

Intimate Wasteland



The signature song for this scenario: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzbcHQPAnYs>

Picture the typical **zombie apocalypse**: the fear and paranoia, the horror and chewed flesh, the skeletons of cities cut off from the power grid, the world of hard decisions and deep, binding community ties. It's been exactly ten years since Patient Zero.

You ready? Here's the lightning bolt: from many quarters the news is circulating, until it manifests itself in incontrovertible evidence: **many zombies are turning into humans again**. This is definitely not a cure found by the survivors; there is no plan or logic to any of this, and who can say what tomorrow will bring.

Ten years can turn hatred into resentment, fear into bigotry, and guilt into a lacerating motion of self-destruction. Let's play to find out if this is really the case, and what world will arise between the meeting of the victims and the former perpetrators.

MAKE UP YOUR CHARACTER

Use one of the pictures above, either as is or for some similar person, or make an equivalent picture and use that. Write 50 words or less to describe anything about their appearance, their status, their origin or background, what they can do, their gear or resources, companions, their official mission, or what they want.

There are only two hard constraints:

- **Your characters are, in every way, human.** This means they can be Day One survivors or zombies who have become human again and within the emotional and intellectual faculty of this category. Physical or psychological trauma is acceptable; no “half-zombies” or undead at the beginning of this journey.

- **You all belong to the same community.** “Belonging” is a broad enough concept to warrant various forms of travel that keep you away for even long periods, and even newcomers looking for a place to stay may qualify. Either way, you have a burning interest in calling this place “home”.

- Do not use superlatives or generalized terms.
- Make up and include other characters or past events if you want.
- Underline words or short phrases to define Traits, as many as you can or want.
- Give the character a name and title. It does not count toward the 50 words.

Assign bonuses to one or more Traits. It is OK for Traits not to have bonuses.

- You have 15 dice. You may spend up to 14 of them for Trait bonuses.
- +1 Bonus costs 1 die; +2 Bonus costs 4 dice, +3 Bonus costs 9 dice.
- The remaining dice become your starting Pool.

RULES OF PLAY

The GM plays the backstory and the physical qualities of situations in play. Players’ knowledge and backstory input is restricted to content in their characters’ stories. Unless stated actions by players intercede, the GM begins new situations including cuts in location and time. The GM plays all non-player characters including those listed in characters’ stories.

Conflicts (dice rolls) are identified by anyone in play based on what’s happening or on what they’re about to do. The scope of a given roll and potentially damaging or lethal effects are identified by the GM. Everyone involved rolls [1-3 Gift dice] + [dice equal to the bonus for one Trait] + [Pool dice they choose to gamble]. One or more “1” showing on a die indicates success.

Describe the success or failure, including ordering, causal events, actions, effects, and characterizations. No new information may be introduced except as GM-provided backstory or situation. For the actions undertaken and the scope, the effects are as decisive and conclusive as possible.

- If the conflict is failed, the GM narrates. All gambled Pool dice are lost.
- If the conflict succeeds, either
 - o the GM narrates minimally and the player adds one die to their Pool, or
 - o the player narrates with greater latitude for effects and consequences.

LATER DEVELOPMENT

During play or between sessions, assign or increase bonuses to Traits as you desire using the same method as above. Bonuses may not be traded back into Pool dice. Between sessions, add 15 words to your character summary, either as new sentences and phrases, or as additions and revisions to existing text. Underline content as Traits using the same method as above.