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9
DAYS UNTIL
Halloween

A Zombifying Ailment

Sharron Spattard

Content Warning: Description of panic attack / episode

Some sort of illness or madness or something seems to have swept the world overnight, but nobody seems to have even noticed. It is subtle, to be fair, in how it presents itself, but I can see it pretty clearly. What I can't tell is whether everyone else is blind to it, or if or we're all just pretending it isn't there. Either way, it's not like I have any right to talk – I've been acting like nothing happened, too. At least there's no coughing, sneezing, puking, or anything like that going on, which I guess would've made it a lot more obvious. But no, it's arguably worse, in my opinion at least. I just hope it didn't get me already.

If anything, it's more like everyone lost something rather than having acquired it maybe the mystery bug ate it? I don't know. Regardless, there is something wrong with everyone. They're all going about their business as usual - walking, talking, smiling, all that shit – but something about them is just... off... off-putting? Maybe it's in their facial expressions, or tone of voice, their scent even? There's just something that can't be trusted about them... any of them. They somehow simultaneously seem empty but not the slightest bit phased or different, and I haven't seen a single person recently who hasn't been affected by it. Like, if they seemed sad or depressed or whatever, I'd at least check if a national tragedy occurred or something like that, but they genuinely don't seem to see that anything's



wrong. They just aren't fully themselves. At this point, I'm more concerned that someone, even someone I'd normally trust with my life, is just going to snap and hurt someone out of nowhere. Their gazes are practically hollow – who fucking knows what they'll do in this condition?

I still have yet to notice any (unusual) flesh-craving behavior or graying of the skin, but I do have a hunch that a zombie disease might just be upon us. It would all add up – everyone's humanity seems to be slowly seeping away, and nobody seems to be even remotely aware of it; that sounds like the start of a zombie movie to me. I just so happened to notice it at an early stage. So now what? Maybe I should go hoard some toilet paper and shotgun shells? In which case I guess I'll be buying and learning how to use a shotgun..?

One would think I'd probably be worried or grieving or something at this point, but actually, I'm pretty numb to the whole thing. If anything,





Oct. 22, 2024 Vol. 84 - No. 24





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it just pisses me off that this fucking bug had to take everyone from me like that. It kind of just swallowed up all of my friendships, emotional connections - really any sort of bonds I had with other people, but I'm still maintaining hope that it'll shit them out soon enough so I get back to my life from before this bullshit. Hell, maybe that same numbness is what knocked the light out of everyone else's eyes - it'd be a little entitled to think I'm the almighty bastard who happens to be both aware of and immune to this zombie shit. To be fair, though, this whole thing's fucking ridiculous.

On the upside, I'm still going about my silly little day doing my silly little tasks like the rest of us silly little potential zombies in the vicinity. I'm just walking; I'm munching on my dried cranberries; I just passed by an old friend of mine and I... wait... fuck. Why the hell am I shaking? My fucking chest is tight, too, but it seems like I can physically breathe??? I need to fucking hide. My head just... ow... I can barely think straight - am I becoming a zombie?? I'm scrambled. What the fuck??? Can I exist in the present please? I need to ge - I did NOT need to remember that just now - t the fuck away from any and all human life or any means of perception regardless of what the-FUCKING OW – is going on. If this is a heart attack just hurry the FU– (to possibly be continued...)

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