY, WHAT A PERFECT PAIR
SQUABBLING DOWN EVERY STREET
THESE FELLAS ARE SO DARN BRAINLESS
THE ZOMBIES AREN'T GONNA HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT

SUSAN

SAM AND JIMMY, GOTTA WATCH EM GO
CLEAR THE STAGE WHENEVER THEY FIGHT
THESE FELLAS ARE SO DARN BRAINLESS
THEY CAN'T EVEN SURVIVE AN APOCALYPSE RIGHT

SUSAN + CHRISTY

MEN ARE
MORONS
DRAGGIN US DOWN IN OUR PRIME.
MEN ARE
MOOOORONS
BRAWN OVER BRAIN EVERY TIME

JIMMY

This is so your fault, Sam.

SAM

My fault? This is my fault?

JIMMY

Yes! Your fault. If you wouldn't have been arguing with me this whole time we could have gotten to safety!

SAM

Are you sure you wouldn't have gotten to safety and closed the door on me?

JIMMY

It would've been worth it to stop you from talking.

CHRISTY

Hey I don't mean to interrupt but—
The Zombies are getting closer

JIMMY

And I saw you look at one of my girlfriends!

SAM

She's not your girlfriend! You don't own her! And besides you can't have two girlfriends!

JIMMY

Yes I can!

SAM

There's only two of them left! You can't have both of them! That's totally unfair!

CHRISTY

SAM AND JIMMY AREN'T THE ONLY ONES
EVEN THOUGH WE WISH THEY WERE
BICKERING BOYS SO BRAINLESS
LIKE ALEXANDER HAMILTON AND AARON BURR

SUSAN

OR THE CAPTAIN IN THAT MOBY DICK
AHAB JUST COULD NOT BE CHILLED
THEIR WHITE WHALE IS A PLATE OF FRENCH FRIES,
AND FIGHTING FOR IT'S GONNA GET EACH ONE OF US KILLED

JIMMY *(underneath)*

Maybe one of the girls would actually like you if you weren't such a –

SAM *(underneath, overlapping)*
You've always like this! You've always been like this!

ZOMBIES
Braiiiiins.

JIMMY
You're just jealous cause I have better rags than you!

SAM
Jealous!? I'm *jealous* of you and your big fat face?!
They continue bickering.

CHRISTY + SUSAN
MEN ARE
NIMRODS
SO ARROGANT AND IMPOLITE
MEN ARE
NIMRODS
THEY'D LECTURE A ZOMBIE MID BITE
A FEMALE ZOMBIE approaches the ladies while the boys argue.

FEMALE ZOMBIE
Don't mean to intrude, ladies, but I overheard you talking about men being morons.

CHRISTY
We sure were, female zombie.

FEMALE ZOMBIE
Well, if it makes you feel any better, Zombie men aren't so hot themselves.

THIS PACK OF BOYS IS MOSTLY ALL DEAD WEIGHT
I'D RATHER EAT MY BRAINS ALONE
THEY CAN'T EVEN HOLD A CONVERSATION
ALL THEY WANNA DO IS GRUNT AND GROAN

THEY OUGHTA TRY TO READ A BOOK
OR EVEN SEE A BROADWAY PLAY
INSTEAD THEY STAY ROTTING AND STINKING
WOULD IT KILL THEM AGAIN TO TRY SOME BODY SPRAY?

ALL THREE
MEN ARE
DIMWITS
WHEN WILL THEY GET IT THROUGH THEIR HEAD
MEN ARE

DINGBATS
MEN ARE THE REAL WALKING DEAD
MEN ARE THE REAL WALKING DEAD

ZOMBIES

Braiiiiins.

CHRISTY *(underneath)*

Hey um Susan? are you thinking what I'm thinking?

SUSAN *(underneath)*

Yeah probably.

FEMALE ZOMBIES

Come on ladies. The brains are warm.

Christy and Susan get behind the zombies.

SAM *(continuous)*

Oh and one more thing—I don't know what you think you're doing with your hair, but trust me, there's a reasons the rats try to sleep there at night.

JIMMY *(continuous)*

You look like a pig and a chimp had babies!

The Zombies descend on them and eat them.

CHRISTY

Braiiins.

SUSAN

Braiins.

The Zombies Head off. Christy and Susan look at each other.

CHRISTY, SUSAN, and FEMALE ZOMBIE

MEN ARE
MORONS
DINGBATS
BONEHEADS

FEMALE ZOMBIE

BUT THEY TASTE DIVINE

CHRISTY AND SUSAN

BRAINS OVER BRAWN THIS TIME!

NARRATOR 2

Ding!

NARRATOR 1

All right, I'm offended.

NARRATOR 2

I can't imagine why.

NARRATOR 1

That song was totally sexist!

NARRATOR 2

I think the word you're looking for is "accurate."
Fine. Sorry. You can write a complaint letter if you learn how to write.

NARRATOR 1

Hey now!

NARRATOR 2

Moving on!

Method 4: Raise Genetically Modified Killer Dogs which can attack and Destroy Zombies

NARRATOR 1

Raise Genetically Modified Killer Dogs which can attack and destroy zombies!

NARRATOR 2

Seriously?

NARRATOR 1

It's as good as any.

The Survivors enter. JIMMY is dragging SAM by the arms, who no longer has feet.

JIMMY

That was a close one!

SAM

You're telling me! They almost got my knees!

SUSAN

You're awfully chipper for having your legs eaten off!

SAM

Yeah! You know – every day you surprise yourself a little. I mean I could sit here and say – I wish I had feet, but wishing isn't going to get my feet back.

CHRISTY

You're talking this well, Sam.

SAM

Thanks. I'm doing a lot of yoga lately.

JIMMY

They're gaining on us! Let's get out of here! You want us to leave you here, Sam?

SAM

No thanks.

JIMMY

You're sure? Cause you're just slowing us down.

SAM

No I'd like to be dragged to safety thanks.

JIMMY

I thought you just might like to sacrifice yourself for the good of the rest of us, you know? Since, if we're dragging you, we'd probably be slowed down to the point where the zombies will catch us and kill us all. You know, but if you want us to drag you, then sure, I'm happy to do that, I'd just like you to know that that action will likely result in all of our deaths.

Sam lifts up his arms to be dragged.

SAM

Drag away.

Sam takes a deep breath and takes one arm.

JIMMY

Christy? Little help?

CHRISTY

I'd help but I'm really selfish.

JIMMY

Susan?

SUSAN

I just don't feel comfortable touching Sam. I don't want him to get the wrong idea.

SAM

Hey I'm totally over you Susan. Moved on.

SUSAN

Right. But if I drag you to safety then you're going to think that there's something going on between us, and that's just a headache I don't want to deal with right now.

SAM

Looks like it's just you and me Buddy.

JIMMY

Yeah… um… ow my back!

SAM

What?

JIMMY

You know how sometimes you just twist the wrong way and you throw out your back? Just happened to me.

SAM

Wow. Bad break.

JIMMY

Yep. So…

SUSAN

So…

JIMMY

So um… it was great being friends with you.

SAM

No I understand.

JIMMY

You're cool?

"Not So Bad"

SAM

Well…

Sam pulls out some bongos.

I'VE COME TO SEE SUNSHINE IN ALL THINGS
EACH MOMENT OF CHAOS AND DREAD
APPRECIATING ALL OF THE SMALL THINGS
LIKE WHO AMONG MY LOVED ONES AREN'T DEAD
BEST BELIEVE I WOULD NOT IN A HEARTBEAT
TRADE THESE FUN TIMES THAT ALL OF US HAD

SAM

NOT SO BAD
NOT SO BAD
THE END OF THE WORLD'S NOT SO BAD

JIMMY

Yeah Okay Uh…

SAM

WHEN THE ZOMBIES APPROACH IN SLOW MOTION
Zombies enter in slow motion, dancing with the beat
AT MOST, I CAN MUSTER A SHRUG
CUS I'M COUNTING EACH POSITIVE NOTION
LIKE HOW GREAT IT'S FELT TO FINALLY UNPLUG
I DON'T MISS SWIPING LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTER
OR DUETING TO THE LATEST TIKTOK FAD
Sing with Me!
The rest of the survivors sing half-heartedly

ALL

NOT SO BAD
NOT SO BAD
THE END OF THE WORLD'S NOT SO BAD

SAM

Everybody!

ALL

NOT SO BAD
NOT SO BAD
THE END OF THE WORLD'S NOT SO BAD
Birds chirping

SAM

CUS THERE'S NO SPAM TO FILL UP OUR INBOXES
NO UNLISTED NUMBERS THAT CALL
THOUGH I WONDER WHAT BECAME OF THAT NIGERIAN PRINCE,
IN SHORT, THE END OF THE WORLD'S BEEN A BALL

CUS ON THE STREETS, NOT A SMIDGEN OF TRAFFIC
IT SURE FEELS LIKE A GIFT FROM ABOVE
ON OUR TENT WE COULD HANG A LITTLE GRAPHIC
THAT SAYS "#BLESSED" OR EVEN "LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE"
BECAUSE THIS CAMOUFLAGE IS AWFULLY BECOMING
AND ALTHOUGH I PREFERRED WEARING PLAID
Everyone holds hands – even the zombies.

ALL

NOT SO BAD
NOT SO BAD
THE END OF THE WORLD'S NOT SO BAD

Zombies march off-stage, singing

ZOMBIES

NOT SO BAD
NOT SO BAD
THE END OF THE WORLD'S NOT SO BAD

CHRISTY

I'm so happy for you in the last few seconds you have to live.

JIMMY

Right that reminds me – we should run away. Girls?

CHRISTY

Bye Sam!

Jimmy, Christy, and Susan run off.

SAM

Ah well.

JIMMY *(off-stage)*

Ah Zombies were waiting for us!

CHRISTY *(off-stage)*

Oh no!

SUSAN *(off-stage)*

They've got me!

JIMMY *(off-stage)*

Oh no the zombies have torn off most of my limbs!

CHRISTY *(off-stage)*

They ate my hands!

SUSAN *(off-stage)*

Luckily they're leaving me alone for the moment! Oh wait. No I was wrong! Ahhhhh!

Off-stage screams.

They die down.

JIMMY *(off-stage)*

Yes I'm still alive! Oh wait – Ahhhhhhhh!

SAM

Huh.

Short pause.

Oh I forgot. I've still got my trained pack of genetically modified killer dogs which can attack and kill zombies. Too bad my friends didn't stay around long enough to benefit from their enhanced bone-crushing jaws, disease-resistant fur, and adorable puppy eyes. Oh well.

He whistles

Frodo! Bilbo! Sick Zombies!

DOGS pop up from different parts on stage, where they've been hiding.

If you have the option, the corpses of Christy, Jimmy, and Susan return. (otherwise Sam sings with the dog chorus.)

ALL

NOT SO BAD!
NOT SO BAD!
THE END OF THE WORLD'S NOT SO BAD!

SAM

EVERYBODY JOIN ME!

ALL

NOT SO BAD!
NOT SO BAD!
THE END OF THE WORLD'S NOT SO BAD!

NARRATOR 2

Ding!

NARRATOR 1

Well that one was pleasant.

NARRATOR 2

I know.

NARRATOR 1

I was beginning to think this play was a bit of a downer.

NARRATOR 2

Not at all!

Method 5: Education

NARRATOR 2

Method 5! Education!

NARRATOR 1

Wow.

NARRATOR 2

Education can solve anything. Watch!

The Survivors run in

CHRISTY

What are we going to do?!

JIMMY

Get a hold of yourself!

CHRISTY

I wasn't even doing anything!

JIMMY

You were FREAKING OUT! STOP FREAKING OUT!

CHRISTY

I'm okay actually.

JIMMY

EVERYONE JUST NEEDS TO KEEP CALM!

SUSAN

We need a plan.

JIMMY

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF SUSAN! THIS IS NO TIME TO PANIC! AAAAAAAAH!

Jimmy runs off in the wrong direction.

SAM

Wait, Jimmy, that was –

The Zombies eat Jimmy.

The wrong way.

The Zombies drag off Jimmy's body.

CHRISTY

I've got an idea. Stand near me guys.

SAM

Are you going to use your body as a meat shield?

CHRISTY

What? No. That's gross.

SAM

Fine. Don't do that. Selfish.

The Zombies enter.

ZOMBIE 1

Braiiins.

ZOMBIE 2

Braiiins.

CHRISTY

Welcome zombies!

ZOMBIE 1

Brains?

ZOMBIE 2

Brains?

CHRISTY

Exactly.

"Use Your Brain"

Christy adopts a Mary Poppins style British accent.

CHRISTY

NOW, I KNOW YOU'RE ALL EXCEEDINGLY VORACIOUS—
BUT MIGHT I SPARE A THOUGHT OR TWO, IN CASE YOU'RE FEELING GRACIOUS
YOU MAY EAT US NOW WITH EASE, (RAWR)
BUT FIRST, SOME SELF-REFLECTION, PLEASE? WILL OUR MEDULLA OBLONGOTA
MAKE YOU TRULY HAPPY? NADA.

ZOMBIES

Brains?

CHRISTY

THERE'S AN ACHING HOLE WITHIN YOUR HOLLOW TORSO
YOU EXPECT CAN BE RELIEVED BY BRAIN JUICE DRIZZLED OVER ORZO
BUT IN MY DAYS AT OXFORD U
I CAME TO LEARN A THING OR TWO;
MY UNDEAD FRIENDS, YOU CAN'T OUTWIT
MY BFA IN ZOMBIE LIT

SO USE YOUR BRAIN
USE YOUR BRAIN

THE HUNGER THAT YOU FEEL,
IT ISN'T ONE IOTA REAL
USE YOUR BRAIN
USE YOUR BRAIN
YOU'RE A METAPHOR, MY DEARS!
SO, USE YOUR BRAIN!

CHRISTY

See, you represent the materialistic culture of the modern world, the conspicuous consumption of resources by an ever-growing population. The desire for more, more, more. More television programs. More instant gratification. We're all engaged in a deterministic and insatiable struggle to replace the arboreal pre-human universe with a mechanized post-labor society in which our needs are commodified into a wheel of gratification and release.

ZOMBIE 1

I hadn't thought about that.

ZOMBIE 2 *(concurring)*

Brains.

CHRISTY

SEE YOUR DESIRE TO CONSUME IS JUST A SYMBOL
YOU'LL FIND YOUR EXISTENTIAL PURPOSE COULD BE SOMETHING FAR MORE NIMBLE
THE ZOMBIE PARADIGM
CAN BE SUBVERTED IN NO TIME
IF YOU CONFRONT YOUR NEED TO EAT,
BE LIKE A ZOMBIE FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

ZOMBIE 1

But how is that possible when we exist as a subversion of a standard paradigm already? In fact, I'd argue that you are a subversion of my paradigm. That you are, in fact, my great white whale, that which must be strived for and never attained.

ZOMBIE 2

Word.

CHRISTY

USE YOUR BRAIN!
USE YOUR BRAIN!

ZOMBIE 1

YOUR CONSUMPTION WOULD CONSIST
OF MY CEASING TO EXIST

CHRISTY + ZOMBIE 1

USE YOUR BRAIN!
USE YOUR BRAIN!

ZOMBIE 1

I'M A METAPHOR IF I DON'T

CHRISTY + ZOMBIE 1

USE YOUR BRAIN

ALL (but ZOMBIE 2)

USE YOUR BRAIN!
USE YOUR BRAIN!
LIFE IS BETTER WHEN YOU USE YOUR BRAIN!
USE YOUR BRAIN!
USE YOUR BRAIN!
WHAT A PLEASURE IS A BRAIN.

ZOMBIE 2

Question.

CHRISTY

Proceed.

ZOMBIE 2

What's going on?

CHRISTY

We're using our brains.

ZOMBIE 2

Brains? Braaaaaains.

ZOMBIE 1

Oh snap out of it.

ZOMBIE 2

Sorry. I have urges.

ZOMBIE 1

We must move forward, George.

ZOMBIE 2

My name is George?

ZOMBIE 1

Yes! Tap into your true wants. More than just eating brain.

Zombie 2 transforms

ZOMBIE 2

I…
I…
I PROPOSE THAT WE MOVE PAST THE UTTER PANIC
PERHAPS WE BUILD OURSELVES A FARM, THAT'S EXCLUSIVELY ORGANIC
WE CAN TRADE OUR DULL ROUTINES
FOR PLANTING ROWS OF LEAFY GREENS
WELL BEYOND OUR VIOLENT SCHISM,
EVERY ZOMBIE WILL CONVERT TO VEGANISM!

ZOMBIE 1

By George, I Think You've Got It!!

ALL

USE YOUR BRAIN
USE YOUR BRAIN

ZOMBIE 2

THE ONLY HEAD THAT I'LL DEVOUR
WILL BE ROASTED CAULIFLOWER

ALL

USE YOUR BRAIN
USE YOUR BRAIN
WHAT A PLEASURE IS A BRAIN

ZOMBIE 1

THE KEY TO FEELING LIKE A CHAMP IS
SWITCHING ON YOUR HIPPOCAMPUS

ZOMBIE 2

YOU CAN BRING WORLD PEACE TO THE GLOBE
IF YOU INVOKE YOUR FRONTAL LOBE

ZOMBIE 1

GET THOSE MOTOR NEURONS FIRING

ZOMBIE 2

SOUNDS DELICIOUS—ER—INSPIRING!

CHRISTY, ZOMBIE 1+2

LIFE IS BETTER WITH A BRAIN!
YOU'RE A METAPHOR IF YOU DON'T USE YOUR BRAIN

NARRATOR 2

Ding!

NARRATOR 1

Well I feel enlightened.

Method 6: Let Some Other Idiot Go First

NARRATOR 1

And now we're on to Method 6!

NARRATOR 2

What's method 6?

The survivors run on.

SUSAN

That was a close one!

SAM

You can say that again!

SUSAN

That was – aaaaaaaah!

Zombies grab and Susan and drag her off.

CHRISTY

That was a close one!

JIMMY

No it wasn't! They got her!

CHRISTY

But they didn't get me. So it was close.

SAM

All right everybody. Get behind me.

CHRISTY

What are you going to do?

SAM

IT'S THE PART OF THE STORY WHEN A SAVIOR TAKES COMMAND
LIKE A WIZARD IN A STAIRCASE OR A JEDI IN A PILE OF SAND
THE ZOMBIES ARE ENCROACHING, AND YOU NEED A CHOSEN ONE
I'VE GOT NOTHING ON MY SCHEDULE, SO I KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE
LIKE NEO IN THE MATRIX, OR FRODO AND SAMWISE

I'LL RISE TO THE OCCASION, WHEN THE DEAD BEGIN TO RISE

THIS IS MY HERO SONG
CUS SOMEBODY HAS TO BE THE HERO
AND SING A HERO SONG
AS THEY WHITTLE THE ZOMBIE COUNT TO ZERO
CUS WHO ELSE WOULD IT BE
IF THE HERO ISN'T ME
AN ALPHA MALE
WON'T FAIL TO SAVE THE DAY
YOU'RE IN A CRISIS, AND I'M ON MY WAY

He runs off to prepare.

CHRISTY

He seems super into this.

JIMMY

Yeah.

CHRISTY

We should probably just let him go for it alone, right?

JIMMY

It would be a shame to stop him.

NARRATOR 1

Method 6: Let some other idiot go first!

JIMMY

Popcorn?

CHRISTY

Sure.

Christy and Jimmy eat popcorn as Sam runs back in dressed in some kind of hero outfit.

SAM

IN HIGH SCHOOL I DID WRESTLING, I WAS A PRETTY MAJOR DEAL
UNTIL I QUIT AFTER A MONTH BECAUSE OF HOW THE SINGLET MADE ME FEEL
SO THEN I TRAINED IN KARATE, MY SENSEI WAS LEGIT
BUT THE CLASSES WERE EXPENSIVE, SO I HAD TO PROMPTLY QUIT
RODE A MECHANICAL BULL ON A CRUISE SHIP
AND WATCHED A SUMO FIGHT IN JAPAN
SO WHEN YOU ADD UP ALL MY TRAINING
BASICALLY, I'M SUPERMAN

THIS IS MY HERO SONG

CUS SOMEBODY HAS TO BE THE HERO
JUST TRY TO PROVE ME WRONG
I'LL THROW YOU SOME PUNCHES LIKE DENIRO
CUS THE TIMING IS GREAT
FOR ME TO OVERCOMPENSATE
ON CONFIDENCE AND MASCULINITY
WE NEED A HERO, AND THAT HERO'S ME!

JIMMY AND CHRISTY AND NARRATORS
LOOK AT HIM GO, LOOK AT HIM GO-OH!
LOOK AT THAT KILLER PERSISTENCE!
LOOK AT HIM GO, LOOK AT HIM GO-OH!
LET'S KEEP A COMFORTABLE DISTANCE!

Sam starts acting out some ridiculous martial arts moves and providing his own sound effects.

The zombies regard him from across the stage, a little confused.

SAM
Hwa-chaa!
Hi-ya!
Kowabunga!

JIMMY
Look at that little guy go.

CHRISTY
We should leave, right?

JIMMY
Oh yeah.

They exit as the zombies advance on Sam.

SAM
THIS IS MY HERO SONG
I'LL START HERO-ING LIKE ANY MINUTE
AND THOUGH YOUR JAWS LOOK STRONG
I'M SEEING NOW THAT I'M TOO FAR IN IT
SO IT'S ON WITH THE FIGHT
JUST BE GENTLE WHEN YOU BITE
MY DOCTOR SAYS MY SKIN IS SENSITIVE
IT'S CLEAR THAT CIRCUMSTANCE COULD NOT BE GRAVER
SEEMS THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A HERO FLAVOR
AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA GIVE

ALL
LOOK AT HIM GO, LOOK AT HIM GO-OH!

H-E-R-O!
HERO!
The Zombies eat Sam.

NARRATOR 1
Also known as the "I'll be right behind you" method.
The zombies continue snacking on Sam.

NARRATOR 2
Nice.

Method 7: Teach the Zombies to Sing.

NARRATOR 1
Which brings us to Method 7!

NARRATOR 2
Teach the zombies to sing.
The survivors stumble in.

End of Excerpt.
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