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Don't Let Them In

"We are interrupting this program to bring you an important announcement.

"Good evening, my name is Thomas Anderson and I'm bringing you this emergency Newflash. Earlier today, we reported on several incidents in Skegness where people have been attacked. We are now receiving information that there has been a major incident at MicroBio Laboratories in Skegness. We are being told a scientist, who had been performing experiments to create a regenerative serum which could potentially eliminate the need for organ transplants, had been attacked by a mouse that he had been experimenting on. This is believed to have caused an outbreak of an unknown disease which is likely to be connected to the attacks in Skegness.

"William Clarke was doing his daily checks on the mice, when one became unexpectedly aggressive and bit him on the hand. Dr Clarke became extremely unwell, and it was believed he had died, however, after a short amount of time he rose, attacked his colleagues and fled the facility. His whereabouts are unknown.

"His victims were also believed to have died, but similarly awoke and showed signs of aggression. It is being reported that this outbreak is highly contagious with the potential of becoming a pandemic."

Lexi walked into the living room and sat down on the sofa listening to her mum's answerphone greeting. "Why aren't you answering your phone? I've called you six times now, what's going on? I'll try again later, make sure you've got your phone off silent." She threw her phone down on the sofa in frustration as it wasn't like her mum to not answer her phone or to not let her know that she would be working late.

"We are now being joined by Dr James Drury from MicroBio Laboratories in Skegness. Dr Drury, could you please tell us more about Dr Clarke's experiments and how this connects to the outbreak of this highly contagious disease."

Lexi's head snapped up to look at the television, "MicroBio Laboratories? That's where Mum works." She started to listen intently as she was certain that she had heard the name James Drury before. The more she listened, the more alarmed she became as the disaster unfolded. Anxiously, she tried to call her Mum again but there was no answer.

"Dr Clarke's research consisted of using modified biofilms to heal and protect organ tissues from damage. This could have eventually eliminated the need for organ transplants, saving thousands of lives. Because introducing bacteria into the body would cause serious infection, Dr Clarke modified the biofilms to colonise on specific tissues and removed their ability to reproduce so the number of biofilms in the body could be controlled and would not trigger the body's immune response. We are still trying to identify what went wrong. However, it appears the biofilms have mutated making them able to reproduce, causing the

infected person to become extremely aggressive and is transmitted from one person to another by saliva.”

Lexi continued to listen about the colleagues being attacked and it appeared that an infection is being spread by biting. She heard that the infected were being held at MicroBio Laboratories to be observed and treated. Lexi couldn't help but think that her mother had been involved in the attack. She was contemplating about going down to the Laboratory to find out if anything had happened to her mother, when she was startled by tapping and scratching coming from the window.

Two children stood at the window, one boy and one girl; they looked to be around thirteen years old. Curiously, Lexi started to walk up to the window. The closer she got, the more anxious she became, she had a feeling that something wasn't quite right. Their skin was pale, their behaviour was disturbing, their smile looked unnatural, and Lexi quickly became very uneasy.

The two children made a screeching sound, then started laughing hysterically. The girl tilted her head and asked, “Do you want to play? If you let us in, we'll play with you.” Lexi's heart started to race. She lunged forward to close the curtains. In that moment, she saw the children's eyes glint red. Lexi immediately started to back away, scrambling around for her phone to call the emergency services and hid behind the sofa. After hearing the engaged tone, her attention went back to the television.

“It is believed from eyewitness reports that Clarke attacked a member of the public on his escape from the laboratories which has since cascaded into multiple attacks across Skegness, and I can now report that these attacks have spread across Lincolnshire. Emergency services are overwhelmed and people are struggling to get through to them. We are also hearing of blockades on the county's borders to try to contain the outbreak to Lincolnshire.”

Tapping and scratching started to spread all around the house. It started to get louder and louder. Lexi was sure she could hear whisperings all around outside. Her heart was racing, her breathing faster, her ears ringing.

“So far, our tests have concluded that the bacteria has mutated extensively so has now become resistant to all our anti-biotic treatments. Sunlight has been the only weakness identified but unfortunately this not only kills the bacteria, but also the infected person.”

“Thank you, Dr Drury. It's looking very bleak for the people of Lincolnshire. Emergency services are reporting of ever-increasing attacks, but they are saying you are safe in your own home.”

All of a sudden, everything went silent. Lexi was relieved when it all stopped; the ringing in her ears subsided and her breathing started to ease. Then there was a knock at the door and she heard her friend's voice. “Lexi? Are you in there? Can you help me? I'm scared. Please let me in.”

“They will try anything to get you to let them in, but do not let them in. You are safe if you do not let them in.”

Lexi jumped up, relieved at hearing a familiar voice. She ran to the door and opened it, but she was too caught up in her emotions, too scared to notice the pale face, the red glint in the eyes. “Amanda? I've been so scared. Are you okay? Come in.” Lexi stepped back from the

door and her friend entered with an unnatural smile forming on her face. Lexi stopped, frozen. She noticed the gradual growth of fangs. Lexi felt herself go cold all over with dread.

“I repeat, do not let them in.”