

# PROJECT Z

- Chapter 2 -

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Darkness. It's all I see. Few minutes ago, I'm running from those walking dead and now here I am, left in nothingness. Is it what death looks like? I must continue, continue to search for the light. Eventhough I'm not a believer, I still hope that what they believe is true.

From a distance, I see someone. I can't recognize who's that person. All I can see is his back. I run towards him and tap his shoulder.

*"I thought you are my friend. I thought you'll never leave me. But what did you do, you left me there with those evil creatures. You're the worst!"*

I'm speechless. The things that he said are true. Then a girl suddenly hugs him,

*"This is all your fault! You did not listen to me. You're selfish!"* she said with irk and sweetness in her voice.

My tears start to fall as I see them walking away from me. The words they said cause my heart to shatter into pieces.

A moment of silence covers the place when suddenly Roy hears raucous laughter. It's just like mocking him. It becomes louder and louder. He screams while covering his ears.

*"Please stop!"*

Then, he hears gun firing. Slowly, he opens his eyes. The blaze coming from the rays of the sun irritates his eyes.

*"Where am I?"* is the only question in his mind.

He sits and examines himself. Zombie's bite and bruises are completely gone as if he is being reborn. 10 meters from where he stands is a battalion of soldiers standing in an elevated area and behind them is a three-storey building-a military base in particular. He scatters his eyes. Thousands of corpses are surrounding him.

*"A corpse has risen!"* exclaimed one of the soldiers.

The commanding officer confirms the sighting using his binocular.

*"Prepare to shoot! On the count of three. Shoot him!"*

He starts counting, *"One... Two... Three..."*

They start firing. Roy's heartbeat becomes faster. He feels like everything in his surrounding slowly moves. He can see the bullets approaching him. Thanks for a corpse which suddenly rose infront him. Bullets hit it.

When Roy realizes that the area where he is an execution field, he stands and hurriedly runs.

*"Oh my God... is that human?"* commanding officer murmured after assessing Roy.

*"Sir! He's trying to escape! We're waiting for your order!"*

The commanding officer keeps mum. He's thinking how is it possible to survive from zombie attacks.

*"Sir! It's dangerous if that one escapes!"*

*"Shoot him!"* he commanded.

Corpses start to rise. The bullets hit every parts of their body. Blood splashes. Roy can hardly get out because there's too many of them. He uses his fist to punch the zombies in his way. Then, Roy stumbles. He sees a wooden stick and picks it.

*"Go to hell freaking bastards!"* he said while spanking their heads.

He can feel an extraordinary strength flowing all over his body. He doesn't feel tired eventhough he spanked nearly 50 of them. Their blood spatters all over him.

While Roy aggressively fights them, the corpses behind him are savagely knocked out by bullets.

*"Just continue shooting until no one is left!"* commanding officer exclaimed when someone taps his shoulder.

*"Let him escape"* the man said. *"Do you know him?"* commanding officer asked but he got no reply.

When nearly all the corpses down, *"Stop shooting!"*

*"But sir...!"*

*"It's my order and it is final. If I told you to stop shooting, just stop!"* commanding officer retorted.

Roy succeeds from getting away from the site. While running, he scrutinizes the place.

*"Execution field, military camp, high fences... a government facility indeed."*

The situation became worst that the government took all the corpses to execute at once. I must keep away from here to see what's happening outside. He keeps on going.

As he reaches the gate, *"What the heck is this place? A military base without guards on duty?"*

The gate suddenly opens. *"Is it a trap? How the hell I'll know if I wouldn't try?"*

Without any other second thoughts, he runs outside. The gate closes.

*"Sir, I made him escape as you had commanded."* said the guard on duty that is hiding behind the bushes.

Roy is continuously running under the scorching heat of the sun. No one is roaming around. It's like a ghost town.

*"Maybe those corpses back there are the villagers. How would I know where am I?"*

Then, he notices an owner jeep going towards him. It is too fast that the owner jeep hits him. He is thrown away and rolls on the ground. (Long horn coming from the owner jeep is heard)

*"Ouch, what the heck is that."* the driver said while touching her head that is bumped in steering wheel. She comes out of the vehicle. She is shocked upon seeing Roy lying down on the street soaked with blood.

*"A zombie or a human?"* she said as she approaches him.

*"Are you okay"* asked by her while pointing her caliber 45 to make sure.

Roy suddenly freaks out, *"Stay away from me freaking monsters!"*

*"Huuuuuh!? Human indeed."* murmured by the girl then she hits Roy's head with a karate chop.

*"Awww son of..."* Roy opens his eyes. She is wearing hanging t-shirt and short pants higher than her knees exposing her legs. She's too sexy in a risqué way.

*"Yummy! I mean the t-shirt"* Roy murmured.

*"Huuuh!? I'm asking you if you're okay!"* she spanks Roy at his face.

Roy lost his consciousness. *"Opps. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to do that, I was shocked."* she said while shrugging him.

She checks for any wound or bite in his body but there's nothing aside from the bruises he got from the accident. She has no other choice but to carry him to the vehicle.

*"He's so heavy. I must give him first aid before hitting the road."*

After treating his wounds, she heard rustling sound behind the bushes. She get her gun, point to where the sound comes from and ready to pull the trigger. Roy wakes up and looks at her curiously.

*"What's the matter?"* he asked.

*"Shh... There's someone behind the bushes"* she replied.

Then, a zombie abruptly appears and attacks her. She fires the gun and the zombie falls to the ground. Roy couldn't speak in awe.

*"Damn. She's a sharp shooter! Who the hell is this girl?"*

*"Let's go. In any minute now, they'll be here."* she said.

She rushly starts the engine. As they travel, zombies are attacking in front.  
*"Common bitches of hell, try me."*

Zombies are thrown away as they are being hit. Some are torn into pieces after being hit and trump by its wheels. The road seems like a slaughter house.

*"Wooh. That was cool!"* Roy exclaimed.

*"That's what you call, extraordinary!"* she bragged.

It's getting darker. They have been driving for 2 hours now.

*"By the way, I haven't asked for your name. I'm Roy and you?"*

*"I'm Ryn."*

*"Nice name Ryn. It must be tough for a girl like you to do this."*

*"No not really. I'm just used to it."*

Roy gets silent. He doesn't know what to say. He tries to bring a lively conversation.

*"Where do you live?"*

*"NPA."*, she replied.

*"You're a rebel?"*

*"Silly. I'm not a rebel. I have no permanent address in short NPA."* Roy laughs.

*"What's so funny?"* Conversation stops when the owner jeep bumps into something.

*"What's that?"* Roy asked.

When the light of the vehicle strikes into that something, *"Oh my...A group of zombies! I can't pass. We need to back off."* Ryn exclaimed.

She immediately reversed her vehicle. *"You can use the rifle there at the back."* she said.

*"But, I don't know how to use this!"* Roy replied.

*"You know how to drive?"* Ryn asked.

Roy hesitates, *"Yeah... a little bit."*

*"It settled then. You drive and I shoot."* Ryn commanded.

Roy takes the driver seat while Ryn takes the rifle. Ryn starts firing. Her hips sway as she pulls the trigger.

*"She's like a pole dancer."* Roy thought.

*"Don't get distracted! Just drive. I know where you looking at."* Ryn retorted.

*"As if I'm looking at your back."* Roy murmured.

*"What did you say? I will spank you with my karate chop after these bitches!"*

*"No. I'm just telling that you're a good shooter, that's all."* Roy said with a force laugh. The shooting continues and the silent night turns into a gun and bloody whore.

*"We're good for now."* Ryn said.

*"Ah! Ryn, I think, we have a problem."*

*"What?"* Ryn asked in curiosity.

*"We're out of gas!"* after being said the engine stops.

*"Damn! If only we didn't met those bastards, we should be in the next village now."* Ryn said.

*"So what do we do now?"* Roy asked.

*"We have no other choice but to walk. It will be dangerous. We don't know how many or when they will attack. We must take all the things we need. Hold this rifle. I will teach you how to use it."*

The two starts walking. Roy is behind Ryn. There is a total silence and no one wants to talk. Roy wants to start a conversation but he can't think of any topic. Suddenly, Ryn stops.

*"Can you hear that?"* Roy also stops and tries to find out what did Ryn heard.

*"Don't move!"* Ryn said while pointing her army knife to Roy.

*"Wooh... wait, wait. I'm not a targeting board! What are you trying to do?"* Roy asked in anxiety.

*"Just trust me."* Roy closes his eyes and Ryn throws the knife.

*"Bullseye!"* Ryn whispered.

Roy feels something fall from behind. He looks back and sees a zombie on the ground soaked in its own blood. The zombie was hit in its forehead.

*"Huh... I think I'll have a heart attack."* Roy exclaimed in relieve.

*"You're over reacting. Let's go!"* Ryn said with coolness in her voice.

*"By the way Ryn, where are we?"*

*"You don't know where you are? Common are you kidding me?"* Ryn replied.

*"No."*

*"What!? Then, you must really freak out. We're in Tarlac!"*

*"What!?"* Roy shouted.

Ryn beats him with her karate chop. *"Idiot! You're attracting them!"* as Ryn turns her head back on their way. *"Oh my... speaking of the devil. They're here already. It's all your fault!"* Ryn retorted.

Upon hearing those words, Roy remembers his dream. He kneels down then tears start to fall from his eyes.

*"What are you doing? They're coming!"* But Roy seems not to hear anything.

The zombies are approaching and they are approximately 2 meters away from them.

*"Whatever!"* Ryn run towards them and hits their head.

*"This is all my fault. Right. I didn't listen. I abandoned them. I deserve to die."* Roy uttered.

*"You know what? You're a good actor! I'm impressed! Instead of thinking of death there kiddo, just think why are you still alive. There's a purpose for everything so get up, save your ass and live!"*

Upon hearing those words, Roy regains his focus. He grabs the rifle and starts firing.

*"That's the spirit kiddo! Let's kill them all!"*

*"Don't call me kiddo, old hag!"*

*"You called me old hag? I'll kill you after spanking these bastards!"*

Battle is over. They are tired. They decide to have a rest for a while before continuing.

*"Here! That's the only food that's left for now. We can get more of it in the village. You look like exhausted after your breakdown a while back. What's about that?"*

*"Thanks Ryn, but I don't want to talk about it."* Roy starts eating.

*"Okay. Can I ask you something?"* Ryn said.

Roy nods.

*"What are you doing before this whole crap started?"*

*"Ah... I'm just an ordinary university student."*

*"Liar! I can tell whether you are telling the truth or not. But, it's alright."*

Roy becomes silent. He looks up and gazes the stars.

A minute passed, *"I'm a pharmacist back then."* Roy looks at her in awe.

*"Really!? I just couldn't believe that you're a pharmacist. I don't mean anything bad but I'm really curios where do you learn that. I mean firing a gun, using army knife and all that kind of stuff."* Roy said.

*"My parents were rebels. They were the ones who taught me."*

*"Then, where are they now?"* Roy asked. Ryn doesn't give an answer.

*"I'm sorry for asking. You don't have to answer it anyway."*

*"Let's go. We're near the village, approximately 15-minute walk."* Ryn said.

Finally, they reach the village. It's dark all over the place. The only source of light is the light coming from their flashlights. They keep on walking. Houses are like haunted. Spider webs on the window, broken doors and some parts of the walls are painted with dark brown. It must be blood splattered during zombie attacks. Garbage is everywhere giving an unpleasant odor. This village is maybe abandoned for a long time. They stop and enter into a convenience store.

*"Just get anything you want to eat."* Ryn said.

Roy is busy looking for food. He notices someone is watching him. He averts his attention to the pile of crates. He goes near it and something attacks him. He falls on the floor with the thing that attacked him. The zombie tries to bite him but he holds its head away from him. Ryn runs towards Roy. She picks the fire extinguisher near the crates and smashes the head of the zombie. Her strength beheaded the zombie.

After finding food to eat, they leave the store and start to look for a gasoline station. They reach the gasoline station and they are lucky enough that a mini truck is parked in front. They check the vehicle and it's in good condition. Ryn fills in its tank while Roy is looking for gasoline container. Gas tank and containers are full. Ryn starts the engine. It will be a 30 minute drive to the city.

*"Are you okay? It seems that zombies like you."* Ryn said with humor.

*"And everytime they went near me, you scares the hell out of me."* Roy replied.

*"Just take a good nap then."*

*"No, I will keep on guard while you're driving."*

The night is young and the two continue their journey to the city. In his thoughts, *"Why I'm still alive? How did I end up in this place? What happened to me during these past few days? How is she? I miss her. I wonder if she's okay."*