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Play Dead

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PLAY DEAD

When zombies attack, the girls of Bloomers Band together to beat the living dead at their own game...

But what happens when one of their own begins to play for the other team?

By: KC Boas
HOUSTON HALL.
11:21:56 PM.

HELLO?
HELLO!?!?

CREEEEEEKKK!!!

WHY CAN NO
ONE HEAR
ME???

AAAAAHHHH!!!
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS EARLIER...

WHAT'S WITH THE AUDIENCE TONIGHT?

WHY IS NO ONE LAUGHING? USUALLY THIS STUFF KILLS!

I DUNNO. BUT THEY'RE GETTING EATEN ALIVE OUT THERE!

Bloomers' Show

GRRRRRR!

Zombies


Step 1. Choose your bread.
Step 2. Choose your flesh.
Step 3. Eat your flesh. 6 SVGs now offer a $200,000 10,000-calories.

THE BLOOMERS PERFORMANCE WAS SOLD OUT THAT NIGHT. AND YET, THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THE AUDIENCE. THEY SEEMED... ALMOST DEAD.
LIZZIE, IS IT JUST ME, OR DOES THIS AUDIENCE SEEM A LITTLE DRUNKER THAN NORMAL? YOU DON'T THINK WHAT THE NEWS WAS TALKING ABOUT IS HAPPENING HERE - DO YOU?!

I DON'T THINK THIS IS ALCOHOL-RELATED, MEL. YEAH - THIS MUST BE ONE OF THOSE FLASHMOBS.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THOSE PEOPLE? THEY DIDN'T SEEM LIKE A FLASHMOB. THEY DIDN'T EVEN SEEM HUMAN!

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD WHAT THE NEWS HAS BEEN REPORTING? THE FLASHMOBS ARE JUST COVER-UP STORIES...

DO YOU REMEMBER THE EARTHQUAKE THAT HAPPENED IN AUGUST? WELL, THE EPICENTER WAS IN MINERAL, VIRGINIA - RIGHT NEXT TO THE EAST COAST'S MAIN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT...

AND THE FUMES RELEASED BY THE EARTHQUAKE REACTED WITH THE NUCLEAR WASTE MATERIAL IN THE PLANT IN A WAY THAT... CHANGED PEOPLE. THEY TURNED INTO... ZOMBIES. THE NEWS BLAMED THE ENSUING ATTACKS ON "FLASHMOBS." THE GOVERNMENT THOUGHT THEY COULD HANDLE IT.
But they... WERE...

Wrong...

You know what this means, don't you?

???

We have to get rid of them - for the sake of humanity. It's either them, or us.
Green Room

We'll need some recruits to help fight! Let's rally the troops...

Bloomers! What are you doing? We have zombies to kill! Yolanda, we'll start with you.

Each Bloomer had something special to bring to the zombie crusade...

No. 61
Yolanda C.
Special Skills: Aerial attacks, Parkour, General sarcasm.
Zombie Killing Stats:
Kills: 0 Attempts: 0 assists: 0

No. 93
Olivia R.
Special Skills: Mime, Climbing, Cardio.
Zombie Killing Stats:
K: 0 Att: 0 Asst: 0

And last but not least...

No. 42
Janie Y.
Special Skills: Yoga, Stress management.
Zombie Killing Stats:
K: 0 Att: 0 Assists: 0

And remember, if we do this...
AND SO THE BLOOMERS WENT FROM BEING THE FIRST ALL-FEMALE COMEDY TROUPE...

TO THE FIRST ALL-FEMALE ZOMBIE ASSASSINATION ASSOCIATION.

THERE CAN BE NO GOING BACK. SO ARE YOU IN? OR OUT?

AND THEN REALITY HIT.

SHOULD I'VE GONE TO BROWN. THIS NEVER WOULD'VE HAPPENED AT BROWN. THEY'RE TOO INDIE FOR THIS SHIT.

UHH... WE'RE GONNA NEED TO TRAIN BETTER.

TO WHERE ARE THOSE BLOODY FOOTPRINTS LEADING?

WTF??

AHHH!!
OH MY GOD! THEY'RE REAL!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BLOOMERS! WE'VE GOT TRAINING TO DO.

THE BLOOMERS FLED TO HOUSTON HALL - THEIR PRACTICE SPACE - WHERE THEY ESTABLISHED THEIR RULE BOOK FOR DEFEATING ZOMBIES.

RULE #1: NEVER GO ALONE. ALWAYS TAG-TEAM WHEN KILLING ZOMBIES.

RULE #2: TO STAY ALIVE, PLAY DEAD. ACT LIKE A ZOMBIE. WALK LIKE A ZOMBIE. DON'T BLINK. AND MAKE YOUR EYES AS RED AS POSSIBLE. THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL YOU'RE HUMAN.
RULE #3: AIM FOR THE HEAD.

RULE #4: SHOULD ANY OF US GET BITTEN, WE HAVE TO KILL THEM. TO PROTECT OURSELVES...

TO SAVE THEIR SOUL.... WHILE THEY STILL HAVE ONE.

AND SO THE BLOOMERS DEPARTED ON THEIR FIRST ZOMBIE-KILLING SPREE.

MELISSA, I'M SO SCARED.

SHH! OLIVIA, IT'S TOO LATE - WE HAVE TO DO THIS. LIZZIE, COME WITH ME. I SEE OUR FIRST KILL.

CLICK. CLICK.
Lizzie - I got him! Wait... why is he still moving? Oh my god. He's after me! Lizzie, the gun is jammed. Lizzie, help! Help!

No! Melissa! Oh, my god. She's been bitten! Why didn't someone help her?!?
AS MELISSA PASSED OUT AND FELL TO THE GROUND, THE BLOOMERS' WORST FEAR WAS REALIZED...

OR SO THEY THOUGHT. SOON, MELISSA AWOKE.

BUT SHE HAD BEGUN TO CHANGE.

LIZZIE? GIRLS? IS THAT YOU? WHAT HAPPENED?

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CHANGE, MELISSA COULD HAVE NORMAL, HUMAN THOUGHTS. BUT SHE COULDN'T SPEAK.
Lizzie! Help me! Something's... something's happening. I'm so cold.

Melissa was screaming in her head, but no one could hear her. Trapped in her own body, she felt alone. Helpless. Not human.

Melissa? Can you hear me? It's... going to be alright.

And then, Melissa lost even the ability to think.

She had changed. Melissa had become the very thing she tried to exterminate.
AND AS HER GAZE NARROWED IN ON LIZZIE'S, THE BLOOMERS KNEW:

MELISSA HAD BECOME A ZOMBIE. AND SHE WAS HUNGRY -

FOR LIZZIE:

NO! PLEASE, DON'T! OLIVIA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

BANG!

LIZZIE, THIS HAS TO BE DONE. I'M SORRY MELISSA. RULE #4. I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU.
And in the fleeting moments before everything went completely black, Melissa felt like herself again.

So, this is what it feels like to die.

Funny, I almost feel normal.

For a moment, she could think again.

I guess it takes dying to really know what it means to be alive — what it means to be human.

For a moment, Melissa was human.