Zombies!

by

*Eyes Right*

**Springfield, VA –** I met a zombie the other day – here in our home! It appeared to be a female, although I am not certain that there are distinctive sex characteristics in this species. What I can report is that “it” moved slowly and had an absolutely blank stare in its eyes.

I did attempt to communicate with the zombie, but there were times when I was convinced that it did not understand me or that it simply chose not to respond. The Zombie, whom I shall call “Z,” did not attempt to harm me and mostly stared into space. I became sufficiently concerned that I telephoned nearby friends asking them to come over to our home as soon as possible to be here in the event that Z changed its demeanor and became a problem. You can never have too many cell phones available to call 911.

The situation ended peacefully when I was finally able to communicate my desire for Z to leave my home. Apparently, some zombies now carry their own cell phones because Z produced one and used it to schedule a ride. After perhaps 15 more minutes, a car arrived (not sure if it was another zombie driving what appeared to be an Uber) and my zombie experience ended.

Allow me to further explain. Because my wife has Alzheimer’s, we hire a home health care agency to send home care assistants from 9 AM to 9 PM seven days a week. Typically, the same two ladies split the week, but occasionally a different woman will come if one of the usual two are ill or have another commitment. They are all women, and most are originally from West Africa, primarily Sierra Leone and Ghana.

On this zombie occasion, we had a new lady, Sue (not her real name) who at first seemed normal. She was of slight build and older than our usual helpers. As we were taking a ride in our car in the late afternoon, Sue asked me if she could go into “the Giant” (a local supermarket chain) for “some things.” My wife and I waited in our car while Sue disappeared into Giant for 15 minutes. Because Sue sat in the back of our car when she returned, I did not detect any notable change.

Upon arrival back home, Sue assisted me in getting my wife from our car to her chair in the living room. I fixed dinner and invited Sue to join us to help monitor my wife during her dinner. This is when I first noted the bland stare into space coming from Sue. I attempted to engage her in conversation, but all I had in response was that blank look.

One of the home care assistant’s duties is to wash the dishes and to clean up the kitchen floor (my wife always accidentally creates a food debris field on the floor near her chair). After dinner Sue went directly to a chair in the living room, ignoring the dishes. I asked Sue to go to the basement to bring up clean laundry from the dryer. She went to the basement but did not return with anything, telling me with a far-away look, “It’s still wet.” I knew this not to be true, because I had personally removed the clothes from the dryer. I then asked Sue to sweep the kitchen floor. She remained sitting and did not respond. I brought Sue a broom and again asked her to clean up the kitchen floor. She finally took hold of the broom and shuffled slowly to the kitchen. Five minutes later I found Sue slowly, very slowly, pushing the broom back and forth moving some food on the floor from one corner of the kitchen to the next. This was when I telephoned my friends and asked them to come over in case there was going to be a serious problem.

I called the home care agency and told them that I was going to send Sue home and that my friends and I would be able to get my wife upstairs for her bath and into bed. When I told Sue that I wanted her to leave, she did not respond, but in a few minutes used her phone to call an Uber. She left without a word.

I have no idea what caused Sue’s metamorphous into Z. Both my friends and I hypothesized that she obtained some medicine in Giant which caused the dramatic and unsettling change. Or perhaps she had a mini-stroke or some other medical event. The home care agency had no answers.

What is certain is that I have now seen a zombie!

I thought you might like to know.

E-R