

ZOMBIE SOLDIERS FOR CHRIST

written by

Kameron Southerland

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EXT. WOODS - PARC CORNICHE CONDOMINIUM SUITE HOTEL - NIGHT

Pine trees. Lush, green, as far as the eye can see.

Moonlight seeps through their branches, bringing the underbrush into view.

Nocturnal life scurry about - frogs, owls, crickets, deer with insomnia.

A LOUD METALLIC CLANG. Then, THUD.

OLIVIA (20, White, redhead) belly flops into a GRAVE, rectangular and six feet deep. Unconscious, still.

Blood TRICKLES out from the top of her ponytail and sinks into the dark earth.

HANNAH (26, White, vicious bob) watches on, solemn.

But, a strange ecstasy betrays itself behind her eyes.

She's holding a SHOVEL.

Her FADED YELLOW T-SHIRT has a Bible verse on it. Phil 4:13.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Hannah sticks the shovel into a nearby LARGE PILE OF DIRT and begins to fill Olivia's grave.

EXT. PARC CORNICHE CONDOMINIUM SUITE HOTEL - DAY

The next morning. The sun rises over the sparsely occupied parking lot of the Orlando, Florida hotel.

Copper Spanish tile roofs. Dated beige exteriors. Balconies secured by thin, cracking rail. An abandoned golf course. Small, smelly gym with broken equipment.

Oh, nice, a pool...shaped like an ass...

Paradise.

EXT. PARC CORNICHE - BUILDING FOUR - DAY

The pine forest stretches out west of Building Four.

Three SUVs and one SEDAN populate the parking lot.

Along with a grassy median, a tall PECAN TREE, and an abandoned SPIKEBALL net.

INT. PARC CORNICHE - THE EVANSTONS' ROOM - DAY

Hannah and DERRIC (32, White, cut himself shaving) Evanston snooze soundly in their queen bed.

The hotel CLOCK turns to six-thirty. ALARM BLARES.

Hannah cuts it off, then sits up, gazing out the sliding glass balcony door into the morning sunshine.

She sighs happily. Then, SLAPS Derric's ass awake.

MONTAGE - "CAMP PREP" - VARIOUS

- Hannah approaches a WALL CALENDAR with "Countdown to SOP!!" scrawled across the top. She crosses out the day's date: seven days before the circled "Students arrive!"

- Hannah and Derric enter the HOTEL BREAKFAST ROOM.

A group of six energetic 20-SOMETHINGS welcome them with smiles, hugs, and daps. They each have LARGE BIBLES in front of them.

OLIVIA (alive and well) invites Hannah to sit next to her.

- In a MEETING ROOM, the group stuffs piles and piles of BINDERS with papers titled "Project Rules" and "Daily Schedule."

Certain rules dictate dress code for girls, and a "no one-on-ones with the opposite sex" policy.

- In the WOODS, one of the young boys eats shit into a shallow grave. His name is NATHANIEL (21, White, into ABBA).

- Hannah, Derric, and Olivia strum guitars and play piano in the EVANSTONS' ROOM.

On percussion, Nathaniel (alive and well) plays the CAJÓN.

- Derric leads the group in prayer around the PECAN TREE.

One of the girls is getting really into it. Her name is BISMA (21, Black, believes in ghosts).

- Bisma bleeds in a grave in the WOODS.

- Another boy takes a tumble into a grave. DEON (20, Black, pet gerbil).

- Another girl in a grave. KATIE (22, White, anklet).

- In a HOTEL ROOM, Bisma and Katie make cute little MACRAME WALL ART.

Deon leads the other guys in creating BIBLICAL FIGURE FINGER PUPPETS.

- On a CHURCH STAGE, Hannah directs the group in rehearsal of some sort of play.

One of the male leaders BEN (20, White, lactose intolerant) trips on stage...

- ...into a bloody grave in the WOODS. Hannah wipes her brow and buries him.

END MONTAGE

EXT. PARC CORNICHE - BUILDING FOUR - DAY

Ben (alive and well) plays SPIKEBALL with Derric and the other guys.

Olivia, Bisma, and Katie relax on picnic blankets. A speaker blasts the latest CHRISTIAN HIP HOP.

Hannah appears on her balcony, holding a glass of LIME-AID.

A warm afternoon breeze drifts from the pine forest.

CAR HONKS and HOLLERS pierce through the wind.

The students arrive.

A CARAVAN of vehicles filled to the brim with COLLEGE STUDENTS (18-20) pour into the Building Four parking lot.

Derric and the group greet them with joy, helping them unpack their belongings.

Hannah looks on, and smiles.

EXT. PARC CORNICHE - SAME TIME

The line of cars of eager college Christians extends from Building Four to the hotel entrance on International Drive.

One student, in a beat-up Kia, seems hesitant.

This is COOPER (19, Black, baby locs, closet made of glass).

INT. COOPER'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Her backseat is filled with well-worn soccer gear: KLEATS, two BALLS (one flat), and a wrinkled JERSEY with UNIVERSITY INSIGNIA.

School PAPERS litter the floorboard. Decent grades.

Cooper grabs her ICED COFFEE - too fast. The LID pops off and the drink spills into the passenger seat.

COOPER

Shit.

She reaches for the glove box, retrieves a stack of NAPKINS.

Her phone VIBRATES to life in the console compartment.

Cooper firmly stuffs the napkins into the seat, then answers the phone.

COOPER

Hello? Hey, yes, I was just about to call you. I made it. I'm waiting to get in right now.

She relaxes into the conversation.

COOPER

Not too bad, not too much traffic. Thanks again for the gas.

Space opens in front of Cooper's car in line. She tucks her phone between her ear and shoulder and inches forward.

COOPER

Yes, I'll be careful. Don't sound so scared! I've been to camp before. I don't think they're those kinds of Christians, Mom.

A cheap plastic GOLD MEDAL swings back and forth around the rear-view mirror, along with a TREE AIR FRESHENER. Black Ice.

COOPER

Ramona said it should be totally chill. The white girl. From New Years. Okay. Okay. Yes ma'am. Okay. Love you too, bye.

She throws her phone back into the compartment.

Takes a deep breath. Goes for her coffee - rolls her eyes with a scoff, remembering.

EXT. PARC CORNICHE - BUILDING FOUR - DAY

Cooper's car rolls into the busy parking lot.

She parks, and opens her door to a hoard of frat guys approaching her.

We hear SOMEONE'S VOICE behind them, eclipsed by their size.

RAMONA

Welcome to the end of your life!!!

The men disperse, revealing a dancing (flailing) girl.

This is RAMONA (21, White, flirty, accident-prone).

Her face falls.

RAMONA

What happened to you?

Cooper is wearing a DERMA-WRAP and SLING on her LEFT ARM.

COOPER

Nice to see you too.

RAMONA

Excuse me for being concerned, were you hit by a bus or something?

Ramona pulls her into a hug that Cooper reciprocates.

COOPER

Nothing happened. It just started hurting one day, then I couldn't move it. Doctors gave me this stuff to be safe.

RAMONA

And you drove with it like that?

COOPER

Well, someone promised me an unforgettable summer.

Ramona hugs her around the shoulders.

RAMONA

That's the spirit!

COOPER

And... I already sent in my deposit.

Cooper gives her a cheeky grin.

RAMONA

Oh please, you're gonna love it here.

They walk around to the back of Cooper's car. The men have lifted most of her things out of the trunk.

Ramona is momentarily distracted by one pair of TRICEPS in particular. Cooper notices and laughs to herself.

Ramona snaps out of it.

RAMONA

Y'all can take those to 4-2-1-4.

COOPER

That my cell block?

RAMONA

We'll be in the same room since I'm your Room Leader this summer!

COOPER

And that means...?

Ramona leans in close, mischievous.

RAMONA

It means you have to tell me all your deepest, darkest secrets.

Cooper frowns, closing her trunk lid.

RAMONA

I'm kidding. Sort of. I'm just someone you can talk to through this whole thing, process what you're learning.

COOPER

Uh-huh.

RAMONA

Let's start by talking about...

She gestures over Cooper with her hand--

RAMONA

Whatever is going on here. I thought you were excited to come on Project.

COOPER
I was... I am! It's just...

RAMONA
Cooper, come on, you can talk to me.

They lean on the trunk. Cooper sighs.

COOPER
I know, I'm sorry. It's Lisette.

RAMONA
Your friend from home?

Before Cooper can respond, A SQUEAL bursts forth from across the parking lot.

Two girls leap from their picnic blankets and rush to greet the squealer.

PICNIC GIRLS
Naomi!!

NAOMI (19, Native, bubbly) receives them in a warm group hug.

NAOMI
Hi!!

They pull apart and we get a good look at Naomi.

She is fat, warm, infectious, but above all, she GLOWS FROM WITHIN WITH BEAUTY.

At least, she does in Cooper's eyes.

She stares at Naomi, her eyes widening, intrigued. But, something else soon takes its place. Dread.

Ramona nudges her out of the reverie.

RAMONA
What about Lisette, Coop-dee?

Cooper turns back to her expectant friend.

COOPER
It's nothing. I'm here now, and I'm excited. Promise.

Ramona eyes her, but lets it go.

RAMONA

Alright, I'm going to choose to believe you.

She takes Cooper's good arm in hers.

RAMONA

Let's go meet our other roommates!

COOPER

Roommates?

INT. PARC CORNICHE - RAMONA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ramona trots into the room, followed closely by Cooper, who takes in the small suite.

Tiny kitchen to the right of the door, open concept dining/living room, huge window up against the wooded background of the hotel.

The medium-sized TV has been COVERED with a WORLD MAP.

Other touches of Ramona's style litter the walls - decorative TAPESTRIES, a long white CANVAS with Bible verses already dotted across its landscape, cacti SUCCULENTS.

Cooper follows Ramona into one of the bedrooms.

BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The twin beds are pushed to opposite sides of the room, and two GIRLS stand in the space in the middle.

RAMONA

Great, you guys got started on the mega bed!

COOPER

Mega bed?

One of the girls (19, Latina, over it already) speaks up.

ROOMMATE

Ramona, this is ridiculous.

RAMONA

Leila, you're being negative.

LEILA

I'm not sleeping four across on a giant bed.

The other GIRL (19, White, tall) goes to speak.

LEILA

Marty, I don't wanna hear it.

MARTY

It just makes sense, Leila. We can use the other bedroom as a dressing room, more space.

LEILA

(to Cooper)

What do you think? What's your name?

RAMONA

This is Cooper, she goes to State with me.

LEILA

Cooper, what do you think?

They all turn to Cooper, who stands, at a loss.

COOPER

Um. Well. I'm all for more space.

MARTY

Great! It's settled.

Leila rolls her eyes.

OTHER BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ramona and Marty push one twin bed out of the room, leaving Cooper and Leila to tag-team the other.

Leila gestures towards her hurt arm.

LEILA

Are you good to do this?

COOPER

Yeah, I'm golden.

They lift it.

LEILA

No. Immediately no.

Cooper laughs, setting the bed back down.

LEILA
We're gonna need to slide this
bitch--oop. Sorry.

COOPER
You're fine.

LEILA
This is really heavy, is it not?

COOPER
It's a substantial weight, for
sure.

LEILA
Substantial weight, yeah okay, just
say you think I'm a punk.

COOPER
No, I wasn't saying--!

Leila's turn to laugh.

LEILA
I'm messing. God, you're so polite.

Cooper shrugs.

COOPER
Yeah, well.

LEILA
When in Rome?

Cooper gives her a look.

LEILA
You're good, dude. I'm just here
because I'm obsessed with ancient
texts like some freak. The Bible's
one of my favorites.

COOPER
I haven't seen you at any of the
retreats, or New Years Conference.

LEILA
I'm a late bloomer.

Cooper nods.

COOPER
We should probably get to sliding.

LEILA
What brings you to Project? Or, is
that, you know, privileged
information?

Cooper leans down to grip her side of the bed.

COOPER
I like being part of a team. And I
guess soccer wasn't cutting it.

LEILA
Team player. They'll love that.

Leila leans down at her side.

LEILA
Do you mind if I sleep next to you
on this mega bed nonsense? I'm
afraid Marty's going to try and
make me a martyr.

Cooper chuckles.

COOPER
I snore.

LEILA
I do not care.

They slide the bed out of the room, grunting a little,
laughing between them at the awkwardness of the endeavor.

EXT. REMEMBRANCE COMMUNITY CHURCH - EVENING

The whole Project waits outside the church doors, about a
hundred (mostly White) students in total.

Cooper and the rest of her room are squeezed in towards the
middle.

COOPER
Dang, it's like a mosh pit.

RAMONA
Theme meeting's the first big night
of the Project. Everyone's just
excited.

Marty lunges forward, stray hand landing on Cooper's
shoulder. She quickly shakes her off.

MARTY

Sorry, someone's shoving.

LEILA

I'm grabbing the first seat I see.

Then--the doors BURST OPEN, the high-energy CHRISTIAN POP pouring out, inviting the students to come in.

The crowd lunges forward, jostling Cooper and her roommates.

RAMONA

Here, grab my hand.

Cooper does as she's told. Ramona leads her through the madness. But, Cooper struggles to keep people away from her bad arm.

Her hand slips from Ramona's grip.

Cooper looks around, aimless, the crowd of unknown faces ebbing and flowing around her.

She tries once more to distance people from her arm, to no avail.

Then, she sees her. Naomi.

She pushes forward, landing right next to Cooper and her sling. She looks down at it, then to Cooper.

Naomi brings her arms up, making space for Cooper to raise her arm above the crowd, bringing some relief.

COOPER

Thanks.

NAOMI

Of course!

They work together well, moving forward now with ease.

NAOMI

Almost there!

INT. REMEMBRANCE COMMUNITY CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Cooper and Naomi break through the crowd, standing in the wide church sanctuary. Students disperse around them, filling in the rows of GREY-CLOTH SEATS facing a modest STAGE.

Cooper lowers her arm, stretching her shoulder.

Naomi laughs, watching the madness unfold around them.

NAOMI
This is awesome.

Cooper searches for her roommates.

COOPER
I don't see my room.

NAOMI
Oh, that's okay, you can sit with
us.

Naomi grabs her by the hand. But, as if by ELECTRIC SHOCK,
Cooper pulls it back. Naomi gives her a look.

COOPER
You lead. I'll keep up.

Naomi smiles at this and heads for the PEWS. Cooper takes a
quick breath, then follows.

INT. REMEMBRANCE COMMUNITY CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Cooper and Naomi sit next to each other, Naomi chatting to
the girls next to her, Cooper somewhere far away in her mind.

The lights dim. The crowd of students goes wild with
applause.

Cooper focuses up, joining the others in clapping.

She slows down, though, when she realizes what is about to
happen.

A skit.

On stage, under the dim lights, Ben and Deon bring on chairs,
Nathaniel drags a kiddie pool into the center, and Bisma
takes a seat in one of the chairs with a COFFEE MUG.

They move as a UNIT, with military-grade precision.

The boys exit stage left, and the lights rise up on Bisma who
takes an exaggerated sip from her mug.

BISMA
Hello, and welcome to another
exciting episode of Medical
Miracles and Anomalies. I'm your
host, Bisma Henderson, here today
with some true medical marvels.

Ben re-enters carrying a large sign that reads, "Applause."
The crowd complies. Cooper simply squints in anticipation.

BISMA

Today we have with us members of an
elite scientific community, the
Ephesians. Please, welcome them.

Out walks Katie, Olivia, and Nathaniel. They wear large
glasses and suits. They join Bisma in their seats as she
introduces them.

BISMA

We have Katie Williams, Nathaniel
Thomas, and Olivia Hanks of the
Ephesians. Please, Katie, tell us
more about your group.

KATIE

Well, Bisma, as you've already
said, we are an elite community. We
exist underground, out of view of
other scientific outfits.

OLIVIA

That's right, and we've come today
to go public with scientific
knowledge that we just couldn't
keep hidden anymore.

Ben switches to a sign that reads, "Ooooh."

Naomi enthusiastically "oohs" along with the crowd. Cooper
chuckles, catching Naomi's attention. She smiles at her.

NATHANIEL

We've brought a demonstration for
you, Bisma.

BISMA

Oh, a demonstration.

NATHANIEL

Yes, and we hope you and your
studio audience are prepared to be
astonished.

KATIE

Bring him in!

Deon guides Derric, covered in a BEDSHEET, into the empty
kiddie pool.

Olivia reaches behind her chair, retrieving a BUCKET of PLASTIC BALLS. She and Katie squat to fill the pool while Nathaniel continues.

NATHANIEL

What you see before you is... a
dead man.

BISMA

A dead man!

NATHANIEL

Yes, Bisma, a dead man.

OLIVIA

But, not for long.

She and Katie rise back to their seats.

KATIE

These balls are made of a rare
element, gracium.

OLIVIA

As the dead man soaks his feet in
gracium, his molecules start to
transform.

As they speak, Derric starts to TWITCH. His movements grow erratic, spilling the plastic balls out of the pool, and into the audience.

BISMA

Oh my gosh, this man...he's...

Derric tears off the bedsheet as the others on the stage all scream in unison:

ALL ON STAGE

Alive!!

"GOOD TO BE ALIVE (HALLELUJAH)" BY ANDY GRAMMER erupts around the sanctuary.

Cooper cheers along with Naomi and the others.

Those on stage dance around to the song briefly, then disperse out into the crowd.

Derric grabs a mic stand from the back of the stage.

Hannah enters stage right holding two microphones.

She raises one to her lips.

HANNAH

Hello, Campus Uplift! Welcome to
the Summer Orlando Project!

Derric meets Hannah in the center, pumping his fist.

HANNAH

My name is Hannah Evanston, and
this is my husband Derric. We are
your Project Director and Women's
Coordinator for this summer's
project.

DERRIC

Yes, and let's give it up for the
rest of our Project leadership
team, your Team Leaders!

The Team Leaders rise and take bows from the first row of the
crowd. Cooper peers to get a look at all of them.

NAOMI

Katie goes to Eastern with me.
She's so cool.

Cooper turns back to her.

COOPER

That's cool. I think I've seen
Bisma before, but I can't place it.

NAOMI

She's always on stage, poor thing.
She MC'd the New Years Conference
and Spring Retreat.

COOPER

Oh right! She's good.

NAOMI

Remind me of your name again?

COOPER

Oh, I'm Cooper.

NAOMI

Naomi.

COOPER

I know.

Naomi makes a face. Color DRAINS from Cooper's face.

COOPER

Uh-I mean, those girls earlier
kinda screamed your name across the
parking lot?

NAOMI

(giggling)

Yeah, I guess we're pretty loud.

COOPER

I don't mind.

Back on stage, Nathaniel carefully brings a GOLDFISH towards Hannah, who holds the bowl.

HANNAH

And let's not forget our Project
mascot, Gilbert!

The students go ape shit for the fish.

Hannah takes a seat with Gilbert and as the cheers die down,
Derric continues the sermon.

DERRIC

Welcome, all of you, to the end of
your life.

Derric holds the gaze of the audience for a beat, letting his
charisma wash over them.

He breaks out into a winning smile.

DERRIC

Yes, this summer will be the end of
us living for ourselves. For when
we do that, we are just like my
character from the skit--dead.

Derric opens his large, imposing Bible.

DERRIC

Our theme verse for this summer
comes from Ephesians. I believe we
already have a volunteer, why don't
you read the passage for us?

Ramona rises from the crowd, all the way across the room from
Cooper, and reads from her well-worn leather Bible.

Cooper leans forward to grab a Bible from the chair in front
of her, but Naomi stops her.

NAOMI

You can read along with me.

RAMONA

Ephesians 2, verses 4 and 5. "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-by grace you have been saved..."

Cooper frowns at the Bible in Naomi's hands.

COOPER

Yours doesn't say that. Exactly.

NAOMI

Mine's NIV. New International Version. I think she's reading from English Standard.

COOPER

You can tell from just one verse?

NAOMI

Well, I'm a bit of a Bible nerd.

She gestures at her multi-tabbed and highlighted tome.

COOPER

I'm a bit embarrassed. A lot of this is new to me.

NAOMI

I'm the one who should be embarrassed walking around with this Rainbow Road looking thing.

Cooper laughs at her self-deprecation. Naomi smiles back.

DERRIC

What I want us to focus on, what our whole team wants us to have at the forefront of our minds and hearts this summer...is grace. For by grace, and grace alone, we have been brought to life.

The lights dim once more. The team leaders shuffle props off the stage, and MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS are brought on.

The house lights dim as the stage lights rise up on Olivia and the other team leaders who now form a makeshift worship band.

OLIVIA
Rise and worship with us.

Naomi and the others rise to their feet, Cooper clumsily following their lead.

The LYRICS are displayed on TVs flanking the stage.

OLIVIA
(singing)
I stand before You now / The
greatness of Your renown / I have
heard of the majesty and wonder of
You / King of Heaven in humility I
bow...

NAOMI
(whispers)
Ah, I love this one.

Cooper glances over. Naomi lifts her arms up in worshipful surrender as she sings.

Cooper watches her, that impossible dread returning to the pit of her stomach.

She looks around her at the rest of the students, their arms raised in varying degrees of worship.

Naomi opens an eye, peeking at Cooper. Feeling her eye on her, Cooper turns back to a smirking Naomi.

COOPER
What am I supposed to do?

NAOMI
Quiet your mind. Still your body.
Let the music, the words, wash over
you.

Cooper stands, good arm awkwardly at her side.

COOPER
Okay.

Naomi laughs. She grabs Cooper's arm, lifting it up and placing it at a right angle by Cooper's side. She flips her hand palm up. Then, does the same with her sling arm.

NAOMI

Try this.

Cooper nods, turning her attention back to the song.

Cooper stares at the lyrics, her hands open, receptive.

Slowly, she starts to sing along. Naomi nudges her in support and they sing together.

COOPER & NAOMI

(singing)

You make me brave / No fear can
hinder now the love that made a way

Cooper laughs as she stares into Naomi's eyes, her dread slipping away.

She turns back to face the band, and closes her eyes.

INT. PARC CORNICHE - RAMONA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Cooper's eyes shoot open. Wild, terrified.

She rises onto her elbows, careful not to rock the mega bed.

Ramona and Marty sleep soundly on their side.

Cooper turns to the other side -- to find Leila AWAKE, her eyes WIDE OPEN.

Cooper stifles a yelp.

LEILA

I can't do this.

EXT. PARC CORNICHE - POOL - NIGHT

Cooper and Leila sit at the pool's edge, their feet dangling into the deep end.

Leila reaches into her pocket, grabbing a PACK OF CIGARETTES.

Cooper watches her spark up.

LEILA

Don't worry. They're herbal.

COOPER

"Herbal?"

Leila laughs.

LEILA
Trust me, Cooper, this is the last
place you'd want to be high.

Leila takes a drag, then offers it to Cooper. She eyes it,
but takes it. Inhales, exhales.

COOPER
It's sweet?

LEILA
Cinnamon. Nice, right?

Cooper nods, taking another drag. They share the cigarette in
peaceful silence.

Leila kicks her feet in the water, causing ripples.

Cooper copies her, the ripples wider and strong than Leila's.

LEILA
Damn, okay, you're on.

They start kicking their legs wildly, a contest.

EXT. PARC CORNICHE - BUILDING FOUR - NIGHT

Nothing stirs at Building Four, this time of night.

Cooper and Leila, dripping wet, approach stealthily. They dip
into the elevator alcove and out of sight.

COOPER (O.S.)
Do you think anyone saw us?

LEILA (O.S.)
No way. Everyone's resting up for
tomorrow.

The elevator dings. The doors open. Close.

Not too far away, a SHADOWED FIGURE leaves the balcony.

They head down the back stairwell and into the light--

EXT. PARC CORNICHE - THE EVANSTONS' ROOM - CONTINUOUS

--RAMONA knocks twice on the door to Hannah's room.

Hannah opens it-- behind her, we see a BOY (20, White,
stocky) lying on the kitchen island, seemingly STUNNED STILL.

His DARK BLUE eyes flicker in panic, the only proof of life.
DERRIC sits upright on the couch, reading a copy of ZOOBOKS.
Hannah hands Ramona a SHOVEL, tucking a BOOK under her arm.

HANNAH
You're late.

EXT. WOODS - PARC CORNICHE - NIGHT

Hannah and Ramona fill the blue-eyed boy's grave.

HANNAH
How was the first day for you?

RAMONA
Pretty good! I know Cooper from
this past semester. Feels like I
kinda got it easy.

HANNAH
Oh yeah, the kid with the sling.
Surprised she made the trip with
that thing on.

RAMONA
Yeah. She showed some real gospel
interest at Conference. But she's
been having some issues with a
friend from home.

HANNAH
Oh? Anything I should be worried
about?

Ramona meets her concerned gaze. She smiles.

RAMONA
Not at all. I can handle it.

Hannah squints, deciding to believe her with a shrug.

They pat the grave closed.

HANNAH
Okay, pay extra attention. I can't
hold your hand through this every
time.

Hannah hands Ramona her shovel, and she opens up the thin
journal. Clears her throat.

EXT. REMEMBRANCE COMMUNITY CHURCH - FIELD - DAY

A PIERCING WHISTLE. Derric lets it fall away from his mouth, revealing a lop-sided, somewhat crazed grin.

DERRIC

Okay, time out, time out. This is crazy.

Derric steps in between two STUDENTS, one turning away in defeat, the other GRINNING in victory.

This is JIREH (19, Black, cocky, intuitive). He wears a MAGENTA-COLORED SHIRT and jogs over to a group of other STUDENTS IN MAGENTA.

DERRIC

I'm gonna have to call a mercy rule for Magenta on this one.

At a farther end of the field, two of the Team Leaders Olivia and Deon stand holding BUCKETS OF WATER BALLOONS.

Olivia's bucket holds one or two balloons. Deon's bucket is filled to the brim, almost overflowing.

We can guess which one is Jireh's doing.

He squeezes into the group next to Cooper, also donning a MAGENTA SHIRT.

COOPER

Nice work.

JIREH

You know, something slight.

COOPER

I probably wouldn't have let so many of them miss in the first round, but you know, this thing.

She lifts her sling.

JIREH

Oh, yes, please, what other notes do you have for me from the sideline?

COOPER

Doesn't the Bible say something about humility?

JIREH

I wouldn't know. I just got here.

They laugh together.

JIREH

What should I call you, "Coach?"

COOPER

I'm Cooper.

JIREH

Real nice to meet you, Cooper.

He raises his eyebrows, glances around, and does a little BLACK POWER fist.

Cooper shakes her head.

COOPER

You play too much.

Jireh shrugs with a grin. They turn their attention back to the field.

DERRIC

Alright, that is four points total
Magenta, with Gold not far behind
with three, and Cerulean. Well,
let's really hope the last will be
first and the first will be last,
huh?

The crowd of students - all organized into teams wearing matching shirts - chuckle.

Hannah sits in a lawn chair, holding Gilbert.

Derric claps his hands rapidly.

DERRIC

Alright, let's set up for the final
competition!

The Team Leaders follow Derric down the field.

Cooper takes it all in - the TEAM CHANTS, the Room Leaders grabbing each other and JUMPING UP AND DOWN, the quiet STRATEGY HUDDLES.

It all seems so EPIC.

She glances around - they are COMPLETELY ISOLATED from the city in this church backyard.

Only the quiet hum of cars passing on the freeway give any indication of human existence beyond the manicured hedges.

They are in their own world.

Leila BUMPS Cooper out of her stupor.

LEILA

These Jesus freaks go crazy at an activity!

They laugh. Cooper takes another look around, this one more pointed.

She MAKES EYE CONTACT with her - Naomi is wearing a GOLD T-SHIRT and glaring at her.

She turns away from Cooper with a flourish, leaving Cooper scared.

EXT. REMEMBRANCE COMMUNITY CHURCH - PATIO - DAY

Lunchtime. Students sits all around the patio, eating deli sandwiches from paper plates.

Cooper, at the end of the pick-up line. She struggles to grab CONDIMENTS with her good arm.

The BLUE-EYED BOY (alive and well) reaches down and hands them to her.

COOPER

Thanks. That must've looked pathetic.

HOLDEN

I'm Holden.

He smiles at her, NOTHING behind his now-CHESTNUT eyes.

HOLDEN

Great field day, huh?

Cooper nods.

COOPER

Yeah, really fun.

She looks around the patio, spotting Naomi sitting with her room.

She turns back to find Holden still staring at her.