

# **CHILDREN OF CAIN**

A dystopia

by

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CHARACTERS (2M, 1W)

Ryder, male, any race

Blake, male, any race

Jen, female, any race

LOCATION

The remains of the living room of a house

TIME

The hot and humid future.

Keep watch.

## CHILDREN OF CAIN

### ONE

Dark. Over a loudspeaker we hear the voice of  
a --

#### MILITARY POLICEMAN (O.S.)

Stay inside. It is for your own protection. Stay inside. It is for your own protection.

This repeats over and over until it fades out  
and --

LIGHTS UP on the living room of a house. The room itself, along with the furniture, is ragged, old, lived in, beaten down. Torn wallpaper. The windows are boarded up with a few thin strategic gaps to see outside. The electricity occasionally flickers. Accumulated trash. It's hot and humid.

RYDER and BLAKE, two men, sit across from each other at a table. A small fan barely spins in front of Blake, his face pressed up against it. An egg timer sits between them. Ryder looks at the fan longingly, to the egg timer, and back to the fan. They use a dirty towel to wipe off their sweat. Time passes until --

RYDER

It's my turn with the fan.

BLAKE

No, it's not.

RYDER

Pretty sure it is.

BLAKE

The timer sez I got more time.

RYDER  
It's broken.

BLAKE  
What?

RYDER  
The timer. It hasn't moved for like 10 minutes.

BLAKE  
That's because ya're starin' at it. Stop starin' at it.

Ryder stares closer at it.

BLAKE  
Whad I just say?

RYDER  
It's not moving.

BLAKE  
Ya know the rules. No one's allowed to touch the timer 'til it goes off and then ya are only then allowed to touch it in order to set your time.

RYDER  
I didn't touch it.

BLAKE  
Ya were goin' to.

RYDER  
No I wasn't.

Ryder leans back and stretches, closing his eyes.  
Seeing this, Blake quickly adds more time to the timer. Ryder sits up.

RYDER  
What'd you do?

What?  
BLAKE

Did you touch the timer?  
RYDER

No!  
BLAKE

How can you have the same amount of time left?  
RYDER

I don't know.  
BLAKE

Something's not right.  
RYDER

Because ya're payin' too much attention. Go do somethin' else. Ya'll get your fan turn soon.  
BLAKE

I don't trust you.  
RYDER

Ryder, how can ya say that?  
BLAKE

Just did.  
RYDER

After all we been through together.  
BLAKE

Wasn't my choice.  
RYDER

Actually, it was.  
BLAKE

What do I care what we been through?  
RYDER

Jus an expression.

BLAKE

Yeah.

RYDER

C'mon.

BLAKE

Whatever.

RYDER

Beat.

I did the thing.

BLAKE

What thing?

RYDER

The thing thing. Ya know, the thing with the thing.

BLAKE

While I was sleeping?

RYDER

Yeah.

BLAKE

Anything?

RYDER

Yeah.

BLAKE

Any trouble?

RYDER

With who?

BLAKE

Ones who keep stealin' our stuff.

RYDER

BLAKE

Not today. But I'm keepin' an eye out for 'em. Think it may be a gang. Worse ones. Gang'll try anythin'. Blu said gangs are kickin' up again. May be tryin' to take over our op.

RYDER

Saw that someone shot out all the surveillance cameras on the corners on the street.

BLAKE

Now who would do that?

RYDER

Don't know. I'm sure they'll be fixed up by tonight if they're not already.

BLAKE

So what're we goin' to do today? You wanna help me check later?

RYDER

Nah.

BLAKE

What's on TV?

RYDER

Same old stuff.

BLAKE

Ya check?

RYDER

No.

BLAKE

Well, check.

RYDER

Why do I have to always check? It's the same thing.

BLAKE

What if it's not? What if this time, it's somethin' different?

RYDER

Always the same thing.

One time it won' be.

BLAKE

Ryder stands and starts to cross to the TV. He comes back and grabs the egg timer.

Hey!

BLAKE

It's gonna be my time soon.

RYDER

Ryder puts it in a neutral location. He then goes to the TV. He sits and hits the remote.

Well?

BLAKE

Ryder watches.

Well?!

BLAKE

It's the same thing.

RYDER

“Golden Girls”?

BLAKE

Yeah.

RYDER

Check the other channels.

BLAKE

Why?

RYDER

Just check 'em!

BLAKE



Ryder clicks the remote several times.

RYDER

Golden Girls. Golden Girls. Golden Girls. Wait. Golden Girls --

BLAKE

On every fuckin' station?

RYDER

At least it's different episodes.

BLAKE

I'm startin' to hate that fuckin' show.

RYDER

It's funny sometimes.

He laughs while watching the TV.

RYDER

The old lady is funny.

BLAKE

Who's in charge of TV out there?

RYDER

Don't know.

BLAKE

Somebody must be in charge of it.

RYDER

The government.

BLAKE

How do we know it's the government?

RYDER

'Cause they say they're in charge. If they weren't then they wouldn't say, The Government.

BLAKE

What if it's a trick?

RYDER

What is?

BLAKE

What if it's someone else sayin' it's the government but they're not really the government?

RYDER

What the fuck do I care? Doesn't change anything.

BLAKE

Ya might.

RYDER

If they're saying that they're the government and the government can't or won't stop them from sayin' that, then maybe they are the new government.

Beat.

BLAKE

Hmm, never thought of it that way.

RYDER

Wonder how they keep it all going. Out there.

BLAKE

Blu sez they recruit workers, once who ain't sick, and promise 'em food. Least that's the rumor.

RYDER

You know, this book I was reading --

BLAKE

When were ya readin' a book?

RYDER

I was.

When? BLAKE

Before. RYDER

Before when? BLAKE

I was. RYDER

When?! BLAKE

I was in the bathroom. RYDER

No book in the bathroom. BLAKE

RYDER  
Not anymore. I had to use it, you know, until we got our supplies.

BLAKE  
Damn government was 16 days late this month.

RYDER  
That's why I had to use the book.

BLAKE  
(hurt)  
Ya could have shared it.

RYDER  
I didn't know you knew how to read.

BLAKE  
Why do ya hurt me? What did I do?

RYDER

Anyway, this book said that we are all the children of Cain.

BLAKE

Who?

RYDER

Cain.

BLAKE

Who?

RYDER

Cain!

BLAKE

Cain who?!

RYDER

I don't know. Some relative, I guess. Anyway, we're all supposed to have died in some flood or something but it's saying that it's the other family who did and we're really the descendents of Cain.

BLAKE

What the fuck ya talkin' about?

RYDER

I thought it was interesting.

BLAKE

Stop readin' books. They're not good for ya. Don't believe everythin' ya read in a fuckin' book.

RYDER

I'm just making small talk.

BLAKE

Well stop it. I fuckin' hate small talk

RYDER

Why?