

PEPPERONI APOCALYPSE  
Jonathan Dorf

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## Cast of Characters

The Cultists, age open, though young enough to have children who aren't adults

TERRY

FRITZ

MCHALE

JONAH

PIZZA DELIVERY GUY, twentysomething slacker

It is possible to cross-cast and put women in these roles, though in the case of the Cultists, they should definitely be playing men. The Pizza Delivery Guy, however, could be a Pizza Delivery Girl.

(A room with minimal furniture and windows covered with black cloth. Late afternoon. TERRY, JONAH, FRITZ, and MCHALE, probably on the younger side of middle-age, sit around.)

TERRY

The women and children...?

FRITZ

Have gone into the river of fire.

TERRY

How much you spend?

FRITZ

Four full fare adult tickets and six children's seats to Cleveland at thirty-eight and twenty-two comes out to...  
(does the math)  
two hundred eighty-four.

TERRY

Which leaves us with a grand total of...somebody? McHale, you're the disciple in charge of finances.

MCHALE

I'd say our worldly goods are pretty well accounted for.

JONAH

So now...?

TERRY

We wait. The end of the world should be here in  
(checks his watch)  
five minutes, give or take.

FRITZ

(long pause)

Question, Terry.

TERRY

Shoot.

FRITZ

Why did we send the women and children to Cleveland? Why didn't we poison them at breakfast or keep them here so we could die surrounded by the ones we love?

TERRY

I'm not sure. I guess we didn't think of it.

FRITZ

They should be getting off the bus right now. Taking their last few breaths.

TERRY

Unless they hit traffic.

JONAH

God, I hope they don't die in traffic. Jonah Junior gets claustrophobic in slow-moving vehicles.

MCHALE

I'm sure they didn't hit traffic going to Cleveland. During Armageddon people flee urban areas, so it's always easier to get into cities than out.

FRITZ

Should we pray?

TERRY

Too late now.

FRITZ

Then what should we do?

MCHALE

(beat)

We could list all the ways the world could end.

JONAH

I could do that.

TERRY

Me too. Fritz?

FRITZ

How much time?

TERRY

Around three. A little over.

FRITZ

OK, but could you give us a one-minute warning?

(Terry nods.)

Who's first?

TERRY

It was McHale's idea.

(Nods of agreement from the others.)

MCHALE

Flood.

TERRY

Original.

MCHALE

You didn't say it had to be original.

TERRY

(gives in)

Might as well get all the old chestnuts out of the way: fire and brimstone.

JONAH

Hail.

FRITZ

Comet.

(the others groan)

You said get the usual ones out of the way.

MCHALE

Plague of bugs.

TERRY

What about the bugs? Once they've eaten everything else, what destroys *them*?

MCHALE

I thought we were doing the end of man...the bugs explode from overeating.

TERRY

The earth plunges into the sun.

JONAH

Moon plunges into the earth.

FRITZ

Asteroids plunge into the earth.

MCHALE

Extraterrestrials.

TERRY

Sun explodes.

MCHALE

Isn't that fire and brimstone?

TERRY

Not necessarily.

(Beat. The others nod acceptance.)

JONAH

Ozone layer goes.

Nuclear catastrophe.	FRITZ
Meltdown or war?	MCHALE
Meltdown.	FRITZ
Nuclear war.	MCHALE
Locusts.	TERRY
Falls under bugs.	MCHALE
Frogs then.	TERRY
We turn to salt.	JONAH
Earthquake.	FRITZ
Another ice age.	MCHALE
Plague.	TERRY
Drought.	JONAH
Poisoned waters.	FRITZ
Chaos.	MCHALE (beat)
What?	TERRY

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