

The Most Worrisome Thing

You know what worries me the most? It's not that zombies are real. It's not that there's an apocalypse. It's not even the way people have turned on each other. What worries me the most is the watermelon thing.

Don't give me that "it's just an urban legend" crap; I've seen it. Back when I was out at the Mayburn cliffs sniping zeebees off the upper bridge we'd see them show up with watermelon rinds on their heads like helmets or strapped to their arms and chests. And the others would back off, letting them go first. Those cliffs are hundreds of miles from anywhere you can find a watermelon. Seriously, where are they getting them? It's not like there are grocery stores anymore, and any melons left in them would be rot through by now, right?

And that's just the beginning of the worrying bit. Why are they wearing them? The way I see it, there are four options and none of them are good. One, some of the zeebees were wearing pieces of watermelon when they turned and it's still on them. That's the answer that makes the most sense. You see why I'm worried? That. Out of all the options, that one makes the most sense.

Two, somebody went to all the trouble to pin down a zeebee, tie watermelon to it, and then let it go again. There might have been some folks drunk enough to try that back in the beginning but they aren't around anymore. Nobody that stupid is around anymore. And then there's option three: zeebees aren't all just mindless. Some of them are thinking and planning and using tools. Worried yet? Oh, and number four is that there's someone out there who can tell zeebees what to do. And if that's true, they clearly aren't telling them to stop. They're letting them continue to come at us; they keep trying to wipe us out.

As if that isn't enough, it still doesn't explain why they love watermelon so much. One time at the cliffs we got some rind off of a zeebee and hung it up high over the bridge. Every single zeebee coming across stopped right there and tried to reach it: sniffing around, growling, and letting us pick them off.

Hell, the way we found out Caleb was turning was that he tried to sneak out to it. The doc at the cliffs thought it might be about nutrients or pheromones or something but she didn't really know. One of my buddies said that maybe it just reminded them of a crunchy skull full of sweet, sweet brains. Is that what they think brains taste like? What do they think the seeds are then?

But here's what really keeps me up at night about it all. Everyone is like "oh, we know all about zombies," but we didn't know about the melons. No movie, no book, no video game prepared us for zeebees and their watermelons. It's something completely unexpected... and if there's already one thing we didn't expect then there might be more. And that's right worrisome.