OKAY!

So, I watched **Army of the Dead** and. . . it was bad. It was *really* bad. It was really, *really,* ***really*** bad. On the bright side, my friends had a great time watching me lose my god-damned mind over the brain-meltingly stupid writing. Also, spoilers, but, lets be honest, this isn’t the kind of movie that one normally cares about spoilers over. Regardless, this will be spoilerrific, because we’re reworking this whole damn thing, because it is fucking *dumb.* Zombies teleport. Zombies are told to be intelligent but all that means is that they attack like movie ninjas instead of swarming. People are betrayed, *get back to the people that betrayed them,* and neither warn the others nor shoot the person that’s effectively killed them. People turn a few hours after being bitten, except for one guy who finds out he’s been bitten over 24 hours previously and he’s just got the shakes. You can apparently freeze-dry Zombies. One Zombie is just a robot. No, it’s never explained.

So. . . let’s fix this.

Now, I originally had plans for a bittersweet but hopeful ending that had the original cast of ~20 whittled down to 6 plus someone else they saved, and with *some* of the money, but Herb has informed me that, *apparently*, Horror movies have *rules.* If too many people survive (Max of 3, and one needs to be the idiot girl), apparently it isn’t a Horror movie, it’s an ‘Action movie with horror elements’. However, we need to address something else first.

The first fifteen minutes of this movie? *IT SHOULD’VE BEEN ITS OWN MOVIE*. Seriously, we’re introduced to about half the cast, and it’s *fucking awesome.* Seriously, even if you don’t want to watch the entire *two and a half hour* movie, watch the first fifteen minutes. It’s got *multiple* character arc contained within it in quick succession, capping off with the kind of ending you’d *expect* from a zombie movie, with Las Vegas being walled off with an enormous wall of shipping containers.

Also, yes, the logistics of that *does not work*, but, fuck it, minor in the scheme of thigs.

So, if you’ve got a Netflix subscription, queue it up *just for that.* Trust me, if you like Zombie movies, you’ll *love* the first fifteen minutes. It’s *just that good.*

But they didn’t make *that* movie (possible name, Hand of the Dead), they made this one.

The problem is that *we don’t give a shit about these characters*. If they *had* made this previous movie then as they, among other things, managed to survive the fall of Las Vegas, saved countless people, and went in deep to *rescue the Secretary of Defense*, we would’ve come to know and like them. However, *we never saw that movie*, so we didn’t get any of that. So we’re introduced to these characters with pre-existing characters that obviously had history, which *we only got a several second flash of,* so *we don’t care.*

Okay, now, let’s start with the rewrites. Their employer, Tanaka, owns a casino that has 200 mil in cash in a vault in the basement. He’s already been reimbursed by his insurance, so he’s hiring Dave Batitsta & co. to break into Zombie Vegas to get it, so he can collect twice. To do this, Batista is going to need to get a safecracker to break into this unbreakable safe. A safe that Tanaka owns. A safe which Tanaka should *already have the combination for* because it’s ***Tanaka’s safe***.

Okay, so, Batista has some history with Tanaka, so let’s rewrite this bullshit, because this makes *zero sense* (And it was my brother who pointed the entire ‘but it’s *his safe*’ thing out, because it was so dumb my mind had just edited it on the fly to make it better). Tanaka *isn’t* a Casino Owner, make him the head of a Private Security Company.

During the first of the movie (Hand of the Dead, which I’m gonna refer to as HotD), he saw the apocalypse and saw a *massive payday.* While everything was going to hell, he and his men worked to ferry people out of Vegas for an extortionate price. In doing so they worked *with* Batista & co., but when the heroes went back in to save the SecDef (and maybe one last group of survivors), Tanaka said ‘Sorry, no, we’re not being paid to do that, and it’s not part of our contract. Here’s some ammo though. Best of luck.’ So *that* explains the bad blood, but they’re still amenable to working together.

 Now, we’ve got a ticking clock because the president is going to *Nuke* Z-Vegas to stop the Zombie menace from having the possibility of breaking out. This is good, let’s keep this, and this *also* explains everything else. You see, now that things have calmed down a bit, Tanaka’s been hiring people to go do runs into Z-Vegas to grab everything that is worth a *ton* of money, all while dodging/killing zombies.

However, with the looming threat of *being nuked*, the normal team’s gonna ‘naw, I’m good’, and so he’s turned to Batista to do one last run, to break into the Casino and steal the money. Normally, Tanaka’s cut is 75% of everything grabbed, which makes sense since he’s the one managing all of the gear/bribes/intel/etc, but for this one he’s willing to drop that to 50%, because that’s *still* more money than he’d get otherwise, but he’s *still* the one getting them in, and getting them their intel.

Also, screw the ‘there’s a helicopter on top of the building that’s been sitting there for over a year but should still be usable (and if it isn’t your screwed), because you can’t enter the airspace but you can leave’ bullshit. No, they’ll have until Midnight, at which point the copter will come in low, get loaded up with the cash, they’ll get in, and they’ll all GTFO. The Nuke comes down the next evening (July 4th), at 10pm, and that’ll close things up entirely.

So, getting the group together. Keep that generally as normal, with some slight deviations. Have one of the people, maybe a couple from HotD, go, ‘Yeah, no’. Maybe Batista tries to do the ‘but Zombies killed your kids’ thing, but they reveal that the woman is pregnant, and they tell Batista that Zombies killed their kids, but they’re not going to kill their new one. (Yes, just like the Fast and the Furious, Army of the Dead is about *Family*, and I’m keeping that going).

Also when Batista goes to grab Reguera, his second in command, she agrees to do it before he can even tell her how much money they’ll be making. The ‘but I always loved you’ BS came *literal seconds* before she was killed by zombies, and it was so badly written it was comical. This way, it’s a bit of an undercurrent throughout the entire thing. She insists that she’s there for him, and when Batista’s finally like, “So, do you *not* want the money?” she responds, “Of course I fucking want the money, but that’s not why I’m doing this!” They clink beer bottles, drink, and get to work.

Keep Tig Notaro, but make her a demolitions expert instead. Seriously, I’ve never seen her in anything else, but her ‘yeah, I don’t give a shit’ dialogue was one of the consistently funny parts of this movie.

Also, the Zombie Youtuber? Triple his posse. We need some dumbasses to kill.

And finally, at least *one* person needs to say, “You son of a bitch, I’m in.” because if I have to follow Horror rules, then god-damnit, I’m gonna follow Heist rules as well!

So Batista’s daughter is left pretty much intact, because we need the bratty kid that gets people killed, because, as Herb tells me, this is a horror tradition, so I can’t even *kill* the bitch.

Grumblegrumblegrumble.

Oh, and have the weaselly guard off-handedly mention to her that people have gone missing, even some guards, so no-one would blink if *she* disappeared as well.

Add in Tanaka’s guy, keep him as a dick, but not to the *cartoonish* extent he was before. Seriously, the guy practically has ‘will betray everyone and leave them for dead’ tattoo’d on his forehead. In this, he’s there to make sure they don’t cut and run, to make sure at least *some* assholes stay alive, and to get the group inside. Seriously, having it be Batista’s *daughter* that transports the team of mercenaries in a refugee bus she just *happens* to have access to and the ability to use without anyone saying anything when *everyone* is evacuating the refugee camp is just another dumb thing to add to the pile.

Okay, so we get a gear-up sequence. Because *they have the time* to get the proper gear. These assholes aren’t going into a Zombie-infested area where fucking *TANK-TOPS*, with giant ‘bite here’ zones all down their arms. Nope, they’re wearing Kevlar turtlenecks, and gloves, and heavy-duty cargo-pants and heavy boots. Now, here’s where the Designated Dumbasses start waving their Death-Flags, as most of them are like, ‘Bitch, you know how hot it’s gonna be?’ and refuse to wear them, talkin’ up each other about how they’re ‘faster than some shamblers’ and other such shit. Except for the lead youtuber, who quietly grabs some gear for himself, even as *his* second in command, the badass Latina played by Samantha Win (good performance there btw), gives him a bit of the side-eye over it.

They get in to the bus, the corrupt military letting them through without issue when the corpie gives them the passphrase, and then Tananaka’s man leads them to the not-Coyote (played by Nora Arnezeder, who was good, but needed to speak a *bit* more clearly). *This* is where Batista realizes his daughter is there, as The Girl (I’m not dignifying her with a name) is harassing the *armed mercenary* about letting the Illegal Immigrant Mom in to make a quick couple thou, enough to help out her two kids, without any thought that the person she’s calling a monster *might just shoot her*.

This is when Batista and The Girl have their first meeting, an argument, as The Daughter cut off contact with him, and Batista didn’t expect to find her *right outside the city where Batista had to kill* ***his*** *wife, and* ***her*** *mother*. They have a fight, and the Daughter tries to invite herself along, Batista finally making a comment about ‘I lost your mother here, and now you want me to loose you here too? Do you want to be with her that much?’

And instead of The Daughter just being an absolute ‘Strong Woman ™’ who’s always right and Batista being a passive pussy about this entire thing (seriously, there’s a discussion about him opening an Artisanal Grilled Cheese Food Truck, and it’s obviously supposed to be funny, but is just *sad*), that *hits* the daughter, who gets quiet, and says that him bringing up mom isn’t fair. Batista’s like ‘Damn right. When it comes to family, I don’t fight fair.’

However, the daughter is unmoved, and insists, even threatening to make a scene as the only way he’s stopping her is tying her up and *hope* someone finds her before this place is nuked, so Batista relents. However, he insists she gets loaded out, the youtuber having grabbed an extra Kevlar Turtleneck and pants that are about in her size.

When everyone’s like ‘wtf?’ he’s like ‘I got ‘em for you, Badass Latina, ‘case you changed your mind.’ You get a moment of fond exasperation from the BL, and thankfulness from Batista, as he equips The Girl with first one Pistol, then a second, and then a *third*. When The Girl’s like ‘I won’t need that many’ Batista’s like ‘Yes you will, but keep the last one until you really, *really* need it.’

So, they’re all ready to go, all 20-ish, along with weasel-guard, and the Coyote leads them through the shipping containers, only instead opening onto the ground floor among piles of the dried-out zombies that come alive when it rains (the previously mentioned Freeze-Dried Zombies (which we’re not including, because that’s fucking *dumb)*), they come out of a container that’s on *top* of another, and the coyote kicks down a ramp which they descend, and she pushes back up.

Keep the piles of corpses, with the path between them, but they’re *all* *dead*. The Coyote has killed all of the ones around here, with a kill count in the *tens* of thousands. The Z-tubers are impressed, but the Coyote’s just confused, since all she did was come up from time to time with a couple buckets of ammo and headshot *everything* that moved, at her own pace, a couple hours a couple days a week, for *years*.

Keep the next bit, with the Zombie Tiger, and shooting weasel-guard, leaving him as tribute. The Corpie, though, should *not* be surprised by this, nor the presence of the smart zombies. *Batista* and co., however, should be *severely* disturbed by this. Maybe in the *Previous fucking movie* there could’ve been some Zombies that seemed a little ‘smart’. Actually, have the previous movie end with Batista *killing* the Zombie that started this entire thing, who *was* smart, but when he mentioned it to Reguera in that movie she didn’t believe him, and neither did the SecDef.

You could have a line from Reguera about ‘holy shit, you were right!’ and the youtuber asking why no one’s heard of this. The Coyote just snorts, and asks who would believe it. Also, *this* is why they’re nuking Vegas, when other cities have been reclaimed from the Shamblers. If *this* gets out, things are going to get a lot, *lot* worse.

Also, the Coyote was the cause of the aforementioned disappearances (obviously), which The Girl is *not* okay with, though the Coyote is defensive about it, insisting she only gave over those that deserved it. Rapists, child abusers, blackmailers, and the like. The Camp brought them in to prey on the weak, and so she preyed on them.

We don’t need three separate ‘let’s kill the Corpie’ speeches, so have Tig suggest it, because she’s got a problem with Tanaka’s people, and they’ve *already* met the Coyote, but Batista doesn’t just sit and passively listen, he crushes the idea. *‘That’s not what they do*’ or something like that. Have the Badass Latina be a complete ‘I’m not scared of you, ya fuckin’ suit’ bitch to the Corpie, making him go first as they pick their way through the hibernating Zombies, because that’s both in character and makes sense.

Then have that go bad as it does, with the Corpie fucking up the trail so the BL gets lost, but have another couple of the Youtuber Posse with her, maybe one guy who’s hitting on her (even with all the Zombies) but she just brushes it off. Then it goes bad, like it does in the movie, but with the other posse members dying a lot faster than the BL. However, don’t have her bust out a window, maybe two dozen feet away, with everyone armed and, like, a dozen zombies between her and safety. No, have the zombies *completely* swarming, and have the Youtuber and the Corpie at the top of one of those raised landings with the two staircases on either side, as she busts into the lower hall, guns blazing. This way, there’s closer to a *hundred* zombies between her and them, all moaning at full volume, and the Z-tuber and the Corpie are barely holding them back.

So she busts out, but she busts out *into* a pack of zombies, and one *immediately* bites her on her exposed shoulder, as she screams out in pain and anger. She’s shooting, and screaming, but the noise is such that you can’t *quite* make out that she’s yelling that it was the Corpie’s fault, but she *knows* she’s bit.

We know she’s bitten, and *they* know she’s bitten, so she’s a dead-woman walking. The youtuber wants to go down, but the Corpie stops him, telling him she’s already dead. Youtuber swears, and *knows* the Corpie’s right, and the Corpie’s like, “We can’t save her, but we can make sure she doesn’t suffer”, so he shoots the gas-can she’s wearing (they’re still carrying those, but for the Casino’s backup generator, not the helicopter), and she explodes, taking out the horde all around her.

This way, the Corpie looks good, and the Z-tuber would defend him, while *we* know he’s an absolute sonofabitch.

Cut to the smart zombies. I thought the head zombie was a different, because he had *hair*, but it was only that reviewing the opening sequence (which, again, *awesome*) that I realized it was the same guy, but the *Zombie’s hair grew*, which is *retarded.* So, new head zombie has the old head-zombies head on a staff, the knife that Batista buried in it’s skull still there. Keep that scene with him biting weasel-guard pretty much the same.

The protags make it to the Casino, but the inside is oddly free of zombies, only a few hanging around. This is when they find out they’re not the first ones to try this, not even the first ones sent by Takashi, but instead of being a smug prick, the Corpie is just as surprised as the rest of them.

They split into teams. The German safecracker, the black guy, Tig, the Z-tuber, and his remaining posse go down to see the safe. Tig’s like ‘What do you mean I can’t blast it open? Lame.’ and goes upstairs, the Z-tuber following, oddly passive.

Batista, The Girl, and Reguera go to start the Generator, again, finding more evidence that they weren’t the first ones to be here, killing a shamble that was geared up in the same kind of gear that *they’re* using. Reguera gives the two of them a moment, while she makes sure the entire area is clear, and we get the stupid ‘I didn’t hate you because you killed Zombie-Mom, I hate you because you didn’t call.’

Again, instead of being a completely passive emotional punching-bag for his daughter, Batista tries to be understanding, but eventually asks her if she’s a child, or an adult, like she said she was when she demanded to go with them. When she says ‘Adult’, he points out that he didn’t know where *she* went, but she knew *exactly* where he was. That he hadn’t moved on, so that, if she wanted to come find him, she could, but she *never did*. She has no answer to this, and they move on.

Keep the safe-cracking scenes. They’re amazing.

The Youtuber’s a bit shaken from losing his friend, but is trying to hold a strong front for the other five that are still with him. They want to ransack the Casino, but they’re supposed to be making sure the path from the Casino to the rooftop helipad (up an elevator, across the casino floor, then up another elevator) is clear. Youtuber says they need to secure that first, and *then* they can poke around, and two stay but the other three are like ‘we’ve got hours! We can do that later!’ and peace-out, leaving him to do that, maybe one has a line about how they were there for the Badass Latina, not *him*, and the other two go along with it.

Then we get the news. Because of the protests, they’re *not* gonna nuke Vegas on July 4th, instead they’re gonna do it *today,* at 11:59, because the president’s being a petty, pedantic asshole. Everyone starts to panic, and the Corpie contacts Tanaka, who updates them that they’re being pulled out at sunset, in two hours, instead of at midnight in six. That’s more than enough to do the job, but now they’re on a *much* tighter time pressure.

Youtuber goes ‘Oh Shit’, and says he needs to get the others, because they are gonna be *out of time*.

Have Corpie approach the Coyote, to tell them they’ve got an *extra* job, that Tanaka wants them to do. Coyote’s a bit hesitant, but goes along with him when they’re securing the outside entrances, because Corpie *is* one of Tanaka’s lieutenants while she’s a field-agent. As they walk, we find out that Tanaka wants a Vial of the Smart Zombie blood. The Coyote is *not* okay with this, but goes along with it anyways. She warns this is gonna ruin her relationship with the Smart Zombies, but the Corpie laughs, and asks her why that matters, as they’re all gonna be shadows on the wall in a day and a half.

Youtuber and Batista goes up to get the last three, while the Daughter, Tig, & Reguera work to secure their route. Tig takes one look at the other two glaring at each other and ‘nopes’ the hell out of there, going to set up mines and shit just in case shit goes bad. The Daughter gets snippy about how Reguera isn’t going to replace Batista’s wife. Reguera tells the daughter that *she* has no standing to say anything about her father’s life, as, while she didn’t say anything, she *heard* what was said. They haven’t seen *any* hint of the Illegal Immigrant Mom, and Daughter, who *just* promised she’d stay with Regueara, finds an excuse to slip away, to go do what *she* came here to do, damn everything else.

Corpie and Coyote call in the Queen, scene goes *exactly the same*. Corpie bags the Queen’s severed head, as the Coyote freaks the fuck out, both at what he did and also at the fact that the fucking moron didn’t even *gag her first!*

Youtuber Posse is having a *grand* old time up in the penthouse/presidential suites/etc, coming across zombies (maybe zombie showgirls from the opening sequence?), drinking stupidly expensive alcohol, and grabbing everything they *think* is expensive, including drugs.

Then they stumble across a pregnant Zombie.

Oh. Um. Weird? Now *we* know that the Queen was pregnant, but *they* don’t know that, and their high is *very* quickly brought nightmarish as they find more. And *more.* And then *Baby Zombies*, but these ones are. . . odd, with (and lets go with the weird thing they had in the original) faintly glowing blue eyes, and blue veins.

At which point, *thoroughly* on the bad trip, the posse starts killing them all, which wakes up the *other* Zombies that were up in the various floors of the Casino. This is when Batista and the Youtuber bust in, see what’s going on, and are *thoroughly* disturbed, but find the posse and try to pull back tdown and out through the area with the others, as Zombies come from *everywhere*. Batista and the Youtuber make it to the elevator, but the Posse are high and off their game, and die, the last one *almost* making it before s/he’s grabbed and bitten, Batista shooting him/her in the head to spare them right as the doors close.

Cut to outside, and the alpha’s found the queen is dead, brought her back, tries to pull out the Baby, only for it to die with a thin, weedy Cry. Then, in the distance, we hear the cries of the *others*.

Yeah. They’re pissed.

Cut to the vault, they’re in! Yes this is mood whiplash. No, I don’t care.

Batista and the Youtuber stumble back down, *thoroughly* shaken, but the others are like ‘Hey, we’ve got it open!’ With the others having grabbed some extra stuff, the bagged head doesn’t draw attention. They start to pile up the money on the trollies they’ve gotten. Batista asks about the Daughter, and Reguera tells him the brat is doing what the brat said she was going to do, and he goes to check up on her.

Everyone gets about half the money on the roof, when they see the Zombies starting to gather in *numbers* around them, starting to freak out. They go down two the cleared veranda, where the generators were, to get a better look.

And then come the javelins, thrown by the Zombies, killing Tig.

Yeah, let’s make this ‘Army of the Dead’ an actual fucking *army*.

However (thankfully), they don’t have any munitions, or, if they do, they’re not using them for. . . reasons. I’m gonna say throwing is something they can do, but the skill needed to shoot is something most lack, so they don’t bother.

Everyone pulls back, and this is when Batista realizes his daughter has gone AWOL, and hopes she’s not dead. Reguera apologizes, but Batista insists it wasn’t her fault, it was *his* for not staying with her (showing that entire ‘you’re an adult, act like it’ thing, while true, doesn’t mean he doesn’t still care and worry). However, they’re both sure she *is* dead (she’s not, she’s gotten into the Olympia), but Batista focuses on saving those he can, just like the first move.

Zombies break through the barriers and attack, Tig’s explosives saving their ass, and their armor means that some are only hurt, not bitten, but one of the last two of the youtuber’s posse dies.

Everyone pulls back to the vault, one the surviving youtuber posse person is like ‘Why don’t why we wait it out in the vault’ only for the German to go off on the guy about how *retarded* that is (and is what happened in the real movie, and was also retarded then). However, they have an hour to get to the roof before they’re *fucked*.

Corpie slips away from the others, and then locks the elevator after he used it, trapping the others down in there (they were sure to lock everything else to stop Zombies from getting in and *Corpie has both keycards*) while he gets to the roof (Helicopter arrival T-minus twenty minutes). He tries to sneak by the Zombies, then goes to hold the head hostage, only to find he doesn’t have it. He tries to run, and gets tagged by a javelin from the Alpha, but manages to get away, but he’s bleeding heavily, and he’s had to go around, the Zombies blocking his way to the elevator.

He thinks he’s gotten away, but that’s where the Zombie Tiger comes in. We don’t need The Remnant, Zombie Cat edition, instead we have the animal sniffing him out, tracking him by his blood trail, and, as he gets to the elevator, it finds him. You get a scene where he fires at it, as the door is closing, and he *almost* gets away but it gets its head in, *right* as he runs out of ammo, and as he desperately tries to reload it forces his way in, and as he tries to shoot its already on him, tearing him to pieces. Either show it, or have the doors close from afar, only to open on a different floor, as a bloody, and *very* happy Zombie Tiger walks out, to go nuzzle the Alpha Zombie.

Down below, they’ve found another way out, utilizing the black guy’s giant saw, and they’re trying to make it work, *knowing* they’re running out of time. Coyote tells the others about Corpie’s plans and part in all of this.

Alpha zombie walks over to the elevator going down, and turns the emergency key, unlocking the elevator, hitting the button and holding it open as a pack of zombies enters it with spears.

People down below finish cutting their way out, right as the elevator opens, disgorging zombies, and this is when the big setpiece fight starts. Last posse member dies in that first attack, and the elevator closes in the background, going back up as the protags start to escape, taking the side stairs up, as the Alpha Zombie joins the others in the second wave, only to find the others have escaped.

*INSERT GIANT GUNFIGHT THROUGH THE CASINO FLOOR.*

If you don’t want to watch the movie, but are willing to queue it up on Netflix, I’d suggest you watch this too (1:53 onward), because *this* is what a competent shooter with military armaments should be doing to Zombie Hordes, even fast ones that can parkour and dodge a bit.

So this, but the Zombies are organized, and throwing spears back, and they keep on moving. Make it twice as long, and, yeah, have the Youtuber get hit by a spear in the gut, and then another in the leg, and goes down, after surviving several bites because of his gear. He’s not bit, but he *knows* he’s dying, and tells the others to go on without him.

Batista, Reguera, the German, the black guy, and the Coyote make it to the elevator, but a spear catches the Coyote in the chest, and it’s so long the elevator door can’t close. Batista tries to snap it off, but can’t, and the Coyote pushes him away to stagger outside, opening fire and yelling for them to “Go!”

Alpha Zombie goes for her, and she pulls out the head, holding them off, but she’s dying, and the AZ pulls back, before suddenly grabbing and throwing a spear and pinning her arm to the wall. He starts to stalk forward, but she pulls the pin on the grenades to kill him, and the AZ outs, throwing other zombies in the way to take the blast, and survives.

Cut to the Daughter, who’s found the Illegal Immigrant Mom, as well as one other woman. They try to escape, but Weasel-guy, now zombified, jumps the IIM and bites her before the Daughter kills him. It almost has her, rips the gun out of her hand after only getting a grazing wound, but the bite-proof shirt saves her life. She has to use her holdout weapon to kill him, and then has to put down the IIM, who’s already bleeding out. Yes, The Daughter’s reason for doing this is moot, just like the original movie.

*Good job*.

Batista, Reguera, the German, and the black guy make it up, and the helicopter is coming in. It lands, and they start to load it up. Then Batista’s phone rings. It’s The Daughter. She’s alive, but she needs help.

Copter pilot, who is separated from the main cabin by bulletproof glass is like ‘We’re getting out of here.’ However, with a couple hours they *might* be able to get to her, hoof it out of Vegas, and take cover, but probably not. Batista, however, is going to go after his daughter anyways, and Reguera is going with him. The black guy is torn, but Batista tells him to go, take the money, and that *something* good should come out of this.

The Helicopter has two parachutes, of the horizontal sporty kind, so Batista and Reguera base-jump off the top of the Casino, to cover the distance over Zombie-filled streets, and get to the Olympia in time. Yes, this doesn’t make a *ton* of sense, but it’s cool, and *possible*, so let’s go with it.

Alpha Zombie sees them do so, and starts to follow, but it’s gonna take him a bit to get there, even with his Zombie Horse (BTW, he’s got a Zombie horse).

Reguera and Batista get there, fight their way in, find the Daughter and the other woman, but are forced to go higher and higher as the Zombies are too damn many. At one point Reguera goes down in a pile of Zombies, and it looks like she’s dead, but Batista wades in, firing, and it looks like she’s fine (zombies gnawing on arms but not getting through). Finally end on the rooftop, end of the line, but, in the distance, they can see the Helicopter. It’s coming for them! They’re saved!

And then the other woman takes a javelin to the heart, and pitches off the rooftop.

Turn around. Alpha Zombie. Batista and Reguera try to shoot him, but their guns are dry.

Alpha Zombie laughs, motions for the other Zombies to hold back, and swaggers forward, wanting to fight mano-e-mano. Regeura steps forward, saying she’s not going to leave him, but the other Zombies step forward as well, and Batista hold a hand out for her to stay back, and she retreats a step, the other Zombies following suit, and the AZ gestures for Batista to come to him.

They fight, and Batista is good, but he’s hurt, and tired, and *not* in his prime like he was in the first movie, and at one point the AZ bites his face, or ear, or something. The fight doesn’t stop there, and Batista several times tries to reach for something behind himself, but has to abort to try not to die, and finally is caught, as the AZ chokes him, slowly, laughing.

Then Batista grabs his holdout pistol, a tiny thing, shoves it in the AZ’s eye, and blows his bright blue brains out.

Everyone goes silent.

Batista struggles to his feet, the bite-mark already blackened and miscolored, with a hint of something glowing blue in the wound, and the edges of his pupils are already starting to turn orange. The Smart Zombies hold back, looking between the fallen AZ and Batista. Batista yells at them. “Go. Just *G****o!***” with a bit of zombie shriek to his voice, and they scatter.

Helicopter comes over, and the black guy’s cut open a hole in the bulletproof glass, the German holding a gun to the pilot’s head. They land, and the Daughter gets in, but stops, looking back to Batista. He tells her to go, and that if it’s his life for hers, it’s a trade he’s happy to make. He does tell Regeura to go but she grimaces, and holds up her hair, revealing half a bite-mark. She says she knew she was dead, but she wanted *him* to survive.

Daughter is heartbroken, and wants to hug her father, but he stops her, not wanting her that close, just in case, but offers her hand, which she holds to her chest. He tries to apologize for being to harsh, but she doesn’t let him, apologizing first, saying how this was all her fault.

German guy agrees, and black guy’s like *dude!*. German’s like, ‘But I’m right. So, in the future, she should be better!’ and Daughter promises she *will* be, Batista saying that’s all he wants, and for her to be happy. She gets on the chopper, and the German pulls the gun away from the Pilot, who wastes no time in *getting the fuck out of there*.

Batista and Reguera watch as the helicopter flies away. Reguera quips that using that pistol wasn’t exactly fair, and Batista says that ‘When it comes to his family, he doesn’t fight fair’.

Insert sequence as the helicopter leaves destroyed Vegas as the sun sets, while a song plays.

Cut to the daughter looking out at the desert at night, from a very nice living room, a cut on her face bandaged, time having passed. Black guy and German are there with her, all of them are cleaned up, and Tanaka walks in, telling them they’ve counted the money, and will be split 50/50, as they agreed, in the manner they wish, though for a few grand he can set up diversified accounts that’ll help them avoid taxes and ‘unfortunate questions’.

When the Daughter brought up the Corpie taking the head, Tanaka’s like “He did *what.*”

Yeah, that bullshit was *all* the Corpie’s doing, as Tanaka *likes* fighting shamblers, they’re known, and easy to manage, but still dangerous enough to make people scared, and let him make a profit. He’s had other offers, to get material from the Smart Zombies, and he’s turned them down. Tanaka states that, if he’d known the Corpie was going to do that, he would’ve killed the man himself.

Black Guy is skeptical that they’re gonna be allowed to walk away, but Tanak’s dismissive of his concerns. He’s a *businessman* first, everything else second, and pulling that type of villainous double-cross is *terrible* for business. As would pulling any kind of ‘my deal is with Batista, but he’s dead’ Bullshit. However, they *have* proven their capabilities, and he’s heard some rumors of something down south, if they’re interested. They don’t need to respond now, just keep him in mind.

The daughter looks out the window and sees, in the distance, a streak of fire, and says she’ll think about it.

Last scene, Batista and Reguera are sitting on a rooftop, drinking beers, across from the casino, which is lit up in the otherwise dark landscape of Zombie Vegas. There’s Zombies in the background, but they’re giving the pair space. Batista wonders what they want, and Reguera suggest they expect Batista to be the next leader, when he turns. Suggests that she might be his queen, and they both laugh, both breaking off into coughing, Reguera dropping her bottle, which shatters, the camera panning to show it’s not the only one that has.

Batista grabs another, and pops the top off with a flick of his fingers, commenting that Zombie Strength is good for *something.* He offers it to her, and, with shaking hands, she takes it, mastering herself as the shaking fades.

An alarm goes off, and Batista takes out his phone, his own hands shaking a little, and it’s an alarm for 11:58. He tries to turn it off, but cracks the screen by accident, and sighs, tossing it off the rooftop. Reguera asks if it’s time, and he nods, looking up and pointing out the falling star that’s getting brighter and brighter (yes, I know a Nuke wouldn’t be visible like that, but the movie did it, so whatever).

Batista chuckles, coughing, and when Reguera gives him a quizzical look he quips, “Make a wish?”

She laughs, shaking her head, telling him, “I’m good.”

She offers her beer for a click, just like they did before, and Batista mutters, “Screw it,” before tossing his bottle away, grabbing hers and doing the same, and bring her in for a kiss as the nuke hits and the screen goes white.

Credits scroll.

Viva Los Vegas plays.

So. . . yeah. I came up with most of this off the top of my head after we finished the movie, with a little refinement as I wrote it up. But, seriously, if I can do this in a couple hours, *what the hell is Zach Snyder’s excuse?*

Either way, hope you enjoyed this little what-if, leave feedback if you’d like, and I’m gonna go back to writing my own stories. I’m thinking Abaddon Bourn(e). It’s gonna be a doozy.