

Don't Stop

By

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Logline: As a deadly virus sweeps the country, a desperate father tries to protect his daughter.

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FADE IN:

1

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

1

CHARLIE FILMORE (31) peers through his window blinds at his neighbors walking, running, biking, playing ball, basically taking full advantage of a beautiful summer day.

Charlie SLAPS the blinds closed.

CHARLIE

FUCK!

Charlie picks up a roll of DUCT TAPE and a plastic DROP CLOTH from the dining room table. Putting the drop cloth under his arm, he rips off a long piece of tape.

Charlie unfolds the plastic drop cloth and mounts it over the window with the tape, making sure it's tightly fastened.

Charlie's daughter, SARA FILMORE (8), watches her dad.

SARA

I want to go outside and play.

Charlie stops and looks at his little girl.

CHARLIE

No. Remember the talk we had? I can't let you outside.

SARA

But daddy. Michael and Cindy are outside.

Sara goes to the blinds, lifts them and points to her friends.

SARA

See?

Charlies drops the tape and pushes his daughter back. The blinds fall back down.

CHARLIE

NO! Get away from the window.

Sara stands still and looks at her father.

SARA

Panther and Thumper are outside.

Charlie kneels down in front of her.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Sweetheart, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to push you. Panther and Thumper will be okay. Cats can take care of themselves.

SARA

When is mommy coming home?

CHARLIE

She is at work. She is fine.

SARA

I want to talk to her.

CHARLIE

I can't get through to the hospital. The telephone lines are busy. She is helping lots of people. Now go play.

Sara just stands and looks at her dad. She then walks away.

Charlie watches his daughter leave, hangs his head and sighs.

Charlie picks up the duct tape from the floor and tears off another long piece.

2

INT. KITCHEN - DAY (LATER)

2

The kitchen counters are crowded with CANNED FOOD and BOTTLED WATER.

Charlie uses a hand CAN OPENER to open some CANNED PEACHES.

The television in the living room beside the kitchen is on with the volume down.

A female REPORTER wearing a SURGICAL MASK stands outside a hospital. Behind her is a lot of activity.

Suddenly the news report is interrupted by an EMERGENCY BROADCAST ALERT GRAPHIC.

Charlie picks up the TELEVISION REMOTE from the kitchen counter and turns up the volume.

A loud BEEP is heard.

FOCUS ON TELEVISION:

The Broadcast Alert graphic changes to the local newsroom. People are running around.

(CONTINUED)

Sitting at a desk, a NEWS ANCHOR (30s) is handed a piece of paper from someone off-camera.

NEWS ANCHOR
Is this the latest? Okay.

The anchor puts on READING GLASSES.

NEWS ANCHOR
The following message has been issued by the North Carolina State Police Department. Civil authorities have issued a warning for the following counties: Guilford, Franklin. At 2:30 pm, these counties have reported an outbreak of the contagious Immobiles virus. Reports claim the outbreak has been confirmed in both Guilford and Franklin County hospitals. Symptoms of this virus include loss of coordination, confusion, lethargy and eventually certain death. Avoid anyone with these symptoms. Citizens are advised to...

The power in the house goes out.

3

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

3

Charlie puts the can of peaches on the dining room table,

Runs to the window,

Pulls back a little bit of the plastic,

Looks outside.

People are still playing ball, jumping rope, running, etc.

CHARLIE
Damn.

Charlie quickly puts the plastic and tape back into place.

The doorbell RINGS followed by frantic KNOCKING and SHOUTING. The voice belongs to his neighbor Alan Bean (45).

ALAN
CHARLIE! OPEN THE DOOR!

4 INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

4

Charlie goes to the foyer and stands at the front door also taped over with PLASTIC and DUCT TAPE.

CHARLIE

I can't let you in Alan.

ALAN (V.O.)

Charlie. Please open the door.

CHARLIE

I told you I can't.

ALAN (V.O.)

I know you have medicine in there Charlie. Your wife is a doctor at the hospital. Please.

CHARLIE

I can't risk opening the door, Alan. I have the house sealed. You should do the same.

ALAN (V.O.)

How long have we been friends Charlie? Please. I don't feel good.

CHARLIE

Go home Alan. I don't have medicine.

5 EXT. FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

5

ALAN

You're a liar. I can't believe you're doing this!

CHARLIE (V.O)

I'm sorry. Go home to your family.

6 INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

6

The door bangs loudly from Alan kicking it.

Silence.

Charlie stands still and listens to see if Alan is gone.

A CELL PHONE in Charlie's pant's pocket RINGS.

Charlie takes out the phone. It's his wife Courtney Filmore (35).

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Hey! I'm so glad to hear from you.
I tried calling earlier, but I kept
getting a busy signal. How are
things there?

7 INT. CONE HOSPITAL - DAY

7

COURTNEY

It's bad. Really bad. Did you tape
up the house like I told you
to this morning?

8 INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

8

CHARLIE

Yes. I'm almost finished.

COURTNEY

Good. How is Sara?

CHARLIE

She's fine. Wants to go outside.

COURTNEY

It's important both of you stay
indoors. Even though it's an
airborne virus, you and Sara should
be good for now.

CHARLIE

Do you have any information the
news isn't telling us?

COURTNEY

The contagion was first discovered
here last night from a patient
involved in a car crash on the
interstate.

(beat)

The virus spreads fast Charles. The
amount of time once someone
contracts it is instantaneous. I've
never seen anything like it.

CHARLIE

You are okay, right? Right?
Courtney.

(CONTINUED)

COURTNEY
(crying)
Charles. I got it.

CHARLIE
What do you mean?

COURTNEY
I'm sick Charlie.

COURTNEY
No, no, no. Courtney. Oh, baby.

COURTNEY
I love you and Sara so much. Please
keep her safe.

CHARLIE
(starts to cry)
Sweetheart. I won't accept this.
Doesn't anyone there know how to
stop this?

COURTNEY
Not right now. Some drugs are being
used to control how the virus
circulates through the body, but
until a cure is found, the only
real way to manage this thing is
to...

The phone goes dead.

9

INT. FOYER - DAY

9

CHARLIE
Courtney?

Charlie watches PANTHER, the family black cat, walk up to
him and begin to rub his leg.

CHARLIE
(confused)
Panther? SARA!

Charlie runs to the back door in the sunroom.

10 INT. SUNROOM - CONTINUOUS 10

Charlie finds the duct tape and plastic have been ripped off the back door which is now wide open.

Sara is on the deck petting THUMPER the other family cat.

CHARLIE
SARA! GET INSIDE NOW!

Sara walks to the door and Charles pulls her inside.

Charlie immediately reseals the tape and plastic.

SARA
Thumper was hungry daddy.

CHARLIE
I told you not to go outside! This is serious! Why didn't you listen to me?

Charlie finishes reapplying the tape and turns to see his daughter sitting on the ground.

CHARLIE
Sara are you okay? How long were you outside?

SARA
Not long. I don't feel so good.

Charlie instantly scoops up his daughter and takes her to the couch in the living room.

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 11

Charlie puts his daughter on the couch and sits beside her.

SARA
I'm tired daddy.

The power comes back on along with the television.

Another news bulletin is being aired.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)
Again, the symptoms of the virus. If contracted, expect a loss of coordination, maybe confusion, clammy or slightly sweaty skin, lethargy, difficulty breathing, muscle soreness and fever.

Charlie feels Sara's forehead. His eyes begin to tear up.

12 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY 12

CLOSE ON the people outside playing and exercising. No one is enjoying what they are doing. Some people are crying. Most are in pain.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Symptoms result in immediate death unless the maximum heart rate is raised to 180 beats per minute. This is important. The virus can be held at bay if your heart rate is 180 or more. If your heart rate falls below 180 for more than two minutes, it will result in death. I repeat. If you contact this virus and your heart rate falls below 180 for more than two minutes, you will die.

13 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 13

Charlie stands and looks at Sara for a moment.

CHARLIE

(smiling)

Let's go outside. Okay?

SARA

I don't feel good.

CHARLIE

Maybe your friends are playing. You'd like that right?

SARA

Okay.

Charlie takes Sara's hand and they go to a door leading out to the garage.

14 EXT. HOUSE - DAY 14

The garage door opens. Charlie and Sara step out onto the driveway.

We see neighbors in the cul-de-sac desperately trying to keep active. Some people have collapsed and lay on the ground.

Sitting on a curb is a crying mother rocking back and forth holding her lifeless baby close.

(CONTINUED)

A car has run up into a yard with the door wide open and the driver hanging out.

CHARLIE

Hey, I got an idea. Let me see how many times you can jump rope.

Although weak, Sara gets the jump rope from the garage and starts jumping.

CHARLIE

(crying)

That's it, baby. Let me see how many times you can jump.

SARA

How long do you want me to jump daddy?

CHARLIE

Don't stop sweetheart.

(beat)

Don't stop.

COURTNEY (O.S.)

Sara please stop playing and go lay back down!

Charlie looks around.

CHARLIE

(confused)

Courtney?

COURTNEY (O.S.)

Please. Sara, you need to rest!

Charlie looks at his daughter.

15

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

15

Charlie wakes in his bed with a WET WASHCLOTH on his forehead.

Courtney is holding a SYRINGE and a VIAL of some kind of drug.

COURTNEY

Don't move. You need to stay still.

Courtney takes the syringe and injects something into Charlie's arm. She puts the syringe and vial on a table.

(CONTINUED)

Charlie quickly raises himself upward.

CHARLIE
Courtney, you're home!

COURTNEY
Stay down Charlie.

CHARLIE
We have to keep our heart rates up.

Courtney goes to the bedroom doorway and to hold Sara's hand.

CHARLIE
Sara has to keep moving! She's sick.

COURTNEY
What are you talking about Charlie? You were having a nightmare and are burning up with fever. I've given you a sedative to go back to sleep. I'm going to do the same for Sara and myself.

CHARLIE
Sleep? What are you talking about?

COURTNEY
Don't you remember? It's the contagion, Charlie. The virus affects the metabolism and causes immediate cardiac arrest if we don't remain in a perpetual resting state. Anything above 60 beats per minute and we're dead.

FADE OUT.

THE END