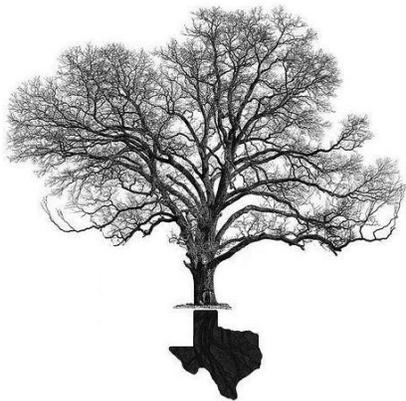


The Last Dog Show

ALAN NAFZGER



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GELERT AND THE LAST DOG SHOW

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FADE IN

EXT. ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER - ORLANDO - PREDAWN

GELERT BUCHANAN (43) is a dwarf. He is exactly 4' 5", coincidentally the same height of PETER DINKLAGE.

GELERT is a quiet, withdrawn and unmarried man. Since childhood he has a deep love for dogs. GELERT is a long time dog groomer and assistant to an elite professional handler. He works for a lady named JACKIE ARGENTINA (78). The two characters are actually diametrically opposite. GELERT is taciturn and JACKIE is definitely not.

Because GELERT feels ostracized by a public that might view him as peculiar due to his size, GELERT tries to keep to himself.

It is December, early Thursday morning. It is Florida, sunny and a wonderful 73°. At night the temperature plunges to 63°. It is the first day of a cluster of four dog shows. The Saturday show is scheduled to be televised.

GELERT exits a high dollar RV with a giant dog - a GREAT DANE. The black dog towers above him or at least looks GELERT in the eye. He is a magnificent specimen of a dog.

In a few hours, there will be a dog show inside the building. GELERT's job is to exercise the 20 show dogs entrusted to JACKIE.

We CUT TO see the interior of the convention center. It is not entirely empty. There are dog show rings and ring-side chairs and empty crates. The grooming area is divided into taped off areas called "setups". This is the location where the dogs are groomed and it is something of a staging area; before the dog is shown, they are waiting in this area. There are only a very few people in the entire building this early.

BACK TO the parking lot. There is a giant decorative Santa set up in front of the JACKIE's RV. All the professional handler's RVs are parked in a row, each allocated 4 parking spaces, and every handler has some sort of holiday decoration - Santa, a tree, a candy cane, a reindeer, etc. There is a contest each year for the best RV decoration. For these professional handlers, it's not enough to compete

in the ring 150 days per year, they must compete in the parking lot every Christmas.

GELERT leads the GREAT DANE down about two rigs. He passes a petite young BLONDE GIRL (19), also a handler's assistant, who is walking in the opposite direction with her IRISH WOLFHOUND. The BLONDE GIRL works for an African American handler named AARON, who has a "black Santa" decoration in front of his RV.

CUT TO AARON, who is shaving in front of a mirror.

BACK TO GELERT and the BLONDE GIRL.

GELERT says nothing but nods, acknowledging the BLONDE GIRL. GELERT might have a hangover; perhaps he just doesn't wake up promptly. It is very early. In any case, GELERT doesn't smile this early in the morning he only nods. Come to think of it, all the first half of the movie we never see GELERT genuinely smile.

BLONDE GIRL
(frisky)
Good morning, Gelert.

GELERT now turns and manages a polite frown.

They pass and walk in opposite directions. GELERT stops in front of the AARON's RV. And the BLONDE GIRL stops in front of JACKIE'S RV. GELERT's DANE lifts his leg on the "black Santa". GELERT's DANE is a fire hose and takes forever, he looks back and sees the WOLFHOUND also peeing on the Santa outside of JACKIE's rig. Dogs have this mutual peeing society; GELERT and the BLONDE also. They have a certain kindred spirit (irreverence); they might be a "match" but given the circumstances... probably not.

It seems that they have an arrangement and every morning they allow their dogs to pee on their boss's Santa. No one is going to be angry except JACKIE and AARON and they aren't around. The "actual" handlers are grooming themselves; getting ready for the dog show.

The two assistant handlers half wave at each other, as the dogs pee on their employer's Santa. The BLONDE GIRL's wave is only a bit more energetic than GELERT. It might be an uneasy relationship since they are competitors inside the

building, but outside (in the parking lot) who really cares what gets pissed on?

GELERT and the BLONDE begin walking toward a grassy area. There are several signs that say, "Please pick up after your dog". Or, the signs say, "Keep off the grass."

GELERT's GREAT DANE takes a dump that is actually huge. GELERT winces because he will now have to pick it up. He pulls a "Wal-Mart" bag out of his pocket. He picks up the "dog shit" and throws it in the nearest trash. There is a loud sound of it hitting the bottom of the container. The trashcan is empty at this time of the morning; this is the first and largest deposit of the day.

The BLONDE GIRL is still waiting for her WOLFHOUND to do his business.

GELERT and the DANE leave the grass and enter the Convention Center.

There is a sign above the Convention Center entrance "CHAMPIONSHIP DOG SHOW - Thur - Fri - Sat - Sun".

INT. JACKIE'S RV - CONVENTION CENTER PARKING LOT - PREDAWN

JACKIE has a custom designed "canine specialist show rig" which cost her about a half a million dollars back when her career was in its prime. It is a very clean super fortress and a gas-guzzling tank. It is overkill now, she exhibits smaller dogs and most of the large built in crates in the rig are empty or full of ribbons and trophies. The largest crate is curiously full of coffee. Everything is neatly arranged in the vehicle and in her home and clues tell us her life story.

GELERT and JACKIE travel around the country exhibiting the dogs of multi-millionaires. JACKIE takes care of the dog show politics and the business. She is almost always on the phone, winning friends, doing deals and helping people select the best genetic stock. JACKIE is also a teacher everything she does and says is explained to GELERT (her student). GELERT simply nods and hardly ever says anything. But, GELERT listens to everything. GELERT takes care of the dogs.

GELERT unloads and loads the equipment, crates and dogs. He feeds the dogs and grooms them. JACKIE exhibits the dogs in the ring and sometimes GELERT gets to do this. He is selfless of course and actually doesn't enjoy the role of handler as much as Jackie. GELERT cares for and drives the rig and his hard work makes JACKIE's life easier and enables her career to run nearly to infinity.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONVENTION CENTER - DAWN

We see a television broadcast truck with its huge dish pointing at a satellite. There are WORKERS laying cables, carrying camera equipment and lights. Mostly the WORKERS are just standing around drinking coffee, but some work is being done.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAWN

Hours before the show begins, we see a line for coffee at the concession stand. Before the concession stand opens, there is a queue of customers. The people appear simply unable to function without it. GELERT walks past the line but he is discerning and only observes.

There is a PROFESSIONAL HANDLER specializing in giant breeds. There is a SAINT BERNARD, a NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF, a NEWFOUNDLAND, a MASTIFF, a RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK, a TIBETAN MASTIFF, a GREAT PYRENEES and a friendly goofy CANE CORSO.

The CANE CORSO is on a grooming table. The dog is somewhat disobedient for a show dog; he wants to play and refuses to stand still this early in the morning. The tail is wagging the dog. Perhaps it is a puppy - a substantial but silly dog.

The handler "stacks" the dog, forcing him to be still.

HANDLER

How does he look?

GELERT

He looks good.

The PROFESSIONAL HANDLER then looks at the GREAT DANE in GELERT's charge. GELERT and JACKIE have transported the dog from Texas to Florida.

HANDLER

Is that for me?

GELERT

Yep.

HANDLER

Tell Jackie thanks for bringing him.
How much do we owe you?

GELERT

I think the owner already paid her.
(pause)
He should be a good one. When Jackie
hired me (thirty years ago); she had
the number one Dane. The breeder is the
same lady.

HANDLER

Yes, she called me last night.

GELERT

Then you have all his information?

The HANDLER nods yes.

HANDLER

How did he travel with all those toys.

GELERT

He peed on a few, but then he pees on
everything. Aaron's Santa.

HANDLER

Every dog in here has peed on that
Santa.

(pause)

I'm surprised Jackie still has a crate
this size.

GELERT

She does but it is full of coffee.

(pause)

He does okay without a crate, but you
gotta watch him; he will sleep on you.
Literally.

CUT TO night, a FLASHBACK of this giant black DANE sharing a very small pullout bed with GELERT. The very large dog is using GELERT as a pillow. The DANE is a sound sleeper. GELERT moves to get up but the DANE will not budge. GELERT can't yell at the DANE, in the middle of the night he will wake JACKIE up. GELERT needs to go to the bathroom. In the end, GELERT ends up wiggling out from under the DANE. Escaping the sleeping DANE takes more than a little effort. We hear a slight grunt from the dog but the DANE does not stir.

BACK to the convention center...

HANDLER
(to the Great Dane)
Good boy.

The HANDLER pets the GREAT DANE and takes the lead. He places the dog in a large crate that has been waiting for him. GELERT fires a certain look at the crate, as if he will miss the dog.

GELERT returns to JACKIE's RV to exercise another dog.

INT. JACKIE ARGENTINA'S RV. - PARKING LOT - DAWN

JACKIE ARGENTINA is taking a shower in a very tiny area. Life on the road isn't roses.

Inside her 31 foot custom "dog show" rig, there are 20 built in "Kustom Krates" securely and safely attached to the floor.

Inside the stainless steal "built-in" crates are a variety of small dogs - everything from a tiny CHIHUAHUA to a BICHON FRISE. They are all whimpering and some are barking for their turn to get out and pee.

GELERT enters the RV and selects the next dog - a CHINESE CRESTED. They leave the RV.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAWN

The process is repeated. GELERT walks the CHINESE CRESTED down to the other Santa. The CHINESE CRESTED lifts his leg and pees on the Santa's foot. The BLONDE GIRL has a PAPIILLION, who is peeing on JACKIE's Santa. The assistant

handlers notice each other again and half wave again. It is something of a ritual.

GELERT walks the CHINESE CRESTED to the grass. The hairless dog lays his "mud bunny" on the lawn, and without much pain GELERT takes out a "Wal-Mart" bag and throws the dog "feces" in the trash. The trashcan there is now 1/4 full.

We see other handlers, who are beginning the day in much the same way.

INT. JACKIE ARGENTINA'S RV. - PARKING LOT - DAWN

JACKIE ARGENTINA is doing her makeup and getting dressed.

There is limited space, but there is an elaborate table for the makeup and several full-length mirrors. Inside the closet every inch of hanging space is taken by elegant but practical dresses. At the end of the space are some tiny dress pants and two shirts. We look at the shoes; there are 22 pair of women's shoes and one pair of men's shoes.

Clearly, GELERT and JACKIE travel together, making a living by exhibiting dogs. They share this RV space amicably and we can see that they have a routine each morning.

We see a coffee maker on the RV's kitchen counter.

GELERT returns to the RV. GELERT picks up a giant stainless steel cup of coffee. JACKIE has prepared coffee for him. He pulls out a flask and pours some whisky into it. The coffee cup has a cover to prevent spillage.

GELERT selects the next dog - a PUG. The dog pulls GELERT from the RV. GELERT has the coffee cup in one hand and the dog's lead in the other.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAWN

TITLE SEQUENCE BEGINS

Each morning, the process is repeated 20 times with different dogs. GELERT walks the PUG down to the other Santa. The PUG lifts his leg and pees on the AARON's Santa. The BLONDE GIRL has a PHARAOH HOUND, who is peeing on JACKIE's Santa. The assistant handlers notice each other again and half wave again.

GELERT walks the PUG to the grass. The fat little dog leaves his "Lincoln Log", and without too much displeasure GELERT takes out a "Wal-Mart" bag and throws the dog "feces" in the trash. The trashcan there is now 1/2 full.

We are learning that dealing with the toy dog's waste is much easier than the GREAT DANE.

CUT TO a JAPANESE CHIN relieving himself and GELERT throwing a plastic bag in the 3/4 full trash. He then leads the CHIN inside.

CUT TO GELERT and a HAVANESE in the grass...

CUT TO GELERT and a PEKINGESE...

CUT TO GELERT and a POMERANIAN. GELERT then throws a plastic bag in the full trash can. He then leads the POM inside.

CUT TO GELERT and a small YORKSHIRE TERRIER...

CUT TO GELERT and a 10 inch toy XOLOITZCUINTLI...

CUT TO GELERT and an ITALIAN GREYHOUND. GELERT then throws a plastic bag in the full (overflowing) trash can. Plastic bags litter the ground around the trash can.

We see an immense amount of dog feces wrapped in plastic bags. There is probably 200 pounds of dog shit in the trash and another 75 pounds in plastic bags that are overflowing on the ground. Judging from the dog crap being produced, this isn't just any old dog show. It is the king of Florida dog shows.

GELERT looks at the trash. He looks over his shoulder at the 100 or more RVs all lined up in the parking lot. Each RV has 20 or so dogs inside. GELERT looks back at the trash which was quickly filled. GELERT looks at his watch.

There are over 2000 dogs entered in the show and many of them handled by professional handlers like JACKIE. Most of them have assistants like GELERT. GELERT's job isn't glamorous and looking at his expression this early in the morning you wouldn't know he loves his job. Later, of course, we learn that he DOES love his job.

GELERT then leads the ITALIAN GREYHOUND inside the convention center.

TITLE SEQUENCE ENDS

INT. JACKIE ARGENTINA'S RV - PARKING LOT - DAWN

JACKIE ARGENTINA puts some donuts out on a plate.

JACKIE

I just hate it when I go shopping for organic fruit and vegetables and I get back to the rig and they're just regular donuts.

GELERT washes his hands in the sink. And takes a donut. Nothing else is said. GELERT stands at the counter, eating a donut and sipping his coffee. JACKIE does the same.

JACKIE

How many dogs are left?

GELERT

Five.

JACKIE looks into the crates.

JACKIE

I will take "Rusty" and "Leatherette".

GELERT nods and we get the impression that JACKIE always chooses to exercise her two favorite dogs - a PAPIILLON and a CHIHUAHUA.

GELERT and JACKIE are done eating and take a dog each on a lead outside. In the other hand is a coffee cup.

JACKIE has a PAPIILLON. She is decked out in a nice outfit and she is ready to walk in the ring.

GELERT has a TOY POODLE. GELERT is dressed in slacks and a dress shirt. He just needs a sports coat and a necktie and he is ready for the ring.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAWN

Leaving the RV, JACKIE immediately notices that someone has been peeing on her SANTA. Her ears prick up and she quickly looks left and then right.

The petite BLONDE GIRL drives past rapidly in a golf-cart.

BLONDE GIRL
(driving past)
Good morning, Jackie!

JACKIE
Gelert?

GELERT
Yes.

JACKIE
Someone is letting his or "her" dogs pee on our Santa.

GELERT
It is "your" Santa, but I will hose it down in a minute.

JACKIE
Please, do that. That happens here every year. We wash it off and the next day it's peed on again.
(pause)
I wish I could find out who is doing that.

JACKIE looks at the petite BLONDE GIRL in her golf-cart suspiciously. JACKIE looks down the row of RVs and she notices AARON, who is out washing the pee off his "black Santa". AARON looks at JACKIE suspiciously. JACKIE ignores the stare, spins away, and then continues to the grassy area with her dog. JACKIE suspects AARON and vice versa.

GELERT chuckles under his breath and follows JACKIE inside.

INT. FLORIDA CONVENTION CENTER - EARLY MORNING

JACKIE's "setup" is basically twenty crates (stacked three high), four grooming tables, two grooming chairs, two lawn chairs, an icebox and a two-foot Christmas tree on top of a

stack of crates. There is a very large tack box full of equipment.

JACKIE walks the PAPILLON to the set up. She takes the lead off and puts the dog in a crate. JACKIE sits in a chair and looks at a chart. On the chart are the dogs she is exhibiting and the times and rings she will be in.

GELERT brings an ENGLISH TOY SPANIEL and then a CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL to the set up.

JACKIE sits, thinks and prioritizes her work for the day. She is plotting times and judges. It might not be on display, but she is thinking what she needs to do to win. It is the only time of the day where she isn't having a conversation; it is the only time of the day where she isn't moving.

JACKIE gets up and travels in her Royale Cargo Scooter (two passenger electric scooter) to all the rings she will be appearing in during the day. JACKIE picks up the armbands from the ring stewards and she writes the name of the dog on the back of the armband. According to her chart, JACKIE places them in order under a rubber band on her left arm.

Meanwhile, GELERT finishes bringing all the dogs inside the convention center. He has the lead of a dog in one hand and several clothes hangers in the other hand, a suit coat, an extra shirt and tie. He checks the contents of a wire crate and hangs his show clothes from the crate. The female dog inside the crate begins to smell the clothes intensely. A male dog would have already peed through the crate on the clothes.

JACKIE

Take Jake out and bath him. He shows at 10:30. You have time.

GELERT takes a PAPILLON dog out and takes him to the dog wash area. He is finishing washing the dog when JACKIE returns to the set up.

GELERT brings the wet dog back to a grooming table and begins to dry the dog's hair. He has a brush in one hand and the blow dryer in the other. The dog stands there motionless, having done this 100s of times before. While hard to prove on film, in reality GELERT is America's most

accomplished dog show groomer. He is both an artist and a scientist.

A JOURNALIST approaches the setup with a CAMERAMAN at her side. It is Thursday, but the Saturday dog show will be televised. She wants to interview JACKIE for TV material.

JOURNALIST

Your name is Jackie Argentina?

JACKIE

That's me. How can I help you?

The CAMERA looms.

JOURNALIST

You have been doing this 70 years. That is amazing.

JACKIE

I'm lucky, just very lucky. I've always had great assistants.

JOURNALIST

And you bring the same enthusiasm to the sport as when you were young.

JACKIE

I'm sorry. You know, I think you should make this story about the handler's assistants.

The JOURNALIST is shocked that someone would interrupt her but not wanting to make waves..

JOURNALIST

Okay; we can do that, if that is what you want.

The CAMERAMAN loses focus and the camera pans away from JACKIE. The JOURNALIST nods to GELERT, who is grooming the PAPIILLON.

JACKIE

Gelert and I have worked together for 30 years. He was a kid when he came around looking for a job.

(pause)

A lot of handlers had turned him down,
because of his disability and youth.

JOURNALIST

What disability?

GELERT

Don't you think that is a "little
personal"?

The JOURNALIST doesn't understand. There is a long pause.

JACKIE

Well, he is a "little person".

The JOURNALIST is frozen in political correctness. There is
a long pause. The JOURNALIST realized how insensitive her
error might be.

JACKIE

Relax, dear.

GELERT

Get it?

GELERT rolls his eyes... JACKIE's favorite pun has fallen on
deaf ears. GELERT lifts one small leg above the grooming
table. It is short. The JOURNALIST is still paralyzed.

The JOURNALIST finally smiles. She is relieved that she
won't be fired for insensitivity. GELERT and JACKIE aren't
uptight and are actually willing to joke about it. It is
almost as if JACKIE and GELERT have a private joke making
people nervous about it.

JOURNALIST

Oh, I get it. Cute. A "little
personal".

The CAMERAMAN focuses now on GELERT.

JOURNALIST

Did people really tell you wouldn't be
able to do this job?

GELERT shrugs his shoulders, as if to say, "I don't want to complain".

JACKIE

Listen, here is the bottom line.

JACKIE waits for the camera to return to her.

CAMERAMAN

(to the journalist)

Wait a minute... you are going to have to choose one... I can't keep going back and forth.

The JOURNALIST nods to GELERT.

JOURNALIST

What is it like to do this job with your disability?

GELERT

What disability?

GELERT clearly doesn't do much talking and the story is about to die. He hopes the JOURNALIST will leave.

JACKIE beams in excitement and she is about to sell the story of GELERT working for her as a child and how other people told her GELERT would never be able.

JACKIE

Point that camera at me; I will tell you the entire story.

The camera swings back to JACKIE.

JACKIE

In the 1980s, Gelert came around with a Boston Terrier. Let me tell you, he had his hands full. And he was in Junior Showmanship competition. I remember a day in that old Stephenville rodeo barn. Red dirt floor...

Jr. Showmanship is a contest for youth ages 9-18. The young people are judged on how well they exhibit the dog. The dog is not judged.

FLASHBACK to...

INT. STEPHENVILLE DOG SHOW - 1988 - DAY

The show is in an indoor rodeo arena, with a red dirt floor. JACKIE is outside the ring. YOUNG GELERT (12) is inside the ring. GELERT's parents are standing outside the ring. They have their hopes that the "dog show" experience doesn't destroy their son's fragile self-confidence.

YOUNG GELERT, it seems, has reached a point where it is clearly between his dog and another dog. The JUDGE looks at GELERT's BOSTON TERRIER and then other BOSTON. The JUDGE goes back and forth. When the JUDGE is looking at the other dog, YOUNG GELERT stops showing (lets down his guard) and the dog relaxes his pose.

JACKIE

(under her breath)

No, no, no. Always show your dog, young man.

The JUDGE doesn't see or hear or see JACKIE motion for him to bait his dog. Young GELERT returns to baiting the dog and his dog snaps to attention again.

The JUDGE is about to make up his mind and he directs them to go around the ring once more.

JACKIE

(relatively loudly)

Go young man. Go fast.

The JUDGE glances at JACKIE who is focused on GELERT. GELERT speeds up the pace and wins. The JUDGE points to GELERT as the winner. The young boy smiles like he just won the Super Bowl. YOUNG GELERT hugs his dog.

JACKIE turns to the parents.

JACKIE

Mom and dad?

They proudly nod.

JACKIE
My name is Jackie Argentina.

JACKIE extends her hand to shake.

MOM
Nice to meet you.

JACKIE
You can be very proud of your son. That
is not an easy feat.

GELERT leaves the ring with his Gold and Purple ribbon. He
is beaming.

JACKIE
Congratulations, young man.

GELERT
Thank you.

JACKIE
You got the job done.

MOM kisses the boy on his cheek. YOUNG GELERT is
embarrassed by the kiss, of course, but still elated to
have won.

JACKIE
You know what I'm telling you?
(pause)
Always show your dog?

GELERT
Yes. Don't stop with the bait.

JACKIE
You never know when the judge is going
to glance back over to your dog.

GELERT
There are no timeouts.

JACKIE
Right. That is good.
(pause)

Do you know when the Non-Sporting Group is?

GELERT

No.

JACKIE looks in her program.

JACKIE

It will be about 2:00. But be there early and have him ready to show.

JACKIE looks closely at his BOSTON TERRIER.

JACKIE

(gesturing)

In fact, bring him over to my set-up and I will show you a few tricks about grooming him.

(whispering)

We are going to cut off his whiskers and I'm going to show you how to smooth out this line.

Jackie points to where the white and black on the BOSTON TERRIER meet.

BACK TO...

INT. FLORIDA CONVENTION CENTER - EARLY MORNING

The camera is still pointed at JACKIE as she continues the story of GELERT. JACKIE is all smiles and charm.

JACKIE

And after a time... I hired him. Sure I took him in. Why not? Everyone needs a chance and everyone has a place regardless of looks or disability. He is the most able person I've ever employed. I wasn't wrong.

JOURNALISTS

At the time, the other handlers said he couldn't do this?

JACKIE

Sure. And they were obviously wrong.

JOURNALISTS

What made you think he could do the job?

CUT TO... GELERT is mortified and doesn't like the attention. He is very shy and very humble.

JACKIE

He has always been passionate about presenting his dog to the very best of their potential. He is on time, competent and very coach-able. Unlike a lot of people, he was always willing to listen and learn.

JOURNALIST

How important is an assistant to someone like you?

JACKIE

Some assistants are better than others, but I'm confident that Gelert is the very best. I'm 78 years old and I couldn't do this job without him.

(pause)

Fastest dog bath in the West and he travels well. He is an excellent driver and there isn't so much as a scratch on my RV.

JOURNALIST

Thank you; that is great. And good luck.

JACKIE

Well, thank you. These shows will be fun. I'm glad you are here.

The JOURNALIST nods to the CAMERAMAN to move to GELERT. GELERT is very nervous.

JOURNALIST

What is your job here at the dog show?

GELERT

(shy)

I bath and groom the dogs. Exercise them three times a day. I bring them, clean and groomed and ready to show, to the ring for the handler. And on occasion I go in the ring with a dog.

JOURNALIST

How did you first develop an interest in dogs?

GELERT

I had wonderful parents.

JOURNALIST

Did they exhibit dogs?

GELERT

No, but they brought me to every dog show in Texas and Okalahoma, when I was just a kid. They did this, even when I had no chance of winning anything, but they did it.

(pause)

When I was about 14 I started working for Jackie.

JOURNALIST

Were there a lot of obstacles to overcome?

GELERT

I don't pay attention to people, not really. This chair is the only obstacle in my life and I climb it at least 20 times every show.

(long pause)

Everyone has obstacles, mental, physical. I know VERY wealthy people with obstacles. What does it really matter if everyone faces things?

JOURNALIST

What makes you two a successful team?

GELERT

We do our jobs. I make them pretty and clean and Jackie presents them to the judge to their best advantage.

JOURNALIST

It's not any more complicated than that?

GELERT

No. Actually, it's not.

GELERT CHARACTER NOTE: This is the story of a dwarf who basically loves dogs. Gelert is a solemn small-person. He has had wonderful parents, who loved and protected him. As a young person he fell in love with dogs (and dog shows) and apprenticed for a professional handler. Perhaps a broken heart, or being shunned by part of society, has pushed him to be somewhat of a hermit, or perhaps he simply "chose" solitude as his fate. As a matter of fact, physically flawless people want to be left alone also. GELERT minds his own business and pays little or no attention to society. He totally rejects JACKIE's stock and trade of "dog show politics". He is happiest without human company. He tolerates JACKIE. He believes dog shows would be best if humans could say home.

JACKIE CHARACTER NOTE: The lady has for 30 years adopted GELERT. Now, she is aging and at the end of her career. GELERT began working for her at the age of 12 and he is now 42. JACKIE has been paid to handle dog for over 70 years; she is wise to the tricks of the trade. When a person walks into JACKIE's RV, they will notice a framed newspaper cutting with a photo of her (as a child) handling a SAINT BERNARD, which is taller than she is. Today, her hips and knees are playing out and in this film she only handles toy or small non-sporting dogs. She is an expert at what she does (preparing and exhibiting dogs) and previously she was considered one of the nation's very best all-breed handlers. JACKIE is a very positive and outgoing person. GELERT tolerates this because JACKIE enables him to have a career with dogs, the only job he could ever love.

FLASHBACK to twenty years before...

EXT. BRIDWELL AGRICULTURAL CENTER - WICHITA FALLS - DAY

In 1995, YOUNG GELERT is out on the lawn exercising a LARGER DOG. TWENTY-SOMETHING GELERT is being made fun of by a group of young mean and foolish CHILDREN. GELERT doesn't mind it so much; he is unfazed. By chance, JACKIE is on her scooter and watching from a distance. When GELERT turns to walk away the CHILDREN follow. It appears they are shouting insults.

INT. BRIDWELL AGRICULTURAL CENTER - DAY

Later, JACKIE spots one of the CHILDREN who teased GELERT standing next to his PARENTS who are about to exhibit their dog. JACKIE zooms across the show and stops inches from the boy.

JACKIE
Is this your son?

CUT to LONG SHOT from young GELERT's POV...

JACKIE nods to the boy and points to GELERT. She is lecturing the PARENTS on their son's behavior. GELERT is grooming a dog on a table. We don't hear it but it appears that JACKIE is telling the PARENTS about what she has seen. The PARENTS are embarrassed and, when JACKIE pulls away in her scooter, the PARENTS can be seen scolding the BOY. The BOY sits down and pouts. It appears the BOY must remain sitting and can't leave the chair, as punishment.

RETURN to...

TWENTY-SOMETHING GELERT is grooming the dog still at the setup.

GELERT
I wish you wouldn't do that.

JACKIE
Listen. We have a job to do.
(pause)
And I like to see those little
peckerwoods squirm.

We get the impression that this has happened before plenty of times and that JACKIE always loudly intervenes.

FLASHBACK ends... RETURN to...

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - PAPILLON RING #1 - MORNING

Outside the ring, the CAMERAMAN is filming JACKIE and a PAPILLON inside the ring. An OWNER HANDLER is standing beside the JOURNALIST and mentions...

OWNER HANDLER

(whispering)

What you are watching happens every weekend. Look how many people are watching.

A crowd has gathered around RING #1. The 20-30 defeated contestants do not leave and are watching the judging. There might be 50-60 people surrounding the ring, silently watching the PAPILLONS being judged.

JOURNALIST

Why all the attention?

OWNER HANDLER

(whispering)

Jackie has the number two Papillon in the country and Aaron has the number one. The Papillon ring is a battle every weekend. You should be filming this!

JACKIE and AARON are in the BEST OF BREED competition. The HANDLERS are gifted; the DOGS are beautiful. There is a lot of anticipation. The crowd is silent.

OWNER HANDLER

(whispering)

Sometimes it is about geography. Sometimes the number one dog is in Oregon and the number two dog is in Florida and they never meet.

(pause)

These two dogs are from Texas and Oklahoma. They go to the same dogs shows almost every week. This has been going on for a year.

(pause)

Both are very nice dogs. Sometimes it comes down to which handler present their dogs the best.

GELERT is standing outside ring #1 (with a dog in hand) watching what is happening, but he is also watching Ring #16.

The JUDGE points to AARON for Best of Breed and then JACKIE for Best of Opposite Sex. They line up in the proper order to receive their ribbon. The ringside crowd disperses.

JACKIE
Congratulations.

AARON
Thank you.

The JUDGE gives AARON his Best of Breed ribbon. An OWNER HANDLER has won the Best of Winners ribbon and JACKIE wins a Best of Opposite Sex ribbon.

GELERT meets JACKIE at the exit to the ring. She hands GELERT the PAPIILLON and the ribbon. GELERT hands JACKIE the CHIHUAHUA.

JACKIE
(frowns at Gelert)
I knew that would happen.

GELERT
Ring #16. About 2 mins.

JACKIE and GELERT have exchanged dogs. With the CHIHUAHUA next to be exhibited in her arms, Jackie sits in her scooter and weaves through the crowd to Ring #16.

GELERT returns to the setup. He places the PAPIILLON in a crate. He takes out another dog, an ITALIAN GREYHOUND. He places it on the grooming table and begins his grooming work.

CUT TO...

EXT. GALVESTON ISLAND - FLASHBACK TO 1991 - DAY

JACKIE is welcoming young GELERT (14) and his parents into her home. JACKIE has a very large home in a gated community in GALVESTON. GELERT's parents are moving him into the guesthouse and JACKIE is giving them a tour. There is a small grooming facility and in the back there is a bedroom. In the back of the home there are a few kennel runs for the dogs. There is a giant yard. Even the back yard is manicured. JACKIE maintains the greenest grass on the island.

JACKIE shows GELERT an extensive gun collection that belonged to her late husband.

BACK TO...

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - MORNING

The JOURNALIST is going around interviewing other handlers about JACKIE and GELERT. AARON is the archrival of JACKIE, but it is a gentleman's sport and everything is almost always civil. AARON is (as expected) very positive.

JOURNALIST

What makes them such an effective team?

AARON

They compliment each other well. Jackie is charm and personality if you want to put it that way. And she has an eye for good dogs and Gelert is all work ethic and is very focused on perfection, a very serious person and a great dog groomer. I wish he worked for me.

FLASHBACK to two months before...

INT. JACKIE ARGENTINA'S RV - DRIVING NORTH ON U.S. 75 - DAY

JACKIE is driving as she and GELERT are traveling from one dog show to the next, on the radio they hear of a meteor, which strikes the heart of the Columbian coffee growing area.

CUT TO...

EXT. COFFEE PLANTATION - PAISA, COLOMBIA - DAY

A meteor crosses the sky. A FILA BRASILEIRO, who appears to be on guard, watches streak in the blue above and barks.

There is an airburst explosion and it showers the crops with a fine extra-terrestrial dust.

We have the camera zoom into a coffee flower and the rain of cosmic dust settling on it.

Later, a guy with a pack mule, "Juan Valdez", then harvests the coffee and ships it to the United States.

RETURN TO...

INT. JACKIE'S RV - DRIVING NORTH ON U.S. 75 - DAY

JACKIE and GELERT are driving in the RV.

RADIO

A large meteorite struck in the middle of the coffee fields in the Colombian Paisa region, government officials announced.

(pause)

It exploded in a brilliant light, brighter than the Sun, even at 100 km distance. It was observed over a wide area of the region and in neighbouring republics. Eyewitnesses also felt intense heat from the fireball.

(pause)

Residents reported hearing a loud bang and feeling the impact.

(pause)

A government spokeswoman said the meteorite seemed to have broken off an asteroid which was passing close to Earth.

(pause)

The government said international experts had been called in to investigate further.

(pause)

Experts studying the meteor said it was not clear whether the meteorite had an effect on the coffee plants.

(pause)

While it is not currently known if the incidence will affect the price of coffee here in the United States, economists expect a sharp increase in the price.

There is a long pause as JACKIE and GELERT contemplate a raise in coffee prices.

JACKIE

God I hope not.

(pause)

If this is going to cause a spike in the price, I'm going to stop drinking coffee.

(pause)

I don't have money to throw away, you know. I can live without coffee anyway!

GELERT

How will you wake up in the morning?

JACKIE

I'm about to retire anyway I need to start pinching pennies and I'm well over 70 years old; time to start worrying about my health.

GELERT

You have been saying that for 20 years, Jackie.

JACKIE

Which? I'm retiring or I'm stopping with the coffee?

GELERT

Well, both. We're all getting old.

JACKIE

We are going to finish the coffee in the cabinet there and we aren't going to buy anymore. If you want some at the shows... buy it from the concession stand. But I'm not.

GELERT

You might retire but I don't believe
you'll give up coffee.

They are about to pass a big box discount store off the
highway. The exit looms.

JACKIE

You are right; I have a better idea.

JACKIE radically swerves the RV toward the exit. They pull
up into the parking lot and exit the RV.

INT. BIG BOX STORE - OKLAHOMA NORTH ON U.S. 75 - DAY

JACKIE and GELERT enter the store; they show their
membership card and grab a basket. They fill the basket
with coffee - all sorts of coffee. They emerge with several
hundred pounds of coffee.

INT. JACKIE ARGENTINA'S RV. - NORTH ON U.S. 75 - DAY

Back in the RV, there is an empty crate. A giant crate
built for a GREAT DANE or a SCOTTISH DEERHOUND. JACKIE
looks into it and has SEVERAL SHORT FLASHBACKS of when she
was younger, when she had the knees of a professional
athlete. In the FLASHBACKS we see the young JACKIE flying
around the ring with equally athletic big dogs.

BACK TO the RV...

JACKIE AND GELERT load the coffee into the giant empty
crate. The coffee fills the crate entirely and JACKIE
places five or six pounds into the cabinets.

JACKIE

(smiles confidently)
Now we are fully stocked.

GELERT simply acknowledges.

RETURN to...

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - AFTERNOON

JACKIE and GELERT are eating chicken salad sandwiches in
the set up. They look exhausted. They have several dogs to

show in the group competitions in the afternoon, but for now they have a break. They are too exhausted to say much.

Just as GELERT is throwing his paper plate in the trash, JACKIE's cell phone rings. She looks at the caller ID; it is a client.

JACKIE
(into the phone)
Congratulations, Charlie was Best of Breed. He will be in the group in about...

JACKIE glances at the group order.

CAROL (28), the hospitality chairperson, approaches the setup. CAROL is dressed in shorts and GELERT notices. She is petite, attractive and has a bubbly friendly personality. She looks at JACKIE and then not wanting to interrupt then she looks to GELERT.

JACKIE
(into phone)
Two hours.
(pause)
I will call you.

Just at that moment three WOMEN arrive at the set up with puppies. They politely form a line; it is a sometimes ritual with JACKIE. Breeders come to her for evaluations and advise on whether to exhibit the dogs. The FIRST WOMAN has two CHIHUAHUAS. The SECOND WOMAN has two PAPILLONS and the THIRD WOMAN has a TOY FOX TERRIER.

In this scene, the breeders are deciding whether or not to invest \$5,000 or perhaps even \$10,000 in a exhibiting a dog. Dog shows aren't cheap and a person doesn't want to spend that money on a dog that will not "finish" or in other words "be a champion". JACKIE has a reputation of helping with this evaluation. She is unbiased, tells the truth and has years of experience.

The FIRST WOMAN puts one of the two CHIHUAHUAS on the table in front of JACKIE. JACKIE stacks the puppy. Looks and evaluates it. Then the second CHIHUAHUA experiences the same.

JACKIE

Both have potential. This one has more.
(pointing)

This one wow. I know your bloodline, he
is going to be really nice. This little
girl, not so much, nice but not like
this boy.

JACKIE smiles and the FIRST WOMAN smiles. The FIRST WOMAN
has been hopeful for months and JACKIE confirms that her
hopes were not unfounded. It is a relief and affirmation of
her breeding. The FIRST WOMAN is being told that she has
not been wrong in breeding the sire and dam of these two
puppies.

FIRST WOMAN

Thanks Jackie. I appreciate your
opinion.

JACKIE

Not a problem. Happy to help.

The SECOND WOMAN steps up and hands JACKIE a PAPILLON.
JACKIE stacks the puppy and begins to look carefully at it.

CAMERA swings over to GELERT and CAROL. CAROL has been
giving tours of the dog show and now it is JACKIE's or
actually GELERT's time to help her.

CAROL

(to Gelert)

Well I guess it's your turn.

JACKIE nods to GELERT for him to go with CAROL. JACKIE
continues with the puppy evaluation.

CAROL

(to Gelert)

Do you mind?

GELERT

(pointing to Jackie)

She is so much better than I am.

JACKIE shakes her head, rolls her eyes and shoos GELERT
off. She communicates to CAROL that GELERT is only a cynic
and is joking.

GELERT
(to Carol)
Can't you find someone else to do this?

CAROL
I'm going but they want a celebrity.

GELERT
(chuckles)
And you think I'm that?

CAROL
You won a Best in Show. I was there.

GELERT
Six years ago and that was entirely an
accident, I assure you.

CAROL
I've been showing my dogs for 10 years
and I never won one. Never even came
close.

GELERT is desperate to avoid giving a tour.

GELERT
I don't like people.
(pause)
I can improve the dog show experience.
Just drop your dog off at the door, go
shopping and when the show is over,
then you come pick the dog up. People
are ruining these dog shows by coming!

CAROL
Always joking. You will do fine. They
will love you.

There is a long pause. GELERT thinks about just
refusing. He doesn't.

GELERT
Well okay. But next year, I'm going to
insist that people are banned from this
dog show.

CAROL

Ha, ha. That's funny but if we are going to grow the sport of dog shows, we all need to pitch in.

GELERT

Grow? I want dog shows to be smaller.

GELERT looks longingly at JACKIE hoping she will come rescue him from the experience. She doesn't and JACKIE even raises her eyebrows in an ominous manner. GELERT will be scolded harshly by JACKIE if he doesn't participate.

JACKIE is one of the most successful professional handlers in the building... and she doesn't have to give the tours. If the truth is known, JACKIE probably volunteered GELERT earlier. JACKIE has business to take care of, clients to keep and puppies to evaluate. And she always has a dog in one or two of the group competitions. Half of the time she is in the Best of Show ring. CAROL is not about to pressure JACKIE to give a tour. That is why the assistants are hired.

GELERT

(reluctantly)

Where are they?

CAROL points to a family of six standing under a sign, "DOG SHOW TOUR STARTS HERE". Under the sign there is an eight passenger stretched limo golf-cart.

GELERT

(reneging)

Oh, no. The deal is off.

CAROL

Why?

GELERT

Kids. You didn't say anything about any kids.

CAROL

They won't hurt you.

GELERT

I don't deal with kids.

CAROL

Don't talk to them. Talk to the man and
the woman.

We see three BROTHERS wrestling with each other, poking and
punching other. It's not wise to allow your children free
run at a dog show, but boys will be boys. A young DAUGHTER
(6) is calmly reading a book.

GELERT

Those boys look wild.

CAROL

All boys are wild.

GELERT

I wasn't.

CAROL

Yes, I'm sure you were ideal.

GELERT looks at CAROL's legs again. He looks at her left
ring finger. She doesn't appear to be married.

JACKIE has the SECOND WOMAN put the PAPILLON on the ground
on leads and she watches them walk down and back.

After a short time contemplating CAROL's legs, GELERT
slowly gets on the scooter and zooms off. He frowns at
CAROL as they pull away. GELERT is not happy, but he will
participate in the tour.

JACKIE continues to evaluate the various puppies. The line
grows as another PUPPY OWNER enters the end of the line.
About the 16th reason that JACKIE hires an assistant is so
that she will not be forced to lead a tour. She would
rather sit in her set up and help the OWNERS evaluate the
puppies. It is all about business; some of these PUPPY
OWNERS will become clients when they tire of travel.

We see the three BROTHERS still wrestling with each other.
The youngest BROTHER must resort to kicking the others to
just survive. GELERT, who is approaching the youthful
melee, is not amused at the rough housing.

JACKIE glances up to watch GELERT interact with the family. From JACKIE'S POV, he looks nervous but he does what is expected. GELERT is "the" hermit dog groomer; of course he is reluctant.

There is a young DAUGHTER there too and she is perfectly behaved. She is almost a little adult and she is modeling her PARENTS. She appears to be a reader. She is reading one book and she has several others in a satchel.

The PARENTS are watching the judging in the nearby ring and aren't paying attention to the BROTHERS. GELERT pulls up in the scooter.

GELERT climbs into the front passenger seat of the golf-cart. He sits without talking to the family. There is an awkward pause. When CAROL climbs into the golf-cart, she is in the driver's seat and she motions for the family to also board the cart. She looks at GELERT nervously. CAROL appears worried he will say nothing or something inappropriate.

From CAROL's POV, GELERT is not the most charming person in the building. He is neither happy to be on the tour or unpleasant. He is something near deadpan. He doesn't make much eye contact with the family. He does however periodically look at CAROL's "extra fine" body.

CAROL

This is Gelert; he is one of our most successful professional handlers.

GELERT

Assistant handler.

(pause)

I work for Jackie Argentina.

GELERT points to JACKIE as the golf-cart begins its journey. GELERT gives JACKIE a robotic mocking beauty pageant wave as they pass. There isn't a beauty pageant smile.

JACKIE has the adult CHIHUAHUA on the grooming table. This appears perhaps also a ruse... nothing needs grooming on the dog, but JACKIE wants to make sure she is "never" roped into giving a tour. There is a PEKINESE and an ITALIAN GREYHOUND waiting patiently on other grooming tables.

GELERT

That is Jack that she's grooming. He is going to be in the toy group later.

(pause)

We also have the Italian Greyhound and the Pekingese in the group.

CAROL

(to the family)

That is great. They are a team..

(to Gelert)

Jackie's favourite is the Chihuahua. She loves that dog.

GELERT

I will take the Pekingese. Someone, one of Jackie's friends, will take the I.G.

CAROL

(to the family)

I doubt anyone else will have three in the toy group.

GELERT

(matter of fact)

Aaron.

CAROL

(to the Gelert)

Oh.

(to the family)

The show Saturday is going to be on TV you know.

MOTHER

(to Carol)

No, I didn't know. I've seen them on TV before but well that's great. We will be sure to watch.

(to Gelert)

Maybe we will see Gelert and Jackie.

GELERT nods his head, that it is possible.

MOTHER

(to the Gelert)

It must be very exciting to be on TV,
with everyone watching.

GELERT nods his head yes, but he isn't overly enthusiastic.

GELERT
(matter of fact)
I guess that's is true.

There is a long pause. They go a good distance without anything being said. CAROL nudges GELERT and motions for him to speak.

GELERT
(matter of fact)
The purpose of a dog show is to select the dogs best suited to create the next generation. The winners should have puppies. The other dogs should NOT.

CAROL
People cheat.

GELERT
Yes, They breed dogs that aren't very good... not very correct. They don't even show up at dog shows and they say we are stuck up; they know their dogs suck and breed them anyway.

CAROL
They don't know any better. They are in some backyard somewhere.

GELERT
If they were here we could look and see if their dogs are okay... You know, healthy or correct.

MOTHER
Correct?

GELERT
Correct. Like put together correctly.
(pause)
We build dogs here. Over time.
(pause)

Every breed is different, but because we built them that way. It wasn't an accident.

CAROL

There is a written description for what each breed should look like.

GELERT

Let's say you want a proper and beautiful dog to do a certain job, well you buy from the people that win dog shows. It is only a little more expensive but you know what you are getting.

CAROL

You know puppies grow up to look and act like mom and dad.

CAROL nods to the MOTHER's male children, who look like their FATHER. And she nods to the female child who looks like the MOTHER.

GELERT

All puppies are cute. But they all grow up to look like the sire and the dam.

CAROL

So that is what we are doing here. I see.

GELERT

Judging and evaluating the genetics that should go into puppies.

MOTHER

They are all so beautiful.

GELERT

The key word is "should". People should use show dogs to create the next generation but they don't, not always.

MOTHER

We had a nice dog once when we were first married.

GELERT

That wasn't an accident. You might think you were lucky or whatever but it is a little more scientific than that.

(pause)

Think of this as a democracy... and the judges are voting for the best candidate.

MOTHER

Oh, I get it.

CAROL

Judges basically pick and chose what genes we want to keep and what we want to discard.

GELERT

All these dogs were developed from wolves -- maybe foxes, jackals and coyotes. We don't really know. Big debate.

(pause)

But we do know that man (humans), we did this. We designed these dogs. We built this great tool.

FATHER

Tool?

GELERT

The dog. Every dog has a job. Herders, hunters, guards, some are built for speed or sense of smell and some for companionship.

MOTHER

Companionship?

GELERT

Toys breeds. Like Chihuahuas, Pekinese and Italian Greyhounds.

FATHER

They said you get a ribbon if you win. How does someone make money at this?

GELERT

Well, the breeders, the people that pay Jackie. They make money from stud fees and the sale of puppies. They generally have other jobs. This is not an inexpensive hobby.

FATHER

That money they make from the stud fees and puppies, it is eaten up by the expense of showing the dogs?

GELERT

Pretty much there isn't any profit. That is true. The only thing most breeders get out of it is the knowledge that they are improving the breed.

CAROL

Or at least preserving it and not doing harm to it.

GELERT

We are bias. This is what we do... (we build nice dogs) and we don't like other people screwing it up.

FATHER

Hey, I don't blame you.

There is a long pause. GELERT started the tour out grumpy. But, GELERT seems to have an improved attitude; there is a slight indication of pride and purpose to his life. However, it is only a hint. He is still the old GELERT.

CAROL

(to the children)

You kids like geography?

DAUGHTER

I do.

The golf-cart passes a ring full of JAPANESE CHINS and HANDLERS.

CAROL
Do you know where that dog is from?

BOY
(guessing)
South Carolina?

CAROL
Oh, maybe.
(pause)
But I mean a very long time ago. Like
before there was a South Carolina.

DAUGHTER
You mean in ancient or medieval times?

The DAUGHTER is very intelligent. The DAUGHTER studies the
dogs for a moment.

DAUGHTER
Japan.

CAROL
Wow, that is good. How do you know
that?

DAUGHTER
A book.

A man with a red dog walks in the aisle between rings.

DAUGHTER
That is an Irish Setter. Ireland.

GELERT turns and looks at the DAUGHTER. She knows
more than most six year olds.

DAUGHTER
My teacher said most dogs come from a
far away place, always on a map. Where
they are loved and respected. Were they
had a job and then they moved to
America when they got bored.
(pause)
And now they don't have to go to work
anymore, they just walk around the ring
and look pretty.

GELERT turns again and smiles approvingly at the DAUGHTER. He shakes his head that she is correct.

The tour is over. They arrive back under the "Tour" sign.

CAROL
Thank you Gelert. Appreciate you coming with us.

GELERT
(dead pan)
Thanks for asking.

MOTHER
Say "thanks" kids.

The FATHER reaches out to shake GELERT's hand. GELERT is a bit surprised, there is an odd pause, but GELERT shakes.

CHILDREN
Thanks, Gelert!

GELERT, who hardly ever smiles, has a slight smile on his face. He is actually shocked and didn't anticipate such warmth. There is an odd pause... GELERT is actually speechless for a moment.

GELERT
You are welcome. Very welcome.

CAROL
(whispering to Gelert)
I didn't think you would like that.

GELERT
It was okay.

GELERT gets on the scooter.

CAROL
(again whispering to Gelert)
That was the best tour of the day.
Thank you.

GELERT has been something of the hermit for 30 years. Really only coming out of his shell when alone with JACKIE.

He is never "social" at what is actually a very social event. He has in the past confined himself to the job of grooming the dogs. If possible, he has always steered clear of people. Things are about to change perhaps.

As he drives away, GELERT turns and waves at the DAUGHTER who is watching him from a distance. She seems to be studying him, but clearly she likes him. She may have learned more from the tour than anyone else. Perhaps this has influenced her more than others will admit.

GELERT races back to the security of the setup. He zips back to help JACKIE prepare the dogs for the group competition.

INT. DUSK - ORLANDO RED LOBSTER RESTAURANT

Earlier, JACKIE and the CHIHUAHUA have won Best in Show. GELERT, JACKIE and some CLIENTS are eating out. It is a festive celebration. There is a lot of revelry.

Everyone at the table is feeling good... adrenaline, large bacon-wrapped shrimp and the euphoria after winning a dog show.

At the end of the meal, the owner of the Best in Show dog will pay but JACKIE will buy the deserts for everyone.

OWNER

Thank you so much Jackie. Best in Show this is far more than I expected.

(pause)

When I was a little girl a man told me Best in Show is a once in a life time thing.

(pause)

Thanks to you Jackie; now I have six.

JACKIE

You have a very nice dog.

OWNER

Well, thank you for what you do.

JACKIE

Oh, it is my pleasure. Not many handlers have such a lovely dog to walk

around the ring. Your dog makes us both
look good.

JACKIE motions with her eyes to GELERT, so he can have some
of the credit. There is an odd look on the OWNER's face. An
odd pause.

OWNER
Oh, you too Gelert. Thank you.

GELERT
(barely audible)
You are welcome.

JACKIE
The dog was groomed perfectly.

The WAITRESS brings the ticket. The OWNER reaches for the
check.

OWNER
(to waitress)
Here let me get that.

JACKIE
We are ALL having desert.
(to waitress)
Can I get the check for that separate?

They order desert. Some of the WOMEN (friends of the owner)
take only one or two bites. The WOMEN have an unwritten
code to waste food, especially desert. JACKIE and GELERT
share a desert. JACKIE asks for a large to-go box. She
doesn't have any food remaining but no on notices.

The WOMEN are excited about the win; they just want to
savor the celebration. They order coffee.

JACKIE and GELERT pass with the coffee and are happy with
the desert.

When the party get up to leave GELERT places all the
deserts in the to go box. There are 5 deserts with only a
few bites taken from them in the to-go box.

INT. JACKIE ARGENTINA'S RV - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

GELERT and JACKIE enter the RV. GELERT places the to-go box in the refrigerator.

JACKIE has won 100s of Best in Shows in 70 years, but she is still buzzed from her win. The celebration dinner is over and it has been hours since the end of the show, but JACKIE is talking 180 words per minute.

She is reorganizing the entire interior of the RV. She is in the kitchen area and has all the food out on the counter and she is replacing it in the cabinets and refrigerator.

GELERT

That doesn't need to be redone you know.

JACKIE

Yes, it does. I can't find anything if I don't keep it organized.

GELERT

That's funny. You do this every time you win a dog show. Are you going to be up until Midnight? Talking!

JACKIE

Not tonight honey.

JACKIE shows him her glass of whisky.

JACKIE places the last of the food into the cabinets and begins vacuuming.

EXT. JACKIE ARGENTINA'S RV - LATE NIGHT

Outside of the RV we see JACKIE's red jalapeno Christmas lights. The parking lot is quiet. The other RVs are quiet many of their "regular" Christmas lights are still on. The inside lights of the most of the other RVs are off.

JACKIE is inside. When GELERT appears at the door with a dog she returned it to the crate and she brings him a different dog.

There are four exercise pens set up outside the RV. GELERT, without a word, puts the dogs out in the exercise pens. They do their business and GELERT scoops up the feces and deposits it in the trash. He then returns the dog back to JACKIE inside the RV.

GELERT has a flask. He takes a shot of whisky while the dogs do their business. There are several dogs so he is slowly becoming muddled.

Inside the RV, JACKIE pauses vacuuming to take sips of whisky. She needs to calm down from her excited state.

JACKIE
(mentioning the dog)
This is the last one.

JACKIE hands the dog to GELERT and she exits the RV. She sits in a lawn chair. GELERT puts the dog in an X-pen and sits in his lawn chair.

EXT. JACKIE'S RV - LATE NIGHT

All of the RVs are dark. Now, most have turned off the Christmas light. JACKIE's RV however is bright. The inside lights are on. The outside lights are on and there are decorative jalapeno holiday lights everywhere. JACKIE and GELERT are still awake and the other handlers appear to be asleep.

JACKIE and GELERT are drinking whisky. They are in lawn chairs. They are almost drunk and almost philosophical.

JACKIE
There is a conflict tomorrow. I need
you to take a few dogs in.

She means "into the ring".

GELERT
(sarcastically)
Great. I will wear my best "only" suit.

JACKIE
You get paid. You can buy a different
suit.

GELERT
(sarcastically)
Jackie. I don't want a new suit.

JACKIE
No, you just want to complain.

GELERT
That's right.

JACKIE chuckles. There is a very long pause. GELERT and JACKIE drink whisky in silence. JACKIE is generally the party to break any silence but tonight it is GELERT.

GELERT
Today was a strange day.

JACKIE looks a bit worried. GELERT might have a legitimate complaint.

JACKIE
Why? We've won Best in Show before.
Plenty of times, buddy.

GELERT
I'm a small person.

JACKIE looks relieved.

JACKIE
Yes. But you have a big heart.

GELERT
I'm a small person who loves dogs.

JACKIE
That is something every important.
Where would we be without dogs?

GELERT
I had wonderful parents, who loved and
protected me.

JACKIE
I loved your parents.

GELERT
I miss them.

JACKIE
Me too.

Pause. GELERT contemplates what to say.

GELERT
(a bit depressed)
I'm happiest in the set-up. Grooming a dog.

JACKIE
Well, there will always be dog shows and you are a very talented man.

GELERT
I don't want to be a hermit.

JACKIE
Well, don't be a hermit.

GELERT
I only talk to you.

JACKIE
I heard you gave a really nice tour today. Carol said you did the best job of everyone.

GELERT
It wasn't hard. I was surprised.

JACKIE
I know what you need. You just need a "little lady".

GELERT
Does it have to be a "little" lady? You think?

GELERT turns to JACKIE. His face shows some despair.

JACKIE
(smiling)
You like Carol?

GELERT

I'm not saying Carol. Just in general.

JACKIE

I don't know her all that well but she is not married if that is what you are asking.

GELERT

Being a hermit isn't all that bad is it? I mean for me... right?

JACKIE

You can be a hermit if you want. It's really not up to me. Pity though.

GELERT

True.

JACKIE

I can't "make" you different. Lord, knows I've tried.

GELERT

You influence everything from where our setup is - to what puppies a breeder keeps. Why didn't you make me different?

JACKIE

I'm too old now to control anyone or anything. Twenty years ago I might have been able to help you with your problems.

GELERT

I worked for you 20 years ago.

JACKIE

And I've taken you to what 80 or 90 different cities, on three continents too.

GELERT

And every night (win or lose), we end up sitting in these chairs drinking whiskey.

JACKIE

And every day, we kick ass. Me in my way. You in a pitiful hermit sort of way.

There is a long odd pause.

GELERT

It's better this way, I think.
(pause)
What about you?

JACKIE

I'm old and my best friend is an employee and a hermit.
(pause)
I'm at the end of my career. My hips and knees are playing out. I can't do anything but toy breeds. It's a little embarrassing.

GELERT

You really going to retire?

JACKIE

No.

GELERT

You are really going to die at a dog show?

JACKIE doesn't respond. She is contemplating the end.

GELERT

In the ring? I've never seen that. I head about it happening once.

JACKIE

I hate television. Books aren't much better for me. I've been a handler for money for 70 years.

GELERT

How did that work back then? You were eight and got paid?

JACKIE

Back in the day, it was anything goes. It was perfectly okay. My dad took the money and handed me the dog.

GELERT

What was it?

JACKIE

A Saint Bernard.

GELERT

Taller than you?

JACKIE

Sure.

GELERT

I know the feeling.

JACKIE

It didn't bother me one bit. I got to show a dog.

GELERT

What was your father like?

JACKIE

He was a kennel man. He worked for an oilman, a multi millionaire.

(pause)

My older brother took off with his rodeo friends to ride bulls. My sister went to New York to be a dancer. I showed dogs with my daddy.

GELERT

You were close?

JACKIE

Yep.

GELERT
He was social?

JACKIE
He had an edge to him

GELERT
You have an edge on you too.

JACKIE
A few fistfights.

GELERT
Really? At dog shows? Over dog.

JACKIE
Over dogs, yes. But, in bars after the
show mostly.

GELERT
Well that doesn't really count then
does it?

JACKIE
But he knew people and they knew him,
everywhere we went.

At the dog shows, JACKIE knows everyone and knows rather a lot of information (some of it gossip). If she doesn't have lines in this film, she should be in the background talking to someone or on the cell phone.

GELERT tolerates JACKIE's social and combative nature because she enables him to have a career with dogs, the only job he would ever be able to love.

GELERT (like Finbar McBride in The Station Agent) is a man trying to live life on his own terms. Looking only to be left alone, he has taken up the dog show life - occasionally a new dog, always a different town and different judges. Everything else he expects to be the same. Same JACKIE and same RV, different parking lot each weekend.

JACKIE
This is really fine whisky.

GELERT

Yes, it is.

GELERT and JACKIE fall asleep in their reclining lawn chairs. It is FLORIDA and relatively warm even the week before Christmas.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - FRIDAY - EARLY MORNING

As always, the dogs are brought into the convention center. JACKIE and GELERT exhibit a few dogs.

People are buying coffee from the concession stand. GELERT and JACKIE have coffee made in the RV and it is in very large stainless steal mugs.

Friday, everything is normal until there is a rash of dog attacks on judges and handlers and finally on spectators.

We see a dog show JUDGE who is brought some coffee by one of the hospitality people. Many JUDGES and RING STEWARDS politely turn down the coffee and drink a canned soda. This particular JUDGE appreciates his coffee. Clearly judging from his reaction, he is a coffee aficionado.

The dog smells the JUDGE and cocks his head strangely. Something is wrong and the dog knows it. The CHOW CHOW attempts to bite a JUDGE. The JUDGE is attempting to check the teeth of the CHOW CHOW. The dog bites air and his teeth make a loud sound as they clack together. The JUDGE calmly points to the rings exit. The dog is marked "disqualified" in the judge's book.

They start out simple enough, a nip here and then a bite and then a mauling and then a serious mauling.

Later in the day, a MALINOIS smells the handler in front of him in the ring. The dog cocks his head strangely. Something is wrong and the dog knows it. The HANDLER in the BELGIAN MALINOIS ring is attacked by another exhibitors dog. The HANDLER is bitten on the arm and the dog is quickly pulled off.

JACKIE

Something is wrong.

(pause)

The Chow Chow, now the Malnois.

(pause)
This is odd.
(pause)
Is there a storm coming?

GELERT
Not that I know of. I listened to the weather. Nothing was said.

JACKIE
I have a bad feeling.

GELERT
You are right. I'm going to take every dog back to the RV.

JACKIE
Thank you!
(pause)
Leave my, baby.

JACKIE's CHIHUAHUA is about to be in the Toy Group competition.

GELERT begins to bring out the dogs to the grass and RV, one at a time. He returns to get other dogs. He observes a change in JACKIE. She isn't on the cell phone. She lets it go to voicemail. She isn't talking to anyone. She is sitting watching the dog show progress. She is clearly trying to reason what she has seen. GELERT notices that she is very worried.

Ring #1 to #4 are converted into one large ring for the groups and Best in Show. There is a lovely blue carpet down in rings #1 through #4. The staff vacuum it.

JACKIE and the CHIHUAHUA win the Toy group.

JACKIE returns to her setup. Again she is worried.

In the late afternoon, during the Working group competition. As the CANE CORSO is entering the ring, he stops looks at the RING STEWARD and takes a big whiff. The CORSO does not cock his head but stares intently. Something is wrong with the smell and the dog goes off like a rocket. The dog attacks the RING STEWARD. The coffee the steward has in hand goes flying. Yes, oddly he is drinking coffee

at 4 in the afternoon. After all, it is America's legitimate addiction.

No one is able to pull the powerful dog off the man. Several MEN and a CAROL grab the leather and chain lead. The dog has the strength of ten men and there is only room for four men on the short lead. There is a point in the tug of war where if they can pull the dog off the RING STEWARD, he might survive, but the chain breaks and the man is doomed.

JACKIE's set up is approximately 30 yards from the ring entrance.

JACKIE opens the CHIHUAHUA'S crate door and takes the dog out. The dog looks concerned in the direction of the mauling. He barks a few times then growls and wiggles to get loose.

JACKIE

Get this dog in the RV, right now!

(pause)

Hold him tight. He wants to go fight.

GELERT glances over his shoulder at the mauling that is still going on. A handler has a folding metal chair and is slamming it into the dog, with absolutely no effect. GELERT acts. GELERT takes the CHIHUAHUA tightly into his arms.

JACKIE

(pointing)

Out the back and around.

(calmly)

Be calm, like nothing is happening.

(matter of fact)

This is a very valuable dog.

After she hands the CHIHUAHUA to GELERT, he nods seriously (bravely) and leaves the building in the direction JACKIE has suggested. JACKIE reaches into the bottom of her purse and produces a very large pistol. For a woman of 78, it is oversized. But JACKIE wasn't always 78 and she has always been from Texas.

The pistol might take up half her purse; it is that large.

JACKIE looks at it and hesitates only a fraction of a second. She takes one decisive step toward the mauling and we suddenly hear gunfire. Two shots. The mauling ends abruptly.

A man has also produced a pistol and has killed the CANE CORSO. Several bystanders try to stop the RING STEWARD's bleeding. There is so much blood on the towels and on the carpet and floor it is doubtful the man will survive.

JACKIE places her pistol back in her purse. She glances around to see if anyone has been watching her. Of course everyone is watching what is going on at the ring.

An ambulance comes to take the RING STEWARD to a hospital or morgue; it is a crime scene for several hours. The police and police photographers come.

AKC REPRESENTATIVE
(public address system)

I would like to remind everyone that all dogs are required to be vaccinated in accordance with their veterinarian's protocol (including rabies vaccination) in order to avoid inadvertent transmission of illness. This is an AKC rule section four, rule two. It is published in the premium list.

The audience is mesmerized by the police work for a time. Watching it all. However, after several hours the police work becomes monotonous and they leave. The hall is seriously empty.

A veterinarian arrives and with the handler and several other men, they cart the dead CANE CORSO away. Everyone is VERY somber. The few who speak are whispering.

The blue carpet around the ring entrance is blood soaked and will NOT be used for any television broadcast ever again.

Most of the other exhibitors retire to their RVs. There are very few Working Group Best of Breed winners who are waiting in their set ups.

GELERT returns to the grooming area.

JACKIE
Did you lock my baby up?

GELERT
The RV is locked. Alarm is on.

JACKIE
Good. Thank you.

From a distance, JACKIE and GELERT are watching the police work, the SUPERINTENDENT's table, the AKC representative's table. JACKIE is silent; her purse is sitting in her lap. It looks odd but given the circumstances many in the hall have been shaken. GELERT is silent and observes JACKIE as much as he does the convention center. He is looking to her for a clue.

The dog show SUPERINTENDENT has been on the phone for the last hour; eventually he springs to action and walks past near JACKIE and GELERT.

SUPERINTENDENT
(to cell phone)
No, the carpet is totally soaked.
Ruined.

The SUPERINTENDENT arranges to complete the dog show by moving the competition to the rings at the extreme other end of the hall.

Rings #21 and #22 are converted into a large ring. There is an announcement over the PA system.

SUPERINTENDENT
We are now ready to resume the dog show. Will all Working Group competitors report to ring #22.

Slowly eight handlers emerge from the setup and grooming area. They are hesitant and keep glancing left, right, behind them and at the police work at the other end of the hall.

Where four hours ago, there were 30 Best of Breed winners ready to enter the Working Group competition, now there are eight. The other owners and handlers have retired.

They have expensive dogs and felt it is better to sit out the rest of this dog show.

They plan to have the competitions necessary to finish the dog show. Everyone is very silent, a bit paranoid. Everyone is very alert. There are perhaps 100 people ring side where there normally would be 1000s.

And then the other groups have their competition.

And finally it is time for Best in Show.

Earlier in the film we saw a Best in Show competition and it was festive. This one is not so festive but apprehensive.

The JUDGE pulls out a BULLDOG and JACKIE'S CHIHUAHUA. The JUDGE examines each dog more carefully. There is a bit of drama on top of what has already happened.

The BULLDOG wins Best in Show. The CHIHUAHUA wins reserve.

JACKIE smiles and waves at the WINNING HANDLER rather than shaking hands. She is afraid the BULLDOG might bite her or her CHIHUAHUA. The maulings have everyone on edge and extra careful.

The BULLDOG is calm enough, actually jolly, but the CHIHUAHUA is being antagonistic.

JACKIE
(keeping her distance)
Congratulations!

The OTHER HANDLERS do the same. They voice their congratulations. They don't get anywhere near the dogs or each other. There is good sportsmanship but at an arm or two arm's distance.

INT. JACKIE'S RV - FRIDAY 11:30 PM - NIGHT

JACKIE and GELERT sit out on their recliner lawn chairs. It is dark and almost every RVs lights are off; there is an eerie aura about the parking lot. There is rather a lot of barking compared to the previous night.

They are listening to far off cries. There are gunshots in the far distance. There are police sirens all around them.

JACKIE is calling her clients and telling them the results of the day.

JACKIE

Well I wanted to let you know your boy was Best of Opposite Sex today.

(pause)

Well, really all the best dogs are here. But he deserved that. Its great. We will try again tomorrow.

(pause)

No, really? There is some of that here too. Riots or something. Who knows?

(pause)

We are perfectly safe. I have my pistol, I have a temper and I'm a damn good aim. No one is going to hurt any dog under my care.

(pause)

Okay, bye dear. Talk to you tomorrow.

There is a long pause. JACKIE takes a drink from the flask and then hands it back.

JACKIE

That was the Papillon client in Los Angeles. There are riots there too.

JACKIE and GELERT sit and listen to all the action off in the distance and don't speak.

JACKIE has her purse on the ground beside her chair. She glances at it often to make sure it is still there.

After a time, a man staggers by their rig walking a WIRE FOX TERRIER. The man is incoherent and walks with a zombie-like limp. JACKIE and GELERT recognize him.

JACKIE

That is Michael.

GELERT

He is drunk.

JACKIE

I guess so.

A few minutes later, they hear automatic gunfire.

JACKIE

That is it. I've had it; I'm going inside!

They leave their lawn chairs and hit the door almost at the same time. They bump into each other trying to get inside. Finally, they both back off and offer the other a chance at sanctuary. There is more automatic gunfire and it is nearer to them. Finally, JACKIE lumbers up the stairs into the RV and GELERT is right behind him.

JACKIE

All the dogs inside?

GELERT

Are you kidding? They have all been inside since... well the working group.

JACKIE

So they are all okay? Are you sure?

GELERT

Yes.

JACKIE

We are okay then.

JACKIE moves to lock the door of the RV.

They sit and listen to the radio.

RADIO

Tensions reached a boiling point Friday night following police shootings that have left 15 people dead. The violence began without cause.

(pause)

Across the nation, Police officers from almost every major city are reporting rioting, looting and street violence. Just how many shooting have taken place can't be known at this moment.

(pause)

Here in Orlando, Friday evening, a strong police presence became necessary after violence and looting were reported in the downtown area. Also, witnesses say tensions began rising at the intersection of Destination and Universal around 8:30 p.m. In response Orlando police called in an extra 30 officers as well as 60 officers from surrounding jurisdictions.

(pause)

Breaking News... I've just been informed that the Mayor of Orlando has just ordered a curfew for the City from now until 8 am tomorrow morning.

(pause)

Stay tuned for an update on a shooting at the Amway Center in downtown Orlando.

INT. JACKIE'S RV - SATURDAY 5:03 AM - DAWN

Later, the radio is still on. The noises of mayhem outside are still obvious. But JACKIE and GELERT are asleep. JACKIE is sleeping clinching her purse. GELERT is sleeping with the arm off a grooming table. Every once in a while one of the toy dogs in the RV bark. However, everyone is exhausted, the dogs included. Even the dogs are too tired to bark.

GELERT looks in the refrigerator. Presumably he is about to get the deserts out for breakfast. The to-go box is there. He glances to the back of the rig. JACKIE is still asleep.

There is a knocking or a pawing at the door. It seems human but it isn't quite. It could be a very large dog. JACKIE slowly awakes.

JACKIE turns the radio off, so she can determine who is at the door. JACKIE reaches into her purse.

JACKIE

Who is it?

There is more pawing at the door. JACKIE takes out her pistol and aims it at the door.

JACKIE

Who is it? I'm about to blow your head off.

There is nothing. No sound.

JACKIE

Get the hell away from my rig. I have a gun.

The clock reads 5:14 AM. The night is almost over.

JACKIE

Who in the hell was that?

GELERT creeps to the window. Almost every dog in the RV awakes and begins barking incessantly, as if they are protecting GELERT. Though the window, he sees the backside of the petite BLONDE HANDLER and her bright yellow dress. She also looks drunk, lost and walks with a zombie like limp.

GELERT

That's strange. It's that blonde chick that works for Aaron. She's drunk too.

JACKIE

God, I need some coffee. You want some.

GELERT pulls out his whisky flask. And he sets it on the counter.

GELERT

Of course.

JACKIE makes some coffee. GELERT looks out the window. The rigs are still there. But there aren't any people milling about and no one is exercising their dogs. In the distance, several fires are burning - hotels and condos near the convention center. We heard distant fire, ambulance and police sirens.

JACKIE

I've never in my entire life seen something like that.

(pause)

Weird. Very weird.

GELERT

It's bad. Really bad. Not just the dog show... That hotel over there is on fire and one of the condos, it's burning.

JACKIE turns on the radio again.

RADIO

This is a test of the Emergency Broadcast System. If this had been an actual emergency, the attention signal you just heard would have been followed by official information, news, or instructions.

The message begins to repeat itself. It is the TEST message... and contains no evacuation or other instructions.

There is a long pause.

JACKIE and GELERT drink coffee and whisky. They stand and think. Occasionally, GELERT looks out the window. JACKIE refuses to look.

JACKIE

Do you know what is going on?

GELERT

They play that all the time.

JACKIE

Why are they playing "the test"?
Clearly an emergency is going on.

(pause)

I'm about to go find the AKC rep. This is getting ridiculous.

GELERT

Okay.

JACKIE

Let's go inside.

(pause)

Are you ready.

GELERT
(matter of fact)

No.

EXT. PARKING LOT - SATURDAY 6:03 AM - DAWN

JACKIE and GELERT, slowly and cautiously, leave the RV and get on the scooter. They ride though a desolate parking area. The combined weight is a burden on the electric motor but neither are going to step off the scooter. Everything in the parking lot seems normal, except the lack of people. The vehicles aren't moved or burning. Several blinds move as the other handlers watch them from inside their RVs.

Suddenly, JACKIE must swerve to miss a loose GREYHOUND who has darted in front of the scooter. GELERT sees that he is going to fall off the scooter and so he jumps. JACKIE progresses in the scooter 25 feet before stopping. She looks back. GELERT is not injured. But he is looking a ROTTWEILER straight in the face. The dog slowly nears to within inches of GELERT; it looks as if the dog could kill GELERT in a mere fraction of second. GELERT does not breathe. The ROTTWEILER smells of GELERT and then loses interest. The dog runs off in the direction of the greyhound. It looks as if, the GREYHOUND sees something in the distance. GELERT is very relieved and runs to JACKIE as she is backing up to retrieve him.

Several dogs are on the loose in the parking lot. Many are dragging their show leads. There aren't any people.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - SATURDAY 6:13 AM - DAWN

Inside the hall, there are six or seven people standing about, drinking coffee and eating donuts. There is no one at the SUPERINTENDENT's table. No one is at the club table. There are three of the 23 RING STEWARDS there. Six of fifty vendors are open.

In the Best in Show ring, over the bloodstain on the carpet, there is a 8' by 8' white tent, with blue tarps hanging from the side. It was an ad hoc solution the previous night. The ring entrance was move to the other end of the ring. Things are not normal but it might look like they will televise a dog show there today.

From the other end of the hall, emerges the AKC REPRESENTATIVE. She is tall, too tall. She was a model... not just a model, a runway model. And she is not only blonde she is really blonde. She was a professional handler when her modeling career was over and now she is supervising dog shows.

She is in her best outfit... when EVERY outfit she owned is spectacular. She walks confidently as if nothing had happened the night before and nothing odd was going to happen today.

AKC REPRESENTATIVE

Where are your dogs, Jackie? We are having a dog show in ...

She looks at her watch.

AKC REPRESENTATIVE

... a little under two hours.

(overly optimistic)

I know you Jackie and that is a lot of dogs to groom so you better get started!

Sometimes what is NOT on the screen, tells us more than what IS included. Note that JACKIE has not even considered leaving. It isn't even discussed. With two dog shows remaining and one to be televised, no one has left the show. It is Saturday morning and JACKIE and GELERT, despite everything, are entering the convention center.

JACKIE pauses speechless. She looks around. There are very few people around and she can count at least 5 loose dogs, crate doors left open. Several of the setup have tables and crates dumped over.

AKC REPRESENTATIVE

(still optimistic)

Don't worry they will be here.

Things are a little weird, but the AKC REP is optimistic that the show will take place.

AKC REPRESENTATIVE

I've talked to New York and they say we are having a show. The television

people are here and like I said we are
having a show!

There is one television CAMERAMAN sitting in a chair behind a camera. His eyes are blood shot and puffy. He has a blank look in his eyes. He looks like a chronic alcoholic on heroin. But he is there and the camera is pointing to inside a ring.

More lights in the building come on. JACKIE and GELERT turn and return to the rig on the scooter.

JACKIE and GELERT, looking worried, go through the routine. JACKIE takes a shower and gets dressed. GELERT exercises the dogs and brings the dogs into the coliseum. GELERT is almost done bringing in the dogs when he notices that the trashcan isn't full of dog shit in white bags. In fact, he looks inside the trash and learns it isn't even 1/4th full.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - SATURDAY 7:43 AM - DAWN

JACKIE brings in the last dog. It is such a routine. They get inside with all their dogs before they notice there are only perhaps 100 exhibitors in the building.

JACKIE notices the LARGE BREED HANDLER is there with his dogs already exercised and already in the building.

A 6 month old MALTESE puppy, at his first dog show, is loose and cautiously approaches the CAMERAMAN. The CAMERAMAN is wearing shorts. The puppy is pure white and there isn't a stain of anything on its coat. The young MALTESE sniffs at the leg of the CAMERAMAN. The dog flies into the leg like a ham bone. The CAMERAMAN does not flinch. After a time, the blood from the leg wound stains the front half of the white dog. The CAMERAMAN is ZOMBIE like and catatonic.

The MALTESE only attracts the attention of the heavy hitters. A GERMAN SHEPARD, a DOBERMAN and an ALASKAN MALAMUTE, who have been rooming the hall as a pack, notice. They race past JACKIE and GELERT and lay into the CAMERAMAN.

At this point the film becomes a full-fledged "see ZOMBIES get chewed" apocalyptic film.

Many people are not much on zombie movies or thriller films with blood and gore; I will add very little descriptive text about the carnage, and I will leave that for the director to (possibly) up that aspect to attract the "zombie" addict. However, this is a story about dogs... ZOMBIES just happen to be part of it.

Also zombie movies aren't mindless expressions of violence. The good zombie movies have a message for humanity. Characters are always looking for a safe place... but they are also looking to bring with them something of value from humanity. In this film, the characters are bringing with them pure-bred dogs (the work of 10,000 or more years). It is the character's effort to preserve something of value at the end of the world. What they chose to save tells us something. This is the zombie story.

This CAMERAMAN is the first ZOMBIE like creature. The infected individuals previously (attacked by dogs) have been something between a zombie and a drunk. After the CAMERAMAN, they become easily recognized ZOMBIES.

Suddenly all hell breaks loose and there is a huge panic in the exhibition hall. It is mostly empty but a few of the HUMANS begin to show the traditional ZOMBIE symptoms. The barking of the few hundred dogs in the building is deafening.

ZOMBIES appear suddenly and JACKIE finds herself surrounded. She pulls out the pistol and pops off five rounds, all headshots. She is an expert marksman, but now she is out of bullets. There are a few bullets in the bottom of her purse, but it will take time to find them and load them.

There are increasingly more ZOMBIES.

CUT TO...

INT. AMWAY CENTER - MORNING

All night last night, inside the Amway Center, there is mayhem. It is a zombie blood bath. While it is only a few seconds of the film, we get the idea the ZOMBIES are winning. Soon there will be 20,000 ZOMBIES on the streets of Orlando. The police and managers of the facility manage to lock the exit doors. But the ZOMBIES are pounding on the

windows and searching for an exit. Eventually they will escape to the streets in one huge mob.

BACK TO...

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - SATURDAY 7:58 AM - DAWN

JACKIE is in a panic to leave!

JACKIE
(to Gelert)
Get my dogs to the rig!

JACKIE loads the pistol again and decapitates six ZOMBIES. She digs in her purse and pours it out on a grooming table. There are only three more bullets.

There is a small wagon/cart there that will take perhaps 4 crates at the time. GELERT begins loading crates on the cart. But this method is very slow and not mechanized.

GELERT sights the stretch limo-golf-cart making a beeline for them. CAROL, the woman who drove the dog show tours, is driving.

CAROL runs over two ZOMBIES on the way to the setup.

CAROL slams on the brakes and gets out. She is chased by a ZOMBIE.

GELERT reaches for the arm off a grooming table. He trips the ZOMBIE following the CAROL and then he beats the ZOMBIE about the head.

CAROL and GELERT with JACKIE load the golf-cart.

Now remember JACKIE is 78 and her heart is pumping 110% at the moment. She has a large caliber revolver in one hand and she picks up a crate with a ten pound dog in it. JACKIE puts the crate on the golf-cart. They load the golf-cart with 21 or the 22 crates.

There is one crate that will not fit. It is the crate with JACKIE's winning CHIHUAHUA.

GELERT

Double up? Throw him in with another dog.

JACKIE

No, I got this one.

JACKIE nods to her electric scooter. JACKIE mounts the scooter. It is a two person ride. She has the small crate by her side. She is driving with one hand and she has the revolver in the other hand.

CAROL and GELERT mount the golf-cart. CAROL is driving and GELERT is on the passenger side with the metal grooming arm. As they drive, GELERT clocks several ZOMBIES.

GELERT exhibits bravery and physical strength in the fight. The golf-cart is stopped once after striking an obese ZOMBIE, which stops the golf-cart's progress. When the golf-cart is stopped, GELERT is attacked by a ZOMBIE. Near a setup, GELERT takes a hair dryer hose, ties the ZOMBIE to a grooming table and then puts the end of the hose down the ZOMBIES throat. GELERT turns it on.

JACKIE shots a ZOMBIE at GELERT's back as he pushes the golf-cart off the obese ZOMBIE. Meanwhile, JACKIE is about to have a ZOMBIE attack her from behind. But the GREAT DANE, she delivered to the show, knocks the ZOMBIE over and chews off his face to save her. Don't forget this is now a ZOMBIE movie!!!

JACKIE waves appreciatively at the LARGE BREED HANDLER. The LARGE BREED HANDLER is then attacked by a ZOMBIE, killed and eaten.

CAROL puts the golf-cart into forward and is back on the path to the RV when the air-dried ZOMBIE explodes.

JACKIE exhibits skill at driving her scooter, but also a great deal of luck in reaching the rig. She follows GELERT in the golf-cart. She weaves in and out of obstacles and ZOMBIES. She shots a ZOMBIE in the face and is now left with one bullet.

Through a mass of confusion and violent attacks, CAROL, JACKIE and GELERT manage to reach the safety of the rig with the dogs.

AKC REPRESENTATIVE

Attention. Attention, please. It is with great regret but I'm afraid to say that the Saturday dog show is canceled. We will let you know as soon as possible about the Sunday show.

The tall blonde AKC REPRESENTATIVE is attacked and eaten by several ZOMBIES.

EXT. PARKING LOT - SATURDAY 8:23 AM - MORNING

The golf-cart pulls up in front of the RV. The movement and noise attracts some ZOMBIES who begin making their way in that direction. For a 78 year old woman, JACKIE moves quickly up the stairs into the RV, the crate and CHIHUAHUA in one hand and the pistol in the other. She runs back to the bedroom in the back... there is a drawer and is full of ammunition - 1000s of rounds. That is a bit odd, but this is JACKIE's character. She grabs two boxes of ammo and returns to the parking lot.

CAROL and GELERT load the dogs into the RV. JACKIE shots 20 or so ZOMBIES. In fact, she becomes tired and sits in one of the lawn chairs and fires on them as they draw near. She stacks them up like firewood.

CAROL

(to Gelert)

We have to hurry.

JACKIE is having fun shooting. After exhibiting dogs, firing weapons might be her second passion.

JACKIE

Hey, I got this! Take your time!

When the dogs are loaded, they all enter the RV and lock the door.

GELERT looks out the window; he sees something odd for a zombie movie. The ZOMBIES are dragging off their dead.

INT. JACKIE'S RV - SATURDAY 9:43 AM - MORNING

While JACKIE, CAROL and GELERT were making their escape; other people return to their rigs and hotels and begin to watch the news. GELERT sees a RIG with a TV on inside it. The window blinds aren't closed.

JACKIE and GELERT have only a radio and the information is pretty much worthless.

RADIO

Civil authorities in your area have reported mass upheaval and anarchy. Citizens are advised to remain in their homes until further advised. The governors of several states have activated national guard units and they will be arriving soon. Do not attempt to approach or apprehend any anarchist, as they are extremely dangerous. This has been a message of the Emergency Broadcast System.

GELERT

I'm going down to the luxury RV. Two rigs down. There is a TV on in there.

There is a pawing at the door. JACKIE reaches for her gun and aims it at the door. This is different than the pawing at the door before. We hear a strange whine outside.

GELERT doesn't he looks out the window. GELERT smiles a bit and opens the door. It is the GREAT DANE. He wants in.

GELERT

Don't shot. It's the Dane.

GELERT doesn't allow the dog inside. GELERT exist the RV and they make their way to the luxury RV.

EXT. JACKIE'S RV - SATURDAY 9:43 AM - MORNING

The GREAT DANE licks him on the face and jumps around excitedly. It appears that the dog has adopted GELERT.

GELERT

God you taste like Zombie!

(pause)

Have you been eating zombies?

(laughing)
Bad boy.
(joking)
Did you just infect me because it
smells like you did!

The dog is oblivious to the "bad boy" comments. He wiggles and dances happy to see GELERT. The dog gives out a happy howl.

GELERT and the DANE walk in the direction of the largest RV. It looks as if they have two TVs (different channels) on inside.

INT. IRISH TERRIER'S RV - SATURDAY 9:53 AM - MORNING

GELERT knocks but he finds the door unlocked. The TV is on, of course, but the RV is empty. The interior is similar to JACKIE'S RV but nicer; there are seven or eight terriers in crates inside. The GREAT DANE travels to each crate smelling and surveying the dogs. GELERT sits with the remote control and watches television.

It is national news, so there is nothing about the dog show or Miami on television. The missing owner has an 18" dish and there isn't any local news.

TELEVISION

The nation's capital is paralyzed and trading on Wall Street will be suspended for today and Monday. Governments around the world have declared martial law to deal with the crisis.

(pause)

Please note that there is massive loss of life. It appears to be a world-wide near extinction event. The fate of man on this planet is in jeopardy.

The GREAT DANE returns from his tour of the RV and lays over GELERT on the couch. The DANE is blocking his view. GELERT tries push the DANE out of the way. Finally GELERT wiggles from under the dog. GELERT then lies on the floor to watch TV as the dog is occupying the entire couch. The dog looks down at him curious, but the DANE is comfortable on his couch.

TELEVISION

Center for Disease Control scientist Timothy Voytek, an assistant professor in the department of psychology at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Bradley Verstynen, assistant professor of cognitive science and neuroscience at the University of California, San Diego, summarised characteristic anarchist behaviour seen since the global pandemic first began two days ago in Columbia. The best we can do to explain the phenomenon is by looking at the structure of the brain.

On the television, there is a CAT scan of two brains... they are radically different. One is labelled NORMAL and the other is labelled ANARCHIST.

VOYTEK

(on television)

We have dubbed the condition "Conscious Deficit Hypoactivity Disorder", or CDHD, which they describe as an acquired syndrome in which those who are infected by necro mortosis lack control over their actions. The undead display symptoms such as lethargic movement, loss of pleasure, language dysfunction, amnesia and the inability to suppress hunger and aggression.

VERSTYNEN

(on television)

A virus (spread through the coffee) has infected the populations in all 50 states and 7 of the 8 territories. Scientists have argued that the virus has been alive since a meteor exploded above Columbia two months ago. The effects were slow to be seen; in fact it wasn't until yesterday (28 days after) that we saw the first reports of any ill effects from the meteor.

INT. IRISH TERRIER'S RV - SATURDAY 10:53 AM - MORNING

The GREAT DANE wakes and growls. GELERT grabs his grooming arm. A few seconds later, JACKIE and the CAROL enter the RV.

For the last hour, GELERT has been watching TV and the DANE has been asleep. The DANE gives one sharp bark. The DANE looks at JACKIE and the CAROL and puts his head to rest again.

JACKIE
What is going on here?

GELERT
Television. He has a dish.

JACKIE
I can see that.

There is a second TV on in the back of the RV.

GELERT
Two channels at a time. We should get one of these.

JACKIE
It's an idiot box!

CAROL
Why didn't you come back?

GELERT shrugs.

CAROL
I was worried sick.

GELERT
Really. Gee...

JACKIE
You can't do stuff like this anymore.

GELERT
It's the coffee.

JACKIE
No shit Sherlock. That was on the
radio.

GELERT
They showed two brains... CAT scans.

CAROL turns and watches the television.

CAROL
Really? How did they do that?

JACKIE
We have seven guns. Not counting my
personal weapon.

GELERT
Really you went through that many rigs?

JACKIE
No not really, most of them were in
Aaron's rig. Five. Some are pretty nice
too.

GELERT raises his eyebrow at that number.

GELERT
There are seven Irish Terriers in this
rig. Two empty crates.

JACKIE
All these dogs need to be taken out and
exercised.

They turn to leave and we see a young boy, PETER (13)
standing in the open doorway. He has been watching them.

PETER
You guys are in my rig.

JACKIE
Your parents?

PETER
Turned into those... whatever.

JACKIE

Okay, you are with us. Take care of your dogs and we will be back to check on you.

(pause)

You need a gun if you are going to exercise your dogs.

PETER shrugs.

JACKIE

How old are you?

PETER

Thirteen.

JACKIE

Are those your exercise pens?

PETER

Yes.

JACKIE

Where do they go?

PETER

Under there...

PETER gestures to a space under the RV.

JACKIE

Can you put them in there?

PETER

Sure.

JACKIE

(to Carol)

Pull his rig over by ours. Forget parking it in a space. Just so we can see each other.

JACKIE is less than compassionate. She is all business and is clearly in survival mode. The GREAT DANE, GELERT and JACKIE walk back to JACKIE's rig.

CAROL
(to the boy)
You on board for this?
(pause)
I mean this is your stuff and your
dogs.

PETER
Well I don't want to be alone. And I
can't drive. My sister is at home
watching the other dogs.

CAROL hesitates and thinks...

CAROL
Well that is okay. You are with team
Jackie. And I will teach you to drive.
That is what I do you know. I teach
teenagers how to drive.

PETER
I hope you have insurance with that
job.

CAROL
That's funny. I like that.
(pause)
You are going to fit in really good
around here.

CAROL unblocks the tires. Walks around the RV once. The BOY
loads the X-pens into a compartment under the RV.

CAROL
After you have been parked a few days
like this, always walk around the rig
before taking off. Hoses, electric
plug-ins. So you don't forget to
disconnect. You know?

The boy smiles and nods yes. He figure that he is finally
going to learn to drive. They move the RV the short
distance to JACKIE's RV.

INT. JACKIE'S RV - SATURDAY 6:43 PM - MORNING

The sun is setting. The lawn chairs are empty. There is sporadic gunfire in the distance. JACKIE and GELERT are on the floor of the RV. The lights inside the RV are off.

GELERT

So why don't you want to retire and judge?

JACKIE

Too much politics. And I'm too late. I should have done that 20 years ago.

GELERT

Why late?

JACKIE

I can't be a judge because, I can't remember who's ass I have to kiss on what day.

GELERT

And you call me cynical?

(pause)

Baby, you are the queen of cynical.

JACKIE

It is an act. I believe in what we are doing.

GELERT

See, if you were a judge you could be a straight shooter. Turn the whole thing upside down.

JACKIE

You are dreaming.

A spent bullet strikes the top of the RV.

GELERT

What was that?

JACKIE

A spent bullet.

GELERT

What is that?

JACKIE
It fell. Probably hit the roof.

GELERT
If you were a judge, we be in one of
the hotels.

JACKIE
Yes, probably the one still burning
across the street.

GELERT
Is it really still burning?

Later, we see JACKIE and GELERT pigging out on the deserts
from the restaurant. They sit and eat... they say nothing.

INT. AMWAY CENTER - NIGHT

Still inside the Amway Center, there is mayhem.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER PARKING LOT - SUNDAY - MORNING

The television broadcast truck is exactly where it was
Friday. There is no automobile traffic and there are no
dogs being walked into the hall. Sunday morning is quiet,
more than half of the exhibitors are likely ZOMBIES; some
are going to be ZOMBIES soon.

JACKIE sits on the edge of her bed in her night clothes for
a very long time. She is contemplating various courses.

JACKIE and GELERT are survivors and are physically okay.
The previous night JACKIE was locked in her fortress of a
vehicle with a pistol but she didn't sleep well.

Once JACKIE has made up her mind, she is resolute.

JACKIE showers and gets dressed as if there were going to
be a dog show. Everything is normal until she steps out of
the RV.

JACKIE emerges the next morning to a new desolate world.
Her back and neck hurts. She looks a bit worn out but she
wants to get inside the hall to look around.

JACKIE's world has fallen apart; she was Reserve Best in Show at what might be humanity's last dog show. Now death and dying are everywhere and at her weekend home (the convention center); she looks extremely pale. She is quiet and says not a word. The ZOMBIES she shot last night have disappeared.

GELERT is much less affected and actually begins his day like any other, taking care of the dogs. It might be the end of the world, but the dogs still warrant his attention. GELERT exercises the dogs and then puts them back in the RV, just like every other morning.

GELERT and the toy dog's in his care are safe, as the GREAT DANE is never more than a few feet away. Several people or ZOMBIES, it isn't clear, are at the far end of the parking lot. The DANE alert barks at them. GELERT looks up...

GELERT
Good boy. It's alright.

PETER is out early exercising his Irish Terriers. He has left the door to his RV open. GELERT can see CAROL inside sleeping soundly on the couch.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - SUNDAY - MORNING

JACKIE gets on her electric scooter and zooms around the nearly deserted arena. She must dodge and outrun ZOMBIES as she drives around the coliseum. The dogs are unaffected by the virus; many dogs are still crated and some are just wondering around, attacking and barking at Zombies.

The herding dogs have gathered about ten ZOMBIES into a corner of the coliseum. These are a harmless sort of ZOMBIE, they aren't hungry at the moment.

There are several GOLDEN RETRIEVERS still on their grooming tables obediently waiting for their grooming to be finished. There are several dogs who have been on the table more than 24 hours.

At this point, there are almost 20 YOUNG PEOPLE alive and normal. With their hotels on fire, some have slept in the coliseum. Some have slept in their family RVs and have ventured into the coliseum, like JACKIE.

Most of the YOUNG PEOPLE are physically unaffected. The adults have for the most part been infected by the coffee and also they have tried to fight with the ZOMBIES and have been also infected. The YOUNG PEOPLE typically have hidden.

One small girl, TONI (5) five years old, emerges from inside a crate. She had crawled into the crate to sleep with the family's ALASKAN MALAMUTE. TONI and the MALAMUTE emerge from the crate and move slowly toward JACKIE.

JACKIE, GELERT, CAROL, PETER and many of the YOUNG PEOPLE, who have hidden, seem to be the only humans left in the area.

There are SHEPARD, GUARD and MASTIFF breeds devouring Zombies left and right. There is a TOY POODLE chewing the toe off a zombie.

JACKIE zooms past the hospitality desk. She drives past the club's table; there are huge rosettes and even larger trophies unclaimed. She looks at the superintendent's desk; the group orders are still up from Friday. There isn't anyone anywhere.

In the panic from the previous night, Jackie has left her scooter uncharged. It dies as GELERT, CAROL and PETER enter the hall on the stretch-limo golf-cart. JACKIE aims her scooter to a wall outlet; it slowly arrives there and she plugs it into the wall in the arena to charge and she begins walking toward her set up.

Something, however is wrong with JACKIE, she can't walk anymore. Her knees and hips were bad to start with. After three days of this stress, it appears she can't make it to the set up. It's her heart. She sits down on a folding chair next to an empty ring. She looks to the left and there are a long line of empty rings. She looks to the right and it is the same. She is ringside at a dog less dog show.

TONI and the ALASKAN MALAMUTE are the first to arrive to JACKIE's location.

JACKIE

Come on over. It is okay.

(pause)

I'm Jackie; what is your name?

TONI
Toni; I'm five.

JACKIE
My! What a wonderful dog. I've seen him
show. What's his name?

TONI
Fairbanks.

JACKIE
You slept with Fairbanks last night?

TONI nods yes. JACKIE looks over at TONI's set up. It looks
like there are two other MALAMUTES in crates waiting.

The golf-cart stops at the hospitality desk. CAROL grabs
some oranges and bananas and some bottles of water. PETER
takes some donuts and soda. GELERT just sits; from a
distance, he is watching JACKIE and the young girl.

JACKIE
(gesturing to Toni's setup)
Over there?

TONI
Yes.

JACKIE
How many Malamutes do you have?

TONI
(shrugs)
I don't know. At home?

JACKIE
Some are at home?

TONI
Yes.

JACKIE
Who is watching them?

TONI
Uncle Neal.

JACKIE

Okay, don't worry. We will go get your dogs and make sure they are safe.

(pause)

Can you do me a big favor? Go over there to the table and bring me a catalogue. That big fat book.

TONI brings JACKIE the catalogue.

JACKIE

Thank you!

(pause)

What is your full name?

TONI

Toni Elizabeth McGinnis.

GELERT, CAROL and PETER with an IRISH TERRIER and the GREAT DANE arrive where JACKIE and TONI are. They wait in the golf-cart. CAROL peels an orange and hands half of it to GELERT.

JACKIE is reading the catalogue listings for MALAMUTES.

JACKIE

You live in Chattanooga Tennessee?

TONI nods yes.

EVERYONE sits. There is a long silence. Everyone seems fixed on a certain part of the building. JACKIE is looking at the tent put up over the blood spot on the carpet. GELERT is looking at JACKIE's set up. CAROL is looking at the two day old doughnuts, complementary fruit, soda and coffee at her hospitality table.

JACKIE

Carol, can you do two things for me today? Teach Peter to drive and find Toni's RV. Tennessee plates. Malamutes.

CAROL

(to Peter)

We can do that. Sure!

JACKIE

Peter, can you tell all these young people your age to come see me.

(to Carol)

Can I drive the golf-cart?

CAROL

Good idea!

CAROL moves over and PETER gets behind the wheel.

JACKIE

Gelert, stay here please.

GELERT dismounts the golf-cart. CAROL points to some basic controls and the golf-cart slowly moves off.

JACKIE

Toni, can you and Fairbanks sit here for a minute?

GELERT sits next to JACKIE in the ringside seating.

JACKIE

We are in a lot of trouble here.

GELERT

Tell me about it.

JACKIE

First take care of our dogs. They didn't eat yesterday. You watered them?

GELERT

They need to be fed, yes. All these dogs need fed.

JACKIE

Never in my entire life, have my dogs missed a day of food. This is horrible.

GELERT

I'm on it.

JACKIE

Our dogs first.

(pause)

Oh, first go help TONI feed the Malamutes.

(to Toni)

Toni, this is Gelert. Can you show him how to feed your dogs?

TONI gets up. She takes GELERT's hand and they walk toward the two crated MALAMUTES. GELERT is still looking around nervously. He scans the hall. He spots the Purina Pro Club booth. Behind the counter and at the side are almost 100 large bags of dog food.

While he is looking in the direction of the Purina table, TONI has opened her dog food bag and dipped a bowl inside. For a five year old girl, she is very able.

She fills three bowls and puts two of them in an exercise pen. She leads the two MALAMUTES to the pen and they eat. FAIRBANKS is given a bowl outside an exercise pen.

GELERT

What did Jackie say your dog's name was?

TONI

Fairbanks.

GELERT

Do me a favor and keep Fairbanks close to you. Okay?

TONI

Oh, sure he don't run off. He is my buddy!

GELERT

If someone comes around, he will bite them, huh?

TONI

He might. He can get really mad. He killed a squirrel once.

GELERT

He won't let anything happen to you.
(pause)

See my Great Dane. He won't let
anything happen to me.

TONI
That's cool.

TONI is watching her dogs eat. She smiles. GELERT sees a small red wagon with the Purina logo on the side. It is for carting dog food bags.

GELERT
I'm going to go right over there to the
Purina table. You watch your dog eat.

GELERT notices on the counter a bowl full of dog treats. The DANE puts his paws on the counter. The dog eats the bowl of treats for breakfast.

GELERT climbs up a tall stack of dog food and pushes some giant dog food bags off a down onto the wagon. He misses with the first; it hits the side of the wagon and slide over on the ground. The next two bags land inside the wagon. GELERT wheels the two bags of the food back over to TONI.

WANDA (58) is a Purina Pro Club field representative. She has just entered the hall. She almost the only vender remaining.

WANDA
Wait. Wait. Don't run away.

The wagon stops. GELERT turns around and looks at WANDA.

WANDA
Oh, you work for Jackie. I know you.

GELERT
Yes.

WANDA
Well, good. No problem. You need some
help?

GELERT glances at a brochure advertising Purina Farms.

GELERT

Yes.

(pause)

I need that brochure.

WANDA

Purina Farms?

GELERT

Yes. That one.

GELERT places it in his pocket. He turns and continues walking toward TONI. WANDA watches but is speechless.

GELERT

Did your dogs poop?

TONI

The girl dogs did.

GELERT looks at the clean exercise pen.

TONI

I put it in the trash already.

(pause)

Fairbanks goes outside.

GELERT

Really?

TONI

He likes to do it there. It's less stinky there. And trust me outside is best.

GELERT

Well come on. You and Fairbanks can help me feed my dogs outside.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - SUNDAY - MORNING

JACKIE is studying the catalogue. GELERT and TONI and their guard dog pass her. She has not moved. But is still sitting ringside. She is thinking and calculating.

TONI

Hi, Jackie.

JACKIE
Hi, Sweetheart.
(to Gelert)
You have quite an assistant there.

Without saying a word, GELERT takes the brochure out of his pocket and hands it to JACKIE. She looks at it and a light bulb goes off in her head and she shakes her head in agreement.

GELERT gestures toward WANDA who is walking toward JACKIE. GELERT and TONI continue outside and begin feeding the toy dogs. The DANE is standing guard.

WANDA approaches JACKIE.

JACKIE
We will pay you for the food. But it is
an emergency.

WANDA
I don't care about that.
(pause)
I'm Wanda. I'm...

JACKIE
I know who you are. You are just the
lady I need to see.

WANDA
How can I help?
(pause)
Everyone is dead. This is horrible.

WANDA sits down beside a ring. They are about to have an important discussion. They look around at the empty exhibit hall.

As WANDA and JACKIE speak, several (about 10) YOUNG PEOPLE gather around and many of them have a dog on a lead. First is speaking to WANDA and then JACKIE, as the YOUNG PEOPLE arrive, begins to preach to them also.

JACKIE

Yes it is. Listen, I'm bringing these dogs to Purina Farms and you need to help me feed them.

WANDA

What?

JACKIE

This is a near extinction event. There are no more people.

(pause)

Only dogs.

WANDA

Yes, I agree.

JACKIE

These dogs need food, water and a place to be a dog. And, you are it.

WANDA

I've been on the phone and I can't get anyone. Not at the headquarters for two days now.

JACKIE

That is news for you. Congregations, you are the new CEO.

WANDA

Well, I don't know about that.

JACKIE

I do. I know it for a fact.

(pause)

How much dog food is there at St Louis?

WANDA

Some. There are 20 manufacturing plants. Atlanta. We have big kibble factories in Iowa - Davenport and Clinton. Wet at Crete, Nebraska.

JACKIE

Get them on the phone... or get in a car...
tell them to load up and bring it to
your farm.

(pause)

You can do it. You have the legal and
most importantly the moral authority.

WANDA

What?

JACKIE

You just became a charitable
organization.

(pause)

Think about it. Your loyalty is now to
the pure-bred dogs. You have no
customers left... not really.

(pause)

Morally. It has taken 10,000 years or
more to build this... what used to happen
at dog shows. Nice quality dogs. Human
effort.

JACKIE notices the YOUNG PEOPLE are listening.

JACKIE

(to the young people)

Does everyone understand what has
happened outside... well inside too?
Someone has to take care of these dogs.
For them but also we have to keep them
alive and healthy for us.

(gesturing to her Chihuahua)

You young people, we didn't just get a
Chihuahua. We made this out of the
wolf. How did that happen? Men and
women did that and now most of us are
gone. Most people are gone. You young
people might be the last dog breeders
on Earth.

JACKIE pauses. She looks around. She stops on a YOUNG GIRL
with an IRISH SETTER.

JACKIE

Young lady, you are responsible for the Irish Setter. Not just that one, but all of them in here. Understand?

(pause)

We are going to get rigs for everyone. And food and water and we have a safe place to go. But we need your help.

(to an older young lady)

I know you, you won Jr. Showmanship Friday. You are good and I noticed some other talented handlers too. We didn't just get the dogs you have been working with... it took a lot of planning; thinking and it took a lot of work.

(pause)

The only thing I can offer you is a roof over your head, some food, and you get to keep your dogs. In fact, I have some new dogs for you to own. If you want to help us, sit in these chairs and we will put you to work. We are going to save these dogs.

(to Wanda)

And your company can help us keep this progress from being lost. What we do in the next two or three days, might be the most important thing we ever do.

WANDA

I agree. I will do my best.

JACKIE

You work in marketing, right?

WANDA

I do.

JACKIE

What better advertisement than a history book? You save these dogs, it is history! Your photo will look good in a history book.

WANDA

Calm down; I was convinced a long time ago.

CAROL arrives with PAUL driving the golf-cart. He looks confident. JACKIE gestures to a growing group of YOUNG PEOPLE.

JACKIE

Carol I want you to teach everyone here how to drive.

CAROL

Happy to do that.

JACKIE

Rigs.

CAROL

Oh, we are leaving?

JACKIE

Yes. We are going to load up and go to Missouri. Purina Farms.

(pause)

We have been invited.

CAROL

Great.

JACKIE

(to the young people)

Did everyone hear that. Phone home... or your grandmother or loved ones. We are going to Purina Farms in Missouri.

(pause)

Now, I don't want to have to tell anyone to take care of your personal dogs. If you brought a dog to this show, he had better be living a life of luxury. Understand!

(pause)

If you need anything to take care of them. Get it from the vendors; tell them to charge it to Jackie!

The YOUNG PEOPLE chuckle. They have grown from 20 to 30 YOUNG PEOPLE now. They understand that there aren't any more vendors.

JACKIE

Oh, when you aren't with Carol, I want you to go through every set up in this hall. If you find a dog... feed it... water it and bring it in here in a crate.

JACKIE is done, but the YOUNG PEOPLE remain sitting.

JACKIE

Well get moving. We are burning daylight! Call home and then get to work!

JACKIE turns to face the YOUNG WOMAN who won Jr. Showmanship previously. The young woman is ABIGAIL (17).

JACKIE

Are you good in school?

ABIGAIL

Yes.

JACKIE

Accounting and Math?

ABIGAIL

Of course.

JACKIE

Get a catalogue, and I want an inventory. Check the dogs when we find them. If we can't identify the dog, at least get their ID chip. I have a chip reader in my RV. Okay?

(pause)

Just write everything down in this catalogue!

JACKIE pulls out her cell phone. She goes to the contact list and begins calling her clients. Most there isn't any answer. Finally JACKIE calls a client and she picks up the phone. We hear one half of the conversation.

JACKIE

Tracy?

(pause)

You okay?

(pause)
Well don't let them near your dogs or
near you.
(pause)
Do you have a gun?
(pause)
I'm in Florida and it is bad.
(pause)
Very, very bad.
(pause)
Listen, you need to contact everyone we
know...
(pause)
People with show dogs.
(pause)
We are going to Purina Farms.
(pause)
All the dogs from here.
(pause)
Your dogs here are perfectly safe.
Gelert is with them now.
(pause)
Well... tell them we have a safe place
for their dogs.
(pause)
Thank you.
(pause)
I'm going to give you this job. I've
got my hands full here.
(pause)
A bunch of kids from Jr. showmanship
and hundreds and hundred of dogs.
(pause)
Spread the word to the breeders. That
is your job. Email. Call. Whatever.
(pause)
Purina Farms, in Missouri.
(pause)
You aren't too old. Help is on the way.
I will send some young people to help
you move.
(pause)
A few days. Okay?
(pause)
Okay, get a gun if you can. We are on
the way, I will send someone to get you
and your dogs.

We will not see this but TRACY will contact every dog breeder possible by phone and email. One dog breeder that she will contact is the Secretary of the Interior who raises AKITA's in California. Many of the other breeders she contacts agree to bring their dogs to Purina Farms.

JACKIE calls another client. There isn't an answer. JACKIE leaves a message on the voice mail.

JACKIE

This is Jackie. Tex is safe with me.
We are going to Purina Farm in
Missouri. If you need to bring your
dogs there, well come on. I will call
you when we get there.

A young man, FRANK (16) is walking quickly around the hall with a BOXER. He is shooting Zombies with a pistol. JACKIE motions for him to come over to where she is sitting.

JACKIE

Dear, can you do me a favor?

FRANK

Maybe.

JACKIE

Young man! Keep doing what you are
doing. Admirable work, thank you. But
go back over to those poor souls and
bring me their car keys.

JACKIE

Can you do that for me?

FRANK

Sure. I know who you are. You are
Jackie.

JACKIE

Do I know your family?

FRANK

My mom likes you.

JACKIE
Well that's good.

FRANK
I will get as many keys as I can find.
(pause)
I already shot about 30 of them.

JACKIE
Thank you, dear. We are all leaving
here. You are welcome to come with us.
(pause)
Put them over there in my scooter, in
the basket please.

JACKIE points to her scooter that is plugged into
the wall charging.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - CONCESSION STAND - DAY

Later, JACKIE finds three TEENAGE GIRLS and enlists their
help. JACKIE loads a wagon with candy, chips, nacho cheese
and water bottles from the concession stand. She carts them
off, pulling it with her scooter, to near her RV, she finds
a table inside and brings it out.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - HALL - DAY

WANDA is on a cell phone talking as she is walking out of
the building. She has an overnight bag and is heading to
her car. She gives JACKIE the thumbs up and waves at her to
come on. WANDA doesn't mean "come to the car", but she
means "come to Purina Farms" and that she will have the
support of the company and dog food.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - PARKING LOT - DAY

We see an RV with Texas license plates. An angry teen young
man named NATE (17) is on the top of his family's RV with a
deer rifle. He is picking off ZOMBIES left and right but at
a long distance.

JACKIE
Get down from there.

NATE
Why?

JACKIE
Because I said so.
(pause)
How do you know they are infected, at
that distance?

NATE
Well, they walk funny. And I don't hear
them complaining, "Hey you freakin'
shot me."

JACKIE
Don't get smart with me. Don't shoot
anymore unless you look them in the
face. Okay?

NATE looks at JACKIE like he might want to argue with her.
He is trying to size her up before challenging her.

JACKIE
Hate them all you want... Have fun... I've
been having fun too shooting them, but
don't you have a pistol? Use that!

NATE shows her three pistols and two additional rifles.
JACKIE looks at his cowboy boots.

JACKIE
(smiles)
You are from Texas?

NATE
Lubbock. How did you know?

JACKIE looks at his guns and boots and shrugs.

JACKIE
Keep them away from my dogs. But use
those fancy pistols from now on.

NATE
That's the way it's gonna be?

JACKIE
That's the way it's gonna be!
(pause)

Hate for you to accidentally shot
someone. I mean a normal person.

(pause)

And after lunch I have a job for you.

NATE

A job?

JACKIE

A fun job.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

The number of dogs being brought in the hall is growing.
The number of YOUNG PEOPLE are growing, over 40 are now
working.

Several YOUNG GIRLS bring a crate. ABIGAIL looks inside.

ABIGAIL

Brittany, White & Liver? This Is #6
Puppy Bitch

She writes in her catalogue with a pencil. She takes out a
magic marker and writes on the outside of the crate.

ABIGAIL

(to young girls)

Food and water and then one trip all
around the outside of the rings.

ABIGAIL gestures to several bicycles and then she motions
they are to run the dog around the outside of the rings.

ABIGAIL

(to young girls)

This is a hunting dog and needs a lot
of exercise. Get one of those bicycles
over there. Good?

The GIRLS smile and cart the crate off. Soon they are on
bikes, running dogs around the outside of the rings.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - PARKING LOT - DAY

Sixty YOUNG PEOPLE are having nachos, chocolate bars and
bottled water for lunch. YOUNG PEOPLE are driving by with

CAROL in the golf-cart. They are catching on quickly. One GIRL waves to her friends in the queue for nachos and almost crashes the golf-cart. CAROL lectures her on safety and distractions while driving.

PETER drives by very slowly in a new corvette. He is trying very hard to look cool. Some other YOUNG PEOPLE drive by very responsibly in cars and SUVs. They are practicing. Having passed the golf cart test, they have now graduated to driving cars in the parking lot.

CAROL
(to Jackie)
They passed their test.

JACKIE
(to Peter)
Park that 'vette. Time to go to work.
(to the rescue team six)
You four boys, go over to those hotels and bring back all the dog food and dogs you can find. And if you take a dog from a room, try to get the owners name so we can find the identity of the dog. Check for a briefcase or anything pertaining to the dog which might be important. And bring me their SUV keys and a note where the vehicle might be.
(to Peter and pointing)
Young man, park that Corvette right over there.
(to Nate)
Here take my walkie-talkie. Call Gelert when or if you need help. He has the other radio.

PETER parks the Corvette about ten spaces down in a relatively empty parking lot. There is relatively little (no buildings or other cars) behind the 'vette. Later it will become target practice.

The reckless girl driving the golf-cart gets up and wants to go with the boys to the hotels.

CAROL
(to girl driving golf-cart)
You haven't passed any test.

RESCUE TEAM SIX is made up of the four young men - NATE, FRANK, PETER, and HANK.

NATE (17) is a deer and rabbit hunter. He has a pack of BEAGLES.

FRANK (16) is an urban pistolero. He has a BOXER.

HANK (15) is a fireman's son. He has show dogs - a GERMAN SHEPARD and a BELGIAN SHEEPDOG. Ironically, they are trained fire department search and rescue dogs.

PETER (13) is the "innocent one". He has several IRISH TERRIERS.

RESCUE TEAM SIX climbs into two large SUVs and head out to the nearest hotel.

JACKIE turns to three YOUNG TEENAGE FEMALES. These three young women will be come JACKIE'S LOGISTICS TEAM.

They are GINA (17), Frances (16) and Amy (15).

JACKIE

Young ladies. Drive me over to that drug store. We are taking the Superintendent's trailer.

JACKIE and the LOGISTICS TEAM climb into the Ford F-350 and very slowly pull out of the parking lot. GINA is driving. There is a large trailer behind the truck.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - CAMBRIA, CA - DAY

LONG SHOT... We see an important looking HOMEOWNER, wealthy and a Westerner; he is in conflict with ZOMBIES. He is on the beach with a pistol and several AKITA'S; they are fighting off a ZOMBIE horde. The ZOMBIES are after him and they will eventually be after his family in the house. The HOMEOWNER and dogs are blocking the path from the beach to the home.

Inside the house, the WIFE and CHILDREN are very worried. A female AKITA is barking from the house. The AKITA is livid with the violence outside and it is the best the WIFE can do is hold her back. The AKITA has eight week old puppies

in the house, each child is holding one or two. In the middle of this combat, the phone rings in the house and the WIFE can't pick up. It goes to voice mail.

TRACY

Anna, this is Tracy. I raise Italian Greyhounds in New York. Everyone is going to Purina Farms. The dogs from the Florida dog show are on the way there now. It is a safe place for your dogs if you need one. Call me back.

The WIFE glances at the answering machine and then looks back to the conflict out on the beach.

Suddenly a NAVY helicopter hovers and NAVY SEALS repel down and dispatch the remaining ZOMBIES. The HOMEOWNER could be a high-ranking government official. It isn't announced at this time; later we will learn he has been the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR and will eventually be revealed in the film to be the new PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (POTUS).

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR is 8th in line to be PRESIDENT, which means that the President and the 7 other highest-ranking government officials have become ZOMBIES.

The FAMILY begins moving from the house to the helicopter. The WIFE has a female AKITA and each child has two nine-week-old puppies, like footballs under each arm. They are running for the helicopter.

We can't hear the HOMEOWNER (POTUS) for the helicopter noise and the distance from the camera but it is clear; the new PRESIDENT refuses to board without the AKITA'S. After some conversation and argument, they load up the numerous dogs into the helicopter.

The audience will only learn that he is the PRESIDENT in the last minutes of the film.

INT. DRUG STORE - DAY

JACKIE and the LOGISTICS TEAM enter the drug store. JACKIE shots a ZOMBIE. AMY has brought her two AMERICAN FOXHOUNDS; they maul a few ZOMBIES.

NOTE - When they first appeared in the film the ZOMBIES are rather aggressive. Now they seem to be learning to fear the dogs. When they see the two AMERICAN FOXHOUNDS many of the ZOMBIES turn to run. Of course, the FOXHOUNDS finish off those who don't run. Generally in ZOMBIE movies, it is the HUMANS who are running. In this scene, it is the ZOMBIES who for the most part are running from the dogs.

JACKIE shots several more ZOMBIES and collect over the counter drugs, prescription drugs, antibiotics, Band-Aids, socks, brushes and tooth paste. Hair products and deodorant. Soap and cleaning products. The drug store even had dog beds, deformed, bowls and dog treats.

The LOGISTICS TEAM are shopping.. reading labels and picking products one by one. JACKIE teaches them how to shop. She pulls their shopping cart under the products they need, near the shelf; she takes her hand and rakes all the shelf into the shopping cart in one swift motion.

To keep things organized they simply roll shopping carts up into the trailer. They half fill the Superintendent's trailer.

EXT. HYATT REGENCY - HOTEL - DAY

RESCUE TEAM SIX have a GERMAN SHEPARD and a BELGIAN SHEEPDOG. There is a SWAT team vehicle parked in front of the hotel and a fire truck. There are a few ZOMBIES there. RESCUE TEAM SIX turn the dogs out on the ZOMBIES. The ZOMBIES move away or are caught and mauled by the dogs. HANK picks up a battering ram, the type designed to be used on doors. HANK obtains other material from the fire truck.

INT. SPORTING GOODS STORE - DAY

JACKIE's LOGISTICS TEAM enters the sporting good store and kill a few ZOMBIES.

The LOGISTICS TEAM goes to the camping section and fill several carts, lanterns, sleeping bags, rain coats, etc. They find all sorts of "survival" items.

JACKIE goes to the firearms department. She looks at the weapons. She grabs small 22s, thinking that her army are for the most part all under 18 years old.

She takes several .22 rifles and many many .22 pistols.

JACKIE loads a shopping cart full of .22 ammunition.

She grabs some boxes of large calibre for her personal pistol.

JACKIE grabs eye and ear protection.

JACKIE loads 20 or more walkie-talkies into her cart.

When they return to the Superintendent's trailer, they fill it completely with everything they have collected.

EXT. HYATT REGENCY - HOTEL - DAY

RESCUE TEAM SIX also have a pack of BEAGLES. Basically the SHEPARDS find and attack whatever ZOMBIES they encounter and the BEAGLE scratch on whatever doors have dogs behind them. Somehow the BEAGLE know what they are looking for. It is genetic and this is the reason we have and value BEAGLES.

RESCUE TEAM SIX smash the hotel doors in and immediately water the dogs inside the rooms. They gather up briefcases and all the papers possible. They load the crates up and bring them downstairs on bellman's carts. They return upstairs and rescue even more dogs. They are an army of a few, methodically saving and identifying dogs and killing ZOMBIES.

These YOUNG MEN are effective and have obviously seen just enough movies... ZERO DARK THIRTY or they have played just about enough video games... CALL OF DUTY.

The BEAGLES find dogs in hotel rooms. The SHEPARDS find zombies in rooms and in stairwells. There is a pattern; I'm not sure the average audience member will notice, but the dog crowd should. This organization of the dogs, specializations, saves the team a lot of time.

At one particular room, the BEAGLES and the SHEPARDS both alert. The BEAGLES are telling the YOUNG MEN that there are dogs in the room. The SHEPARDS are taking there are ZOMBIES in the room.

PETER

Dogs!

NATE

Zombies!

As they progress, they have stopped knocking as many of the rooms are empty or inhabited by ZOMBIES. In this particular room door they don't knock and it contains a very attractive young girl, SUSAN (16). She is stepping out of the shower when RESCUE TEAM SIX force their way into the hotel room.

We get the idea SUSAN is almost killed. They accidentally point the weapons at SUSAN; they are just as shocked as she is. RESCUE TEAM SIX look puzzled why the SHEPARD'S were alerting at the door. SUSAN's ZOMBIE SISTER is tied in a chair on the other side of the room. The YOUNG MEN call off the dog and the dogs don't maul the ZOMBIE SISTER.

Previously, they bashed in one door and there was an ugly zombie. They bashed in a second, third and fifteenth door, all with ZOMBIES who NATE shots. They have kicked in 100 doors and this is something new, a girl in a towel.

It had been routine and SUSAN is a shocker. She has five or six MINIATURE PINCHERS and has been caring for them inside the room. But they all have had their vocal cords severed. They would be making rather a lot of noise, but they all now sound like that have laryngitis.

RESCUE TEAM SIX are sober about almost shooting SUSAN. Of course she is half naked and that contributes to the silence somewhat. But when they listen to her dogs they chuckle.

NATE

We are here to rescue you and your uh...
dogs...

(pause)

But you don't have any dogs?

SUSAN

I do. I do have dogs.

NATE

They aren't barking?

SUSAN
They are.

NATE
These are dogs?

NATE points to the crates.

SUSAN
Yes!

NATE
And they are barking?

SUSAN
(not sure if it's a joke)
Yes!

There is a long pause and NATE is pretending to ponder the situation.

NATE
I'm just kidding... Come one. Come with us.
(pause)
I'm Nate. Lubbock Texas. Beagles.

SUSAN
I'm Susan. New Orleans. Min Pins.

NATE
Well you probably want to get dressed.

SUSAN nods, "yes".

NATE
We are going to take your dogs downstairs. There are a lot of people over there at the show. Food and stuff.

PRETTY GIRL
I'm starving.

She isn't out of dog food but she has nothing more for her to eat.

PETER

You don't have any food?

SUSAN

No, I'm out. Dogs are taken care of; no worries. But, thank goodness you guys showed up. I need to lose some weight but this is ridiculous.

RESCUE TEAM SIX all grab a crate or two and take the GIRL's dogs downstairs.

SUSAN quickly dresses and says "good-bye" to her SISTER.

SUSAN brings her suitcase out into the hall. NATE is waiting there with his BEAGLES.

NATE hands her a catalogue.

NATE

Can you mark your dogs off? Just a check mark will work.

SUSAN takes the catalogue and check marks her dogs.

There are approximately 50 crates stacked under the hotel carport.

RESCUE TEAM SIX call GELERT on the walkie-talkie. GELERT arrives in a large delivery truck that had belonged to a vendor. He is there to pick up the dogs they have found along with SUSAN and her dogs.

SUSAN gets in the vendor's truck with GELERT. She sees that he has about six chocolate bars with him. She is starved and is very focused on them.

GELERT

Chocolate?

SHE grabs two.. and inhales one in less than 10 seconds. The second bar she eats more slowly. But they are very satisfying to her.

SUSAN

No room service. Zombies everywhere.

GELERT

I understand.

SUSAN and GELERT progress back to the convention center.

RESCUE TEAM SIX notice the two military grade HUMMERS across the street. Apparently they have been abandoned by the National Guard.

EXT. ROSEN CENTRE HOTEL - HOTEL PARKING LOT - DAY

RESCUE TEAM SIX have found several dogs inside the one hotel and are now travel to another hotel. The four BOYS are in four vehicles now. Two SUVs (Cadillac Escalade ESV and Lincoln Navigator L) and two military Hummers.

INT. ROSEN CENTRE HOTEL - DAY

We see RESCUE TEAM SIX going though a second large hotel. They have become real pros. They search every room under the beds and in every possible hiding place. Their goal is to leave no dog behind. They find a few toy dogs under the beds.

Plenty of ZOMBIES are killed. Sometimes they crash a door and a ZOMBIE is put down. Sometimes they put down a ZOMBIE and rescue his dogs. Other times there are rooms without ZOMBIES but with dogs.

Also we see RESCUE TEAM SIX breaking car windows and finding dogs and dog food in the trunk. They deposit more than a few crates in front of the hotel. The vendor's truck comes to collect them. SUSAN, from earlier, now is driving the vendor's truck. There is a crew of YOUNG GIRLS who load and bring the dogs back from the hotels.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

ABIGAIL, in charge of dog records, has everything organized. The Working Group dogs are in crates in one ring and the other groups are similarly organized. She has a clipboard and the catalogue. When a ZOMBIE enters the hall, without even losing her place in the catalogue or putting down her pen, she opens the door of a crate and releases a working dog. All this is done without missing a second of work. The dog mauls the ZOMBIE.

There is an army of several YOUNG GIRLS who are exercising the dogs. The trashcan is again full of dog shit in plastic bags.

JACKIE brings ABIGAIL some manila folders, pens, pencils, tape, paper, and a laptop.

Later when JACKIE and ABIGAIL are talking, a YOUNG LADY opens the door of a large crate anticipating a large dog to attack a ZOMBIE, but instead there has been a mistake. Someone has put a small WELSH TERRIER in a large crate. Never the less, the small TERRIER does his job, the ZOMBIE retreats into a dark closet. The TERRIER enters without hesitation. We hear noises and it sounds like the TERRIER is winning.

INT. DOUBLETREE HOTEL - DAY

We see RESCUE TEAM SIX going through a third large hotel. ZOMBIES are dispatched, of course. Crates are stacked at the entry for pickup by the SUSAN.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - PARKING LOT - DAY

The GREAT DANE and GELERT are going RV to RV in the parking lot. It appears GELERT's job is to find reliable transportation out of Orlando.

Many dogs have been discovered in the various RVs. For the most part all the YOUNG PEOPLE are on the hunt for keys. They basically give them to CAROL, who gives them to JACKIE and if they are keys to an RV, then JACKIE gives them to GELERT.

GELERT knew personally many of the wealthier ZOMBIES and he searches out the key to their luxury RVs.

GELERT checks the RV's fluids, drives them to a filling station nearby and fills the fuel tank.

When GELERT returns and parks the RVs in a long line. In the end, he will find over 30 RVs.

The lifeblood of the dog show life are the RVs. And GELERT has done the maintenance for JACKIE's RV for 30 years. So this is nothing new to him.

We see GELERT changing the oil in some of the rigs. He checks the tire tread and inflation in each RV's tires. And also he makes repairs of slight cosmetic things on the RVs - broken mirrors, cracked plastic. He changes the batteries in the carbon monoxide-smoke detectors. GELERT replaces some handrails. He repairs some fluid leaks. He checks the straps holding pipes, hoses and wires.

It is winter and they will be soon be headed north; GELERT fills the propane tanks.

GELERT fills the fresh water tank in each RV.

GELERT test-drives each RV, checking the brakes and the handling in the parking lot.

GELERT carefully measures each space, depth, width and height. He seems to be optimizing the space for various sizes of crates. He takes out clothes from closets and replaced them with empty crates.

Some RVs are designated large breeds and some are for small breeds. Some are better suited for a combination of crate sizes. GELERT has a calculator and a clipboard. It is his job to organize 700 dogs into 33 RVs.

One of the YOUNG PEOPLE have an RV that belonged to his parents. This last RV in the line is a real piece of junk, it smokes and is clearly burning oil. It is beyond repair.

GELERT and the YOUNG PERSON travel to the Orlando RV sales yard and collect various replacement parts - oil filters, gas filters, replacement tires. He also liberates a luxury RV with lots of space for crates.

The YOUNG PERSON appears reluctant to leave his parents RV, But it seems GELERT persuades him that this is the best course.

The YOUNG PERSON drives the new RV back to the back of the line and he transfers his belongings to it.

EXT. HILTON ORLANDO - HOTEL - DAY

We see RESCUE TEAM SIX at a new hotel rescuing more dogs.

EXT. THE WESTIN HOTEL - BURNED OUT - DAY

The Westin is totally damaged and burned out. Finding any live dogs will be a miracle. But the BEAGLES are all over the building, howling. The SHEPARDS are barking also. The DOGS seem to know something is to be found.

There are no ZOMBIES moving about (all were burned) but the dogs race to the fifth floor. The dogs find there a BITCH that is whelping. The GREAT PYRENEES has had five puppies, but she is in bad shape and it appears that she is in severe distress. Smoke inhalation.

They race the crate downstairs and place it in one of the HUMMERS. They race off to the Convention Center.

They use the walkie-talkie to contact GELERT.

As they race back to the Convention Center. PETER looks into the crate... the BITCH is about to die he feels. He feels her stomach.

PETER

(to the young men)

She isn't dead. I can feel a few more puppies.

(pause)

She's not done. This is an emergency.

The HUMMER speeds up.

PETER

(to Gelert via radio)

We found a bitch having puppies, she has three or four puppies to go. She is very dehydrated. She probably has smoke inhalation. The room was burned a little the hallway a lot.

(pause)

The puppies look okay... normal it seems.

GELERT

(to Peter via radio)

They were inside her probably when all that was going on. Their umbilical cords seem wet still?

PETER
(to Gelert via radio)
Yes.

GELERT
(to Peter via radio)
Okay. Don't worry about them. Just get
her here safe. Don't wreck.

PETER
(to the driver)
Don't wreck.

GELERT
(to Peter via radio)
We have oxygen for her when you arrive.
IV too.
(to girls)
Go to the first aid center, just inside
that door. Get the oxygen stuff and the
ringers lactate solution.

The girls look confused and hesitate. JACKIE drives up in
her scooter.

GELERT
(to Jackie)
Dog from the Westin. Oxygen and ringers
lactate.

JACKIE
Come on girls, I will show you.

The GIRLS run. JACKIE zooms past all but one in the
scooter. One ATHLETIC GIRL is faster than JACKIE and
carries the O² bottle back quickly. JACKIE finds the Ringer
Lactate when the out of shape GIRLS arrive. She doesn't
hand it to them and brings it back on her scooter.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NEAR JACKIE'S RV - DAY

The third RV in line is a "toy hauler", the type where the
back folds into a ramp to drive an ATV or golf-cart into a
garage area. There have been empty crates in the area.
GELERT has some boys move them outside.

The HUMMER with the GREAT PYRENEES in whelp arrives and slams on the brakes. They pop the back. GELERT climbs up into the back.

GELERT then has four BOYS tote the giant crate carefully to the back of the #3 "toy hauler" RV.

GELERT takes the top off the crate and hands it outside. YOUNG PEOPLE, in turn, hand GELERT the O².

We see the white dog is covered in soot. The mother dog looks to be comatose or at best despondent.

GELERT places the mask on the dogs face and turns it on. The bitch almost immediately begins to respond.

GELERT

(to Jackie)

In my grooming box. The electric clippers. The rechargeable one, the battery kind.

JACKIE

(to girls)

He has to find a vein.

JACKIE zooms over to her RV and is about to climb up, when the ATHLETIC GIRL beats her to it.

JACKIE

It is just inside the door, under the passenger seat.

Before JACKIE is done speaking the ATHLETIC GIRL emerges with the correct clippers and she runs them over to GELERT. This is done very quickly and enthusiastically.

GELERT sheers the hair so he can attach the IV to a vein in the dog's foreleg. He hangs the ringers lactated and finds the vein with the needle.

YOUNG PERSON

He is a vet too?

JACKIE

No.

GELERT

There it's in.

GELERT turns to the athletic girl.

GELERT

Can you get me some Oxytocin?

The ATHLETIC GIRL darts off to the back of the line of RVs. She seems to know one of the RVs has the drug.

GELERT raises the ramp on the back of the RV to give the bitch some quiet.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NEAR THE LINE OF RVs - DAY

CAROL, a BOY and a GIRL get out of a sedan and walk up to the crowd around the back of the RV turned maternity ward. Everyone has gathered around to learn the fate of the litter. This is heavy "puppy" drama.

CAROL

(shouting)

Mr. Truby, Miss Perov, Mr. Jones!

Four YOUNG PEOPLE turn from the whelping to face CAROL.

One MR. JONES is 8 years old and the other is 16.

CAROL

(to the 8 year old)

Who are you?

EIGHT YEAR OLD

James Jones.

CAROL

You aren't the man I want. I'm sorry. Why don't you keep me informed about the puppies? Go back over there listen and when we get back I want to hear the entire story.

(pause)

Can you do that for me?

EIGHT YEAR OLD

Sure.

The EIGHT YEAR OLD runs back to the #3 RV.

RICK JONES

We already passed the test in the car,
remember?

CAROL

We are leaving here with dogs in RVs.
You are next to drive a rig.

CAROL points to RV that has been pulled out of the line.

Just then a cheer goes up. It appears that a puppy has been
born successfully.

The EIGHT YEAR OLD runs back to CAROL.

EIGHT YEAR OLD

It is a boy!

CAROL

Thank you. Are there more puppies to
come?

The EIGHT YEAR OLD runs back to the RV.

EXT. PARKING LOT - BY THE GRILL OF THE SUV - DAY

JACKIE brings the RESCUERS TEAM SIX camouflage jackets,
shirts, pants and some ammunition belts. Also sun glasses
and even camouflage canteens. Camouflage backpacks.

JACKIE

Now, I believe you should use your
dogs, but I did liberate some weapons.

JACKIE hands them semi-automatic pistols.

JACKIE

You know how to use these?

NATE

I'm good.

NATE opens the door and shows JACKIE the interior
of the Hummer. It is full of military weapons.

PETER

No. I don't know how.

NATE

I will teach him. But can you find me some 9mm ammo?

JACKIE

The ammo is over there in that sporting good store.

(pause)

You can mess with the guns later.

(pause)

Time is running out on some of these dogs. Life and death. Now go find me some dogs.

The four YOUNG MEN look at each other. They get back into the Hummer. Clearly, there are other hotel rooms to be searched. And they are macho. They look like Marines returning to door-to-door fighting in Mogadishu.

JACKIE has her walkie-talkie back from GELERT. She shows it to them.

Before leaving NATE makes eye contact with SUSAN. FRANK and HANK also have YOUNG WOMEN watching them. A number of the YOUNG WOMEN are watching their "warriors". PETER is looking around for ABIGAIL; she is inside the hall.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NEAR THE LINE OF RVS - DAY

CAROL and the TEENAGERS board the RV. In a moment they drive off slowly and are seen driving around the parking lot. Stopping, turning, backing up.

Later, another cheer goes up from the crowd following the whelping. We see the EIGHT YEAR OLD chasing the RV across the parking lot. CAROL sees in the mirror and tells the driver to stop. The EIGHT YEAR OLD runs up beside the RV... exhausted but with good news.

EIGHT YEAR OLD

This puppy is a girl!
(breathing hard)

GELERT says there is probably one more,
probably!

CAROL

Super. Hey, it isn't so safe running
out here. How about if you just tell me
about the last puppy when we get back
up there.

EIGHT YEAR OLD

Sure.

The EIGHT YEAR OLD spins away and runs back to the RV and
the puppies. He is of course totally energized.

The RV goes around the parking lot a few more times.
Evidently they stop every once in a while and change
drivers. When the exercise is over, CAROL will have three
competent drivers.

Finally, they park the RV where they got it. A cheer goes
up and the final puppy is born.

The EIGHT YEAR OLD comes running from the crowd toward
CAROL. He seems to be screaming something.

EIGHT YEAR OLD

A puppy! A big fat puppy!

CAROL

A boy or a girl?

The EIGHT YEAR OLD freezes in his steps. He doesn't know.
He left, running to CAROL, before the puppy's gender was
divulged.

He dives into the crowd around the RV again. After a
moment, we see the boy cup his hands to shout the word back
to CAROL.

EIGHT YEAR OLD

The puppy is a boy!

We see GELERT leave the back of the RV. He points to a
YOUNG TEENAGER and she takes his place supervising the
litter. The YOUNG PEOPLE are allowed (one at a time) to

look into the back at the mom and puppies. The bitch looks much improved.

GELERT looks like his back is sore.

JACKIE fixed a whisky.

GELERT walks over to JACKIE and she hands him the drink.

JACKIE
Thank you!

The YOUNG PEOPLE look at the puppies, who are now nursing. The YOUNG PEOPLE are slow returning to work.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

JACKIE zooms, in her scooter, to see ABIGAIL. She brings ABIGAIL a walkie-talkie. She looks as if she might be overwhelmed with her responsibilities. She is babysitting the five year old TONI. However the job seems to be getting done. Records are being compiled.

JACKIE
Well it looks like you have some good help.

JACKIE glances at the GIRLS exercising the dogs.

ABIGAIL
Yes. They have been working all day, except lunch.

JACKIE
Well, we are having puppies outside.

ABIGAIL
I heard that is so neat. I heard there was a lot of drama.

JACKIE
Gelert was Johnny on the spot.

ABIGAIL
It's a Great Pyrenees, but how old? Any clue who owned her?

ABIGAIL opens the catalogue and scans the listings.

JACKIE

Ask Gelert. He might know. I didn't even see her. But they said she was really bad.

ABIGAIL

But everything is okay now?

JACKIE

Mark down 8 puppies... 3 females and 5 males. Father unknown.

ABIGAIL

Jackie, I'm not sure we are ever going to learn the identity of some of these dogs. I have more question marks than anything.

JACKIE

Well, just do the best you can. And you know time might help. We can't process this all in one day.

JACKIE

When you get tired come out and I will teach to you shot.

ABIGAIL

A gun? No thanks.

ABIGAIL glances over at a crate right near her. Inside is a sleeping DOBERMAN.

ABIGAIL

You forgot; I have a Dobie.

TONI

I have a Malamute!

JACKIE

Yes, you do. And a very nice one too.

JACKIE smiles and drives off in her scooter.

JACKIE

We will call you when its time for dinner.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NEAR THE CORVETTE - DAY

JACKIE has her three LOGISTICS TEAM FEMALES with pistols. She is teaching them basic firearm safety.

JACKIE

Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use. Use correct ammunition - your gun uses .22 LR.

(pause)

You have semi-automatic pistols. It is not a toy; it is dangerous. It can kill your friend. It can kill your dog. It can kill you. Do not even load this weapon unless you are in fear for your life. Understand?

(demonstrating)

A semi-automatic pistol automatically advances each shell into the chamber from the pre-loaded magazine, and ejects the empty shell after it has been fired. The slide on the top of the gun is used to advance the first shell into the chamber, and can be locked in the back position with a button on the side. The removable magazine is removed and loaded separately.

(pause)

Always protect your ears and eyes with proper safety gear.

(demonstrating)

When you're handling the gun, always keep it pointed downrange.

(demonstrating)

Check to see if the gun is loaded. Any time you pick up a handgun, you need to check and see if it is loaded.

JACKIE motions to the LOGISTICS TEAM FEMALES that they should pick up their weapons. There is a table with pistols laid out and ready.

JACKIE

Carefully pick up your gun, keeping your finger outside the trigger guard, extended straight and flat on the side of the guard. Whenever you handle it, make sure the barrel is pointed downrange, which should be clear of people (or dogs). But I notice there is a zombie out there about 200 yards. You can't hit him from here.

(demonstrating)

Hold your weapon in the firing-ready position. Steady the gun with your other hand. Cup your non-dominant hand to cradle your firing-hand in it.

(demonstrating)

Make sure both thumbs are clear of the slide or hammer. This mechanism pops sharply backwards when the gun is fired, easily injuring a thumb that in the wrong place.

(warning)

Getting "bitten" by the slide can be very painful as well as extremely dangerous, because you don't want to react to pain and risk dropping a loaded and cocked gun with the safety off. Do not drop this weapon!

(demonstrating)

Align the front sight with the rear sight. Ensure that the top of the front sight post is level with the top of the rear sight, and that the rear sight appears evenly centered within the notch of the front sight.

(demonstrating)

It's best to aim by looking with your dominant eye and closing the other eye. Fix the gun on the target. Load the gun.

(demonstrating)

You'll need to load a round into the chamber by pulling back the slide and releasing it.

(demonstrating)

Control your breathing.

The RESCUE TEAM SIX arrive back with an SUV of crates from a hotel. PETER glances at the 'vette and see's JACKIE pointing a pistol at the car. A look of dread comes over his face.

JACKIE aims the small .22 at the Corvette, fires and knocks the side emblem off the car.

JACKIE

Now you. Aim at the car. Control your breath, squeeze the trigger. When you're ready to fire, click the safety off and move your finger onto the trigger.

The three LOGISTICS TEAM FEMALES fire into the car. Young PETER comes running. He has a strange look on his face.

PETER

What are you doing; that is a \$68,000 car?

JACKIE

It might have been worth that before yesterday.

(pause)

How many dogs will it haul?

(pause)

And shooting it is fun.

PETER has no response.

JACKIE

Once more ladies.

The LOGISTICS TEAM FEMALES fire again.

PETER give up trying to save the 'vette returns to his friends.

JACKIE

And once more.

They seem to have a handle on it. The car is riddled with holes. PETER is depressed and can't understand.

JACKIE

Good. Good.

JACKIE demonstrates how to eject the clip. She pulls back the slide and shows the girls the weapon is empty.

JACKIE

Unload your weapon and re-verify that it is unloaded.

(pause)

Ladies, with the gun still in firing position, click the safety back in place and keep the gun pointed downrange while you unload it.

JACKIE gives them the pistols and each gets a box of ammo.

JACKIE

Okay, congratulations. You are now armed and dangerous.

(pause)

Don't shoot anyone unless they threaten you or your dogs.

AMY

When do we get our dogs and leave.

JACKIE

Soon. Soon.

JACKIE smiles confidently.

JACKIE

Send another group of people over here.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MATERNITY WARD RV - AFTERNOON

The puppies have all nursed. Outside, there are at least ten YOUNG PEOPLE, with the smoke colored mother. There are two water hoses and about six bottles of expensive "show dog" shampoo. The dog is large and it is a group project.

Never has one dog been washed by so many!

Inside, we see YOUNG PEOPLE are weighing each puppy on a scale and they are naming the puppies. They tie little

colored ribbons made especially to distinguish between puppies. One YOUNG LADY is charting each puppy's weight.

RESCUE TEAM SIX is out rescuing dogs from hotels, but a cute young GIRL radio's HANK for fire-related names. HANK's father was a fireman. The puppy's names are: Fire Alarm, Backdraft, Combustion, Firehouse, Fire Engine, Fire Safety, HAZMAT and Fire Truck.

A small crowd gathers to watch the bath.

Outside, the GREAT PYRENEES stands and allows the bath. The dog shakes off the bath water soaking and YOUNG PEOPLE. They squeal with delight. It is fun for them. When the bath is done, they produce three or four professional size hair dryers. The now white GREAT PYRENEES is lead back to her puppies.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - AFTERNOON

JACKIE races up on her scooter with her cell phone extended. ABIGAIL puts down her catalogue.

JACKIE

This is Tony Gwynn with the AKC. He has all the registrations, ID chips, pedigrees, etc. Exchange contact information and hand the phone back to me.

ABIGAIL takes the phone.

ABIGAIL

Hello, Tony?

(pause)

I could sure use your help.

JACKIE motions for her to write the information down. JACKIE seems in a rush, she probably has a long list of tasks to accomplish.

ABIGAIL

Can I have your email?

ABIGAIL pulls out her smart phone. And enters something with the keypad.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NEAR JACKIE'S RV - DUSK

The group has procured some picnic tables. JACKIE and FRANCES sit at a table.

The YOUNG PEOPLE form a line. They file past JACKIE who asks them several questions.

MONTAGE of questions and answers.

JACKIE
What is your name?

YOUNG PERSON #1
Kelley White Seward.

CUT TO...

JACKIE
How old are you?

YOUNG PERSON #2
Nine

CUT TO...

JACKIE
What breed?

YOUNG PERSON #3
My parents raise German Wirehaired Pointers.

CUT TO...

JACKIE
Do you have dogs at home?

YOUNG PERSON #4
There are 7 dogs at home.

CUT TO...

JACKIE
Anyone taking care of them that you have been able to talk to?

YOUNG PERSON #5

No one is answering the phone. But they have an automatic watering bowl.

JACKIE

(to young person #5)

I think you probably need to go get them. Don't you think? Come see me after we get done eating.

The young people answer JACKIE and FRANCES writes them all down on a legal pad.

JACKIE and FRANCES are building an inventory of people and their situation.

Sometimes JACKIE asks the young people if they are the children of certain parents. JACKIE knows almost everyone and certainly all the professional handlers. If the YOUNG PEOPLE don't have a breed... generally that infers that their parents are professional handlers.

The group is having a hot dog cook out. JACKIE and the older LOGISTICS TEAM have arranged a grill and tables, paper plates, hotdog buns from the concession stand. There are large mustard and ketchup dispensers. There are relish, cookies and bottled water.

Several of the BOYS, even some of the GIRLS come back for seconds and even thirds. They eat a very large amount.

This happens until they run out of hotdogs.

GELERT

They were very hungry. They ate every single hotdog.

JACKIE

Tomorrow remind me to get everything out of the other concession stands.

JACKIE steps up and talks to the group.

JACKIE

Before you wander off to wherever you are a sleeping, I just want to say a little something.

(pause)
I'm very proud of you young people.
What work you did today. You ate 282
hotdogs.

They laugh.

JACKIE
And the best I can figure there are 93
of you.
(pause)
You have done a lot of work today and I
appreciate it.
(pause)
You learned to drive and you learned to
fire a pistol. And you rescued I don't
know how many dogs. I will find out.
(pause)
And many of you have found your niche.
We have a search and rescue team. You
boys who hit that hotel, I'm calling
you our "Extraction Team Six".
Marvellous.

Everyone claps his or her hands. Cheering!

JACKIE
You young ladies are organizing
everything we might need in that
trailer. Abigail is keeping records.

Everyone claps his or her hands.

JACKIE
And what about Gelert?

Everyone loudly claps his or her hands.

JACKIE
I don't know if you know this. Gelert
is a long time employee of mine. He is
an expert groomer and practically a
vet. Well, you have seen him in action
today.

Again, everyone loudly claps his or her hands. GELERT raises his hands waves. He is a bit embarrassed but smiles politely. He definitely isn't a hermit at the moment.

JACKIE

(she winks at Gelert)

I know he loves you young people and appreciates all your have done for these dogs.

Again, everyone loudly claps his or her hands. They do not stop clapping.

FEMALE VOICE FROM CROWD

We love you Gelert!

GELERT is embarrassed and his face turns red.

MALE VOICE FROM CROWD

We love you too Jackie!

GELERT is something of a rock star for the moment.

Everyone laughs... it is a jolly gathering, despite the tragedy. There is a sense of accomplishment. And the young people are a bit drunk on camaraderie. It is something like summer camp, singing and joking around a campfire.

JACKIE

(to the heckler)

Thank you. You are a little young for me, but never say "never".

They chuckle and laugh.

JACKIE

Now we need a moment of silence for everyone who brought us here.

There is a very long pause. And the YOUNG PEOPLE are no longer jolly. The mood is now respectful and reflective.

JACKIE

I know it hurts. I'm too old to have lost my parents here. But that did happen... they were like your parents and

they raised dogs... and when they died I
cried like a baby.

A ZOMBIE suddenly appears and seems to be walking down the food line looking at what food remains. He tries to grab some chips but his fingers fall off into the dip. The ZOMBIE isn't violent he looks just a bit more curious. He wants a hotdog and some chips, not brains.

Every ZOMBIE in this movie is different. There isn't a mold. Just as humans might have a hang-up or personality, each ZOMBIE should reflect this. This particular ZOMBIE likes food.

JACKIE signals to a young woman with a WELSH CORGI to release her dog. The WELSH CORGI nips at the ZOMBIE's heels until the ZOMBIE is in a "zombie run". The ZOMBIE disappears around a corner far away from the group.

JACKIE

Call your dog back.

The girl whistles and the dog reappears. And the crowd laughs and claps loudly.

JACKIE

We have had a run of bad luck. Not just us... every human. All of mankind is in the worse possible place.

(pause)

But look what we did today. That is the only zombie I've seen the last two hours and he only wanted a hotdog.

(pause)

You will live and you will have dogs in a safe place.

(pause)

Raise your hand if don't know your job. Everyone has a job. Raise your hand if you need something for your dogs. Everyone has dog food?

(pause)

Tomorrow you will get your dogs... your dogs and an RV.

The YOUNG PEOPLE clap again.

JACKIE

We are going to Missouri, to be safe
and to keep the dogs safe.

The YOUNG PEOPLE clap again.

JACKIE

A very long time ago, a Roman dog
accompanied his master to prison, and
when the man was executed and his body
thrown into the Tiber River, the dog
jumped in and tried to hold up the
corpse.

(pause)

Dogs have done things like that for us
for a very long time... well now its
payback time. We are going to save
these dogs and we are going to save
ourselves. We go together as a team.

(pause)

We are doing this for them, sure. But
we are also helping ourselves. Every
dog breed has a job... and never forget
that. Never let the progress your
grandfathers and parents have made be
destroyed. You keep these breeds
separate and you will have preserved
the work of 10,000 years.

ABIGAIL hands JACKIE a piece of paper.

JACKIE

Fortune has it we are in the possession
of 748 purebred dogs and 8 "big fat
mostly white" puppies.

The young people laugh and then clap again. Some of the
jovial emotion is returning.

JACKIE

Mom is fine... everyone is nursing and
there are no problems.

(pause)

Well, I'm going to let Gelert tell you
a dog story. Gelert was named after a
famous dog. And everyone needs to hear
this story.

(pause)

Gelert tell us the story of how you got your name.

GELERT shakes his head "no". JACKIE however keeps after him. The YOUNG PEOPLE want to hear the story and clap. GELERT finally steps up reluctantly. He doesn't like public speaking; in fact he is very fearful. His voice cracks and he is barely audible. As he tells the story GELERT gathers some confidence and volume.

GELERT

My mom and Dad named me after a dog from the 13th century. This is the 21st century. This guy, Llywelyn was prince of north Wales.

(pause)

One day he went hunting without Gelert "the faithful hound" he left the dog at home probably to guard his little kid. On Llywelyn's return, "Gelert" stained and smeared with blood, happily sprang to meet his master. The prince alarmed ran to find his son, and saw the infant's cot empty, the bedclothes and floor covered with blood. The frantic father stabbed his sword into the hound's side thinking the dog had killed his son.

(pause)

But right when the dog was dying, then the kid cried out. Llywelyn searched and discovered his boy unharmed but near by laid the body of a huge wolf which Gelert had killed, the prince filled with remorse is said never to have smiled again. He put up a massive gravestone over the buried dog.

The YOUNG PEOPLE process the information. It is an emotional story... and they take maybe 15 seconds to understand it. A few have tears in their eyes. A few clap.. and then a few more... and after a time there is a standing ovation for GELERT and his story.

JACKIE

Thank you, good night.

INT. PARKING LOT - NEAR JACKIE'S RV - NIGHT

Later, JACKIE is in her RV. Her hair is no longer perfect. Her posture is somewhat slumped. She is pale and not her bubbly self.

GELERT

Jackie, you don't look so good.

JACKIE

I just cooked hotdogs for 90 ravenous young people and one zombie. I've helped rescue over 700 dogs today. I've charged and used up the battery on my scooter six times. And I'm 78 years old. I hurt all over and then over again! What exactly do you expect?

GELERT

Oh, I didn't mean it in an ugly way. I just meant that you need to go to sleep.

JACKIE

What to do with the people with dogs at home?

EXT. PARKING LOT - NEAR JACKIE'S RV - NIGHT

Everyone is milling about getting sleeping bags and tooth paste. There are over 30 RVs lined up in a row, and three or four teens sleep in each. Five or six YOUNG PEOPLE take their sleeping bags inside to their set ups, to be with their dogs.

Outside JACKIE's RV, there is a line of 20 YOUNG PEOPLE. JACKIE is seeing them one of a time.

INT. JACKIE'S RV - NIGHT

There is a YOUNG PERSON #5 standing in front of JACKIE. GELERT is sitting and watching.

JACKIE

You okay to drive?
(pause)

I gave you have a pistol and ammo?

He nods "yes".

JACKIE

Where do you live again?

YOUNG PERSON #5

Bowling Green, Kentucky.

JACKIE

They are young breeding dogs?

JACKIE looks at the list that ABAGAIL has given her. They have only 3 GERMAN WIREHAired POINTERS inside. JACKIE knows they will need more dogs to keep the breed alive.

JACKIE

Can you get them all in a Hyundai Santa Fe?

YOUNG PERSON #5 doesn't know. But nods "yes".

JACKIE

Here are the keys. Out there on row C is a red Hyundai Santa Fe. Put your clothes in there tonight. And a bag of dog food. In the morning go to Nashville, exit the highway and then go to your home. If there is anyone one there... then great. If not, bring your dogs to Grey Summit Missouri. Purina Farms.

JACKIE turns and hits a button on a very small portable copying machine. A map emerges and JACKIE traces their route. And she circles the Purina Farm on the map.

JACKIE

We need you to be safe and you need to keep the dogs safe. Don't drive to fast and don't drive too slow. There aren't that many German Wirehaired Pointers here, we are going to try to find everyone we can but... well we can't be sure of that.

She turns the map over and writes her cell number on the back.

JACKIE

This is my personal cell phone number.

JACKIE

If you find some dog breeders in Bowling Green tell them we are all going to Purina Farms.

JACKIE

Now I have a young person, about your age. This is Monica. She is going to go with you. You okay with that?

We now see MONICA on the couch in JACKIE's RV.

JACKIE

This is Monica.

YOUNG PERSON #5

Nice to meet you.

MONICA

Nice to meet you too.

JACKIE

Well step outside. I'm going to give Monica a pep talk and then in the morning you can be on your way. She will be right out and you can get organized. Crates, food, water, whatever you need take it.

YOUNG PERSON #5 exits the RV.

JACKIE speaks softly to MONICA.

JACKIE

Men, they take risks. It's just the way they are. The dogs are his. I don't really know this boy. But I know young men and I know / knew his parents. Very nice people. Try not to let him get out on a limb. Weigh out everything. Safety is the most important thing.

MONICA

We can get it done. I'm sure.

JACKIE

I know you can. Leave as soon as you can.

MONICA leaves the RV. JACKIE signals for the next YOUNG MAN and WOMAN to come in.

We see JACKIE's clip board. There are nine similar rescue missions to get dogs from homes.

We see a line outside the RV. BOY & GIRL pairs who will leave the group to find their dogs. Sometimes it's the GIRL's family dogs that need to be rescued and the BOY is along for security. Sometimes it's the BOY's family dogs that need to be rescued and the GIRL is along for temperance.

MONTAGE of JACKIE offering car keys to various YOUNG PEOPLE. They all have dogs at home that need collecting.

Can you get all your dogs in a Nissan NV Cargo Van?
Can you get all your dogs in a Subaru XV Crosstrek Hybrid?
Can you get all your dogs in a Kia Sorento?
Can you get all your dogs in a GMC Terrain?
Can you get all your dogs in a Nissan Xterra?

And then JACKIE retires to bed.

GELERT exits the RV and walks to the large luxury RV.

INT. NIGHT - GELERT'S NEW RV

GELERT is a man who has been sleeping on a pull out couch in JACKIE'S RV for 30 years. He is giddy and excited to the point of disorientation about his new digs. Of course, he has chosen to occupy the nicest of the abandoned RVs. While totally exhausted, he watches TV news for a very long time.

The DANE has a couch of his own and GELERT is unencumbered.

It seems that all the news channels have incorporated into one - FCN (Fox CNN and MSNBC). We are focused on GELERT's expression, but we hear the television.

TV NEWS

(voice over)

Former Secretary of the Interior and now the President of the United States today announced measures to deal with the massive population loss.

The TV flashes several photos of the new President. There is a formal (official Secretary of the Interior) photo, a few photos of the man in meetings, a photo with his family and a photo of him throwing a stick on the beach for an AKITA.

GELERT

(to the Dane)

Hey, I know that guy. He shows Akitas in California. Jackie knows him.

TV NEWS

(voice over)

The President said this was no threat to national security and remarkably that no naval vessel has been effected.

(pause)

Because the ships were at sea when the lethal coffee imports arrived they were unaffected. Several ships have been recalled to port and up navigable rivers so their crews can be used as a temporary police force.

(pause)

The President also announced an embargo and blockade on coffee shipments from Columbia.

GELERT finally sleeps in a nice queen size bed, the GREAT DANE is asleep in the middle. GELERT is pushed to the edge of the bed.

INT. JACKIE'S RV - NIGHT

It is deathly silent. No gunfire, no dogs are even barking. It is the middle of the night. A bright moon shows JACKIE sleeping.

She suddenly wakes gasping for air. It seems to have been a nightmare. She listens and hears nothing. She turns on the light.

JACKIE

Gelert?

GELERT is in his new RV, of course. There isn't an answer.

JACKIE looks at the LED clock read out. It is 2:20 AM. She doesn't go back to sleep.

JACKIE has previously moved like a 70 year old lady. Now, she is moving like a 90 year old. She is shaky and would fall but that is very hard to do in an RV without hitting the wall. She is held up by the wall several times.

JACKIE manages to get dressed in her nicest outfit. It was reserved for her next big televised dog show. Black and elegant.

JACKIE collects her CHIHUAHUA and goes outside.

INT. PARKING LOT - NEAR JACKIE'S RV - NIGHT

JACKIE places the CHIHUAHUA in the basket of her scooter. She slowly moves out. She stops by a table and looks through the sleeping bags. She picks up the prettiest and most elegant bag. It is pink camouflage, presumably for female deer hunters. She places it on the scooter seat, beside her.

JACKIE

(to the Chihuahua)

Some clothing just seems to be a lint magnet. I hate lint. But this dress sure looks good, doesn't it boy?

JACKIE looks through her purse and pulls out a lint remover brush. JACKIE drives off very slowly.

Earlier in the film she breaks ever speed limit on the scooter. JACKIE never goes anywhere in the first half of the film, unless the accelerator isn't on the floor. Now, in the middle of the night, she only creeps along in the scooter.

She remembers that GELERT is in the largest most expensive RV. She stops and looks at the RV. JACKIE sees that the television has been left on, but we see inside GELERT and the DANE are fast asleep.

JACKIE pauses. She is thinking. She feels that she is dying but is debating disturbing him. Over the years, she has been friends and colleagues with tens of thousands, but she has been close to only one.

JACKIE texts GELERT. The contents of the message will be divulged later in the film.

The text arrives inside GELERT'S RV, his phone chimes. GELERT is sound asleep next to the GREAT DANE.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - NIGHT

JACKIE motors slowly to the convention hall with her CHIHUAHUA. Inside the emergency lights are on. The dogs are silent. Only a few brachycephalic dogs can be heard snoring.

She passes three loose GERMAN SHEPARDS all are awake and only watch her roll by. They are de facto in charge of security. Their YOUNG PEOPLE are probably asleep not far away.

JACKIE progresses to the Best In Show ring in her scooter. The blue carpet is still in place. She glances at the tent covering the blood stain.

She moves to the middle of the ring. She unrolls her sleeping bag. She puts the CHIHUAHUA down. The CHIHUAHUA is unusually somber. He walks around the outside of the sleeping bag. He walks over to the Best In Show sign, still in the middle of the ring, and hikes his leg on it.

When the CHIHUAHUA returns to JACKIE she is laying down on the sleeping bag. JACKIE has a tranquil look on her face. She is probably reminiscing. The CHIHUAHUA also has a tranquil look on his face. In the first half of the film the CHIHUAHUA has been hell on wheels, but here he is just happy to be laying on the sleeping bag beside JACKIE.

ZOMBIES appear. Several of them move toward the Best in Show ring. Slowly, cautiously. They seems to be learning

stealth. Every time in the film, they roar and act like traditional ZOMBIES they are shot or ripped apart by dogs, so now they try a different approach.

The GERMAN SHAPARDS are watching but only hold their head up. They don't spring into action. They watch.

One of the ZOMBIES accidentally kicks one of the uprights and rattles the ring gates.

The CHIHUAHUA goes off like a gun.

He is barking loudly. The crated dogs all wake up. They peer out of their crates at what is happening. The GERMAN SHEPARDS stand, but don't intervene. The CHIHUAHUA rushes at the ZOMBIES who stop their progress. The dog makes a fake charge and the ZOMBIES circle. JACKIE does not move.

The CHIHUAHUA bravely is holding off several ZOMBIES that want to eat JACKIE's brains.

The ZOMBIES quickly have developed a fear of dogs the past two days. They even fear the CHIHUAHUA, who is very passionate about protecting JACKIE. The CHIHUAHUA is doing all the work. The CHIHUAHUA and JACKIE have been close and this fiery defense of her body is something the CHIHUAHUA seems to be sadly relishing.

The ZOMBIES are about to overwhelm the CHIHUAHUA, but the GERMAN SHEPARDS take a step up. The ZOMBIES are mindless monsters, but they see the SHEPARDS and back off. The CHIHUAHUA doesn't seem to know the larger dogs have his back.

The ZOMBIES tire of pestering the CHIHUAHUA and leave though a hallway. The three GERMAN SHEPARDS follow them.

GELERT has awoken and arrives with the GREAT DANE.

GELERT sits on the floor not far from JACKIE until the morning. He doesn't seem to sleep. He just sits and reflects.

The GERMAN SHEPARDS return and the GREAT DANE stand watch. They do not interfere.

Standing "guard" is solely the CHIHUAHUA's job.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - GRASSY MEDIAN AREA - DAY

The next morning the YOUNG PEOPLE secure a casket and dig a nearly regulation grave to bury JACKIE. They even have a section of Astroturf surrounding the open grave. As they lower the coffin with ropes, the CHIHUAHUA bites the rope looking to keep the coffin above ground. He will not release the rope and the CHIHUAHUA is accidentally pulled into the grave. Or, the director can have the dog just jump in the grave. Either way.

Everyone looks at GELERT, with out a word he motions for someone to retrieve the dog. A YOUNG BOY jumps into the grave and picks up the CHIHUAHUA and puts him up on the ground.

One young person is an ARTIST he carves and paints a very nice wooden grave marker. There is the name and years, but also a painting of JACKIE handling the CHIHUAHUA. He seals it with thick polyurethane.

JACKIE is buried just south of the convention center in a landscaped area under two palm trees. We can see her grave from the Red Lobster and Denny's.

Six MEXICAN CHILDREN are watching the burial from seats in the Denny's restaurant.

EXT. HOTELS TO THE EAST - DAY

RESCUE TEAM SIX resume kicking in doors and rescuing dogs at the Marriott, Ritz-Carlton and Shingle Creek hotels.

INT. CUBA LIBRE RESTAURANT & RUM BAR - DAY

GELERT drives the bullet ridden Corvette to a bar. There are several ZOMBIES in the bar, which he ignores. They don't seem too aggressive. The ZOMBIES maintain certain human proclivities; if they were human bar-flies then they are ZOMBIE bar-flies.

GELERT has been working for Jackie for 30 years. First, he worked as a young boy... and then even as a 40 year old man he has basically been afraid to venture out for himself.

GELERT is the person least likely (physically AND psychologically) to become the hero and lead the group to safety. However, GELERT is the "ultimate" reluctant hero.

GELERT has inherited the CHIHUAHUA. He steps behind the bar and places the CHIHUAHUA on the bar. The dog runs up and down the bar barking and raising hell.

When a ZOMBIE gets near the bar, the dog bites his finger... and a tug of war develops - either the dog will be pulled off the bar or the finger will come off. The finger is detached and the CHIHUAHUA has a snack.

GELERT isn't drunk yet; he just arrived. But he watches the contest, ZOMBIE vs. CHIHUAHUA, with a philosophical but drunken curiosity. When the CHIHUAHUA wins, there is a slight satisfaction on GELERT's face.

GELERT then turns to some serious drinking. He has a sample of each liquor, slowly. He is alone and prefers it that way.

EXT. CUBA LIBRE RESTAURANT - PARKING LOT - DAY

Finally, as GELERT and the CHIHUAHUA leave the bar, GELERT spots a white STANDARD POODLE that is loose.

GELERT
(to the Chihuahua)
Do we know that dog?

The CHIHUAHUA whines. Judging from the grooming, the POODLE is clearly a show dog.

GELERT opens the passenger side door of the Corvette. The POODLE, without hesitation, trots right up and takes the passenger seat.

The Corvette and the POODLE might have been owned by the same individual before the catastrophe or perhaps GELERT is just a show dog magnet.

The CHIHUAHUA whines again. GELERT is a drunk driver at 20 MPH on completely empty streets, but manages to return to the convention center.

INT. AMWAY CENTER - NIGHT

Still inside the Amway Center, there is mayhem.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

The camaraderie is gone. Everyone is depressed. We see a few YOUNG PEOPLE moving in and out of the RV where were the GREAT PYRENEES litter has been moved. But these are the caretakers and they take shifts overseeing the litter.

The YOUNG PEOPLE had been mesmerized but now the spell has been broken. They no longer crowd around the puppies. The litter's fans don't materialize all afternoon. JACKIE has died and everything achieved thus far is in jeopardy.

There isn't any organized, breakfast or lunch. There is a lot of snacking. Empty chip bags are everywhere on the ground.

We see some girls arguing (even some pulling hair) and some boys get into a fistfight. GELERT and CAROL, the only adults, do nothing.

GELERT and CAROL are sitting outside of the luxury RV in a lawn chair. GELERT is getting even more drunk. CAROL is sunning herself and eating cubes of watermelon from one of the concession stands. A YOUNG PERSON approaches them tentatively.

GELERT is looking at his phone.

YOUNG PERSON
We are getting our dogs today?

GELERT
I'm not sure.

CAROL sits up and listens. The YOUNG PERSON leaves.

CAROL
You are in charge now.

GELERT
What?

CAROL
You heard me.

GELERT

I'm not.

CAROL

If you don't step up, this group will collapse.

GELERT

Can't do it.

CAROL

Sure you can. You already did.

GELERT

Grooming a poodle is one thing. Hooking up an O² and an I.V. is one thing. Dealing with this army of kids is totally different.

CAROL

Just bring them to Missouri. And then things will run its self. There is something about a place. A roof. A farm.

GELERT looks at his phone.

GELERT

This is a roof.

CAROL

But food.

GELERT looks around at the urban setting.

GELERT

I don't like people.

CAROL

You like me.

GELERT

Well, that is different.

CAROL

How?

GELERT
You are over 30.

CAROL
I'm 28.

GELERT
Oh, sorry.
(pause)
Well, you are over 27 then.

CAROL
What if I was 26?

GELERT
I would probably make an exception.

CAROL
Good to know.

GELERT looks at his phone.

CAROL
Something on your phone?

GELERT
No, not really.

CAROL
You keep looking at your phone.

GELERT
A message from Jackie.

CAROL
When?

GELERT
Last night.
(pause)
I don't know what it means.
(pause)
She was a teacher for a year before she
was a handler.

CAROL

Really?

GELERT

Sometimes she just goes off and I have no idea what she is talking about.

CAROL

What is it?

GELERT hands her the phone.

CAROL

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

(pause)

She sent you this?

Two HUMMERS pull up quickly and stop rapidly. NATE hangs his head out the window.

NATE

We found a bunch of hotels up north on the highway to downtown - Rosen Plaza, Embassy Suites, La Quinta, Hardrock. Can we go?

GELERT is half drunk and half in mourning. He has this WTF look on his face. NATE expects a prompt answer; he expects more leadership.

GELERT

Huh?

CAROL smiles and holds up the walkie-talkie. NATE understands, gives half a wave and then drives quickly away. NATE and PETER may think there is something wrong at the top of the organization; they look worried. FRANK and HANK in the other Hummer wave enthusiastically.

CAROL

Someday you're gonna look back on this time of grieving. You'll see that you were in mourning, but your life was changing. Today. Now.

GELERT

Change? Make me!

CAROL leans forward and kisses GELERT on the lips.

CAROL
She took the trouble to text you.

GELERT
We worked together.
(pause)
I didn't pay attention in school.

CAROL
Well that doesn't matter.

GELERT
She "made" me go to college and didn't listen.

CAROL
What you just went and spaced out?

GELERT
Pretty much. Yes. I lived in Jackie's guesthouse. Groomed dogs. Went to school Monday through Friday and then we would light out for a dog show.
(pause)
I hated it, sitting there all week and I just wanted to go to dog shows.

CAROL seems to understand and shows that with her expression. She is very happy GELERT will open up and communicate.

GELERT
Now, I have no idea what to do.

CAROL
She told you.

GELERT
The text?
(pause)
What does it mean?

CAROL

Some leadership / psychological thing.
I'm not sure about the details you need
to look it up. I remember a little.

GELERT has sobered up a bit; it was largely the
kiss. He is trying to process what she is saying.

CAROL

It means you have to feed these kids
and keep them safe. You have to talk to
them about the future. These kids need
to feel they are part of a group and
that they matter. And you need to get
them to Purina Farms like Jackie
promised.

GELERT

Let me "google" it and I will get back
to you. Okay?

CAROL

Okay. I'll be waiting.

The walkie-talkie requests the vendor's truck to
come pick up some dogs.

GELERT takes the walkie-talkie.

GELERT

(into the walkie-talkie)
Susan, the extraction team has some
dogs... at a hotel... you will have to talk
to them... you and your friends can you
please go fetch them back?

SUSAN

(voice over)
Sure.

GELERT

(to Carol)
How was that?

CAROL

It's a start.

GELERT puts down his empty glass. CAROL smiles. She feels once sober he will be back to his normal self.

INT. DUSK - AMWAY CENTER

At the Amway Center, there is mayhem still but they seem to be contained. However, suddenly metal fatigue causes the doors to fly open. Now 20,000 ZOMBIES, in one huge herd, are heading southwest in the direction of the convention center. They are 12 miles away and they are on the highway.

Moving at ZOMBIE speed they will arrive in the general area of the convention center in three and one half hours.

EXT. DUSK - LA QUINTA INN - NORTH OF CONVENTION CENTER

RESCUE TEAM SIX have evacuated the La Quinta. They call for the vendor's truck. There are only 8 crates. They leave and are destined for the next hotel, but on Highway 4 they see an army of ZOMBIES moving south.

They radio GELERT and CAROL about the mass of undead heading their way. RESCUE TEAM SIX's voice is very anxious.

NATE

There is a herd of these zombie creatures moving down Highway 4. If they get there, it will not be good.

CAROL

Really. That many? How many?

NATE

I'm guessing about 15 to 20 thousand head. They are in a herd. We can't stop them. We might lead them off... I'm not sure. We are gonna get in front of them and see.

CAROL

Gelert knows. I just told him.

NATE

Cancel the pickup at the La Quinta. We are going back for them.

They turn around and rapidly pick up the 8 crates themselves. Then they race ahead of the zombie horde, on Highway 4 heading south.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

GELERT springs into action.

GELERT
(to Carol)
Radio everyone... and tell them they are
about to get their breeds and an RV
assignment.

GELERT zooms over to JACKIE's RV. He gets the breed and RV assignments off her table. There is clearly a sense of urgency. They have to load up and get going before the ZOMBIE horde arrives.

EXT. HIGHWAY 4 HEADING SOUTH - DUSK

There are four YOUNG MEN, eight crates, two GERMAN SHEPARDS and a pack of BEAGLES in two HUMMERS. There are six rifles and four pistols and several ammunition boxes.

They monitor the speed of the ZOMBIES...

NATE
(into the radio)
They are going about 4 miles per hour.

PETER is calculating their estimated time of arrival. Peter is punching buttons on the GPS.

PETER
(into the radio)
ETA is 2 hours and 58 mins.

CAROL
Okay, thank you.

PETER
Tell Gelert.

CAROL
Thank you. I will.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - NIGHT

ABAGAIL and JACKIE'S YOUNG LADIES have walkie-talkies and they hear the news. They begin to rush whatever work is being done inside. Organizing over 700 dogs.

EXT. JACKIE'S RV #2 - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Everyone gathers around GELERT'S RV.

GELERT stands on top of a picnic table and everyone looks on anxiously. CAROL joins him on top of the table. She stands on the seat to be the same height as GELERT.

GELERT

I was going to do this in the morning.
But we have to go. And we have to go
right now!

(pause)

You are about to be given a sacred
responsibility. Don't allow them to
parish. Don't allow yourself to parish.

(pause)

When you get your breed, get the dogs
and put them in your RV. I will call
out your name and your breeds (you may
get more than one breed) and the number
of your RV. They are in a line, fueled
and number one... the first RV. Number
two is the second RV. No gripping no
complaining. You will have to save that
for later.

(pause)

Jackie worked this out and you might be
crowded in your rig. Stack the crates
and secure them with the bungee cords.

(pause)

We will be safe and in Missouri in
about 14 hours. More or less. There is
a walkie talkie charged and ready to go
in each rig. Call if you need help. But
we are pulling out of here in two and
one half hours.

(pause)

CAROL taught you how to drive; god I
hope you paid attention, because WE ARE
LEAVING.

After CAROL kissed GELERT it seems that he began making preparations. Evidently, he has sobered up and has placed bungee cords and a walkie-talkie in each rig.

GELERT

(quietly to Carol)

I hope we are pulling out of here in time.

CAROL

(quietly to Gelert)

Who charged the radios and put them in the RVS? You?

GELERT points confidently to himself. Evidently he was drunk when he did it, but CAROL thinks that "getting the job done" is sexy.

GELERT

We should have left here this morning.

ABAGAIL stands on the picnic table; she tells the young people how the dogs are organized inside.

ABAGAIL

The dogs are organized inside by group... the group signs are there... and are in alphabetical order and then inside each group the breeds are in alphabetical order.

(pause)

The herding group is near the entrance. First row is the Australian Cattle Dogs Okay? Alphabetical.

(pause)

The working dogs are at the far end... the last row are the ST. BERNARDS. Alphabetical! Understand?

(pause)

I love you and we can do this!

GELERT

Dogs first. In crates... then anything else you will need to care for your dogs. Let's go!

GELERT begins calling names, breeds and numbers. He has plenty of volume and he doesn't hesitate at all. GELERT rises to meet the crisis.

The YOUNG PEOPLE respond. They look at GELERT as the leader. They run to the exhibition hall and begin rolling out crates on carts. Much of the work pulling the carts is done by electric carts or golf carts; however we see draft dogs pulling carts also. We see BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS, GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOGS, and BOUVIER DES FLANDRES pulling carts of crates.

Later they will come back for dog toys, grooming bags and dog food. It is a beautiful organized chaos. Food and dog toys, go flying on the floor, but the dogs reach the RVs.

EXT. GELERT'S RV #1 - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

When GELERT is done with reading out the list, he and CAROL step down from the picnic table, they walk to the lead RV. GELERT retrieves the CHIHUAHUA on a lead. He takes the dog over to the grass. He pees on everything - the fire hydrant, palm trees, landscape lighting. The dog seems to then watch all the action... people scurrying. He barks a few times as if to say, "hurry up" and then GELERT puts him back in the RV.

A MEXICAN MAN and his FAMILY arrive.

The MEXICAN is a cook, from Red Lobster. And his WIFE is driving a refrigerated Denny's truck. The MEXICAN has the refrigerated Red Lobster truck. They have 6 or 7 kids. They don't speak English.

GELERT doesn't speak Spanish. The MEXICAN speaks to CAROL.

GELERT watches the YOUNG PEOPLE load and we see him answer a few questions, as CAROL speaks to the MEXICAN. CAROL approaches GELERT.

CAROL
(to Gelert)

They want to go with us to Missouri.
They are Mexican. They are cooks. He is
driving that Red Lobster truck (full)
and his wife is driving the Denny's

truck (also full). That is where they worked. They have a family.

The MEXICAN begins to introduce his family... it is an emergency and GELERT doesn't want to take the time to listen, but CAROL takes his arm in her hands. GELERT relaxes.

MEXICAN

Mi mujer, Mari. My daughters: Angel, Maria, Sofía, Isabella Valentina, Camila. And sons: Santiago, Mateo, Matías, Sebastián.

GELERT

(pointing)

And you have a dog?

MEXICAN

Si, we have a Chihuahua.

(pause)

From Mexico.

They run a kid, holding the family's CHIHUAHUA, to the front of the group.

GELERT

(to Carol)

It's huge.

(to the Mexican)

That isn't a Chihuahua, is it?

MEXICAN

Si, it is a Chihuahua from Mexico.

Gelert looks incredulous.

CAROL

(whispers in GELERT)

It's a pet.

GELERT

Oh, okay.

GELERT is 40 years old and has never seen a pet CHIHUAHUA.

GELERT points to the dash of his RV to Jackie's BIS CHIHUAHUA.

The MEXICAN man smiles really big and gives the thumbs up to GELERT.

MEXICAN
(to Gelert)
Oh, tú también tienes un Chihuahua.
Bueno. Bueno.
(to family)
El jefe también tiene un Chihuahua.

The MEXICAN man feels part of the group and instantly likes GELERT.

GELERT
Is that truck really full?

MEXICAN
Si

CAROL
(whispers to Gelert)
It has been a while since I had
lobster, if you know what I mean.

GELERT
(whispers to Carol)
Me too.
(to the Mexican)
Okay when we pull out of here, you pull
in behind us.

Your teenager boys there... how old?
Old enough to drive?

MEXICAN
Si, Si.

GELERT motions to two truck. The FIRST SON is given the empty vendor's truck. The SECOND SON is given the keys to the full superintendent's truck, it is pulling a trailer full of supplies.

The MEXICAN father looks inside the vendor's truck and it is empty. He has an idea to fill it before leaving.

INT. WHOLE FOODS MARKET - NIGHT

The OLDEST SON drives, the MEXICAN and the entire family get in and drive to the Whole Foods Market. The family fully loads the vendor's truck.

The Mexican family comes across a food truck "A One Night Taco Stand" with a big stove and lots of refrigeration. They fill it also. The oldest daughter drives the food truck back to the convention center.

INT. ABAGAIL'S RV #3 - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

ABAGAIL places the 4 year old girl and her MALAMUTES in the #3 RV and tells her to stay in place while she finishes loading her dogs. But TONI watches out the window. One of her Malamutes escapes his crate and runs back into the building. TONI, of course, leaves the RV and chases after her dog.

EXT. HIGHWAY 4 SOUTH - NIGHT

The ZOMBIE horde is on highway 4 and if they progress on the highway, they will miss the convention center. RESCUE TEAM SIX in the Hummers try to lure them away from the center.

RESCUE TEAM SIX is in front of the horde. They are taunting the ZOMBIES to follow them on the highway. But the ZOMBIES stop at the exit that will take them to the convention center. The ZOMBIES stop.

PETER

(into the radio)

Everyone stop. Everyone quiet.

It takes five seconds for everyone at the dog show to stop and get quiet. The ZOMBIES are listening. There is a long pause as they try to choose which way to go.

Everyone in the group freeze. Nothing is said. The CHIHUAHUA, on GELERT's dash, lets out an excruciatingly loud howl. The ZOMBIES instinctively move to the exit and toward the dog show.

The ZOMBIES hears the commotion made by the CHIHUAHUA.

PETER

Okay, forget it. They heard that. Keep loading. They are coming!

The group continue loading to leave.

INT. ABAGAIL'S RV #3 - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

ABAGAIL returns to her RV and finds that TONI, the five year old girl, is not where she was left. ABAGAIL runs out into the parking lot but there is only the organized chaos and TONI is not to be seen.

ABAGAIL radios to GELERT that one of the MALAMUTES is missing from his crate and the little girl is gone too.

ABAGAIL

(to the radio)

Little Toni and a large male Malamute are missing from #3.

INT. GELERT'S RV #1 - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The ZOMBIE horde has turned onto Martin Andersen Beachline Expressway and GELERT can see them moving in his direction.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - NIGHT

GELERT

(to Carol)

Tell everyone to start their rig and idle. Just tell them to wait.

GELERT jumps out of his RV. He runs back to JACKIE's RV in the #2 spot and he jumps on JACKIE's scooter and he drives back inside the hall. He finds TONI and the MALAMUTE have been shopping for dog toys at a vendor's abandoned booth. They are returning but they are taking their time. She has five or six carefully breed appropriate (large) toys in hand. The MALAMUTE has two toys in his mouth.

GELERT scoops the girl up and has TONI call the dog.. the dog follows them as they zoom back the RV.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

GELERT zooms to ABAGAIL's RV and drops off the MALAMUTE and the 4 year old girl. ABAGAIL has been worried like a mother. She kisses and hugs TONI and buckles her into the passenger seat.

Just as the ZOMBIE horde arrive... GELERT is racing to his RV in the front of the line. He is on the scooter but it is running out of the charge and goes slower and slower. The ZOMBIES are closing the distance rapidly. The ZOMBIES are about to catch and devour GELERT.

Suddenly the young people open their RV windows and fire their weapons. And many of the ZOMBIES fall. Just enough are killed, so that GELERT reaches the lead RV.

GELERT uses his "fancy" remote control to lower the back door of the RV. He drives JACKIE's scooter up into the RV's mini garage. And he again uses the remote control to raise the ramp.

GELERT gets behind the wheel. He smiles at CAROL who is his co-pilot. GELERT leads the caravan out onto Martin Andersen Beachline Expy heading east.

The heavily armed RESCUE TEAM SIX in the Hummers fall in at the end of the caravan as they pull out. One hummer speeds to the front of the caravan. One Hummer remains guarding the rear and to help any RV who might break down.

It seems that they have narrowly escaped the convention center. Several ZOMBIES are run over in the process.

GELERT

That is everyone? We didn't leave anyone did we?

CAROL speaks in to the radio; she looks back at the parking lot. The last of the RVs seems to be out of the parking lot.

CAROL

(to radio)

RV #1 to RV #33 You okay? You are in line moving?

YOUNG PERSON

#RV 33 here. We are behind you. Yes.

CAROL
(to Gelert)
You are good. You are really good!

CAROL is holding her heart. Evidently her heart has been racing. But it is also the body language of love.

CAROL
You are like some action hero.

CAROL crawls over the console and kisses GELERT on the temple.

And then later, we see the signs marking Florida's Turnpike leading North.

The various food and supply trucks with the MEXICAN family fall into the convoy at the very back.

Everyone is now on the road to Missouri.

EXT. I-75 NORTHBOUND - FLORIDA - DAWN

One of the Hummers, with NATE and PETER, is a mile ahead of the caravan. They are a scout vehicle, to give warnings to the main group. Every once in a while, there are abandoned cars that must be circumvented. Once there is glass and car parts from a wreck that the caravan must avoid. A major concern are punctured tires.

CAROL
(into radio)
Hey, 30 MPH is fast enough.

NATE
(into radio)
It's gonna take us forever.

GELERT
(to Carol)
These kids driving, some of them are 13. If they crash an RV, we might lose a breed or two.

CAROL
(into radio)

It isn't a race.

GELERT

(to Carol)

No one is chasing us. Not really.

CAROL

It is better to be safe than sorry.

NATE

Fine.

GELERT however is forced to run over a few ZOMBIES. And he begins to think about the YOUNG PEOPLE driving rigs behind him. They may be forced to run over some.

GELERT is concerned about the physiological effect on the YOUNG PEOPLE, seeing countless ZOMBIES and being forced to run over them.

NATE

We are passing a lot of zombies up here.

CAROL

Yes, we see them.

NATE

What do you want us to do?

CAROL

Minimize the risk to the group, but don't waste ammo.

NATE

What does that mean?

CAROL

Your discretion.

NATE

What?

GELERT politely takes the radio from CAROL.

GELERT

I don't want these kids to have to run over them. I don't want a bunch of kids that see themselves as hardened killers when we get to Missouri. Understand?

(pause)

You were a hardened killer when this thing started.

NATE

(happy)

Yes. We don't mind running over them so you guys don't have to.

GELERT and CAROL must smile and shake their head at the teenage male logic.

EXT. I-75 REST AREA-10 NORTHBOUND - ASHBURN, GA - PREDAWN

Before they arrive, the rear guard Hummer speeds up and the two Hummers drive through the rest area three times, back and forth. Before the caravan arrives they stop at the bathrooms and clear them of ZOMBIES. It is all done with military precision.

Just as the caravan stops, NATE (via the radio) has the rear guard Hummer block the exit to the rest area. A vehicle would find it difficult to reach the group. It is all very professional. The lead Hummer blocks the entrance to the highway. PETER and HANK pops up out of the top of each Hummer with a weapon visible. The NATE and FRANK walk to the food truck. Then later they alternate guard duty. No ZOMBIES appear and there are no threats.

CAROL nods to the radio. Somehow she communicates to him; she wants GELERT to comment.

GELERT

Nate, you are doing a great job. Keep up the good work. I "almost" feel safe.

Once the caravan has stopped and the dogs are given a "pee break". The young people combine 30 exercise pens to make one giant dog park.

By the time the dogs are exercised, the MEXICAN FAMILY has set up a food line. They are cooking out of the food truck,

that is blasting Tejano music from the speakers. CAROL strings up JACKIE's red chili pepper Christmas tree lights. They have tables set up and they have table clothes, even for the picnic tables. Every member of the MEXICAN FAMILY participates.

The YOUNG PEOPLE almost always say "thank you" to the MEXICAN FAMILY. They smile.

GELERT and CAROL sit to eat.

GELERT
(to Carol)
In Spanish, how do you say "this is the best food I've had in 30 years"?

CAROL
Esta es la mejor comida que he tenido en 30 años.

GELERT
How do you say "good"?

CAROL
Bueno.

GELERT and CAROL leave and walk past the food truck.

GELERT
(to MEXICAN father)
Bueno.

The faces of the MEXICAN family beam. They light up and are proud of their work. EL Jefe's compliments are worth a great deal in this culture. And GELERT is El Jefe. The boss!

The camaraderie returns. They have lost their parents but have gained some independence. They handle their new freedom responsibly. We are talking about 90 young people with only two adults around.. and everything doesn't go "Lord of the Flies".

They have been driving 30 miles per hour for the entire night. And now the rest stop brings the young people to life. They are running and joking. Playing with their dogs.

A few go back to the "maternity" RV to see the mom and the puppies.

EXT. REST AREA - VARIOUS RVS - DAWN

The ARTIST is painting zombie "kill flags" on the side of various RVs. Especially the RVs where the drivers shot ZOMBIES to save GELERT when they were leaving. Several ZOMBIES have been run over. Those RVs get a flag. The entire door of lead Hummer is covered with the "kill flags".

EXT. REST AREA - PICNIC TABLE - DAWN

BRETT (12), ABIGAIL, TONI and GINA are having some burritos and some milk.

BRETT
(a bit depressed)
I just want to go home.

ABIGAIL
You have family at home?

BRETT shakes her head "no".

ABIGAIL is chatty and BRETT (younger) is listening and learning. The near extinction event has caused a sudden deficit of role models and BRETT appears to have latched on to ABIGAIL. As they speak, other YOUNG PEOPLE gather around to listen.

ABIGAIL
I'm alone too. But we have something important to do.

BRETT has a curious look on her face.

ABIGAIL
You know what we are doing here?

Brett shrugs her shoulders. She doesn't really understand. Many of the young people don't understand the importance of what is happening. They know they are supposed to "preserve life" in general but they don't understand the history of man's creation of the dogs.

GINA

Do you remember what Jackie said about saving the dogs?

BRETT

Yes.

ABIGAIL

Dogs are special because they developed to live around people over a very long period of time. Cavemen used wolves and wild dogs to hunt. The dogs were able to track and corner the prey for the humans, and the humans were able to kill the prey and feed what they did not eat to the dogs.

(pause)

When people got smarter, selective breeding was started to develop all the breeds and crossbreeds with particular talents. Jobs.

BRETT

Sled dogs pull, stockdogs herd, hunting dogs hunt. I know.

ABIGAIL

And in turn their owners provide them with food, shelter, and care.

GINA

People and dogs have continued this great relationship and now we face the prospect of giving that up because of what has happened.

ABIGAIL

This is bad, very bad what has happened. I think there are very few people left.

GINA

My parents, your parents, everyone!

Several YOUNG PEOPLE arrive to listen.

ABIGAIL

Okay, we each have a breed... some of us have two breeds. It took, Jackie said, 10,000 years to build this dog.

GINA

You know if we let the dogs loose and they breed... all the dogs pretty soon will be mixed up.

ABIGAIL

We don't want mixed up.

GINA

You know you can't breed brother to sister or father to daughter... well we might have to but it isn't ideal. We need a lot of dogs to keep the breeds separate.

ABIGAIL

You know we need puppies

TONI

(interrupting)

Puppies?

ABIGAIL

Yes... because after a time these dogs will get old... and die. But we want to control that next generation and ... be smart.

GINA

And we want to make every generation better, better temperament, healthier and more suited to do whatever job they were created to do.

ABIGAIL gestures at her ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL.

ABIGAIL

This might be the last of this breed. I have some others but not advanced like this. We don't know if there are others. People are dead. We do know she is nice... actually the nicest. Best of

Breed both days. She is the number one bitch in the breed. Is she ANYTHING like a wolf?

YOUNG PEOPLE

No.

TONI

She looks like a spaniel.

ABIGAIL

Of course. Just think how much work it took to make her... out of a wolf. Here touch her coat.

BRETT

Will she do a job?

ABIGAIL

They were designed especially for hunting birds. Yes, she will smell out and then bring back any bird that you shot. Naturally, genetically. She just does it. No real training.

A YOUNG PERSON with a XOLOITZCUINTLI walks past.

GINA

You know the Xolo? Their job was to be a heating pad. A dog's temperature is almost 104... like a heating pad.

ABIGAIL

Old people get arthritis and heat helps.

BRETT

Oh.

ABIGAIL

Right, that is a job... every dog has a job.

YOUNG PERSON

Why don't you just buy a heating pad.

GINA

Some people don't have electricity. We might not have electricity. Did you think of that? People are dead.

ABIGAIL

And some people think these jobs are silly... we invented machines... that is true. But given this event... almost almost everyone dead... how do you know what jobs we will need done in the future?

GINA

Now, you have shampoo and you took a shower yesterday... I HOPE, but we might be thrown back to like medieval times by this?

ABIGAIL

You have these dogs; they are your responsibility. You CAN NOT under any circumstances allow any of these dogs to be bred... ESPECIALLY with another breed.

GINA

These dogs are very valuable... they used to be worth money but now they are just... worth saving... get it?

ARTIST

(to Brett)

When you spend 10,000 years painting a picture, you don't want it destroyed.

ABIGAIL

Man controls his environment. He builds houses, writes poetry and he breeds animals to help him.

GINA

Pharaohs, kings, aristocrats, coal miners, monks, farmers, hunters... they all worked to develop dogs.

ABIGAIL

(to Brett)

Good point... your parents haven't been
the only humans who breed dogs.

GINA

And now it is our turn!

TONI

(to Brett)

We are going to save all the doggies,
forever.

EXT. REST AREA - SUPPLY TRUCK - DAWN

The LOGISTICS TEAM opens up a temporary store. Some of the items taken from the sporting goods store and the drugstore are handed out. GELERT and CAROL walk by their table.

GELERT

Ladies, we noticed how much work you have done. I know if Jackie were here she would say the same. In fact, I don't think anyone could have done a better job than you three. You are taking care of your dogs "and" managing this. Thank you.

CAROL

Thank you.

Instead of looking tired and in need of sleep, the YOUNG PEOPLE appear ready for more progress.

GELERT and CAROL are never more than a few feet from each other. An observant fellow might say they are falling in love. They eat together and laugh together.

EXT. REST AREA - LEAD HUMMER - JUST AFTER DAWN

We see NATE and PETER in the Hummer at the front of the caravan.

The sun is just coming up. NATE has a large healthy buck in his binoculars.

NATE
(whispering into the radio)
How long will we be here?

GELERT
Not long. An hour more. Why?

The radio is too loud. The DEER looks in the direction of the Hummer, but he doesn't bolt.

NATE
(whispering)
There is a nice buck up here.

GELERT
A what?

NATE
(whispering)
A deer. A big fat deer.

GELERT
And, you want to shot it?

NATE
Yep.

GELERT
Human food or dog food?

NATE
Both.

GELERT
We are stuck here for a while, and the noise might attract unwelcome visitors. We don't need the food right now. Can you kill a deer later when there is less risk?

NATE
Clear.

NATE slowly and carefully takes a rifle and aims it at the deer. It is a pretty picture through the rifle scope.

PETER

He said "no". Don't shot it.

NATE pulls the trigger and the bolt slams into nothing. There was not a bullet in the chamber and it makes a terrifically loud click. NATE smiles as the deer jumps and runs into the trees.

GELERT, however unlikely, has control of the group. Even the most macho testosterone laced YOUNG PERSON, respects and obeys him.

EXT. I-75 NORTHBOUND - EAST RIDGE TENNESSEE - DAY

The caravan is driving again. There is an incidence on the highway. One of the RVs (#22) runs off the road and hits some road construction signs. There is a lot of screaming (teenage girls) into the radio and general excitement. The entire caravan stops.

GELERT

Find out what is going on. And talk to them.

GELERT rushes back to the garage of his RV. Jackie's scooter is plugged in to a plug and it is ready to go. It appears that CAROL plugged it in, because GELERT is shocked. And he smiles at her.

He looks at the other vehicle, an EZGO Gas Golf-cart, also in the garage. He chooses to take JACKIE's modest scooter. The ramp comes down and GELERT zooms out.

When he arrives at RV #22, the rear guard Hummer is there. There are some dints and scratches in the paint, but of course no one is hurt. They only hit a road sign. A 13 YEAR OLD GIRL is crying on the shoulder of her friend. Everyone is consoling her.

CAROL

(from of the radio)
She just fell asleep.

GELERT

(into the Radio)
The RV is fine.

CAROL
(from of the radio)
Bring her up here.

The lead Hummer arrives and is about to stop. GELERT signals for the Hummers to circle the group. They both speed off.

GELERT
(to the 13 year old)
Hey, I've done this myself. It's not that big a deal. A scratch or two.
(pause)
You know a show dog "shall not be penalized for honourable scars."
(pause)
Same rule here with RVs. Don't worry about it.

13 YEAR OLD GIRL
But...

The 13 YEAR OLD GIRL points to the damage.

GELERT pulls out his pocketknife. He carves "G.B. loves C.H." in the paint. He turns to the YOUNG GIRL for her reaction. GELERT smiles reassuringly.

13 YEAR OLD GIRL
Carol?

GELERT shrugs his shoulders.

GELERT
Maybe.

The 13 YEAR OLD GIRL chuckles a bit.

GELERT
(to the girl)
This was my fault. We should have stopped way back there to sleep. My fault, okay?
(pause)
Hey why don't you come ride up in #1 with me a Carol? Give you a chance to

relax. We have movies and a big screen!
Two big screens.

They share JACKIE's scooter back to the #1 RV.

The 13 YEAR OLD GIRL smiles but is visibly shaken. It is really been a frightening experience and this scene illustrates the sensitivity and fragility of the YOUNG PEOPLE.

GELERT
(into radio)
Is that a truck stop up there at the next exit?

NATE
It is.

GELERT
See if they have electricity at the pumps. If so, secure the area. We will top off, get everyone out, get them awake and figure something out about sleep.

NATE
10-4.

We see both Hummers speed off to the truck stop.

We see CAROL and the 13 YEAR OLD talking.

GELERT studies his GPS. He finds "Lookout Mountain"; it is very near.

NATE
(to the radio)
Truck stop is good to go. Come on.

GELERT
(to the radio)
You have "Lookout Mountain" on your GPS.

There is a pause.

NATE
(to the radio)
Yes.

GELERT
(to the radio)
Get up there and clear that area. Up on
that north ridge. We need to sleep.
Everybody needs to sleep.

CAROL
Lookout Mountain?

GELERT
In the Civil War, the southerners got
up and there it was sure hell to get
them down.

CAROL
BS.

GELERT
I thought it was a good idea. No?

CAROL
It is, but you said you didn't pay
attention in school.

GELERT
Well, a little.

CAROL
You did! You can't BS a BS'er!

The caravan starts up again and they pull into the truck
stop. GELERT goes in and turns on the pumps. The RVs fill
the many fueling ports and the other RVs line up to be
next.

While the RVs are being fueled, GELERT emerges from the
store with a water gun. He approaches all the YOUNG PEOPLE
with the gun and asks them..

GELERT
Are you awake?

And before they can answer, he squirts them in the face. Of course they wake up a bit and it is plenty of fun to break the monotony. GELERT goes right down the line shooting everyone with the water gun.

One YOUNG GIRL is filling her RV with fuel. Inside the RV a BOSTON TERRIER is at the window. The BOSTON is curiously watching... almost trying to reason what is happening outside. The BOSTON gives a warning bark. The YOUNG GIRL is oblivious. There is a ZOMBIE approaching stealthily. At the last minute the YOUNG GIRL heeds the warning. She sparys the ZOMBIE in the face with diesel. The ZOMBIE runs rubbing his eyes and crying. PETER takes aim but doesn't shot him in the head.

EXT. CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK - NOON

When the caravan arrives on the mountain, there are two Hummers and an 18 wheeler in the parking lot. The semi-truck is hauling chickens.

There is gunfire in the park.

CAROL

(into the radio)

Everyone stay in your rig until we tell you its safe.

GELERT exits the RV on JACKIE's scooter. He finds that the gunfire is target practice.

RESCUE TEAM SIX and a very southern TRUCK DRIVER are drinking beer and shooting at bottles they have put up for targets.

The TRUCK DRIVER looks a little rough - beard, long hair, Confederate flag, tattoos and far too many guns. But, he is a positive person. Friendly and willing to share his knowledge with RESCUE TEAM SIX. Two of the boys (HANK and PETER) have not been to familiar with guns, and the TRUCK DRIVER will be a good role teacher in the end. He is an impressive shot and transfers some of that knowledge to the group of YOUNG MEN.

TRUCK DRIVER

Afghanistan?

RESCUE TEAM SIX are very curious about things that the TRUCK DRIVER might know about.

TRUCK DRIVER

This is zombie thing is a cakewalk compared to Afghanistan!

(pause)

Let me tell you something boys; it's all about being a good shot. Americans, we just shoot better than anyone else; that's why the Taliban went to using bombs. One they can't shot. Sure they want the 72 virgins, but most of them aren't men enough to look you in the eye.

The TRUCK DRIVER is drinking and has given RESCUE TEAM SIX a beer, but he is teaching the three BOYS something about useful about guns. NATE seems to know everything the TRUCK DRIVER asks him. But the others are learning a great deal.

TRUCK DRIVER

Now your gun... look at this. They call it a grip safety. There isn't a safety. It won't fire unless your palm hits this little button here. See?

The TRUCK DRIVER holds the gun in an odd way and he pulls the trigger. It doesn't discharge.

TRUCK DRIVER

I don't like it. What if you drop it? And the ground hits right on that button and the trigger gets jarred. Look at the safety on these other guns. If you drop this gun... that safety ain't gonna move. Feel it. See?

GELERT says nothing and doesn't interrupt.

NATE

Hey wait. Something is wrong here. It is a zombie apocalypse and we are on top of a mountain, shooting at bottles? Why?

TRUCK DRIVER

Good point!

The TRUCK DRIVER and RESCUE TEAM SIX pause to think; then together they turn as if they are about to go down the mountain and hunt ZOMBIES. When they turn and notice GELERT, he points behind him where the RVs are parked to the south.

GELERT

We are over here, okay?

Evidently, when they see GELERT and the RVs, they change their minds and are about to resume target practice.

TRUCK DRIVER

Don't worry buddy; we are shooting over there.

The TRUCK DRIVER points off to the north.

GELERT

(to radio)

Everyone can get out. Take care of your dogs. Then eat and then sleep. Any questions?

The ARTIST begins painting zombie "kill flags" on the side of various RVs again.

The ARTIST paints a road sign "kill flag" on the side of the 13 YEAR OLD'S RV. There are already two zombie "kill flags" on the RV and he adds one "caution" road sign "kill flag".

The MEXICAN FAMILY springs into action. They pull their vehicles up near the entrance to the park and begin their cooking.

TRUCK DRIVER

(to Gelert)

Hey buddy. I've been up here all morning and I haven't seen a zombie one.

GELERT

Thanks.

TRUCK DRIVER
No problem.

The MEXICAN family opens their kitchen. Many of the young people are too tired to eat.

The 13 YEAR OLD returns to her RV.

The YOUNG PEOPLE are exhausted. They take care of the dogs and then retire to their RVs to sleep.

It is Lookout Mountain, TN, cloudy and 52°. At night the temperature will plunge to 33°. It's not Florida anymore.

EXT. CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK - AFTERNOON

CAROL, GELERT and the TRUCK DRIVER are eating enchiladas. But the YOUNG PEOPLE all seem sleeping. The dogs are quiet. They have all been fed and exercised.

CAROL
So what sort of chickens you hauling?

TRUCK DRIVER
Bets me.

CAROL
Well were are they going?

TRUCK DRIVER
Going in my stomach.

CAROL
No. Well I mean are they boy chickens or girl chickens.

TRUCK DRIVER
Oh, egg farm. I figure they are girl chickens. Why you want them?

GELERT
You have a dog?

TRUCK DRIVER
Sure do. Redbone Hound, up there sleeping in my truck.

GELERT

Well we are looking for a nice secure source of protein, if you know what I mean.

TRUCK DRIVER

You want to be chicken farmers?

GELERT

In a way, yes.

TRUCK DRIVER

Nope. Economy is gonna be shot for the rest of our lives. You can't sell nothing; there aren't no more people.

GELERT

Dogs. Purebred dogs.

TRUCK DRIVER

You got a lot of dogs you need to feed?

The TRUCK DRIVER looks around... he can see only five or six RVs. The trees and the curve of the road obscure most of the caravan. GELERT and CAROL focus on the TRUCK DRIVER, trying to judge his character.

TRUCK DRIVER

Oh, hell take them. I was just gonna let them go up here later today.

GELERT

Well now. What would it take for you to bring them with us to Missouri?

TRUCK DRIVER

I don't want nothing'. But when them kids of yours wake up you need them to get up there and water them chickens. They got little dishes in their cages... but I ain't climbing up there for that.

GELERT

I understand.

TRUCK DRIVER
But if you want them, you water them.

GELERT
Welcome to the caravan.

GELERT extends his hand and the TRUCK DRIVER shakes it.

The TRUCK DRIVER climbs up into his truck and takes down his CB radio microphone. We see him talking into the mic. We don't know it yet but he is passing the word along to other live animal haulers to bring their cargo to Purina Farms.

EXT. CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK - TUESDAY - MORNING

GELERT and CAROL wake up in the same bed, with the GREAT DANE in the middle. It isn't too awkward. CAROL is in some sexy red pajamas; she opens her eyes and raises her head to peer over the black DANE. GELERT feels he is being gazed upon. He opens his eyes. They have this eye contact and then they both smile and chuckle. Nothing is said but it isn't odd, nothing uncomfortable.

CAROL jumps in the shower. This luxury RV has far more room than JACKIE had in her shower. GELERT has the premier RV for certain. GELERT puts on shoes. GELERT walks outside in his pajamas, with a coat over them.

A group of YOUNG PEOPLE are about to race two whippets. They stop when they see GELERT. But he waves at them to continue. They release their dogs and they fly across the lawn.

Several YOUNG PEOPLE are scaling the side of the chicken hauler. There is a great debate about how to water the cages on the interior of the trailer. The outside cages are easy.

While the TRUCK DRIVER said he wouldn't get involved, he does. He ties a broom handle to the end of a water hose and climbs up half the way up the side of the chicken hauler.

TRUCK DRIVER
See? Use this pole and get that water
in there.

The YOUNG PEOPLE aren't as physically coordinated as the TRUCK DRIVER but they do manage to water the chickens.

EVERYONE is rested and it is time to get back on the road.

EXT. I-24 WESTBOUND - TUESDAY - DAY

Just before they reach Nashville, they come across a Hyundai Santa Fe. GELERT stops the caravan. The doors to the Santa Fe are open and the keys are in the ignition. GELERT examines the SUV for clues.

GELERT
They are okay.

CAROL
How do you know?

GELERT
They found a bigger ride. The dog stuff is gone. They had crates and food and supplies; everything is gone.

CAROL
That is a good sign.

GELERT
(smiling)
I think they found an almost new Escalade.

CAROL
You are just a glass half-full person.

GELERT
No.
(pause)
Well, no. I wasn't.

CAROL smiles and plays with his hair.

EXT. I-64 WESTBOUND - TUESDAY - DAY

YOUNG PERSON #5 and MONICA who were headed to Bowling Green are (in fact) driving a Crystal Red Cadillac Escalade. The thing is absolutely packed to the hilt with GERMAN WIREHAired POINTERS. Some are doubled up, two per crate.

Others are loose with their noses out the window. When they pass a ZOMBIE on the road, they shake their heads and jump up and down. Some bark. It is a happy ending for YOUNG PERSON #5 and his dogs. They didn't die of thirst or starvation. The speakers are blasting loud upbeat music.

EXT. I-24 WESTBOUND - TUESDAY - DAY

As they pass though NASHVILLE TN, GELERT entertains the group.

GELERT
(into radio)
Nashville has a sculpture of a cowboy
made out of car parts. Who wants to
stop and get a picture?
(pause)
Dukes of Hazzard Museum?
(pause)
World's Worst Train Crash?
(pause)
You young people don't know how to have
fun!

As they pass though Paducah KY, they see a billboard advertising the National Quilt Museum.

GELERT
(into radio)
Anyone want to stop and visit the
National Quilt Museum?

We see the caravan stop at a truck stop and fill the fuel tanks. Some of the RVs have 75 gallon reservoirs, but GELERT is always worried about the RVs with the 35 gallon tanks.

As they pass though St. Louis MO. They encounter light snow. By the time they reach Gray Summit, the accumulation is several inches.

GELERT
(into radio)
Anheuser-Busch Brewery?

VARIOUS YOUNG PEOPLE
Yes!

(pause)
Yah.
(pause)
Now you are talking!
(pause)
Let's do it!

GELERT
(into radio)
Oh, it looks like they are closed. The workers are on strike. Management said they just walked out.

They pass over the Mississippi River. Everyone gazes at the Gateway Arch. Everyone appears to be more relaxed and more secure as they near the "place of safety".

The roads become icy, just as they reach the journey's end. There is some slipping and sliding.

CAROL
(into radio)
Take it off cruise control. Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Drive slowly. 20 MPH.
(pause)
Increase the distance between each other. About ten seconds apart. Count.
(pause)
Don't stop if you can avoid it. Just keep going. We are almost there.

Many of the YOUNG PEOPLE have attended dog shows at the Purina Event Center before so as they look out the window, they understand and anticipate getting there soon. There is apprehension about the ice but also hope of arrival.

They are driving very slowly. They exit onto Historic Route 66. Past Roadhouse 100, Daniel Boone Inn. Past the First Baptist Church and the Bank of Washington. Left on Highway MM, Left on Four Square Drive. Left on Checkerboard Drive. They drive into the Purina farm.

EXT. PURINA FARMS - VISITOR CENTER - AFTERNOON

WHAM! There is a huge motorcycle gang occupying the property. There must be more than 500 gang members. They

have RVs and vehicles and even some tents set up. It looks like Sturgis on Bike Week.

It is snowing but they have topless dancers in the tents. We see fistfights and hear engine noise. Drinking of adult beverages. Whisky bottles are flying. They have several barrels with fires burning in them. For the most part they are standing around trying to get warm.

The LEADER OF THE GANG looks menacing. This is the roughest MOTORCYCLE GANG ever filmed. Think about it, there is a mass extinction event and of all the thugs left on earth he is the most badass. He is very large and looks like he can fight.

The caravan stops dead in their tracks. It is a very cold cloudy day.

There are many dog people barricaded in the visitor center. We see the cars surrounding the visitor center; their license plates are from CA, UT, TN, TX, RI, NY.

Basically this is everyone that has arrived before the caravan, the YOUNG PEOPLE who JACKIE sent out to rescue their own dogs. WANDA, the Purina employee is there. The conditions are bad, 100 dogs in crates (stacked to the ceiling) in a relatively small space. It is very crowded in the visitor center. There is something of a siege.

There is a Crystal Red Cadillac Escalade backed into the visitor center with the back hatch up in the air. There are a few open crates in the back. It looks like they unloaded very quickly. There are leads and spilled dog food. Clearly they ran with their dogs to the safety of the building.

They have their walkie-talkies in the visitor center.

WANDA
(into radio)
Jackie, is that you?

GELERT
No, it's Gelert.

WANDA

They have taken over. Won't let us get food or water. They cut off the water to this building.

GELERT

Are any of the dogs in danger?

WANDA

No not yet. We have refused to leave.

GELERT

Everyone in the caravan. Take your weapons and load them. Do not allow anyone inside your RV. Clear? Stay in your RV.

A GANG MEMBER is monitoring the radio frequency. He runs over and tells something to the GANG LEADER. Presumably he tells the LEADER that GELERT has ordered the YOUNG PEOPLE to load their weapons. The GANG MEMBER points to the lead RV.

The GANG LEADER goes ballistic and runs over to GELERT'S RV. It looks like the GANG LEADER is going to knock on the door but he walks over to GELERT'S driver side window. The GANG LEADER smiles and he motions for GELERT to open the window. GELERT does.

The YOUNG PEOPLE load their weapons, mostly .22 pistols but still.

The CHIHUAHUA on the dash crouches down in fear. The GANG LEADER reaches in the window and grabs GELERT by the shirt. He pulls GELERT almost through the window.

The YOUNG PEOPLE open the RV windows and point the guns out the windows. The members of RESCUE TEAM SIX pop up out of the Hummers with the largest weapons automatic they have. The weapons are pointing at the MOTORCYCLE GANG.

The TRUCK DRIVER gets out his deer rifle. He rolls down the window of his semi-truck and sticks it out the window, he aims toward the front of the caravan. We see through the riflescope the crosshairs are on the GANG LEADER.

The GANG LEADER would pull GELERT completely out of the window, but GELERT produces JACKIE's high caliber pistol, cocks the hammer and puts it to his temple. The GANG LEADER stops and GELERT is left half in and half out of the RV window.

GANG LEADER

You use that thing or get the hell out of here.

There is a very long pause.

GANG LEADER

You will never leave here alive.

GELERT

I just left Florida; it was sunny and 78°. What are you doing here?

There is again a long pause.

Just as the TRUCK DRIVER is about to fire his weapon. And GELERT is certainly considering it..

Four NAVY Lockheed F-35s, scream across the sky. The confrontation between GELERT and the GANG LEADERS is put on hold. Everyone is trying to reason with the flyover. The planes circle as if they will make a second pass but eight AH-1W Super Cobra Attack Helicopters pop up over the horizon. More than enough FORCE RECON MARINES reveal themselves from behind trees and other hedges and camouflage. They all have weapons trained on motorcycle gang targets. The MOTORCYCLE GANG is seriously surrounded and out gunned.

The GANG LEADER has a very confounded look on his face. It is all too much - a huge handgun held at his temple held by a dwarf half hanging out of an RV, a Navy jet fighter flyover, eight Navy attack helicopters. MARINES! He glances over at his GANG MEMBERS who are packing up to leave. They start their engines.

The GANG LEADER unhands GELERT. GELERT doesn't fall because CAROL has a hold of his belt. The GANG LEADER has his hands up in surrender.

GANG LEADER
Florida, huh?

GELERT uncocks the hammer of JACKIE'S pistol. Now that the confrontation is over, the CHIHUAHUA goes off like a pistol, barking and he charges over to the driver's side just in time to see the GANG LEADER walk away with his hands out to his sides.

CAROL is very relieved; she pulls GELERT up into the rig and hugs him.

The last of the MOTORCYCLE GANG leaves the property. One motorcycle will not start so it is abandoned. PETER puts his weapon down; he runs from his Hummer to the motorcycle. PETER runs his hands over the motorcycle like he owns it.

The other YOUNG PEOPLE exit their vehicles. They are happy. They are waving at the helicopter pilots. The YOUNG FEMALES are waving at the MARINES, who have lowered their weapons and appear more relaxed now.

A different helicopter arrives. It is a green and white Sikorsky SH-3 Sea King and today it is "Marine One".

Marine One is about to land on the Main Show Field. Marines are moving to secure every inch of the farm. They are in the Event Center, the Animal Barn, the Indoor Theater. When everything is secure, The PRESIDENT of the United States will step out of the helicopter.

A MARINE motions for GELERT and CAROL to approach the Main Show Field.

The door of MARINE ONE opens... and an AKITA runs out looks around. And then a second AKITA and a third AKITA. And finally 6 AKITA puppies emerge. They all sniff the air... they pee on the snow.

Finally, the PRESIDENT emerges. He waves at everyone. There are no reporters, it isn't for TV or show or even a habit. The YOUNG PEOPLE wave back enthusiastically.

The AKITA comes to his side and the PRESIDENT takes time to pet him and hug him. The PRESIDENT, one would think has too many troubles to play with his dogs, but it looks like he needs to relax. He has only been President for 24 hours.

The AKITAS run around the yard, playing and chasing each other. The PRESIDENT'S PEOPLE are unloading crates from the helicopter. JACKIE'S LOGISTICS TEAM are there with some golf-carts and scooters to haul the crates and dogs. The PRESIDENT'S PEOPLE point to the Event Center.

The PRESIDENT walks across the lawn to greet GELERT and CAROL.

PRESIDENT

Gelert?

GELERT

Yes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT

I'm very glad to meet you.

GELERT

Do you remember me Mr. President?

PRESIDENT

I sure do, you work for Jackie. The groomer to be feared! We have competed in more than a few dog shows.

(pause)

I don't know if you and I were ever in the ring to gather but I was certainly aware when Jackie was there.

GELERT

She died.

PRESIDENT

(sadly)

I know. I know. They told me. That is terrible. She was a great show lady.

(long pause)

I'm sorry I was late. I got here as fast as I could.

(pause)

There is an aircraft carrier on the Mississippi and a helicopter carrier on the Missouri.

The Missouri is 6 miles north of Purina Farms. The Mississippi is 35 miles east. It is a logical and historical response for the PRESIDENT to use the NAVY to protect the surviving population by using the river system.

GELERT

That is smart to use the rivers.

PRESIDENT

What has happened is terrible. I can't tell you how bad it is.

(pause)

But my people tell me you saved a lot of purebred dogs.

(pause)

Our legacy... everything we have made.

GELERT

Jackie told them that and well, they just did it. They just got in the RVs and we all came here.

PRESIDENT

I'm told you really pulled them together.

GELERT

Well, I'm the one with a GPS.

PRESIDENT

Oh, don't be so modest. And who is this?

GELERT

Oh, I'm sorry this is Carol.

PRESIDENT

Girlfriend?

GELERT is silent.

CAROL

Yes. Of course. Definitely.

CAROL takes GELERT's hand. The PRESIDENT is jolly and shakes his head positively at GELERT.

CAROL

I've been on the adventure of a
lifetime.

PRESIDENT

Yeah, me too.

A SECRET SERVICE AGENT #1 signals to the PRESIDENT that they want him to move to the Special Event Center.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT #2 has borrowed GELERT's EZGO gas golf-cart. He pulls up and CAROL, GELERT and the PRESIDENT climb on.

EXT. LATE AFTERNOON - PURINA FARMS - PARKING LOT

We see an RV with Minnesota license plates. There is ice covering the parking lot. A ZOMBIE struggles to cross the parking lot. He is half frozen and slips and slides on the ice. Three YOUNG LADIES exit their RV in ice skates and hockey sticks. They run rings around the ZOMBIE smacking him as they pass. Or conversely, they can corner him and pelt him with the puck.

EXT. PURINA FARMS - EVENT CENTER - LATE AFTERNOON

The Denny's truck and the Red Lobster truck are parked at the entrance to the Event Center. Food is being brought in.

The RV area is full of the rigs. The YOUNG PEOPLE are setting up as if they were at a dog show. Some are bathing or exercising dogs, some are watching TV. Some are just wondering around the facility.

JACKIE's LOGISTICS TEAM is working with WANDA about storage. The vendor's truck is parked by the Service Center.

RESCUE TEAM SIX is studying a show catalogue and maps, as they will soon be out looking for show breeders in need of help.

A MARINE is showing RESCUE TEAM SIX a training video, how to repel from a helicopter. It appears they will soon be going to the homes of key breeders looking for dogs. A MARINE equips RESCUE TEAM SIX with the harness and equipment needed to repel.

GELERT is zooming around the Event Center on JACKIE's old scooter.

GELERT, CAROL and the GREAT DANE share the RV, which is parked in the RV space nearest the door to the Event Center.

INT. PURINA FARMS - THE FOUNDERS ROOM - NIGHT

The MEXICAN family is cooking the RED LOBSTER menu in the Checkerboard Café downstairs. They are working feverously.

The Founders Room is full of the WHITE HOUSE STAFFERS but the YOUNG PEOPLE are mixed in with them.

The PRESIDENT is sitting at a table with an ADMIRAL, GELERT, CAROL, WANDA, NATE, SUSAN, PETER, ABIGAIL and the five year old girl, TONI.

ABIGAIL has pretty much adopted TONI.

BRETT is there at the table. BRET is the 12 year old young lady that JACKIE chose to oversee and protect the AKITAS. Her parent had raised AKITAS.

NATE might have invited SUSAN to the table, or the other way around.

Also, PETER and ABIGAIL might be a romantic item. ABIGAIL might know more about the actual dog situation; she probably invited PETER to the table. ABIGAIL drove PETER'S RV to Missouri, so consider that also.

JACKIE's LOGISTICS TEAM is at a different table with three handsome (20-somethings) eligible presidential aides.

The TRUCK DRIVER is eating at a table with Marines. It seems that they are telling stories from their experiences in Iraq or Afghanistan.

PRESIDENT
(too Brett)
Young lady do you know about the Akita?

BRETT
From my Mom and Dad.

PRESIDENT

I'm sorry about you mom and dad. I knew them. They loved their dogs. And they took very good care of them. They loved you very much.

(pause)

I'm going to send some old books here. For you. They are books about the Akita.

(pause)

Oh, and I forgot. I traded a cargo ship docked in Japan for some Akitas. No sailors to bring it back and it was just parked there. The dogs are in the middle of the Pacific right now but the Navy will bring them here.

(pause)

Can you take care of them for me?

BRETT looks at WANDA, GELERT and CAROL.

PRESIDENT

I was told they are nice healthy representatives of the breed. Good genes.

(pause)

Brett, I seriously hope they can be incorporated into your breeding program.

BRETT says nothing. She is frightened a bit with the responsibility.

GELERT

We will get organized soon and do the responsible thing.

PRESIDENT

I know you will. We want to teach Brett. She is the future.

BRETT

How will I know what to do? My mom and dad always picked puppies to keep and which ones to sell.

The PRESIDENT ponders the question.

GELERT

Simple. We will have dog shows, here.
The winners get to have puppies and the
other dogs get to go to people's houses
as pets.

PRESIDENT

Protection.

(pause)

But, exactly. Invite me back and I will
judge Akitas. I'm approved to judge.

GELERT

I can't think of anyone better.

The lobster and shrimp arrive at the table. The MEXICAN
father and some of his kids help him with the plates.

PRESIDENT

This is excellent food. Better than Red
Lobster!

(to himself)

I'm out of tea.

The MEXICAN father doesn't know what the PRESIDENT is
saying. The ADMIRAL is about to get him some tea, but the
PRESIDENT waves that off. Having been president for a day
and given the situation, he is not used to being waited on.
And he doesn't seem the sort that can't get up and get the
tea himself.

PRESIDENT

(to Brett)

You are out of tea too.

The PRESIDENT looks around and sees a pitcher of ice tea on
a table, with ice and some extra glasses.

PRESIDENT

Come with me young lady. Let's get some
tea.

BRETT and the PRESIDENT get up from the table and walk to
the table.

PRESIDENT

When you touch an Akita what does it feel like?

Pouring a glass of tea. And then he pours tea for BRETT

BRETT

Big muscles.

PRESIDENT

And what is under the muscles?

BRETT

I don't know.

PRESIDENT

Bones.

(pause)

Muscles, Bones and Spirit. Always pick the Akita with the muscles and bones. One that looks alert. The wimpy Akitas shouldn't have puppies. Okay?

(pause)

You are a very special young lady to be put in charge of this.

The PRESIDENT shows BRETT two sides of a business card. And then he hands it to the girl.

PRESIDENT

If there is anything you need... Just ask. Here is my personal email. Here is my personal phone number.

The PRESIDENT and BRETT return to the table.

PRESIDENT

(to Gelert)

What we are doing here is in the national interest. We are going to keep every single breed!

The PRESIDENT hands GELERT a business card.

GELERT

Thank you Mr. President. We will do you proud.

EXT. PURINA FARM - CLEAR SUNNY DAY - DAY

The Purina Farms property is made into a secure area. A few MARINES remain. Occasionally a zombie shows up and he is dispatched.

EXTRACTION TEAM SIX patrol are shown repelling out of a helicopter into a breeders back yard.

The effort to save the dog breeds grows.

Trucks of Pro-Plan dog food arrive at the Feed and Storage building.

We see a VETERINARIAN has arrived in a mobile clinic RV. She is giving exams to various dogs.

We see YOUNG PEOPLE bathing and cutting the nails of the various dogs. There is a treadmill and some dogs are being exercised.

Living quarters are arranged for the YOUNG PEOPLE. Some chose to live in an RV. Others are billeted in various locations.

In the Event Center there is a communal area with a huge big screen and large couches where the YOUNG PEOPLE can relax. There is a microwave and a huge stack of popcorn bags.

The Internet has survived.

A computer area and classroom has been set up.

GELERT is teaching a class on the American Civil War.

We see dogs working; the TIBETAN SPANIELS (alert dogs) are put in strategic places; they bark out the approach of some ZOMBIES. BLOODHOUNDS are used to patrol the woods smelling out ZOMBIES. DOBERMANS and GERMAN SHEPARD's are occasionally used on ZOMBIES. SIGHTHOUNDS are used to harvest the wild rabbits. RETRIEVERS are bringing back birds. The HERDING DOGS are used with ducks and sheep on the farm. Many breeds are shown doing the work they were bred for (retrieving, hunting and guarding) and this work is required for the community to survive.

Several of the YOUNG PEOPLE feel depressed about losing their family and cling to their TOY DOGS.

Several LIVE ANIMAL HAULERS, truck drivers pull up with chickens, hogs, sheep, cattle and even some horses. They are unloaded at various buildings at the farm. Remember, the TRUCK DRIVER has spread the word to bring the animals to the farm.

A truck with appropriate fencing arrives. The farm's empty fields are put to use. The farm is transformed from a public relations tool into a food production farm.

Frazzled elderly breeders, in cars from Oregon and Vermont, arrive; they might have 20 dogs piled into a vehicle. They look very relieved to have arrived safely. They get out of the car and kiss the ground, thankful to be alive with the dogs.

GELERT and CAROL observe everything with great satisfaction. Things seem to be falling into place perfectly.

INT. THE GREAT HALL - PURINA EVENT CENTER - DAY

Two years later, they put on the first dog show - the inaugural "Post Apocalyptic". There is a published premium list and even a list of prizes.

Inside the Event Center, they are having an all breed conformation show.

In the moments, before the show begins, four TEENAGE GIRLS are showing the GREAT PYRENEES puppies. Each one has a puppy on a lead, but there are five male puppies. They need help. They call the TRUCK DRIVER over and we see the GIRLS trying to teach him how to handle a dog. They give the TRUCK DRIVER a lead with a puppy at the end and they give him some bait. They try to show him the correct speed to gait the dog. The TRUCK DRIVER runs funny. The GIRLS look very worried the puppy will not be exhibited properly, but the won't hurt the TRUCK DRIVERS feelings.

CAROL is the show chairman. She has the microphone to the PA system. And she is welcoming the visitors.

CAROL

I want to welcome everyone to the inaugural "Post Apocalyptic" dog show.

CAROL

It has been almost a year since our tragedy.

(sad)

Many of us were at a dog show when the virus stuck.

(enthusiastic)

And now we are back.

Several people clap. Many of the visitors are anxious for the event to end so they can get their puppy.

CAROL

So here are the rules, the winner of each puppy class stays on the farm... and someday (if everything goes right) they will help produce the next generation. Happily, the other puppies are finding a home today.

(pause)

Welcome to everyone here to pick up their puppy.

GELERT is in the grooming area. He has a set up with all his equipment but most of his time is taken by YOUNG PEOPLE who come to him for last minute grooming. We can see him teaching the YOUNG PEOPLE how to groom.

CAROL

Well, it's now officially 9 am. Let the judging begin.

The PRESIDENT is in one of the rings and will judge the AKITAS and some other working breeds, including the GREAT PYRENEES puppies born in Florida.

The PRESIDENT has a nice healthy glass of orange juice on the judge's table. In fact, all the judges tables have orange juice. There isn't any coffee in the entire building. There are ribbons there and some other small but "presidential" looking awards.

Around the outside of the ring, VISITORS are watching. They are there for a dog. Sometimes, the group at Purina Farms have more puppies than they "genetically" need to continue the breed. They are sold or given away to what appears to be good owners.

The GUESTS don't care if their new PUPPY is a "dog show winner" ... the people are just delighted to have a PUPPY. They don't know how or where it came from, or the work that was involved, but they certainly look forward to their PUPPY. The PUPPY with the red ribbon is hugged and lavished with love, as it leaves the ring the PUPPY is handed over to the GUESTS along with the red ribbon.

The winning PUPPY is returned to his living space at the farm.

END CREDITS roll...

Outside of the event center as the GUESTS leave with their new puppies, we see they are having other competitions -- herding, hunting, tracking, lure coursing, earth dog, barn hunt, dock diving, obedience and agility, Frisbee, etc.

FADE OUT

"A good filmmaker should see a dog show at least once and a good dog breeder should see a zombie movie, but just one."
Alan Nafzger

LOGLINE: This is the story of a group of dog show enthusiasts living in the aftermath of a zombie apocalypse.

PLOT SUMMARY: Set at an apocalyptic dog show, a dwarf and his professional handler mentor learn the value of pure-bred dogs and are thrust into a gargantuan effort to save them. This is a rather sophisticated message inside a zombie movie.

FILM REFERENCE: Think Zombieland (2009 - \$102 million) meets The Station Agent (2003 - \$6 million), with a pure-bred dog in every scene.

If you would like to recommend this story please don't hesitate to contact the following individuals.

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