

Sounds of War

The sound of guns firing in the distance woke Emma up. She was exhausted from the day before and didn't pay much attention, in the end, it wasn't the first time some shots woke her up.

She didn't get to do what she used to do when she woke up, mainly because there was no water flowing for her to take a shower, but still she found a way to keep herself clean, she used wet wipes instead of water. Then she got canned food and now it was down to her last 3 cans. Emma looked sadly to the empty cans in the corner, she was trying to avoid the idea of her going outside ever since the war broke out.

When she got the courage to grab her coat and open the door she heard the tires of a car pulling up in her driveway. For a moment her heart stopped. Her breath was cut off and for an instance she imagined the worst, a teenage girl, about Emma's age, came out of the car. She walked to the door and opened it, she was surprised the door was unlocked, but entered anyway. Meanwhile Emma was hidden behind the kitchen counter looking at what the girl was doing and remained that way until the mysterious girl approached the kitchen. That's when Emma grabbed a kitchen knife and showed herself in front of the mysterious girl. That was when it hit her, she knew her.

They had been talking for a while now, asking how they were, asking each other's family members, which unfortunately none of them knew how to answer, and also how they managed to stay alive. The girl was Carla, she used to be bestfriends, the spark they had with each other lit up again, both of them were happy to see each other again, they had probably lost everyone and feared the worst. However their conversation was cut short when an explosion was heard in the distance. Emma was used to that, but this time it was different, it was much closer, Carla was shocked, but Emma ran to the window to see what was happening, but the smoke had not cleared out yet, then she started to hear voices in the distance accompanied by gunshots. By the time the smoke had cleared they had figured out what was happening, a battle was taking place between the locals and the Chinese army. Both of them knew they had to get out.

There weren't many things to get anyways, but they had to move fast, another battle was taking place about five blocks away. When they got everything they could they got out of the house the first thing they saw was a BTR aiming at them, but all of a sudden a local holding an rpg shot at it and made it inoperative, they had to run Emma grabbed Carla's hand and got into an alley, meanwhile in the background the voices, the explosions and the gunshots were getting bigger until all of a sudden they were surrounded by all that chaos.

Emma spotted an abandoned supermarket and went inside with Carla to hide from everything, but an explosion happened near them stunning both. A military dragged them, however when he was about to put both of the girls to cover, he was shot three times in the back and fell dead to the floor. Carla was the only one to react and finally put Emma to cover. There were shots everywhere, luckily none of them hit them.

Emma saw an opportunity to get out of that area through a shop. It was getting dark and it was starting to rain, they had to make it. Emma took the lead and while grabbing Carla's hand she made a run for it. Some soldiers were asking them to stop and get some cover. Emma considered the idea, but the Chinese were winning and it was just a matter of time they would get to them and she wanted to take Carla somewhere safe so she decided to make a last sprint to the shop. They made it. It wasn't the first time she was there, that was the last place she saw her mother. But she knew that the shop was connected to another street.

Just as Emma was ready to open the shop's doors Carla collapsed. Emma stopped and looked at her. She was shot in the belly. Emma begged Carla to get up, she knew a place where they could be safe, in the outskirts of the town, just 500m from there. Carla barely got up, and with Emma's help they went outside. This time it was dark and raining, but they kept going. Explosions and gunshots were still heard.

They had made around half of the trip when Carla, again, collapsed. Her shirt was red, her face was as white as snow and was desperately gasping for air. Emma put pressure on her wound, but it wouldn't stop bleeding, with tears in her eyes she started to shout and beg for Carla to wake up, but there, in her arms Carla slowly closed her eyes and stopped breathing, she took a last deep breath and finally she passed out while Emma's tears were dropping on her face. "Please wake up" she repeatedly whispered in Carla's ears.

Heartbroken, Emma dragged Carla to the place they were going, it was next to the beach so she laid her there and sat next to her. She could see some stars in the sky and stared blankly at them. All her body was soaking wet but she didn't mind. She turned her head around and looked at Carla, her eyes becoming even more teary. She laid next to her and closed her eyes.