

MARIMUN 2024



**THE FINAL
COUNTDOWN**



Dystopian Apocalypse

Crisis

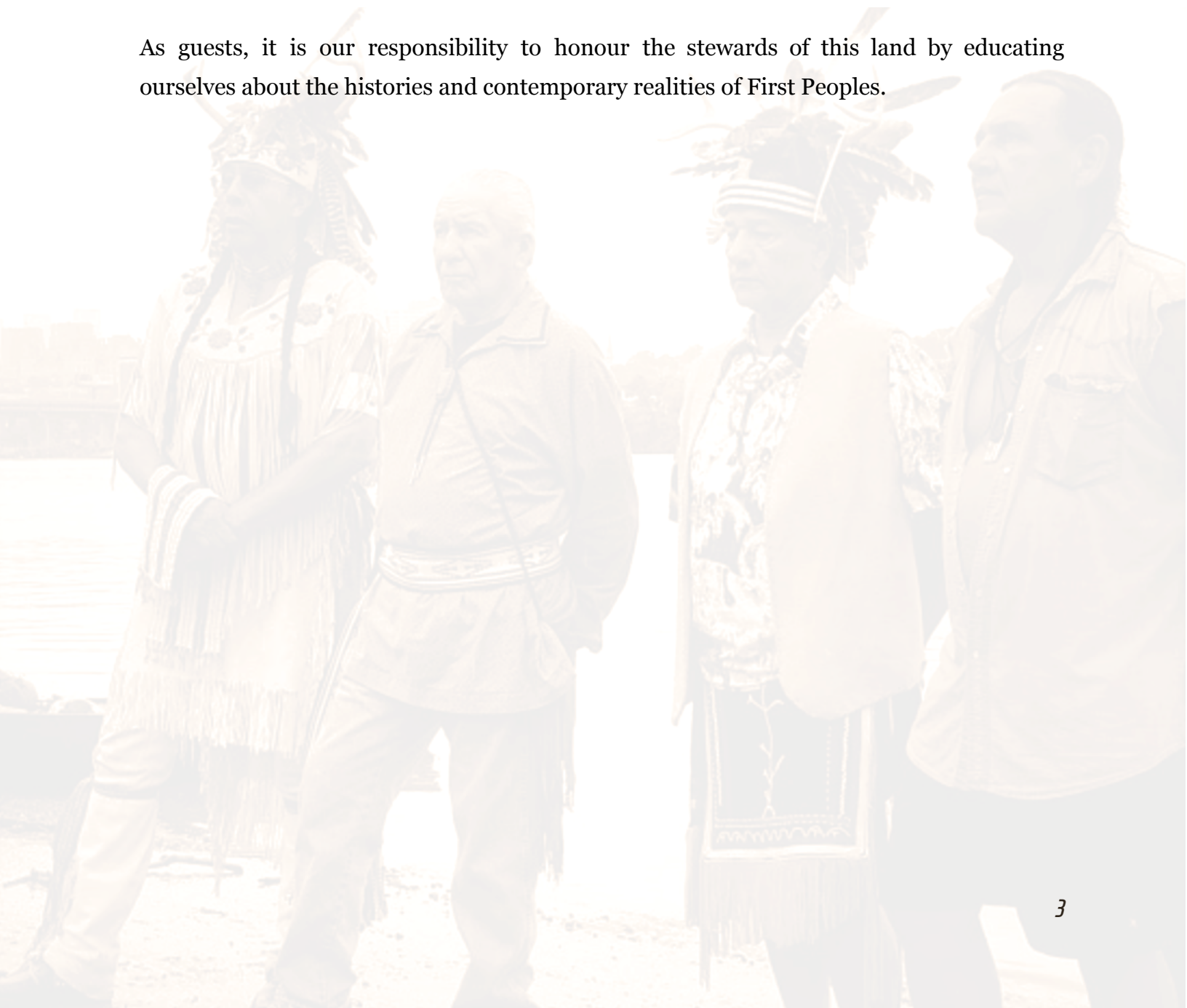
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Land Acknowledgement

Marianopolis College is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. Tiohtià:ke/Montréal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

As guests, it is our responsibility to honour the stewards of this land by educating ourselves about the histories and contemporary realities of First Peoples.



Letter from the USG Crisis and Deputy USG Crisis

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 37th iteration of Marianopolis College's Model UN conference! Our names are Isabella (she/her) and Chelsea (she/what) and it is our privilege to serve as your Under Secretary-General of Crisis and your Deputy Under Secretary-General of Crisis this year. We were both introduced to the world of Model UN here at the college and ever since, we have fallen in love with the late-night research for committees, the early Sunday morning FunMUNs and everything in between. Model UN, particularly crisis committees, has bestowed upon us incredible and enlightening experiences, developing essential skills like diplomacy, critical thinking, and public speaking.

Since September, we – alongside the entire MariMUN team – have been hard at work bringing this conference to life and for us specifically, the crisis committees. We have spent numerous hours brainstorming and choosing the two best committees that would both be enjoyable and rewarding experiences for everyone and we hope that you love them as much as we do. The concept of apocalypses and the end of the world has captivated humanity throughout history. This committee will offer a unique and entertaining perspective on these ideas, promising an unforgettable experience that puts a playful spin on the age-old fascination with cataclysmic scenarios.

Alongside our Crisis Director and our Assistant Crisis Directors (whom you will meet below) and our staffers Abdullah Anwar, Vivian Chui, Ralf El Haj, Aniruddha Mandar Joshi, Gurmehak Singh Chauhan, Boris Tishkov, and Nicole Toma we are thrilled to present to you our background guide for the Joint-Crisis Committee: The Russo-Japanese War!

Best regards,

Isabella Quattieri

USG Crisis

Chelsea Zhang

Deputy USG Crisis

Letter from the Dais

Dear delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to “The Final Countdown” dystopian apocalypse committee. Let us start by introducing the staffers who have been tirelessly working to make this committee come to life.

First of all, we have Samah, the committee’s Chair. Samah (she/her) is a Political Science student still trying to figure out whether she wants to become a journalist, a lawyer, a teacher or a politician. As a former MariMUN president, she is ecstatic to return to her alma mater in order to give back to the club that made her time at Marianopolis so memorable. A fun fact about Samah is that she has taught MUN to students all around the world (in countries such as, but not limited to: the United Arab Emirates, India, and South Korea). Her advice to delegates is to remember that “MUN is a marathon, not a sprint” and that the Best Delegates are the ones who exude their passion for MUN throughout the entire conference weekend.

Second, Kathryn (she/her) is a first-year Psychology major at Concordia University that will have the utmost privilege of serving as the vice-chair of this committee. Kathryn’s involvement and commitment to MUN further developed when she had the honour of taking on the role of USG of Crises last year, during MariMUN’s 36th iteration. Her first experience with MUN was being a delegate in a SSUNS crisis committee, where she fell in love with the twists, turns, and endless possibilities that come with character arcs, creative debating and surprising plot twists.

Olivia (she/her) is a second-year Law, Society, and Justice student at Marianopolis and she is so excited to serve as the Crisis Director for the Final Countdown committee. Olivia started her MUN career as part of the Marianopolis delegation at SSUNS 2022, and attempted her first crisis committee at ConMUN, an AdHoc about Ratatouille! After discovering the wild and creative outlets of this branch of MUN, Olivia was drawn to this style of debating, character creation, and surprise updates. She is thrilled to welcome you to the Final Countdown and cannot wait to see how each of the characters will be portrayed, and how they will work together to save humanity from its inevitable fate.

Your Assistant Crisis Director will be Trisha (she/her), a second year Arts & Science student at Marianopolis. She also started her MUN journey at SSUNS, where her first ever committee was a crisis! Ever since then, Trisha has continued to embrace the crisis format and loves its ability to bring out the creative side in delegates. It is a place to have fun and

let one's most extravagant ideas come to life! Trisha hopes this post-apocalyptic committee will not only uncover delegates' incredible imagination but also their scientific thinking and problem-solving abilities. She hopes the Final Countdown committee will be filled with imaginativeness, laughter, and joy.

Although the Final Countdown might, at first glance, seem like a far-fetched fantastical situation, we firmly believe that it lays a near-perfect ground for the exploration of political ideas and initiatives that could very well be seen in today's socio-economic world. It is crucial not to overlook the potential in the character that each of you is assigned to play.

We believe that the greatest gift that crisis committees can give delegates is newfound confidence in themselves and a belief in "outside-the-box" solutions (solutions that many politicians do not dare to even consider). Crisis is where the outliers of the political world go to become the change-makers that our future needs.

If you have any questions or concerns about the conference—including the position paper, research, or Model UN in general—please do not hesitate to reach out via the following email: committees@marimun.ca. Thank you for your involvement, and we look forward to meeting you all!

Delegates, speak loud, negotiate your heart out and, above all, have fun!

All the best,

Samah Khandker

Chair

Kathryn Bachtold

Vice-Chair

Olivia Diamantopoulos

Crisis Director

Trisha Chakrabarty

Asst. Crisis Director

THE STATE OF THE WORLD

Introduction

It has been about two years now. All around is destruction and decay has set in. The sky, once bright and full of hope, now remains dull and lifeless. Buildings remain empty, save for the few survivors and corpses that remain hidden in the different stories. Nature has taken over, vines wrapping themselves around anything it can grasp onto at an alarming rate. Oddly enough, these vines have been sprouting very interesting flowers and leaves, though their odour has kept people far away from getting a closer look. Lights occasionally flicker with the little electricity or power left circulating – though survivors understand the dangers of light and drawing attention to themselves.

A rumour has made its way to the different groups of survivors littered across countries. A plague, they say, a curse, an irreversible one that ravages and tears apart its hosts, eating you whole from the inside. No one truly knows what is at play here, only that they must avoid the phenomenon at all costs. After all, there is no cure, they say.

About a week ago – time has become confusing since the beginning of this whole ordeal – a video message appeared calling any willing and remaining humans to make their way to the abandoned United Nations' ICAO building in Montreal, Canada. With what little electricity could be salvaged in cities, billboards and televisions light up to broadcast the program. The loud booming of speakers projected a robotic voice, urging all to gather anything they can carry and head to the headquarters. Tonight, at midnight Eastern Time, twelve survivors stand at the doors of the UN building, ready to put an end to this apocalypse. They call themselves “RESCUE,” also known as the Resistance Enclave Standing against Cataclysmic Upheaval and Extinction.

Ever-impending doom has struck fear in all for the last two years. Can we be saved? How can we be saved? When will this end?

RESCUE: History, Mechanics, Mission

After scouring the ICAO building for any other signs of life, the members come across a storage room. Its door is already slightly ajar when the members move to open it. Out spills various items, such as flashlights, batteries, fish nets, and even Twinkies. These items are scarce, some being the last of their kind, but all that can be used in this quest.

Each person has brought a handful of tools to this gathering and has to collaborate to get the full use of their equipment, alongside the material that has been found in the storage closet. No group member has access to any personal belongings outside the reach of the building. It is important to note too that society has returned to its roots, using barter as its primary means of exchange – all currency has plummeted and is no longer accepted by humans. The RESCUE team will therefore need to make some sacrifices and decisions in order to get their desired goods.

The new members have also found documents pertaining to RESCUE's history and mission. At the beginning of this disaster, RESCUE was formed with six original members, though their whereabouts as of now are completely unknown. They inhabited the ICAO building for a few months, gathering intel and amassing the resources found in the storage room before their disappearance.

As the world is in chaos and because of the little intel they have, members of RESCUE established rules they saw fit for their survival. Among the new ways of life, it was declared that members must stay in pairs when leaving their headquarters as a security precaution. The infrequent communication between RESCUE members was done through walkie-talkies (found in the storage closet)... meaning each member must, for the most part, stay within the directed range of each other and of the ICAO building. Every few days, members host meetings to plan and discuss, with all decisions of the group being conducted through a majority vote as a way of maintaining the little civility left following the government's eradication. To expedite the efficiency of RESCUE's task delegation, someone in the group must step up as the leader. There must also be someone in charge

of organizing resources, exploration management, and technological advancements. This must be voted amongst the members. If other survivors still exist, the group has a duty to find them and provide them with their basic needs. All journeys to look for missing humans must be voted on by the group to decide if the person is worth the time and resources to find them. Finally, lending out a hand to the Infected is out of the question, as these creatures are not fully conscious and do not befriend those outside their kind.

A number of problems exist for these survivors that need to be addressed. Access to resources has become an unprecedented crisis. Necessities are sparse. Crops have been destroyed and water wells contaminated. Few buildings still have working electricity. Machinery has been ripped apart or lost. Satellites still send signals, but efforts to reach any other groups similar to RESCUE have been futile thus far. Above all, however, reconstruction of the ICAO building is crucial in order to fend off the plague that runs rampant and whatever creatures are looking for sustenance. RESCUE must gather allies that can help them in their endeavors and its members need to do everything in their power to prevent themselves from joining the Infected. Together, all members must come up with a solution to combat the apocalypse and return civilization to its former glory.

The Infected

The zombies have heightened senses, such as extreme hearing and vocal capabilities. They appear as discoloured humans with a strong foul scent and greenish aura surrounding them. As of now, there is only one species. However, they are slowly becoming advanced beings through mutation. There is little knowledge of the pathogen that led to their existence, but RESCUE has made an exciting discovery. They learned that the disease takes 48 hours to show symptoms. This means a human could be infected with no side effects for two days after they came into contact with it. It is unknown how it spreads between people, or if it can live on surfaces. It could potentially be moving through air particles, but RESCUE does not know much as of now. The group must dedicate energy to discovering this missing information, as treatment depends on it. Scientific research and

clinical trials must also be completed to ensure the cure works on humans. It will be essential to be able to study live cases of infection in order to reach these conclusions.

The zombies communicate through low-frequency vocal vibrations. It is difficult for the human ear to decipher the location of these sounds. The mutations allow the Infected to “throw their voice,” meaning speaking from one place, but their voice being heard from another. This could be detrimental to the RESCUE group. After many expeditions, the group has found a fatal flaw in the Infected: they cannot visually see humans. The mutations have left them blind, and they can only see flashes of light. Nonetheless, their echolocation and sensitive hearing make up for this, and can still quickly hunt their prey. Their diet consists of anything within reach. They have been seen consuming a variety of things like humans, animals, and even rocks, dried plants, and swampy water. The more the disease takes over their bodies, the more transparent they appear, with all their internal organs now becoming visible. This makes for quite a helpful characteristic as it aids RESCUE in identifying the eldest of the Infected. Aside from this, there is not much more information so as to the Infected, and so research is crucial for the success of the Resistance Enclave Standing against Cataclysmic Upheaval and Extinction.

THE GENESIS OF PANDEMONIUM

Origin Story

Within the walls of scientific ambition, an inadvertent discovery led to an irreversible unravelling. As the first tremors echoed, the world stood on the precipice of a calamity yet to be comprehended.

What led to such irreparable consequences for humanity, you may ask? There must be an explanation for a disaster of such grandeur. Indeed, it all started with Dr Nefario, as RESCUE's records describe. Dr Nefario was but a respectable man with a sizable income, known for being a pioneer in the field of biotechnology. With all his newfound fame he knew the optimal path to take was establishing his own company. GeneAlchemy Innovations was born, facilitating advanced genetic modification technology. As CEO and head researcher, Dr Nefario indeed was the man in power. Just as John Acton exclaimed in the 19th century, power does indeed corrupt. Slowly but surely, Nefario's need for control was incredibly visible. No one would dare question his authority as the work environment became more and more overbearing. Nefario's true intentions and desires are unbeknownst to all. Living a life alone, even his secretary could not decipher his expression. His employees would shudder as he passed them by, not even offering a smile. This enigmatic figure was concocting maddening experiments in the confines of his secluded laboratory. His obsession with unlocking the secrets of manipulation at the molecular level led him to delve into forbidden realms of genetic engineering. His arrogance had no limits as he was looking at all ends to continuously establish his superiority over others. He believed he could make himself a superhuman - artificially become influential and create a new type of creature that would act as his minions.

After long hours in the lab, an infection was born. Until recently, it had been contained. As dangerous experiments develop, however, incredible efforts must be dedicated to safety precautions, which Dr Nefario did not do. A vial of purple liquid shattered. The first

infected was none other than Nefario's own secretary. In a matter of seconds, the secretary developed vicious symptoms. Nefario, in a state of panic, unknowing how to handle the wrongful results of his creation, set fire to his lab. GenAlchemy Innovations was no more. No one is sure of Dr Nefario's current location, he could have died in the fire just as he could have escaped. One thing is for sure, his infectious disease was to stay and the dreadful results had merely just begun.

Just as expected of a worldwide pandemic, one case leads to another and the secretary spread the sickness to others. The speed at which it would spread was no match for government and healthcare systems to keep up with. Soon enough, the human population was decimated, while zombies continued to populate Earth as we know it.



THE WORLD OF PATHOGENS

Knowing the nature of the infectious agent would aid greatly in the process of unveiling any kind of scientific discovery to help what is remaining of humanity. Whether to create cures to revive humanity from this disease or to develop preventative measures by understanding how the germ spreads, substantial lab research must be done. As per the fire in Dr Nefario's laboratory, all research notes have been burnt. Surely, it is up to RESCUE to employ their great minds to identify the type of pathogen responsible for this *Zombie-like* disaster.

Bacteria

Bacteria are microscopic, single-celled living organisms. A vast and diverse array of bacteria numbering in the millions or even billions exists worldwide, encompassing various environments, including the human body. Composing the microbiome, bacteria play a crucial role in maintaining bodily health. Found all over the body, bacteria are

integral to physiological processes. While many bacteria are beneficial and contribute to overall well-being, certain strains have the potential to cause illness. These bacteria reproduce and spread toxins on the body inducing sickly symptoms. While our immune system can combat certain bacteria, bacterial infections may necessitate antibiotic treatment. Antibiotics operate by disrupting a bacterium's cell wall or DNA, rendering it ineffective. However, the overuse of antibiotics poses potential challenges over time. Some bacteria can develop resistance to antibiotics, complicating the treatment of infections caused by novel strains.¹

Scientists at the John Innes Center in Norwich, UK, have uncovered a fascinating phenomenon where parasitic bacteria, called phytoplasmas, induce zombie-like behaviour in plants. Upon infection, plants undergo a striking transformation: flowers transition into leafy shoots, petals adopt a green hue, and clusters of shoots, termed 'witches' brooms,' emerge. Not only does the plant become sterilized, but the bacteria also transforms it into a mere host. In evolutionary terms, the infected plant becomes functionally “dead,” devoid of the ability to produce offspring. The induced behaviour additionally attracts sap-sucking insects, aiding the bacteria in spreading the infection to new hosts.²

Remarkably, the discovery of zombie-like behavior induced by phytoplasma-infected parasitic bacteria in plants raises intriguing possibilities. Could Dr. Nefario, in his clandestine laboratory pursuits, have sought to tap into this phenomenon to engineer a similar zombie-like state in humans?

Virus

This infectious agent defies classification: it is neither a plant, animal, or bacteria. They occupy a kingdom of their own. Essentially, viruses don't fit the traditional definition of organisms because they lack independence; they cannot carry out essential life processes

¹ Cleveland Clinic Medical Professional, “Bacteria,” Cleveland Clinic, n.d., <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/24494-bacteria>.

² Ed Yong, “Bacteria Turn Plants and Insects into Zombies,” Scientific American, April 9, 2014, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/bacteria-turn-plants-and-insects-into-zombies/>.

or reproduce without a host cell. True viruses consist of nucleic acid, either DNA or RNA, coupled with proteins. The nucleic acid serves as a unique genetic code for each virus. It's crucial to note that viruses differ significantly from bacteria, and some viruses, known as bacteriophages, specifically infect bacteria. This distinction highlights their dependence on host organisms for survival.³ Viruses exhibit diverse modes of transmission, each presenting unique challenges for infection control. Airborne transmission involves the spread of viruses through droplets and particles emitted during activities like breathing, speaking, or coughing. Influenza viruses, for instance, exploit this route. Contact and smear infections occur through physical contact or indirectly via contaminated objects, introducing pathogens to new hosts. Herpes simplex viruses and noroviruses exemplify these modes. Contaminated water and food serve as indirect contact infections, prevalent in regions with compromised hygiene. The Hepatitis A virus is an example. Lastly, viruses can be transmitted through blood, tissue, or bodily secretions, either directly through activities like sexual contact as seen with HIV or indirectly through the reuse of contaminated needles or the bites of bloodsucking insects as in the case of Malaria. Understanding these diverse transmission pathways is crucial for implementing effective preventive measures and managing viral infections.⁴

Rabies, a preventable viral disease primarily transmitted through the bite of rabid animals, shares eerie symptomatic parallels with the concept of a zombie. The rabies virus infiltrates the central nervous system, inducing disease in the brain that inevitably leads to death. Initially, the onset of symptoms resembles a common flu, manifesting as weakness, discomfort, fever, and headache, accompanied by sensations at the bite site. These flu-like symptoms may persist for days before progressing to more severe cerebral dysfunction, anxiety, confusion, and agitation. In later stages, the infected individual may show delirium, abnormal behaviors and hallucinations. While rabies mirrors some

³ Encyclopedia Britannica. "Virus | Definition, Structure, & Facts," November 16, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/science/virus/The-cycle-of-infection>.

⁴ "How do viruses spread?" Sterillium, Accessed 23 December 2023, <https://www.sterillium.info/en/stories-hub/how-do-viruses-spread>.

aspects of the zombie-like condition, it distinguishes itself through a prolonged incubation period and a lack of human-to-human infectious transmission.⁵

On another note, warmer temperatures in the Arctic are thawing permafrost, unlocking a chilling possibility: the revival of ancient viruses that have been dormant for millennia. Some virus researchers have identified zombie-like viruses in the Siberian permafrost, showcasing their infectious capabilities even after thousands of years. Though the immediate risk to humans is considered low due to the prolonged incubation period and limited infectiousness, the accelerated thawing of permafrost raises concerns which cannot be ignored.⁶

Dr Nefario, in his enigmatic pursuits, leaves us wondering: did he tamper with the rabies virus, accelerating its effects to induce a quicker and more zombie-like transformation in humans? And amid the thawing permafrost, suspicions linger: could Dr Nefario have deliberately melted it, perhaps in a quest to extract and experiment with ancient viruses, hidden for centuries in the frozen depths?

Fungus

Fungi, distinct microorganisms with chitin in their cell walls, form a diverse group ranging from edible mushrooms to potentially harmful species like *Aspergillus*. While some fungi are benign, others cause infections such as athlete's foot and thrush. Unlike plants or animals, fungi move by spreading out or releasing spores into the air, and certain infections can be contagious, transmitting from person to person. While many fungi coexist naturally in our bodies, their overgrowth can lead to infections under specific conditions. Scientists recognize millions of fungal species globally, but only a fraction are known to cause diseases in humans. Fungal infections are frequently observed on the skin or nails.⁷ Despite deadly fungal infections having a significant impact

⁵ CDC, "What Is Rabies?," n.d., <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/about.html>.

⁶ Katie Hunt, "Scientists Have Revived a 'Zombie' Virus That Spent 48,500 Years Frozen in Permafrost," CNN, March 8, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/08/world/permafrost-virus-risk-climate-scen/index.html>.

⁷ "Everything You Need to Know about Fungal Infection," Healthline, March 8, 2019, https://www.healthline.com/health/fungal-infection#_noHeaderPrefixedContent.

on public health, there is a striking scarcity of research dedicated to finding cures and effective antifungal treatments. This is particularly alarming given the mortality associated with fungal infections. Unlike viruses, fungal infections do not spread as rapidly, but their slow progression contributes to their underestimation as a global health threat.⁸

Exploring a captivating case study within the fungal realm, we delve into the behaviour of cordyceps, a fungus that, although harmless to humans, manifests zombie-like traits in insects. Specifically observed in ants, cordyceps manipulate its hosts, compelling them to migrate to humid environments conducive to their growth. Upon reaching these optimal conditions, the ant willingly attaches to a plant, succumbing to the fungus. In a twist, cordyceps consume the ant, utilizing it as a host to release spores.⁹

Could Dr. Nefario's insidious ambitions have led him to tamper with a deadly fungus, moulding it into a sinister tool capable of infecting an entire population? Did his fascination with apocalyptic tales, perhaps inspired by “The Last of Us,” drive him to recreate the very nightmares found in fiction? The chilling possibilities unfold as we question the depths of his experiments and the ominous consequences that may have been set in motion.

Echoes of Antidote

Amidst the chaos, faint rumours circulate about a potential cure, its details obscured in the remnants of abandoned labs. Murmurs suggest scattered research, waiting to be discovered by those brave enough to delve into the heart of the crisis. The mystery of a possible remedy lingers, a hopeful notion that could reshape the current reality. As factions grapple for dominance and survivors navigate the challenging landscape, the prospect of a solution emerges, urging the remainder of humanity to unite in their pursuit

⁸ Youri Benadjaoud and John Brownstein, “The Science behind the Zombie Fungus from ‘The Last of Us,’” *ABC News*, February 8, 2023, <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/science-zombie-fungus-us/story?id=96819243>.

⁹ Benadjaoud and Brownstein, “The Science behind the Zombie Fungus from ‘The Last of Us,’” February 8, 2023.

of a revelation. The journey toward a cure, clouded in secrecy, challenges resilient individuals to uncover hidden truths and chart a course toward redemption.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- △ How will you ensure your basic needs are met? What will be your source of water, food, and weaponry? Are these sources sustainable?
- △ How will you protect yourself from future run-ins with the Infected?
- △ How do your characters' interests align or conflict with those of others? How will you engage with these differences, if at all?
- △ Should you spread the word about RESCUE to other survivors? If not, how will you keep this operation hidden? If yes, how will you spread the word?
- △ How will you strategically approach location exploration (i.e., Eaton Centre, Parc Jean-Drapeau, Olympic Stadium) to advance your collective and individual interests?

CHARACTER GUIDE

Mohana Bandile

Following in the footsteps of Steve Irwin, Mohana is a proud environmental conservationist. Their home is overcrowded with animals they adopted from shelters. Mohana advocates for no-kill shelters and tries to rehome all animals that are scheduled to be put down. Currently, no animals have been killed in their state. They have a huge online presence on all social media platforms and have attended several talk shows to spread their mission. Mohana has a big secret they are keeping from the public eye, that would ruin their career: the disappearance of their brother...

Ronald Ciobanu

Why did Mr Ciobanu tattoo “The Map” from the hit children’s cartoon Dora The Explorer on his left thigh, one may ask. Well, of course, his first love is cartography! Ronald comes from a long line of cartographers and it is his turn to take over the family business. Indeed, Ronald’s great-great-grandfather first opened a map shop when he emigrated from current-day Romania. This small business grew rapidly during the era of discovery and now holds the monopoly on worldwide map production. Ronald takes cartography very seriously. He can copy down the Mercator projection of the world map blindfolded.

Carla Tyler Cox

The 17-year-old has spent the majority of her life travelling the globe. Carla learned young she preferred an unconventional lifestyle of exploring. With a knack for creativity, the teen has in remote locations, hunts and gathers for sustenance, and builds shelters to stay safe. She currently stays with a retired couple in Brazil and tends to the livestock on their farm. Carla doesn’t acknowledge her legal middle name Tyler, as she was named after her brother who had abandoned her as a toddler. Tyler is trying to start a career as a rapper, and he has released many songs in hopes of reconnecting with Carla.

Conner Desjardins

CEO of DogTech, Desjardins aspired to be the next Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, or Elon Musk. He dropped out of high school at 14 years old and his assistant Bertha has been at his call since his birth. Despite all odds, the entrepreneur rose to fame after launching his startup DogTech, revolutionizing the pet industry. Desjardins is notable for bringing extremely young women to his events and conferences, but the CEO basks in the spotlight, regardless of good or bad press.

Ursula Einstein

Ursula is the head biotechnician at GenAlchemy Solutions and her duties consist of conducting experiments and laboratory maintenance. She had an atypical career; in fact, she only has a high school degree. However, her incredible professional experience qualifies her above her colleagues making her one of the youngest biotechnicians at the company. Before her workplace burned down, she was leading a project aiming to create bioluminescence in common plant species to replace street lamps. Unfortunately, Ursula never had any contact with the company's CEO, Dr Nefario as he is rather reserved.

Dore (Mimi) Fasol

Mimi is a musical prodigy. With his parents having first met in the orchestra, their son continued their musical legacy becoming one of the world's top bass players. By practicing 19 hours a day for 12 years straight, he completed one of the greatest human feats: training his ears to detect frequencies slightly beyond the normal human ear range. This skill indeed became useful when he had to spend two years in jail for tax fraud. After his release, he has once again featured in the Guinness World Record books, this time for his record lock-picking time of 3.02 seconds.

Dr. Ferris Footings

Founder of his very own practice, Dr Footings is a man of various talents. He can juggle 6 apples, is an author of a multitude of fan fiction and can perform corn removal surgery

with both hands simultaneously. On weekends, he performs at the circus and occasionally takes late-night gigs at a comedy show. The flexibility of his private practice allows him to work only 20 hours a week and still bring home a sizable income. He is very present in his two children, Callus and Wart's lives. It is difficult being a single father, but Dr Footings has adjusted his body to function on 2 hours of sleep per night.

Jameson Huntington III

Son of Jameson Huntington II, Jameson the Third has a lavish life in Azkaban Castle. Surrounded by servants, the heir rarely has to lift a finger. He strolls around with a large crown, to demonstrate his obscene wealth to the poor. Every wish of his is granted by his loving, but absent father. Jameson hosts eccentric balls, where he picks a different female for each event to show off. His father has locked him into an arranged marriage with a princess he grew up with, but she is not fit for him. The heir's guilty pleasure is the poker games he sponsors, where he plays to win. It's easier done when he rigs all the tables, flaunting the money he steals from others. The most important lesson Jameson learned from his father is the ability to flawlessly lie and use others to his advantage.

Darshan Healfast

Baby Darshan came out of the womb laughing. This atypical child never cried in infancy, but what terribly alarmed his parents was when he found himself in a perilous situation. Indeed, 5-year-old Darshan was found during his usual playtime with a completely purple arm that was bent in a really strange way! His parents immediately rushed him to the hospital and as he was being examined by the doctor, his broken arm healed completely. His doctor was speechless and kept him for observation where he was declared a medical anomaly for being immune to pain and healing incredibly fast. Since then, he was a research subject, leading his parents to incredible wealth but costing poor Darshan his childhood.

Elizabetha Ivanov

Sent from Russia to the USA during the Cold War, "Elizabeth" lives in suburban Iowa with her husband Robert, and their two children Russel and Paige. Her family unaware of her

double life, Elizabeth works with a secret team of trained Russian soldiers to plot against the American government and monitor their nuclear power. She cannot stand to see the American flag or stand for the national anthem anymore. Elizabeth feels disgusted by her current family's patriotic support for America and vows to go back to the motherland with Yekaterina, her wife.

Yakaterina Ivanov

Sent from Russia to the USA during the Cold War, "Katerina" lives in suburban Iowa, working as a double agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigations. Little do they know, she tripled crosses the FEBI and reports to the KGB successor, the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation. Katerina is the lead assassin of the team and carries out the hits alone. She has no cover, unlike Elizabeth, and lives alone, with no contact with friends or family. Her colleagues believe she is reserved because of the trauma she experienced in Russia. After finding her soulmate, her goals changed and she is planning to go back to the motherland with Elizabeta, her wife.

Starr Jia

Starr was found wrapped in a blanket, sleeping in a basket that had washed up on the shore of a beach in Tahiti. The woman who took her in died when she was 11 years old from an untreated tumour. Starr was left to fend for herself, struggling to find food or shelter. She was able to hitchhike on boats to get to the mainland of Australia, where she was arrested for petty theft of a bodega. She escaped the police station and sought refuge with a biker gang. Finally having found her chosen family, Starr started a non-profit that helps protect orphaned children and provides them with a safe home.

Angie Kneer

Angie is your typical child of immigrants. Her parents pressured her from a young age to excel in school. They would not accept any grades under 98%. She was given 3 career choices: lawyer, doctor and engineer. She chose the latter, continued her schooling in software engineering, excelled at her domain and secured a job at Google. Her parents are

finally proud of her after all these years, however, she secretly wishes she chose her true passion: a rap career.

Michelle Laurentine

Michelle is a diagnosed hypochondriac. She moved into a psychiatric facility due to the extreme anxiety about her health. After her younger sister died of Necrotizing Fasciitis, also known as flesh-eating disease, Michelle underwent major stress. She struggled to grasp reality and often lost herself in a parallel universe she created inside her head. While most would ignore her mental creation, Michelle is convinced she discovered a new world. Decades later, Michelle is back to work at her old secretarial job at a corporate office building.

Dr. Amari Marabe

In 9th grade, little Amari first read the renowned Richard Matheson novel “I Am Legend” and was captivated ever since. Every following Halloween, little Amari was surely dressed as a zombie. This was not simply a phase, his career certainly needed to encompass his passion for the undead. Indeed, little Amari is no more, he is addressed as Dr Marabe after completing his Ph.D thesis in literature for analyzing the symbolic significance of zombies in postmodern literature. Dr Marabe now teaches a Cegep English course entitled “Zombie Lit 101.”

Dora Mennings

Ms Mennings was originally a Julie Mennings, however, she found her true life calling after watching the hit 2000s cartoon starring America’s favourite Hispanic cartoon Dora the Explorer. Ms Mennings changed her legal name, packed up her purple backpack and hiked the world’s mountains while speaking to a metaphorical fourth wall. She visited 180 countries and plans to visit all the nations. During her adventures to Cameroon, she tried to train a mandrill monkey to speak English but failed miserably and simply chooses to travel without a sidekick.

Nadia Neuman

Her career started young, with her parents sole income coming from Nadia's child acting career. With a typical marketable face, she was in the ads of all our favourite childhood toys. Though every child actor's career ends once they grow up. In her teens, her determined personality allowed her to rise to fame once again by becoming a famous beauty blogger. Her weekly makeup tutorials reach millions of views. Her high-achieving nature would not allow her to stop right there, she pursued a cosmetic chemistry degree alongside her online career and now incorporates her STEM knowledge to her channel.

Dr. Haitchtoo Oh

The geneticist started their medical career at the young age of 6 years old, when they performed their first surgery on their household cat. Dr Haitchtoo Oh was drawn towards the study of genetics while researching hereditary genetic disorders, specifically late-onset Alzheimer's disease. Growing up in foster care due to the sudden loss of their mother, the doctor has trouble forming healthy relationships and tends to spend most of their time in laboratories, subconsciously avoiding human interaction.

Phil Osfor

Mr. Osfor is soon to retire after a long career. He recounts to his grandchildren his great escapades in the Sahara on his quest to find the secrets of life and discover himself. As you are led to believe, Mr Osfor is indeed an Alchemist. Though, it is difficult to find a job description for such a domain... So, he works as a manager at Walmart. Just last year he received a badge for 40 years of customer support. Alchemy simply happens to be his weekend hobby! Now, the question remains: has he been able to transform base metals? Well, the answer surely will be revealed by aligning your thoughts and practicing inner transformation...

Mustafa (Muss) Solgain

Muss is your typical gym bro. At 7 pm sharp, he shows up to his local gym with his protein mix ready to max out all the machines. Muss regularly skips leg day in favour of another upper body training session. One day, during his 2nd rep of bicep curls, Muss reached an epiphany. He dropped his 90lb weight and exclaimed “Huzzah!” He knew he had more to offer the world and started a self-help podcast for single men. The notable wolf iconography and allusion to the Greek alphabet’s first letter led the podcast’s recognition to new heights.

Olympia Takahashi

The figure skater learned to skate at 3 years old. Her parents pressured her to practice to become one of the greats of the sport. Olympia developed a passion for figure skating, along with crochet and sketching. Her mother took away her art materials to force her to focus back on her sport. Olympia is a two-time Olympic gold medalist, runs a coaching program, and is considered an idol for young skaters. However, her parents are not satisfied with her accomplishments. Olympia publicly emancipated herself and moved to Russia to continue her skating career with the greatest in the field.

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