

The Remnants

Character bios

JOSH is 30. Before this all happened, he was a font designer. He has a way of speaking that makes him seem sardonic, even when he's being completely sincere. Wallace dubbed him "The Professor," which has stuck.

NORMAN is also 30's. He was an administrative assistant at a downtown law firm (not a paralegal, thank you). He's obsessed with reality television, and is having a hard time distinguishing survival from Survivor. He's obsessed with maintaining his role in the group.

CHAS, 20, was a greeter at Abercrombie and Fitch. Lazily athletic, and charming despite (or because of) his lack of deep thoughts. He wants to start a band, but can't sing, and plays no instruments.

WALLACE is in his 50's, combining the bulk of Ving Rhames with the gritty wisdom of Morgan Freeman. His business cards say "life coach," but he made his living selling vintage firearms at gun shows. He's quite knowledgeable in a few fields (guns, plumbing, Thai prostitutes), but often expounds at length on topics he has no idea about.

GWEN is in her early 40's. She was a production manager for TV and commercials, and a recovering alcoholic. Prone to snap judgements. She's good at keeping things running, even if she pisses off everyone in the process. She's been with Wallace for five tumultuous years.

MIA, 25, was a waitress at an acclaimed restaurant on Beverly. Possessing her own unique style, she was a favorite of trend-watchers, who frequently interview her and Polaroid what she's wearing. She has an Amélie vibe, where she tries to help people without their knowledge.

1 EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET IN EAGLE ROCK - DAY 1

CRICKETS, BIRDS and distant dogs HOWLING -- but no city sounds at all.

A parked car sits with all four doors open. There's an unlikely amount of dust and dirt on all the windows -- with a fresh "X" marked on one.

In the background, we see a hillside duplex. Motion in upstairs window as curtains are drawn shut.

2 INT. DUPLEX LIVING ROOM - DAY 2

Not just messy, but abandoned, with a distinct layer of dust on every surface. The light outside is blue-white: Los Angeles in winter.

JOSH pulls the curtains so no one can look in. He then heads deeper into the house.

On one wall, we see an abandoned painting project: the Grand Canyon.

3 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 3

Josh kneels before an open pantry, pulling out canned goods and loading them into a backpack. He has a 9mm tucked in his back waistband, and a child's walkie-talkie on his belt.

He finds a canister of Pringles, and checks under the lid -- it's unopened. Score.

NORMAN (O.S.)

Josh! We!

JOSH

We what?

NORMAN appears at the doorway, giddy as teenager who just discovered masturbation. He's carrying a white Nintendo, its controller dangling.

NORMAN

Wii!

JOSH

Wow.

NORMAN

I know, right? These were so hard to get. There were lines, and

(MORE)

NORMAN (CONT'D)
rainchecks, and EBay. Remember
EBay?

JOSH
I do.

He stands.

NORMAN
I wonder how much this is worth
now?

JOSH
Well, considering the collapse of
civilization, and the economy, the
lack of electricity, and with it
the means to play a
videogame...the death of any
potential buyer or seller -- the
fact that there are now more Wiis
than there are people to play them
-- I'd say the demand curve has
pretty much flattened. Its only
worth is as a cultural signifier
for a lost age. And in that way,
it's priceless.

Not the answer Norman wanted. Fortunately, at that
moment, CHAS enters from the outside door. He's carrying
his rifle across his shoulders, like James Dean or Jesus
would.

NORMAN
Chas! I got a Wii!

CHAS
Sweet! How much you want for it?

Off Norman's satisfied look, we...

CUT TO:

4 TITLE CARD: 4

THE REMNANTS

BACK TO:

5 INT. KITCHEN / DINING ROOM - DAY 5

Chas and Norman talk Wii, while Josh finishes reverse-
grocery shopping the cabinets.

CHAS

The house on Blue Hill has a generator.

NORMAN

Wallace won't let us use it. He says it attracts them.

CHAS

He thinks everything attracts them.

NORMAN

I know. I'm sick of pooping in a bag.

Chas shoots a look to Josh. Norman catches it.

NORMAN (CONT'D)

What? What!

CHAS

We stopped doing that weeks ago.

NORMAN

You guys are free-pooing?
(no answer;
realizing)
You guys are flushing?!

CHAS

Don't tell Wallace.

JOSH

Tell Wallace. My bowels are not his business. Who's checking the fridge?

ANGLE ON the refrigerator, the only thing that hasn't been opened yet. Hearing no volunteers, Josh reminds them...

JOSH (CONT'D)

I did the last three.

NORMAN

I did the one with the turkey. The turkey was bad.

CHAS

Why are we even checking fridges anymore? There's not going to be anything eatable.

NORMAN

Batteries. Some people keep
batteries in the fridge.

Realizing he basically just volunteered, Norman pinches
his nose shut. Grabs the door handle, ready to yank.

One...

Two...

Suddenly, a SQUEAL and STATIC. A voice on the walkie-
talkie.

WALLACE (ON RADIO)

Wallace to White Devil. Wallace
to White Devil, what's your 20,
over.

JOSH

(to the others)
We shouldn't let him pick names.
(on walkie)
We're at 211. Ready to move in
five.

NORMAN

(whisper)
Tell him we got a Wii!

Chas waves him down.

WALLACE (ON RADIO)

Any S.O.L.?

6 INT. A DIFFERENT HOUSE - DAY

6

CLOSE ON WALLACE.

JOSH (ON RADIO)

No sign-of-life, but I found
Pringles. Jalapeño.

WALLACE

Regular or fat-free?

JOSH (ON RADIO)

Regular.

WALLACE

That's a good chip.

He looks up as GWEN stands in the doorway. Her glare could stop a kitten's heart. He releases the "talk" button.

WIDER, we see that Wallace is in a bathroom, sitting on a toilet. He's busted.

GWEN

Really, Wallace. Really?

Furious, she storms away. Calling after her...

WALLACE

Squattin' ain't flushin'! It's the water that attracts them. They hear it in the pipes.

7 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

7

NORMAN

Solar! That's what we need. Ed Begley Jr.'s house could run a Wii, thank you very much.

CHAS

Where does he live?

NORMAN

On TV.

In the background, we see a dark shape move past. Spooky.

NORMAN (CONT'D)

He had this reality show on HGTV about how smart he was and how his wife didn't appreciate him. He gave Helen Hunt a green audit. It sounds dirty but it wasn't.

Josh glances to Chas, who follows his gaze over to a reflection. Something moving, slowly.

A beat.

NORMAN (CONT'D)

I think he lived in the Valley. Near Bill Nye, the science guy.

With a nod, Josh and Chas both turn, drawing weapons and aiming at the outside door.

CHAS

Freeze em up!

Too late. The dark shape is revealed to be a young woman, who is now sprinting away like prey.

Norman SCREAMS, startled.

JOSH

Freeze em up?

CHAS

It sounded different in my head.

Josh and Chas chase after her.

8

EXT. BACKYARDS - DAY

8

MIA is way ahead, sprinting across a backyard. Back at the house, Chas yells to Josh:

CHAS

I'll circle. You go over.

With that, Chas veers off, headed for a gate leading to the street.

JOSH'S P.O.V.

The next backyard is empty. She's either hiding, or already gone. He runs down the steps.

CHAS RUNS DOWN AN ALLEY

between two houses.

JOSH SLIDES DOWN A SLOPE,

tumbling at the end. He stands up and immediately stops. Something is wrong. His hand goes to his left leg, where a thin line of blood soaking through his cargo pants. He touches it with his hand. Looks at his finger.

This is a mistake.

It sends him reeling. He drops, about to pass out.

Mia emerges from a hiding place. Keeping her distance, cautious...

MIA

Are you alright?

JOSH

(ashen)

I'm not good around blood.

As he falls forward, we...

RUSH CUT TO:

9 INT. HOSPITAL EXAM ROOM - DAY [4 WEEKS AGO] 9

Wearing a HELVETICA t-shirt and a bandage on his wrist, Josh looks up as a busy HOSPITAL PSYCHIATRIST enters, making notes on the chart even before he speaks.

Sitting across from him...

PSYCHIATRIST

Can you tell me why you're here, Josh?

JOSH

I fainted.

PSYCHIATRIST

It says on your chart you tried to kill yourself.

JOSH

I'm not good around blood. I guess I passed out before I cut deep enough.

PSYCHIATRIST

Do you want to hurt yourself now?

JOSH

No.

PSYCHIATRIST

Why not?

JOSH

Is that a dare?

PSYCHIATRIST

I need to know if you're a danger to yourself or others.

JOSH

No. I mean, I'm a pretty positive person, considering.

PSYCHIATRIST

Considering..?

JOSH

Is it normal for an otherwise healthy person to try to kill himself?

PSYCHIATRIST

We try not to talk too much about "normal." It's not helpful.

JOSH

But I was normal. For me. I've been me for 30-plus years. And suddenly, something changed.

A beat.

PSYCHIATRIST

Have you been thinking about the Grand Canyon?

Josh looks up, unsettled. How could this guy know?

JOSH

Every second of the day.

PSYCHIATRIST

Tell me.

JOSH

I was going to get a bunch of people to roadtrip. Not this weekend, but...

PSYCHIATRIST

Next Tuesday.

JOSH

(freaked)

And then, I dunno, I started wondering why I suddenly had this urge, this compulsion to go. And then I grabbed a knife. Only it wasn't me. It was something else inside of me that wanted me dead. That's crazy, right? I'm crazy.

PSYCHIATRIST

No. I think you're just ahead of the curve.

Off Josh's concerned expression, we come...

BACK TO:

10 INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

10

Josh is sitting on the table in his underwear, keeping his eyes averted while Gwen cleans up the scrape on his leg.

Wallace is watching over her shoulder.

WALLACE

You need more Bactine.

He shakes up a can to spray.

GWEN

That's Pam.

WALLACE

Brands don't matter.

IN THE DINING AREA,

Chas watches as Norman tries to tie Mia to a kitchen chair. It's awkward, because Norman seems very reluctant to touch her.

CHAS

Have you never tied a girl to a chair before?

NORMAN

No!

Chas takes the rope from Norman and gets to work.

MIA

You really don't have to. I came willingly.

NORMAN

The thing is, Mia, you seem really nice. But the last nice person we met out here, two in the morning he went...

Norman does an impersonation of something approximating a vampire yeti.

GWEN

(yelling over)
Stan was never nice.

CHAS

(to Norman)
He made fun of your weight.

NORMAN

Not in a mean way, though.

MIA

Look. I'm not one of them. If I could prove it to you I would.

Wallace approaches. Leans down to look her right in the eye. Sniffs her.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

11

The crew of five have an impromptu meeting.

WALLACE

She wasn't frightened of me. That means she's one of 'em.

NORMAN

Maybe she likes big, Black men. Gwen does.

JOSH

I vote yes. She'll die out here by herself.

CHAS

Dotto.

JOSH

"Ditto."

GWEN

You both just want to sleep with her.

JOSH

No.

CHAS

So? What, you and Wallace are the only ones who get to boink? We've got a world to repopulate.

NORMAN

(mostly to himself)
Hook-ups always hurt the tribe.

CHAS

Can you even have kids anymore, Gwen?

Yup. He said it. Icy...

GWEN

I count two votes "yes," two votes
"no." Norman?

NORMAN

I don't want to be the swing vote.
I abstain.

GWEN

Can't abstain. Gotta vote.
And remember who saved your life
when Stan went all Jurassic Park.

WALLACE

Gettin' dark. Gotta move.

The pressure on Norman is intense. It's not hard to see
how this will resolve.

JOSH

Alright. New deal. We keep her
here for three days. If she's
normal after that, she's in.

GWEN

You're going to leave her tied to
a chair?

JOSH

Chas and I will trade watch.

Good enough for Wallace...

WALLACE

White boys wanna die, not my
worry.

With that, Wallace heads back in. Gwen follows,
frustrated.

Josh and Chas rock-paper-scissor. Josh wins, sending
Chas inside with Norman.

NORMAN

(low)
Are we taking the Wii?

CHAS

Don't let Wallace see it.

Josh is left alone.

12 INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK

12

Josh finishes untying Mia.

MIA

It's weird. You see these apocalyptic disaster movies, and there's always some brilliant scientist to explain what's going on. Why the dinosaurs are mutating. Why the asteroid's going to hit New York, and how we can stop it.

JOSH

The Jeff Goldblum character.

MIA

Exactly. But then the apocalyptic disaster happens, and Jeff Goldblum is super-dead. I mean, I don't know if the world got invaded, or if it was something we made ourselves...

JOSH

Nano-technology from the future.

MIA

Really?

He takes a seat across from her.

JOSH

I have no idea. Something I thought of last night. Pringle?

He pulls the canister out of his backpack.

MIA

Like I could fight the fever.

He gives her a stack of chips. They're delicious.

For the first time, Mia notices the Grand Canyon mural on the wall.

MIA (CONT'D)

Did you go?

JOSH

No. You?

She nods. She can't talk about it. She shouldn't have brought it up. She fights the tears welling up in her eyes.

MIA

Sorry.

Josh brushes a Pringle crumb off her lip. She smiles.

Off their eyes, we...

CUT TO BLACK.