

INT-DAY HOME

SAM, the older sister, and TAYLOR, the younger sister are at home while their mom is at work.

TAYLOR

Sam! If Mom asks, I'll be at Stacy's.

SAM

Mom isn't gonna ask because you're going to be back before she gets home at eight. Right?

TAYLOR

We'll see... catch ya later!

SAM

Taylor! Mask.

Sam points to her mask on the kitchen counter.

TAYLOR

Fiiine.

Taylor stops, turns back, and grabs her mask from the counter. Taylor leaves out the front door to go down the hall to her friend, STACY. Sam turns on the tv. News comes on with newscaster with an update on COVID-19.

NEWS REPORTER 1

Another update on COVID-19. It seems the virus has entered what scientists are calling a 'new phase'. Despite the near complete proliferation of the virus, infecting both rural and urban areas, cases continue to rise at an alarming rate. Researchers are finding that the virus is now able to reinfect those who previously achieved immunity. As a result, we are facing another full shutdown. Aside from the health concern of the American people, government is also predicting a second Great Depression. More on this after the break.

EXT-DAY, STACY'S HOME

TAYLOR arrives at STACY'S door. She rings the doorbell. STACY cracks open the door and peers out.

STACY

What's the password?

TAYLOR
Shut up.

Taylor enters.

STACY
And close the door! We don't need that COVID getting in here. Like, two-thirds of this stupid neighborhood already has it!

TAYLOR
How do I know YOU don't have it?

STACY
Maybe I do.... (spookily) Ooooooo

Cut to Sam watching the news, with a concerned look on her face.

NEWSCASTER 2
I am here with Dr. Bethany Lucetti to give us more information on what scientists are calling the 'new phase' of COVID 19. Good evening and thank you for being with us Dr. Lucetti. What can you tell us about the "new phase" of the virus? How will the people be affected by it, and what can they do to protect themselves?

DR. LUCETTI
Unfortunately, we have very little data to go on, but we have reason to believe that COVID 19 has mutated into a new strain that we are now calling COVID 20. The new strain appears to be even more virulent, and spreads at a rate approximately 15 times faster. In addition to heightened senses of hearing and smell, we're seeing symptoms that were previously thought to be impossible in human hosts. It is crucial that individuals stay home and refrain from going outside at all cost.

NEWSCASTER 2
When you say "symptoms that were previously thought to be impossible," what does that mean?

DR. LUCETTI
That's all we can say at the moment.

Cut back to STACY'S apartment. TAYLOR is sitting on the sofa and STACY on a chair and they are playing Jenga. Shot of Stacy carefully pulling a jenga out when there is a loud bang. The girls look at each other.

STACY
(Shaken)
I told you to close the door!

TAYLOR
I did. (she pauses) I swear!!

Taylor stays and resets up the Jenga while Stacy creeps around the corner and looks down the hallway to see that the door is flung wide open. [door still moving/swaying]

STACY
(slowly)
Hello? Is someone here?

[tense music]

STACY tentatively walks towards the door, visibly frightened, peeks outside, sees nothing, and gently closes the door.

Stacy investigates, peeking around corners, when she is surprised by a dimly lit, silhouetted figure of a woman in a sleeping gown facing away. Her hair is long and appears dirty. She is bent to the side, and wobbling slightly, her head and limbs dangling in awkward positions. Stacy freezes

STACY
(frightened, sheepishly)
Ma'am? Hello? I think you're in the wrong house.

There is no reply. The woman stands there, barely moving.

Stacy slowly approaches the woman, step by step.

STACY
Ma'am? This is 22 Blackwell Drive.... Are you okay? ... Hello?

Stacy continues to walk slowly towards the woman as the camera follows her. She slowly reaches out her hand to touch the woman's arm. Just as her hand gets near, the woman spins around revealing a zombie-like face. The zombie screams and pounces on Stacy.
[intense spooky soundtrack]

Taylor hears the screams.

TAYLOR
Stacy?

Taylor gets up and goes to see what happened and where Stacy is.

Taylor sees the Zombie and the Zombie sees her, beginning to chase her. Taylor runs into the attic, slamming the door shut behind her, and frantically turning the lock. She hears growling and snarling noises from behind the door, more animal than human.

With shaking hands, Taylor fumbles for her cell phone and calls Sam.

Sam's phone rings. Sam answers.

TAYLOR
Sam, I need help! Something just attacked Stacy! I'm trapped in the attic!

SAM
What do you mean "something"?

TAYLOR
I don't know what it was. I can hear it moving around underneath me... it's growling. Please, send help!

SAM
I'll call 911, just stay there and be quiet!

TAYLOR
Hurry, Sam! I'm scared.

SAM calls 911.

911 OPERATOR 1
911. What's your emergency?

SAM
We need help at 22 Blackwell Drive.

911 OPERATOR 1
...Blackwell Drive? Stay inside your home. I repeat, stay inside your home.

SAM
Should I go check on her?

911 OPERATOR 1

No! You MUST stay inside your home. Lock your doors and windows. I'll try to get a unit to your building as soon as possible. We're getting a lot of calls and response time is delayed, especially in that area. Just remain calm, okay?

911 OPERATOR 1 hangs up.

SAM texts TAYLOR back.

SAM video calls two neighbor friends, JAY and BRITTANY.

SAM
(Frantic)
Hey, something weird is going on in the neighborhood.

JAY
I know. I saw two of them lurking in front of my house.

BRITTANY
Oh em gee, what is it this time, Jay? Werewolves?
Vampires? An army of possessed Pokemon?

JAY
No! Zombies dude! It's like Night of the Living Dead IRL!

BRITTANY
You've been watching WAY too many horror flicks.

SAM
There's... no such thing as zombies...

JAY
Seriously, turn on the news!

ALL three turn on their TVs.

NEWSCASTER 3
(Shaken)

Covid 20 is much, much worse than we thought. Those stricken by the virus are considered to be highly aggressive and extremely dangerous. Due to the severe risk of infection, all roads have been closed, and all emergency services have been suspended, including police, fire, and medical. All citizens are ordered to stay inside, effective immediately. Lock all doors and windows, and do not let ANYONE into your residence or place of business. This is Channel 19 signing off, please be careful out there.

Cut to TAYLOR. There is silence outside the attic door. TAYLOR decides to check to see if it is safe. She goes to the door and gently opens it a crack to look and see if the ZOMBIE is still there. We see an empty hallway until the ZOMBIE reappears and slams into the door almost getting Taylor. TAYLOR shuts and locks the door. Hiding in the bathroom as the ZOMBIE bangs on the door again.

Cut to SAM, JAY and BRITTANY watching TV. The newscast is interrupted by the emergency broadcast system.

EMERGENCY BROADCAST

This is an emergency broadcast. This is not a test. All emergency services have been suspended. Stay inside and lock your doors. Multiple outbreaks of COVID-20 have been detected across the region. All citizens are at risk. This is not a test.

JAY
See!?

The power goes out and everything goes dark. Faces are illuminated with the light of their phone screens.

BRITTANY
What was that? What just happened?

JAY
The power went out! Holy cow, this is just like "Zombie Armageddon Part 3"!

BRITTANY
Then we'll just do what they did in the movie! How did they escape?

JAY
Uhhh, they didn't... everyone got eaten by zombies. But the

cat lived! Zombies don't eat cats.

SAM

(Sarcastically)

Thanks, Jay... I'd better call 911 again before we lose phone service, too.

SAM dials 911 on her landline.

911 OPERATOR 2

911. What's your emergency?

SAM

I called earlier about 22 Blackwell Drive. No one has come yet! We're all alone with these things and we need help!

911 OPERATOR 2

I'm sorry Ma'am. All local emergency services have been suspended. No one is allowed in or out of that area. We're not equipped for biological threats, so unfortunately, we're waiting for military and biological warfare units to arrive.

SAM

When's that?

911 OPERATOR 2

Tomorrow morning. I'm so sorry... There's nothing we can do until then. Good luck.

Call ends.

SAM

No one is coming. We're on our own until tomorrow morning.

BRITTANY

What?! How are we going to survive alone until morning??

There is a crashing noise in BRITTANY'S apartment. BRITTANY shines her light to reveal a broken window. BRITTANY looks scared. She scans her home with her flashlight.

BRITTANY

(Terrified)

There's something in here. You have to come over.

SAM
(Hushed voice)
Stay quiet!

BRITTANY tries to stifle her breathing. There is a strange noise and movement in the apartment. BRITTANY shines the light across the room to reveal a ZOMBIE. The ZOMBIE immediately charges BRITTANY. BRITTANY'S phone falls to the ground. We hear some sounds and her video call drops.

SAM
Brittany!! I have to get to my sister!

JAY
Wait! You can't just make a run for it! They're all over the street. You won't make it more than 5 steps!

SAM
What about a distraction? They react to voices. If I turn my phone's volume all the way up, and you yell, I can throw it outside and sneak past.

JAY
I don't know Sam. Those things are fast when they spot something. Plus you'll lose contact with everyone until morning!

SAM
We have to try. Taylor won't make it on her own. I'm going now!

SAM peeks out the front door. Sees the ZOMBIE lurking.

She opens the door a crack and slides her phone away from the door. JAY begins to yell into the phone and the ZOMBIE starts towards it. As it is distracted, SAM sneaks out and past it, making it to the street.

We see JAY yelling into the phone. Suddenly, the ZOMBIE'S face appears on the video chat and the call drops. JAY is in silence and hears a bang on his window. He shines his light at the window to reveal a Zombie. A second a bang on the window. Jay moves his flashlight to a second Zombie banging against the window. JAY goes quiet, sinks and hides, turning off his light.

Cut to SAM approaching the house.

SAM approaches Stacy's house, she slowly cracks the door open and peers inside. It is quiet and dark. She hears a groaning sound and sees a dark figure down the hallway. She throws something to create a distraction hiding her light. The zombie reacts and follows the noise. SAM hugs the wall, shuffling behind the zombie as she approaches the attic door.

SAM
(Louidly Whispering)
Taylor? Taylor?

Taylor approaches the door.

TAYLOR
Sam?

SAM
Yeah, I'm getting you out of here. Hurry.

Taylor cracks the door open.

SAM
Follow close and don't make a sound.

Taylor and Sam head back towards the front door. They slowly sneak past the Zombie in the living area. As they approach the front door, a hand jets out from the darkness and grabs Taylor's ankle. Taylor shrieks, pulling her leg away just in time. Sam shines her light to reveal Stacy on the ground, now as a Zombie. Taylor's shriek has alerted the first Zombie. Now both Zombies are headed for Sam and Taylor. The first on foot and Stacy on the ground. Sam and Taylor make it to the front door opening it to find another zombie. They slam the door shut. Turning around shining the light on the approaching Zombies, Sam thinks quick, finding a closet near by.

SAM
Taylor! Door!

Taylor and Sam run to the bathroom door barely shutting themselves inside as the first Zombie throws its hands inside. Sam and Taylor frantically push themselves against the door to keep the Zombie out as its hands are reaching for them.

TAYLOR
Sam!

SAM
Just keep against the door!

Sam and Taylor hear two bangs. Then from outside the bathroom they hear.

MILITARY HERO
Two down! Room clear!

Bathroom door flies open. The Military Hero appears in the doorway holding a flashlight.

MILITARY HERO
National Guard. Either of you been bitten or scratched?

SAM and TAYOR
No Sir.

MILITARY HERO
Follow close, I'll take you to safety. Your mom is waiting for you.

The girls look at each other. Grab each other's hand and look up at the Military Hero, following him out to safety.