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# The Ultimate Warrior

By Robert Clouse

It's been two days, hasn't it.  
Yes sir - he hasn't moved  
a muscle in two days.  
Strange, isn't it.  
That depends a good deal  
on the man.  
Has he had any offers?  
Well, some of the Bethel commune  
from across town  
came to talk to him.  
We need that man.  
I'll have to talk with him.  
Well, we can holler to him  
and tell him to come over.  
He'd never hear.  
Get a few men together.  
You are going to  
leave the compound?  
If you know a way to get there  
without leaving the compound  
I'd be happy to consider it.  
String beans are coming  
along here.  
Yes, sir.  
But being as dead as they were  
I think they're coming  
back real fine.  
Good stock  
Good stock  
Yeah - what do you want?  
The Baron wants some men  
to go with him  
to the library  
No  
What for?  
Trying to recruit a new man.  
Fighter?  
Looks like it.  
God knows we could use one  
I'm going to talk to the man  
at the library.  
Be carefull  
I hope he's the man  
you've been looking for.

So, you can hear me.  
What's your name?  
I assume you're for hire...  
...or you wouldn't be standing here.  
Well, I'm called the Baron.  
The people of the commune  
took to using the term.  
Whether it's said in respect  
is unknown to me.  
What I'm telling you is the  
simple fact  
that we are not searching out  
to destroy.  
We do not covet the lives  
or goods of any people  
We have a good and lasting supply  
of fresh water.  
And, uh, we grow our own  
vegetables.  
As our man, you are entitled to  
more than the others.  
Three adult allotments  
of food and water  
each meal  
I don't know what your  
sexual requirements might be, but  
anything of that sort will have to be  
worked out on your own  
Your room will be dry...  
...and free of rats.  
If you smoke, I have a  
large cache of cigars.  
I believe that to be  
the extent of my offer.  
Well, I can only think  
that your answer is no.  
If you should reconsider,  
our compound is two city blocks away  
in the direction you are facing.  
You'll see the barricade.  
Help him, will you.  
I'll show you the way.  
Carrot!  
Baron's place.

Ah, the fighter joined up  
with him.  
Now why do you figure  
the Baron needs him?  
He's got all the men he needs...  
...or can feed.  
I want all of you to meet...  
Carson  
Carson  
He saved our lives just now.  
Have some of the girls ready  
the room above the old  
tobacco shop.  
When you are settled  
I'd like to talk.  
Come right in.  
Just push that material  
off the setee.  
You don't flop in a chair.  
Most people flop.  
I hope your room was dry.  
Oh yes, fine...  
...and as you said - no rats.  
That brings me to something  
that I've been wondering about.  
My pitch to you out there  
in the street...  
...what did I say that  
caused you to join us?  
Might have been the promise  
of extra portions of food.  
No?  
Well then, eh, maybe the fact  
that we don't seek  
the goods or lives of others.  
No, nothing so noble.  
You have a supply of cigars?  
You may be kidding me.  
It's interesting what becomes  
valuable to us  
when most everything is taken away.  
Twenty five to the box.  
And all of them sealed in  
aluminum tubes

and as fresh as the day  
they were made.  
You can have all you want.  
I believe I know this.  
Hood ornament  
My father had one.  
It was the last year  
the car was made.  
He really suffered when he couldn't  
get more gasoline to run it.  
I don't believe he ever said  
another word  
Just sat there...  
...while his world was  
turned off around him.  
And then - the epidemics  
No hospitals - no medicine  
He was one of the first to go -  
he and my mother.  
Where were you born?  
Detroit  
Anybody there now?  
Mostly empty.  
A few groups -  
something like this  
I haven't been there in quite  
a while - I've been moving around  
making my way  
Not easy.  
You have to be quick.  
About this contract of ours...  
...I don't know how long I can  
work my end of it.  
You're on your way somewhere.  
I have some family living on an  
island off the coast of North Carolina  
out of the way of killers.  
You know - people are beginning  
to eat people out there.  
I've been hearing stories.  
Interesting what you say  
about that island.  
Does it have a good supply of water?  
Enough

It's Robert Gant. I have to talk to you.  
Is it true there isn't any powdered milk?  
Not none, but not much.  
We're worried about the baby  
My wife said she saw Clara take home some powdered milk today.  
Is that true?  
Clara got some dried beans.  
We put them in one of the sacks we usually use for powdered milk.  
You want me to go and talk to Barrie?  
It might make it easier.  
Beans!  
It's what Clara took home with her.  
We put it in one of the bags we use for milk.  
You're lying!  
I think they're telling the truth.  
You'd let your own child starve, wouldn't you.  
No, that's not true!  
There's powdered milk down in that old bakery...  
...stored up in there.  
Nobody knows that.  
It's been checked out.  
Not really - not completely.  
It's always been just a rumor.  
It's just down the block - please, let's check it out.  
No  
You coward!  
These seeds...  
...are the entire output of cultivation.  
Every bit of it - I count them every night.

I can get a lot more.  
They'll multiply if we can  
find someplace to spread out.  
More land  
Will you leave your garden...  
...start up somewhere else?  
I don't want to go...  
...but I will...  
...If we can find someplace safe  
enough for this.  
You worked another miracle.  
God knows, that's the least  
anybody can say.  
It's that man that was  
at the library.  
That's Carrot.  
He's always there...  
...always waiting  
He looks very sure  
of himself.  
Lots of years since I've seen  
things growing like this.  
It's Cal's doing.  
You think it's smart to climb four  
flights in your condition?  
I know what I'm capable of.  
I came here to say hello.  
Hello  
The man they call Carrot...  
...I saw him  
through your bioculars.  
We introduced ourselves.  
He's tough.  
Good organizer  
He can call on 30 or 40 men  
if he has to.  
Should be able to take you over...  
...wipe you out.  
Obviously - but I don't think he knows  
how few people we have left.  
He'd like to have our well.  
You know - looking at your people,  
I get a feeling they figure  
they won't last very long.

There's a certain fatalism.  
They look to me for salvation.  
There will be none.  
You see, we've been  
doing something here  
Well, I say "we"  
- it's Cal actually.  
He's the man on the roof.  
Look - there are other communes  
but none has a Cal,  
that I have heard about  
He's a genius  
with things that grow - seeds.  
Hybred seeds  
So far just odd crops...  
...squash, cucumbers,  
soybeans, stringbeans...  
...and now, Cal believes, tomatos.  
The crops are resistant to all the diseases  
that wiped out cultivated growth  
during the plague.  
You're going to give up  
on this place.  
You got me in here  
just to delay the end.  
I've been looking for a man...  
...who would combine  
several attributes.  
You are a fighter.  
But more important -  
I see in you an instinct  
for survival.  
You seem to make all the correct  
moves - intuitively.  
A few people are going to be leaving.  
Cal, for one.  
And I'm asking you to lead them.  
Where?  
An island I've heard about.  
No, we wouldn't hurt any of  
the people living there.  
But we've got something we  
could give to them.  
Who else would be going?



You've probably seen the  
pregnant girl, Melinda.  
She's my daughter.  
She carries my grandson.  
Or granddaughter.  
Have you seen Barrie?  
She's not in her room.  
Your wife went out  
about an hour ago.  
Went out?  
Did she have the baby?  
Yeah, she wasn't going to stop  
for anybody.  
Take it up! Take it up!  
Barrie!  
I heard a sound, so I hid.  
Where's the baby?  
Where's the baby?!  
Take him out of there.  
We've got to go back.  
No! No!  
I know where the milk is!  
Let go of me!  
I'll do it myself!  
If I help you, will you leave?  
Yes!  
We've got to leave.  
Even if we don't find any milk,  
we won't keep looking.  
We've got to take the  
baby and go!  
I promise!  
There's no mistake, Baron  
someone's been stealing  
from the garden.  
And Cal told you this?  
I looked for myself -  
it was the tomatos.  
It had to be one  
of our own people.  
You could see where he stood.  
He really broke up  
the plants, too.  
Well, start looking around,

will you.  
Make a quiet search.  
Yes, sir.  
Okay!  
I knew it, didn't I tell you?  
Let's go.  
You stay away from there!  
Stay away from there!  
Let go!  
Put me down!  
Put me down!  
I wonder what they were after?  
There's a baby.  
Good piece of bait.  
I must assume that they're dead.  
You'd be quicker to ask me  
to go out there and get that baby  
if you weren't worried that I'd  
get myself killed off.  
There'd be no way to get your  
grandson out of here.  
Those people outside are  
waiting for me to go.  
I've been getting two extra  
portions at every meal.  
They'll want me to perform.  
(baby crying)  
(crying stops)  
It's dead.  
Get this thing up there!  
Alright - the rest of you outside!  
Hey, there he is!  
In the alley!  
(men shouting)  
Hey, there he is!  
This way!  
Come on!  
(whistles)  
Here he comes!  
They were all dead.  
The street we're on is 29th street...  
...and one line of the entire  
system runs under our street...  
...through towns and subways.

In the basement of this building  
there is a trap door  
that goes down into a chamber  
where fans used to force  
fresh air into the tunnel.  
I've outlined the tunnels to get you  
close to where you'll have to go.  
(knock) Yes?  
"They're fighting over rations  
in the storeroom."  
"I think you'd better come."  
I'll be there as soon as I can.  
How many people know  
you have this plan in mind?  
Just Melinda, Cal, and us.  
You think the others would object?  
Yes - they'd feel betrayed.  
They would claim what you  
were intimating -  
- that I was saving my daughter's  
neck at their jeopardy.  
But I'll tell you this...  
...I'd sacrifice any and all  
of this compound  
just to get Cal's work  
somewhere it would flourish.  
It's a matter of values, Carson.  
(shouting outside)  
I'd better tend to this argument.  
You look that over.  
You don't want me to go along?  
No. It'll be political.  
No use in your taking sides.  
I'll be back as soon as I can.  
You've got you own  
damn favorites!  
Come on - everybody gets  
the same!  
Your wife has a stock of her own!  
She saved out of her  
own rations!  
Nobody can save!  
Stop!  
You'd better put it down, Silas.

Come out.  
Him and his wife's  
been stealing.  
If that is true it will be known.  
A man better get his  
before there's nothing to get.  
If you believed someone was stealing,  
you should have come to me, Silas.  
You've got your own  
problems, Baron...  
...what with Melinda, and all.  
I'm not inaccessible.  
You only need knock  
on the door.  
We wouldn't want to interrupt you  
and Carson being holed up so much.  
I don't notice where you've  
lost much weight.  
Get out of here.  
I'll find out if his accusation  
is true.  
I was found in your room.  
Somebody put it there,  
I swear it! I swear it!  
Who did?  
I'd tell you, wouldn't I?  
If I knew, I'd tell you!  
You were seen on the roof.  
There were witnesses.  
I went up on the roof.  
Lots of people go up  
on the roof!  
Lots of people go up  
on the roof!  
I went up on the roof!  
Is there anyone here who wants  
to speak up for him?  
Is there anyone here who  
should speak up for him?  
Give him to the street people.  
No!  
You're about a month away from  
turning out that baby.  
Just about precisely.

That'll be a fine day,  
that day.  
We think we've got  
a place to go to.  
Yeah, the Baron was telling me  
that Carson knows about some place.  
Some island, somewheres.  
Bet I've heard that story  
two dozen times.  
Carson's been there -  
he's going back to it.  
Father's the only thing that's  
keeping it all stuck together.  
I know, but it has lasted a lot of years.  
It's the only home some of  
these people have ever had.  
Your own will be born here.  
Cal - he's worried that you won't  
be ready when it's time.  
I'll never really be ready.  
But I told the Baron I'd go.  
No!  
It's Cal - on the roof!  
Get up to the roof!  
Pull up the rope.  
And get rid of those planks.  
Is Cal alright?  
I'll get you to your room.  
I said is Cal alright.  
Cal is dead.  
That farmer had an answer.  
I was afraid you lost your  
baby last night.  
I loved Cal.  
I know you did.  
I'm not going.  
Not going?  
It doesn't make sense to me.  
You and Carson  
take the seeds...  
...get them going somewhere.  
What do you suppose Cal  
would have said to that?  
It seems to me he would have said

"Get out of here...  
...find a place for my baby."  
Some warm tea - drink it.  
You think it over.  
(knock) Yeah.  
You alright Carson?  
Sure  
Sit down.  
If I did it might suggest  
that there is time to talk.  
There isn't.  
Oh - it's that time.  
Carrot can smell something here -  
- the weakness.  
He's probing.  
He must know that Cal is dead.  
This place is about lost.  
You'll have to go today.  
Melinda is very upset - she says  
she's not going, but  
I'll have her ready.  
Cal's death changed her mind.  
Yes  
Will I have to take her  
out by force?  
She'll be asleep by the time  
you get to my room.  
She'll sleep for about an hour.  
You drugged her?  
If she drank her tea, I did.  
Come over here - I'll show you.  
From my door, you have to go  
downstairs to the right.  
It leads to the basement.  
You know, of course, you'll  
have to deliver the baby  
somewhere along the way.  
I was wondering when  
you'd get around to that.  
Joe, wake up.  
There's somethng  
going on.  
Why was he going down there?  
Carrying one of those packs...

...backpacks.  
Are you sure it was the Baron?  
Of course.  
Okay - I'll take a look.  
If it comes to saving one  
or the other...  
...save the seeds.  
She'll come around soon.  
I'm going to close it again...  
...so you won't be able  
to come back.  
Good luck, Carson.  
How much food did they  
take with them, Baron?!  
No more than they deserved.  
And how much was that?  
Only a few tins of meat that  
I had stored for a few years.  
Two cans of water.  
Why'd they leave?!  
You must know something  
we don't!  
No! I'm still here,  
am I not?  
A good Goddamn that  
does anybody!  
Your daughter's got Carson!  
Well, I'll get another man.  
And we'll build the garden again.  
Until then, we'll eat the tinned  
meat you've got stored away?  
Is that what you're saying?  
There were only a very few cans.  
You'd better go back  
to your rooms.  
Turning on our own will  
only destroy us.  
When the day cools,  
we'll go up to the roof  
and see about the garden.  
He sold us! Damn him!  
It's open.  
Baron, why?  
One of the Baron's men just

walked in here.  
He says he's quit the commune.  
We got ourselves a traitor.  
Starting to break up  
over there, eh?  
He says the fighter  
and the Baron's  
daughter took off  
down below.  
They went underground.  
You get me the Harkness  
brothers and Lippert.  
Welcome, friend.  
I hear you've got some  
news for us.  
So close to the heat.  
Tell us about the seeds.  
They've got seeds.  
Tomatos, right?  
They took them.  
Took the seeds?  
Yes, yes  
See these men?  
They're the best  
underground trackers alive.  
You tell them - tell them  
about the fighter.  
Open your eyes and  
look at them!  
He went into the cellar.  
We want him!  
The girl - the girl.  
The old man's  
daughter, right?  
She went with him.  
Where'd they go in?  
Into the basement commune.  
That's the end of  
the pipe tunnel.  
How long ago?  
Ten minutes!  
You have anything  
else to tell us?  
No, no



(screams)  
The rats are running.  
There must be a reason.  
Can you walk?  
Billy - go get Carrot.  
All ready, eh?  
Yeah - we got a line  
on them.  
Go!  
They're coming now.  
Two of them.  
My screaming back there  
gave you away, didn't it.  
Something like that.  
I won't do it again.  
There will be more.  
Ambush!  
Where's my brother?!  
He's dead!  
This the way?  
Yeah, a mile under  
the subway.  
I know where they'll be.  
I'll get ahead of them.  
You just keep moving  
him along!  
Keep it going, Lippert.  
Maybe we'll try the street.  
It's rusted through.  
I'm getting cramps.  
It cannot be time yet, can it?  
No, not for two  
weeks or so.  
Can I just rest a  
couple minutes?  
The Baron...  
...that man is more than  
I can believe.  
Now, don't you turn out that baby  
until we get to the island, right?  
I'll try to keep it  
where it is.  
Are you still mad at us?  
I don't think so.

I guess I just felt safe there.  
I suppose Cal thought  
it was safe, too.  
If you last on the streets  
as long as I have...  
...and you've seen lots of men die...  
...after a while, it becomes like  
doing push ups - daily exercise.  
But that man dying bothered me.  
We have to go down below again.  
Pull him down.  
I've got to stop - got to.  
You can make a little  
scream if you want to.  
I won't - I won't  
You have to tie a knot in it.  
(baby crying)  
Here's your son.  
Thanks  
Hurry up! He's in here!  
Come back here!  
I knew they'd be worthless.  
We're gonna go together.  
Together!