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**MAGA-
MUMPS**

**TEACHING ARTIST
nova black**

FOREWORD

This short play merely showcases a teaspoon of the brilliance of these young creatives. Their voices are fresh and authentic; they make artistic decisions like seasoned professionals; and their imaginations are endless.

I walked into Urban Assembly with the intention of creating a choreopoem with the participants, but these three risk-takers had other plans. Shania, Madison, and Lanyzjah were the most loyal to the program. I simply gave them a few tools and they ran with it.

I'm honored to have guided the architects of this futuristic horror story. This is an exploration of the fate of our country, and these writers haven't shied away from our worst fears...

Read with caution.

Applaud with...optimism.

—nova black

CAST OF CHARACTERS

ZI CHEN MATTHEWS

A Chinese Panamanian American woman in her early 20s. She is 5'8 with brown eyes, a diamond shaped face, and a slim frame. This cynical introvert lives with her mother and little brother. She wears all black, mostly with a choker necklace.

MONE'A SHANTE MOORE

A Bajan American woman in her early 20s. She is 5'8 with brown skin and dark gray, almond shaped eyes. This soft spoken local celebrity expresses herself through song and dance. She loves baggy pants, graphic tees, and crop tops.

LYEISHA JOHNSON

A Jamaican American in her early 20s. She has a thick body and beautiful skin. This aspiring entrepreneur enjoys journaling, dancing, and drawing. She wears ripped skinny jeans, a thrasher shirt, and blue Jordans.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

BETHANY WHITE

A Trump supporter in her late 40s. She is a mother of five and a wife to a cheating husband.

MR. WILSON

A white chubby man in his early 40s. He has a round belly, a bald head, and wears glasses. He is the best friend of Bethany White's husband.

“JESUS IS COMING” WOMAN

A homeless woman in her mid-50s. She's 5'4 with short, curly, dirty brown hair. She wears an oversized sweater and holey sweatpants. Her voice is raspy.

ZOMBIES

Their eyes are red and their cheeks ooze with blood, but the scariest part...they get smarter with every human they eat.

ACT ONE

TIME

The year 2023. November.
A week after the presidential
election.

PLACE

Bethel, Delaware.
Population: 181.

SCENE ONE

SETTING

Exterior of a desolate super-
market. Sundown.

AT RISE

Strong winds howl. **LYEISHA**
drives through the unstoppable
rain with her best friend,
MONE'A, in the passenger seat.
“Please Me” by Cardi B ft. Bruno
Mars plays on the radio.

On this day, the weather felt more cold than usual. Wandering
thoughts were thick in the air.

We hear windshield wipers.

It's been three years since the assassination of the Trump
administration, by an anonymous social justice group...
but with the sudden win of his son Barron Trump, fall feels like
a horrific winter.

LYEISHA

Damn, this rain is coming down too hard. I
think I should turn back around.

MONE'A

Facts. But c'mon we gotta get snacks and
something to keep them kids busy.

With technology evolving the world, control takes on a new
meaning. Barron controls weather, curfews, how/when/what
everybody eats and says. The electronic chip in everybody's wrists
allows Barron to monitor what they buy and where they be at.

Water swooshes over the car as **LYEISHA** and **MONE'A**
pull into the supermarket's nearly vacant parking lot.
Another clap of thunder strikes when they exit the car.

LYEISHA

This storm gettin heavier!

MONE'A

Yeah, let's be in and out!

The besties walk toward the entrance and spot “**JESUS IS COMING**”
WOMAN in front of the sliding doors. She has a cardboard box over
her shoulders that says “Corinthians 15:24” on it.

“**JESUS IS COMING**” The world is ending today! Jesus is coming!
WOMAN Beware! Tell us your sins, save your soul!
Jesus is coming! He is I tell you!

MONE'A and **LYEISHA** walk through the sliding doors.

MONE'A This chick crazy. She be out hea every time I come here. Yellin and screamin like somebody wanna hear all that.

LYEISHA looks around the supermarket.

LYEISHA Where is everybody?

MONE'A Girl, who's coming after that damn election?

LYEISHA and **MONE'A** walk past TV monitors showcasing the news.

LYEISHA Can you believe they voted for his son?

NEWS REPORTER ...there have been 45 reports of a lethal outbreak in Delaware. We are urging people to stay home!

MONE'A Like we didn't learn from the first one?

NEWS REPORTER ...this just in, Scientist James Watson Jr. has come forth with a startling confession...

LYEISHA Yeah, I can't believe it...but...we should...try... to give him a chance.

NEWS REPORTER ...you heard it here Delaware. Barron Trump has been working with select scientists to concoct a new drug to transform his supporters into SuperPeople. More after this break...

MONE'A stops walking and looks at **LYEISHA**.

MONE'A Excuse me! Why should we give him a chance when he's that devil spawn. Did you forget what we went through?

LYEISHA I'm just sayin...Let's just get them some chips and candy and call it a night.

LYEISHA walks down an aisle and **MONE'A** follows. We hear the beeps of the cashier's scanner machine.

MONE'A Don't say that again. Whoever voted for him was a damn fool and deserves to suffer.

SCENE TWO

SETTING

Interior of desolate supermarket. Cash register section.

AT RISE

ZI CHEN is the only cashier. She's ready for her shift to be over. **BETHANY** is next in line; she taps her foot impatiently. **LYEISHA** and **MONE'A** stand behind **BETHANY** with several items in their cart.

MONE'A

This will have to be enough. We gotta go, the sleepover starts in a hour.

BETHANY starts coughing.

LYEISHA

Listen, I know they asses is going to bed when I say, "GO TO BED!" Just know that

ZI

Next in line, please move down...

BETHANY steps forward, still coughing, while **MONE'A** and **LYEISHA** keep chatting silently.

ZI

Good afternoon, welcome to—

BETHANY

Yeah I know where I am. Can you just scan these? Like now? Fast. I've got somewhere to be.

ZI

Ma'am...

BETHANY

No, I've been standing here waiting for like two minutes. Like how are you people greedy for money, but sloppy and slow. Hurry up and scan my shit so I can leave!

ZI

If you could please just—

BETHANY

You've got some nerve...
(Cough)
To talk to me like that wait 'til...
(Cough)
I get your fucking manager!
(Cough)
I'm getting your black ass or whatever you are fired!

BETHANY starts gasping for air.

ZI Ma'am are you alright?

BETHANY Go...get your fucking manager! Now!

ZI shakes her head and walks towards the back of the store.

LYEISHA Ummm.....can we just pay for our stuff real quick?

BETHANY coughs and follows **ZI**.

MONE'A Why we always walking into some crazy shit?

ZI and **BETHANY** walk past the TV monitors.

NEWS REPORTER ...President Barron Trump refuses to comment. But several scientists have come forth saying their superdrug experiment is responsible for this legal outbreak. Several outlets have coined it MAGAMUMPS...

LYEISHA I don't know, but we gotta go. She needa bring her sweet and sour ass right the fuck back here.

ZI I will get him for you ma'am. You don't have to follow me.

BETHANY I really...
(Cough)
Really need to talk to him.

A faint sound of groaning comes from **MR. WILSON'S** office, but **BETHANY** coughs too loud for anyone to hear it.

SCENE THREE

SETTING

Exterior of **MR. WILSON'S** office.

AT RISE

ZI knocks on the manager's door. **BETHANY** stands behind her. No response. **ZI** holds her wrist chip up to the door monitor, but it doesn't work.

ZI That's weird. It usually w—

BETHANY bangs on the door. No response. **BETHANY** gains super strength and breaks through the door.

ZI I don't get paid enough for this sh—

ZI follows behind **BETHANY**. They look around the vacant office. **BETHANY** keeps coughing.

BETHANY BOB! BOB!

ZI Mr. Wilson, a customer wants to speak—

BETHANY Bob, I know you're in here! I know you knew about my husband's affair!

ZI Aaaaaahhhhhhhhhhh...OH MY GOD WHAT THE FUC—JESUSOHMYGOD...

ZI finds **MR. WILSON'S** chewed up body. She turns to look at **BETHANY**, but she coughs up blood, shakes vigorously, and transforms into a **ZOMBIE** before **ZI's** eyes. **ZI** runs out of the office. Screams can be heard from the front of the store. The lights go out. We heard the sounds of all the doors locking. **LYEISHA** screams.

MONE'A What di rass?

ZI Uh...ok, everybody just...uh, remain calm...

We hear banging on the windows.

ZI Okay, everybody turn on your flashlights and just br—

ZI, MONE'A, and **LYEISHA** turn on flashlights from their wrist chips. They see all the **ZOMBIES** pounding on the glass doors and windows. They all scream.

“JESUS IS COMING” Help me! Help—
WOMAN

“JESUS IS COMING” **WOMAN** gets eaten by a **ZOMBIE**.

LYEISHA & MONE'A What the fuck?

The **ZOMBIES** break through the front doors.
Glass shatters everywhere.

ZI No no no no no no.

Everyone runs for their lives. Thunder claps. We hear the heavy rain.

LYEISHA Bitch are these fucking **ZOMBIES**?

MONE'A JUST KILL THEM DON'T THINK BITCH KILL KILL KILL.

ZI, MONE'A, and **LYEISHA** grab mops and anything in their path to defend themselves from the blood thirsty **ZOMBIES**.

ZI There's more!

ZI tears up as she notices more **ZOMBIES** come from the back of the store.

MONE'A GYAL, THEY COMING FROM THE BACK TOO!

ZI looks up at the ceiling as they continue fighting off **ZOMBIES**. **BETHANY/ZOMBIE** runs full speed towards **ZI**. **LYEISHA** intercepts and tackles it to the ground, then bashes its head in.

LYEISHA You gotta get us outta here.

LYEISHA squints her eyes at **ZI's** nametag

LYEISHA Chen!

MONE'A Um, are ya done yet? There's more of them coming. Dammit. How the fuck are we getting outta here?

LYEISHA Yo, you got the keys to an escape door or sumin.

ZI bugs the fuck out while shaking her head frantically.

ZI I'm in my room. I'm in my room. I'm in my room.

LYEISHA shakes her aggressively.

LYEISHA LISTEN, we're gonna die unless you get us all the fuck outta here. NOW WHERE THE FUCK CAN WE ESCAPE FROM.

MONE'A The fire escape, we—we can get out by the fire escape. Come on, I know where it is.

Exhausted, they run through the terrifying maze of **ZOMBIES**.

LYEISHA We're gonna make it sis, don't worry.

They finally make it to a hidden storage closet and slam the door behind them.

SCENE FOUR

SETTING

Interior of hidden storage closet.

AT RISE

ZI keeps scanning her wrist on a monitor.

ZI Shit!

LYEISHA & MONE'A What!

ZI My wrist scanner isn't working to unlock the fire escape.

MONE'A cries.

MONE'A All I wanted to do was shop for my little brother's sleepover and write a new song.

LYEISHA DAMN okay okay maybe we could find somethi—

We hear banging on the door.

MONE'A FUCK we don't have enough time. We're gonna have to break the shit, break it EISHA!

LYEISHA beats the lock.

MONE'A Harder!

LYEISHA hits the lock one last time and it finally breaks. She lifts open the roof escape. **LYEISHA** puts her hands together to boost up **MONE'A** and then **ZI**.

LYEISHA Pull me up!

She reaches to grab their hands.
A **ZOMBIE** breaks down the door and grabs onto **LYEISHA**'s leg.

MONE'A OH MY GOD!

The **ZOMBIE** bites **LYEISHA**'s leg as she screams in agony.

LYEISHA Help me Mo—

More **ZOMBIES** enter and feast on **LYEISHA**'s body.
MONE'A cries and screams. **ZI** begins to close the escape door.

MONE'A We can't just leave her here!

ZI Yes we can, and that's exactly what we're doing.

ZI shakes **MONE'A**.

ZI Listen, either we can stay here and get eaten like your friend or try our luck on the roof. Well, it's your choice 'cause I'm leaving regardless.

MONE'A I'm so sorry EISHA!

ZI pulls **MONE'A** from the door and slams it shut.

MONE'A I can't believe I left my best friend down there to die

ZI I understand what it feels to lose someone that is close to you, but it would've made no sense...the three of us dying trying to save on—

MONE'A cries.

MONE'A YOU have no idea what it feels like to lose a person who has been with you through good and bad times, you don't understand how much she meant to me. You don't understand who she was to me, deeply and how much of a good person she was to me. And regardless of those bad times it only made our bond stronger than it ever was. And now..... now..... she's gone, forever.

ZI My family is ruined because of me.

ZI cries.

ZI My dad...my dad, he—

The door they came from breaks and **ZOMBIE** arms reach through.
ZI and **MONE'A** scream and run to the end of the roof.

ZI We gotta jump.

They look at each other in terror and jump onto a garbage dump, then run for **ZI**'s car that's parked in the back.
ZOMBIES are everywhere. They fight several to get into the car.

ZI Come on, come on.

She tries starting up the car.

MONE'A They're coming Chen! Turn that shit gyal!

The ignition finally starts, humming through the loud noises of **ZOMBIES** banging on the car.

MONE'A DRIVE!

The car screeches as **ZI** speeds as fast as she can. They eventually arrive at a crossroads with a sign that says "Welcome to Bethel: Population 181" in big bold letters and on the left side it says "Turn right for Slaughter Beach: Population 230." **ZI** turns to **MONE'A**.

ZI & MONE'A I think we should—

ZI We're definitely not going back to Bethel so take that out your mind....there's nothing left for us there.

MONE'A How do you know that?...What makes you think there isn't more survivors? I mean...I have to...I've got to go back and see if Lyeisha's mom is still alive, maybe I can...hel—

ZI No...nobody is alive back there. We are lucky we made it out of there alive, okay?

MONE'A I'm not ready to move on. We don't even know what's ahead.

Lights fade out as **ZI** and **MONE'A** keep arguing in silence. We hear static from the radio with distorted announcements of breaking news.

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