

Days of Madness

Timeline

November 10, 2004

British Airways flight 103

London Heathrow to JFK International (NYC)

Worldwide Infected: 25

Violent Stage Infected: 1 (4.00%)

“This just can’t get any worse, can it?” thought the American businessman. First, they shuffled him off to London for some godforsaken reason. Then, two days later, he got the frantic call from his wife that his daughter had gotten hit by a car on her bicycle, so that meant an emergency red-eye flight back to New York. Then, there was the drunken Arab fellow the next seat over.

The man had the pungent reek of whiskey all about him, and his body was coated with sweat. In between some jumbled mumblings and tall, toothy grins at the businessman, he lurched and dry-retched, while he grabbed for the convenient “barf bag”. It was going to be a long flight.

As the businessman started to drift off into sleep, he heard the gasping sound of the drunk finally throwing up, and with sickening certainty, he felt something wet on his right arm. The drunken man grinned sheepishly.

The stewardess apologized profusely, helped him clean the soiled shirtsleeve, and even moved him up to First Class, but his shirt was still ruined, and he could still smell a faint hint of drunk on him.

The businessman, James K. Belding, was the first infected American citizen.

He died three days later in a New York City jail cell of self-inflicted wounds, after killing two children and critically wounding another in an alley with a steel bar. He had showed no signs of violence prior to the event.

All said and done, the businessman infected 23 people, including members of the police

force, co-workers, and his own family. His wife was sneezing could be seen sneezing uncontrollably through her tears while discussing the incident with reporters.

November 18, 2004

Worldwide Infected: 1900

Violent Stage Infected: 180 (9.47%)

The reports have turned from the unusually severe cold-and-flu season to the unnaturally large number of recent violent crimes. Riots have broken out in Los Angeles, New York, and Washington D.C., seemingly out of nowhere. A rash of brutal random violence has also swept the nation. President Bush declares a national day of mourning after a grueling week of five school shootings, two restaurant massacres, a sniper on the Michigan State University campus, a ruthless beating aboard an Atlanta tour bus.

The military has greatly stepped up operations as well. Citing renewed operations in Iraq, most Reservists and National Guard members have been called to report for duty.

November 26, 2004

Worldwide Infected: 12050

Violent Stage Infected: 1900 (15.77%)

A Reuters report exposed both the “flu epidemic” and the growing tide of violence as the result of a biologically engineered virus, created by Russian and Chinese scientists, and injected into the population by an infected “suicide carrier”, probably an Iranian terrorist on a transcontinental flight. The next day, President Bush addresses the nation, although the address appeared to be pre-recorded.

November 27, 2004

Worldwide Infected: 13750

Violent Stage Infected: 1950 (14.18%)

The CDC and DHS recommend over-the-counter Aspirin to slow the effects of the disease until the proper antibiotic can be distributed. Widespread rioting becomes even more prevalent as fearful and angry looters and protestors take to the streets. Infection

rates soar as both uninfected and infected rioters clash in the streets.

November 30, 2004

Worldwide Infected: 35000

Violent Stage Infected: 3000 (8.57%)

New York City, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Detroit are engulfed in flames and fury. An independent journalist from Washington D.C. is leaked information about a treaty with Canada, in which U.S. troops will help seal the borders in exchange for immigration rights. About 850 people were killed, when the Ambassador and Blue Water Bridges were bombed in a joint US-Canadian airstrike.

The President made no announcement about this, and is assumed to be either hiding or dead.

December 8, 2004

Worldwide Infected: 135400

Violent Stage Infected: 79000 (58.35%)

The cities have become infernos. Skies as far as Nebraska are darkened from fires raging up and down the West Coast. Power is out in about 85% of the nation. Much of the American military is situated at the Canadian border, mowing down a wall of infected and uninfected countrymen.

Governors in Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Arizona have declared temporary immigration and government restrictions from the United States, forming the West-Central Alliance of States. Canada declared its annexation of Alaska, Michigan's upper peninsula, and parts of Minnesota, and that nonmilitary Americans may be shot on sight unless they go through the proper immigration procedures. Mexico has devolved into anarchy, taking much of Texas and New Mexico with it.

A flood of Floridan refugees have been turned away from Cuba by borrowed Russian gunboats and armed guards.

December 20, 2004

Worldwide Infected: 90Bn

Violent Stage Infected: 58Bn

CNN International News broadcasts a statement by Secretary of Education Rod Paige (acting President) granting temporarily ceding sovereignty to the West-Central Alliance, and an international coalition of Canada, Japan, France, Spain, and elements of the U.S. legislature. The broadcast is heard by only roughly 10,000 Americans.

The Virus

The virus first manifests itself as a simple cold, with coughing, sneezing, and possible nausea. After 1-3 weeks, however, the victim begins to feel the onset of nervousness and paranoia, and by 2-5 weeks the victim succumbs to full-blown paranoid schizophrenia, with an intense "fight or flight" hostile reaction, and a psychopathic urge to kill. The disease may further advance in some victims, degenerating them to an animal state, incapable of higher thought.

Your Story

It is the morning of December 24, 2004 (may be subj. to modification).

The wind is blowing colder, now, in your small band of survivors off Interstate 80. It seems like ages since you stopped at this motel, a Super 8 off the freeway. Now, the snow has started to fall in icy, driving shards.

You were the ones who took refuge in this place, once the cities started burning. You took safety in numbers, and in the wide-open plains of Nebraska. Now, it's just your small band. One man sits on the balcony up in 208, watching over the endless fields of waving dead grain, and the strings of crushed cars, watching for one of the animals, one of the "Violent Stage" ones, as they call it, to come tearing up into the parking lot. Your band is safe, for now.

Note that details of the introduction may vary slightly as I work the game out.