**JOHNNY.** You sound like Mother.

*(**BARBRA** gasps, offended.)*

All right, all right, fine. Let's just get this over with. Which one is it?

*(**JOHNNY** steps in front of the tall gravestone.)*

**BARBRA.** The one you're stepping on!

*(**JOHNNY** looks down. **BARBRA** glares at him. He shrugs. **BARBRA** pulls him off the grave.)*

Get off! Here.

*(She hands him the arrangement. **JOHNNY** inspects the arrangement.)*

**JOHNNY.** Look at this thing. "We Still Remember." I don't. I don't even remember what the man looks like.

**BARBRA.** Johnny, it takes you five minutes.

*(**BARBRA** snatches the arrangement from **JOHNNY**.)*

**JOHNNY.** Yeah. Five minutes to put the wreath on the grave and six hours to drive back and forth. Besides, where's the one from last year? We spend good money on these things and every time we come back...it's gone!

*(**BARBRA** places the arrangement on the grave.)*

**BARBRA.** I think you complain just to hear yourself talk!

**JOHNNY.** Look who I have to talk to. "They ought to make the day the time changes the first day of summer." It's like talking to a bowl of skim milk.

*(**BARBRA** ignores **JOHNNY** and prays. **JOHNNY** puts on a pair of driving gloves. He's impatient.)*

Hey. Come on, Barb. Prayin's for church.

**BARBRA.** I haven't seen you in church lately.

**JOHNNY.** There's not much sense in my going to church. Do you remember one summer; we were small and we

were out here. It was from right over there I jumped out at you from behind the tree. Grandpa got all excited and he shook his fist at me and said, "Boy, you'll be damned to hell!" Remember that?

*(**BARBRA** continues to pray, ignoring **JOHNNY**.)*

**JOHNNY.** You used to really be scared here.

*(**JOHNNY** sneaks up behind **BARBRA**. He puts his hands on her shoulders.)*

They're coming to get you, Barbra!

**[MUSIC CUE NO. 03]**

*(**BARBRA** squirms. A lightning flash illuminates an area where a lumbering **GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE** walks toward them. The flash ends and the **GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE** is plunged into darkness.)*

**BARBRA.** Johnny! Stop it!

*(**BARBRA** continues to pray.)*

**JOHNNY.** They're coming for you, Barbra!

*(Lightning flash. The **GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE** is a little closer to them now. **BARBRA** gets up.)*

**BARBRA.** Stop it! You're acting like a child.

**JOHNNY.** They're coming for you.

*(Lightning flash. The **GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE** is slightly closer. **JOHNNY** points at him.)*

Look! There comes one of them now. I'm getting out of here.

*(**JOHNNY** jokingly tries to hide behind **BARBRA**.)*

**BARBRA.** You're ignorant! He'll see you.

*(Lightning flash. They look. The **GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE** is nowhere to be seen. **JOHNNY** stands up.)*

**JOHNNY.** Hmm. Maybe they're not coming to get you.

**[MUSIC CUE NO. 04]**

*(The* **GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE** *jumps out from behind the tall gravestone and grabs* **BARBRA.***)*

**GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE.** Arrrrgh!

*(***JOHNNY** *breaks in between them and struggles with the* **GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE.** **JOHNNY** *hits his head on a gravestone and falls behind it. The* **GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE** *looks at* **BARBRA.***)*

*(Chase music continues.)*

*(A chase ensues.* **BARBRA** *and the* **GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE** *run into the audience.* **BARBRA** *falls and loses her shoes. She gets up and hides in the audience.* **GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE #1** *has vanished.)*

*(***GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE #2** *appears, played by a different actor in the same wig and costume.* **BARBRA** *escapes to another part of the theater.* **GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE #2** *disappears.)*

*(***GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE #3** *appears.* **BARBRA** *escapes him. She runs offstage, followed by* **GRAVEYARD ZOMBIE #3.***)*

## Scene Four

(**BLACK CHIEF MCCLELLAND** *[played by* **BEN***] and* **VINCE** *approach the house.)*

(**WHITE BEN** *slowly enters from the cellar.)*

**VINCE.** There's something in there. I heard a noise.

(**WHITE BEN** *looks out the window.* **VINCE** *raises his gun.)*

**BLACK CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** All right, Vince hit him in the head. Right between the eyes.

**WHITE BEN.** Don't shoot. I'm a person.

(**BLACK CHIEF MCCLELLAND** *snatches the rifle from* **VINCE.***)*

**BLACK CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** Hold your fire! By Golly! Looks like you survived a pretty rough night, mister.

**WHITE BEN.** Some people are just born luckier than others, I guess. Let me talk to the man in charge.

**BLACK CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** I'm the man in charge.

(**WHITE BEN** *laughs.)*

**WHITE BEN.** Seriously. And get me a coffee and an Aspirin. My head is killing me.

(**BLACK CHIEF** *shoots* **WHITE BEN.** *He walks over to the fire.* **VINCE** *follows.)*

**VINCE.** What the heck!

**BLACK CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** You heard him. He had a bite on his head.

**VINCE.** He said he had a headache.

**BLACK CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** Tomato, Tom-ah-to. It's a damn shame.

**VINCE.** Chief, you may have just shot an innocent man. That was a very rash decision.

**BLACK CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** Sometimes you have to make rash decisions, kid. That's part of being a man.

**VINCE.** My mother said you should never make rash decisions.

**BLACK CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** I guess your mother wasn't much of a man, was she? I suppose you think your mother would do a better job running things here? Heck, if it was up to you, we'd let the women take over everything!

**VINCE.** Maybe. What? It's 1968.

**BLACK CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** Don't be smart. You want to know what it's like being led by women? Go clean up that house!

*(***VINCE** *exits.)*

**VINCE.** *(Offstage.)* Maybe if more women were in charge, I wouldn't have to clean up that house!

**BLACK CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** Women in charge! Right. Maybe then, they would've survived.

*(Blackout.)*

**[MUSIC CUE NO. 36]**

**BEN.** All we have to do is shoot them in the head.

**HELEN.** *(Offstage. From downstairs.)* Harry? Harry!

*(***HELEN** *enters from the cellar.)*

What's going on?

**BEN.** *(To* **HELEN.***)* Ma'am. It's all right now.

**HARRY.** All right? You're nuts. Damn it, Helen! Get back downstairs!

**HELEN.** Well, somebody has his big boy pants in a knot. So all that screaming was from that woman...

*(***HELEN** *points at* **BARBRA.***)*

**BEN.** So you could hear everything!

**HELEN.** Of course. She sounded a little...

*(***HELEN** *makes a crazy motion.)*

**HARRY.** Helen, we're going downstairs.

**HELEN.** Harry Cooper, you are thicker than a one dollar shake. Karen needs a doctor and soon. I'll look after her, you stay upstairs!

**HARRY.** Damn it, Helen!

**HELEN.** We may not enjoy living together, but dying together isn't going to solve anything. It was lovely meeting all of you.

*(***HELEN** *exits to the cellar.)*

**BEN.** She told you, Cooper.

**HARRY.** Listen. Those things are going to be in every window and door in this place!

**BEN.** We've just got to board this place up good. We'll be safe.

**HARRY.** No! We've got to get down in the cellar.

**BEN.** But we have everything we need up here.

**HARRY.** And we can take all that important stuff DOWNSTAIRS! For crying out loud, buddy! Are you high on the reefer? You got a million windows up here! They could come in from anywhere.

**BEN.** Well go on and get down in your cellar! Get out of here!

**HARRY.** Fine! And I'm taking her with me!

> *(**HARRY** points to **BARBRA**, still staring off into space on the couch.)*

**BARBRA.** ...

**HARRY.** On second thought. You keep her.

**BEN.** You keep your hands off her; and everything else that's up here too. Because if I stay up here, I'm fighting for everything up here; the radio and the food, everything!

**HARRY.** *(To **TOM**.)* The man's insane. He's insane! We've got to have food down there! We've got a right!

**BEN.** Is this your house?

**HARRY.** I know it isn't yours!

> *(**BEN** moves toward **HARRY**. He stops when **JUDY** peeks her head out from the cellar.)*

**JUDY.** Tom? Can I come up now?

**TOM.** Uuhh.

**BEN.** *(To **TOM**.)* You going down there with him?

**TOM.** Wellll.

**HARRY.** *(To **TOM**.)* Or you gonna let those things get her?

**TOM.** Uuhh.

**HARRY.** Listen; I got a kid down there. I couldn't bring her up here; with those things just outside!

**BEN.** Well you're her father: If you're stupid enough to go die in that trap, that's your business. However, I am not stupid enough to follow you. It's too bad for the kid that her old man is so stupid.

**HARRY.** Stupid? You are calling me stupid?! What's stupid is your stupid plan to stay in this stupid place! Stupid!

**TOM.** Mr. Cooper, If we stick together, we could fix it up real good. There's lots of places we can run to from here.

**HARRY.** Yeah! Like...THE CELLAR! Cripes!

*(**HARRY** pulls **JUDY** into the room and steps into the cellar door.)*

**BEN.** Get the hell down in the cellar. You can be the boss down there; I'm boss up here!

**HARRY.** Bunch of yo-yos.

*(**HARRY** slams the door and boards it up. He descends the stairs.)*

**TOM.** This is my girlfriend, Judy.

**BEN.** I'm Ben.

**JUDY.** Who's that?

**BEN.** That's... That's umm. You know, I never caught her name.

*(**JUDY** sits beside **BARBRA**.)*

**JUDY.** Hi there. I'm Judy. What's your name?

*(**BARBRA** starts to cry.)*

**BARBRA.** JOHNNY!

*(**JUDY** awkwardly gets up and moves away from **BARBRA**.)*

**TOM.** How's Karen?

**JUDY.** She's not looking so good. She needs help. Poor little girl. I'm gonna look around, see if I can find anything for her.

*(**JUDY** exits through the kitchen.)*

**BEN.** I still don't understand how you people didn't hear us down there.

**TOM.** It was really muffled.

*(**HARRY** and **HELEN** can be clearly heard from downstairs.)*

**HELEN.** *(Offstage.)* What are you doing down here?

**HARRY.** *(Offstage.)* Damn it, Helen! Keep your voice down! They can hear you!

*(**BEN** glares at **TOM**. **TOM** smiles sheepishly at **BEN**.)*

*(The* **CHIEF** *fires his rifle at* **LUCINDA**. *The arm collapses. The* **CHIEF** *looks at the corpse.* **VINCE** *enters, dragging what appears to be* **BEN**'*s body.)*

**VINCE.** Yep! Shot her this morning!

**CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** You did a piss-poor job. What a mess!

*(***VINCE** *throws* **BEN**'*s corpse on the fire.)*

**VINCE.** Here's the one from the window. Looks like there was a group holed up in there. It's a damn shame.

**CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** If only we got here sooner. Maybe we could have saved them from these bastards.

*(The* **CHIEF** *kicks* **BEN**'*s corpse.)*

**VINCE.** Well, I looked around some and I have a theory.

**CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** Never mind that. It don't matter now. Get back to it.

**VINCE.** Chief, hear me out! I reckon they probably spent the night fighting for their lives upstairs. Then, they got overrun and this poor fella tried to hide in the cellar, but they got in there as well. He fought them off and then came upstairs and that's where I shot him.

**CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** Wait. Are you saying this fella was a human when we shot him?

**VINCE.** Maybe.

**CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** He was a ghoul! I could tell by the way he was holding his gun! Anyhow, it doesn't matter. He's in the fire now.

**VINCE.** All I'm saying is maybe if these folks had chose to just stay in the cellar in the first place, things might have played out different. The cellar is the safest place.

**CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** The cellar is always a death trap.

**VINCE.** Think about it, if he...

**CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** Knock it off. It don't matter now. Get back to it.

*(***VINCE** *exits. The* **CHIEF** *leans down and pokes at* **BEN**'*s corpse.)*

**CHIEF MCCLELLAND.** Poor bastard. If only...they had all hid in the cellar. Maybe then, they would've survived.

*(Fade to black.)*

**[MUSIC CUE NO. 26]**

## Scene Thirteen

*(Lights up on cellar steps.* **HELEN** *slowly descends the stairs. There are muffled sounds of* **BEN** *fighting the ghouls upstairs.)*

**HELEN.** Karen? Karen?

*(*__HELEN__ *stands on the landing. She looks into the cellar to find her daughter.)*

*(A small pool of light shows* **KAREN** *hovering over* **HARRY***'s corpse. It appears that she is holding her father.)*

Karen. My baby.

*(*__HELEN__ *approaches* **KAREN** *and embraces her.)*

**[MUSIC CUE NO. 24]**

*(*__KAREN__ *turns around to reveal her face. It's covered in blood as she chews on a piece of* **HARRY***'s body.* **HELEN** *freezes.)*

My baby!

*(*__KAREN__ *drops* **HARRY** *and reveals a garden trowel. She grabs her mother and slashes at her violently.)*

AAHH!

*(*__KAREN__ *pulls* **HELEN***'s body into the darkness.)*

*(*__BEN__ *enters from the staircase, carrying the rifle. He slams the door shut and barricades it behind him. He takes a long, tired breath and makes his way down to the landing.)*

**BEN.** Helen?

*(*__BEN__ *sees* **HARRY***'s corpse. The sounds of moaning as* **KAREN**, *along with reanimated* **HARRY** *and* **HELEN**, *emerge from the darkness.)*

*(The three* **COOPER ZOMBIES** *tumble back into the darkness.)*

**HARRY.** But the cellar is...

**WHITE BEN.** The safest place. I agree. I didn't want to say it in front of the others. I was hoping that you could take charge of things in the cellar. Make sure it's ready for when we need it most.

**HARRY.** I guess I can go down there and fix things up, but shouldn't we go down there now?

**WHITE BEN.** We should go down there now, it's true, but let's face it. Not everyone in this house is mature and composed enough to be stuck down in a dark, crowded cellar for a long period. I mean, that kid? Those girls?

> *(They both have a chuckle.* **WHITE BEN** *puts a hand on* **HARRY**'*s shoulder.* **HELEN** *rolls her eyes.)*

You're my number one man, Cooper. If something should happen to me...god forbid.

**HARRY.** No, we're all going to be all right. You can count on me.

**WHITE BEN.** I know it.

> *(***HARRY** *heads downstairs.* **WHITE BEN** *approaches* **HELEN.***)*

Helen, I have something special for you to handle.

**HELEN.** Stuff it.

**WHITE BEN.** Excuse me?

**HELEN.** Sorry. I guess some of us are not mature and composed enough to be stuck here with you.

**WHITE BEN.** You didn't think I was talking about you?

**HELEN.** I am one of "those girls."

**WHITE BEN.** On the contrary, you are the mature, composed person I was speaking about.

**HELEN.** Please.

**WHITE BEN.** Helen, I mean it. I need you...to be a part of this. Will you help me?

> *(***WHITE BEN** *looks deeply into* **HELEN**'*s eyes. She begins to melt.)*

**HELEN.** What is it you need me to do?

**WHITE BEN.** Make us a pot of coffee. It's going to be a long night.

*(**WHITE BEN** walks up the stairs.)*

**HELEN.** I'm nobody's secretary, mister. You've got the wrong girl.

**WHITE BEN.** I'm sorry, you're right. You're mature and composed. Go look after your daughter.

*(**HELEN** heads for the cellar. **WHITE BEN** calls to her from the stairs.)*

Send that young, pretty one up to make the coffee. I'll be up here if anyone needs me.

*(**WHITE BEN** climbs the stairs. **HELEN** fumes and leaves for the cellar as **HARRY** and **TOM** come upstairs.)*

**HARRY.** Look, kid. Don't get upset.

**TOM.** Don't call me kid, old man.

**WHITE BEN.** What's going on down there?

*(**TOM** and **HARRY** start complaining about each other. **BARBRA** enters and starts yelling as well.)*

Knock it off!!

*(The men stop as **BARBRA** keeps yelling randomly. She notices them and then stops, coyly.)*

Do I have to come down there?! Do I?

*(They mumble "No.")*

All right. One at a time. Tom, what's this about?

**TOM.** I had an idea I wanted to tell you, but Harry wanted to take credit for it.

**HARRY.** That's not true!

*(They all start fighting.)*

**WHITE BEN.** Hey!!

*(Silence.)*

**WHITE BEN.** What's the idea?

**TOM.** The truck you came in on. We just need to find the key to the gas pump out there and we can fill it and take it to safety.

*(***HARRY** *enthusiastically raises his hand.)*

**WHITE BEN.** Harry.

**HARRY.** I found this key ring downstairs! It's labelled "key to the gas pump".

*(***HARRY** *proudly displays the keys.* **TOM** *gives* **HARRY** *the cut-eye.* **JUDY** *enters from the cellar.)*

**WHITE BEN.** Nice work, Harry. Get a plan together and let me know what you come up with. New girl!

*(He points to* **JUDY**.*)*

**JUDY.** I'm not new. I was just downstairs.

**WHITE BEN.** I'm waiting on that coffee.

*(***WHITE BEN** *exits upstairs.* **TOM** *scolds* **JUDY**.*)*

**TOM.** Judy! Come on!

**JUDY.** I just got here!

*(She runs into the kitchen.)*

**HARRY.** Here's the plan. There's some bottles downstairs. We can make Molotov cocktails and set them all on fire.

**TOM.** Molotov cocktails sounds kind of communist. He may not like that.

*(***HELEN** *screams from downstairs.* **BARBRA** *opens the cellar door.)*

**HARRY.** What's happening?!

**BARBRA.** I think they're playing Farmer's Garden. Helen's face is the garden and Karen's digging a lot.

**HARRY.** What?!

**BARBRA.** Oh. Now she's eating stuff from the garden.

*(**WHITE BEN** enters from upstairs.)*

**WHITE BEN.** Boys! What have you got for me?

**HARRY.** My daughter has turned into one of them. She's killing Helen.

**WHITE BEN.** Harry, I thought I put you in charge of the cellar?

**HARRY.** She's eating her face!

**WHITE BEN.** That's unacceptable! Get down there and fix it! Tom, where are we with the truck.

*(**HARRY** grabs an axe and heads downstairs. **TOM** is shaken.)*

**TOM.** Um, well. Molotov cocktails?

**WHITE BEN.** Too communist. Look, I'll cover you. Fill the tank, drive over here and pick me up in five minutes. I'm still waiting on that coffee, new girl!

**JUDY.** *(Offstage.)* Coming!

**TOM.** Are you sure you can cover me?

**WHITE BEN.** Maybe I should get Harry for this.

**TOM.** No!

**WHITE BEN.** Here we go. Three, two, one! Go!

*(**TOM** runs out the front door. **ZOMBIES** groan. **JUDY** enters with a coffee tray.)*

**JUDY.** Tom! No!

*(She runs after him.)*

**WHITE BEN.** Leave the coffee!

*(**JUDY** hands the coffee to **BARBRA** and runs out the door.)*

Barbra, I'm going to be a minute. Keep that coffee warm.

*(**WHITE BEN** exits upstairs. Screaming outside. **WHITE BEN** walks downstairs.)*

Never mind, they're already dead. I'm going down to the cellar to check on Cooper. Don't let anyone in here.