

DEATH WORM

Written by

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SCENE ONE.

A busy supermarket somewhere in America. Today. People stand impatiently in line in front of the only available register. An intercom plays some pretty cool elevator music.

Customer 1, in a suit and tie, calls out.

CUSTOMER 1

Come on! I don't have all day!

Customer 2, on their phone and wearing emo makeup, responds.

CUSTOMER 2

Tell me about it. I just fuckin' came here for Bounty, but I ended up having to buy some budget brand.

CUSTOMER 1

Man, if there was only was a way to make these lines shorter.

CUSTOMER 2

There's too many people. We need to get rid of them. Curb the population.

Customer 1 distances themselves from Customer 2.

CUSTOMER 1

I mean, when you put it that way...

The entire supermarket starts rumbling. The entire supermarket shakes. Parts of the ceiling crumble. Lights flicker.

Suddenly, a MASSIVE GIANT DEATH WORM with a mouth for its head emerges screeching from the ground, sending debris everywhere. It retracts back into the ground, leaving behind a giant hole.

Cue the screaming of people who may never see their loved ones again. Everyone runs around in fear.

Outside, sounds of police sirens, fire engine sirens, air raid sirens, many different types of sirens.

Customers 3, a stay-at-home mom type, 4, who looks like he's straight out of a trailer park, and 2 freak out, among others in the store.

CUSTOMER 4

Jimmy! Where is my Jimmy!

CUSTOMER 3

Lawyer! You will hear from my lawyer!

CUSTOMER 2

Bounty! Does anyone know where the Bounty is!

Customer 1 bangs their hand on a counter.

CUSTOMER 1

Everybody calm down, all right?!

CUSTOMER 3

Calm down? A giant... cylindrical life form just came and ate several of us up!

Several other customers nod their heads in agreement.

CUSTOMER 1

Right, but we can make the best of this situation! There is no need for panic!

CUSTOMER 4

Try telling that to my Jimmy!

CUSTOMER 2

Hey, wait a second guys.

Everybody calms down for a second.

CUSTOMER 2

Did anyone actually die?

Everybody looks around, checking to see if the person standing beside them is still alive.

They are. The worm has missed every human entirely.

CUSTOMER 1

Listen, guys, let's just... assess the situation before deciding on anything drastic, okay?

CUSTOMER 2

Okay, here's the situation.

Customer 2 holds up their phone.

CUSTOMER 2

The president just declared a state of actual national emergency. We are officially under attack by a malicious subterranean life form.

The supermarket starts rumbling again.

CUSTOMER 4

Guys! It's coming again!

The worm emerges in an unpopulated section of the market, eating no one. It retracts into the ground.

People start to panic.

Customer 1 gets up on a counter.

CUSTOMER 1

Hey, let's pull it together! Okay, we know what we're up against, and... that's all we know. Let's work together and get some defences up!

CUSTOMER 3

Hold on, who put you in charge? The more we stick together, the more of us that worm is going to eat when it comes up again!

People start agreeing with Customer 3.

CUSTOMER 1

You think you're going to take down one of those worms alone? If we stand any chance at surviving, we need to stick together.

Customer 3 gets in the Cashier's face.

CUSTOMER 3

Oh, all of a sudden you're an expert on the worms?

CUSTOMER 1

I never claimed to be an expert on anything. I am just in the middle of an apocalypse and perhaps the last few moments of my life, and I would rather lessen the chances that these are the last few moments of my life.

People start agreeing with Customer 1. Two distinct groups form up around the two, glaring at each other.

CUSTOMER 3

Cool. Maybe those can be your last words to the worm as it eats you up.

CUSTOMER 1

Oh, now you're just being petty. Anyone who's with me, let's get together some defences!

Customer 1's group starts gathering makeshift weapons.

CUSTOMER 3

You are scum. Anyone who's with me, let's get together some defences!

Customer 3's group starts gathering makeshift weapons.

Everyone is gearing up for war. They are interrupted by Customer 2, who's standing off by the side, alone.

CUSTOMER 2

Two minutes.

CUSTOMER 1

What?

CUSTOMER 2

I timed the worm. So far, its attacks have come every two minutes. It seems that it's the only worm that is attacking us, so given that, plus the square footage in this supermarket, and we have about four minutes left before we have to go outside. I, for one, welcome the embrace of our new overlords, but I am not sure if they are even capable of embracing.

Four minutes. This fact starts to sink into everyone.

Customer 2's phone alarm goes off.

CUSTOMER 2

Oh, here it comes.

The supermarket starts rumbling.

Screeching. The worm emerges near the back, completely missing anyone. It retracts back into the ground, leaving another gaping hole. Beat.

CUSTOMER 4

I can't handle this any more! I've got to get out of here!

Holding a small child of 2, JIMMY, in their arms, Customer 4 rushes towards the supermarket door.

Customer 1 attempts to hold Customer 4 back, but Customer 4 throws them to the ground and keeps on going. Customer 4 opens the door.

The sounds of death and war flow into the supermarket. A strong gust of wind blows onto Customer 4, who is transfixed, looking at the scene outside.

CUSTOMER 4

Oh my God-

Screeching, and multiple tentacles grab a hold of Customer 4 and pull them outside, leaving behind only Jimmy. Customer 4 starts screaming in pain. The screams abruptly cut out with a sharp crunch. Beat.

CUSTOMER 2

You died in vain.

Everyone starts screaming and panicking for like, the 100th time in this script.

The two groups start to reform and curse at each other.
Customer 3 goes up in Customer 1's face.

CUSTOMER 3

You did this! YOU!

CUSTOMER 1

The fuck kind of stretch is this now?!

CUSTOMER 3

You didn't stop him. You let an innocent man die!

People start to go over to Customer 3's side. They gang up on Customer 1, pushing them towards the door.

CUSTOMER 2

Why don't we use the hole?

CUSTOMER 3

The door's more dramatic.

CUSTOMER 1

Guys! Take a step back and look at what you're doing here!

CUSTOMER 3

No! We physically cannot take a step back! We will fall into the hole and die! Is that what you want?

Customer 3 addresses the crowd.

CUSTOMER 3

The evil wage slave wants to kill us all!

The crowd is in uproar. Customer 1 inches closer and closer to the door. They look by their side and see Jimmy. In a swift movement, Customer 1 grabs Jimmy and holds him close.

CUSTOMER 1

Stop! Everyone, stop where you are, or you will be responsible for two deaths!

Customer 3 taps Customer 1 menacingly with a copy of Home Living.

CUSTOMER 3

Maybe that's the price we have to pay for freedom.

An alarm from Customer 2's phone rings.

CUSTOMER 2

Worm.

The supermarket rumbles and the worm emerges closer to everyone. It retracts.

The entirety of the supermarket's population is now cramped on one side of the stage. They are on their last bit of land.

CUSTOMER 2

We have two minutes left.

The crowd goes in uproar.

CUSTOMER 3

I say we do it now! While we still have time! Throw the corporate being out of the front door! I want to do that while I live.

CUSTOMER 1

Listen to what you are saying! This worm is going to eat us up in a matter of minutes, and all you want to do is throw me outside? We are going to die! We are all going to die very, very soon!

CUSTOMER 3

I will Lord of the Flies you, Piggy.

Customer 3 smacks Customer 1 with the Home Living, but their arm also connects with Customer 2, who's right on the edge of a hole.

CUSTOMER 2

Oops.

Customer 2 tries to maintain their balance. As they wave their arms around, they also strike several other customers, who also go off-balance.

Like a row of dominoes, Customer 2 and many other customers fall into the giant hole that is most of the supermarket now. There is chaos as people start fighting each other for last bits of land, which leads to more and more people falling into the hole.

Customer 3 latches onto Customer 1 and starts trying to drag them into the hole. Customer 1 pries Customer 3 off of them and shoves Customer 3 strongly. Customer 3 pushes someone else into the hole to stay on land. As everyone around them falls into the hole, Customers 1 and 3 eventually end up on the ground, exhausted from fighting.

Customer 1 sits up and looks around him. There is no one left. There is only hole. He calls out.

CUSTOMER 1

Hello?

Silence.

Customer 3 sits up and peers down into the hole.

CUSTOMER 3

Maybe it isn't that deep after all?

The sounds of bodies hitting the bottom of the hole travel up.

A phone alarm from the bottom of the hole starts ringing. Customer 2's phone alarm.

CUSTOMER 1

Well, I guess this is it. If you wanted a last chance at me, go for it. Push me down. Or out. I don't care. Actually, death by falling seems less painful than death by tentacle. Did you hear anyone screaming while they fell down?

I don't think so.

CUSTOMER 3

CUSTOMER 1

Yeah. Push me down.

Rumbling.

Customer 3 stands up.

I can't.

CUSTOMER 3

What?

CUSTOMER 1

I'm going to go in the hole with you. I would also rather prefer death by hole. I don't care any more.

CUSTOMER 3

Customer 1 stands up.

Oh, really?

CUSTOMER 1

They hold hands.

Yeah. I actually was thinking about how I'd like to go when I die, and I thought that falling would, you know... if it's tall enough, it'll be quick.

CUSTOMER 3

Oh my gosh, same! I was thinking that thing too!

CUSTOMER 1

They fall into the hole, but keep talking. Their voices grow more distant as they fall further.

CUSTOMER 1

(offstage)
You know something funny?

CUSTOMER 3

(offstage)

What?

CUSTOMER 1

(offstage)

I was always afraid of flying. And, and it's kind of funny, you know, the death and the flying-

CUSTOMER 3

(offstage)

Yeah, no I get it! I'm afraid of flying too!

CUSTOMER 1

(offstage)

Get out of here!

The worm emerges, eating up the last piece of ground. It waits for a second. It looks around it, then sadly screeches and goes back into the ground.

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