

In Case of Emergency

by
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"In Case of Emergency"

INT. KASEY'S BUILDING'S EMERGENCY STAIRS-CONTINUOUS

KASEY and MARIA race up the building's emergency stairs. The hallway echoes with their panicked breath and footfalls. Short shorts and tennis shoes, the young ladies breathe in a panicked pace, keys JINGLE. Signs that boldly mark the passing floors in large block letters are a red blur.

INT. KASEY'S APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS

The girls SLAM through the door onto the 5th floor and continue to run down the hall.

Maria, 20's, BLOND, reaches the apartment first. Kasey, 20's BRUNETTE, fumbles to remove her keys from the hook on her jean shorts. Maria looks behind them intently, impatient.

Finally unlocked, the young ladies BANG the wooden front door closed behind them.

INT. KASEY'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS.

Kasey locks the locks on the apartment door with shaking hands.

Slouching breathlessly in the studio apartment, Maria lets out an anguished SCREAM.

Maria's bloodshot blue eyes and fair hair make her look like a scared bunny. She slumps onto the floor next to the door and begins to plead repeatedly.

MARIA

Kasey, what was that?

Kasey takes a deep breath and paces, trying to regain her composure.

Maria hides her face in her hands when Kasey slumps on the carpet next to her.

MARIA

Was that ...bloodbath... real?

KASEY

Yes.. Yes. Maria, somehow, that was real.

Kasey sits still, arms stick straight to her side. Tears stream quietly.

Maria hides her face in her hands again, her blond highlights darkening with tear-saturated makeup.

MARIA

Kasey, what was wrong with that woman? How ...

Maria is speechless to continue.

Kasey puts her arm around Maria and continues breathing steadily.

Soon, Maria's breath slows to match Kasey's.

Kasey looks at Maria with scared amazement.

KASEY

We almost got eaten by a random commuter.

Maria's steady breathing gets shallow. She sits still and quiet.

Kasey shakes Maria, trying to snap her out of her daze.

KASEY (CONT'D)

Maria? Are you O.K.?

Maria's head lulls. A blank stare overcomes her eyes. She does not answer.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. 16 AND LOCUST/PHILADELPHIA PATCO - MORNING FLASHBACK

Kasey and Maria, out for a cup of coffee and summer morning stroll, pause on the corner of 16 and Locust.

The ANIMALISTIC CANNIBAL WOMAN, 40's, dressed in Ann Taylor Loft, runs into the mass of COMMUTERS coming up the PATCO TRAIN's STEPS.

The Animalistic Cannibal woman uses her French Manicure to rip the soft fleshy parts off The Commuter's faces: eyes, cheeks, necks.

Wasteful, she shoves a handful of gore in her mouth, sucks the blood, swallows without chewing and pushes people aside after a handful has been taken from them.

The Commuters try and move away; everyone is CRUSHED and JOSTLED.

Blood SPRAYS the faces of The Commuters not getting attacked.

Down the PATCO stairs like a football player, The Animalistic Cannibal Woman leaves The Commuters in a bloody heap.

Across the street, Kasey and Maria gape wide eyed and open mouthed.

The Commuters start ATTACKING EACH OTHER. It's every man for himself. Blood and guts spray everywhere.

The street corner is a total blood bath as a mass of Commuters RIP EACH OTHER to SHREDS.

Kasey and Maria cower closer to each other.

Maria DROPS her coffee cup.

The SOUND attracts the attention of one of The Commuters, THE GORE FACED MAN.

The Gore Faced Man SEES the girls and spins to chase them.

Kasey and Maria stand terrified as the bloody Commuter RUNS toward them, blood flings off his sport coat.

Kasey THROWS her hot coffee at the Commuter. He does not stop.

Kasey and Maria DROP THEIR HANDBAGS and run across the street toward Kasey's apartment building.

THE DOORMAN intently PUSHES OPEN the door.

Kasey and Maria RUSH into the foyer and through the EMERGENCY STAIRS DOOR.

The Gore Faced Man TACKLES The Doorman.

Maria HEARS the CRUNCH of The Doorman's head against the marble floor, right before the CLICK of the door closing behind her.

INT. KASEY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Kasey is shaking Maria softly, worried; Maria does not respond.

The CLICK in her flashback snaps Maria back to reality.

MARIA

Sorry Kasey, I'm fine. I'm fine.
The Doorman definitely got...

KASEY

I know. I heard it too. But if he
hadn't been there, we might not
have made it back up here.

BEAT

Kasey and Maria sit at the WOODEN TABLE that takes up a large portion of Kasey's square studio apartment. The rest of the small space is overwhelmed by a small bed and lumbering, heavily burdened BOOKSHELF.

A large WINDOW with a FIRE ESCAPE is visible in the studio.

Maria stares at the window.

MARIA

Are you sure it's locked?

KASEY

Yes, it's locked.

MARIA

I'm so paranoid someone is going to
come running up the fire escape.

O.S. a shrill SCREAM

MARIA (CONT'D)

What was that? *Where* was that?

KASEY

He's inside the building.

MARIA

Who is?

KASEY

So many people. So many people are inside this building, including the guy who chased us in.

MARIA

Well we need to get someone over here to help us all. Call the police.

Kasey walks across the room toward the front door.

KASEY

Our bags...Our phones...We dropped everything when we ran.

MARIA

What! I need my phone. We need to call for help. I need to call Mom and tell her what's going on with us; she should know how her two daughters almost just got killed!

KASEY

What? Mom? We need our phones to call Disease Control, not Mom. We just saw zombies, not a sale at Williams Sonoma.

Kasey sits back down at the table.

KASEY (CONT'D)

We have no way of calling anyone.

A fat tear rolls down Maria's cheek, but she fakes a stiff upper lip.

MARIA

There are no such things as zombies.

KASEY

We can call it whatever you want, I don't really care. Whatever it is, I'm scared of it.

MARIA

You're so dramatic.

KASEY

I'm not being dramatic; you're absolutely ridiculous. How is calling Mom what you need right now?

MARIA

Don't tell me about what I need when all you know is what you need! You needed to get away from all of us and move to the city; and now you have your exciting, dangerous, new life in this dangerous, gross city! So yeah, calling Mom is what I need.

KASEY

First of all, none of this is my fault. Don't act like me moving has anything to do with anything. Second of all, I didn't leave you; I moved out. Independence is normal. So I don't care if you need to call mom, the fact is you can't.

BEAT

KASEY

Get your stuff together. We have to get out of here.

MARIA

I'm not going out there. I'm not leaving this apartment.

Kasey moves over to her closet and grabs out her bookbag.

KASEY

I want to get out of the city before there's a full-blown riot.

Maria's response does not waver.

MARIA

I'm not going out there.

KASEY

Well, I'm not staying here. That Gore Faced Guy who chased us and attacked The Doorman is definitely in my building. That scream...

MARIA

So you want to go where? I took the train over and you don't have a car. We can't get anywhere. And there are probably already riots. God, there are riots when we win baseball games. And those, those, zombie, whatever they are, will be all over the streets. I'm staying here where I know it's safe.

KASEY

Um, yeah, Maria, it's not safe. They're gonna find you. They'll eventually break into every apartment.

MARIA

Or maybe the Marines or whoever'll get it under control. You're just adding to the problem...I don't want to go out there Kasey.

KASEY

Well, I'm not just waiting in here. My door is basically made of toothpicks.

MARIA

Nothing is going to happen!

O.S. A CRASH and SCREAM, louder and closer, is heard.

KASEY

If you want to stay here, I'm going to go get us some supplies and come back; I have no food; I grocery shop at CVS.

MARIA

No way are you going out there. In case of emergency, it's best to just lock the doors and stay home.

KASEY

What!? Are you serious? I don't have a root cellar for us to hide in! Apartments in my building and people on my block are being attacked! You can't just stay home. Home isn't always safe; sometimes you can't take care of yourself at home.

MARIA

Well that's great because I only know how to take care of myself and the entire family! So go out on your own! Of course that's what you think is best.

KASEY

I have to go out there so I can take care of us. You and me. Like it has always been.

MARIA

Since you left, it's been just you and us.

Kasey takes this verbal blow hard. She rests her head in her hands.

MARIA (CONT'D)

And, really, thanks a lot: now I'm even scared to stay here since you told me the zombies are going to break in.

Kasey gets up and crosses to Maria.

KASEY

I know. I'm sorry. I wasn't trying to scare you. I was trying to convince you to come with me, but we've always had different ideas about survival.

MARIA

Yeah, you run right into danger.

KASEY

You know what, Maria. I don't run right into danger, I think about the big picture, not just what's right in front of my face.

Kasey hugs Maria tightly.

Kasey detaches herself from Maria and begins UNLOADING the volumes from the overburdened bookshelf into stacks.

MARIA

What are you doing?

KASEY

You're going to hide while I'm gone.

MARIA

In the bookcase?

KASEY

No. In the closet. I'm going to put the bookcase in front of the closet so nothing will find you. If they don't know the closet's there, maybe they won't know you're there and won't look?

MARIA

What? You're so weird. How did you think of that?

Kasey's continues to re-stack the books onto the floor.

KASEY

'Dawn of the Dead'. You'd like that one. Takes place in a mall.

Maria accepts the decision quietly as Kasey empties the closet and shoves everything under her bed.

Maria UNSCREWS a TABLE LEG from the WOODEN TABLE. It makes a nice bludgeoning weapon.

Kasey gathers food and water, pillows, blankets, FLASHLIGHT. She sets up a shelter in the empty closet then KICKS out the bottom three feet of the WOODEN SLATTED CLOSET DOOR.

KASEY (CONT'D)

You ready?

MARIA

Do you really think you are always there for me?

KASEY

I always thought I was. I always
tried to be.

MARIA

I just really miss you... I always
wanted to be like you - brave
enough to leave.

KASEY

Well, I always wanted to be like
you - strong enough to stay.

The sisters hug long and tight.

Maria sits in the corner of the cushy closet, gripping onto
her bludgeoner.

Kasey swings the door shut and slides the empty bookcase in
front of the slatted door (bottom slats broken out).

Kasey re-stacks the books on the bookcase, strategically
covering every inch of each shelf.

The closet behind is not discernible except for the second
shelf from the bottom, which is still empty.

Kasey, kneeling, peers in at Maria. In the dim light, Maria
is a scared, little animal in her den.

KASEY (CONT'D)

I'm going to go out down the fire
escape and come back in the same
way. Don't get out of the closet
unless you know it's me coming in
through that unlocked window. I
need you here when I get home.

Maria's eyes are wide and terrified in the flickering light.

She holds her hands out to Kasey.

Kasey grips her sister's hands; her eyes shut, silent tears
roll down Kasey's cheeks.

MARIA

Please be safe.

KASEY

I always am.

Kasey starts stacking the books onto the empty second shelf
from the bottom.

Maria stares out of the quickly disappearing closet, her EYES wide and screaming in the confined horror.

The books are relined and stacked, the shelves all crammed full. Kasey blots out the last glimpse of her sister's petrified blue eyes with a hardback copy of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum".

Kasey pulls up her sweatshirt's hood and tightens the strings around.

She EXITS through the window onto the fire escape.

INT. MARIA'S CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Maria fidgets and makes herself comfortable in the FLASHLIGHT LIT closet.

She fidgets some more.

Maria pulls a few of the BOOKS out and starts to read, the closet light brighter with the removal of the books.

OS there is a BANG against the wall Maria is resting against. Multiple SCREAMS are heard, some horribly human, others terrifyingly animal-like.

Maria stifles back a cry. More BANGS against the wall.

Maria closes the book. With shaking hands, she re-shelves the books.

The closet is pitch black. Maria whimpers. Everything is silent.

The room is quiet. The city is quiet.

The DOORKNOB on the front door JIGGLES; someone, or something, is outside, trying to get inside.

INT. MARIA'S CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Maria is sitting stone still, clutching the flashlight in both hands. The continuous JIGGLING noise is audible in the closet.

BEAT

The JIGGLING turns to SCRATCHING and BANGING on the front door.

Maria, loosing it, closes her tear-streaming eyes and breathes

with ragged, terrified intakes.

The flashlight shakes with her tremors.

The DIN at the front door is deafening; a volley of hands bang on the wooden door.

Everything is SILENT.

Maria, trapped, along with the now ominous silence, covers herself from head to toe with the blanket and quietly clicks the flashlight OFF. The closet is pitch black.

BEAT

A book is slid off the shelf.

A shaft of light breaks the pitch black.

Another book is slid off.

The shaft grows.

A hand reaches in to touch the still, covered Maria.

Maria throws the blanket back and raises the bludgeoner to strike.

It's Kasey!

Kasey

Come on, sister. Let's get out
of here. This building seems to
have the worst of it.

Maria, too shook to speak, exits the closet.

The girls hug.

Kasey (cont'd)

Let's go home.

Kasey and Maria gear up to leave.

Behind them, visible through the windows, on the FIRE ESCAPE, a multitude of Gore Faced People amass. They stare in at Kasey and Maria, dripping blood, clawing at the window with insatiable hunger.

Kasey and Maria are blissfully unaware of their onlookers, who begin to slide the window open silently.

END