

NOTE FROM THE TEAM

Dear Reader,

You may be wondering what sweet nothings the ETH Walker Team might have to whisper in your ear, or perhaps we're going to share a cute anecdote about how this project and community has brought purpose to our lives?

One problem... we left our smoke-blowing machine in an alternate pair of pants. We blame Woodhouse and the fact that we ran out of Tequila roughly two weeks ago.

Truth be told, we are a small group of creators - a doctor, a writer, an artist, and two developers who found each other and decided to build something that we believe will change the expectations for what NFT projects need to deliver as this medium continues to grow.

We learned a great deal through the first season of ETH Walkers but the goal hasn't changed.

For all of you who began this journey with us, thank you. The future is wide open and we are genuinely scratching the surface of what this project (and this team in particular) is going to accomplish in the NFT space.

With the creation of Season 2 well underway we can confidently promise more memorable characters, a better gameplay experience, increasing levels of lore, and incomparable art.

No, we aren't your traditional NFT project, but . . . we're going to be around for the long haul and you are a very elite group of people who can boast that you were there at the genesis.

Cocky!?!? We wouldn't be the ETH Walker project without the attitude. In all seriousness, this project would be nothing if it weren't for all of you!

More to come, Walkers!!!

The ETH Walker Team

MEET THE TEAM



STEPHEN SLESINSKI Art Director

Originally from Pittsburgh, Stephen currently lives in Atlanta working at Floyd County Productions as the Illustration and Layouts Director for the Emmy winning animated comedy Archer on FXX/FX on HULU. You can see more of his work at artofstephens.com.



DEREK HANSON Project Manager

Derek is a pediatric oncologist who fell down the NFT rabbit hole after launching the Nerdy Nuggets project with his two sons. When he's not researching cures for brain tumors, the "Nugg Doctor" spends time playing games, watching football, and building internet businesses.



MATTHEW CARPENTER Story Architect

Matt is the CCO of Beard & Bowler Video Productions, the Director of Communications for Star of Hope Ministries and NCS Bergen County, and a freelance ghost writer. Matt is married, has four children, and currently lives in New Jersey.



MAX HOUSER Contract & Game Developer

Max has been a nerd tinkering with code and drinking coffee since longer than he can remember. A natural curiosity for "I wonder if we can..." has lead to a rewarding career in both building and breaking software. Currently he works as a Senior SDET at a cyber security company. Max is married, has two kids, and lives in the Greater Seattle Area.



CHASE HOUSER Web3 Developer

Chase started out as a double major in Applied Physics and Mechanical Engineering before falling in love with Programming. He now works as a freelance Web Developer with an affinity for all things Crypto, specializing in web3. Chase currently lives and drinks coffee in the Greater Seattle Area.



BORED APES "Gorilla" Marketing

ETH Walkers has partnered with members of the Bored Ape Yacht Club to jumpstart the marketing for the project. This collective of NFT connoisseurs and social influencers will deliver the first outbreak of the undeadly infection that threatens all mankind.

WELCOME TO PORTSTOWN

Portstown was constructed and settled after November 1860 by Mississippi River pilots. The main river passage, flowing out into the Gulf of Mexico, coupled with the strangely hostile terrain on both sides of the river bed meant seclusion for the inhabitants. Given the unique terrain, Portstown is accessible only by water or by helicopter.

Built on piers in swampy ground on the East Bank of the lower Mississippi River, about 90 miles downriver from New Orleans, Portstown served as a temporary home for members of the Port Pilots' Association and as a base for coal and oil exploration.

In the late 1940s, following WWII, this small, makeshift town saw a population boom of Eastern European refugees who were willing to work and trade for shelter.

In August, 1960, the town is said to have been purchased by a wealthy oil baron [no records available to substantiate ownership]. Major construction began around the town's centennial which included basic public infrastructures (like the University, Police Station, Penitentiary, and Town Hall). In no less than 2 years this small, swamp town boasted its own ecosystem.

Today, Portstown is home to roughly 10,000 people.

ORIGINAL MAP



PEOPLE AND PLACES





City Hall

The center of Portstown's local government and a phenomenal place to catch up on town gossip and drama. There is a deep vein of history that runs through the hall and the walls are said to possess political and business secrets dating back to the early 1900's.

Sublocations:

- Record Keeping
- Gathering Hall
- Storage
- Offices
- Janitorial Offices

Meet Bo Scott ...

Don't call Bo a janitor, he is a Waste Redistribution Engineer and damn proud of it. Bo not only handles all of the town waste bins, he is also the keeper of all the town's trashy little secrets. Yeah, that's right... Bo knows!



The Yacht Club

The most exclusive, members-only club in town. No one is ever seen coming in and out but every night music and loud, animal-like noises can be heard coming from inside.

Sublocations:

- Bar
- Clubhouse
- Attic
- Boat House
- Dock





The Buckner Estate

Built in the early 20th century, the Buckner Estate and family home boast roughly 105 acres of space on the outskirts of town. A sad history haunts the Buckner Estate and seems to pursue any family who resides there. The last known occupants were the O'Dea family. The Estate has been uninhabited for the past 16 years.

Sublocations:

- Librarv •
- Conservatory
- Master Bedroom

Panic Room

- Wine Cellar
- Psychomanteum

Meet (Villy Rudolph ("Rudy")...

If there are any skeletons buried at the Buckner Estate groundskeeper Willy Rudolph is likely the one who buried them. Rudy is an old soul, guiet and faithful. A runaway from England, Rudy found himself a new home and a seemingly thankless job in Portstown.





Downtown

Also known as The Hub, Downtown Portstown is the home to a handful of locally owned and resourced small businesses. It doesn't matter what you may be looking for, from a chainsaw to an antique apothecary table, Downtown Portstown has you covered.

Sublocations:

- **Gas Station**
- **Grocery Store**
- Pawn Shop
- **General Store**
- Hardware Store

Meet Candice Carson ...

After taking a year off of college to travel the globe Candice guickly became disillusioned with Western education, dropped out, and proposed to Coach Joshua Carson. Sharing her vast and very random knowledge of the world at the Pawn Shop, Candice adds a touch of colorful culture to Portstown.





Monroeville Shopping Mall

Find Your Favorite Stores & The Newest Shops For Fashion, Beauty, Lifestyle, and Sports. The mall has, over the years, included community spaces, a live theater auditorium, a short-lived bowling alley, and a less than safe children's play area. Come grab a snack, see a show, and leave with a shirt (or whatever).

Sublocations:

- Food Court •
- **Department Store**
- Housewares
- Sporting Goods

Movie Theater

Meet Karis Madison ...

Not your average Customer Service Manager. Karis is deeply intelligent (and she knows it) and an adrenaline junky. Don't expect to have any of your questions answered at the Monroeville Customer Service Center unless you come in with your sarcasm guns a blazin'.





Portstown Police Station

A state-funded special projects police station with an Aviation Unit. Family-run and operated, don't let the quaint appearance of a small-town police station fool you. Well-equipped and strapped with an uncharacteristically diverse armory, this local PD can handle anything that's thrown at them.

Sublocations:

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Holding Cells

Armory

- **Aviation Unit**
 - Locker Room
- **Evidence Lockers**

Meet Joe Bordoni ...

"The Commissioner" is watching you, Portstown. This small town, retired police chief, can be found hanging around the police station most days, telling stories of his "glory days" on the force. It is relatively well known that Bordoni has been on someone's books for years but no one is certain who is pulling the strings.





Portstown General Hospital

A general hospital with a special pediatric cancer research facility. While offering general medical services, PGH is leading cutting-edge clinical research while providing diagnosis and treatment of leukemia, lymphoma, neuroblastoma, bone, brain, and kidney tumors, as well as rare tumor types.

Sublocations:

General Surgery

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- General Surgery
- Pediatric Oncology Clinic
- Infection Control

Emergency Room

Meet Dr. Sara Thurman ...

The shining gem of Portstown General Hospital is one Dr. Sara Thurman. Dr. Thurman is the Head of Oncology, very well-spoken, and professional. While possessing such a serious job, Dr. Thurman is a serial entrepreneur and a tech prodigy. To Dr. Thurman, Ironman isn't a fantasy, it's one of the options.





Portstown University

Let's Go Crawdaddy Crushers! Portstown University boasts a high-profile faculty, specifically in the Science and Biology Departments but it is best known as a party school. Screw Harvard, Portstown U all day son!

Sublocations:

- Lecture Hall
- Recreation CenterCampus Security Shed
- Coed Dormitories
- Stadium

Meet Coach Joshua Carson ...

Born and bred local and one of the good ol' boys. Joshua has been coaching Portstown University's football team since 2014 and since taking the position he primarily speaks in sports metaphors. The Coach is ex-military, which all his players know too well, and is married to Candice Carson.





Nerdy Nuggets

The shining gem of Portstown! Nerdy Nuggets is the best and only fast-food restaurant chain in town. A favorite location for College kids who come for the knobs of irregularly cut breast meat with a light coating of nearly crispy breadcrumbs – the Nerdy Nuggets – a true sheep in wolf's clothing. They sport a nutty sweetness from the peanut oil fry and an aggressive salinity from overseasoning... and don't forget the dipping sauce.

Sublocations:

• Kitchen

- Dining Area
- Bathroom
- Office
- Dry Storage/Freezer

Meet Cabb Deijon ...

President of the Steve Jobs Fashionista fan club, Nerdy Nuggets Manager Cabb Deijon is 100% pure diva. Cabb owns 14 turtlenecks, all the same color, and can often be found soaking his feet in toilets around the city. His favorite dipping sauce... soy teriyaki (in spite of his name).





The Hills

A divergent community, just outside of town. Hills folk live and work together in a social commune that is decidedly antiestablishment, anti-government, and anti-social. Sorry, not sorry! Hills folk refer to townspeople as "Porties".

Sublocations:

Swamp

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Compound

Trading Post

- Commons
- Dark Forest

Meet Kerry-Ann Hicks ...

One of the leaders of the Hills commune who has lived in the swamp since she was a little girl. People refer to Kerry-Ann as the alligator whisperer but never to her face. Kerry-Ann does not trust "Porties" (townspeople) and she doesn't buy into the social politics that run the town.





Belle River Penitentiary

The Belle River Penitentiary – known unofficially as "The Supermax" – is the third most secure prison in America. Only those convicted of the most violent (and often high-profile) crimes are sent here, sentenced to live out their days in solitary confinement under the tightest security conditions imaginable. The complex itself is a formidable sight: short, windowless brick buildings guarded by towering razor wire fences, and watchtowers occupied by armed sharpshooters. Constructed in 2006 many point to The Supermax as the controversial reason for the town economic resurgence.

Sublocations:

- Solitary
- Workshop
- The Yard
- Infirmary
- Experiment B

Meet Cane Livingston ...

No one but the higher ups know why inmate Cane Livingston is carrying out his two life sentences at Belle River. Frankly, no one dares ask. Rumor has it, on his first day, Cane dismembered 3 guards and his cellmate when someone tried to take his Teddy Bear (although everyone has a different version). Cane can't remember a time before prison but he knows everything there is to know about the Belle River Penitentiary.



The Old Coal Mine

The original reason for the formation of Portstown was the coal mine. With easy access to the river and the ocean, Portstown was a natural hub for miners. The veins ran dry 60 years ago and the Mine has been abandoned ever since.

Sublocations:

- First Level
- Second Level
- Bottom
- Dark Cavern
- Dynamite Shed





The Brain Bucket

Built to be the local watering hole for Portstown residence, the Brain Bucket quickly became the hangout of choice for a very rough and dangerous biker gang. Locals are still very welcome at The Bucket but outsiders beware.

Sublocations:

- The Red Room
- Bar
- The Outhouse
- Basement
- Garage

Meet Breaker ...

What has two fists and isn't afraid to shatter your jaw? Bucket bartender Breaker (last name unknown), that's who! An honorary member of Louisiana's second most deadly motorcycle gang, Breaker has more secrets than Victoria has underpants. While his face is kind, don't underestimate his legendary temper (especially at the craps table in the bar's Red Room).



The Facility

The pretty girl that you never noticed because of her glasses and overalls, the realization that there is no such thing as a middle finger, the whole Kevin Spacey/Keyser Söze thing. Yeah, the facility is like that. A mysterious research facility that's in plain sight but no one really sees it until they see it. Purpose unknown.

Sublocations:

- Laboratory
- Workshop
- Containment
- Observatory
- Level X
- Locked Corridor





The Military Base

A small, secretive, and well-guarded military base that has been hidden just outside of the borders of Portstown. It's unclear why the base is there, and, despite the claims of the Battalion Commander, there is some doubt as to which branch of the military is in control.

Sublocations:

- Warehouse
- Barracks
- The Facility
- Hangar Bay
- Mess Hall

Meet Perry Miller ...

Perry Miller, Lieutenant Colonel/LTC (O5) – Lieutenant Colonel Miller is as low-level as they come but it is not for lack of trying. For years Miller has consistently served as the gatekeeper to the hidden Military Base in Portstown and in that time, no one got in and no one ever got out. Embittered by years of being passed over for promotion Miller is a ticking timebomb of information... if they don't get to him first.





WPTR

WPTR – Portstown's number one news, traffic, sports, and weather station.

Proudly featuring the delightful tones and sometimes off-color commentary of Anchorman Ron Vermillion, with local programming from around town, and weekends with Portstown University's own Chaz and the Gang.

WPTR is your source for local news, weather, sports, and more...



EMPLOYEE BIOS



Ron Vermillion Anchorman

Ron Vermillion first attended Grand Canyon University (online) earning his Associate's Degree. After failing to get cast on MTV's The Real World San Diego, he attended Portstown University (PU) where he studied Communications. As a Crawdaddy, Ron competed with the PU Curling Team (where he served as a fourth). Ron is well-loved by all in Portstown, where he lives and works. When he's not spreading classy vibes over the microphone at WPTR Ron enjoys playing Dad to four amazing Dachshunds – Ron Jr., Percival, Kenny Loggins, and Veronica.



Steven Mandrews Traffic and Weather

Steven Mandrews proudly served his country and is a highly decorated US Marine Corp. First Sergeant. He is known around the station for his personal discipline, administrative prowess, and for the meticulous grooming habits of his mustache (nicknamed "The Colonel"). Following active duty Sgt. Mandrews joined WPTR covering local sports, traffic, and weather. Steven has been keeping watch over our town for over a decade and, we hope, for decades to come.



Jerry Higgins Producer

Jerry Higgins is a 2011 graduate of Portstown University graduating with a major in Marketing and a Minor in Women's Studies. Jerry came to WPTR initially as an intern, studying under our illustrious Station Manager, and quickly climbed the ranks to become the Producer of our beloved Portstown Presents Ron Vermillion.



Rae Geofferds Associate Producer

Rae Geofferds is a recent addition to the WPTR family. Prior to her current role at Associate Producer, Geofferds served as General Manager of the Portstown Grocery Store in Downtown. She also spent two years as Assistant Manager for The Brain Bucket where she directed the operating, sales, and marketing efforts.



Melissa Townsend Station Manager

Melissa Townsend is an FM radio veteran and turnaround expert who holds more than three decades of experience in the radio industry, Townsend joined WPTR in December 2012. In her role as Station Manager, Peterson oversees day-to-day operations, including management of the station's executive team and more than 3 station employees, as well as the rollout of program renovations that are well underway.

PRELIMINARY BROADCAST January 10, 2022

How's it going out there Portstown, you're listening to WPTR the number one local news, traffic, and weather station. I'm Ron Vermillion, let's get into today's news.

You may have noticed the increased activity at the pier these past few weeks. That's right, it's time for the local Yacht Club's annual open house. Rumor mills are buzzing concerning what strange and exotic themes the Club has planned for this year. Crates have been carted in and out of the clubroom over the past few days drawing a great deal of speculation.

Our town's very own Candice Carson, on her way to a delivery, claimed to have seen a large delivery truck unloading at least a dozen boxes of Costa Rican bananas at the Club. I honestly don't know what's coming this year folks. Something tropical perhaps... I only know it's an event you are not going to want to miss.

We're deep into football season with Portstown U on a clear path to division playoffs. Quarterback Freddy Hansom is leading the charge this year holding down an average of 2 throwing touchdown passes and 1 rushing touchdown a game. Suffice to say, a crustacean craze is taking over the town as locals show off their red and gold pride for our very own Crawdaddy Crushers. Go get 'em boys!

As usual, stay tuned for the traffic report with our eyes in the sky Steven Mandrews which is coming at you on the quarter-hour.

Let's get this day going right with a bit of a beat... I'm feeling sassy this morning folks so we're going to kick it off with a new track. This is Knocked Out by Canon... let's keep it classy out there Portstown.



TOWN LEADERS



Among the thousands of Portstown residents, forty individuals stand out in the crowd. As society crumbles around them, they will rise and take the fate of the town in their hands. By forming factions, they will compete to protect and provide for their groups. Friends will become foes and unexpected alliances will form as the world turns more dangerous and chaotic by the day. These are the leaders.

These are their stories. They are humanity's final hope.

City Hall







Just Givens - Age 48

Mayor Givens holds the most important role in the town (on paper, that is). Nicknamed "The Puppet of Portstown", Givens has taken up residence in the back pocket of Joseph Conway, the town's wealthiest member. There isn't a decision Givens makes that isn't directly under Conway's influence.

Early on in his career, Givens was a public defender in Baton Rouge and was widely known as one of the most promising young lawyers in the Louisiana justice system. When the Belle River Penitentiary was upgraded to supermax status, Givens moved to Portstown with the hope of advocating for those who were wrongfully incarcerated. After making several successful appeals, he was approached by members of the town council about a potential run for Mayor. The former Mayor had taken an environmentally-focused position, leading to some controversial decisions such as the shuttering of the old coal mine and regulations prohibiting any development in or along the waterway. Unseating the Mayor would be a tall task, as he possessed near unanimous backing from The Hills community. This made gaining the majority vote a near impossibility.

However, impossible is nothing for a man with the means of Joseph Conway. The small taste of power had whet Givens' appetite, and after agreeing to run, his small-town political campaign became flushed with cash that would rival a Senate race. Smear campaigns, backdoor deals, and bribes led to the eventual rise of Mayor Just Givens. After being sworn in, he quickly learned that the campaign contributions had created a debt that could only be repaid with unquestioned loyalty to his billionaire benefactor. In the years that have followed, Portstown has slowly spiraled into disarray, led by a man controlled by the whims of Joseph Conway.

Steven Mandrews Jr. - Age 31

Steven Mandrews Jr. has never been able to escape the shadow of the father with whom he shares a name. In his early years, he always seemed to find himself in minor trouble at school. What would have otherwise been seen as normal boyhood mischief became a sully on the reputation of the esteemed Sergeant Mandrews.

As Steven grew, he opposed the pressure to begin a military career, and followed his own path. He obtained a communications degree from Portstown University and landed a job as a news reporter for the local radio station, WPTR. Ironically, during a visit to see his son, Sergeant Mandrews hit it off with local celebrity Ron Vermillion and the two became fast friends. With his career in the Marines winding down, the Sergeant took an offer from Vermillion to be his wingman on the traffic and weather scene.

Now the second-rated Mandrews at WPTR, Steven Jr. has been working tirelessly to carve out his own niche. In addition to dating the lovely Franny Praker, Steven has spent his evenings investigating a bombshell story about narcotics smuggling out of the Brain Bucket. He is making his final edits before filing his edits to the WPTR newsdesk, the Portstown Police, and Mayor Givens.

Franny Praker – Age 38

In an earlier life, Franny Praker was an anchor on the highest-rated Miami evening news show. Her prominent position thrust her into the stratosphere of the Miami social scene. She found herself in the front row of sporting events, rubbing elbows with celebrities and the wealthy elite, like Joseph and Betsy Conway.

Father Time isn't kind to those in front of the camera, and as Franny entered her late 30's, she found herself replaced by a younger, perkier version of herself. With her career and social life in Miami evaporating, Franny turned to her best friend, Betsy, who had relocated to Portstown years earlier. She took a job at WPTR, anchoring the news alongside Ron Vermillion. Franny's new, simpler life seemed to be off to a good start until she was set up on a date with Mayor Givens at the urging of Joseph Conway. After a few nights out and some unwanted advances, Franny politely let Givens know that she was not interested. A few days later "budget cuts" at WPTR necessitated that the station drop down to a single news anchor, and no one was unseating Ron Vermillion. Franny's town-funded position was reassigned to the town clerk desk, directly under the supervision of Mayor Givens. Franny contemplated leaving the job, but there are only so many doors that a communications degree will open in Portstown.

Things haven't all gone poorly for Franny, though. She recently began dating WPTR reporter, Steven Mandrews Jr., and the relationship is starting to get serious. Franny gets a small sense of pleasure watching Mayor Givens turn green with jealousy when Steven picks her up from work each day.

The Yacht Club



Joseph Conway - Age 45

In his early twenties, Joseph built the Miami biotech startup, Revenant. He quickly took the company public and became one of the world's youngest billionaires. During a guest lecture at the University of Miami, he became enamored with student attendee, Betsy Dee. The two quickly hit it off, had a whirlwind engagement, and were married.

Five years into their marriage, Joseph made the decision to shun the Miami highlife and moved to Portstown. While outsiders view him as a recluse, Joseph is intimately involved in town politics, pulling the strings and using his fortune to gain influence.

His relationship with Betsy fractured after the move to Portstown and he became an overt philanderer. His latest fling is with Karey Z. Enos, an ER nurse at Portstown General.



Betsy Conway - Age 43

Betsy grew up in Portstown in a middle class family. She had always intended to stay in town and marry her high-school sweetheart, Rock Breslin after graduation. However, plans changed when she was offered a cheerleading scholarship to the University of Miami. She eventually caught the eye of billionaire entrepreneur Joseph Conway, whom she married.

Her life as a Miami socialite came to a crashing halt when Joseph inexplicably decided to relocate to his wife's former hometown. Betsy resented the decision and their relationship grew cold. In addition to overtly disdaining Portstown and its citizens, she secretly hates Joseph, who she knows is unfaithful to her. After her parents died in a car accident, Betsy's only close connection in town is her best friend, Franny Praker.



Harry Cooper – Age 43

A life-long native of Portstown, Harry has led a quiet and uneventful life. He struggled with dyslexia in elementary school and was labeled as "slow". In high school, his awkward demeanor made him an outsider with few friends. He held a giant crush on Betsy Conway, but was too scared to make an advance, which would have almost certainly been rebutted.

After dropping out of school his senior year, he took a job tending the boats at the yacht club. He moved out of his mother's house and now lives alone. Since Betsy returned to town, he steals a glance every now and then when she's at the club, imagining what might have been if he was another person in another life.

The Brain Bucket



Rudi Riccy - Age 41

Growing up, there was nothing particularly special about Rudi. He was a typical middleclass Portstown youth, who was average in school and could hold his own on the football field. However, his stoic nature and good character caught the eye of his nextdoor neighbor, policeman Pete Washer. Pete became a mentor to Rudi and intended to groom him for a spot on the force. As Riccy reached his twenties, the two became extremely close, attending Portstown U football games together and frequenting neighborhood bars.

Rudi was eventually accepted into the Police Academy. However, that moment of pride for him and Pete was short-lived. On a late-night drunken stroll home from the bar, the two were accosted by a group of thugs. As they fought the attackers off, Rudi managed to wrestle one assailant to the ground and Pete cuffed him. With the captive man writhing on the ground, Rudi watched in horror as Pete pulled out his gun and put a bullet in each of the attacker's legs. In an affidavit, Pete claimed that the shots were fired in self-defense. Rudi remained silent, but dropped out of the Academy and cut all ties with Pete.

Washer rose in the ranks to Police Chief, while Riccy walked the opposite path, joining the Blades motorcycle gang, and gaining notoriety as a small-time criminal. The two crossed paths multiple times over the years, with Riccy in the back of a squad car or spending a night in the holding cell.



"Knives" Morgan – Age 28

Glen Morgan grew up in the butcher shop and the church pew. On Saturdays he would trim meat in his father's butcher shop and on Sundays he would watch his mother, Helena, prophesy on the St. Lazarus Church platform. He became quick friends with Columbus Eisenberg, and the two auspicious youths were a source of Portstown's pride. Both were awarded scholarships to LSU, and Morgan dreamed of earning a business degree and turning his father's butcher shop into a barbeque empire.

Those dreams were dashed when Columbus was convicted of second-degree murder. Although Morgan was nowhere near the scene of the crime, his guilt by association led to LSU withdrawing his scholarship. Morgan briefly enrolled in Portstown University, but fell into depression and flunked out his second semester. He eventually found a home among the Blades. His proficiency with knives earned him his nickname, and after a series of fights left his opponents thoroughly butchered, Morgan became the most feared member of the gang. He still wears a white suit to church every Sunday.



"Sludge" - Age Unknown

The woman known as "Sludge" washed up on the Portstown shore during the tail end of Hurricane Katrina. After spending days in a coma in the Portstown General ICU, she woke up a total amnesic. With no recollection of her name, family, or home, she was discharged to the devastated streets of Portstown.

Lacking a source of food or clean water, she eventually sought shelter in a FEMA station run out of the St. Lazarus Church. It was there that she met Helena Morgan, who was drawn to this lost soul without a memory. After a prayer session, Helena anointed her with the name, Slaine, meaning "good health" and offered her respite in the Morgan's guest bedroom. While Slaine was grateful for the hospitality, prayer and church life simply wasn't in her blood. A few weeks later, when Slaine arrived at the Sunday dinner table drunk with track marks on her arm, her welcome had officially been worn out.

Slaine eventually found a small studio flat and her real "home" among the Blades at the Brain Bucket. She rose through the ranks of the gang, gaining respect, a reputation for deviousness, and the new name "Sludge". However, she never forgot the kindness of Helena Morgan. When Helena's son, Glen, strolled into the Bucket one night, clearly at his breaking point, Sludge extended the same compassion. Under her tutelage, the crumbling teenager became a steel "knife" – one that, years later, she craftily manipulates to subtly maintain control over the group.

The Buckner Estate



Barbra O'Dea - Age 59

Barbra is a former Hollywood horror movie actress with a flair for the dramatic. After her career ran its course, she returned to Portstown and lived with her family in the mansion. The clear favorite over her brother, Johnny, Barbra was inseparable from her father, Rupert. For a time, she was the town's leading lady, attending every event and at the center of every photo op.

Following the death of her father after Hurricane Katrina, she went into a horrible depression and withdrew from community life. Years later, she re-emerged, but was a weathered shell of the warm, personable lady the town had grown to love. Rumors swirl that Barbra is obsessed with communicating with the dead and may have cryogenically frozen her father's head. While she is no longer a town socialite, she occasionally hosts visitors from around the globe at the mansion and lately has been seen in the company of Ben Jones.



Johnny O'Dea – Age 57

Johnny is a trust fund playboy with too much time and not enough brains to know how to spend it well. He is the current patriarch of the O'Deas, Portstown's most prestigious family. From the 1960's until the mid-2000's the O'Dea name was the definition of high-class in the small town. The family was intimately involved with all community events and occupied the town's opulent mansion.

Tragedy struck the family in 2005 when Johnny and Barbra's father, Rupert, drowned in the floods of Hurricane Katrina. From that moment on, Johnny has tried (and failed) to fill the shoes of his beloved father. He sold the family business and started a new venture focused on life-extension pseudoscience, which has failed to yield any meaningful breakthroughs. His status in the town took a further hit with the arrival of Joseph Conway, who quickly inherited the mantle of Portstown's most influential person. Knowing he does not possess the resources, power, or intellect to compete with Joseph, Johnny is insanely jealous of Conway.



Jerry Z. Pitt - Age Unknown

No one is quite sure what Jerry does at the mansion. He has always been seen roaming the grounds, even after the family abandoned the property in the wake of Rupert O'Dea's death. Rumor has it that Jerry knows all the secrets of the O'Dea family and is intimately involved in their financial and business dealings. He speaks with an unusual accent, but it changes frequently.

Portstown University









Freddy Hansome - Age 19

Freddy Hansome was never supposed to end up in Portstown. A five-star football recruit, Freddy had earned a scholarship to LSU and was on track to compete for the starting quarterback position. His fate took a painful turn when he tore the bicep in his throwing arm late in his senior season. With LSU no longer an option, Freddy decided to rehab his arm and potential career at Division II Portstown University.

The school never had a player of Freddy's talent and he took the school to unprecedented heights. After finally being cleared to play, mid-season, Hansome went undefeated and led the Crawdaddies to a conference championship. With a trophy in one hand and his gorgeous girlfriend, Tina holding the other, it seemed like Freddy was living the college dream. His grades, however, told another story.

While most professors were willing to pass him through with little effort required, his biology lecturer, Dr. Jane Festor held him to a much higher standard. His flunking grade nearly kept him out of the playoffs, until some extra "tutoring" sessions pulled up his grade. Despite having many easier professor options, Freddy signed up for Biology II with Dr. Festor.

Tina Randolph – Age 18

Tina Randolph is the stereotypical "girl next door", perky, personable, and undeniably pretty. Her affection has been the source of fierce competition among the young men of Portstown. In the midst of a revolving door of potential suitors, the one constant during her high school years was her good friend Chunk Philbin. As the one guy who never seemed to put on a move or have ulterior motives, Chunk earned Tina's trust and became her go-to for male companionship.

Their bond was solidified in 10th grade when Chunk's mother passed away. In the weeks following, Tina would spend the evenings at Chunk's apartment, talking through his feelings and holding him while he sobbed. When an opportunity to attend a big name school failed to materialize, Tina's one consolation was that she would have Chunk by her side as they entered Portstown U.

However, as the fall semester began, the dynamic of their friendship changed. Chunk appeared to be more withdrawn and disinterested in Tina's blossoming social circles. He seemed particularly antagonized by her new boyfriend, Freddy, which pushed the two further apart. Now, the two friends barely speak, leaving a void that somehow can't be filled by her popularity and Freddy's impressive physical frame.

Dr. Jane Festor - Age 39

Dr. Jane Festor earned a double PhD in molecular biology and human genetics from Harvard. She quickly became a top recruit in the pharmaceutical world, specializing in the development of gene therapy. How this brilliant scientist went from the top of her lucrative field to teaching entry-level biology at a no-name school is something that has never been explained. Yet here she is in Portstown, teaching binomial nomenclature and basic cell division to meatheads like Freddy Hansome.

When the star quarterback started flunking her class, earning grades lower than a score you'd get from randomly guessing on a multiple choice test, Dr. Festor had little tolerance for his stupidity. She refused to inflate his scores to keep him eligible for the team, and when assigned study sessions with his lab partner failed to help, she brought him to her office for a stern scolding. During their conversation, the scientist's disdain turned to a burning desire. While it's not clear who made the salacious offer, the two have been meeting for private "tutoring" sessions with a notable improvement in Freddy's grades.

Ben Jones – Age 34

Ben Jones always had an itch for adventure and dreamed of being a real-life Indiana Jones. All his degree in Egyptian Civilization got him was a dead-end job curating a dusty museum in Philadelphia. With barely any budget to travel and his rock band stuck playing dive bars in Delaware, his aspirations of living life on the wild side were failing to pan out. Then one day, out of the blue, he received an invitation to apply for the newly-established Chair of Ancient Studies at Portstown University in Louisiana. The distinguished position was funded by the O'Dea Family Trust and offered an escape from his current rut.

After being flown in for a series of interviews with his potential benefactors, he was quickly offered the job. Now he spends his days teaching to a small group of disinterested students, while his evenings are monopolized performing obscure research for Barbra O'Dea. In between meetings with archaeologists and foreign visitors selling artifacts, he's managed to find time to date Dr. Lisa Punnett. While things are casual and he's never been one for settling down, he is uniquely drawn to the beautiful and wounded doctor.

Downtown



Paul "Doc" Benson – Age 67

Henrietta Johnson – Age 62

Paul Benson has been a staple of the Portstown community for as long as anyone can remember. Since opening his hardware store Downtown over 40 years ago, he's been the go-to person for any handy work needed in the small town. His penchant for diagnosing and fixing problems in everything from appliances to plumbing, and even computers, earned him his nickname, "Doc".

Not everyone in Portstown, however, has the same level of affection for the grandfatherly figure. The Blades have been extorting Benson for years, forcing him to make payments for "protection" to ensure that his store windows remain unbroken and his shelves unlooted. While he is strictly forbidden from reaching out to the police, Benson did mention his dilemma to Mayor Givens once, only to have his concerns fall on deaf ears.

With crime on the rise in the town he calls home, he's extremely proud of his daughter Jessica, who has recently joined the Portstown Police. Although he's secretly worried about her readiness for such an intense job, he hopes that his new connection to the law may finally free him from his arrangement with The Blades.

Henrietta is part of the glue that holds Portstown together. As the owner of the town's only grocery store, every man, woman, and child has come to lean on her for sustenance. She's a friend to all, and a mother figure to many. However, only one person in Portstown can actually call her "mom", her adopted son, Joe.

Married at a young age, Henrietta was unable to conceive. She spent countless nights at church, praying for a child that she would never bear. When it seemed like she would grow old without a child, she was given the opportunity to adopt three-year-old Joe and raised him with all the love she had to give.

As well-liked as she is, Henrietta is not without adversaries. For years, Mayor Givens has been angling to bring a big-box superstore to Portstown, adding competition that would almost certainly cripple her small business and force her out of town. Petitions and protests fell on deaf ears, and the process was only halted when Trashie Quigley produced zoning documents that revealed the store's construction would violate a nature preserve. When they bumped into each other weeks later, Henrietta extended gratitude to Trashie. Taken aback, Trashie replied that she did it because "Joe needs to be here", and then strolled away muttering to herself.



Shaun Edgar – Age 54

Shaun Edgar runs an eclectic store in Downtown Portstown. Although the sign reads "antiques", everyone knows it's essentially a pawn shop. The store is very much a reflection of its owner, who outwardly appears to be a sophisticated Brit with an eye for the finer things in life, but behind closed doors is a football hooligan who still lives with his mother.

Shaun has a special knack for finding rare items and placing them in the hands of their wealthy new owners. This has made him especially useful to Barbra O'Dea who has taken a keen interest in historical artifacts in recent years. Barbra finds Shaun's polished demeanor quite appealing and has taken quite the liking to the antiques dealer. While Shaun finds Barbra a bit eccentric and overwhelming, he knows a good opportunity when he sees one and has aligned his interests with the heiress's pocketbook.

Portstown General Hospital



Dr. Lisa Punnett – Age 47

There's not a smarter, harder worker in all of Portstown than Dr. Lisa Punnett. Graduate of Stanford, and trained at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Punnett was at the top of her field and a noted academic. Then, the woman who loved her career, fell head over heels for a man from Portstown, Louisiana.

She traded her prestige for a position at Portstown General and a chance at true happiness. For a while, she found it, and then the cancer struck. Things went too fast. There was no wedding, no children – only a pile of medical bills and a hole in her heart. Although she had every reason to leave Portstown, she chose to stay. Perhaps the town was the only way to retain a piece of him.

Now, she buries herself in her work, routinely putting in 14-16 hour shifts. A few months ago, Karey Enos dragged her to a singles event where she met Professor Ben Jones. The two have been seeing each other casually, but the intriguing history professor is no replacement for the love of her life.



Dr. Milton Blausch - Age 53

Dr. Milton Blausch was once the face of Portstown General Hospital. As the Chief of Surgery, he literally held the lives of then townsfolk in his hands. He was in line to become the hospital's Medical Director when tragedy struck. After losing his wife and being left to raise their nine-year old daughter alone, he entered a spiral. He stopped operating and started drinking heavily. With his medical license hanging in the balance and youth and social services threatening his custody of Brenda, he made the necessary changes to preserve his crumbling life.

A brief stint in rehab was enough to keep him sober, but failed to ease the pain. He still refuses to operate, instead swinging night shifts in the ER, splinting broken bones and sewing up drunks after bar fights. He lives in the same house as his daughter, but the two barely speak. He's strung-out, short-tempered, and anti-social, nothing like the shining hero he once was. Although he professes his innocence, he is currently under investigation regarding a large number of opioids that disappeared from the hospital pharmacy and may be getting funneled through Brain Bucket.



Karey Z. Enos – Age 27

Karey Enos has lived in Portstown for three years. After transferring from her prior nursing job at Tulane Medical Center, she took a bedside position in the Portstown General ICU. Portstown is not a hotbed of activity for an attractive woman in her 20's, but Karey has managed to carve out a life for herself. She befriended Dr. Lisa Punnett and the two socialize when Karey can pry her away from work. After striking out on the dating scene, fate brought love into her life.

Two years ago, the yacht carrying Joseph Conway capsized during a routine outing. While the billionaire was uninjured, he was held in the ICU overnight for observation. With little else to occupy his time, patient Conway spent the evening hitting on his young nurse who was flattered by the affection. After his discharge, Karey found herself the recipient of lavish bouquets of flowers and an invitation to a private evening on Joseph's boat. The two have been seeing each other regularly ever since. While Karey isn't quite sure she's the only woman in his life, the thrill of Joseph's romantic gestures certainly provide more satisfaction than advances from the low-lifes hanging out at the Brain Bucket.

The Hills





Trashie Quigley - Age 52

Known throughout Portstown, but not understood, Trashie is the de facto leader of The Hills community. A self-labeled naturalist, Trashie lives off the land and spends her day communing with the forest. She is the sole point of connection between the people of The Hills and the mysterious "Isaac", their unseen spiritual guide.

While most members of the Hills rarely leave the compound, Trashie is commonly seen strolling the streets of Portstown and is the source of many whispers and side glances. On more than one occasion, her ventures have ended in the back of a police car, after verbal confrontations with the townsfolk or tripping out on psychedelics.

Despite her eccentric exterior, Trashie is extremely quick-witted and her loyalty to the people of the Hills knows no bounds. She is viewed as a mother-figure by most, and appears regularly in Mayor Givens' office to advocate policy on behalf of her community. Lately, she has been spending more and more time in the woods. While none of The Hills members are quite sure what is going on, she apparently told Marilyn Breslin, in confidence, that she has been having "visions".

Allan Tarman - Age 31

Allan is the largest, strongest man in The Hills community. He is generally quiet and keeps to himself, being naturally mistrustful of others. He lives in a homemade underground bunker, which he crafted to avoid the radio signals of the "outsiders" who are trying to read his thoughts.

Six years ago, Allan went missing for two weeks. Since his return, he has been subject to violent bursts of epilepsy that require large amounts of sedatives to control. He has no recollection of his whereabouts during that time, but claims to have been experimented on. He is fiercely loyal to Trashie, who is the only person he truly trusts. He has also befriended Marilyn Breslin, and feels drawn to act as her protector, although he's unsure from what.



Scuzzer Peck – Age 42

Most members of The Hills do not fit well in normal society. Scuzzer, however, barely fits in with the members of The Hills. He spends his days fiddling with shortwave radio and other signaling devices. While Scuzzer has been overheard transmitting broadcasts and quoting military jargon, it is unclear exactly who he is communicating with (or if anyone is actually on the receiving end).

For all the time he spends wearing a headset, talking into his microphone, he rarely speaks a word to anyone in the community. The only time he was noted to experience a connection is when Rock Breslin returned to The Hills to raise Marilyn. The two would often sit around a fire and get drunk at night. After Rock went to prison, Scuzzer withdrew to his small cottage, which many in the community jokingly refer to as the "Radio Shack".

Monroeville Shopping Mall









Lana Ellison – Age 42

Lana is without-a-doubt the most successful self-made woman in Portstown. She was not born into wealth and didn't marry well, like many of the town's female elite. Rather, she majored in business and graduated from Portstown U and then took a loan to open "Harriet's", a small home good store named after her grandmother. Within five years, the loan was paid off and Harriet's had grown into a full-on department store. When the Monroeville Shopping Mall expansion took place, Harriet's was the centerpiece of the addition.

Her homespun success has given many in Portstown a sense of pride and has made her extremely popular with the locals. When Mayor Givens raised the local sales tax to fund further expansion of Belle River, it was Lana who was chosen to stand at the front lines and lead the picketing. When Mayor Givens turned a deaf ear, it was Lana who was urged to run against him in the upcoming election, a nomination she resolutely accepted. While she lacks the deep pockets of the Conways, Lana has positioned herself well with both the people in town and the members of the Hills community. She now presents a serious threat to unseat the incumbent Givens, which has put her firmly in the crosshairs of the Portstown establishment.

Diana Wright - Age 60

Diana grew up in England and when she boarded a plane to New Orleans forty years ago, she had no idea that she would never go back. While on her trip she met a handsome policeman named Pete Washer and fell in love. They eventually laid down roots in Portstown, with Pete joining the force and Diana opening up a small art studio Downtown. Eventually the kids came along.

At first, it seemed like the Washers were living the American Dream. However, as family life grew busier, Diana had less time for her art and shut down the studio. Without an outlet to express herself, she felt like a piece of her was missing. She resented Pete's long hours, and when he would come home drunk late at night, the two would end up in epic fights. One night, things escalated and got violent. Diana took the kids and left.

After the divorce was finalized, she thought about going back to her art, but she never fully had it in her to rebuild the studio. She ended up taking a job at the department store in the mall, working for Lana Ellison. The two became close friends, and Diana is now managing her Mayoral campaign.

Joe Johnson - Age 23

To those passing by, there doesn't appear to be anything special about Joe Johnson. He works a boring job at the phone kiosk at the mall. He lives with his mother who runs the small grocery store Downtown. While he has dreams of escaping to the big city, he seems destined to spend his life in this small town. Heck, even his name is as generic as they come. However, if you wound the clock back fifteen years, you'd learn that this seemingly unremarkable man was once known as the "miracle child" of Portstown.

On a blistering hot July day, Joe went missing during a trip to the town swimming pool. After his mother, Henrietta, frantically alerted the lifeguards, the crowded pool was cleared, revealing the child at the bottom of the deep end. No one knows exactly how long Joe spent at the bottom of that pool, but witnesses say it was at least 20 minutes. After multiple failed rounds of CPR, his pulseless body was loaded onto an ambulance and driven to Portstown General. That evening, the mourners holding vigil at the St. Lazarus Church had their prayers interrupted by Henrietta Johnson, who burst through the doors of the church, with joyful cries that her son was alive. For years, Joe was viewed by the townsfolk as something special. Over time, the memories of that day have faded and the miraculous child is now an ordinary man.

Brenda Blausch - Age 19

Brenda started out with a fairy tale childhood. She had two doting parents, both doctors, and lived in a big house with a white picket fence on the good side of town. Then when she turned nine "the incident" happened. To this day, Brenda isn't exactly sure of the details, but that's what her father calls the tragic event that took her mother's life. On that fateful day, she lost not one, but two parents. Her father was never the same in the wake of her mother's death. He became a shell of himself, took to drinking, was suspended from his job at the hospital. To call him a deadbeat dad would be giving him too much credit. He wasn't a father at all. Just a man who shared a roof with her and paid her bills.

Since that day, Brenda has largely been left to take care of herself. She graduated high school, barely. Although she inherited her parents' smarts, she lacked the motivation to propel herself forward. She never bothered to apply for college, instead taking a job at the register at the sporting goods store at the mall. These days, she doesn't see much reason to keep going and get out of bed. Although the guy working at the phone kiosk did catch her eye. They bumped into each other one day at the food court, and he said his name was Joe. Brenda thinks she's caught him checking her out a few times when she walked by his counter.

Nerdy Nuggets



Chunk Philbin – Age 18

Charles "Chunk" Philbin is an unassuming college student paying his way through Portstown U behind the fryer at Nerdy Nuggets. Philbin grew up in Portstown and his middling grades left him with only one option when it came to higher education. Not that his obligations would have allowed Chunk to leave town anyway. After his mother passed away from an autoimmune condition, Chunk was raised by his grandmother, with whom he shares an apartment on the poor side of town.

Philbin is currently a film major and daydreams of directing a romantic comedy in which he wins the heart of his leading lady Tina Randolph. Since their days on the school playground, Chunk has been completely enamored with Tina. However, he has never been able to escape the "friend zone" and watched from the sidelines as other, more impressive gentlemen accompanied her to the prom and weekend dates at the mall. As the two entered Portstown University, Chunk planned on working up the courage to make his move. However, by midway through the first day of freshman orientation, Tina's affection had already been scooped up by football standout, Freddy Hansom.

As their social circles separated over the first semester, Chunk and Tina's relationship has transitioned from close conversations to obligatory waves in the hall. Adding insult to the situation, Chunk was assigned as Freddy's biology lab partner and tasked with holding extra study sessions to help improve the jock's flunking grade.

Robert Navelle - Age 18

Funny, engaging, and undeniably cool, Robert Navelle is the kind of person that everyone wants to be friends with. Somehow, he ended up as besties with Chunk Philbin, who happens to be on the opposite end of the popularity spectrum. Since middle school, the two have been inseparable and now work the fryers at Nerdy Nuggets.

What drew Robert to Chunk may have been his friend's quiet, thoughtful tendencies, which reminded him of his older half-brother, Columbus Eisenberg. For a long time, Robert and Columbus were joined at the hip and did everything together. Robert was dreading the day that Columbus would leave and go off to college, but never imagined that something worse would happen. When Columbus was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison, Robert's world was completely shattered. Robert is fully convinced of his brother's innocence and has gone to visit his brother every weekend since he was incarcerated, without fail.





Marilyn Breslin - Age 19

Marilyn wasn't given the easiest lot in life. Her mother abandoned her days after she was born, leaving her to be raised by a single father, Rock Breslin. She grew up in a small hut in The Hills. By its nature, the commune doesn't lend itself well to family life and children, so she grew up with few friends, surrounded by outsiders, oddballs, and conspiracy theorists. While she was still young, her father was arrested on drug charges and sent to Belle River, where he currently resides.

With no one to care for her, she was taken in by community leader, Trashie Quigley. While Trashie made sure that Marilyn was safe and fed, she lacked any real maternal instincts. Marilyn has been mostly left to fend for herself, although she has developed ties to some members of the commune, such as Allan Tarman. She is currently working at Nerdy Nuggets and saving up to be able to rent a place and start a new life somewhere else.

Portstown Police Station



Pete Washer - Age 63

Pete Washer is the Portstown Chief of Police. He has spent his entire career protecting the town. Early on, the job was easy. The quiet town had almost no crime and few visitors from outside. Pete spent the time created by the boredom nursing a bottle of alcohol. Eventually, the years of drinking caught up to him. His propensity for violent outbursts led to the end of his marriage to Diana Washer (now Wright).

His alcoholism would have also cost him his job, if he weren't adept at covering his tracks and burying bodies. Eventually, he was promoted to the position of Chief, more by default than being deserving. He eventually gained sobriety, and tried (and failed) to reunite with Diana.

While not the violent man he used to be, he still wrestles with his demons. Under his slipshod leadership, crime in Portstown has reached an all-time high. The Blades gang is running rampant and the waterfront has become a hotbed for drug trafficking. Despite the growing distrust of the community, Pete has maintained his position of power by kowtowing to the whims of Mayor Givens. Most of his best officers have quit out of apathy or disgust. He was eventually forced to hire his screw-up nephew Tom and the naive female rookie to keep the station staffed.



Tom Washer – Age 32

Handsome, athletic, charming, and the 2012 winner of the Yacht Club's "Mr. Portstown" competition, Tom Washer seemed destined for great things. With his uncle being Chief of Police, everyone assumed that Tom would join the family business and become an officer. What they didn't expect was the string of disgraces that would follow in the wake of Washer's popularity.

First, it was the partying that led to a DUI. Next, it was being found beaten to a pulp outside the Brain Bucket as recourse for unpaid gambling debts. The questionable life choices continued, excluding him from any shot at entering the police academy. The screw-ups continued, culminating in a trip to the emergency room six years ago for a massive seizure episode, presumed to be due to some kind of substance abuse.

After hitting that low, Tom made a concerted effort to clean up his life. After several years of trouble-free living, a lack of available officers left his uncle Pete desperate enough to pull a few strings to get him in a spot at the academy. Tom is now an excellent officer, clean cut, heroic, and a brilliant strategist. However, the shadows of his past and his uncle's less-than-stellar reputation still hang over him.



Jessica Benson - Age 25

After growing up in her father's hardware store and walking the streets of Downtown each day there isn't a face that's not familiar to Jessica Benson. After graduating from Portstown U, she felt the call to protect and serve the people of the town she loves. Unfortunately, calling and capability do not always go hand in hand. Jessica's time in the police academy was an unmitigated disaster. She failed her weapons training, skated by the exam with a razor thin margin, and would frequently break down crying. Psychological assessments found her to be indecisive and gullible. Nearly dismissed on several occasions, she persevered and graduated.

In the end, the only station desperate enough to employ her was in her hometown. In the first year on the job, she shed more tears than traffic tickets. When responding to incidents at the Brain Bucket, she's met with laughter and disrespect. One day, she hopes to be worthy of the badge, but it doesn't seem like that will be anytime soon.

Belle River Penitentiary



Juan O'de Dead - Age "In His Thirties"

No one knows exactly where Juan O'de Dead comes from, but the trail of bodies that lie in his wake stretches all the way to Juarez, Mexico. Fifteen years ago, the "Demonio Blanco" terrorized the city with a massive string of seemingly senseless killings. With the body count rising into the 60's and the pace of the murders accelerating, the Mexican government staged an all-out manhunt for the serial killer.

Ultimately, it was pursuit by the drug cartel that pushed Juan across the border. No longer the most feared operation in Juarez, the cartel placed a \$20 million bounty on his head. Shortly thereafter, bodies began turning up across Texas from El Paso to Galveston. Male, female, old, and young – there was no pattern to the brutal killings and seemingly no motive. America's 4th most wanted man was on pace to become one of the most prolific mass murderers in U.S. history before a brazen act lead to his capture.

In stark contrast to his usual shadowy murders, O'de Dead strangled a silver-haired businessman in broad view during a charity dinner in Baton Rouge. After his conviction and twenty-three life sentences, he was transferred to Belle River. Within days, eight leaders of the prison's gangs were found dead in the yard. O'de Dead has sat on the penitentiary's throne ever since.



Rock Breslin - Age 43

Rock has spent his entire life in Portstown. Growing up as a member of the Hills commune, he felt connected to his community but an outcast at school. Things changed in the 10th grade when beauty queen Betsy Dee was assigned as his science lab partner. The unlikely pair found "chemistry" in more ways than one. As Betsy pulled him up the social ladder, Rock felt pressure to break away from his people and their backwards way of living. He eventually left the commune, and earned room and board doing handiwork at the Buckner Estate. After being named King and Queen of the prom, Rock planned to propose to Betsy. The moment never came, as Betsy was awarded a full-ride to the University of Miami.

After a summer that passed too quickly, Betsy left an aimless Rock behind in Portstown. Her calls and letters became fewer and farther apart, until they eventually stopped. Rock returned to the Hills, eventually raising a daughter, Marilyn, as a single father. When Betsy returned to Portstown, now a Conway, something changed in Rock. Determined to shun the life of poverty that contrasted with the Conways, he took to crime, peddling drugs out of the Brain Bucket. Eventually, caught and arrested, he was sentenced to twenty years in the Belle River Penitentiary. On the second day of his incarceration, seemingly out of nowhere, he was offered a place in Juan O'de Dead's gang. He quickly became O'de Dead's right-hand man, a role he still holds today.



Columbus Eisenberg – Age 28

Columbus was once one of Portstown's most promising youths. Raised by a church-attending single mother, both he and his younger half-brother, Robert were known for being polite, well-mannered boys. In his high-school years, Columbus became a stand-out sprinter and a star student and was offered a full scholarship to LSU.

Days before he left for college, his hopeful future took a dark turn. Found blood-soaked and holding the weapon over the body of a murder victim, Columbus was arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced to life in prison. At the behest of his mother, he was allowed to serve his time at the local Belle River Penitentiary, where he has remained for ten years.

His pleasant demeanor made him a favorite with the guards, but also a target to the other inmates. After an altercation with Juan O'de Dead's crew left one attacker permanently blind in both eyes, Columbus was moved to solitary confinement. He spends his days reading books and meditating in silence.

The Outsiders



James Maxwell – Age 44

Growing up as the son of a two-star Army General, James Maxwell used strict rules and discipline to reach his full potential. A straight-A student, phenomenal athlete, and stalwart of his community, James was accepted to West Point and graduated at the top of his class. He served a tour in Bosnia and two in Afghanistan, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Days before his second tour ended, Maxwell's convoy came under fire and he was captured by the Taliban. Presumed dead, he remained in captivity for three years until he was found during a military raid on his sleeper cell. Once home, James sought to return to the only life he had ever known and resume active duty. The years of torture, however, had taken their toll and he was declared mentally unfit for combat due to poor impulse control, lack of basic human empathy, and rage issues.

Maxwell became a recluse and filled the void in his life with hand-to-hand combat training. 48 hours ago, he was approached by a high-ranking military official and offered a special assignment, which he accepted. After boarding a helicopter to New Orleans, he and Private Rand arrived by boat to Portstown.



Edith Rand – Age 24

Edith has patchy fond memories of her early childhood. Rocking horses, pigtails, birthday parties, and two loving parents. They stand in abrupt contrast to the chaotic reality of her youth spent in the Miami foster care system. Hunger, abuse, and a lack of security defined her formative years as she bounced from caregiver to caregiver, never spending more than two years in a single home.

Most children would have been rendered broken and hopeless, but as she reached adulthood, Edith used her experience as fuel to make the world better. After spending time overseas on humanitarian missions, Edith enlisted in the Army. She excelled at basic training, her years of hardship giving her the edge needed to endure.

Fresh off her promotion to private first class, Edith was approached by her superior regarding a secret tactical mission. With no details of what lay ahead, she found herself about a boat to Portstown, Louisiana, sitting across from a twitchy, strung-out Colonel.



JOURNAL ENTRIES

By now, we are all well aware that the small hamlet of Portstown, Louisiana is not quite what it seems.

There is a palpable darkness growing underneath the surface. Common townsfolk may not be so common after all. Events that seemed to be coincidences may actually be a conspiracy. As the questions begin to boil at a heightened pace and the danger reaches a crescendo, the answer to unraveling it all may rest with one man.

A dead man.

...And his grandson who is left behind to piece together the carefully crafted nonsense that just may be the key to saving humanity.



First Entry January 11, 2022

A new journal . . . barely feels worth the effort. This is journal #17 and, as previously recorded, all completed journals are stored together for the sake of posterity. Don't know why I keep them, no one is ever going to read these. At least it's helping me keep track of k.

The town has been quiet recently. I prefer that.

Meeting Freddy and his pack of idiots tomorrow by the pier. They have something that I "need to see." Likely just another trick at my expense. Either way, it's an excuse to get out of this apartment and to take a break from cleaning out the storage unit:

Saw an old dresser and

some wooden trunks in the back of the unit today. Probably filled with more newspapers.

Why did he keep so many? Still can't make heads or tails out of the highlighted sections in each paper. Could have just been his old age.

Nothing more for today.

Second Entry

January 12, 2022

Old keys ... I don't know why they thought it was so funny. Sure, Opa kept everything people would throw out. He hated the idea of waste but it's just because of all he went through. Eccentric... maybe, but he wasn't crazy! People would have known that if they just talked to him.

I took the keys and left, going past the Estate to avoid the University. Didn't feel like being starred at and mocked any more today. I know what they think. Must be nice to skate through life on daddy's trust fund. . Idiots!!

Thought I saw k walking into town but it was just Trashie and her backpack full of

"experiments." I think I'll hold on to these keys just to remind myself that people aren't worth the effort.

Didn't make it to the unit today but started looking through some of the old newspapers. There's something about numbers that page numbers on different days are circled and then it's just random words or phrases highlighted throughout the page

My favorite find today had to be,

"molecular regeneration through biophilic design" [page 7].

Maybe he was just highlighting stuff he didn't understand to look up later. The man had enough

books on languages, some I've never even heard of, you would think he knew every word and phrase there was.

Nothing more for today. Time to battle my



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Third Entry January 14, 2022

books on languages, some Eve never even heard of you would think he knew every word and phrase there was

Nothing more for today. Time to wattle my

I can't stomach another year of this.

Nothing changes. It's the same fake people running-around, always smiling, always an empty greeting. Mrs. Conway has started kissing everyone on both cheeks ever since her trip overseas and she keeps saying,, "It's European. Everyone does it." Mr. Conway, on the other hand, doesn't even acknowledge people. He just stares at his phone, like he's waiting for a call or something.

Where did they even 90?, There are no photos online (which seems weird). Safe to assume they didn't 90 anywhere warm as Mr. Conway is so pale he looks almost clear. I crossed the street to avoid them. I think she noticed.

k hasn't been around much lately, giving me less reason to get out of bed every morning. Something about "the big shipment" has her all concerned. I should pay better attention when she talks but when I get close to her I swear I lose consciousness.



Found some letters in the dresser drawers the unit. Pretty sure they are in Russian.

Definitely not German or Dutch.

I'll take them to Candace tomorrow at the Pawn Shop. She loves this stuff. Nothing more. Life is pointless. and the lot of the second is

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Fourth Entry

January 18, 2022



I saw k today. She smiled at me when I passed her on the sidewalk. I did that little wave/nod

thing like an idiot and just kept walking.



I don't think she saw me follow her to The Bucket. I hate that place.

She was wearing this sort of burnt orange orange sweatshirt over her waders. How can she care so little about what people think of her and why does that make her so much more attractive?

k seemed strangely focused today like she had mission. By the time I got situated in the back corner booth she was already in the middle of

a conversation at the bar. Couldn't really hear what she was talking about but it got pretty heated when Breaker pointed one hand to the door and made some sort of lewd gesture with the other hand. It's a wonder that idiot could do two different things at the same time.

I swear he's the worst bartender in the world but the best argument we have for evolution.

All I caught of the conversation was - "you'll be sorry you don't have them when the time comes"

Then she violently whipped around flipped two of the stools, annd stormed out. She walked right past me but I could tell her mind was in a different place so I don't think noticed me there. I waited 15 minutes, just to be sure she was gone and walked out.

Nothing on the letters yet but it's only been few days.

Favorite find from the newspapers today -"saddlery etchings" [page 3]

Heading back to the unit for a full day of sorting tomorrow.



108 newspapers in the dresser, 212 in the first chest, and 117 in the second, making 437 total today. I wasn't able to get into the third and final chest. The top is sautered shut.



No handles, no hinges.

I need to remember to bring a crowbar!!

So far that brings the grand total to just under 1,100 newspapers.

I've stopped counting random scraps.

Roughly a quarter of the newspapers are local and pretty recent. Oldest paper I found is from 2004 but they are water: damaged. Wallstreet Journal, Boston Globe, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune cities. Maybe the older papers were destroyed by the Hurricane. Come to think of it, the local paper had died off about 5 years prior to the Hurricane. Only reason the town survived, really, is thanks to the funds and jobs brought in when they built the Prison.

I also found a handful of old leather notebooks filled with numbers in the second chest. There doesn't appear to be any patterns, just line after line of random numbers and the occasional symbol I don't recognize.

I'm keeping the notebooks with me, for now.

Headed to bed early tonight, tomorrow is the day k typically goes to the pier to pick up her food for the commune. It's my favorite time of the week. Just before dawn,. The town is still groggy or hungover, and for about 15 minutes it's like we're the only two people in the world.

Need to remember to ship myself another package soon to keep up appearances.

From Munich this time, I think.

Goodnight loser.
Sixth Entry January 21, 2022

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Something is going on at the Estate. The lights have been on the past few days and the shades are drawn over every window.

I met the groundskeeper, Rudy, today. Said he's been taking care of the place for the last 50 years and this is the first activity he's seen at the Buckner Estate the O'Dea family moved out.



I see Barbra and Johnny O'Dea from time to time in town. Tragic what happened to them. Barbra's never never been the same.

Rudy didn't seem to know much. Said he was told to turn on all the lights and make sure the garages were secure and accessible. He didn't seem keen on

discussing anything further with me. In fact, he rushed me out when he caught me staring at the tattoo on his left forearm. Pulled his sleeve down quickly and told me to go. I think he knew Opa somehow ... that's the exact same tattoo.

k didn't show at the pier today, Trashie came in her place. "We have to get ready. Must get ready. They are coming and then they will return."

> I should have known better than to ask her any questions.

went through a stack of newspapers, mostly out of boredom:

"underground tunnel" system" "mansaughter" [pg:81 PIG - July 18, 2015 [pg:15] WJ - Vovember 3, 2012

"new species of primate" "chemical formaldehyde" [p3,6] CT - Yay 21, 2018 [p3,24] PTG - January 3, 2020

It's starting to feel like I'm in a game where I only have the player pieces but no dice, no cards, and no playing board... oh, and I don't know the rules or the objective.

Cal from Candace tonight. She has something to show me. I have to assume she's referring to the letters but she hung up before I could ask. Guess I'm headed downtown tomorrow.

NOTE TO SELF: bring a hammer and crowbar.

Seventh Entry

January 22, 2022

I opened the last chest early this morning. Took the better part of 2 hours to break through all the soldering. The lid lifts off the top, which is a strange feature. Opa must have built it himself.



No newspapers this time, just tubes of this black liquid.

The tubes were stored, very carefully, in these old metal ammunition boxes. 6 tubes in each box, separated by foam. From the dust, at the bottom of the chest, it appears as if there were originally 7 boxes. I only found 6.

Looks as if Opa or someone had moved a box recently but the soldering was definitely not new... not sure what to make of that. The tubes look as if something rotted and maybe dissolved in them a while ago. I didn't examine them too closely. The whole thing kind of skeeves me out.

Brought one box back to the loft.

Not sure what I'm going to do with the stuff yet but I feel like I can't just throw them out without knowing a little more.

Candace didn't want to meet in the pawnshop this afternoon. Vo one is ever in there during the day but whatever. I went around back and down through the coal shoot to the basement.

Poked around a bit at some of the oddities they had in storage. Funny looking rifles in a glass cabinet, an apothecary table, some knock-off watches, and jewelry.

She wasn't able to decipher the letters yet but she figured out that they were written in Crimean Gothic, a dead cast Germanic language. I know Opa had some relatives from overseas but the whole thing still feels out of place. Candace scanned and sent images of the letters to a friend in the city.

A weird day and another dead end, for now.

IT BEGINS (DAYS 1-5)

ALL IS CALM - January 24-25

Portstown, Louisiana. A secluded slice of the nation's swamplands, riddled with anachronistic architecture and plagued by the stale stench of small-town living. It's the kind of place where both nothing and everything happens, a paradox that would inevitably catch up to the population of some 10,000 people that call the burgh home.

Our story starts like any other day in the sleepy town of Portstown. While many found his overexaggerated personality and crude attempts at delivering news to be problematic at best, the boisterous voice of local jockey Ron Vermillion boomed from radios all over town. Though it seemed like everyone in Portstown listened to him religiously, much of Vermillion's audience simply needed the constant noise to drown out the monotony of a lifetime's worth of uneventful days.

The only glimmer of excitement threatening Portstown's perpetual dreariness is the upcoming Yacht Club Open House, and this year, the antithetical Porties of the Hills appear to have a surprise for the big event. But it's a wonder if they know just how big of a surprise they have, as the future of Portstown is on the brink of change. There's a heaviness in the air as these most recent days wind to a close, as if a brewing storm is soon to barrel down on the Louisiana town.

And yet the radios still blare, and Vermillion rambles on about spider monkeys and crushed-velvet suits as if the course of some 10,000 lives isn't about to change in unanticipated ways.









BROADCAST Day 1 / January 24, 2022

Goooood Morning Portstown! You're listening to the one... the only... WPTR, Portstown's number one local news, traffic, and weather station. I'm Ron Vermillion and here's what's happening.

Well, it's a brand new week and you know what that means... It's time for another "Revealing Ron" segment where I tell all of you a fascinating anecdote from my life.

The year ... 1999. The place ... the copper mines of Calcutta.

I was a spry young thing, looking for copper and romance as all young men do, when I met a wonderful guide by the name of Higgens who took me under her wing and taught me how to speak the King's English.

I remember, she would have me do these crazy exercises - "The Whale at Yale is Known for His Great Tail" ... over and over again I would recite that.

Of course, we had to fool everyone at the queen's ball that I was a Duke...

(Hand over the mic, talking to station manager) What... No Jerry, I'm not stealing the story of My Fair Lady ... No, no... they stole it from me Jerry. What's that? Did I sell pretty flowers out of a basket? You ruin it every time Jerry! No, I won't continue. I don't even want to tell the story anymore.

(Back to broadcast) We'll have to leave it there for now folks.

In local news the town is ripe with anticipation this week for the Yacht Club's annual open house scheduled for Wednesday but not for the reason you might expect.

There have been stirrings recently amongst the Hills community. Talks of a big event surrounding the festivities have started to emerge as townspeople have noticed an increase in traffic from the Hills commune primarily centered around the town's pier.

When approached for clarification, Hills leader Karey Ann-Hicks told town officials that a shipment is coming for the commune. The contents of the shipment remain unclear.

As usual, stay with us for the traffic report with our eyes in the sky Steven Mandrews which is coming at you on the quarter-hour.

And I don't know about you but I need a pick me up this Monday so lets get into our week with a track. This is Coming Back Home by We Are The Good... as ever, let's keep it classy out there Portstown.



JOURNAL: Eighth Entry

January 24, 2022



I went back to The Estate today to look for Rudy. I have more questions every day and I feel like he knows a lot more than he's telling me.

They have 2 guards at The Estate now. Real thugs that don't have a brain cell between the two of them from what I could tell. Overheard of them taking about how the Saints deserved to miss the playoffs. Idiots!

I shouldn't have snuck onto the grounds but I needed to see what was going on and I had to atleast try and find Rudy. I never saw him but I did find an window with an open curtain.

Hid myself pretty well, as if it mattered with the two meat-heads they have walking the grounds.

When I looked into the house I saw tactical gear

- . Night Vision goggles
- · a handful of maps of Portstown.
- flashlights
- · some hylon rope

Pretty sure I saw a gun case or two but they were huge so I have no idea what was actually in therm.

I wonder if there's something in the mine?

Didn't get to look much longer, the Saints haters were making their rounds.

> I'm going to go back tomorrow. Have to find Rudy!.



BROADCAST Day 2 / January 25, 2022

A Happy Tuesday Morning to you Portstown! You're listening to WPTR - Portstown's number one local news, traffic, and weather station. I'm Ron Vermillion and here's what happening.

Town leaders are being announced today!

To quote a nice British nanny I met one time, these folks are the cream of the crop and the tip of the top and they will serve as our representatives in whatever 2022 holds for our little town.

A handful of candidates have already been announced leaving everyone anxiously watching to see who will fill the remaining spots.

In other news, Portstownians are still mourning the fact that our beloved Crawdaddy Crushers were passed over once again for an opportunity to appear in the NCAA Division 1 Independence Bowl yet again.

Official word came down from the mayor's office today that the football teams application was denied due to a crawfish allergy said to plague too many of the competing teams in the league. Now, I don't know football all that well but there seems to be something fishy going on behind closed doors leading this reporter to question who is keeping our boys from leaving town and why?

We have another peaceful day ahead of us as everyone is making final preparations for tomorrow's Open House party. I, myself, am planning to debut a brand new, black and gold, crushed-velvet suit that I had custom-made by a series of very talented spider monkeys.

(Hand over mic, talking to station manager) That's what the tag says Jerry, spider monkeys.

I don't care what you say about opposable thumbs, maybe they use their little monkey tails Jerry, did you ever think of that? You know what . . . now you're uninvited to my afterparty you monkey hater.

(Back to broadcast) [Clears throat] Staving off any further distractions, we'll keep you on schedule today folks with our traffic report from Steven Mandrews on the quarter-hour.

While you wait, an appropriate sentiment for all of us as we start our day... this is *Best of Luck* by Katrina Stone, and while you enjoy - let's remember to keep it classy today Portstown.



JOURNAL: Ninth Entry

January 25, 2022

And into the local di · York Water Springers white the state of the · Berneyers a loss have not Notice Last 1 (see in fast case or free last time which happen has I make the little which was include in magnetic Canadian of Annual's Langeboor, is find some last out to last mail tority and open, here caused The logith, for the same

Rudy is dead!

Found his truck in the woods behind The Estate and when I checked his cabin it had been boarded shut!



I decided to guestion the guards, pretending to have a delivery

from the hardware store. They claim that no one by Rudy's name or description had ever lived on the premises.

T debated going to the cops but I already know how that would go. It's like this unspoken rule in town. No one discusses the Buckner or O'Dea families and you ask any questions surrounding the murders or

entertain any of the rumors about their "collection" you get immediately shut down or arrested.

but he first finite.

If I'm going to get any answers then I'm going to have to find them myself ..

Rudy had answers. I know he did. This whole thing is so frustrating.

Only bright note from today ... the jocks are apparently carrying a shellfish disease that officially ends their season. It's so ridiculous.

They must be livid. I LOVE IT!

THE BEGINNING OF THE END January 26-27

It's always been touted by religious fanatics and Nostradamus devotees that the end wouldn't be silent. Fire and brimstone would fall upon man and the very depths of Hell would engulf an unsuspecting populous. For the people of Portstown, the postponement of the much-coveted Yacht Club open house was their version of an end-of-the-world scenario. Sure, nobody burst into flames or fell victim to biblicallevel tragedies, but nobody in town was happy about the delay. Even the animated Vermillion delivered the news quite sobered, a state Portstown rarely hears him in.

What they couldn't see was that the news was merely a distraction, shrouding something sinister making its landfall in the swampy town. Scattered along street lights and stop signs, distraught loved ones hung concerning "Missing Person" posters, hoping a kindly resident would help guide one of the three lost souls home. But as time ticked on, the posters simply became decor lining the streets as the ineffectual people of Portstown remained frenzied over the Yacht Club's open house.

Those few that did offer to help locate the missing people directed condemnatory stares toward Chief of Police Pete Washer. Not a man known for springing into action, Washer's reputation proved accurate as he continuously failed to respond to many of the concerns surrounding the missing residents. What phone calls he did take typically ended with no resolution. Just a dismissive grunt and a dial tone.

But what was looming over Portstown was inevitable, and not a soul could avoid the horrors that would soon engulf their lives. Not Vermillion. Not Washer.

Nobody.





BROADCAST Day 3 / January 26, 2022

Good Morning everyone you're listening to WPTR Portstown's number one news, traffic, and weather station. I'm Ron Vermillion and here's what's happening.

Some discouraging news this morning as it seems there will be a delay for the Yacht Club's Open House. According to the Club's website, there has been some quote, unquote "disturbances" to this year's plans. No further details are provided but from the noises I've heard coming out of the Clubhouse the past few days it all sounds like a whole lot of monkey business (chuckles to himself)

(Hand over mic, talking to station manager. This is a recurring gag) I know it's Apes not monkeys Jerry, no one asked for your opinion. I'm friggin hilarious Jerry. You shut your noisemaker.

(Back to broadcast) While we're all looking forward to the party I'm sure we'll be back on track shortly.

We have another beautiful day out there today. Slightly overcast but skies clearing up by midday. Stay with us for the traffic report with eyes in the sky Steven Mandrews, coming at you on the quarter-hour.

Now, let's keep these good morning vibes going with some feel-good rhythms from Richard Farrell and, as always, let's keep it classy Portstown.



JOURNAL: Tenth Entry

January 26, 2022

then I'm going

sw he did. This whole thing is so frustrating.

Only bright note from today... the jocks are apparently carrying a shellfish disease that officially ends their season. It's so ridiculous.

They must be livid. I LOVE IT!

There's a strange energy in the town today. Not sure I can describe it. It may just be me. I've really been missing Opa lately.

I started going through one of his leather journals today. The newest one was only haf finished and you could tell that he was having trouble with his handwriting. The Parkinson's was starting to really affect him near the end.

There was a torn piece of paper, almost like a bookmark, that fel out of the front of the notebook when I opened it. It's the only writing I've found in these notebooks so far. It's just dates but I don't want to lose them so I'm copying it down here:



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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 3,657 Zombies: 61 Infection Rate: 1.6%



BROADCAST Day 4 / January 27, 2022

Good Morning everyone you're listening to WPTR Portstown's number one news, traffic, and weather station. I'm Ron Vermillion and here's what's happening.

We have a crisp and cool day for you today as an uncharacteristic cold front blows through town so you may want to get your winter gear out and head into town for a complimentary Pharisaeer Kaffee.

(Then, with hand over microphone but we can still hear) Jerry, that's a ridiculous name for a spiked coffee beverage, who put this in my script? Get it together Jerry...

(Back to broadcast) Sorry folks, technical issue... as I was saying, go and get a free coffee with booze in it from our General Store.

There is news, this morning, that police are monitoring 3 missing person reports all from the past 24 hours. Retired Police Chief and WPTR informant Joe Bordoni tells us that there is no real cause for alarm as it's redfish season throughout the state. This year, in particular, the water is clean and sitting at 54 degrees... perfect conditions, just off the coast, for fly fishing these 30-pound monsters.

In other news, college kids may have a little too much time on their hands as the new semester gets underway. The latest TikTok trend of prank-calling police stations with donut-related emergencies seems to be expanding. We, ourselves, are not immune having received a handful of anonymous calls all with the same message - "Sirens are down. They are out." I'm not sure who you think you're fooling with boys and girls but Ron Vermillion wasn't born yesterday.

As ever, traffic with eyes in the sky Steven Mandrews is coming at you on the quarter-hour.

Now, let's bring a little positive energy to the day with this debut single from Ollie Joseph called *Bet It Right* and, as always, let's keep it classy Portstown.



JOURNAL: Eleventh Entry

January 27, 2022

People are missing

It's a small town so news gets around pretty quickly and karis is the biggest gossip of them all. She claims to know all of the towns "dirty laundry" thanks to her vantage point working at the mail.

Apparently there's a rumor going around that people aren't just missing, they're being taken and it has something to do with whatever is going on at the Estate.

According to karis, cars have been showing up the last 24 hours, pulling into the garage but never coming back out. She thinks they're running experiments on people in the basement and then dumping the bodies in the swampland of The Hills.

karis is full of crap most of the time but if there's any truth to any of it k will know. I'm going to try and track her down tomorrow after I swing by Opa's storage unit. I want to look around again in case I missed something.

I know I missed something Jr.

The plan is, hit the unit, swing over to the Estate (see what I can see), and then find k in the commune. Maybe I'll ask her to the Yacht Club thing ...

what's the worst that could happen? k doesn't bite dude! you have to keep telling yourself that.

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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 3,619 Zombies: 99 Infection Rate: 2.7%

THE FIRST CLUES - January 28

When the missing persons count topped out at three, Chief Washer could buy time with blanket statements and a few resources thrown at the search. But as the warm bodies kept vanishing, his typical brand of coldness wouldn't suffice. The people demanded answers, and like any person in his position would, Washer diverted attention to the outcasts of Portstown - the Porties, the exiles in the Hills.

For much of Portstown, life went on as usual. Nerdy Nuggets drew its typical weekend crowd and The Brain Bucket roared to life with its unsavory patrons. Those not enjoying a Portstown weekend were hyper-fixated on the televised coverage of Washer's baseless accusations against Trashie Quigley and the Hills commune, praying to whatever god they believed in for the safe return of the growing number of missing townsfolk.

There was plenty to keep eyes fixated elsewhere as a greater evil shambled toward the slice of American swamp. Only Vermillion seemed to have a bead on the strange occurrences unraveling across Portstown, but even he failed to grasp the gravity of it all, equating them to little more than off-season Halloween gags.

As night fell on January 28 and some found themselves wrapped up in a puzzle of newspapers and cyphers, a darkness crept from the impossible corners of reality, unleashing an unstoppable living nightmare. In the glow of the moon, the infected wandered through the streets, their insatiable hunger driving them to sink Portstown into the depths of hell.







BROADCAST Day 5 / January 28, 2022

Good Morning everyone, you're listening to WPTR Portstown's number one news, traffic, and weather station. I'm Ron Vermillion and here's what's happening.

Troubling news from Portstown Police today as the number of missing person cases has just about doubled in 24 hours. Investigators are looking to speak with Karey-Ann Hicks, from the Hills commune, in connection with at least half of the cases. With no major activity recorded at the docks, investigators believe that all those missing are still in or around Portstown. We will keep you up to date as new information becomes available.

And more distressing news as a prison break has been confirmed at Belle River Penitentiary. There have been a handful of eyewitness reports from townspeople seeing felons roaming about the streets of Portstown. Authorities are telling us that this is of primary concern for police and penitentiary guards so no need for great concern as we have been assured that everything is under control.

(Covers mic with hand again and says) Are you kidding me Jerry, no one is going to buy this BS. You're making me look ridiculous here Jerry. I'm going to bite your ears off and feed them to a baby chinchilla.

(Clears throat - Back to broadcast) On a more humorous note, there seems to be a little holiday confusion spreading throughout Portstown as local University shenanigans continue. We have word of small groups of people dressing in elaborate costumes, roaming the streets, moaning, and terrorizing pedestrians. Sounds to this reporter like a mid-year fraternity rush gone wrong... what can you say... boys will be boys.

Looks like it's going to be another cool one out there today so bundle up and let's get our day going with this hometown classic from Ben Bostick, My Country, and as always, let's keep it classy Portstown.



JOURNAL: Twelfth Entry

January 28, 2022



This is so frustrating, I've been over these papers again and again... nothing.

Maybe if people have a little more information the code will be easier to crack.

I've decided to organize the papers by year and edition. Strange... it appears as if Opa only subscribed to a few papers at a time. Always the local paper, and the cities here in Louisinna, but the others seem spread out.

The earliest grouping of papers appears to have been The New York Times. He had a regular subscription from 2004-2006 and then it just stops.

The highlighted sections are spread out but there

is nearly 2 dozen phrases that I found.

I'm going to put them all together, get it photocopied, and then drop by the town bulletin board tonight. Who knows, maybe someone will have figured it out by then.



Newspaper Game Description:

This game was fully explained and launched through the Protagonist's Journal.

While cleaning out his Opa's storage unit our Protagonist begins to go through stacks of old Newspapers. Seemingly random words and phrases were highlighted throughout the collection of papers and thus begins the mystery.

Opa has been in communication with an outside entity that is keeping him apprised of a group of people, known as "They," who are attempting to uncover a serum (later to be discovered as the antidote to the Zombie virus).

For full game details see Protagonist Journal entries from January 12,18, 21,26, and 28-30.

Game Ideation:

This game introduces Opa's love for code and puzzles.

Knowing he was near the end, Opa leaves a trail for our Protagonist to follow - providing him with the translation of his code on a stack of local newspapers (Phrase 6: Find It).

Unable to crack the code on his own, our Protagonist writes down the clues and publishes them to a town bulletin board.

How to Win:

Players must decipher the code that Opa is using by identifying a handful of the following unique details:

- Decipher the Page The pages that are numbered using Roman Numberals
- **Decipher the Line and Letter** The page number (eg. page iv) is the line and the letter (eg. line 4 on the page, letter 4 in the line)
- **Combine the Letters that makeup One Phrase** All Phrases are grouped by a cities Newspaper (eg. one phrase comes from the New York Times, another phrase comes from The Charlotte Observer)
- **Decipher the Words in each Phrase** Letter order is determined by the date of the Newspaper
- **Decipher which Newspapers to Look Through** The Dates found in Opa's Notebook correspond to key WWII events. The same dates (different years) correspond to the order of Newspapers that have a piece of the cypher in them.

Any information would be helpful

January 28 - LETTER F "Jumping the gun" [line 12, page 2] "significant discovery" [line 6, page vi] "in perfect health" [line 23, page 10] "quickly escalated" [line 14, page 14]

April 1 - LETTER V "unable to remember" [line 14, page 1] "popular rope game" [line 4, page 4] "struggle for authority" [line 3, page 5] "location is everything" [line 8, page viii]

May 8 - LETTER I "Internal investigation" [line 1, page 17 "lacking complexity" [line 17, page 57 "fully incapacitated" [line 27, page 87 "put to the test" [line 10, page 107 "difficult to accept" [line 31, page 117 "weigne ridicule" [line 3 page 157

"unique ridicule" [line 3, page 15] "American nickname" [line 9, page 207

Newspaper: The Meridian Star Year: 2021

February 16 - LETTER I "extremely expensive" [line 3, page 3] "not available" [line 41, page 5] "essential information" [line 7, page vii] "taken by surprise" [line 11, page 9] "suitable skill" [line 25, page 12]

April 30 - LETTER D "achieved the goal" [line 1, page 6] "unexplained delay" [line 19, page 8] "notebook discovered" [line 9, page 12] "further investigation' [line 13, page 11] "resembling a duck" [line 6, page 15] "undesirable situation" [line 16, page 16]

August 9 - LETTER T "stay the course" [line 2, page 11] "down to the wire" [line 12, page 9] "tense situation" [line 6, page 13] "behaving badly" [line 14, page 14]

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Any information would be helpful

The Years: 2004-2006

January 8, 2004: "minced oath" [line 7, page 4] February 20, 2004: "aid and abet" [line 11, page 19] October 12, 2004: "black sheep" [line 3, page 17] January 30, 2005: "untimely explosion" [line 3, page iii] February 1, 2005: "ear candy" Eline 5, page 91 March 3, 2005: "sploosh" Eline 3, page 217 March 22, 2005: "chicken nugget shop" [line 15, page xv] March 28, 2005: "inhumanity to man" [line 8, page 1] April 1, 2005: "chance encounter" [line 14, page xiv] April 7, 2005: "The child yelled out" [line 9, page ix] April 28, 2005: "Lanaaa" Eline 18, page 37 May 2, 2005: "chance survival" Eline 10, page 27 May 10, 2005: "virus that killed hundreds" [line 10, page x] May 21, 2005: "debilitating diseases" [line 7, page 4] June 3, 2005: "extraordinary rendition" [line 27, page 4] June 18, 2005: "fool's errand" [line 11, page 3] July 14, 2005: "In the middle of the lake" Eline 2, page 117 July 27, 2005: "a cold day in hell" [line 6, page 18] June 30, 2006: "and no one knows how" [line 15, page xv] August 1, 2006: "jaws of life" [line 2, page 12] August 2, 2006: "the towns destruction" [line 6, page vi] October 23, 2006: "jig is up" Eline 1, page 107 November 19, 2006: "the Eastside bank" [line 37, page 5]

Any information would be helpful

THE SUN Years: 2008-2012 February 3, 2008: "vendetta of extremism" [line 18, page 3] April 15, 2008: "pacifies all known illnesses" [line 1, page 8] May 22, 2008: "mushroom foraging" [line 13, page 2] August 19, 2008: "secretly hidden away" [line 9, page ix] September 13, 2008: "scary secrets" [line 11, page 6] December 10, 2008: "warning signal" [line 5, page v] January 2, 2009: "secrets from the amazon" [line 19, page 1] March 7, 2009: "you're not my supervisor" [line 17, page 4] August 19, 2009: "Read a book!" [line 2, page 8] September 15, 2009: "smell of formaldehyde" [line 14, page xiv] October 11, 2009: "I'm Pacman Jones" [line 3, page 5] November 15, 2009: "strange formula" [line 7, page vii] November 29, 2009: "Rampage!" [line 16, page 10] February 17, 2010: "pencil pipe" [line ?, page 18] March 3, 2010: "mutilation of the body" [line 5, page v] January 31, 2011: "Power blackout." [line 6, page 11] July 15, 2011: "consumed the shopping mall" [line 7, page vii] March 13, 2012: "a slice of the largest pizza" [line 15, page xv] March14, 2012: "Just the tip" [line 17, page 3] April 26, 2012: "armed assailant" Eline 9, page ivj May 29, 2012: "elected officials" [line 4, page 14] August 1, 2012: "unique distraction" [line ?, page ii] August 8, 2012: "tufted ears" [line 8, page 1] September 4, 2012: "grateful grandfather" [line 11, page 4] September 30, 2012: "complicated algorithm" [line 11, page xi]

December 2, 2012: "cumulative hangover" [line 2, page 10]

Any information would be helpful



ABC - Atlanta Business Chronicle TBV - The Birmingham Vews TCO - The Charlotte Observer

May 3, 2020: "they found him" [page xi] - TBV November 16, 2018: "breaking and entering" [page iii] - ABC December 12, 2014: "propoganda films" [page xiv] - TCO November 23, 2017: "unnaturally transformed" [page vii] - ABC June 22, 2019: "deadly weapon" [page ii] - ABC January 20, 2020: "hidden agenda" [page vi] - TBV April 9, 2018: "Small bunker" [page x] - ABC November 12, 2014: "grand gesture" [page 11] - TCO March 17, 2020: "suspected of treason" [page vii] - TBV March 15, 2015: "marked in blood" [page iv] - TCO May 7, 2018: "banana cream pie" [page vii] - ABC October 28, 2015: "laboratory experiments" [page ix] - TCO April 6, 2019: "basement chamber" [page viii] - ABC October 5, 2014: "match this weekend" [page ix] - TCO September 1, 2015: "homemade explosives" [page iiv] - TCO December 8, 2019: "when the allies surfaced" [page viii] - TBN January 21, 2019: "king and country" [page v] - ABC November 15, 2014: "testing at the asylum" [page xvii] - TCO September 28, 2019: "everything changed" [page xvii] - ABC November 9, 2014: "burned to the ground" [page v] - TCO May 20, 2018: "fight for glory" [page viii] - ABC

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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 3,565 Zombies: 153 Infection Rate: 4.1%

FACTIONS (DAYS 6-11)

JOIN A FACTION - January 29

Where can one turn when everything goes to hell?

In a place like Portstown, trust is an especially rare commodity, but when you're thrust into a literal horror movie, you have to take safety where you can find it. Overnight, Mayor Just Givens was forced into the leadership role he previously failed to uphold and declared a state of emergency. Not everyone quite understood why, as rumors of flesh-eating monsters seemed incredulous at best, but Givens' scattered and erratic demeanor on camera proved discomforting.

Former WPTR anchor Franny Praker had grown accustomed to Givens' cowardice, having watched him fumble through his mayoral duties as the town clerk, but even she was unsettled by his mannerisms during the broadcast. She had heard whispers of the missing people and expected them to turn up in the old coal mine as a few have done in years past. But Givens' press conference painted a graver scenario that, Franny feared, would change Portstown - and her life - forever.

It was barely an hour after night set over the town that Franny heard sounds she'd never heard before. Guttural moans and the unsteady shuffling of feet grew louder near her windows and slowly faded down the street. She glanced at the page full of clues on her coffee table, an activity she intended to immerse herself in as the night went on. But now, it all seemed pointless as fear took hold and she sat in silence, pondering how she'd survive if things were as bad as Givens made them seem. And then the idea sparked to life. If there was one thing Givens was good at, it was keeping away from danger. Knowing the mayor and his benefactor Joseph Conway would take shelter somewhere secure, she packed light and made haste to City Hall. Unbeknownst to her, Conway had set his sights on the recently abandoned prison.

While some were looking for safety inside, at least one knew he'd have to venture into the open air and confront the spreading darkness. Escaping the concrete walls of Belle River wasn't something Columbus ever planned. He dreamed of it, sure; but enacting it didn't cross his mind. His innocence, he hoped, would soon come to light. But when the first of the undead penetrated the prison, none of that mattered. All Columbus cared about was finding his half-brother, Robert Navelle. It seemed hopeless as the infection spread through his fellow inmates, but the riot guards proved distraction enough for the flesh-hungry fiends. Back on the outside, Columbus enjoyed the fresh air for a brief moment before the copper scent of blood filled the air. With Robert's safety still his main worry, Columbus left the prison behind for good and maneuvered through the town, hoping Robert was where he always hung out, whether he was on the clock or not.

Columbus did his best to avoid confrontation, but the night had different plans for the escaped inmate. His trip through town brought him to an overturned army transport, where Edith Rand lay trapped and incapacitated. The zombie presence was slim, affording him the time to help the private escape an otherwise deadly situation. He had hoped to travel alone, but hearing the hungry groans from every corner of town convinced him to let Rand join him on his trek to find his brother.

All across town, residents were scrambling to find safety in numbers. Those that were gathered at the heart of Portstown took what shelter they could find, even if it meant aligning with rivals and nemeses.



BROADCAST Day 6 / January 29, 2022

Good Morning everyone, you're listening to WPTR Portstown's number one news, traffic, and weather station. I'm Ron Vermillion and here's what's happening.

Chaos in Portstown today as a state of emergency was declared earlier this morning.

There are reports of hordes of monster-like human beings, roaming the streets of our town. Some believe these creatures to be some of the missing Portstownians who have experienced a form of brain damage.

Dr. Thurman, of Portstown General, says that there are no known pathogen, chemical, or radioactive substances capable of turning human beings (dead or alive) into rambling monsters ravenous for human flesh.

The best guess, at present, is that there is some sort of virus that travels from host to host through biting. I recall reporting on a similarly chewy incident at the town's daycare facility a few months back. The primary difference here is no one's fighting over a toy and once bitten the virus is said to travel to the brain and multiply rapidly, effectively terminating healthy brain function replacing normal human cravings for a hunger for people's meaty bits.

(Hand over microphone) I don't care if "meaty bits" is in poor taste Jerry. You have no sense of humor. I'll make it "Sweet and Salty Man Jerky" next time, how about that!! You like that Jerry?

(Back to broadcast) Dr. Thurman believes that this behavioral change may be caused by the molecular binding of receptors in the brain which impact behavior... whatever that means!?!?

Needless to say, a lockdown is in effect overnight and people are being asked to stay off the streets except for emergency situations. I know things sound bleak but this is Portstown baby... no one can keep us down.

So, let's add a little funk to this funky situation with a classic rhythm from Aves featuring Bel-Ami. This is Try so Hard... stay safe and, as always, let's keep it classy Portstown.



JOURNAL: Thirteenth Entry

January 29, 2022





THE FACTIONS

Portstown is crumbling.

This once quiet and secluded community is quickly spiraling into madness as the zombie apocalypse dawns. With the infection spreading and the Walker count spiking rapidly, all sense of Southern decorum has been lost. Stores are being looted. The townsfolk have begun attacking each other over food and supplies. Armed gunmen roam the streets as the police have lost all sense of order.

Chaos, however, breeds opportunity. For those looking to seize power, these events have created an opening to claim the throne. The lawlessness has paved a way to enact revenge, steal treasures, and escape shackles. While many seek to benefit from the ensuing destruction, there also remain those few whose only desire is to preserve their family, friends, and the town they call their home.

With society dissipating into the ether, Leaders have emerged to forge a new sense of order. Joining with like-minded people, they have formed factions to provide protection, maintain unity, and carry out their agenda, whether noble or self-serving. As the infection spreads, many of these groups will fall, while others will amass even greater power. In the end, only one group will be left to reign over Portstown.

The question is whether there will be a town left to claim...

Crawdaddy Faction









Dr. Jane Festor

Freddy Hansome

Tina Randolph

Chunk Philbin

As the Walkers descend on Portstown University, Tina Randolph has nowhere to turn. In a turn of good fortune, she stumbles upon her long-time friend Chunk Philbin, who is more than willing to help his damsel in distress. While Chunk urges Tina to leave, she insists that the two must find her boyfriend, Freddy in the chaos. Eventually they find him in the science building after a "tutoring" session with Dr. Festor. When Festor learns of the ensuing apocalypse, her eyes turn to steel. With the help of her three students, she vows to put an end to this horror.

Portstown Faction



Joe Johnson



Brenda Blausch





Henrietta Johnson

Paul "Doc" Benson

With zombies swarming Portstown, Joe Johnson knows he needs to get Downtown to save his mother, Henrietta. As he exits the mall, he saves Brenda Blausch from a Walker and hurries with her to the center of town. Main Street is under siege, but luckily "Doc" Benson has already found Henrietta and barricaded them in the Hardware store. Mother and son are reunited, but they consider this entire town to be their family. It is time to unite the everyday, common people of Portstown and save their community.

Conway Faction



Joseph Conway

Just Givens

James Maxwell

Karey Z. Enos

With civilization crumbling before his very eyes, a man of Joseph Conway's means would have every opportunity to evacuate to safety. However, there is something keeping this wealthy billionaire tied to the town. Conway uses his vast fortune to hire James Maxwell as his mercenary guard. He quickly brings his puppet, Mayor Givens, into the fold to do his bidding as well. With his wife Betsy threatening divorce after their latest feud, there is no longer any need to be discrete. He calls his lover, Karey Enos, to ride out the apocalypse by his side.

Belle River Faction



Juan O'de Dead



Rock Breslin





Scuzzer Peck

Jerry Z. Pitt

With the walls of the prison breached, Juan O'de Dead finally has the opportunity to carry out the plot that brought him to Louisiana in the first place. While his right-hand man, Rock Breslin wants to use his newfound freedom to reconnect with his daughter, Marilyn, he understands that abandoning O'de Dead at this juncture would be a death sentence. Rock contacts his old-time friend, Scuzzer Peck to help him navigate the town and maintain his cover. As the three dodge the law, and the zombies, Jerry Z. Pitt emerges from the shadows. He appears to know O'de Dead, and after a brief discussion, it is clear that the two have something sinister planned.

Brigade Faction









Columbus Eisenberg

Edith Rand

Robert Navelle

Marilyn Breslin

Columbus Eisenberg narrowly made his escape through a prison overrun by zombies. His first mission outside the walls is to locate his little brother Robert and ensure his safety. While making his way through the town, Columbus stumbles upon a female soldier trapped inside an overturned army transport. After rescuing Edith Rand from the wreckage, the two make their way to Nerdy Nuggets where workers Robert and Marilyn are trapped in the freezer, hiding from the Walkers. Columbus and Edith are able to clear an escape path and get them out of the restaurant. Now together, the two brothers look to survive the apocalypse.

Vendetta Faction



Betsy Conway



Harry Cooper



Franny Praker



Steven Mandrews Jr.

After being publicly humiliated by her flirtatious husband at the Yacht Club event, Betsy Conway reached the end of her rope. The two had a historic blow-up and Betsy declared her intention to end the marriage. Alone and sobbing at the club, Betsy was unaware of the dangers lurking outside. Were it not for Harry Cooper's heroic intervention, Mrs. Conway would have quickly become a member of the undead. At Betsy's request, Harry escorts her to City Hall where she meets up with Franny Praker and her boyfriend, Steven Mandrews Jr. With the world crumbling around them, the four make a pact that even if Joseph Conway and Just Givens somehow survive the manic apes, they will not escape their revenge.

Blade Faction



Johnny O'Dea

Knives Morgan

Sludge

Jessica Benson

With the Belle River walls breached, Johnny O'Dea knows that his life is in grave danger. The darkness contained within the penitentiary has been released and will mercilessly hunt him down. Johnny heads to "The Bucket" and offers his fortune in return for protection, an offer which Sludge and Knives Morgan are more than happy to accept. In an odd turn, police officer Jessica Benson arrives on site and teams up with the degenerate Blades gang. The law and the outlaws are an unusual pair, leading many to wonder exactly what is going on behind the scenes with this unexpected alliance.

Relic Faction



Barbra O'Dea

Ben Jones

Dr. Lisa Punnett

Shaun Edgar

Barbra O'Dea felt she was finally on the cusp of reanimating her dead father. A worldwide search for ancient artifacts and mythical powers had yielded a relic of tremendous promise. In the midst of the arrival, chaos broke out, resulting in this ancient artifact being lost in the town. Refusing to let anything get in the way of her life's goal, she enlists the help of her two allies, Ben Jones and Shaun Edgar to recover the relic. Jones agrees, but stipulates that Barbra must use her vast resources to ensure his girlfriend, Dr. Lisa Punnett's safe escape from the town once the artifact is found.

Shield Faction



Pete Washer

Rudi Riccy

Lana Ellison

Diana Wright

Once again, Rudi Riccy found himself cuffed by Pete Washer. What had started as a minor traffic stop escalated to an all-out brawl. However, the two rivals quickly put their differences aside when it became clear that the apocalypse was upon them. Washer put on his lights and sirens and headed towards the mall to rescue his ex-wife. There, he and Riccy found Diana and Lana locked in her office. With the town in shambles, Lana Ellison is more determined than ever to seize control from Mayor Givens and restore order to Portstown.

Outlander Faction



Trashie Quigley



Allan Tarman





Tom Washer

Dr. Milton Blausch

In the worst timing possible, Allan Tarman experienced one of his bouts of epilepsy during a zombie swarm at The Hills Commune. Trashie Quigley was able to fight off the Walkers and bring Tarman to safety. Though 911 calls were coming in from every angle, Quigley managed to get through to Officer Tom Washer who escorted her and Tarman to Portstown General. Though the ER was pure bedlam, Tarman was able to receive care at the hands of Dr. Milton Blausch. With Tarman regaining consciousness, Washer insisted that the three of them seek shelter from the zombies. Trashie refused, stating that "she knew this was coming" and was prepared to save the town.

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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 3,487 Zombies: 231 Infection Rate: 6.2%
THE QUESTS - January 30

The die has been cast, and the pawns issued their tasks.

Even in the face of the apocalypse, everyone has a part to play, and as Portstown slowly began to crumble beneath the weight of the spreading virus, every resident fell into their role. For some, it's simply a matter of following fate, like Juan O'de Dead, a man driven to enact revenge on the O'Dea family. The multiplying zombie horde proved the perfect cover for Juan, who enjoyed very brief freedom after the Belle River Penitentiary prison break. His trek from Mexico to Louisiana and the trail of bodies in his wake had ultimately landed him in the hellhole that was Belle River. His mind became splintered as it fixated on killing Johnny O'Dea, the man responsible for his unnatural life.

But before slaying his creator, the clone wanted something of his own - mementos of the only person that treated him like a human. During his time at Belle River, Juan frequently exchanged letters with Johnny's wife, Allison, and her sympathetic heart gave him something that felt like happiness. Stolen from him by the Warden, the letters were still at the penitentiary, and the zombie assault was the perfect cover to return to the prison and retrieve his memories. Joined by his right-hand-man Rock Breslin, Juan resolved to return to the one place he never wanted to see again.

Though the blood of the innocent and the helpless was being spilled, exacting revenge was still a common thread in Portstown. With tensions at their peak, it was the perfect opportunity to uncover deception - maybe even out an illicit affair between a prominent businessman and an impressionable nurse. When Franny arrived at City Hall, she quickly learned that even zombies weren't enough to pause lover squabbles. Franny found Betsy Conway sobbing at the clerk's desk. Though Betsy had long known of Joseph's infidelity, his public displays of affection towards Karey Enos had left her humiliated. Franny embraced her friend and thought they'd simply wait out the threat in the safety of City Hall, telling embarrassing stories of Joseph, but Betsy had other plans. And unfortunately, Joseph likely already knew of them. Wanting to ruin her husband at all costs, Betsy enlisted Franny's help to scour the town records for a piece of damning evidence.

The zombie threat was spreading quickly throughout Portstown, and those that feared surviving on the street found elsewhere to hole up. Robert Navelle and his coworker Marilyn Breslin weren't what many would consider the types expected to live through something like a zombie apocalypse. Sure, Robert was cool and everyone looked up to him, but that's not a trait that'll get you far when you're hiding in a fast-food freezer and a horde of undead are pounding on the glass windows. Robert and Marilyn had no plan but to wait and dine on frozen chicken nuggets until the nightmare ended, so it was definitely a welcome sight when Columbus and Private Rand burst through the door, coated in the viscera of the nuisance zombies they tore through to get inside.

All over Portstown, everyone seemed to have their mission. Whether it's Barbara O'Dea's obsession with reanimating her father or uncovering the truth behind Joe Johnson's near-death experience as a child, it was as if the undead sparked the initiative that so few had felt when going through their inane days. The Louisiana town was once a place of peace, where one's misgivings or corruption remained out of the public's eye. But just as freely as crimson flowed through the streets, coating everything with the stench of copper and death, a dam of secrets had broken, and they were all fair game.

As the little ants of Portstown scurried about, evading the undead and getting caught up in their soap opera dramas, Trashie Quigley observed from whatever safety she could find. She knew she would need to return to The Hills at some point and survey how the infection had impacted her people. For now, though, she had a need to watch as Portstown became free of its societal shackles and became immersed in complete chaos. And at the center of it, Trashie knew, were key players pulling the town's strings.



JOURNAL: Fourteenth Entry

JANUARY 30, 2022



One thing is clear, those tubes of black liquid are serum and they have something to do with what's going on. Could that be how this whole thing started? Did Opa know this was coming? Did he leave me the first clue, "Find It," intentionally? And, what is "It?"

Whatever IT is I think I need to find it soon... the newspapers seem to be traveling down the East Coast getting closer and closer to Portstown so whoever THEY are ... they're close.





BROADCAST Day 7 / January 30, 2022

Good Morning everyone, you're listening to WPTR Portstown's number one news, traffic, and weather station. I'm Ron Vermillion and here's what's happening.

Our top story continues to be what some are calling the end of days. The virus that appears to reanimate the dead is spreading throughout Portstown as authorities scramble to make any sense out of what it is and how to stop it. The exact number of lives claimed remains unclear as new reports of the infected are proving difficult to confirm.

In other news, a town relic of sorts was discovered today at Town Hall. An ammunition box, circa the 1930s, was found sitting outside the entranceway to the courthouse. The box was reported to be empty except for an envelope containing a slip of paper that reads, *"vburt schuualth"*. A personal etching was also uncovered, engraved on the inside of the box, with the crudely scratched phrase - *"plut cadariou"*. There is no information as to how the box got there or what it means.

Portstownians are being asked to keep an eye out for similar objects as there is widespread belief that the relics may hold some secrets pertaining to the virus. Objects will most likely be almost 100 years old and may just be connected to the population boom of late 1930's early 40's.

Any relics discovered should be posted on the town bulletin board. Let's not leave this one to the red and blue folks, I'm willing to bet we can solve this one on our own. Go get 'em Portstown.

But let's keep this treasure hunt relegated to the daylight hours as lockdown is still in effect from sunset to dawn and all travel should be restricted for emergency purposes only.

Stay safe, keep it classy, and... let's try and not die as we listen to this hit from... [transmission gets cut off]



Artifacts

In the middle of all this chaos a handful of Portstown artifacts have been discovered. They almost don't feel all that important in the middle of all that's going on but what if they hold the key to surviving the massacre happening in Portstown? The initial artifact that was found on the front steps of City Hall:

AMMUNITION BOX

A small, metal box dating from the early 1930's, containing a blank envelope with a slip of paper that says "vburt schuualth". At the bottom, inside of the box is a personal engraving that reads "plut cadariou" with a crudely drawn vile or tube that has been crossed out with an X.



JOURNAL: Fifteenth Entry

JANUARY 30, 2022



FACTION QUESTS

Crawdaddy Faction



Quest for A Cure: Dr. Festor seems to know something about how to reverse the infection. She's playing her cards close to her chest but the professor has revealed that, if she can get into her "workstation", then she might be able to put the pieces for an antidote together.

Step 1: Search for the Access Card. Dr. Festor misplaced the Access Card that she needs to get into her facility. You need to help her retrace her steps front the day when she lost it. The Access Card will be somewhere in either Nerdy Nuggets, the Mall, or Downtown.

Relic Faction



Quest from the Crypt: Barbra O'Dea is so close to being able to reanimate her father and if she can pull it off there's a chance Rupert can get them out of town through the secret tunnels he had his workers create in the Mine Shaft.

Step 1: Search for the Necromancer. Barbra invited a Necromancy Specialist to Portstown who was due to arrive yesterday. The Specialist has information about a mysterious relic. Find the Specialist, find the relic. The only issue is, in all the chaos, Barbra forgot the details of their arrival and she can't remember where she was supposed to meet up with them, except that they were coming by boat. The only places with docks are the Yacht Club, Town Hall, and the Brain Bucket... They're probably hiding.

Shield Faction



Quest of Corruption: Mayor Givens is so corrupt that, should he survive this Apocalypse, he will use the tragedy of Portstown to weasel his way into becoming the Governor of Louisiana, and from there... who knows? For Lana it's no longer about local politics. The mayor needs to be taken down and kept out of power, but you'll have to find the evidence to discredit him.

Step 1: Find Franny Praker. Lana got a text from Franny Praker that seems to indicate the Mayor in some shady dealings. Whatever information she has, it needs to be uncovered. You need to rendezvous with Franny and find out what she knows.

Outlander Faction



Quest for the Cup of Life: Even though he's a little off, Allan Tarman has some compelling ideas about a concoction that when mixed properly, and with the right ingredients, may have some preventative effect to the Zombie virus. It's worth the risk on the off chance that this could save everyone.

Step 1: Find Items. Allan has most of the ingredients in his bunker but there he's missing three of the essentials - a wild hen's egg (available in The Hills), a baggie of chicken beaks (available at Nerdy Nuggets), and crushed poppy seeds (opioids, available at Portstown General Hospital). If there's any hope of creating this concoction, you'll need to locate these ingredients.

Brigade Faction



Quest for Innocence: Columbus was wrongfully accused of murder, and now that he's out, it is time to prove his innocence. The faction agrees, everyone may not survive this Apocalypse, but there's at least one thing that needs to make it out... the truth.

Step 1: Find the Medical Records. Portstown General Hospital has always kept meticulous records... that's the good news. Unfortunately, someone from the hospital took advantage of the recent chaos and has hidden the Medical Examiner's report that may have the evidence to clear Columbus' name.

Portstown Faction



Quest for a Hero: It turns out that Joe isn't average, and he isn't particularly lucky. There's another reason that Joe survived the event at the town swimming pool. Rumors have been spreading, recently, that Joe might be more important to the future of humanity than anyone would have guessed. You have a choice, but it's worth it to go down this rabbit hole.

Step 1: Find Scuzzer Peck. Rumor has it that Scuzzer Peck knows a piece of the story that has never been revealed and it changes EVERYTHING. While he's not the easiest person to talk to, Scuzzer may be the only person that can change the trajectory of Joe (and everyone else's) life. You need to rendezvous with Scuzzer and find out what she knows.

Conway and Vendetta Factions



Quest for a Conway: Joseph Conway is a sly and clever man. His luck may be just about to run out, however, as word of His affair and a handful of very questionable business dealings have started to surface. Betsy Conway has been waiting for a moment like this and she's resolute to take her unfaithful husband down... but Joseph knows she's coming.



Conway Faction Step 1: Search for the Evidence. Betsy Conway has been gunning for Joseph for years, but he's always been able to stay one step ahead of her, until today. While Joseph's dirty finger-prints are all over town, there is one piece of particularly damning evidence at the Portstown Police Station... you need to make sure this evidence is destroyed before Betsy can get her hands on it.



Vendetta Faction Step 1: Search for the Ledger. For years Joseph has been bribing the Mayor to carry out his dirty business. While Mayor Givens may not be the most honorable man, he can always be counted on to keep a ledger of every dollar that comes in and out of his possession. The ledger is somewhere in City Hall but the race is on.

Blade and Belle River Factions



Quest of a Clone: The secret is out. The reason no one knows where Juan O'de Dead came from is because he is the clone of Johnny O'Dea. With the help of Jerry Z. Pitt, Johnny cloned himself. When it became clear that something was "off" about the young boy, Johnny tasked Jerry with "disposing" of his mistake. For years, Jerry secretly raised Juan at a monastery in Mexico. Furious over his existence, Juan has been on a killing rampage ever since, but now... it's time for revenge on the O'Dea family.



Blade Faction Step 1: Find the DNA. Johnny is running from a madman, bent on revenge for the crime he committed against nature. When Juan escaped from prison, Johnny's long-time confidant, Jerry Z. Pitt, came to O'de Dead's aid. Johnny now sees that Jerry has been secretly plotting against him all along. However, Jerry's motives are unclear. Johnny's worst fear is that Jerry may use the remaining DNA from the cloning experiment to create additional versions of Juan. Johnny knows that the specimen is somewhere in his childhood home - The Buckner Estate - but there's no way of knowing exactly where Jerry hid it.



Belle River Faction Step 1: Find the Letters. While Juan is not a particularly nice person, he is very fond of Allison O'Dea (Johnny's wife). Allison wrote him letters every week while he was in prison, after learning about his existence and what her husband had done to him. The Warden took the letters from Juan on the last raid through his cell and now the killer won't go one step further until they are recovered. You need to go back to the one place Juan fears - The Belle River Penitentiary - and find those letters.

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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 3,359 Zombies: 359 Infection Rate: 9.7%

SECRET MILITARY PRESENCE January 31 - February 1

For the average person, having a world full of death closing in on them would easily kill their resolve. But Dr. Jane Festor wasn't your average person. Even after several nights trapped in an office at Portstown University's science building with the guttural groans of the undead just outside her door, the molecular biologist wasn't willing to let her soul break. She wished she could say the same for her younger compatriots, Chunk Philbin, Tina Randolph, and Tina's boyfriend, Freddy Hansome, whose love triangle had been exacerbated by their current situation.

While the university students struggled to maintain composure and squabbled loudly, Dr. Festor used the time to hypothesize and theorize - and chastise herself for her secret relationship with Freddy.

What was happening in the small town? Could it be stopped? Surely something sinister must have been at play, she determined, and every sinister source has a way to reverse the chaos it causes. As the doctor and her Crawdaddy Faction would soon find, she wasn't too far off, and the answers she knew were out there would soon be within her reach. Unfortunately, those answers were tucked away in a facility - and her access card had been lost in the chaos.

Distracted by their plight, the Crawdaddies weren't privy to the recent news that Vermillion had flooded the airwaves with. The military response was swifter than many expected and a base was being erected north of town. To some, the news came too late as the shockingly high number of undead left them still feeling hopeless. And in that helplessness, some devised a dangerous plan based on little to no intel at all. Desperate eyes turned to the old coal mine, a relic that, whispers claimed, could be the town's only hope.

Pushing the idea that the coal mine had a secret exit was a man with a need to be scarce. Jerry Z. Pitt had spent the last thirty years protecting Juan O'de Dead. While he could never bring himself to follow the orders to harm a child, the past few days had validated Johnny O'Deas sentiment that Juan was a monster who needed to be put down. Never before had Jerry seen someone kill so swiftly and effortlessly, without an ounce of remorse. Jerry knew it was just a matter of time before the killer turned on his longtime protector, so he made his move. Luckily, he wasn't the only one optimistic about the mine, so, with a handful of survivors, Jerry worked through the growing hoard of the undead and, without hesitation, moved up to the intimidatingly small entrance to the mine. Whatever the military was doing, he told himself, wouldn't affect him as he approached the cavernous opening, and stepped toward his supposed salvation.

ATTENTION

Due to the ongoing infection event, the United States Army will be conducting an emergency evacuation of Portstown.

All Portstown residents are urged to arrive at Portstown General Hospital on February 1st. The uninfected will be airlifted to safety.

With the escalating threat, it is unclear whether further evacuations will be possible. Residents should make all efforts to arrive at the hospital in time for the evacuation.

To ensure the safety of all residents, weapons will be confiscated prior to boarding the helicopter.



BROADCAST Day 8 / January 31, 2022

Good Morning Portstown, this is Ron Vermillion hanging in here at WPTR, staying committed to bringing you the latest news through these troubling times.

Big announcement today as Portstown may just have its very own guardian angel. This morning troops were seen pouring into town from beyond the gated property line behind our beloved Nerdy Nuggets fast-food restaurant.

The eruption of a military presence in our small town has caused quite a stir amongst locals, including residents from the Hills. While a small faction of Portstownians seem resistant to welcome these outsiders the general populace is breathing a sigh of relief.

Battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Perry Miller, informed officials today of a fully functional, Government-operated Military Base lying North, in the woods, a little over a quarter of a mile beyond the gates. The Colonel has offered protection to any of the uninfected that can reach them, guaranteeing at least 24 hours of safety and rest.

There is no word yet of evacuation and there has been no explanation as to where the base came from, how long it's been here, or why. Suffice to say, I think we're all just happy for a little hope.

Dr. Thurman, of Portstown General, is asking that any medical supplies collected be brought to the Military Base for emergency treatment of the wounded.

Now, I don't know about you but I could use a little tune from the legendary Tennessee Pistols. This is Ron Vermillion helping you keep it classy with a timely song, *The Good the Bad the Ugly*.



JOURNAL: Sixteenth Entry

JANUARY 31, 2022

Soooo... there's a secret army in Portstown!

I'm sorry, WHATIN? And no one finds it the least bit strange that they chose to emerge now?

The flyers they dropped all over town have the emblem of the United States Army on it but I don't buy it. Sure, they may be a government run organization but a secret Army base in Portstown ...



WHY ??

At least this is a distraction from the artifact that was found yesterday. Hopefully that whole thing just goes away.

I still don't think I've truly processed the fact that t

I still doint in the living here are Zombies hunting down the living here in town. I've seen some of the people who have turned with my own eyes. I know it's happening but it just doesn't feel real. The fear is real though ...

Vever really thought about my mortality so much. Life really is a gift, even the parts that are hard.

I'm going to tel k I love her.

I've waited long enough and I need someone to help me process all these thoughts in my head about my family. Is this whole thing really our fault?

Zombies Opa? What were you thinking?

Screw it, I'm headed to the hospital I need to be around people and I need at least one night of peaceful rest. Reward outweighs the risk at this point.

FACTION QUESTS

Portstown Faction



Step 2: Find the Adoption Records. You were able to locate Scuzzer, and, after a good deal of negotiation, your Leaders were able to learn that Scuzzer was the handler for three "special" children who were brought to this town and adopted. This information almost became public when Joe drowned in the Town Swimming Pool, but Mayor Givens kept the news from leaving Portstown's borders. Scuzzer does not know the identity of the children, as they were given new names when adopted by their parents. Your Faction needs to get to the bottom of this mystery by storming City Hall and searching for the adoption records. Find the missing children...



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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 3,238 Zombies: 480 Infection Rate: 12.9%



BROADCAST Day 9 / February 1, 2022

Good Morning Portstown, this is Ron Vermillion bunkered down here at WPTR.

Prospects appear bleak today as we learn that all external communications from Portstown to the outside world have been cut off. The discovery was made early this morning when multiple transmissions from the newly discovered Military Base as well as the local P.D. failed to send. Retired police chief, Joe Bordoni, claims to have been through a similar situation back in 2005 around the time of hurricane Katrina.

Reportedly all communication signals were blocked by what was believed to be copper deposits in the atmosphere left from the mines, stirred up and distributed by the storm all around town. The story, while unlikely, was the only explanation given at that time and further investigation was discouraged, according to Bordoni.

There is no word from officials concerning whether news of the outbreak has reached our National Coast Guard and so . . . it looks like we may be on our own with this one Portstown.

We're committed to staying with you and keeping you informed as long as we can... as always, I'm Ron Vermillion and even when things look bleak we can still keep it classy Portstown.

In other news...



Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 3,096 Zombies: 622 Infection Rate: 16.7%

THE EXPLOSION - February 2

Where most saw danger, Pitt saw his only hope of escaping Portstown alive. Juan O'de Dead was unhinged and taking lives at a rate that was rivaling the horde of the undead. The image of his neck twisted and snapped in two pushed Pitt into the narrow opening of the coal mine, the dim light of an old Maglite guiding every awkward step. In the enclosed space, the horrors of the world outside were drowned out. No more screams. No more death.

Encouraged, he pushed forward, the group behind him staying calm despite narrowing walls. The deeper he got, the more he was left with nothing but a gentle hum and his own thoughts. He was free. Free from his past and the nightmare that had descended on Portstown.

While Pitt worked his way through the pitch-black veins of the old mine, Paul "Doc" Benson was mentally plotting his route from the hardware store back to his home across town. The zombies were a big enough threat on their own, but Benson's sordid past had broken out of Belle River shortly before the outbreak, threatening to spread a truth that he had thought was long dead and buried.

A swarm of nearly a dozen zombies had congregated outside the establishment, their curiosity bringing them closer and closer to the makeshift barricade blocking the windows and doors. As much as he tried to focus on his dilemma, Doc's attention was pulled either by the occasional thud against the wooden barrier or the panicked discussion between Joe Johnson, his mother Henrietta, and Brenda, the daughter of Dr. Milton Blausch, Portstown General Hospital's most controversial doctor.

The three other survivors were fixated on the idea that they could bring the town back together and reclaim what was left of Portstown. Doc went along with the insane idea with nods of approval, but he was barely listening as his mind was busy picturing Columbus Eisenberg exacting his much-deserved revenge. Doc had lost track of how many years it had been since Eisenberg's life was ruined simply because Doc left the scene of the crime. In fact, he had almost forgotten the whole incident happened, but with Eisenberg a free man, it was only a matter of time before he'd have to atone.

Doc went to address the youngest of the group, Brenda Blausch, hoping to sway her into thinking leaving as a group toward the military base up north was the best idea, but just as he opened his mouth, a shockwave rattled the town. In the distance, zombies tumbled to their feet and thick black smoke rushed to the sky just beyond the hospital.

It only took a second for Doc to piece together what had happened as his mind visualized the space behind the hospital. And it was in that second he realized that his last bastion for hope was everything but.

"Holy shit," he muttered. "They blew up the god damn mine."



BROADCAST February 2, 2022

Special New Report: Mine Explosion - Day 10

Good evening, I'm Ron Vermillion. We interrupt this broadcast of Quiet times with Misty to bring you breaking news of an explosion just outside of town at the Abandoned Coal Mine.

We have learned that a handful of townspeople were inside the mines at the time. Rescue workers are on the scenes frantically removing debris from the mouth of the cave. No one has been found, at this point, and we're being told that the size and nature of the explosion leaves very little hope for survivors.

Investigators believe what exploded may have been -- and I want to emphasize -- may have been an IED, an improvised explosive device. But again, this is early going, early reporting. Some device went off inside or near the dynamite shed.

Town officials have released a statement expressing their condolences to the victims' families and have closed off all town access to the Coal Mines.

Stay tuned to WPTR as we'll be keeping you updated on this story as new information becomes available. We now return you to our regularly scheduled programming, already in progress.



MAP DAY 10



JOURNAL: Seventeenth Entry

FEBRUARY 2, 2022



FACTION QUESTS

Shield Faction



Step 2: Find the Key Card. Franny has been watching and studying Mayor Givens ever since he cut the funds to WPTR and she lost her job. She has gathered some pretty compelling evidence that suggests the mayor fixed the election with the help of Joseph Conway. The evidence would be at City Hall but you need a key card to get in. Givens has the original, but a copy can be found at the Police Station. Head to the Police Station and don't come back without that Key Card!

Vendetta Faction



Step 2: Find Pete Washer. You found the Ledger, but there are pages missing and a note that just has Pete Washer's name circled and underlined three times. It's always been assumed that Pete has been working for Joseph Conway, but the Ledger proves it. You need to find Pete Washer and see what he knows about those missing pages.

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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 2,879 Zombies: 839 Infection Rate: 22.6%

UNTIL THE END: RON VERMILLION - February 3

Chief Washer had experienced some doozies of a day overseeing Portstown, but the recent events surpassed anything he's witnessed. He was in the middle of an escalated traffic stop with Blades gang member Rudi Riccy cuffed on the sidewalk. Suddenly, the first signs of the fall echoed in the air, a cacophony of screams and gunshots. Not one to enjoy a conflict he couldn't control, Washer tried calling a nearby deputy to investigate, but static was all that came through the radio. Since the emergence of what many were calling the undead, static was all he ever heard.

As Washer loaded Riccy into his cruiser, more consecutive pops rang out, this time closer to the chief's position. He hurriedly kicked his vehicle into gear, hoping to move himself out of harm's way, but two solid masses had planted themselves in the road ahead. He immediately recognized them as a pair of nobodies that frequented Nerdy Nuggets, just far bloodier and disheveled. Maneuvering around the unmoving figures, he glimpsed the nameless husband and noticed his jaw hanging well below normal. It seemed to sway in the breeze as Washer sped off, wanting to distance himself from whatever weirdness was falling upon Portstown. Fearing the rush of calls and the flood of people that would likely come down on the police department, Washer could think of one place to go - the mall, where he hoped his ex-wife, Diana Wright, would be safe and sound.

Navigating the mall was more difficult than he expected as the infected were everywhere, but with Riccy's help, Washer located Diana and shop owner Lana Ellison, and it was in Diana's office that the quartet had been holed up. With Washer's radio still offering nothing more than static, they turned to the continued broadcasts of Ron Vermillion. With each passing day, Vermillion's typical boisterous personality seemed to wane, and on this particular morning, dread oozed from his voice. It was his final broadcast to the people of Portstown, something he didn't expect to face for many years. But as he warned of the looting, the horrors he had been reporting on for days burst through the door. Washer, Riccy, Diana, and Lana sat in silence as the WPTR studio was ransacked and Vermillion inevitably ripped to pieces.

Survivors all over Portstown listened to Vermillion's final moments, tucked away safely in whatever corner of town they could sneak to. Some were preoccupied with what would be considered trivial matters in the face of imminent death. Then there was Barbra O'Dea, a resourceful recluse obsessed with necromancy and the idea that she could bring her father, Rupert, back to life. Before the outbreak, it was the ramblings of an insane woman, but as the town grew desperate, Barbra's insistence that Rupert could lead the town to safety through secret underground tunnels drove her frantic search for a relic that could bring her father back. Not even the threat of the undead could stop Barbra as she scoured the town's coast looking for the Necromancy Specialist that would guide her quest.

Though her search turned up nothing, Barbra would soon learn that she was far from crazy to think reanimation could restore someone to who they were before their demise.



BROADCAST Day 11 / February 3, 2022

Morning Portstown... I'm not sure who's still out there or if anyone is listening but WPTR is still here for you.

Very little new information is arriving at our desk as these walking dead creatures seem to be overrunning our town. Reports from the Military Base appeared hopeful as a significant number of Portstownians found safety for at least one night behind its gated walls. We have been unable to reestablish communication with the Base to confirm whether or not it continues to serve as a safe haven. Please proceed with caution if you are planning to seek refuge there.

Food supplies are running low as survival looting has ravished most public and private residences in town.

When last we spoke to the mayor a temporary suspension of all laws prohibiting this type of behavior, as well as the destruction of property, is still in effect.

[Sound of Door Breaking and Zombies Breathing]

Uh (shuffling papers), it appears we may not be back on the air with you for the foreseeable future Portstown (sounds of struggle). For WPTR, I'm Ron Vermillion... keep it cla...

[Zombie Noises]

[Transmission cuts out]



Artifacts



PATCH

A circular patch with a thick red border and the symbol for the Kotwica Polish Underground in the center. There are no letters or words on the patch, making it different from the other artifacts. Considering the fact that no Polish families are noted in the town's historical data, this patch was most likely a gift given to one of the town's residents for their aid or service to the underground movement.



TEST TUBE

A glass test tube with no seal with a rolled up piece of paper inside the tube that contains the words *"alt schuualth"* (above) and the name *"*A. Walker" (below). A number of similar glass test tubes have been found over the years, most of which are stored in the archives at Town Hall. These tubes would have been used for medical purposes and were the favorite form of transportation for experimental drugs used by medical officers during the war.

JOURNAL: Eighteenth Entry

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Two more artifacts... I don't think people have started piecing them together yet. There's a lot going on in Portstown and, to be honest, I'm completely overwhelmed.

Silver lining. I ran into k today. We hugged. I held her a little longer than I should have but but she wasn't pulling away.

k said that we're all meeting Candace tonight at the University. Apparently, when the boting started, Candice closed up the Pawn Shop, took a duffle bag of electronic components, some weapons, and food and then hunkered down in the school's Broadcast Booth behind the Lecture Hall. She's been building some sort of shortwave radio trying to communicate with people on the outside. Last night she picked up a military communication for The Base. It's been spotty since but Candace thinks she figured out what's wrong. Who knows, if it works we may be able to radio for help.

Honestly, I'm just happy to be with K.

FACTION QUESTS

Crawdaddy Faction



Step 2: Find Joseph Conway. You have the Access Card, but the security for Dr. Festor's workstation is pretty tight and the Access Card only gets you through the front door. The door to the workstation has a pin pad lock that is changed every few days by Joseph Conway. You need to rendezvous with Joseph and get the PIN before Dr. Festor will reveal where her workstation is.

Conway Faction



Step 2: Find Rock Breslin. You found the evidence boxes that the Portstown Police had on Joseph Conway... there were 8 full boxes. Before you could open them up to confirm with Joseph that you had found what you needed, he set the boxes on fire. It took the better part of a half hour to extinguish the flames and keep them from burning down the whole police station, but the task is done. While you are cleaning up, a message comes over the radio talking about a mob of people, led by Betsy Conway, tearing up City Hall. Betsy found something, and the one person who will know is Rock Breslin... Joseph knows why. Find Rock and see if you can get one step ahead of Betsy.

Vendetta Faction



Step 3: Search for the Ledger Pages. Officer Pete Washer has been an unwilling patsy in the Conway/Givens crime ring for years. While he's concerned about the consequences if Joseph hears of his betrayal, he is sick of taking orders from both of them. He refused to go with you, but happily told you that he buried the missing ledger pages somewhere in The Hills. Head to The Hills, bring a shovel, and start digging around. But hurry... rumor has it Joseph and his faction are on the trail looking for the same missing pages. Whoever finds it first wins the day!

Blade Faction



Step 2: Arm Your Squad. You found and destroyed what remained of Johnny's DNA from the cloning experiment, but the battle has only just begun. Word has reached your faction that Juan and his minions are gathering up weapons. A fight is coming, and you need to be ready. At least 25% of the members of your faction need to be carrying a weapon of some sort if you have any hope of winning. Arm yourselves and get ready for war!

INTERCEPTED MILITARY COMMUNICATION

Day 11, February 3, 2022

They killed the final seven... now... Omega team leader... evacuate all citizens from the downtown area immediately... use of non lethal force is permitted... relocation of resources has already begun... we need to secure the central location... hostiles are on the rise and, if our scientists are right, the spread is about to consume the Portstown Project... we can't save them... prepare for our final stand.



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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 2,688 Zombies: 1,030 Infection Rate: 27.7%

THE END GAME (DAYS 12-16)

THE FACILITY - February 4

Rumors of a military presence in Portstown circulated all over, and when Riccy caught wind of the chance of survival, he didn't wait for it to come to him. Abandoning Chief Washer and his faction, Riccy moved quietly in the night, evading the shambling undead past Nerdy Nuggets, where he spotted two young workers panicking as a small horde moved in on the eatery. Riccy thought better of helping and kept moving, eventually coming upon the barbed wire fences that seemed to separate Portstown from the rest of the world. The makeshift barrier was unprotected on the outskirts, providing him easy access to his salvation. Unfortunately, the lack of guards meant that nobody was there to stop the zombie from grabbing Riccy's leg as he carefully climbed over the fence. Bloody teeth sunk into his warm flesh and, with impossible strength, the zombie tore Riccy from the fence. A brief scream echoed in the night, but before anyone could come to his aid, Riccy's throat filled with blood as the monster dug its dirt-covered fingers into his neck.

Come daybreak, Dr. Festor decided it was time to leave the university behind and move to the Yacht Club. It was one of three places with a port, and it was only by boat that she could reach the secluded facility. Tina, Chunk, and Freddy thought better of leaving their secure location, but Festor pulled rank. She told the teenagers a white lie about the relative safety of the secret facility, which she could neither confirm nor deny in an official capacity. Her guilt was assuaged by the feeling in her gut that if there were a way to end this horror, it would be tucked away in that facility. They all agreed to spend the day at the university and, come nightfall, begin their hike to the Yacht Club.

Nobody knew - not even Dr. Festor - that the decaying horrors shuffling through the empty streets were just an appetizer of what was truly haunting Portstown. The Facility, an ominous structure on the outskirts of civilization, was home to something far more sinister. And like most sinister things, it wasn't long until this one was released from its shackles.


INTERCEPTED MILITARY COMMUNICATION

Day 12, February 4, 2022

You heard me correctly Omega... Base revealed and cover is blown... It's moving more quickly than we anticipated... Intel suggests they have an antidote at the facility... Our thermal scanner reads that The OTHERS abandoned it when all this started. Infiltrate and get your hands on that antidote before someone else gets it... This is a level 5 priority Omega team... I repeat level 5



MAP DAY 12



Artifacts



HAMMER

A well-used hammer. The handle has the initials AW (above) and the words "goltz handa" (below) carved into it. This hammer would have been used by a master craftsman and was very likely the primary means of support for his family. Many of the transplants to the United States from the Second World War were the tradesmen who built what is now Portstown.

COIN

A golden coin, about the size of a silver dollar, with the Freemason Symbol on one side and the words *"alt mycha"* on the other. The Freemasons are associated with some unique historical lore surrounding the town. Portstown was originally established as a gateway for Louisiana. It served as a base for river pilots to guide ships across the bar and up and down the Mississippi River. Legend has it that the Freemasons controlled the harbor and conducted an import/export business that is shrouded in mystery.



FLAG BOX

A triangle shaped stained oak box with a framed glass window on one side showing the red and white shield with the letter "W" sewn on it. There is a plaque on front of the case with the words *"atochta tag*" Inside, the flag has the Austrian coat of arms used during the Austrofascist Corporate State 1934– 1938. The "W" on the shield was an addition.

JOURNAL: Nineteenth Entry

FEBRUARY 4, 2022



I unloaded. Everything about Opa and the Vewspapers. I talked about the Estate and Rudy with the tattoo. My eyes started to fill up as I explained how I think my family is the reason these Zombies are around and killing all of our friends. It just all came out. I didn't realize how much I had bottled up.

She didn't say anything, at first. She just pulled me in, wrapped here arms around my neck, and ran one of her hands through my hair.

Then it came back to me in a flood. The Facility... I remember that place. Opa took me there once when I was 4 or 5. I had tripped and skinned my chin and my knee and Ope hugged me tight, ran his hand through my hair and said, "Your strong Enkel. No tears."

I don't remember much else except...

FACTION QUESTS



Crawdaddy Faction



Step 3: Faction to the Yacht Club. Tina Randolph braved Belle River to rendezvous with Joseph Conway. With the Access Card and PIN number ready to go, Dr. Festor informs your team that the only way to get to her workstation is to steal a boat. You'll need a big group to overpower the guards if this is going to be successful, so get at least 80% of your faction to The Yacht Club and the boat is yours.

Relic Faction



Search for the Relic. You successfully located the Necromancer and he told you about an Ancient Relic buried somewhere in The Hills. The Relic is said to have the power to reanimate the dead, which would bring you one step closer to bringing Rupert back to life. Head to the Hills and see if you can unearth this Relic. Bring a shovel... you got some diggin' to do!



Shield Faction



Step 3: Faction to City Hall. For a small town Police Station, there sure seems to be a lot of coverups and secrets. If the people in your Faction were busybodies, you would have never found the Key Card. Now that you have what you need to get, in it's time to take the whole team to City Hall. You'll need numbers, because you never know who the Mayor may have guarding his dirty secrets.



Outlander Faction



Step 2: Find Dr. Festor. Your faction appears a little strange to those on the outside, carrying around hen's eggs and chicken beaks, but you have already come this far and you're committed. Now that you have the ingredients, you are going to need to meet up with Dr. Jane Festor. With her training in analytical chemistry, she should be able to properly prepare and combine the ingredients. Hopefully she's willing to help.

Brigade Faction





Step 2: Find Sludge. Robert Navelle braved the swarm in the hospital to search for the records that would prove his brother's innocence. Well, there was no Medical Examiner's report, but he did find Marilyn Breslin's birth certificate. The document revealed that she is, in fact, the love child of Rock Breslin and Betsy Conway. The information is a lot to process and it would be great for Marilyn to be able to talk with her mom. However, everyone, including Marilyn, agrees that you don't have time if you're going to help Columbus. The only other lead is Sludge, who was at the Brain Bucket the night the murder happened. Find Sludge and see what she knows.

Portstown Faction



Step 3: Find Robert Navelle. Documents were scattered everywhere across City Hall, as if someone had already searched the grounds. Finally, you found a folder containing the adoption record for Joe Johnson, Robert Navelle... and the final one was completely redacted. Navelle's record has the word "Teleporter" written and circled on the front corner of his documentation. You need to find Robert and see if he knows who the third "special" is or if he knows anything more about how all of this happened.



Conway Faction





Step 3: Search the Ledger Pages. Joseph Conway and Rock Breslin came face to face in the halls of Belle River. Rock raised his assault rifle, his finger itching to pull the trigger and put an end to the affluent creep who stole the love of his life. Rock would never give up Betsy to this monster... until Joseph threatened Marilyn Breslin's life. Joseph spun a lie that his guards were holding Marilyn in custody and were instructed to kill the girl if they did not hear from Joseph by midnight. Rock relented and revealed that Betsy Conway and her Faction are looking for the missing pages of Joseph's ledger that has all the transactions from his less than reputable dealings. The pages were buried somewhere in the Hills by Pete Washer. You need to find those pages before Betsy and her clan come across them. Whoever finds it first wins the day!



Belle River Faction



Step 2: Find Flamethrowers. With the letters finally back in Juan's hands, the only thing left to do is enact his revenge on the O'Dea family by burning down their beloved family Estate and all its treasures. The Estate is huge, so you are going to need some serious firepower. To pull it off, your Faction is going to need to be carrying at least 5 flamethrowers. It's time to send a message that even Rupert O'Dea can see from his grave!

Blade Faction





Step 3: Faction to the Buckner Estate. Juan's faction wasn't just gathering any weapons they could find. Instead, they were looking specifically for flamethrowers to burn down Johnny's childhood home, The Buckner Estate. While Johnny could care less about the Estate, his family's honor is on the line. No more running, the battle ends here! If you hope to keep the Belle River Faction from burning The Buckner Estate to the ground you are going to need numbers! Get at least 80% of your faction team members to the Estate first... winner takes all!



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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 2,466 Zombies: 1,252 Infection Rate: 33.7%

FACTIONS DISSOLVED - February 5

Portstown's residents did their best to work together and stay together, fearing that tackling the undead world on their own would mean imminent death. But as the days crawled into night and discussions about solutions dissolved into arguments over whose idea was best, being alone and focused on a set path started to seem appealing. Of course, it didn't help that faction members started to become part of the menu.

Barbra O'Dea never found the relic she was looking for, and just as it seemed unlikely that she'd revive her father in time to save the town, the answer was solidified for her. Portstown's coast had been relatively quiet and free from the undead presence, but the arrival of Dr. Festor and her alliance attracted a small horde - and it was this horde that threatened to thin the herd of survivors.

It had been days since Robert, Columbus, and Private Rand left Nerdy Nuggets behind. As hard as they tried to convince Marilyn she'd be safer with the group, the poor girl was too terrified to step outside. So she locked herself back in the freezer, and the trio set out to find proof of Columbus' innocence. The deeper Robert and Columbus dragged Rand into the hellscape that once was the quaint town, the more the private wished she had stayed behind.

Marilyn wasn't the only faction member that had been left behind by their allies. Chief Washer had one goal in mind: to survive until the madness ended. He recalled hearing rumors of a secret facility in the waters south of town. With the infection spreading at the rate it was, a body of water seemed like a good way to keep some distance between the undead and his innards. While Diana felt safer with her ex-husband at her side, Lana felt she still had work to do. Portstown may have been sucked into an unimaginable level of hell, but Mayor Givens still held his position of power - and she wanted to be prepared to rip it from him when the nightmare ended. Washer and Diana didn't so much see the purpose and left Lana behind, hoping she'd fare well on her own in the security of City Hall.

As the coming days would prove, nobody fared well on their own.



INTERCEPTED MILITARY COMMUNICATION

Day 13, February 5, 2022

...Just off the coast... We need to infiltrate as soon as possible. However, we just received word that transmissions have been hacked... Intel suggests it has something to do with these town factions. We must assume they know about the Facility. Split these groups up... Put an end to this... We can't risk anything with the antidote on the line.



Artifacts



WEDDING RING

A very ordinary woman's solid gold wedding band. The inside of the band is engraved with the words *"marzus borrotsch"* The ring was found inside an envelope that also contained a picture of a woman silhouetted in a window. The name "Frieda" was written on the back of the photo.

PHOTO

Black and white photo, faded and aged on the edges. The photo depicts a new (in the 1940's) nursery for a baby boy. On the back of the photo the words *"lista cadariou"* and *"1946 EW"* is written in script.

JOURNAL: Twentieth Entry

FEBRUARY 5, 2022

I can't believe I didn't piece this together earlier. The ammunition boxes from the storage unit... that black liquid... it can only be one of two things. Either my Opa created the serum that turns people into these Zombies -OR- Opa knew this was coming somehow and the black stuff is an antidote of some kind.

I need to go back to the unit and grab the remaining ammo boxes. Whatever that stuff is it needs to be destroyed or distributed to Portstownians (best case scenario).

k hasn't left my side since yesterday. I went quiet for roughly an hour after the memory of The Facility came rushing back to me. Needed to process.

She didn't push but she held my hand and sat next to me against the wall until we both fell asleep.

This morning, when we heard about the last two artifacts discovered, I started to piece things together. The Ammunition Box was the missing box from Opa's Unit. That much I had figured out on my own. The Hammer I still don't fully understand and the Coin with the Freemason symbol on it has left me with

more questions than answers. But the Flag... I recognize the shield. Opa had that flag hanging in his study.

> He always said that he was inspired by the history behind the Austrian coat of arms

The Picture and the Ring are what really got my attention. Frieda was my Oma's name...

I think that was her wedding ring. And that rocking

horse is sitting in the unit along with a small box of Opa's family treasures. His father made it for him.

I still don't know why these are important but, if I can figure it out, maybe I'll finally know what kind of man my Opa was.

Going to map out with K our route to the Unit tonight. We'll need to sneak into Downtown to get there.

I think she wants to come with me.



FACTION QUESTS CONCLUSIONS



Conway and Vendetta Factions



With the evidence in hand, Betsy and her faction members celebrate their victory. The team agrees that the time to expose Joseph with this newly found evidence isn't now... Surviving this Apocalypse comes first. Word finally reached Joseph Conway, at the prison, of his faction's defeat. In a rage, Joseph instructed the members of his team to locate the dumping grounds that his corporation had been illegally using for the last decade. While fully aware of how the toxic chemicals would affect the population of the Hills, Joseph gave the command to release the ooze from its storage barrels. Sure, it may kill a few of the faithful Conway Faction members, but if Joseph is lucky, no one from Vendetta will make it out alive.

Brigade Faction



It really took a team effort, but, after scouring through a few dozen hours of bar fights and drug deals, you finally stumbled across footage of the murder. Columbus was telling the truth... He had nothing to do with the murder. He was simply grabbing a beer before leaving for college. The "incident", the murder of Dr. Julia Blausch, was done at the hands of "Doc" Benson. After Doc fled the scene, Columbus stumbled upon Julia's body and tried to revive her, just as the Portstown Police arrived. This news will send shockwaves through the Portstown Faction as Brenda learns that her fellow Leader murdered her mother. There's definitely more to this story, but, for now, this chapter needs to be closed. There is a Zombie Apocalypse going on, after all...

Crawdaddy Faction



80% of the Crawdaddy Faction was just too much with all the chaos. Dr. Festor finally revealed that her workstation is in the recently discovered Facility. She doesn't know what other kind of work goes on there, as she was hired work on a vaccine. The quest is over, but The Facility has been revealed. Perhaps some of her research still exists at The Facility?

Relic Faction



With the toxin rolling through The Hills, the Relic Faction did the wise thing and high-tailed it out to safer locations. There will be no "underground tunnel" escape from Portstown, but you live to fight another day (or two).



Shield Faction



The Shield Faction is strong, but with the chaos at The Hills, the mystery surrounding The Facility, and the potential existence of an antivirus, there was too much going on. It was a valiant effort, but it looks like, should you survive, you'll have to find another way to expose the Mayor.



Outlander Faction



As Outlanders often do, the name of the game has been survival. While a strong faction, the elusive Dr. Festor could not be reached. The quest is over but the Outlanders live on... you know... for now.



Portstown Faction



The Portstown Faction almost had Robert Navelle, but in the last moments, just before their leaders could reach him, Robert disappeared. No one can explain it, and no one knows where he went. One moment he was there, and the next... just gone. A day will come when we will have answers about the 3 "specials" in Portstown, but that day is not today.



Belle River Faction



The sticky fingers of Blade kept the Belle River Faction from securing the flamethrowers they needed, but in so doing, it kept them from gaining the numbers required to finish their own quest. The battle continues, but first... the Zombie War.

MAP DAY 13



INTERCEPTED MILITARY COMMUNICATION

Day 13, February 5, 2022

Omega team... This morning we picked up trace amounts of a chemical that was released at The Hills compound... Unit 3 was sent in to investigate... The toxin is airborne and has trace amounts of tetrodotoxin, which severely weakens the power of any human who breathes it in. What's more concerning is that it seems to have the opposite effect on the Zombies who are present, creating some sort of Super Zombie. The effect appears to dissipate outside of the spill zone. The Hills is a dead zone. I repeat, The Hills are a dead zone... Stay out!



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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 2,202 Zombies: 1,516 Infection Rate: 40.8%

THE FINAL PUZZLE - February 6

Barbra and her companions, Shaun Edgar and Ben Jones, were surveying a small sliver of coastline one last time in the twilight hours, hoping that the relic Barbra sought was lost in the murky depths. Their dim lights barely illuminated the cloudy water, but the glow was just enough to draw the attention of a grouping of zombies mindlessly wandering outside of town.

Barbra, Shaun, and Ben had already lost their fourth companion when Dr. Lisa Punnett felt she could better serve the community at the crowded general hospital. Unfortunately for them, losing that set of eyes may have directly led to the bloodshed that occurred in the early morning hours. It was Shaun that first heard the moans of the incoming threat, and he was the first to take action, grabbing a nearby rock to try and batter back the undead. He made a gross underestimation of their strength, and before Ben could come to his aid, three walkers had pinned Shaun to the ground, digging their blood-soaked fingertips into his belly. Barbra was the next to fall, sacrificing herself to save Ben, who had been frozen with fear at the macabre sight. Knowing he'd be next if he stuck around, Ben used the human feast as a distraction and bolted toward the Yacht Club, though it was a destination he'd never reach.

While the Relic Faction suffered sizable losses, the Yacht Club saw its own action and was left painted red. Dr. Festor, Freddy, Tina, and Chunk had safely moved through town and reached the club, unaware that a splinter from the group that attacked the Relic Faction had shifted its direction. Chunk and Tina tailed behind Dr. Festor and Freddy, a mistake that would cost Chunk his life when an ambitious zombie split the quartet up, lunging between the two pairs. Startled, Tina fell to the cold ground, and though it gave Chunk an opening to escape with his life, he instead positioned himself between beauty and the beast. He let the zombie latch onto his back and gnaw into his shoulder as he fought through the excruciating pain to help Tina to her feet. Tina glimpsed into Chunk's eyes one last time, and though the teen knew his death was inevitable, they still had that kind glimmer he had always shown her.

Death was becoming a common element throughout Portstown, but an opportunity to reverse combat death presented itself lucky enough to stumble upon it. After successfully finding the evidence to prove Columbus' innocence, Robert would find himself immersed in another quandary. While scouring for supplies and weapons, he uncovered a strange Codex that, when opened, revealed six vials marked "Antidote." Once a helpless teen waiting out his final hours in a fast food freezer, Robert now held the most powerful tool in Portstown - a way to reverse death.

While Robert now had the difficult task of determining how to best use the six vials, Chief Washer and Diana Converged on the Yacht Club, joining a scarred Tina, Dr. Festor, and her not-so-secret beau. They all had the same goal in mind, but uninvited guests forced the group to split.

MAP DAY 14



JOURNAL: Twenty-first Entry

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

They're gone !!!

The unit has been completely cleaned out and all of the ammunition boxes are gone !!!

The only explanation that I can think of is that this "military" infection has something to do with it. And, they got everything: The newspapers, the ammunition boxes, my family photo albums and keepsakes... and that rocking horse... my Opa's rocking horse.

I hate them! This morning they were in full force, stealing things from different groups of people, separating friends, shouting commands out -

"It's over, go home." "No more games for any of you." "Your silly faction quests are over." What are they even doing here? They're not here to help. And what do they want with The Facility? I know it's al connected - the Storage Unit being emptied out, the Annunition Box that appeared on the steps of City Hall, the Artifacts, the Facility, the "military" presence, my family ...

Something is still missing. That's what k and I are going to figure out and I think our answer might be at the Buckner Estate in Rudy's cabin.

•

JOURNAL: Twenty-second Entry

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

Wel, Rudy knew my Opal Found a picture of the two of them together, must have been in their 205 when the photo was taken. But that's not the most interesting thing that we discovered ... In a loose floorboard underneath Rudy's bed, I found a shoe box ful of notes on scraps of paper. It was Opa's handwriting. From what K and I could piece together it appears

Rudy and Opa had been working together to keep those ammunition boxes hidden.

Apparently my Opa's parents - Aldours and Frieda Waker, were part of a resistance group that smuggled people out of Germany during the Second World War. Aldours was a chemist of some kind and had been working on a project called "Blood Warrior."

There wasn't too much else we could figure out except the viles of black liquid ... they're an antidote to the Zombie infection. Ope and Rudy had been tracking at least 2 groups, that we could tel, who had followed them from Germany all the way to just outside of Portstown (right before the Zombies appeared).

Opa also seemed convinced that there were people in this town who had been planted by a 3rd party. The whole thing feels very cloak and dagger.

Our hope for survival, the antidote, would have been gone except... I still have one box. The box I took from the unit a few weeks back. I had given the box to Candace to keep safe until I could figure out what to do with it.

We need to find Candace but she won't answer the transmissions we've been sending out!



Candace Carson Communication

Day 14February 6, 2022

Hey DW, sorry for the radio silence. The Others are listening... so this will be brief.

I've hidden the final box according to the instructions your grandfather left me. Can't get into it now... but my family is one of a few here in Portstown who have protected this secret for 3 generations. (insert space) I was hoping you'd bring more but it took you too long to figure things out.

The antidotes are sitting in a strange looking box your Grandpa and Rudy built. I don't have the code to unlock it, but that's where you come in.

The artifacts were planted... Opa's idea

The note he left says, "13 phrases will be the key. In ink the final phrase revealed."

The Antidote



An antidote exists that, when taken, can reverse the Zombie infection. With half the population turned, there couldn't be a more valuable asset... And yes, Zombies can play this game too!

There are a few problems...

First - While more exists, Portstown only has direct access to one of the Ammunition Boxes. This means there are only 6 antidotes that we know of.

Second - The antidote was removed from the Ammo Box by Candace Carson, who placed them in a custom built Codex outfitted with a Cryptex Lock. The Cryptex Lock is composed of 13 unknown seed words, 12 of which are believed to be somehow related to the artifacts that have recently been found.

Third - The 13th seed is a word hidden in a riddle (which, when solved, contains another puzzle... of sorts)

How to Win: To win the game and receive the 6 antidotes, players must decipher the first 12 seed words. All the clues you will need to figure out the seed phrases, as well as the correct order, are in the game. For the 13th seed word, the community needs to solve the riddle. This will unlock the final clue that leads to the last phrase of the Cryptex.

From there it's every man/woman/zombie for themselves. The first person to enter the 13 word seed phrase into the Cryptex (0xd212ae193a3197d33514e5f1070d95ed5648d7a1) receives 6 antidotes that will turn any Zombie, in the game, back into a human.

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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 1,839 Zombies: 1,879 Infection Rate: 50.5%

THE EXPERIMENT - February 7

The zombies became unavoidable, and their numbers grew as townsfolk like Barbra O'Dea were left whole enough to rise and join their ranks. Portstown General, which had withstood an external swarm for days, finally gave way. As zombies burst through the main entrance, James Maxwell and Tom Washer performed their final displays of heroism. They emptied their clips, holding back the wave of zombies as Dr. Punnett funneled patients towards the sturdy doors of the operating rooms. Their last shell casings hit the floor, sending a cold echo down the sterile halls of the hospital.

Sunlight broke over the horizon, shedding its gleam over the Buckner Estate one final time. Portstown's jewel of a mansion was now crawling with the undead, its old beams cracking under the weight and pressure of the swarm. Jessica Benson, incapable as she may be, had sworn to protect this town. She had also sworn to protect her family. Now, her father's secret, the one that Sludge had used to blackmail her, was in the public light. She was the daughter of a murderer and had aided in the cover-up. In some ways, the buckling of the hinges on the bedroom door was a relief. When they gave way, so would her overwhelming sense of failure.

Mayor Givens sat at the Brain Bucket, medicating his anxiety. For years, he had looked down on the unwholesome patrons who filled this filthy hole. Now, being surrounded by their kind gave him an eerie sense of comfort. Cockroaches are supposed to survive the apocalypse, right? As he chuckled to himself, he caught the reflection of a zombie in his glass. Before he could react, the flesh was torn from his neck, sending a hose of blood across the bar. The Brigade Faction, huddled in the corner, saw the assault and knew their celebratory round had come to an end. Columbus and Private Rand ducked and headed for the door. On his way out, Eisenberg turned to locate his brother and found him surrounded at the other end of the Bucket. Robert had gone back to grab the surveillance tape!

Columbus and Edith eschewed the freedom of daylight and dove back into the dark hell of the Bucket. As the two worked their way to Robert, they quickly found themselves trapped and overrun. A zombie clenched down on Columbus' shoulder and Robert went numb as he watched the life drain from his brother's eyes. The cassette tape fell from his fingers and cracked against the dirty concrete floor. Robert glanced over where Edith stood moments earlier and found only a bloody huddle of the undead. There was no way to get to his friends and nowhere left to run, so he closed his eyes...

...and vanished.

Across town, small pockets of the undead had found their way to the Yacht Club. Chaos divided the survivors. The Police Chief and Dr. Festor were preoccupied with keeping the undead from swarming the dock, but a panicked Diana and Tina made it a moot point when they hurriedly took off in the only available boat.

The facility Dr. Festor had been so secretive about was as eerie as Tina had feared, especially with security down and a side door wide open. However, the women weren't alone as two-way radios hissed down unexpectedly long and open hallways. As Tina and Diana were soon to learn, searching through the shadows in a secret facility is a recipe for disaster. The inhuman echoes should have served as a warning, but their desperation for a cure lured the explorers toward a locked corridor. Excitement swelled among the group when a key was discovered in the drawer of an abandoned desk. Little did the group know that the turning of the lock would release something far more dangerous than the zombies in town. It took mere seconds for the massive beast to come down on Tina and Diana, tearing through them with a ferocity of an animal that hadn't been fed in a long, long time.

While the facility let out an impossible terror, Joseph Conway had released a hazard of his own on the unsuspecting town. Days before, his immoral actions, once hidden from the public, were threatening to come to light. The billionaire took drastic measures to ensure his secrets stayed shrouded in the shadows, even if it meant flooding the Hills with a deadly toxin, a byproduct of Conway's corporate wrongdoings. Joseph did not take a moment's pause when his lieutenant warned that his lover, Karey Enos, was stationed in the Hills and would likely be ravaged by the toxin. He knew the poison was the only way to exculpate himself from legal ramifications. Leave it to a narcissist like Conway to worry about imprisonment and fines in the middle of a zombie outbreak.

Joseph's act of self-preservation was all for naught. Conway wrongly believed that the prison was secure enough to keep the infected out. Unbeknownst to him, the walls had been breached before he even arrived. Holing up in the warden's office would only prove to be a temporary solution, though his ego said otherwise. It took a few days, but the swarm of undead prisoners eventually sniffed him out, battered the door to the ground, and dragged Conway out, screaming and kicking far louder than those he had poisoned. His billions of dollars could not stave away the grim reaper.

As the evening gave way to the witching hours, Portstown entered what would be its bloodiest morning yet.

INTERCEPTED MILITARY COMMUNICATION

Day 15, February 7, 2022

You heard me correctly, The Facility is not what we thought. They were working on the virus as a weapon. Townspeople unleashed an experiment last night. Appears to have been a dog or wolf of some kind... at least it used to be. It killed off at least half of us. We're calling for an airstrike on The Facility... We can't let that thing escape."



JOURNAL: Twenty-third Entry

FEBRUARY 7, 2022



INTERCEPTED MILITARY COMMUNICATION

Day 15, February 7, 2022

Omega Team Leader... The final days are here and we need to prepare for an evacuation. We're sending two units back to the base for a clean sweep. We need to get all nonessential military personnel and all, I repeat ALL civilians and zombies out of the base. Just push them out back into the town. Final instructions will come tomorrow. This whole thing has been a mess.



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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 1,347 Zombies: 2,371 Infection Rate: 63.8%

RUN - February 8

Since the first resident was turned into one of the infected, there had never been a darker day in Portstown. Trashie Quigley could feel the rot and decay engulfing the town as the toxins released by Conway ravaged her body. As she faded, she swore she could hear the screams of every Portstown resident being torn apart.

For the survivors, there appeared to be a glimmer of hope. The military presence at the heart of the town dismantled its operations and provided an ultimatum to anyone left - get to the docks by midnight or remain behind with the undead. The message quickly filtered to all corners of the town, and the mad dash to get to the Yacht Club, Brain Bucket, or City Hall began.

Hearing the news, Dr. Lisa Punnett led a group of survivors down a back stairwell of Portstown General and towards a fire exit. The trek to the docks would be treacherous, but safer than facing the swell that was slowly cracking the glass on the operating room doors. After the last able body left the hospital, Dr. Punnett turned and made her way back up the stairs to care for the remaining sick. This town had taken so much from her, but in its final moments, it would not break her oath.

Marilyn Breslin, tucked quietly in the Nerdy Nuggets freezer, was the last living resident trapped in the center of town. The cold had weakened her to an unrecoverable state. As her breathing slowed and her blood froze, she envisioned a warm embrace with the mother she would never get to meet.

Robert saw plenty of opportunities to use the antidotes he secured, but couldn't bear to waste a drop until he had saved his brother. The coast had become a gathering place for the living, and the dead, as the former sought refuge and safety on the water. Robert ran into Johnny O'Dea, who showed far more compassion than most in the chaos. Robert pleaded with O'Dea to help him drag Columbus from the swarm of undead, an act of kindness that Johnny performed under one condition - that a vial would also be used to return his sister, Barbra, to him.

Together, the two somehow managed to find their loved ones and were surprised to not only find that the antidote worked, but that it worked rather quickly. In rough shape, Barbra joined her brother, who helped her to the nearest dock to join the military transport. Robert stayed close to Columbus and helped him to the dock, hoping to stay alive long enough to see the military transport. One shadow had taken a liking to them, a zombified Karey Enos who struggled to shuffle on her bitten ankle. Weaponless, Robert used the only tool at his disposal, stepping between Karey and Columbus to shove the vial's needle into her neck.

Dr. Festor's corpse crawled along the slick floors, slowly pushing a terrified Freddy away from the dock. Knowing he had limited time before the boats arrived and left, he decided not to take his chances wading through the sea of the dead that had overtaken the Yacht Club. Instead, he ran east. If City Hall's dock was also overrun, he was confident The Brain Bucket would be a quieter spot. As he fought his way through the swarm, he made out a familiar face. The doctor who had x-rayed his shoulder following a particularly violent tackle was being forced into a corner by a group of zombies. Knowing it was too late to return the favor, Freddy marched on.

The benefit of being strung out on opioids is that you can't feel the zombies' teeth as they tear through your skin. Dr. Milton Blausch had longed for death since losing his wife to a senseless act of murder years ago. In many ways, he hadn't lived since. Now all he felt was the warmth of his own blood and an overwhelming sense of peace as he succumbed to the darkness.

City Hall was on fire. The pent up rage towards Givens' ineptitude and the deadly consequences the town now faced had led to arson. Though her eyes were blank and lifeless, it seemed fitting that a zombified Lana Ellison was roaming the site and figuratively leading Portstown's upheaval. The macabre irony didn't last long as a flash of Glen Morgan's knife sent zombie Lana's head rolling across the pavement. "Knives" and "Sludge" had braved the dark underbelly of Portstown together for years and were determined to make it through one more night. Unfortunately, by the time Freddy reached the smoldering Hall, the horde had already overtaken the two and were threatening to consume anyone foolish enough to remain. There was only one place left to go. Freddy headed for the Bucket.

Henrietta Johnson had lost her son once before in a swimming pool, and now she was losing him again, this time in a rundown dive bar. Joe had used his massive frame to tear the zombies off his mother before they could inflict their damage. With his attention turned toward Henrietta, it opened the door for a stealth bite from behind. The two had managed to lock themselves in a back room of the Brain Bucket. The mother cradled her son, his breath growing ever more shallow. Their somber scene was interrupted by a frantic banging on the door. Henrietta looked up to see Freddy's frantic face desperately peering at them through the window. She got up and turned the door handle to let the young man in, but behind him was a wave of death. The flood of teeth, nails, and rotting flesh filled the empty room, consuming them all.

In the swirling chaos, Betsy Conway held onto the only firm thing nearby, the hand of Harry Cooper. The humble dockhand was determined to save the life of the woman he'd admired since middle school. Betsy knew Harry's heroics were a fool's errand. There would be no happy ending. Even if the two somehow managed to survive this apocalyptic scene, the distinguished Betsy Conway would never find fulfillment in the arms of a lowly shift worker. Her eyes panned through the crowd hoping to settle on a familiar face. Franny... Rock... the hapless daughter she'd abandoned... even Joseph. As the blood soaked terror splashed around her, Betsy came to the somber conclusion that everyone she had ever loved was likely gone. Her life of opulence was certainly gone. She was once again Betsy Dee, a nameless face in this nameless town. Her hand went limp and fell away from Harry's. He turned and reached back to grab her but the undead got there first. Betsy had spent her life trying to claw her way out of Portstown. In the end, Portstown had clawed its way into her.

By the time the boats arrived at the docks, blood had soaked the ground and trickled into the water. So few survivors were left standing, and those that were had very little fight in them left. Those that didn't head to the Yacht Club followed their instincts to City Hall or The Brain Bucket. For Franny Praker, Steven Mandrews, Jr., Columbus Eisenberg, Robert Navelle, Karey Enos, Juan O'de Dead, Rock Breslin, "Doc" Benson, Brenda Blausch, Pete Washer and Barbra and Johnny O'Dea, it was the right call to make.
MAP DAY 16



INTERCEPTED MILITARY COMMUNICATION

Day 16, February 8, 2022

Omega Team Leader... This is a distress message transmitting on loop... The Portstown experiment is lost. The city must be purged of the great evil. I'm not sure how many of your troops remain but base evacuation is complete... The base is no longer a way out. Final transport is being sent to the 3 docking areas at the base of town. Get there by midnight tonight. Save whatever civilians you can, we may need them for phase 2. We got what we came for Omega Team... Now... Everything must burn... May God have mercy on our souls.



JOURNAL: Twenty-fourth Entry

FEBRUARY 8, 2022



The Antidote



The Crimean Gothic translation provided the 12 word seed phrase. Two of the artifacts were decoys left by Opa to throw lesser minds off the scent. The first decoy was the Test Tube (indicated by the design of the bottle), the second decoy was the Patch which had no Crimean Gothic phrase attached to it.

Ammunition Box: plut cadariou = blood warrior

Hammer: goltz handa = gold hand

Coin: alt mycha = old sword

Flag Box: atochta tag = evil day

Photo: *lista cadariou* = little warrior

Wedding Ring: marzus borrotsch = wedding wish

The correct order of the first 12 seed words was found in the Protagonist's Journal Entry from January 5, 2022 where the Protagonist begins to think through and subconsciously piece together the puzzle pieces that lead to the final seed word.

The 13th seed word came from a story arch that was developed through the Protagonist's journal from the beginning of the Entries. Opa's tattoo (something he shared with a mysterious man named Rudy) was the "Legend" referenced from the Newspaper Game. Players needed to figure out the riddle, along with the protagonist, that Opa had left with Candace Carson (shared through the Intercepted Shortwave Communication on February 6, 2022). After players deciphered the final clue was "tattoo" the protagonist shared a journal entry with a rendering and the final clue.

The final 13 word seed phrase:

Blood Warrior Gold Hand Old Sword Evil Day Little Warrior Wedding Wish Family

Unlocked the ETH Wallet: 0xd212ae193a3197d33514e5f1070d95ed5648d7a1

Inside was an NFT of the antidote, allowing its holder to revive six zombies. The following six individuals were chosen and revived:

Columbus Eisenberg Barbra O'Dea Karey Z. Enos Larry Sheffield RaRah Rawwrrr ed3



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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 791 Zombies: 2,927 Infection Rate: 78.7%

EVERYTHING IS ON FIRE - February 9

The events that unfolded in the swampy region of Portstown are a horror story ripe for a Hollywood retelling - but few would be brave enough to revisit this tale of death and mayhem. Over the 17 days that the infection spread like wildfire throughout the town, heroes were born, villains were toppled, and humanity was forced to realize that it's never at the top of the food chain. As many found out while either helping their fellow man or trying to escape, there is always something far more dangerous lying in wait, something not impeded by inhibition or morals.

Nobody knows that lesson better than the two hundred and sixteen souls who escaped Portstown with their lives. Against all odds, they persevered, doing everything in their power to evade the growing number of undead. As much as they wanted the fever dream to end, Portstown was merely the start of their nightmare. Military broadcasts listing their names echoed over secure channels, tying them to whatever fate their shadowy saviors ordained for them.

Much like many of the people of Portstown, there was no saving the quaint Louisiana village. The infection had spread too rapidly, collapsing the town's infrastructure and sending its citizens into a panic that only made them easier to eat.

Destroying the town was the military's quick decision once it realized it had lost its footing. And though the fire burned hot, there's always the question of whether it was hot enough. As the survivors will soon find, some monsters will always rise again, and the horrors they faced in Portstown were just a prelude to something much bigger and far more wicked.

MAP DAY 17



JOURNAL: Twenty-fifth Entry

FEBRUARY 9, 2022



furiously scribbling something down in his journal. I suppose that's what made, me take up journaling now that I think about it. Can't seem to focus . . . everything is on fire. When we got to the piers we were all ushered onto this ship. I think it's an aircraft carrier. It's unlike anything I've ever seen in Portstown. I'm still not sure which branch of the military rescued us yesterday, if it even was the military. They aren't telling us much and no one knows where they are taking us. The worst part was watching it burn. Something about cleansing the infection "It all has to burn. They all have to burn"

Even if I didn't particularly like Portstown, I knew

al of those people. I can't believe they are gone.

I'm hopeful that this is the end. The waterway is the only way in and out of Portstown and I don't think the Zombies (if any survived) could find their way out.

k is with me. She hasn't left my side since the zombies took her father a few days back. I think she knows how I feel about her now but it isn't the time and I don't know that it matters much anymore. Who knows what they'l do to us. I heard something who knows what they'l do to us. I heard something about docking in New Orleans for transfer, (whatever that means).

This has to be the end.

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Human to Zombie Ratio

Humans: 216 Zombies: 3,502 Infection Rate: 94.2%



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JOURNAL: Survivor Manifest









agro23.eth



Apeiana Jones



Baron von Red



Basil Mountian



BBA.eth



Berke



BioHapHazard



Biscuit



Blood Farmer



boredape93



Bored Martian

Canna Crypto Pope



Bored Walker



CircaDiem



Bored Zombie



D34thSt4lker



Dilly Dilly



Disco Mude



economist



FFVV1211



Fox_Slightly



Franklin



friesframe



fxnction



Zombie Bored



Zombie Bored



Zombie Bored



Zombie Bored



Gee



HautedeApe



JBond



Jose Colchao



Josh Ong



Kenshiro



leftlost.eth



LolTapes



MachiaVillain



MD3K



Metacrix



metaMori.eth



Neon Ape Rider



netdragon0x



Patient Zero



Phibacka



Phil



PL



PPMan



QB



Ridnickulous



Russian Roman



Ryguy



Self-Actualizing American



Totally Stable



stew.eth



swoleluksobags



tmas



Totally Stable



Travis the Ape



VonDoom.eth



You Can_t Have Admin



Zombie Mayor Stu

Weapons Gallery



Ornate Knife Power: 1 / Durability: 2



Pick Axe Power: 2 / Durability: 3



Hunting Knife Power: 2 / Durability: 2



Assault Rifle Power: 5 / Durability: 4



Shotgun Power: 4 / Durability: 3



Submachine Gun Power: 4 / Durability: 4

Weapons Gallery



Celebrity Players



Bored Elon



Zombie Bored Elon



Gary Vee



Zombie Gary Vee



Katrina



Snoop



Zombie Snoop



Stephen S



Zombie Stephen S

COMING SOON

SEASON TWO JULY 2022