

THE WALKING DEAD

EP. Now They All Die

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. — GEORGIA CHURCH — DAY

GABRIEL, a priest in his early forties, stands alone inside of his church. He looks out from his podium and smiles at the camera. From his perspective, Gabriel sees the congregation sitting in front of him, all attentively listening to him. He gazes down at his bible, which is black and worn from years of use.

GABRIEL flips through the pages to the inside of the front cover. On the inside is something written to him: **Hold closely to the word of the Lord. Ascend his ladder and find salvation my friend. Fr. Ufema.**

He looks back up to find the church completely empty. His face is now sweaty and filled with fear.

The sounds of screams and shouts begin to erupt from outside of the church.

CUT TO:

EXT. — GEORGIA CHURCH — DAY

Thirty or forty people are screaming, standing and pounding on the doors outside of the church. A few men try to break the front doors down, to no avail.

Some of the women and children turn to look at the woods behind them. Moans are audible as walkers emerge from the tree line. Their screams become louder.

WOMAN #1

Let us in!

MAN #1

Open the doors you bastard!

WOMAN #2

They're going to eat us you monster!

WOMAN #3

Save us!

INT. GEORGIA CHURCH – DAY

GABRIEL'S face is filled with immense terror. Tears start to fall down his face. The doors rattle and shake.

He backs away from the empty hall and weeps as he enters his bedroom, closing the door behind him.

EXT. GEORGIA CHURCH – DAY

WOMAN #4 begins to write something into the siding of the church. As she finishes writing, a walker overtakes her and they both fall over. The walker begins to feed on her neck as she screams.

On the side of the church it reads: **YOU'LL BURN FOR THIS.**

INT. GEORGIA CHURCH – DAY

GABRIEL clutches his ears as he falls to the floor crying.

BOOM over from GABRIEL to his dresser top, where a statue of crucified Jesus rests calmly.

RUN TITLE CREDITS.

INT. – GABRIEL'S ALEXANDRIA ROOM – MORNING

GABRIEL'S eyes open. He is laying on his bed. He breathes deeply.

He rises from his bed. GABRIEL looks out his window as the sun begins to rise.

He looks over and sees CARL climbing up over the wall to the outside of the community. GABRIEL smiles.

EXT. – GABRIEL'S ALEXANDRIA HOUSE – MORNING

GABRIEL steps out from his home. He is dressed in a white t-shirt and black pants, deliberately not wearing his priest attire. He walks down his steps and onto the street.

He sees an ALEXANDRIAN MAN walk out from a house across the street.

As GABRIEL makes eye contact with the ALEXANDRIAN MAN, his face is revealed to be a walker's. Half of the ALEXANDRIAN MAN'S face is rotted off and he screams for flesh.

GABRIEL'S eyes widen and he stares in shock. He blinks.

The ALEXANDRIAN MAN'S face is normal again.

ALEXANDRIAN MAN
Good morning Gabriel.

GABRIEL raises his hand, unable to say a word.

The ALEXANDRIAN MAN begins to walk away down the street.

GABRIEL turns to walk the other way. His face is filled with concern.

EXT. — ALEXANDRIAN CLEARING — MORNING

GABRIEL walks into an open grassy area within the walls of ALEXANDRIA.

DARYL DIXON stands alone with a bag over his shoulder.

GABRIEL approaches DARYL nervously.

DARYL
You showed up.

GABRIEL
I promised I would.

DARYL
It's nice to see the change.

GABRIEL
I'm ready for it.

DARYL
Then let's go.

EXT. — BEYOND THE ALEXANDRIA WALLS — MORNING

GABRIEL and DARYL walk in the woods just beyond the gates of ALEXANDRIA.

DARYL

The most important way to make it on your own is to understand how to track your prey. If you can do that, then you will never go hungry.

GABRIEL

So what's the first way to track them?

DARYL

Follow the signs in front of you. At first they seem invisible, but there are footprints left behind by even the smartest hunters. A leaf crunched slightly, a branch with a scuff mark.

GABRIEL

You can spot that?

DARYL

I can. Though there are times that the trail runs cold. As hard as it can be, it's important to keep aware.

DARYL crouches down to look before them. He points at the ground.

DARYL (CONT'D)

See here. There was a squirrel here. You can tell by the light feet marks. There is a close proximity to the feet. The front ones have four toes and the back have five.

DARYL stands up.

DARYL (CONT'D)

It wasn't running so it could be nearby.

(MORE)

DARYL (CONT'D)

Being able to recognize an animal's tracks will help you to understand their movements.

GABRIEL

Where did you learn all this?

DARYL

My brother taught me.

GABRIEL

He must have been a smart man.

DARYL

When he wanted to be.

DARYL starts to walk ahead slowly. He keeps an eye on the tree line as GABRIEL moves quietly behind him.

DARYL stops and motions GABRIEL to stop too.

DARYL

He's up there in the tree.
See him.

DARYL points up.

GABRIEL sees the squirrel. He aims his crossbow up and fires. The arrow hits the squirrel and it falls limp down from the tree to the ground.

DARYL looks over at GABRIEL.

DARYL

It's a quick process sometimes. Others can be far more difficult. So stay on the defensive as you track.

GABRIEL

Of course.

DARYL
Let's find a clearing so I
can show you some close
quarters. You could use some
work.

DARYL and GABRIEL move toward where the squirrel fell.

CUT TO:

EXT. — WOODED CLEARING — MORNING

DARYL and GABRIEL stand a short distance apart, staring at each other.

DARYL stands still.

DARYL
So I want you to raise your
knife up and come at me.

GABRIEL
Come at you?

DARYL
Yeah. Like you're going to
try and stab me.

GABRIEL
Are you sure that's a good
idea.

DARYL
Just do it.

GABRIEL readies his knife up.

GABRIEL
Okay.

GABRIEL runs forward at DARYL.

As GABRIEL gets in close towards DARYL with the knife,
DARYL gets the hand that holds the knife and grabs it as he
pushes GABRIEL off to the side.

GABRIEL falls into a roll and lands on his back.

DARYL stands up with the knife in his hand.

GABRIEL sits up and looks at DARYL.

GABRIEL
How did you do that?

DARYL
You came at me with force.
You didn't think about
anticipating what I would do
to defend myself. Plus you
hesitated.

GABRIEL
But I mean how?

DARYL
You take the person's force
and use it against them.

GABRIEL gets up from the ground and approaches DARYL.

GABRIEL
Show me.

EXT. — RIGHT BEYOND THE ALEXANDRIA GATES — MORNING

DARYL and GABRIEL walk together. They slowly approach the
community.

GABRIEL
I appreciate you teaching me.

DARYL
It wasn't a problem.

GABRIEL
I know. But you didn't have
to.

DARYL
I was surprised you asked.

GABRIEL
I'm doing my best to be more
useful and to do my part.
(MORE)

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I feel terrible not helping
defend this place.

DARYL

As long as you keep fighting,
you'll be useful.

GABRIEL

Would you mind teaching me
again?

DARYL

As long as you're willing to
learn.

GABRIEL

I'm willing. I want to fight.

DARYL

Then same time tomorrow.

GABRIEL looks from DARYL and toward ALEXANDRIA.

We boom up to see the community, its high walls and
vastness are visible in all strengths and weaknesses.

EXT. — ALEXANDRIA FRONT GATE — DAY

Close up of GABRIEL standing alone looking out beyond
Alexandria. His face is filled with seriousness. Strapped
over his shoulder is a rifle.

His attire is different from what he used to wear. He has
hung up the priest attire for something more practical. He
wears slightly tighter pants and his dress shirt is black,
but more fitted. At his side is a handgun holster with a
gun resting in it. He also has a bit more facial scruff,
caring less about his appearance.

BOOM out to show that GABRIEL is standing guard at the
front gate of Alexandria. To his left is DWIGHT, a similar
aged man, who has burn marks along the side of his face.

Neither of them say a word to each other.

DWIGHT brings up LUCIELLE from his waist and rests it on
his shoulder with a smirk. GABRIEL looks over at DWIGHT.

DWIGHT

I don't get why you're up here.

GABRIEL

Because I wanted to take watch.

DWIGHT

No. I mean WHY are you up here?

GABRIEL

(Pause)

I suppose one day I woke up and decided that protecting people's souls wasn't enough for me.

DWIGHT peers over at GABRIEL to meet his gaze.

DWIGHT

Is that what you call it?

GABRIEL

I have done terrible things. I will not deny my sins. But I have done my best to atone for them, same as you.

DWIGHT

I haven't atoned for mine. I've just accepted them and moved on.

GABRIEL

Can you really move on if you haven't atoned for them?

DWIGHT

I don't live with guilt.

(BEAT)

But you do. I think that's enough to answer your question.

GABRIEL

Says the man holding the bat
of a man who destroyed his
life.

DWIGHT

That wasn't a very priestly
thing to say, now was it?

GABRIEL

I might be a priest, but I'm
not a fool. I can't survive
if I act priestly all the
time.

There is a silence. DWIGHT lowers LUCIELLE from his
shoulder and raises it toward GABRIEL.

DWIGHT

Want to hold her?

GABRIEL stares at the bat in his face. He sees the dings
and dents in the wood. The dried blood permanently infused
with the rusty barbs. He sees the bullet still lodged in
LUCIELLE.

GABRIEL

I think I'll pass.

DWIGHT lowers the bat.

DWIGHT

Your loss.

GABRIEL turns to look back out beyond the gate. He sees
something.

GABRIEL

Walker.

GABRIEL raises his rifle to notice a figure moving toward
them from the distance. As he looks through the scope he
notices: NEGAN. He is walking toward them with dried blood
on his face and a thick amount of facial hair from travel.

GABRIEL lowers the rifle and looks at DWIGHT.

GABRIEL

It's Negan.

DWIGHT'S face turns serious.

DWIGHT

Shoot him.

GABRIEL

Don't you think Rick would
want to talk to him?

DWIGHT

I don't think anyone wants to
talk to him. Besides, we can
tell everyone we thought he
was a walker.

GABRIEL

What if he has something
important?

DWIGHT

If it's that important we'll
take it from his dead
fingers.

GABRIEL looks out past the gate with concern.

DWIGHT

If you're not going to do it,
give me the gun.

DWIGHT raises his free hand.

GABRIEL raises the gun and aims at NEGAN, who waves at them
from afar with a grin on his face. GABRIEL struggles to
make a decision and ultimately lowers the gun.

GABRIEL

We have to talk to him.

CUT TO:

NEGAN stopping near the front of the gate. He looks up at
GABRIEL and DWIGHT.

NEGAN

Well if it isn't my two favorite indecisive Stormtroopers. I bet you two would've missed if you'd pulled the trigger.

DWIGHT

The hell do you want Negan?

NEGAN raises the burlap bag in his hand.

NEGAN

I brought Rick take out.

DWIGHT

We should've shot you.

NEGAN

Is that any way to treat an honored guest?

DWIGHT

You don't have any honor.

NEGAN

You are right about that Dwighty-boy. But I really need to tell Rick something.

GABRIEL

Why should we trust you?

NEGAN

As I said before, I'm the bearer of great news. But if we want to get a bit more serious here, I'd really like to have my baby back.

DWIGHT lifts up the bat and looks at it. Then he moves it forward to have it hang over the gate.

DWIGHT

You mean this?

(BEAT)

Sure.

DWIGHT pretends he's about to drop it. Then he pulls it back and moves it back over his shoulder.

DWIGHT (CONT'D)

I don't think so.

NEGAN becomes aggressively angry and responds threateningly.

NEGAN

You're gonna fucking give her to me. Just you wait.

GABRIEL looks shocked at NEGAN'S loss of composure.

GABRIEL

Negan, what's in the bag?

NEGAN looks over at GABRIEL.

NEGAN

Something that's gonna change everything.

CUT TO:

RICK comes into view as Alexandria's front gate slides open. He looks forward with seriousness to the camera. His gaze meets NEGAN'S.

NEGAN sees RICK and he smiles with a massive grin.

NEGAN

Just the man I wanted to see.

RICK walks past the gate to stop a few feet away from NEGAN.

RICK

What do you want Negan?

NEGAN

I cut the head off the hydra for you.

NEGAN tosses his burlap bag and it falls at RICK'S feet with a thump.

RICK looks down at his feet. RICK picks it up.

NEGAN

Now we just have to cut the
little heads off.

RICK pulls out the head of the Whisperer's Leader, ALPHA. Her face shows horror and shock, with her mouth dangling open. She is bald, having always kept her hair off.

NEGAN begins to laugh.

NEGAN

They're gonna be pissed!

NEGAN keeps laughing.

RICK looks up at NEGAN, practically unphased by the brutality of it.

RICK

How?

NEGAN

The Whispers happily took me
in when I told them I was
enemies with the great Rick
Grimes. All it took was a
little schmoozing and Alpha
brought me in close. It
wasn't hard to cut that
pretty little lady's head
clean off.

RICK

Why did you come back here?

NEGAN

You could show a little
gratitude. I could've easily
convinced them to come kill
your sorry asses, but I
didn't. You see Rick, I want
one thing from you and I'll
do anything to get it.

RICK

What's that?

NEGAN

Your respect.

RICK

You expect me to believe that you killed Alpha, for my respect?

NEGAN

That's exactly what I expect you to believe. Just say thank you.

RICK

Thank you.

NEGAN

I love your ingenuity Rick. It's inspiring.

(BEAT)

I simply want to work with you, not against you. So will you please let me in? I promise not to knock your house down.

RICK looks down and thinks for a moment. NEGAN looks up at DWIGHT and raises his eyebrows with a smile.

NEGAN looks back at RICK.

RICK

I'll let you in. But you're going to be living under certain conditions for the time being until we can determine if you mean what you say.

NEGAN

I'll take it.

RICK

There is a war coming. You just set the gears into motion.

(MORE)

RICK (CONT'D)

After that war is over, we'll
see what becomes of you in
this community.

NEGAN makes a slight bow before looking back up with a
smile.

INT. — ALEXANDRIA CELL — DAY

NEGAN walks into the cell. RICK slams the door and locks
it.

RICK starts to walk away from the door to leave when...

NEGAN

Rick.

RICK turns to look at NEGAN, who stares seriously behind
the bars.

NEGAN

Let me be serious here for a
moment. I know how difficult
this must be, for all of you.

RICK

You have no idea how
difficult this is.

NEGAN

I want things to be
different. I want you to be
able to trust me.

RICK

It's going to take a lot for
me to be able to do that.

(BEAT)

But I'm going to try. The
others, they might not have
the same openness for change.

NEGAN

Most might not understand my
change of heart. Believe me,
I never expected it either.

(MORE)

NEGAN (CONT'D)
But I will do whatever it
takes to earn it from them.

RICK
Start by behaving yourself
and not antagonizing them.

RICK closes the secondary door. NEGAN stands alone in his cell.

NEGAN
(to himself)
Can do sheriff. Can do.

EXT. — OUTSIDE ALEXANDRIA CELLS — DAY

MICHONNE stands at the top of the stairs as RICK makes his way up to her.

MICHONNE
Should we have someone stand
guard?

RICK
We'll have a few people
rotate shifts.

MICHONNE
And you plan on keeping him
here?

RICK
We can't do much else with
him for the moment.

RICK and MICHONNE start to walk.

MICHONNE
People are already on edge.

RICK
They were on edge before he
escaped. They'll be okay.

MICHONNE
That was before you mentioned
considering his freedom.

RICK

We can't lock him up forever.

MICHONNE

But we can force him to
leave.

RICK

And you think that would be
wise?

MICHONNE

I don't know. But having him
locked up inside our gates
isn't going to help people
sleep at night.

RICK

Maybe not. But they'll find a
way to sleep.

MICHONNE

What about you?

RICK

What about me?

MICHONNE

Can you sleep knowing he's
back here?

RICK

I have to.

MICHONNE

What about Judith? Have you
taken her safety into
account?

RICK

Of course I have. The
Whisperers are coming now.
Negan killed their leader.
Whether he's here or not,
they're coming for us. I'd
rather have him fight with
us.

MICHONNE

You think he would?

RICK

He's here. Either he helps us win or he sits in that cell until they get to him. I don't think he gave himself much choice in the matter.

MICHONNE

I hope you're right about this.

RICK

Me too.

INT. — RICK'S HOUSE — DAY

RICK stands inside the house. Around him are MICHONNE, DARYL, GABRIEL, CAROL, TARA, DWIGHT, and MORGAN. They listen attentively as RICK begins to speak.

RICK

I know how you all must feel having Negan behind our walls. Especially after everything he's done. But I need you all to trust me as things progress.

TARA

How can you rationalize bringing him in here?

RICK

Because he's more useful to us alive than he is dead.

TARA

He's done unforgivable things.

RICK

Yes, but...

TARA

He killed Glenn. Remember that. He beat his face in right in front of his wife. And you're willing to just forget that?

RICK

I'll never forget that. Not a day goes by that I don't see his face. See his anguish. See his pain. See his loss. That will always be there. For me, for you, for Michonne, For Daryl
(BEAT)
for Maggie.

TARA stands silently in defeat, trying hard not to say something she'll regret.

RICK (CONT'D)

I need you to trust me.

MORGAN

So what are we going to do with him?

RICK

We're going to leave him in that cell for the time being until we can get a better sense of the situation with the Whisperers.

DWIGHT

Why are you even considering this? I might just kill him myself if you don't.

RICK

I understand your anger, but you need to put away the past for a minute and think about the bigger picture. This world is a world of the dead.

(MORE)

RICK (CONT'D)

Humans are killing each other
as fast as the walkers.
Another member of this
community could only help us.

DWIGHT

Not him.

MICHONNE

Dwight, you need to stop. If
you want to settle something
with him, then do it later.
But right now we have the
Whisperers to worry about.
They're much more dangerous
than the coward behind those
bars.

DARYL (to DWIGHT)

Nobody expects everyone to
just accept this after all
the bad blood between Negan
and the rest of us. But look
at us. Months back, we'd be
grabbing at each other's
throats. Yet we've moved past
what happened. We all have
regrets about the things we
did and didn't do. Think
about that before you open
your damn mouth.

RICK

Right now we need to start
planning. Negan isn't going
anywhere for the time being.
We have to be ready for
what's coming.

CAROL

How do want to prepare?

RICK

I'm going to need some of you
to head out to the
watchtowers. We need to know
where they're coming from.

RICK rubs his chin and moves to lean on his other leg. He places his hand on his gun holster.

RICK (CONT'D)

Morgan, I'm going to need you to head to the east watchtower. Carol, you'll head south. Dwight, the western one will be yours. Gabriel and Daryl, you two are going to cover the northern towers. If you see anything suspicious or any sign of the Whisperers, you head back here immediately. The rest of us here will set up a perimeter to protect the community.

GABRIEL

What if things take a turn for the worse or something happens to one of us?

RICK

If there's no time to run. The towers have horns, use them to warn us. We don't want to alert them but if it can't be avoided then we'll have to do what we have to.

EXT. — ALEXANDRIA GATE — DAY

GABRIEL, DWIGHT, DARYL, MORGAN, and CAROL all walk out of the gates of the community. GABRIEL is dressed in his priest attire, without the white neckpiece, and a rifle shouldered on him. DARYL carries his bow and arrows on his shoulder. MORGAN has his staff at his side and a gun holstered on his right leg. CAROL has a bandana around her neck and has two guns holstered, one on each leg.

TARA closes the gate behind them.

MORGAN and CAROL head east around the perimeter and DWIGHT goes alone to the west. GABRIEL and DARYL head north away

from ALEXANDRIA. They walk forward past the destroyed cars and walker corpses strewn about.

EXT. — ISOLATED ROAD — AFTERNOON

DARYL and GABRIEL walk along a long road leading away from ALEXANDRIA.

GABRIEL

So what do you make of this whole situation with Negan?

DARYL

I wanna kill the son of a bitch. But Rick knows what he's doing.

GABRIEL

If he thinks he's making the right decision then I trust him.

DARYL

You're funny. You've changed a lot since we first met ya.

GABRIEL

In what way is that exactly?

DARYL

At every turn you were at odds with Rick. Shit, you tried to get all of us kicked out of Alexandria.

GABRIEL

One of the great many things I regret.

DARYL

But it's one of the reasons why you understand Rick's ability to forgive. He's done it with you and he's willing to do it for Negan.

GABRIEL

The man has a way of making the tough decisions for the greater good, does he not?

DARYL

I've had to do some forgiving of my own.

GABRIEL

Haven't we all.

DARYL

Do you know how Rick and I met?

GABRIEL

No, I don't believe I've ever heard the story.

DARYL

The first time I met him, he left my brother to die cuffed to a roof. I nearly strangled him.

GABRIEL

Rick did that?

DARYL

My brother was a very difficult person to get along with. I don't blame Rick for it. There were more than a few times I wanted to strangle him.

GABRIEL

Did you go back to save him?

DARYL

Yeah, but when we got there all we found was his hand. He escaped and found a community that saved him.

(MORE)

DARYL (CONT'D)

But those people were led by a monster. The Gov'ner. Rick gave him a chance to stop, to make a change, but he refused.

GABRIEL

I had no idea.

DARYL

We went through it, but none of us ever talk about it. The reason Rick tries to see the good in people's ability to change is because if we don't then we'll be no better than a walker.

GABRIEL

I'm sure people will come to realize that in time. Just as I have.

GABRIEL and DARYL keep walking down the road, headed for the wooded area ahead.

EXT. — ABANDONED FARM — AFTERNOON

GABRIEL and DARYL come out of the woods to discover an abandoned farm. It is has a two-story house beside it, with GREEN shutters. DARYL stops and stares at it momentarily.

GABRIEL turns to notice DARYL has stopped.

GABRIEL

Everything okay?

DARYL keeps looking at the farm.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Daryl?

DARYL seems to snap out of his daze and starts to walk toward the farmhouse.

DARYL

We should check for supplies.

DARYL keeps walking past GABRIEL. GABRIEL starts to walk, following behind DARYL as they head for the farmhouse.

INT. — ABANDONED FARMHOUSE — AFTERNOON

DARYL walks in through the front door, with his knife readied. GABRIEL walks in slowly behind him, a knife in his hand with nervousness.

GABRIEL closes the door slowly and quietly behind them. The two check the downstairs and find no one. They suddenly hear a banging sound coming from upstairs. DARYL and GABRIEL approach the staircase. He looks back at GABRIEL and points upstairs.

Then DARYL and GABRIEL ascend the stairs together. As they move around the stairs at the top, they turn to notice a white door at the end of the hall. The door is banging over and over from someone behind it. The moans of a walker are subtly audible within the bangs.

GABRIEL freezes up. He stands in place as DARYL moves forward to the door. As DARYL stops in front of the door, he looks back to notice GABRIEL who has not moved.

DARYL motions GABRIEL over.

GABRIEL looks at DARYL. He unfreezes and then walks to the door. GABRIEL opens the door, letting two walkers out of the room.

DARYL runs at the walkers as GABRIEL begins to struggle with one. GABRIEL pushes the walker off himself and into the wall across from him. He then leaps at the walker and plunges his knife into its head.

DARYL dodges the walker and stabs it in the head with his knife. He pulls it out and the walker slumps onto the floor. DARYL turns to GABRIEL with anger.

DARYL

What were you thinking? Do you have a death wish or somin'?

GABRIEL

I'm sorry.

DARYL

Sorry don't explain what that was about.

GABRIEL

I was reminded of what happened when this all started. The church doors loudly banging from the people outside. I can still hear them.

DARYL

I don't want that gettin' me killed.

GABRIEL stands silently for a moment as DARYL starts to walk down the hall.

GABRIEL

Daryl.

DARYL turns to look at GABRIEL.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I won't let you down again. I promise.

DARYL

You better not.

DARYL turns around and heads back downstairs.

GABRIEL stands in shock at his actions.

INT. — ABANDONED FARM KITCHEN — LATE AFTERNOON

The kitchen is dirty. Utensils and empty cans are littered about the counter and floor.

DARYL searches the cupboards for any leftover food. He pushes around inside on shelf and then to another.

He pulls out a can of peaches and places it on the counter. DARYL finds a few more and adds them to the stack.

Then he grabs one and opens it. He pulls out a few peach slices and eats them, licking his fingers immediately afterwards.

GABRIEL enters the kitchen. He watches DARYL finish the can and toss it on the counter.

DARYL looks at GABRIEL.

DARYL
What're you lookin' at?

GABRIEL
Oh nothing.

DARYL starts to look inside of another cupboard.

GABRIEL
Hey Daryl. Can I ask you something?

DARYL turns around to look at GABRIEL.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
You've been with these people for so long. Do you ever feel like you don't fit in?

DARYL stares at GABRIEL, not sure what to say.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
I can tell that you've always felt that way. Probably since before all of this. When the walkers came, you fit right in. You know how to survive on your own. Everything changed for you when you met these people though, didn't it?

DARYL
Yeah, so?

GABRIEL
Why did you stay with them?

DARYL

I thought it was a good way
to escape.

GABRIEL

From what?

DARYL

From my brother.

GABRIEL

Did your brother treat you
badly?

DARYL

What do you think?

GABRIEL

Did you hate him for that?

DARYL

He might've been a son of a
bitch, but he was my brother.
He changed after everything,
became a better person.

GABRIEL

I'm glad he did.

DARYL

The reason I stayed was
because of Rick.

GABRIEL

And Rick didn't let your
brother stay?

DARYL

My brother sacrificed himself
to save us. The Govner killed
him. I still see Meryl's
face. In my nightmares. I see
the blood in his eyes, the
brother I knew completely
gone.

GABRIEL stands there looking at DARYL.

DARYL (CONT'D)

You don't know loss the way I know loss. Having to put your own brother down. I've had to deal with it on my own.

GABRIEL

I've had to deal with the loss of those I loved too.

DARYL

Yeah, because you locked em' out and left em' to die.

GABRIEL

Yes. Yes I did.

DARYL

I've never been able to forgive myself for what happened to him. That I couldn't save him. How can you just forgive yourself for what you did? What you couldn't do?

GABRIEL

I can't forgive myself. I ask God to forgive me. He's the only one who can.

DARYL

What if he can't?

GABRIEL

Then we're all doomed to suffer from the sins of the past.

CUT TO:

GABRIEL lays down on the couch in the living room. He closes his eyes to sleep.

DARYL stands watch in the foyer. He stares outside at the white barn. The lightly lit sky grows dark, casting a shadow over the barn.

EXT. — ABANDONED FARM HOUSE — MORNING

GABRIEL and DARYL exit the front door of the farmhouse. Then move down the steps and walk toward the tree line.

EXT. — WOODED FOREST — MORNING

GABRIEL and DARYL pass through some tall grass and enter a largely crowded forest with high tree cover.

The two are silent as they focus on the path ahead. They are careful to remain aware of their surroundings.

EXT. — SWAMP — LATE MORNING

GABRIEL and DARYL stop in front of a massive swamp.

GABRIEL

Any way we can go around?

DARYL

I'm not sure how far the swamp goes around.

GABRIEL

Guess we're going to find out?

DARYL

We don't have time.

DARYL starts walking into the swamp. The water level goes to his shins as he enters the murky area.

GABRIEL hesitantly follows.

GABRIEL

Are you sure this is a good idea?

DARYL keeps moving as the water gets near waste high.

DARYL

Would saying yes make you feel better?

GABRIEL refrains from replying.

Suddenly a tree falls over ahead of them. It is a massive tree, though the split appears to be from a lightning strike. DARYL and GABRIEL still ready their knives after the loud noise.

DARYL

We better keep moving.
They'll have heard the noise.

As they continue to move through the water, albeit a faster pace, a walker rises from the water quite far ahead.

GABRIEL points over at the walker. DARYL nods to GABRIEL.

DARYL

Just keep moving, he's slow.

They keep treading through the swamp, doing their best to stay ahead of the walker slowly moving toward them.

THEN, more walkers start to rise out of the water. First another one ahead of them. Two to the right pop up. Before long, they are surrounded by numerous walkers.

GABRIEL

Shit.

DARYL

Stay calm. Take the right
flank. Move forward together.

GABRIEL looks ahead and raises his knife.

One of the walkers moves forward and trips a huge wire. GABRIEL and DARYL hear it snap. A loud and terrifying creak groans throughout the swamp. A large tree trunk swings down from above and plows through a few of the walkers, blowing their upper torsos off. Their lower torsos slump down in the water.

GABRIEL and DARYL look up to see tree trunk traps littered above in the swamp's canopy. GABRIEL stares up, in shock.

DARYL

Gabriel!

GABRIEL notices the wire that snapped right in front of him by another walker. Another massive groan erupts from above,

GABRIEL seeing the trunk coming down. He leaps forward, splashing into the water ahead. The trunk swings down, barely missing GABRIEL. It takes out a few more walkers.

DARYL moves forward quickly. Looking for GABRIEL who pops up further ahead of the trunk so as to not get hit from it's returning path.

DARYL dives under the water to avoid the trunk and make his way to GABRIEL. When he comes up, more walkers have come up from the water. GABRIEL has made his way forward slightly, stabbing a walker in the head.

DARYL looks around him. Seeing the swamp. The walkers. The trunks swinging behind him continue to sway.

He moves forward with GABRIEL.

THEN another wire is tripped by a walker.

GABRIEL
Another one!

The trunk groans as it swings down. It comes at them diagonally this time. DARYL moves behind a tree as the trunk hits the side of the tree, barely missing him and spitting splinters of wood beside him. He reacts to the impact with a flinch.

The trunk spins off and rotates through a few walkers, clearing a path ahead.

GABRIEL makes a break for the path. DARYL moves around the spinning trunk to catch up with GABRIEL.

As they arrive at the edge of the swamp, the two stop and look back at the trunks still swinging. The few walkers still stumble around in the distance.

GABRIEL
What the hell was that?!

DARYL
A trap.

GABRIEL
Who would set something like that?

DARYL
The Whisperers.

GABRIEL
Why would they set a trap
like that?

DARYL
For the reason anyone does,
because they enjoy it.

GABRIEL
Negan was a special kind of
monster. But these people are
something worse.

DARYL
That's why we need to find
out where they're coming from
so we can be ready to put
them down.

GABRIEL looks out at the swamp. As the trunks sway, he hears the slamming of church doors. Screams sound in with them.

DARYL (O.S.)
Gabriel?

GABRIEL turns to look at DARYL as the sounds cease. DARYL looks at GABRIEL with seriousness.

DARYL (CONT'D)
We should keep moving.

CUT TO:

EXT. — HIGHWAY — DAY

DARYL and GABRIEL walk up a ridge and as they reach the top, they find themselves on a highway. This point is the crossroads for their towers.

The two climb over the barrier and stop. Seeing empty road in both directions.

DARYL

This is where we split up.

GABRIEL

Yes.

DARYL slides his crossbow over his shoulder.

DARYL

You're a lot smarter than you used to be. You know how to handle yourself. Play it safe and defend yourself when you have to.

GABRIEL

I can't thank you enough. For training me and helping me to survive.

DARYL

I'd rather have someone who knows how to fight have my back.

GABRIEL

Get there in one piece.

DARYL

You too.

GABRIEL

If you see any sight of them, get out of there.

DARYL

Don't go playing the hero, it isn't your style.

GABRIEL smiles.

DARYL (CONT'D)

I'll be seeing you.

DARYL starts to head off.

GABRIEL

Hey, Daryl.

DARYL turns to look at GABRIEL.

DARYL

Yeah?

GABRIEL

Do you think this will ever stop? I mean, is there any way to stop all this bloodshed?

DARYL

No. It didn't stop before the walkers. I don't think it was going to stop after them. We just see people for who they really are now.

GABRIEL

I pray one day that changes.

DARYL

I wouldn't count on it.

DARYL walks away and ducks into the woods. GABRIEL stands on the highway and then looks up at the sky.

GABRIEL walks alone. He heads along the highway.

CUT TO:

EXT. — CLEARING — DAY

GABRIEL enters a massive clearing. He walks slowly into the open field. As he walks, we see a massive watchtower standing in the middle of the field.

The camera climbs the watchtower as GABRIEL moves slowly toward it, looking up at its incredible height.

He pauses once he makes it to the bottom of the watchtower. He stares up the ladder with fear.

Then GABRIEL squats down and opens his bag. He pulls out his bible. He opens the front of the bible and sees the quote inside again.

GABRIEL (to himself)
Hold closely to the word of
the lord. Ascend his ladder
and find salvation.

He places the book down on the grass. And places his hands
together in prayer.

GABRIEL
Dear lord. I pray to you
every day and here I am again
before you, asking for a
sign.

CUT TO:

GABRIEL'S foot lands on the first ring of the ladder. The
second follows.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
This journey has been one of
lessons and nightmares.

GABRIEL looks up as he continues his slow ascend up the
ladder, the camera looking down at him.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
I have so much left to do. To
live and act in your name.

Pan out to see a far view of the tower, GABRIEL now a third
of the way up.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
I'm going to help Rick
Grimes. I'm going to help
these people save as many
others as I can and stop evil
from taking more lives.

GABRIEL reaches the top of the tower and scurries up to the
platform. He stands and overlooks the horizon in every
direction.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

I've grown and ascended the ladder of my greatest sin. I have repented for what I have done.

GABRIEL sits down in the lookout chair and raises his binoculars to look out on the horizon.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

Now I can begin this next step. To be this new man for you to command. And to help as many people as possible.

GABRIEL sees ALEXANDRIA. He then turns to stare in the opposite direction.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

Just give me a sign. Please lord. Please.

GABRIEL lowers the binoculars in shock. Then he quickly raises them back up.

We see a massive herd of walkers heading down the highway. But they don't appear to be stumbling, but walking confidently.

GABRIEL drops the binoculars as he stands up.

GABRIEL turns and quickly begins to descend the ladder. He no longer fears anything, but rather appears determined for the first time.

His feet tap each step faster and faster.

GABRIEL'S hands grab the steps as he goes down further.

We see GABRIEL is now in the last third of the watchtower ladder.

GABRIEL is close to the bottom when he suddenly loses his footing and slips backwards, starting to fall. His right leg however gets caught and rips open his calf on a rusty edge of the ladder.

GABRIEL is now hanging upside down, a mere two steps from the ground.

GABRIEL screams loudly in pain. He tries to move his leg, ripping the flesh down to the bone.

GABRIEL screams louder.

He struggles to move, but his leg won't come free.

Suddenly GABRIEL hears a gunshot. He stops struggling and looks out at the clearing. There is complete silence.

Walkers begin to come out from the woods. They walk normally, as if human.

GABRIEL stares intensely and realizes they are human. The Whisperers have arrived. They wear the skin of the dead over their faces.

GABRIEL screams as he tries harder to get his leg untangled. Trying to fight through the pain. He looks to see them getting much closer.

He stops fighting and hangs there, unable to free himself.

The Whisperers surround the watchtower. They stare hazily at GABRIEL. He stares at them in fear. A group of them move aside to reveal BETA, who walks through them with a height above all the others. BETA'S face is covered by the skin of the dead, emphasizing his piercingly dark eyes. BETA seems filled with anger and rage.

GABRIEL looks with horror.

The Whisperers put the circle back together and BETA stops in front of GABRIEL.

GABRIEL groans, his head now in pain from being upside down.

BETA

You seem to be in a bit of trouble here.

GABRIEL says nothing.

BETA

Do you know who we are?

GABRIEL

Yes.

BETA

Then you know where we are going.

GABRIEL writhes in pain.

BETA (CONT'D)

I will help you. If you wish to come help us kill your people.

GABRIEL again says nothing.

BETA (CONT'D)

A man of faith. Look where it's gotten you.

(BEAT)

Nowhere.

BETA approaches GABRIEL.

BETA (CONT'D)

Fear not. I will release you.

BETA swiftly pulls out a serrated blade and stabs GABRIEL in the stomach.

BETA pauses for a moment and then pulls the blade along his torso and out, pouring GABRIEL'S intestines out in front of him. Some of them fall on the ground below him and on top of his bible.

GABRIEL moans, trying to speak but unable to. All he can do is make noises of blood from his throat.

BETA crouches and looks into GABRIEL'S eyes.

BETA

You should have whispered.

BETA stands up and turns, walking away.

From a far view, the WHIPSERERS all file out and away from the watchtower.

From GABRIEL'S perspective, we see the whisperers walking away in an upside down view. The screen begins to turn fuzzy and black. Until everything fades completely.

In a close-up of GABRIEL we see the life fading from his eyes as he hangs from the ladder. He passes on, dying from his injuries.

Stay long on GABRIEL'S body. Moans of walkers are audible, growing louder and louder. Then the walkers stumble into the frame and approach GABRIEL'S corpse. They surround his body and begin to feed on him. The eating sounds grow more ferocious as we...

FADE OUT TO BLACK.