

It Comes Naturally

By

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BLACK

Voices in the dark. Their words sound like groans.

ZOMBIE 1

You could have fought back?

ZOMBIE 2

It's just a phase you're going through.

ZOMBIE 3

You're not strong enough.

ZOMBIE 4

Did you do anything to cause it?

MONTAGE

We fade in on the last page of a notebook. A hand enters the frame and begins writing. The penmanship is excellent.

ELI (V.O.)

No one ever tries to create monsters. But some of us are great at making them out of others. My name is Eli and I'm writing this on Day 71.

The montage begins with an aerial shot of Fairgrove Correctional. Smoke is pouring out of the building. The montage is made up of news clips, raw footage and still images as Eli explains how he got here.

ELI (V.O.)

The outbreak started at Fairgrove Correctional in Michigan. The guards there were testing a new chemical as a way to control the prisoners. It worked for most but a few experienced a side effect.

We see a strung-out looking prisoner biting a police officer.

ELI (V.O.)

On Day 4. The side effect escaped the prison. Officer Raymond Turns spread the condition to his family. Strangely, his son wasn't affected but his wife & daughter were. And that was enough.

Shots of a school and downtown main street area cordoned off with crime scene tape.

ELI (V.O.)

By Day 14, the infection had reached nearby Bay City. And the media had gotten involved.

A fast barrage of news clips. People begin panicking in the streets.

REPORTER 1

...stay inside...

REPORTER 2

...police say...

REPORTER 3

...infectious outbreak...

ELI (V.O.)

Many people thought it was a hoax because not everyone who was bitten became infected. But that didn't stop thousands from panicking.

More clips of street riots. The Governor makes a statement.

GOVERNOR

...declaring a state of emergency...

ELI (V.O.)

17 days after the first infection, the CDC began testing. On day 20, their findings were released. It wasn't good.

Clip of the president talking. Clips of armored police walking down deserted streets.

ELI (V.O.)

On Day 22, the President declared a state of emergency. After that, one might think the panic spread faster than the infection.

Clips of intense riots.

ELI (V.O.)

By Day 25, a national quarantine was in effect. On Day 30, the news finally stopped.

Clips of quarantine zones cut suddenly to static.

ELI (V.O.)  
 You might ask yourself why I'm  
 telling you this? So that when I  
 say I'd rather be out there than  
 inside this house, you'll  
 understand what that means.

INT. LOGAN HOUSE - EVENING

This scene is a long tracking shot through the house. FAITH (14) comes down the stairs into the living room. She had headphones on and is lip syncing to music.

ELI (V.O.)  
 This is my younger sister, Faith.  
 She and I came into foster care  
 three months before Day 1. She's  
 always had it the easiest. For some  
 reason Mr. & Mrs. Logan like her  
 the most. And not in the way you're  
 thinking. They save that way for  
 the rest of us.

CHRISTINA 'CHRIS' (16) enters and pulls a toolbox from under the couch. This annoys Faith who grudgingly moves her feet out of Chris's way.

CHRIS  
 Excuse me, your highness!

She pulls a pipe wrench from the toolbox and the camera follows her into the kitchen.

Under the sink is ADELAIDE 'BOLT' (13). Chris hands her the wrench.

CHRIS  
 Here you go.

BOLT  
 Thanks, sis.

ELI (V.O.)  
 Chris and Bolt. The Logans' only  
 biological children. Chris kind of  
 looks out for all of us. Like the  
 mother we ought to have. Her  
 sister, Bolt - well, actually her  
 name is Adelaide but she hates it.  
 She's great at fixing things. The  
 (MORE)

ELI (V.O.) (cont'd)  
only reason the washing machine  
still works is because we have Bolt  
around.

Bolt leans back down to keep working. Chris goes over to the stove and stirs a pot. Mrs. Logan (50s) enters behind them.

MRS. LOGAN  
How's the stew coming, Christina?

CHRIS  
It'll be ready when it's ready.

MRS. LOGAN  
Why isn't Eli helping you?

CHRIS  
He had some writing to finish.

MRS. LOGAN  
Oh, alright. And how about you,  
Adelaide? Get the drain unclogged  
yet?

BOLT  
I'll have it done before you win  
Mother Of The Year.

Mrs. Logan looks like she wants to retort, but changes her mind.

MRS. LOGAN  
Let me know when dinner is ready,  
Christina. And if you see Angie,  
tell her Mr. Logan wants to talk to  
her.

Chris looks like she wants to kill someone as Mrs. Logan exits the kitchen and the camera follows her out.

As she walks down the hall, a toy car goes zooming in the other direction followed by KADEN (10). Mrs. Logan stops him.

MRS. LOGAN  
Kaden, when Mr. Logan is done  
talking to Angie, I want to see you  
in my room.

KADEN  
But...

MRS. LOGAN

Kaden.

KADEN

Okay, Mom.

Mrs. Logan walks away and the camera follows Kaden around a corner and up the stairs.

ELI (V.O.)

Kaden. He's 10 years old and just learning to read. He's definitely the happiest of us. Any time we're feeling upset, Kaden can always make us smile...Almost any time.

As Kaden walks down the upstairs hallway, we hear MR. LOGAN (50s) calling from his bedroom.

MR. LOGAN (O.S.)

Angie, can you come in here for a minute please?

From the end of the hall comes ANGIE (8). She passes Kaden and the camera follows her back down the hall toward a room at the end.

ELI (V.O.)

And Angie. She keeps the house clean and is Chris's best friend. When bad things happen, she usually tries to be stoic like Chris, but that's hard when the bad things are this bad.

As she pushes the door open, we see Mr. Logan sitting on his bed. He is cleaning a pistol, but puts it down when Angie enters.

MR. LOGAN

Close the door, Angie.

Angie slowly turns and closes the door.

The camera slowly moves back down the hallway.

ELI (V.O.)

And that's what it's like here. Daily chores. Daily torture and you're lucky if you can get a little sleep before it all starts again. But me, I can't do it any more. We can't leave because of the

(MORE)

ELI (V.O.) (cont'd)  
infected outside, but at this  
point, I'd rather take my chances.

The camera moves into a bedroom near the end of the hall where ELI (17) sits at his desk writing in the notebook we saw earlier. As he finishes, the camera moves into an overhead shot.

ELI (V.O.)  
Tomorrow night, I'm leaving. The  
window out of the basement is  
loose. Tomorrow night, I'm going  
through that window and I'll let  
fate take it from there. All that's  
left is to say goodbye to my  
sister.

He closes the notebook.

SMASH CUT TO

TITLE CARD

INT. LOGAN LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Fade in to Eli sitting on a chair in the living room. Kaden is sitting in his lap. They have an open book and Eli is teaching Kaden to read.

In the background the front door opens and Faith walks in with Mr. Logan. Faith is wearing a gi and carrying a bo staff and a new blue belt. Eli notices her come in.

MR. LOGAN  
What are you planning for the rest  
of the day?

FAITH  
I don't know, nothing much.  
Probably music or something.

MR. LOGAN  
Well, have fun. Whatever you end up  
doing.

FAITH  
Yep!

She heads for the stairs.

ELI  
Faith, can I...

MR. LOGAN  
Oh darling, if you see Adelaide,  
have her come see me.

Faith leaves the room. Mr. Logan heads for the kitchen.

Eli looks crestfallen and goes back to the book.

INT. FAITH'S BEDROOM - A FEW HOURS LATER

Faith, dressed in casual clothes, sits on her bed. She's wearing her headphones again and is absentmindedly drawing on a new sketchpad. There is a glass of milk on her bedside table.

After a moment, she reaches for the glass, drains it, hops off her bed and exits the room.

INT. LOGAN KITCHEN - A MOMENT LATER

Chris is cutting up vegetables at the table. Bolt comes in adjusting her shirt.

She starts looking for something to eat. After a moment, she slams a cabinet closed.

BOLT  
I hate this!

CHRIS  
(not looking up)  
Was he worse than usual today?

BOLT  
Of course he was! It's always worse than usual!

CHRIS  
Yeah... I know.

BOLT  
But you're not angry? Of course not, it doesn't happen to you!

CHRIS  
Don't start that, you know it's not true.

Bolt slumps against the counter.



BOLT  
Yeah, well...I just wish we could  
do something about it. I'm sick of  
being their toys.

CHRIS  
So am I, but what can we do?

BOLT  
I don't know! But we should do  
something. I just can't stand this  
any more, Chris. Some days, I...

CHRIS  
Shhh!

Bolt stops talking right as Faith walks in with her empty  
glass.

FAITH  
Hey! Are we still out of juice? Mom  
said she would get me some more  
today. I'm sick of drinking milk  
all the time.

Chris and Bolt just stare at her. They look at each other.  
Finally Chris speaks.

CHRIS  
I don't know. Look for yourself.  
We're working on things that are  
actually important.

FAITH  
Oh! Ok! You don't have to bite my  
head off. I was just asking!

She goes to the fridge and pours herself some juice.

FAITH  
You can go back to whatever was so  
important now.

She heads for the door. Eli enters quickly.

ELI  
Faith! I...

FAITH  
Sorry Bro, I'm going back to my  
room. Apparently, I'm not allowed  
in this one.

She exits. Eli turns to Chris and Bolt.

ELI  
What happened?

CHRIS  
Eli, I know she's your sister, but  
she can be a real pain in the...

She puts her hands over Bolt's ears.

CHRIS  
...ass

BOLT  
Hey!

ELI  
You're right.

He heads for the door.

ELI  
She is my sister.

He exits.

INT. ELI'S ROOM - EVENING

Eli sits alone at his desk. He is finishing a letter. He signs his name, folds the paper and solemnly puts it in an envelope.

He turns it over and slowly writes "Faith" on the front.

The camera stays focused on the letter as Eli gets up, takes his coat and exits the room.

We hear the door close.

INT. LOGAN LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Chris and Angie are kneeling next to the coffee table with a deck of cards. Chris is teaching Angie how to play "War". Bolt is lying on the couch with a book.

ANGIE  
So, I win?

CHRIS  
Yep, those are yours.

She pushes the cards to Angie.

ANGIE  
Let's go again.

BOLT  
Glad to see someone beating Chris  
every once in a while.

CHRIS  
Because you never will.

ANGIE  
I will!

Chris and Bolt smile. In the background, Kaden walks into  
the room. He has a piece of paper in his hand.

BOLT  
(still reading)  
Whatcha got, Kaden?

KADEN  
A letter from Eli.

CHRIS  
(still playing cards)  
Oh? What's he teaching you now?

KADEN  
I don't know. What does "sue-icity"  
mean?

CHRIS  
(looking up)  
What?

KADEN  
He says he's going to comet  
sue-icity.

Bolt drops her book. Chris looks horrified. She leaps to her  
feet and grabs the letter. Angie plays another card.

ANGIE  
I win!

Chris reads the letter with Bolt looking over her shoulder.

CHRIS  
Oh god!

BOLT  
What do we do?

CHRIS  
Kaden, was this letter for you?

KADEN  
No, it said Faith on it.

Chris runs for the stairs, Bolt, Angie & Kaden follow her.

INT. FAITH'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Faith is lying on her bed, arranging her make-up things when Chris bursts in. Chris throws the letter at Faith. Bolt, Angie and Kaden enter after her. Bolt closes the door.

CHRIS  
Did you know?

FAITH  
What, that you're reading my mail again?

Chris stays silent and points to the letter. Faith reads it quickly and starts to shake.

CHRIS  
(Through clenched teeth)  
Did you know?

Faith can't respond, she barely shakes her head.

CHRIS  
Did he try to talk to you?

FAITH  
I...

CHRIS  
Or were you too busy being Mommy and Daddy's favorite perfect princess that you didn't notice your own brother!?

FAITH  
I... No... I... What?

CHRIS  
Were you, being the little selfish bitch you are, too caught up in your own perfect world or just too stupid to see that he needed you?

Angie puts her little hand on Chris's leg to calm her down.

CHRIS  
Angie, don't.

Angie backs up and goes over to Bolt.

FAITH  
Chris... Stop... I... You know I  
didn't know!

BOLT  
Didn't he try to talk to you in the  
kitchen today?

KADEN  
(Shyly)  
And this morning during reading  
time?

Faith looks at all of them and doesn't know what to do.

CHRIS  
Maybe next time, when someone comes  
to you for help, you'll listen.

FAITH  
(Stuttering)  
I... I'm sorry.

CHRIS  
Yeah, a first time for everything.

Chris storms from the room, everyone but Faith follows her.  
Bolt slams the door.

Faith sits on the edge of her bed, still holding the letter.  
Slowly her expression changes from sadness to desperation to  
anger and finally to determination.

Suddenly she leaps to her feet. She laces up her boots,  
throws on her hoodie & jacket, grabs her bo staff and heads  
for the door.

EXT. LOGAN HOUSE - NIGHT

Outside the house, near the ground is a small window that  
leads into the basement. It is slightly ajar as if it's been  
opened recently.

As we move in on it, the lights inside come on and a few  
seconds later Faith pushes the window open. She pushes her  
bo staff out first then climbs out herself.

She gets to her feet and looks around cautiously. The world is silent. She picks up her staff and moves off towards the street and the centre of town.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT

Faith moves quickly down the sidewalk. Every time, she hears a noise, she ducks out of sight.

As she walks under a streetlight, a noise startles her and she quickly turns, causing her staff to hit the lamppost with a loud clang.

Faith freezes, knowing what just happened. For a second, it almost seems like no one heard her.

But then from out of the darkness, we hear footsteps. 3 zombies emerge into the light.

They look more tired than anything. Their clothes look dirty and ragged but not bloody. They move toward Faith who takes off running with the zombies in pursuit.

After a few turns, Faith hides in an alley between two houses and the zombies run past.

She drops to the ground panting and shivering.

FAITH  
(tears in her eyes)  
I can't...I can't do this.

After a moment, she gets to her feet and begins walking back the way she came.

Then a scream echoes through the street. Faith turns.

Eli screams again.

Faith takes a deep breath, grips her staff and takes off running towards her brother.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

In a well-lit, mostly-empty parking lot Eli is backed against a lamppost. A group of 6 zombies are advancing on him from all sides.

He screams again as one of them tries to grab him. Eli lashes out and kicks the zombie sending it sprawling backwards onto the pavement.

All the zombies stop and look from Eli to their ally on the ground. Slowly the fallen zombie gets to its feet. It locks eyes with Eli and lurches toward him.

But before it gets halfway to Eli, the end of a bo staff comes from behind and hits it across the head. The zombie collapses to the ground revealing Faith - hood up and staff in hand - ready for the fight.

Eli looks at her, but with her face hidden under the hood, he doesn't recognise her.

The moment ends abruptly as a second zombie turns to Faith. She strikes it with her staff and knocks it to the ground with its colleague.

The remaining four begin to turn to Faith. She stands her ground. She looks at Eli.

FAITH

Go!

As a zombie charges Faith, Eli seizes the moment and escapes. He takes off in the direction Faith came from, soon disappearing into the darkness.

Faith begins fighting the four remaining zombies. With their numbers, the fight is intense, but she maintains the upper hand. She strikes the final zombie who flies into the camera.

SMASH CUT TO

EXT. LOGAN HOUSE - NIGHT

Eli sprints down the street, cuts across the yard and throws himself through the open basement window.

INT. LOGAN KITCHEN - NIGHT

Eli bursts through the basement door, panting, to find all the kids sitting at the table. When they see him, there's a moment of stunned silence. Kaden breaks it.

KADEN

Eli!

Kaden runs to Eli and gives him a tight hug. Chris & Bolt get to their feet.

CHRIS  
Are you ok?

ELI  
(looking around the room)  
Where's Faith?

Silence.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Faith stands alone against a horde of approaching zombies. She looks around for an escape and finds every path blocked by enemies.

One lunges at her and she strikes, sending it to the ground.

Frantically searching for an escape, she sees a hole in the approaching wall and charges toward it. The zombies converge on her.

SHOT: The fight scene is one long tracking shot until --

A zombie gets ahold of her exposed forearm and sinks its teeth in. Faith wrenches it away, but the damage is done. She's been bitten.

She staggers back against a wall as the zombies close in. She drops her bo staff, waiting for the change.

Nothing happens. She looks around. The zombies have slowed their approach. She frantically looks around. The zombies' groans are louder. One is closer than the others. As Faith looks at it, she realises it's female.

FEMALE ZOMBIE  
Why can't you just be normal?

Faith stares at her, bewildered. Another zombie approaches. This one is black.

BLACK ZOMBIE  
How could you be innocent?

Faith stares at the zombies. Many are black. Many are female. Others are gay or transgender. All of them are speaking, some loudly, some softly. What Faith believed to be groans are actually repetitions of a single sentence over and over.



SCARRED ZOMBIE  
You should have gone through with  
it.

TRANS ZOMBIE  
You were such a pretty girl.

GAY ZOMBIE  
You're filthy.

BI ZOMBIE  
You're just being greedy.

Similar lines echo through the crowd. Faith frantically  
looks from one to the next, trying to understand. Her eyes  
fall upon a teenage zombie.

FAITH  
Michelle?

ZOMBIE MICHELLE  
I'll always think of you as  
Michael.

FAITH  
Michelle, it's me, Faith.

Zombie Michelle moves forward. The crowd begins to close in.

ZOMBIE MICHELLE  
I'll always think of you as  
Michael.

TRANS ZOMBIE  
You were such a pretty girl.

BLACK ZOMBIE  
How could you be innocent.

FEMALE ZOMBIE  
Why can't you just be normal.

The zombies obscure the camera.

BLACK

Voices in the dark. Their words sound like groans.

ZOMBIE 1  
You could have fought back?

ZOMBIE 2  
It's just a phase you're going through.

ZOMBIE 3  
You're not strong enough.

ZOMBIE 4  
Did you do anything to cause it?

INT. LOGAN KITCHEN - NIGHT

ELI  
No!

Chris just finished her story. No one is moving. Eli sinks to the floor.

ELI  
No. No. No. No.

Chris looks like she's going to say something else, but Bolt puts a hand on her shoulder.

Silence.

The door to the kitchen opens and the Logans enter.

MR. LOGAN  
Excuse me, it's after curfew.

The kids look from one to another.

MRS. LOGAN  
Why are you all awake?

MR. LOGAN  
(surveying the room)  
Where's Faith?

Again, silence. The Logans look from one face to the next. Bolt glances at Chris who shakes her head. Mrs. Logan notices.

MRS. LOGAN  
Adelaide, where is Faith?

Bolt glares up at Mrs. Logan. Mr. Logan's eyes fall on Eli - covered in dirt, face shining with sweat.

MR. LOGAN  
What did you do?

EXT. LOGAN HOUSE - NIGHT

In the street outside, shadows are moving. Coming closer to the house.

INT. LOGAN KITCHEN - NIGHT

As before.

Eli is paralyzed with fear.

MR. LOGAN  
I won't ask again. What did you do?

Eli looks up at Mr. Logan but says nothing.

Mr. Logan lunges for Eli. He grabs the boy by his collar and slams him against the wall.

MR. LOGAN  
She was your sister! She was why we kept you. Why we put up with you.

MRS. LOGAN  
(almost in tears)  
How could you, Eli? What had she ever done to you?

Mr. Logan slaps Eli across the face. Eli winces and lets out a yell. A second later, Chris and Bolt lunge in and try to pull Mr. Logan off their brother.

Mrs. Logan intercepts Chris.

MRS. LOGAN  
How dare you!

Bolt has grabbed Mr. Logan's arm to stop him hitting Eli again.

MR. LOGAN  
Get your worthless hands off me.

Kaden and Angie are screaming. Mrs. Logan throws Chris onto the table. She puts one of her arms across Chris's neck to hold her down. Chris can't breathe. She struggles to get her mom off her.

MRS. LOGAN  
Maybe now you'll learn to behave.

A gunshot cuts through the chaos.

The pressure on Chris's neck relaxes. Mrs. Logan stands stunned. She looks over at her husband before slowly falling to the floor.

In the doorway, covered in sweat, holding Mr. Logan's pistol, is Faith. She aims the gun at Mr. Logan.

FAITH  
(to Bolt)  
Bolt, let him go.

Bolt releases Mr. Logan and steps back to Angie & Kaden. Faith approaches Mr. Logan.

FAITH  
Now your turn.

She puts the gun to his head.

FAITH  
Let him go.

Mr. Logan steps back. Eli reaches for Faith's hand and she takes it, helping him move away from Mr. Logan.

FAITH  
Chris, are you ok?

CHRIS  
(coughing)  
Never better.

FAITH  
Give me a hand?

CHRIS  
Where are we going?

FAITH  
Front door.

MR. LOGAN  
Don't you dare.

FAITH  
Shut up.

Mr. Logan pales. Chris looks hesitant.

FAITH  
Trust me.

Chris nods. She grabs Mr. Logan's arm and she & Faith push Mr. Logan into

INT. LOGAN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eli, Bolt, Kaden & Angie following them, Faith & Chris force Mr. Logan to the front door.

FAITH  
Bolt, unlock it.

Bolt comes over and unlocks the door.

FAITH  
On three, open it and we'll push him out.

Bolt smiles.

FAITH  
One. Two. Three!

Bolt grabs the doorknob and turns it just as Chris and Faith push Mr. Logan. Unfortunately Bolt missed a lock so the door doesn't open.

EXT. LOGAN HOUSE - NIGHT

The sound of Mr. Logan's body hitting the door echoes across the street. The zombies in the area take notice.

BOLT (V.O.)  
Oops!

INT. LOGAN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

As before. Bolt is grinning. Faith & Chris even smile.

She unlocks the last lock.

FAITH  
One. Two. Three!

Bolt flings the door open as Chris & Faith push Mr. Logan out into the crowd of advancing zombies.

MR. LOGAN  
Faith, please. I'm sorry!

FAITH  
I'm not.

MR. LOGAN  
No, Faith! I mean it!

FAITH  
Tell it to them.

And with that she slams the door in his face.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. LOGAN HOUSE - MORNING A FEW WEEKS LATER

This scene is a long tracking shot through the house. Eli comes downstairs into the living room. He is holding a rock.

Angie and Bolt are playing cards.

ANGIE  
I win!

BOLT  
(throwing down her cards)  
Damn it! Chris!

CHRIS (O.S.)  
You lose again, Bolt?

ANGIE  
Yep!

Eli crosses toward the kitchen. Kaden comes running down the stairs chasing him. He's holding a children's book.

KADEN  
Eli! Eli! I finished!

Eli turns and gives him a high five.

ELI  
Good job! That was a hard one too!

KADEN  
Give me another one!

ELI  
You got it buddy.

Kaden goes to watch the card game. Eli heads for the kitchen.

At the table, Chris and Faith are looking over a recipe.

CHRIS  
What about this?

FAITH  
That needs beef. Where are we going to find a cow?

CHRIS  
I could substitute chicken.

FAITH  
How about quail?

CHRIS  
I'll make it work.

Eli comes up to them and puts the book on the table. Faith notices.

FAITH  
Little old for that one aren't you, Eli?

ELI  
I'm going back to basics. This came for you.

He hands her the rock. Tied to it is a piece of paper with the word Faith badly written on it.

Faith gets up and crosses through the living room to the front door.

On the front porch, she finds Zombie Michelle doubled up with laughter.

FAITH  
What's up?

Zombie Michelle points to the street.

ZOMBIE MICHELLE  
("look at that")  
I'll always think of you as Michael.

Faith looks and sees a bunch of Zombies chasing Mr. Logan down the sidewalk. He looks exhausted and scared. All the zombies chasing him look like they're playing the best game of tag ever.

Faith bursts out laughing. She puts her arm around Zombie Michelle.

                    FAITH  
You just made my day.  
                    (calling to the house)  
Guys, come see this!

The kids arrive on the porch and join in laughing.

Amidst the laughter, Zombie Michelle looks at Faith.

                    ZOMBIE MICHELLE  
I'll always think of you.

Faith hugs her as the family laughs and Mr. Logan is tackled by a bunch of smiling zombies.

FADE OUT