The Deadly OneZ

Ziad Antar

This book is dedicated to:

My family who support me in everything.

I wish you a great life full of happiness.

With love and respect –Ziad.

Introduction

"Life's short" we've heard this phrase hundred –if not million- times in our life, you waste your time they say "life's short don't waste it", you sleep till 4pm you hear the same thing, sometimes you even do nothing wrong and still receive the same old "life's short".

How can you know that? Can you know when will you die?

If life is so short why do we study in school and then in universities?

Why bother meeting, dating and having a family with someone if life's short?

What if we lived in a world where taxes and payments aren't our main issues?

What if we lived in a world where one simple mistake means you're dead?

What if something happened which made you face the fact that you will die sooner no matter what happens? Would you call life short?

Disasters happen, people die, nations demise.

What if we lived in a world, when you die you just can simply come back again?

We heard about the apocalypse, people die and the end of the world.

Cut "the end of the world" statement and replace it with "the end of the living". People die and live again! Not as before but in a reckless manner, where they don't just stand and stroll but kill and eat any flesh that encounters them.

Lots of people call them zombies others call them monsters, some refer to them as the living dead, names differ but it's one figure.

The dead are living and walking, the humankind running and hiding.

A story about a group of university students who live through what they call "living hell", dealing with uncanny problems, protecting their loved ones, struggling for survival.

After all life's isn't short if you come back from the dead.

Episode I

Gradu-death-ing.

Thursday 20-12-2012 \ Dier Atyeh –Damascus Suburbs - Syria

-10:24- Apartment \ Dier Atyeh

"Hey wake up man!"………..

"HEY! Ziad WAKE UP! It's almost 11am you're going to be late for your project presentation!" said Ayman.

Barely opened his eyes and answered him "OK OK, I'm up... ugh".

It was the morning of a cold day 20th of December 2012.

Ziad and Ayman are senior students in a university studying computer engineering, and in this exact day they are going to present a project for their graduation it was about a plastic home which has sensors to light, heat and voice, they called it "The Plastic house".

-10:37- Apartment

Ziad woke up and entered the living room where Ayman was having his breakfast.

"I can't believe it man, we're going to graduate this semester, you believe it was 5 years?" said Ziad

Eating and talking Ayman answered "Uhm… I... um... can't believe ... it … uhm yeah… just wash up ... umm um... and get dressed!"

Not wasting a minute Ziad washed his face, brushed his teeth and put on his suit

"I do look good in a suit!" said Ziad with a glamorous smile.

"Yeah young tom cruise won't stand a chance with you, let's go" said Ayman sarcastically from the other room.

Both got dressed up and not a minute later they went to the university.

-10:56- Conference Room \ University

"You nervous?" asked Ayman.

"Ugh never been more nervous in my life, more that the time I had my first kiss" answered Ziad.

"Hehe I'm shaking myself" followed Ayman

"Ok enough with the blabbering prepare yourselves we'll start in couple minutes" Said the Dean of Engineering Dr. Zuhair, 42 years old and CE graduate with Masters and PhD in Electronics and Electrical Engineering.

"Asshole!" whispered Ziad.

Both Ziad and Ayman got everything ready in a minute and started their presentation.

For 14 minutes everything was going perfect the presentation was fluent and solid until suddenly the lights went off, but the generator didn't turn on.

"What's going on? Someone go check why there's no electricity!" said the dean.

The assistant of the dean, Dr. Maher quickly went out of the room to see what the problem was.

"What do you think professor Zuhair? Are we doing well?" asked Ayman

Dr. Zuhair looked at him in a scary glance "Heh really? After the whole presentation we'll see how good you both are!"

"Told you, an asshole" Ziad whispered to Ayman.

The generators turned on.

"Finally, come on carry on with you plastic house!" said the dean.

"Shouldn't we wait for Dr. Maher to come? He is within the committee" asked Ziad.

"No" said the dean in an angry manner "you only got 40 minutes, and stop wasting my time"

The presentation kept on going Ziad and Ayman were doing great with some minor mistakes.

-11:38- Conference Room

After presenting and testing the project, the committee discussed it with both of the students asking couple questions about the plastic house, when suddenly Dr. Maher entered the room and quickly went towards the dean and whisperer in his ears for a while.

The dean stood up looking slightly worried and said

"OK nice work, could've been much better but nice work!"

Both Dr. Maher and Dr. Zuhair left the room, while the rest of the committee prepared to leave the room.

"….So?" Ayman asked Ziad.

"Just a minute, till they leaves" answered Ziad

Couple seconds and everyone but Ziad and Ayman left the room.

"Yes, we nailed it!" yelled happily Ziad.

"*laughs* Yeah thank god, it could have been worse but we did great!" said Ayman with a grin.

"Wanna grab a bite?" asked Ziad.

"I just had breakfast, but what the hell" answered Ayman.

Both of them grabbed their stuff and left the room heading towards the cafeteria.

While walking in the campus Ziad noticed something.

"Hey an hour ago there was at least hundred students around here , now it's more like a cemetery less than ten students just wandering, what's wrong?" asked Ziad.

"I don't know, are we gonna have something to eat soon or not? My stomach is growling" said Ayman.

"You love eating more than you love your mom!" said Ziad sarcastically.

-12:30-Cafeteria

Ziad and Ayman entered the cafeteria

"Put the stuff on some table I'm gonna get two sandwiches, you don't want more than one right?" asked Ziad.

"*laughs* Yeah one is enough… for now, thanks" answered Ayman.

Ziad went to the counter to get the sandwiches while Ayman went to a table and put the laptop and the plastic house on it, and glanced around inside the cafeteria and outside it.

"Ziad's right, outside there's no one fine! But the cafeteria with only couple guys and girls is kind of strange!" thought Ayman.

Ayman sat down and started playing on his phone.

"Two salami sandwiches please!" said Ziad to the cashier "Where's everyone?"

The cashier Aziz answered "I don't know someone said the highway into Damascus is closed"

"When did that happen?" asked Ziad mysteriously.

"About an hour ago, since then people started to talk and in ten minutes everyone started to leave the cafeteria!" answered Aziz.

"Did you hear why the highway was closed?" asked Ziad again.

"I don't really know I keep calling my friend in Damascus but it seems that the network is out of order now, maybe a technical problem" answered Aziz.

"Maybe…"said Ziad "Thanks a lot, take care!"

"You too" said Aziz.

Ziad grabbed the two salami sandwiches and headed back to Ayman.

"Here, the cashier said something about closing the highway into Damascus, you heard anything like that?" asked Ziad.

"I don't know, I'm trying to call my family to tell them about our great presentation but the line is dead" said Ayman.

Ziad ate a bite and reached for his cell, called his brother Ahmad.

calling….. *connection error*

"Are you getting the same message that says 'connection error'?" asked Ziad.

"Yeah been getting it for a while, I thought it was my cellphone but seems that something is wrong with the network" answered Ayman.

Ziad stood up and went towards another table where two guys are sitting.

"Excuse me guys, um do you have coverage in your cellphones?" Ziad asked the two strangers.

"No we got no bars, you?" one of them said

"Same here, do you know what happened?" Ziad asked them.

"Before the network went off we heard that the highway into Damascus and Homs was closed, but I don't really know why" answered the other guy "some people talked, nothing is certain for now"

"Thanks anyway" said Ziad and went back to his table.

"Hey while you were talking to those guys I saw Adnan walking fast towards the back door of the university so I went out and yelled for him and asked him what's wrong!" said Ayman.

"Yes..!" said Ziad with full attention.

"Yeah, he was out of breath like he was running from someone" said Ayman "He said that the highway to Damascus and Homs is closed and he was going to get into his car to go back to Aleppo, that's all he said and then went away quickly!"

"That's weird!" said Ziad "Next week is final exams, they start in two days why would he leave?"

"I don't know buddy, let's finish and get back to the apartment!" said Ayman.

-13:16- University Campus

After they finished their sandwiches they both went out of the cafeteria and walked in the campus towards the main gate of the university, while walking towards the main gate suddenly

Bomb explosion in distance

"What the hell??" asked Ziad frightened "What the hell was THAT?"

"Sounded like an explosion! The voice came from north" answered Ayman "Let's find a taxi and get back to the apartment we can try landlines or the internet to find out what's happening"

"Good enough!" said Ziad, while they exited the main gate Ziad noticed that the security cabinet was empty which was weird because it's never empty, people come in and out all the day.

As they reached the street outside the main gate they noticed only two taxis out there, they called one and got inside, and on the way to the apartment

"Why there are only you and other taxi?" Ziad asked the driver

"I don't know an hour ago people started leaving, and taxis too!" answered the driver.

In a couple minutes they reached their destination, as they stepped out of the taxi Ziad said "Looks like the lights are still out the restaurant's sign is off and if you look around you can see nobody, it's getting weirder, let's go up!"

-13:35- Apartment \ Dier Atyeh

While walking up the stairs Ziad and Ayman noticed their neighbor, Ayman asked him "Hey Michael you know why the lights are off? And what's the reason behind the cellphone's problem?"

Michael said quickly "I don't know..." and entered his apartment then locked the door.

"Stupid!" Ziad said.

They continued upstairs, and entered their apartment.

"I'll check the internet for some information, you use the telephone and call someone who can tell us something about what's going on!" said Ziad

Ayman rushed into his room to try the telephone, while Ziad opened up his laptop and tried to get online but apparently not only the lights were off but the internet as well.

Ayman came out of the room

"Not working" Ayman said disappointed.

"Same here, the internet is off too" said Ziad "What the hell is going on? It's getting from weird to horrible!"

"Maybe it's a technical problem or something, look I'll head down to the market and bring some juice, you want something?" asked Ayman.

"Just a chocolate bar and ask Rawad if he knows something!" answered Ziad.

Ayman went out of the apartment, and Ziad tried to turn on the generator's light but seems like the generator wasn't turned on

"Just perfect!" said Ziad in an angry manner.

He lighted a cigarette and stood in front of the window

"The hospital's lights are still on, and I began to wonder that people left the city" Ziad wondered optimistically.

Meanwhile, Ayman was going to the market.

He entered it.

"Afternoon Rawad!" said Ayman

"Hey Ayman, how are you?" asked Rawad

"Great thanks" answered Ayman while getting a juice "Hey you know what's wrong? Why the lights, phones and the internet are off?"

"I really don't know much, but my brother a minute ago got back home to Qarah, he was there just two hours ago, and he heard something about the government closing the in-out highways of all major cities for some medical thing, that must have something to do with what's happening!" answered Rawad.

"All major cities?" said Ayman surprised "What the hell is going on? If the road to Homs and Damascus is closed for real that means we are trapped in here until they open it again"

"Maybe, I don't know" said Rawad

"Here" Ayman gave Rawad some cash "Thanks!" and then he left the market.

-14:44- Highway to Damascus

Car horns … *car horns*…

"Move it!"

"Either go on or get back you're blocking the road"

"Move your car!"

"TELL THAT TO THE 100 CARS INFRONT!"

20km till Damascus and the highway is filled with hundreds of cars, people arguing and shouting.

Inside one of the cars "Honey this jam has been going on for more than an hour it's better to head back home or try to squeeze your way forward, Mahmoud is getting sleepy!" said Fatima to her husband.

"How am I supposed to get outta of this quandary? There're at least 20 cars behind us and more than 100 cars ahead!" answered Tarek.

"Pfft… the day that my sister will get engaged we get in this jam, bad luck can't stop getting to me!" said Fatima frustrated.

"Honey I'll go out and check if we can drive out of the road back home, you check the phone again if it works!" said Tarek and got out of the car.

Tarek got out of the car and looked ahead.

"I'll be damned! Cars are lining up thousands of them, I'm pretty sure we won't be getting to Damascus anytime soon" Tarek thought to himself.

While Tarek was looking aside the road for a safe route for his car so he and his family could head back home when suddenly aircrafts started flying quickly towards Damascus, more than ten airplanes along with some choppers.

"What the hell?" Tarek wondered "Sukhoi and Mil Helicopters? The last time I saw those decades ago, if something that serious was happening I'd better take my family home"

Tarek rushed to the car got inside and started the engine.

"What was that? Why airplanes flying? Is this a war?" Fatima asked terrified.

"…."

"We're getting back home..." said Tarek

Explosion in distance

"OH MY GOD, Tarek please get us outta of here" cried Fatima.

"May Allah have mercy on us!" prayed Tarek.

Explosions in distance

He turned the car and into the side of the road and started driving backwards while everyone was trying to move forward and backwards, people were screaming and leaving their cars just running in different directions after the explosions.

-18:51- Apartment \ Dier Atyeh

Ziad and Ayman were sitting in the apartment while the lights were still off phones and the internet was still out.

"What do you think is happening?" asked Ayman

"How will I know? Might be anything …" Ziad answered.

voice of airplanes passing by

"It's been going on for a while now, what's with the airplanes?" Ziad asked

"Well I'm not an expert in such things but airplanes are used in wars, you think it's the same deal with Israel all over again?" Ayman said.

"War huh? I don't see any tanks nor soldiers, whatever man I'm gonna go try to sleep didn't get much sleep yesterday, good night!" said Ziad and went to his room.

"Night!" said Ayman.

Ayman stood up and looked out of the window

"Hours ago everything was fine, but electricity, cellphones and internet are out for more than six hours is something weird, we had such problem before a lot, a black out in the electricity but this! It's freaky…" Ayman wondered to himself.

Ayman grabbed a chocolate bar, and went to his room.

-23:33- Command room in Damascus

"Sir we've attacked the area couple times but they're still appearing in other places!" said the lieutenant to the general.

"Get rid of them DAMN IT!" said furiously General Ali "Just kill them, I don't know what's wrong with those freaks, but eating human flesh is just insane!"

"Yes sir!" said the lieutenant.

General Ali started walking forward and backward

"What the hell has gotten into those people? I've seen thieves, murderers and rapists, but cannibals? Not one but dozens of them, how did that happen?" General Ali wondered to himself.

"Sir!" said the lieutenant.

"Speak up lieutenant!" said General Ali.

"We have a problem sir, those freaks are surprisingly enlarging we are facing not just twelve hot spots but its more than thirty now, we are almost losing control in the northern area of Damascus, people are starting to freak out, what should we do?" said the lieutenant.

"WHAT? Thirty? Minutes ago we were closing on them, and now we are cracking down in the northern zone? Call upon the security forces and ask for Colonel

Khalil to close the entrances in and out from Damascus in the northern region!” said General Ali.

The lieutenant got dismissed, while General Ali rushed to captain Rami

“Take twenty men and head to the president quick and tell him we are lost command of north Damascus and we'll be facing a Code Fatal if this keeps getting worse” said the General “and tell him to leave Damascus it may be compromised!”

Captain Rami took no further seconds and went out.

Friday 21-12-2012 \ Dier Atyeh –Damascus Suburbs – Syria

-9:21-Apartment \ Dier Atyeh

Ziad woke up and got out of his room, noticed the apartment's door is open

"Damn it Ayman you forgot to…"

While talking he looked left and saw a man was standing in a crooked way towards the corner and facing his back to Ziad "Hey mister, who are you and what are you doing here?" Ziad asked.

"…"

The strange man said nothing…

Ziad grabbed a knife from the counter and walked slowly towards the man

"HEY! I'm talking to you WHO ARE YOU?" Ziad shouted.

Not a second after the man turned slowly while his back was still crooked

"Ughmmm…" growled the man, and started to walk slowly towards Ziad.

Ziad went backwards "WHAT THE HELL? What happened to your face? Get back I SAID GET BACK…" yelled Ziad.

sound of a metal blast

"AHH!" screamed Ziad.

Ayman suddenly got out of his room and stroke the man on his head with an iron pipe the man fell down but was still growling.

"*gasp* drag him with me from his feet outside the room quick!" said Ayman.

They grabbed the man from his feet quickly to the corridor outside the apartment and then rushed inside again.

Click

"We better keep it locked! *gasp*" said Ayman.

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