

Walking Dead in a Winter Wonderland

By

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EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

A fence lines the side of a parking lot. There is a small hole in it, through which RICK, LORI, DALE, DARRYL, T-DOG, GLENN, ANDREA, and SHANE come walking through. They stand on the edge of the asphalt looking ahead.

DARRYL

Now that's what I'm talking about.

It is revealed that they are in the parking lot of a giant abandoned mall.

DARRYL (CONTINUED)

Anybody feel like doing some shopping?

RICK

Let's check it out.

They start walking towards the structure.

GLENN

I don't know... I think I've seen this movie before.

EXT. MALL ENTRANCE - DAY

A large metal gate protects the mall entrance. T-Dog and Dale are working on the lock with some tools as the rest of the group sits behind and begins to pass out walkies.

RICK

Alright, so we'll split up into groups of two. Honey, you stay out here with Glenn and radio if anything happens.

LORI

Why don't I get to go inside?

SHANE

Rick's right, Lori. We need more than one set of eyes out here.

GLENN

Well, I was to... There's something I... uh, need to get.

RICK

If you need something, just tell us what it is and we'll grab it.

(CONTINUED)

GLENN

But, it's... well...

ANDREA (IMPATIENT)

What is it Glenn?

Glenn leans close to Darryl and whispers something in his ear that's inaudible. Darryl looks back at him strangely.

DARRYL

And you need this for...?

GLENN

No, no...it's ok, forget it.

With a loud crack, the lock on the gate breaks.

T-DOG

Yeah!

DALE

See there? No problem.

A large deer jumps out from behind the grate, startling everyone. Dale and T-Dog fall over in a panic and Shane draws his gun. Darryl laughs maniacally.

DALE

Jesus!

INT. MALL LOBBY - DAY

The group, except for Lori and Glenn, walk inside the shopping mall. There are Christmas decorations and signs detailing various holiday sales. It is silent and still.

SHANE

Does anyone remember what month it is?

RICK

I lost track myself.

ANDREA

Outbreak happened right after Thanksgiving, remember?

DARRYL

Excellent! Maybe I'll find me some soft peppermints.

(CONTINUED)

RICK

Okay, Dale and I will go upstairs and check out the second level. Darryl, you and T-Dog scout the West Wing. Shane...

SHANE

Yeah, me and Andrea will check it out down here. But make sure to stay in touch and be focused, you never know when... whoa.

A sports store with colorful displays catches Shane's attention and he saunters towards it.

DARRYL

Looks like Christmas done come early this year.

INT. GREETING CARD STORE - DAY

Dale and Rick sort through a holiday candle display, stuffing their bags.

DALE (READING CANDLE SCENTS)

Peppermint dream, cinnamon twist, baked apple pie. Looks like we'll have some holiday cheer these next few weeks.

RICK

Yeah, well I'm only really interested in if it burns or not.

DALE

Well, I think a little Christmas spirit could do us all some good.

Rick stops his packing for a moment and inspects a Christmas picture frame sitting on a nearby shelf. Inside there is a place-holder picture of a family with a little boy.

RICK

I hope they're okay back at camp.

DALE

Oh, I'm sure they are fine.

RICK

Do you even remember? When it was like this? When things were so... inconsequential?

(CONTINUED)

Dale looks at the photo and then looks back at Rick.

DALE

Inconsequential. Rick, I don't know if you've noticed, but you have something we all want. Something we all miss. Your family is anything but *inconsequential*. I'd say, if there's anything to remember during the Christmas season, it's that.

Rick smiles and puts the picture back on the stand.

RICK

Dale, answer me this... do you think Cinnabons go bad?

DALE

There's only one way to find out.

INT. VICTORIA'S SECRET - DAY

Shane walks into a Victoria's secret, decorated in candy-cane colors, looking slightly perturbed.

SHANE

Andrea, where did you go?

He darts around a few cutouts and mannequins and then pauses when he hears a noise. He pulls his pistol out of his belt.

SHANE (WHISPERED)

Andrea?

He levels the gun to his eyeline and scans the room. He walks around a corner, points the gun...

Out steps Andrea, who is now only wearing some very skimpy "elf" underwear and a candy-cane colored bra.

SHANE

Aw, hell, I thought I'd lost you.

ANDREA

Nope.

SHANE

So what's this then.

(CONTINUED)

ANDREA

Just trying on some clothes. Do you like them?

She twirls.

SHANE

It looks like you might get cold.

ANDREA

I'll survive. Would you help me?

Shane smiles wryly and unstraps his belt.

SHANE

Merry Christmas to me.

EXT. MALL ENTRANCE - DAY

Glenn scans the parking lot with a pair of binoculars, while Lori sits beside him. They are seen only from the chest up.

LORI

Anything?

GLENN

Not that I can see.

Lori takes a bite of a chewy candy and Glenn looks at her while she chews.

GLENN

So, what is it like?

LORI

What's "what" like?

GLENN

You know, being...

LORI

What, being pregnant?

Glenn sheepishly shrugs.

GLENN

I mean, I'm not trying to pry, I'm just interested.

LORI

It's pretty much the same... except for the fact that you're so hungry

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LORI (cont'd)
you could eat eight pints of ice
cream a day. You'll see someday...
I guarantee you you'll have to take
your wife any place she wants or
you're in for a bad day.

GLENN
Nah, probably will never happen.

LORI
Why not?

GLENN
I'm not really a "relationship"
kind of guy.

Lori glares at him in a motherly way.

LORI
Just because you've never had one,
doesn't mean you won't. You know,
Rick was my first boyfriend.

GLENN
Really? But you're so... pretty.

LORI
That is the way to get on a
pregnant woman's good side.

Lori winks at him and Glenn smiles.

We pull back to reveal they are on coin-operated children
rides outside the mall that move them up and down.

INT. ELECTRONICS STORE - DAY

Darryl and T-Dog browse through the radios, batteries, and
other electrical equipment in the store. Darryl calmly goes
through his stuff, but T-Dog is tearing through one section
loudly.

DARRYL
What are you scrounging around for
over there?

T-DOG
One of them crank generators with
the radio and flashlight.

Darryl looks at him quizzically.

(CONTINUED)

T-DOG

It's a flashlight-radio that you can power just by cranking a lever on the side. I figure it's stuff like that we can use, you feel me?

DARRYL

Should have just asked Santa, maybe he'd bring you one.

T-DOG

Yeah, well, I don't do that.

DARRYL

Do what?

T-DOG

I've never done Christmas stuff before, okay?

DARRYL

You mean, not never? Like not with your mama or daddy?

T-Dog stops his searching for a moment and looks at Darryl.

T-DOG

No. I'm Jewish.

DARRYL

Uh, what?

T-DOG

What, didn't you hear me?

DARRYL

I did but you just said you're Jewish

T-DOG

And what's wrong with that?

DARRYL

Nothing, it's just that you're...

T-Dog lowers his eyes and glares at Darryl.

DARRYL (CONTINUED)

...so Christian looking.

T-Dog harrumphs at him and continues tearing through boxes. Darryl spots something on a shelf and brings it over. It's a hand-held radio with a crank shaft. T-Dog looks up, and smiles as Darryl hands it over.

(CONTINUED)

DARRYL (CONTINUED)
Merry Hanukkah. Or whatever.

INT. FOOD COURT - DAY - LATER

Darryl and T-Dog walk up to a giant exhibit in the middle of the food court. There is a "Winter Wonderland" walk-through complete with a slide and ball pit.

DARRYL
Will ya look at that?

Shane and Andrea walk into the food court as well, admiring the structure.

ANDREA
Where's Rick and Dale?

A loud gagging sound is heard through one of the food court vendor doors, and out busts Rick, coughing and spitting.

SHANE
You okay Rick?

RICK
Ugh. Definitely past expiration.

Dale comes out after Rick with some cans of food.

SHANE
You guys see this?

RICK
Yeah, it's something, ain't it?

Shane's radio beeps up with Lori on the other end.

LORI (ON RADIO)
Guys, the sun is about to set, you better come back out.

SHANE (INTO RADIO)
No problem Lori we're on our way.

Darryl begins to walk towards the display.

RICK
Where are you going?

DARRYL
Just give me a second.

(CONTINUED)

RICK

To do what?

DARRYL

I just... want to ride the slide.

Darryl enters the exhibit. Andrea and Rick both smile and laugh, and they follow him.

DALE

Ah, what the hell.

Dale runs past him to get there first and the group giggles audibly. They rest all follow them to the large entrance gate. Rick opens it and they begin walking through.

There is fake snow on the ground and shiny ornaments hang from fake Christmas trees. Rick smiles as he watches them fight for who gets to go up the ladder for the slide first.

Rick sees an ornament hanging from one of the trees and eyes it, smiling. He reaches out to grab it...

A walker's arm reaches out and grabs Rick, and he falls backward, yelling. He rushes back to his feet, reaching for his gun. The whole rest of the crew runs outside the exhibit in shock. Rick slams the door before the zombie can get out.

DARRYL

Ah hell, will you look at that!

The walker is wearing a full Santa outfit, with its bloody jaw hanging by the strands of the fake beard. It claws at the gate of the attraction.

DARRYL

Rick nearly got eaten by Saint Nick. See, I told everyone he was real.

Rick catches his breath, and raises his pistol toward the walker. But after a moment he lowers it.

RICK

I suppose he-

Santa topples to the ground from a blunt force to the head. Shane is standing behind him with a shiny new golf club that's now red with blood at the tip.

SHANE

...I've been working on my game.

EXT. MALL FOYER - DUSK

The group exits the mall and meets Glenn and Lori. Darryl is wearing a Santa hat and has a giant bag slung over his shoulder. A lit cigarette hangs from his mouth.

DARRYL

Ho ho ho!

LORI

Looks like you got some serious shopping done.

RICK

It's the holidays, we spared no expense.

Glenn rifles through the bag of gifts, but sulks, coming up empty. He looks up in time to catch a bag Darryl throws.

DARRYL

Merry Christmas, kid.

Glenn opens to bag to reveal a small jewelry box. He catches Lori's eye and smiles.

RICK

Ok, gang, let's get a move on.

As they begin walking away, Rick hums "Rudolph the red-nosed Reindeer" quietly, and as they move closer away from the mall, each member of the group joins in.