

Context:

Mike is a "guy's guy." Even as a zombie, not much about his life has changed. He's content working his job, hanging with friends, and enjoying the simple things.

At the bar, he's in his element. He loves to talk, exaggerate, and hold court with stories and opinions. He has a big personality and enjoys being the loudest voice in the room, especially when it comes to debates or "what you'd do in a zombie apocalypse" style hypotheticals.

He also knows the office inside out. Mike is an elder statesman at LoopFinance and acts like an unofficial historian of the place. He knows what's true, what's rumours, and what people pretend not to talk about. He's social, observant, and always slightly ahead of the gossip.

He's loved by all. Even his sadistic boss has a soft-spot for him because he's been around for so long.

INT. THE GROANEASY - BOOTH - LATER

The gang, tipsy and glistening with sweat, are seated at a booth after the chaos of the mosh pit. Empty glasses litter the table while the bar plays slower, more low-key music.

Victor sits next to Freya. Across from them are Adam and Mike. Mike buries his face in his hands, exhausted by their ongoing debate.

ADAM

I would probably work on developing a cure.

VICTOR

(scoffs)

What do you know about pharmaceuticals, telephone-boy?

ADAM

Oh, I'm sorry. And you'd do what exactly?

VICTOR

Live in the mountains, in total solitude. Maybe tame a pack of wolves to be my personal security.

MIKE

No, no, no!

(banging the table)

It's a good thing you guys are dead already, because you wouldn't last a day in a real zombie apocalypse. You survive with guns. Lots of them. You bunker down in a supermarket full of canned beans and blast your way through hordes of the undead.

(making gun noises)

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! Blood on the walls, brains in your shoes, heads on spikes. No mercy.

VICTOR

Jesus, Mike. You're starting to sound like Zed.

ADAM

Speaking of Zed... What's the deal with that guy? I passed his desk the other day when I was handing out flyers - he just stared at me.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

Didn't blink. Said like 3 words. He really creeped me out.

A moment of quiet. Freya and Victor share a look.

FREYA

Yeah... you wanna steer clear of Zed.

VICTOR

He used to be one of us. An original Deadhead. But he got... weird. We had to split ways. He didn't take it so well.

MIKE

He almost got fired once but he threatened Jim. Like, really threatened him. Said something about "feasting on his spine."

ADAM

And I get written up for taking too many bathroom breaks...

MIKE

Yeah. So ever since then, Jim avoids him like the plague. Nowadays, Zed just rocks up, does nothing, and somehow still gets paid.

FREYA

Anyway, the point is, just stay away from him. He's not worth the trouble. Total screw loose.

VICTOR

You won't have to stay away from him. He'll be in a reeducation centre before we know it.

MIKE

I wouldn't wish that on anyone. We all know a zombie who was sent to a reeducation centre once.

FLASHBACK - INT. THE OFFICE - LOBBY - DAY

A more lively version of the Receptionist is being dragged into LoopFinance's lobby elevator by two uniformed men, kicking and screaming.

VICTOR (V.O)
Who?

MIKE (V.O)
Shelley.

INT. THE GROANEASY - BOOTH - BACK TO SCENE

VICTOR
Who the hell is Shelley?

MIKE
The receptionist.

VICTOR
She was reeducated?

FLASHBACK - INT. THE OFFICE - LOBBY - DAY

The elevator doors open, revealing a close up of the Receptionist's face. All the life and spirit has left her face, and she now has dull, grey eyes.

MIKE
Yeah, that's why she's - well, the way she is. Before she left she was like Freya on steroids. But I've got no doubt that spirit was shocked, beaten and brainwashed out of her.

INT. THE GROANEASY - BOOTH - BACK TO SCENE

A somber silence has enveloped the table.

MIKE
Anyway, on that cheerful note, I'm heading off.

FREYA
And I'm getting the next round.

Freya gets up.

ADAM
(joking)
Convenient timing.

Victor laughs.

FREYA

Hey!

MIKE

Have fun, kids. Don't be out past curfew.

VICTOR

You worry too much, Mike.

MIKE

(upbeat)

Have you met yourself when you're sober? Uptight prick.

Victor and the gang laugh - it's true.