Jaewoo Jung Age: 16, Grade: 10

School Name: Loveless Academic Magnet Program (LAMP) High School, Montgomery, AL Educator: Helen Lee

Category: Science Fiction & Fantasy

Zombie Apocalypse

"Daniel! How many times have I told you to not sleep in my class!" the teacher shouted. Daniel was a student at Jackson High School. Because he spends most of his day sleeping, he's failing in all of his classes. He is a lazy procrastinator, too lazy to get anything accomplished.

"Mr. Daniel, you have detention after school today. Go stand behind the class until I'm done lecturing", said his English teacher.

Daniel walked back behind the classroom but was tripped by Robert and his friends.

"Keep your eyes open, you sloth!" said Robert.

Robert is a popular kid in his school. His group of friends typically bullies me every day.

Daniel glance back at them but decide not to act stupid. He walked behind the room and stood there until his boring English teacher finished lecturing. 'I really hate this school,' Daniel thought. As he was preparing for his next class, a blond-haired boy came up to him. "Hey man, are we gonna play some duos today?" said Tom.

Tom was Daniel's best friend. Unlike Daniel, Tom's really a hard worker. Most teachers loved him.

"No, I can't. I have detention after school today," Daniel replied.

"That sucks." Tom reached for his textbook.

After detention, Daniel headed back home to hang out with his friend. When suddenly, he felt something grabbing on to his ankle. He felt a chill on his back. He slowly turned around and saw an old homeless man asking for help. "H. elp...", said the old man.

Ignoring the old man, Daniel turned and sprinted toward his house. He threw his backpack on his bed and grabbed his controller. He played until midnight and went to sleep, not realizing what he will face in his future.

The next day, Daniel overslept again. He woke up, quickly got dressed in his uniform, and rushed out of his house.

"Ok, students, I have important news for you.", said the teacher.

She turned the TV on and showed us the morning news that was streaming.

"Good Afternoon, everyone. We have breaking news here today. We have a patient suspected of a zombie virus infection. We recommend all citizens to stay at home. Make sure you keep all the doors shut and stay calm under all circumstances. This is an emergency situation." the reporter announced.

"As all of you guys heard, our school would be canceled, and we won't be opening our school next week. Make sure everyone stays safe." Then the teacher dismissed all students back home.

"Daniel," Tom shouted.

"Did you hear the news about the chance of a real-life zombie? It's crazy," said Tom.

"I'm just happy that we get to skip school for the whole week. Call me if you want to hang out today," asked Daniel. "No, thank you. I might as well just stay at home. I don't want to walk around like a zombie.", Tom replied. As soon as Daniel came back home, he went back to his room. He got changed into his comfortable cloth, grabbed some snacks, and sat on his couch. He enjoyed his afternoon in front of the television. When suddenly, he heard a knock on his door. "Who is it?" Daniel asked. No answer. He peaked out through the window and didn't notice Anyone in front of his door. Then another knock. "Who is it?" he asked again. This time he heard a small noise. "H.. Help.." He listened to a little noise outdoors. Daniel opened his door and was astonished by what he saw. Half dead man was standing in front of his door. No, he looked dead but was alive with eyes opened. He looked like a form of zombie.

As the old zombie approached him, Daniel started to panic. He couldn't move his body. He was completely frozen. Zombie took a step closer to take a bite of his prey, when suddenly, Tom came in with a baseball bat in his hand. He smacked that zombie with his bat and helped Daniel up to his feet.

"Come on. Get in the car.", said Tom, and he pushed Daniel out of the door. Without even looking back, Daniel

rushed into Tom's car, with Tom following right after him.

"What just happened?" Daniel asked.

"We were coming to pick you up when suddenly we spotted a zombie wandering around your front door," Tom replied.

"Well, thank you.", Daniel replied.

When they got to Tom's house, Tom turned his switch on, which opened a secret door to his underground basement. Inside of the basement was filled with food, weapons, books, and entertainment for them to spend a few months in. Tom turned the television on for the updated news. The news was live-streaming the current situation. The city was utterly chaotic. Their houses were on fire. Car crashes all over the place: broken window pieces and dead bodies on the street.

Then, the reporter showed up with important news. "Hello citizens, I hope you are staying safe. This is breaking news reported by the government that they've discovered a vaccine to prevent you from this zombie virus infection. The government plans to give the vaccine to only a few people willing to try a sample of the vaccine as a test. If you are involved in our final experiment of a completed vaccine, you would be able to gain many riches after the zombie apocalypse all ends. If you are willing to be involved in our experiment, wait in front of your house. We'll send our vehicle to pick you guys up." Then the TV turned off.

"This is crazy! Free vaccines to us! They're giving us extra money for those involved in the vaccine testing. I'm definitely into it." Daniel shouted.

"You don't even know that vaccine would succeed," Tom replied.

"I think you're just worried that I'll take all the money," said Daniel. "No, I just can't trust the government after what they've done to my father. He worked under the government. They sent killers to get rid of my dad because they were afraid that he would expose their secrets to the public,"

"It's sad to hear that about your father.", said Daniel.

"Ok.", Tom replied back.

They then waited for another week.

That night, they turned their TV on to check their updated news. "Good Afternoon, citizens. We have important news for you today. I thank everyone who participated in our vaccine testing last week. According to our record, none of our contestants seemed to show any problems or side effects. We will come back with more positive news next time."

"It looks like everything's going well.", said Daniel.

"Like I told you before, I can't trust, " Tom replied.

"Dude, it's literally free money and free vaccines!" Daniel screamed.

The next morning, Daniel packed his belongings and waited for the vehicle.

"Wait!" If you have any problems, use this," Tom said as he handed him 3 smoke bombs.

"It's going to be alright. Why would I need this?" Daniel asked.

"Just take it," said Tom.

"It's going to be a long ride there, so you can take a good nap during our ride there.", said the driver.

So Daniel closed his eyes and fell right asleep.

When he woke up, it felt like about an hour or two had passed. He looked out the window and realized that it didn't look like a typical city. The truck drove through a narrow road and into a fortress. As he exited the vehicle, he saw a crowd of people waiting to enter the building. As the door opened, a man in a suit came out and started talking. "Good Afternoon, everyone." said the man. "My name is Harry, your president. I thank everyone who's come here to be tested with our new vaccine. I understand that we're under tough circumstances right now. You all will be a hero that can save us out of this situation."

After speaking a few words, Harry led people into the building. The front door was connected to a long hallway. There were a lot of doors that led to different rooms. The end of a hallway led to a room with a white door. President Harry opened the door, allowing a group of people to enter at a time.

"Please wait till the guards allow our next group to enter. When you are entering this room, I ask you to leave all your belongings to the side.", said President Harry. A security guard came to take our belongings away. I got my pencil, candy bar, and a spare change out. Then he felt the smoke bombs his friend gave him. He put his hand back inside his pocket and spoke to the guard. "All done."

Daniel waited for another hour until he entered the room. There was a massive tube with liquid and a creature in it on the other side of the room. He couldn't get a clear view of the beast since he had to continue walking along with the crowd. He finally stopped when the president stopped him. Then he started to speak.

"Unfortunately, we do not have a vaccine made yet.", said the president.

"Our government has failed to defeat the zombies, but we have succeeded in making peace with zombies. I promised the zombies to sacrifice your lives to keep us unharmed. You guys would all be joining the zombies by becoming one.

Now, if you'll, please enjoy your new family." Harry grinned.

As he stopped talking, he stepped out of the room and opened the tube filled with zombies. People started screaming and panicking as hordes of zombies came rushing in towards them. It was dinner time for the zombies. Daniel didn't have any space to run. He saw the desk with chemicals on top of it. He quickly hid under the desk, hoping for his best chance of surviving. The room was complete chaos. The room was filled with blood, screams, and fears. Just then, one of the zombies knocked on the desk down and found Daniel. They started hissing. Daniel began walking back. Then, he fell. As he landed, he could feel a bottle of chemicals in his hand. When the zombie jumped toward him, he opened up the bottle and threw the liquid right in the zombie's face. Zombie was in pain. He started screeching as his skin started to pull apart. Then, a tall, muscular man was standing right in front of him. "What's going on here?" he asked.

"I just found the vaccine.", Daniel said.

He quickly got up and took as many vaccines as he could.

"We have to get out of here now!" he screamed toward the man. "Lead me the way.", said the man.

And they both sprinted toward the exit. Daniel reached for his pocket and threw a smoke bomb towards the horde of the zombie. Boom! Zombies went flying, and they both sprinted toward the exit.

"He knows our secret." The guards blocked his way, and Daniel immediately replied by releasing his last grenade. "That was close.", Daniel said.

"Thank you. You saved my life.", said the man.

"No problem. What's your name?" Daniel asked.

"My name is Ben.", he replied.

"So, now what?" Daniel asked.

"What are we going to do? They already know that we have their vaccines. This place is like a maze.", said Ben. "We'll have to find a way out of here. If we can just get to a place where people live, we are safe. We can expose them." Then they started walking.

Daniel and Ben walked through the wood.

"So," Daniel spoke up. "Do you have any memories of yourself before you turned into a zombie?"

"Yes, I still remember everything that happened before I turned into a zombie.", Ben keep said. "I remember that night when my family and I went out to get equipment after they announced the lockdown. We ran into a group of zombies. My parents sacrificed their lives for me to escape. I eventually got surrounded by hordes of zombies, but I didn't know that I would get back to myself again."

"Oh, so you lost your parents as well?" Daniel asked.

"Yes, unfortunately. What about you?" Ben asked.

"I've never seen my parents before. I'm pretty sure they passed away when I was young. I've always lived a sad life." Daniel sadly replied.

"You are a great person.", Ben replied. "You are a true hero to me. You saved my life," Ben continued to spoke. "Anyone can't be a hero like you. Heroes don't have to have a cape or any superpower. They can just make a difference with their ability. Just like what you did.", said Ben.

Daniel started to smile and continued walking.

It's been around 30 minutes or so when they detected a source of light in front of them. They both rushed toward the light. When they got closer, they walked into a neighborhood. They continued walking to find Anyone living close by. The community was tranquil. It seemed like they were all staying in their houses.

"Look over here.", said Ben as he pointed toward the wall.

On the wall, there were 2 wanted posters with their face on them. The government had already spread out the sign. Then, they saw a news truck coming toward their way.

"We have to get out of here.", said Ben.

They moved away from the wall when the truck got there. People came out of the truck and started setting up for the news.

"What are we going to do now?" asked Ben.

"If they report fake news about us, we won't be able to get any help from Anyone. They'll find us again." "I have an idea, but it's a risky one. Are you down for this?" Daniel replied, and he whispered his plant to Ben.

"Good evening, everyone." said the reporter.

"I'm here today with another breaking news. It is told that there are two..." "Good evening, everyone.", Daniel interrupted. He took away the microphone and started talking. "The government has all the vaccines. We have proof. The government is trying to kill everyone, not trying to save you. You need to know this.", screamed Daniel. "What are you doing!" the reporter stopped him and took his mic away from him.

Suddenly, Ben came in and knocked the reporter down. All the staff came toward them, and Ben bought Daniel a little time until Daniel could finish his sentences. "So as I was saying, the government has been tricking all of you

guys. I need you guys all to gather up in front of the white house. We need to kick our president out. Our world is no longer to be trusted by our government. I need you to meet me in front of the white house. This is real!"

As he finished his sentence, all the people that worked under the president came after him. Daniel started sprinting. He didn't know where he was going. He just ran. But he couldn't run forever. He began to feel tired as he ran. Guards were getting closer and closer to him. When he was about to collapse, a car stopped in front of him. "Get in!" It was from Tom. Daniel got in the car and quickly escaped out of there. "Thank God. You saved my life again.", Daniel said. "Mr. Daniel, I'm here to help you. My name is Christian, and I'm Tom's uncle.", said Christian. "I don't think you have enough vaccines for everyone, don't you?" Christian asked. "I don't.", Daniel replied as he reached for his bag. He had about 10 packs of vaccines. "Then why not spread it to everyone from the upper ground. I have a helicopter prepared for you on top of my building. I can take you to the white house so that you can save everyone.", Christian told Daniel. "Ok, then please take me there.", Daniel replied. They drove toward Tom's uncle building.

After they arrived, they got out of the car, headed toward the top of his building, and aboard his helicopter. "Ready?" Christian asked. They nodded, and the aircraft took off towards the white house. When they got there, Daniel could see people protesting in front of the white house. Suddenly, he saw a horde of zombies running out of the white house. It was the most significant amount of zombies they've ever seen. Daniel grabbed on to his parachute and his vaccines. "If your ready, then you may go.", Christian replied. "Good luck." Tom cheered him up. Without any hesitation, Daniel jumped off.

The zombie vaccines started to rain in front of the white house. He could see some people coming back to themselves. The vaccine was working. He repeated to release the vaccines.

After he released his last pack of vaccines, he heard a gunshot. It was President Harry. "Fire!" Harry screamed. All the guards were shooting at Daniel. He started to panic again. They ran towards the guard and the president, trying to save their heroes. Unfortunately, one of the bullets passed through his parachute, making him fall straight to the ground. Many people went in front of the president with rakes, bats, shovels, and other weapons to attack him. Ignoring all the people who worked for him, the president ran away in his spaceship and was never found again. After they failed in killing their evil monster, everyone went towards the dead body of their young hero. "Daniel!" Tom came in weeping in front of his body. The zombie apocalypse was all over. Their hero wasn't Anyone special, but a normal teenage boy. People remembered Daniel's name forever. They made a statue of him in front of the white house. This day was recognized as Hero's Day. Everyone would have a moment of silence in front of the statue for the brave young hero. His name was written in a history book.