

THE THIRD DAY

Written by

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Based on "Signs" by Lucie Bonvalet

EXT. DOWNTOWN OMAHA - DAY

HALLIE(24, protective older sibling) picks up her sister CLOVER(12, too innocent for this world). Clover locks her legs around Hallie with her head on Hallie's shoulder. Hallie sprints as fast as she can with the extra weight.

HALLIE
Keep your eyes closed!

Clover, wide-eyed, watches a crowd of people run and scream in terror. A bomb falls and turns them to ash.

Clover closes her eyes.

EXT. OMAHA - UNO CAMPUS - NIGHT

A deserted college town. Total blackout. Hallie finds a safe place on campus and sets Clover down.

Fighter Jets roar overhead.

CLOVER
Are we safe here?

HALLIE
I don't know.

CLOVER
What's happening?

HALLIE
I don't know.

CLOVER
Where are Mom and Dad?

HALLIE
Clo, I do not know what the fuck is going on!

CLOVER
You cursed.

Hallie peers around the corner, double-checking their safety.

HALLIE
We need to get home.

CLOVER
I saw all those people burning.

Hallie stares at Clover, worried.

HALLIE
I told you to keep your eyes
closed.

CLOVER
Are they dead?

Hallie nods her head.

CLOVER
Are we dead?

HALLIE
No, no, we aren't. Look, we need to
get home to find Mom and Dad. Can
you do that?

Clover nods.

HALLIE
If I tell you to do something you
do it, alright?

CLOVER
Okay.

Clover hugs Hallie tight.

CLOVER
I love you.

HALLIE
I love you, too.

Sounds of glass breaking and hollers in the distance. Hallie
looks around the corner. Hidden figures silhouetted by
flashlights. The figures smash cars, windows, an atmosphere
of destruction with zero punishment.

HALLIE
We need to go. Ready?

CLOVER
Ready.

Hallie grabs Clover's hand and pulls her into darkness.

EXT. INTERSTATE - NIGHT

A makeshift military corridor, unrecognizable soldiers on
watch. Bright spot-lights beam down from an outpost. A few
dozen cars idling, blinded by the light.

LOUD SPEAKER
(distant)
Remain in your vehicles with IDs
ready!

Hallie stops Clover. They hide behind a jersey barrier.

CLOVER
Are we getting in line?

HALLIE
No.

CLOVER
Why not?

Something moves in the air and *screeches* across the sky. It's not a fighter-jet, but circular. Hallie and Clover plug their ears.

CLOVER
What is that!?

HALLIE
What!?

Cars honk and inch forward.

LOUD SPEAKER
(distant)
We will open fire!

The circular sky object does a low pass over the outpost. Panic sets in, or is it survival?

The vehicles rush the military outpost to break through the makeshift entrance when...

Hallie covers Clover's eyes.

The sounds of gunfire *zip* and *crack* into the vehicles. Fish in a barrel.

Hallie watches innocent people gun-downed while shielding Clover's eyes from the killing. Clover can't see, but she can hear the gunfire, screams, and loss of humanity.

CLOVER
I want to go home! I want to go!

Clover cries into Hallie's hands. Hallie's frozen, unable to process what she is seeing.

The gunfire stops. Flashing lights and car horns blare. The soldiers move from the outpost and inspect the carnage.

HALLIE
Th..They killed them.

CLOVER
Please, I want to go!

The circular sky object flies over the outpost again. The spot-lights turn to the sky, illuminating a steel UFO.

Hallie can't believe what she sees and lets go of Clover. Clover looks over the wall with Hallie. The two sisters are in awe of the silent UFO floating above the outpost.

The soldiers turn their attention to the sky and fire their remaining rounds into the UFO. Nothing happens, it remains hovering. The UFO fires back, sending green, transparent beams at the soldiers below.

The soldiers run for their lives, but are instantly vaporized.

HALLIE
We aren't safe here. Move!

Hallie grabs Clover's hand and they sprint across the interstate. They make it to the other side and follow a ditch to safety. The battle noise in the background slowly fades away.

EXT. SUBURBS - DAY

A dark, gray haze covers the sky. It's not clouds on a rainy day, but thick smoke from fires across the city. The city is burning to the ground.

Hallie and Clover are exhausted, covered in dirt, with bloodshot eyes. Clover coughs into her shirt.

HALLIE
You okay?

CLOVER
I can't breath.

HALLIE
We are almost home.

Clover continues to cough.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD SUBURB - DAY

Various homes are destroyed while others are unaffected. It's as if carpet bombs were dropped on the neighborhood with no strategy, leaving the survival of innocent lives to chance. Not a single person in sight.

Hallie and Clover walk down a still intact street. To their left the homes are standing and to their right homes are destroyed. Their heads move back and forth.

Clover looks at an obliterated home, nothing but smoke and ash.

CLOVER

Liu's lived there. Do you think they made it out?

HALLIE

I don't know. I'm sure they're okay.

Clover accepts this and keeps walking. Hallie notices a dead corpse on the side of the Liu's house. She takes a deep breath and follows Clover.

CLOVER

What was that circle thing in the sky?

HALLIE

Some kind of jet I think.

CLOVER

Jets don't look like that.

HALLIE

Yeah..

CLOVER

Is it aliens?

HALLIE

Aliens?

CLOVER

Like in *Independence Day*?

HALLIE

Aliens aren't real. I know I shouldn't have shown you that movie.

CLOVER
But..What if they are?

Hallie's worried.

HALLIE
Mom and Dad will know.

Hallie runs forward.

CLOVER
I can't run!

HALLIE
Alright, alright. Jump up.

Clover jumps on Hallie's back, piggy-back style. They continue forward.

EXT. FISCHER'S HOME - DAY

Once a tri-level home, now a pile of rubble and ash. Clover hops off Hallie's back and runs to the ruins.

CLOVER
Mom! Dad!

Hallie falls to the ground. She already knows.

CLOVER
Mom!

Clover tries to move debris, but the heat is intense.

CLOVER
Hallie, help me!

Hallie watches Clover's efforts in a catatonic state.

CLOVER
Dad! Where are you?

Clover moves around back. She finds her parents on the ground embracing each other. Dead.

CLOVER
Hallie!!

Hallie gets to her feet and walks to the back. She sees Clover hovering over her dead parents. She stumbles, falls to her knees, and pukes.

Clover cries next to her parents.

CLOVER
What do we do!?

Hallie collects herself and stands next to Clover.

CLOVER
What the fuck is going on!?

Hallie holds back her tears. Clover runs into Hallie's arms.

CLOVER
We are going to die, aren't we?

Fighter-Jets roar overhead. Hallie and Clover look to the sky. The circular UFO chases the fighter-jets out of sight. Nearby explosions shake the ground beneath them.

CLOVER
Wh..where do we go?

HALLIE
We have to..We have to keep moving.

CLOVER
Where?

HALLIE
Anywhere but here.

CLOVER
I can't. I'm tired, hungry,
everything! Mom and Dad..

HALLIE
Clo. If we stay here, we die. Do
you understand?

Clover nods.

HALLIE
We don't know if anywhere else has
been destroyed. Do you remember Pat
and Allen's place?

CLOVER
In Fremont?

HALLIE
Yes. They had that old bunker
there. It should be safe, okay?

CLOVER
Okay.

Hallie marches forward. Clover takes one last look at her parents and closes her eyes.

EXT. CORNFIELD - NIGHT

Farmland burns in the distance. The fires are untamed as thick smoke covers the already dark night.

Hallie and Clover ignore cuts and scrapes from the tall corn stalks. Clover falls in a fit of coughs.

HALLIE
Come on Clo, keep moving.

Clover's coughs stop. She's motionless on the ground.

HALLIE
Clover?

Hallie inspects her. She's still breathing, but it's sporadic. Hallie taps her face. Clover's out.

Hallie drapes Clover over her shoulders and trudges through the muddy cornfield. The smoke and dark night is blinding. Hallie has no sense of direction, but continues through sheer-will.

LATER - NIGHT

Hallie's eyes flutter. She stumbles. Her legs give out. Hallie drops Clover on the ground and collapses beside her.

Hallie looks over at Clover.

HALLIE
I'm sorry.

Hallie closes her eyes.

EXT. EMPTY FIELD - DAY

The sun struggles to break through the dark burning sky.

Hallie's eyes shoot open. She gasps for air and looks to her side. Clover is missing.

HALLIE
(coarse)
Clo! Clover!

Hallie struggles to her feet, her energy gone.

HALLIE

Clover!

Hallie barely takes notice of someone in the distance. She treks in that direction.

EXT. CREEK - DAY

Flowing water and a few singing birds in lively trees.

Clover drinks from the creek. Hallie peers over the edge.

HALLIE

Thank god!

Clover rubs her mouth and turns around.

CLOVER

Sorry, I didn't want to wake you.

Clover walks over to a log she turned into a bench.

CLOVER

I grabbed some corn from a nearby field.

She hands Hallie a corn husk. Hallie rips the silk away and devours the kernel's.

CLOVER

I had three already.

Clover burps. Hallie laughs. Clover laughs. But, their laughs turn into sadness. They are overwhelmed with the serenity and cry.

CLOVER

I'm not ready to die.

HALLIE

We aren't going to die. We are safe here. We have water and food. Enough to get by until we get to the bunker. We are going to be okay.

The birds stop singing. Insects stop chattering. Eerie silence.

The circular UFO *shrieks* overhead. Hallie and Clover look to the sky, but they only see the dark smoke.

CLOVER
Can you see it?

HALLIE
No!

Hallie looks around for safety. There is a small eroded hill nearby.

HALLIE
This way!

Hallie leads Clover to the hill. It barely protects both of them. The UFO makes another pass overhead.

CLOVER
I'm scared, Hallie.

HALLIE
Me too.

The sisters can do nothing but wait for their demise. The UFO continues to make passes, narrowing in on their location.

Hallie watches Clover frantically move her eyes across the sky. Hallie's face relaxes, as if she has accepted her fate.

HALLIE
I love you.

Clover looks at her, slightly confused.

CLOVER
I love you too..

Hallie gets to her feet. The UFO closes in above.

CLOVER
What are you doing?

HALLIE
I'm saving you, Clover. You have to make it to the bunker. Do you understand?

CLOVER
No, no, no! There has to be--

HALLIE
Clover! Do you understand?

Clover nods her head. The UFO has found them. It hovers above, charging it's green electromagnetic beams.

HALLIE

This time, keep your fucking eyes
closed.

Hallie sprints away from the hill and into an open field.
Clover crawls up the hill, hidden under the brush.

The UFO follows Hallie.

HALLIE

Let's go! I'm here! Right here!

Hallie gets distance away from Clover. The UFO floats down
from the sky, hovering above Hallie.

Clover watches Hallie flail her arms and scream at the UFO.
The UFO sends out a green, electromagnetic beam at Hallie.

Clover closes her eyes, but can't close her ears. She hears
Hallie scream in agony before abrupt silence.

Clover crawls back into the hill, crying silently behind her
closed eyes. The UFO soars into the dark sky, it's mechanical
engines vanish in the distance.

EXT. FARM ROAD - DAY

Clover walks alone with a thousand-yard stare. She's cold,
tired, completely devoid of life. Thick dark smoke covers the
air, hindering her eyesight and yet she treads forward.

EXT. FARM ROAD - NIGHT

Clover stumbles. She falls to the ground, letting exhaustion
take her. She looks up to the clouds. The burning smoke
begins to clear. She looks up the road to see a small town in
the distance. No visible fires or destruction.

Clover picks herself off the ground and continues toward the
town.

EXT. TOWN - NIGHT

The small town is abuzz. It's Friday night after all. People
go about their daily night lives. No burning smoke in the
air, no gunfire, no dead bodies.

Clover walks across main street. She can't believe everything
here is unaffected by the events she survived. She's
speechless and in shock.

A car's exhaust backfires and startles Clover.

DRIVER

Out of the way, kid!

Clover steps off the street as the car speeds past her. Tears well in her eyes. She doesn't know how or why, but she has found safety...

TOWNIE

What the hell is that!?

The TOWNIE(50s) points up to the sky. Other townspeople look up, followed by Clover.

Mechanical humming noises ravage the quiet air. Clover's eyes-widen.

The circular UFO hovers above the town. A green, electromagnetic beam powers up under the UFO. Towns people scatter in a disorderly fashion.

Clover remains in place, takes a deep breath, looks at the UFO, and closes her eyes.

THE END