

On March 3, 2014, the BBC reported that an ancient virus, found deep in the permafrost of Siberia had thawed and returned to life. This “giant virus” had laid dormant for millennia; it’s emergence from hibernation hastened by the warming of the planet and thawing of the permafrost.

Scientists assured us it was perfectly harmless. There was no threat to humankind, they said. Much like the plot of a classic science fiction film though, something went terribly awry. This supposedly benign entity, this single cell Rip Van Winkle, being awakened from its long slumber, joined forces with other existing viruses. Many of its allies had long ago been rendered harmless to living creatures by nature and evolution. This new force, however, would not be denied.

Much like how common bacteria and viruses swept through the Martian invaders in the H.G Wells novel, War of The Worlds, this new super-virus spread across the globe with terrifying efficiency and speed before those eminent scientists, who had assured us of that harmlessness, could realize what had happened. By then, to borrow a cliché, it most assuredly was too late.

The actual number of those infected was never determined, because this super-virus proved to be a devious enemy. It did not kill, per se, but its victims may as well have been dead. For once infected, its victims became a vile creature commonly known as....a zombie.

What had once been seen on only theatre and t.v. screens had become terrifyingly real; the dead truly did walk the earth.

It was estimated that 5% of the global population found itself immune to this devastation. You are amongst that 5%.

For reasons that defy standard logic, a group of fellow survivors has sought refuge in your museum and being compassionate people, you took them in. Outside it is chaos and carnage. Inside you are trying to survive.

You have also come to understand that very continued existence of civilization as we may know it stands on a precipice. Your role as the saviors of culture, of the essential elements of what makes us, “us”, is key to ensuring that if, somehow, civilization is able to recover, we will still have a semblance of knowing who we once were.

This is your reality now.