

I found myself in my apartment, best described as a mono-room house, in my bed. It was about 11:20, the outdated TV was on. The minor hum of the machine and the talking of some cooking show was enough to get me asleep.

Unfortunately I heard a banging at the door, "Hey Pete, open up this door!"

Practically rolling out of bed, "Hey I said you come over tomorrow so you should wait out there for an hour-"

He was a passive dog, normally just staying behind someone so seeing him in torn clothes, covered in scratches and bruises, was consoling, "Come in, come in," I poked my head out the door, "What happened?"

"They're going crazy down there, they saw my lights on and then someone threw a rock through my window."

"What, are they having a riot?"

"Something like that, someone came in through the window so I tried to shoo them out, but they ran up," a car alarm went off down on the streets.

"I'm locking the door if that riot coming around here."

"I see a small group banging up a car out there. But she was hitting me and pinned me up against a wall I got out of there then drove out here, figuring that they hadn't reached here."

I noticed a bad odor, somewhere between the old high school's gym lockers and me last month. James was putting on proxiol or something on his arm while I flipped to the news channel.

"Breaking news, riots of mobs spread over the Metropolitan area. From 23<sup>rd</sup> to Killingsworth mobs of angry crowds are reeking and destroying business and houses and we have-" Indistinguishable talking off camera, "Okay we are having reports of crowds gathering outside our building, so we are going to go off air brief-"

James, now looking quite panicked, "What going on out there?"

"You stay here I go down to the lobby and see what's going on."

"Jez, what could be doing this?"

Stepping into the hall and locking the door I made my way down the stairs I noticed the windows had some covered in boards while others were covered in the place's furniture.

"HEY, What's going on out there?"

Chance, the apartment complex's janitor, "Hey give me those nails and it's--- Well to explain it best, have you ever wanted to be in a zombie apocalypse?"

"You're joshing me right?"

"Am I one to kid around on these things?"

"Yes but considering the circumstances I take it as fact."

"Something to with, with-a smell, you smell it for to long you become one of them."

"I'll be back-"

"Were you going?"

Sprinting up the stairs I opened the apartment door and was hit by a strong odor.

"James?"

Hey looked over at me now laying in my bed, "What?"

"Is that smell coming from you?"

"Oh that lovely stink?"

"Lovely?", *has it progressed that fast?*

"I've come to like it for some reason, is there something wrong?"

"Hard to... Explain." *Would it be rude to, I mean he would do the same to me.*

"How bad is it down there?"

"They're boarding up the windows, locking the doors, the normal things."

"Ya *normal* things."

"Are you okay?"

"Actually great, feeling like I'm having an adrenaline rush."

*I could hit him with the, the lamp then...*

"I don't know why but this smell is great

"Sorry," I grabbed and pulled the cheap desk lamp and hit him on the head.

"HEY WHATCHA DO THAT FOR!"

To my surprise he was fine, didn't know him as someone that was real strong or could take a blow like that.

"YOU'RE JUST THEM, TURNING INTO TO SOME BRAINWASHED ZOMBIE THAT WHAT I BET IT IS AS ZOMBIE VIRUS THAT TURNS PEOPLE INTO MINDLESS ZOMBIES!"

He continued to yell which turned into unrecognizable gibberish while pinning me to the ground. James strangely took off his shoe and smothered me with his foot. After what felt like an eternity he bolted through the door breaking the lock. I got on my feet and wandered to the halls hearing some screaming coming from the ground floor. Figuring the apartment was about to go down in flames I took my things and ran up stairs to the roof. The door said it had an alarm but it didn't due to some teenager and her friends running up to the roof alot. I had just a pocket knife, a few energy bars and a flashlight. I merely peaked over the edge to the mob below and then sat down behind the set of AC units.

About an hour passed making it 12:30 or 45 and I noticed I had a stink radiating from me, I didn't mind it though. I spent most of my

time thinking of a way to get out of the city quickly. My plan was to go across the building by jumping across the gap about 4 buildings then going down that one somehow to slip through the streets. I would make my way down to a park or a dumpster or something to wait a while. I would plan some way out of the city from there.

I heard someone open a door then close it and walk back inside, at that point I was also giving off a powerful smell mostly from my armpits and shoes. Multiple times I felt sudden urges to take them off. I decided to jump and run across the buildings. I felt invincible dropping safely to the building a meter below. I continued running and jumping across buildings until I reached the fourth one, the next building was considerably higher.

I had a huge stink cloud following me and it was lovely. Uncontrollably I took off my shoe and smelled my big stinky feet and armpits. My vision blurred, and I walked down the steps. I didn't feel like I was controlling me and all I could think about was smelly things. *Grimmy, sweaty, funky, stench*. I eventually passed out completely but I still felt me walking.

After some time in this dream-like state I found myself thinking about others and the infection, the infection, the smell!