

DAY ZERO

(or, How We Ended the World)

Screenplay By

Isaac Scego

Story By

Zach Allen & Isaac Scego

SAMPLE

written in 2023
iscego@narrowwaystories.com

EXT. STREET - DUSK

The sun sets over a crowded street. All around, people are walking. But we are a RAGGEDY BRIEFCASE being carried by someone's side, walking with purpose.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

Typing in the CODE to his apartment community, the CARRIER shuts the door discreetly behind him and starts toward the elevator.

But as soon as he approaches it, the DOORS OPEN and people spill out. He DUCKS into the STAIRCASE and makes his way toward the SECOND FLOOR.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Slipping into the HALLWAY, the CARRIER looks both ways, makes sure no one sees him, and starts toward down the hallway.

He gets to his APARTMENT DOOR, KNOCKS. No answer. He KNOCKS AGAIN. Harder this time.

Immediately when the door opens, the CARRIER PILES IN, pushing past the man who opened the door for him.

INT. APARTMENT - DUSK - CONTINUOUS

Once inside, the CARRIER pulls off his hat and makes his way further into the apartment.

The man who opened the door, a good friend named **RICHIE** (20s), says:

RICHIE
Jesus, Colin, you don't have to shove!

The CARRIER, or **COLIN** (20s), turns around briefly to toss RICHIE his HAT. RICHIE catches it clumsily.

COLIN
Then answer the door faster.

RICHIE
Were you followed?

COLIN
Come on, Richie. A little faith. Please?

RICHIE
The parking lot is a mile away.
Anything can happen--

COLIN
Yeah, well, nothing did.

EX CU OF COLIN SETTING CAR KEYS ON TABLE.

RICHIE
(stepping forward)
Do you have the drive?--

IMMEDIATELY, COLIN SHUSHES him fiercely.

RICHIE
(whispering)
What? No one's here.

COLIN
(whispering)
You don't know that.

COLIN sets the CASE on the table and DUST KICKS UP from the tabletop.

They both approach the case slowly, simultaneously afraid and excited by the contents within. At least, COLIN'S excited...RICHIE'S just afraid.

COLIN finally OPENS the briefcase.

Within is a FLASH DRIVE with a small GOVERNMENT LAUREL branded on the side. COLIN picks it up and looks at it closely, admiring it and his work to get it.

Behind him, RICHIE begins pacing nervously.

COLIN
(chuckles; studying
drive)
Richie, my friend...we're about to
be very, very rich people.

RICHIE
Or very dead people.

COLIN is exhausted with RICHIE'S cowardice.

RICHIE
(out loud, but more to
himself)
I can't believe you actually did
it...

COLIN
We, Richie. We actually did it.
This benefits both of us.

With this, he ROUNDS the TABLE and opens his LAPTOP.

RICHIE
It was your idea.

COLIN
Yeah, and you're helping me, right?
Work together, get rich together.
If you don't get the shot...

COLIN PUSHES OUT THE U.S.B. PLUG with his thumb.

COLIN
...you don't get the lollipop.

He plugs in the DRIVE, starts typing away.

RICHIE
(under breath)
Crap!

RICHIE puts his hands to his head and starts pacing again.

Once the contents of the drive are ready, COLIN says:

COLIN
Okay, we're ready! Come over here.
(pause)
Come on! Sit down.

Hesitantly, RICHIE sits.

COLIN
Okay, everything's in place and
ready to go. Just sit here, be
ready, be relaxed. The video's all
good to be released at the push of
a button.

RICHIE
(rigidly)
Which button?

COLIN
That one. But don't worry, you
won't have to do that. Everything's
gonna go smoothly, believe me!

RICHIE
But what if I do?

COLIN
"What if you do" what?

RICHIE
What if I have to do that?

COLIN
You won't.

RICHIE
But what if I do?

COLIN
They're gonna do what we want,
Richie. Nothing's gonna happen.

RICHIE
Soooo, we're bluffing?

COLIN
(pause)
No, we're not bluffing. Jesus...
(finally looking at
Richie)
Okay, if in the most slight,
microscopic possibility that you
might have to do anything, I'll let
you know. Alright?

RICHIE pauses, thinking.

COLIN
Stop--stop with the thinking face.
Stop thinking.

RICHIE
I just don't think this is gonna
work.

COLIN
And there it is!

RICHIE
All I'm saying is that
blackmail might not be the
best plan. Have you not seen
any movies? It never works!
What if--

COLIN
I knew you were gonna pussy
out on me. You thought the
plan was cool last night.
This isn't any fucking movie!

COLIN
Screw what ifs, okay!
(pause)
You and I both agreed that we
wanted more out of life than this.
(MORE)

COLIN (CONT'D)

That's why we're in this shit town to begin with! You still want to go to Europe? Huh? Make it big, take shit from no one? I know I do! You said it yourself, you can't see yourself being anywhere else. Moving here was your idea, remember? But we've been here six years and the closest we've gotten to Europe is the friggin' corner store!

(pause)

This country isn't gonna do shit for either of us, Richie. So, we gotta do shit for ourselves.

RICHIE

(quieter)

Europe's not going anywhere, Colin.

COLIN

Yeah. And neither are we. Not without this.

There's a long pause between them.

COLIN

But hey, if you're not into the plan anymore, I can just take the drive right back. I'm sure they'd be very understanding.

RICHIE

(beat, sighs)

This button?

COLIN

(smiling)

Now where's the burner phone?

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

EX CU of COLIN holding BURNER PHONE.

Finally, COLIN holds the phone dramatically to his lips, preparing himself for the next step.

When he's done, COLIN OPENS the PHONE, dials.

Before COLIN hits DIAL, the two of them make eye contact. A thousand rehearsals are going through their heads at a hundred miles per hour.

RICHIE sets his hands over the KEYBOARD, signaling to COLIN that he's ready.

COLIN nods, MAKES THE CALL.

The phone rings...rings...rings...and then a voice comes over the other end. This is **VAN HILARY** (mid aged), head of the FCC.

And so, the dominoes begin to tumble...