

Outline: 1<sup>st</sup> draft  
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Problems: no clear time period.

glaxo developed Releuzza a virus inhibiting drug  
a few years ago. Further ones are being  
developed - particularly for influenza

1. Antonia Burrell, 40, runs her own small security firm. An attractive redhead from a working-class background, she is usually called Toni. She once had a promising career as a police detective—in fact, she was tipped to be Britain's first woman Chief Constable—then she caught her boss taking bribes. Like most whistleblowers, she lost her job and found it hard to get another. She started her own business a couple of years ago. At first it was tough, but her big break came when she took over security at Oxenford Medical, a boutique pharmaceuticals company.

Previous  
Relationships  
?  
marriage.

Oxenford is based in a modern steel-and-glass complex of laboratories near the town of Harbourmouth on the south coast of England. Its most important project is the development of an antiviral drug. (Bacterial infections can be treated with antibiotic drugs, but there are no drugs that kill viruses.) The research is financed by the U.S. Department of Defense, which is worried about biological warfare. In order to win this lucrative contract, Oxenford had to invest heavily in a high-security isolation lab.

The research is going well, but the future of the company has been jeopardised in an unexpected way. A group calling itself Animals Are Free has vowed to "liberate" the dogs and chimpanzees in Oxenford's laboratories over the Christmas holiday.

most monkeys are more usual.

Toni feels it as a personal responsibility to protect the company from this threat. Oxenford gave her a chance when she was in trouble, and she owes it to them to do a good job.

Toni has a friend in the FBI who, as a favour, has had the letter analysed by the Bureau's threat assessment specialist. The verdict is that the people behind the threat are probably sincere but incapable of carrying out their intentions. Nevertheless, Toni must make sure.

Animals Are Free have also informed the media of their threat. Some of the laboratory animals carry viruses that could spread to humans and kill thousands, maybe millions; so the media are running with a big scare story.

The founder and boss of Oxenford is a brilliant scientific entrepreneur, Stanley Oxenford, 60. He is worried that bad publicity resulting from the threat could embarrass the US government and, in consequence, the Defense Department might not renew the contract, despite Oxenford's highly promising initial results.

} sounds  
sexy

With the help of a public relations consultant, Oxenford holds a press conference to reassure people. It is Christmas Eve, and snowing. Toni appears at the press conference. It is her job to reassure the media, and the public, that security at the lab is watertight. She is nervous, but she does a good job. There are guards on duty 24/7, and the isolation lab itself has a state-of-the-art alarm system directly connected to regional police headquarters at Harbourmouth. No one can get in.

Carl Osborne, a reporter from the local TV station, asks a series of unpleasant though shrewd questions: Is the US cynically using Britain for its dangerous research? How many people would die if one of these viruses got out? Why did Toni leave the police force—was she fired? After the press conference, Carl has the nerve to ask Toni for a date. She turns him down.

Toni and Stanley walk around the isolation lab together. They are attracted to one another despite the age difference. Both feel compassion for the laboratory

animals suffering painful diseases for the sake of medical advance. Toni looks hard at the laboratory assistants who take care of the animals, wondering if one of them has become too fond of their helpless charges.

She and Stanley discuss their holiday plans. Toni, who is single, normally takes her senile mother out of the old folks' home for a couple of days. However, this year her brother, who is not normally good at taking responsibility, has agreed to have Mother. Toni is taking the opportunity to have an adult Christmas, going to a hotel with a group of friends, all singles or childless couples, for gourmet food and gracious living.

Stanley is expecting his three grown-up children to stay at the family home, Steepfall, a few miles from the lab. They are a quarrelsome bunch, he admits, and it is some years since they have all been together, so he is anxious about how it will go.

Looking out of the window, he also expresses anxiety about them all driving through the snow. Toni has listened to a recent weather forecast, and is able to reassure him. There is a severe blizzard to the west, but a strong northeast wind is blowing it into the Atlantic Ocean. Britain will experience only the fringe.

Next, Toni confers with the supervising security guard, Steve Tremlett. Toni won this security contract when Oxenford decided to outsource its security after Stanley fired his in-house head of security, Ronnie Sutherland. As part of the deal, Toni agreed to hire all Oxenford's security guards. Steve is a friend of Ronnie's, and resents Toni for replacing his pal; but he has never done anything to justify her firing him.

Toni emphasizes to Steve that she will have her phone on 24 hours over the entire holiday, and he should not hesitate to call her. If for any reason he fails to reach her, he should immediately call police headquarters.

With that, she leaves.

The weather seems to be getting worse.

2. Miranda Hanley, 35, is an American who married a Brit and settled in London. She is now divorced, with a nice 11-year-old son, Tom. She is managing director of a small recruitment agency for computer personnel. After a few successful years in which she earned big bonuses, the agency is going through a lean period. She is an athletic type, a West Point graduate and a former champion skier.

She lives with Ned Oxenford, 39, second child of Stanley. Ned is also divorced, and has a troubled 14-year-old daughter, Sophie.

Ned is steady, kind, handsome, and good in bed. He is a little weak, but this suits Miranda, whose husband was a tyrant. Ned is also great with Tom. In fact Miranda can't wait to marry Ned. But he says he wants to give everyone time to get used to the idea. "Everyone" means Sophie, who expresses the rage of her rejected mother.

There is also a financial problem. Ned has a crippling divorce settlement, and can't afford a house. He is living in Miranda's flat.

Miranda believes these problems are not insurmountable, and she now regrets letting Ned move in before getting him to commit to a wedding date. However, she hopes this Christmas may bring resolution. They are going to Ned's parents' home for the holiday. For the first time, they are taking Sophie. (Ned's ex is going to Nassau

-15  
he  
married

he must have been  
the  
guilty  
party

with a man friend—another hopeful sign.) If the holiday goes well, Ned may feel reassured about Sophie's reaction to a wedding.

That will still leave the financial problem, but Miranda plans to speak to Ned's wealthy father about that.

The holiday begins badly. Miranda, Ned and Tom drive through a snowstorm to the home of Ned's ex to pick up Sophie. The ex is out, and Sophie has not begun to get ready. Ned asks Miranda to come in and help Sophie pack. Miranda has never been inside the marital home, and she agrees only reluctantly. Sophie is disagreeable and uncooperative. The ex returns unexpectedly and rudely tells Miranda to leave the house.

Miranda waits outside in the car, humiliated, wondering if Ned will ever have the nerve to break free.

3. The Oxenford family home, Steepfall, stands on the edge of a cliff, hence the name. It is an old farmhouse with low ceilings and exposed beams. Stanley bought it thirty years ago, when he made his first million by selling a patent. The place is full of memories for the whole family.

The main house has a large living room and a study on the ground floor, and three bedrooms upstairs. Adjacent is the old dairy, a low building converted into a modern kitchen, and this is where the family spend most of their time. Alongside the dairy is a new extension, with a dining room below and a master bedroom suite above.

There are three outbuildings: a one-bedroom guest cottage; a barn with a playroom and a hayloft bedroom; and a three-car garage.

Stanley's wife, Marta, is a hot-tempered, sexy 60-year-old. She is Italian, and everyone calls her Mamma Marta. She is in the kitchen, supervising dinner preparations with her Filipino butler and cook, Lukey and Lori (who live a mile or so away).

The first guests to arrive are Stanley's son-in-law Hugo Brewer, 40, a small, impish, charming man, a successful salesman; and his two children: Caroline, 17, and Clive, called Cliffie, 15.

Cliffie is our point-of-view character. He is a problem child. Unusually bright, and always top of his class, he is also irrepressibly mischievous, and frequently in trouble. Cliffie is physically a man—just—but will probably always be a boy at heart, like his father.

When they arrive, Hugo reminds Cliffie of past holidays he has ruined, and exhorts him to behave himself. Cliffie promises.

Stanley comes home from the lab ready to forget his troubles for a couple of days. As always, he parks his Mercedes outside the front door, leaving it for Lukey to put it in the garage.

Cliffie recalls that last time he was here Grandpa let him garage the car. He decides to do so again, and reasons that he does not need fresh permission for something previously allowed. However, he cannot manage the car in the snow. When it goes into a skid, he stamps on the accelerator by mistake, and rams the car into the back wall of the garage. He is unhurt but distraught.

The car is dented, but the damage is not visible to a casual glance, and no one has heard the noise. Cliffie closes the garage door and walks away, hoping that no one will notice the damage until after the holiday, when he will be far away.

4. Karim Abdalaziz, 29, is a brilliant electronics engineer. Highly paid, he lives with his wife and two small children in a smart new house in the expensive London suburb of Dulwich. On Christmas Eve his parents and a crowd of relatives are visiting, having tea and cake. Karim's father, an immigrant from Rawalpindi, is bursting with pride as he shows the relatives around the house, pointing out the spacious bathrooms, the wide-screen TV, the separate laundry, the two-car garage.

Only Karim knows that after Christmas the house must be sold, and the family moved into a cheap flat. Karim is a chronic gambler, and owes £250,000 to people who will break his legs if he doesn't pay. He cannot bear to think how he will explain this to his proud father.

He opens the door to an unexpected visitor: Ronnie Sutherland, 40. Karim is frightened of Ronnie, who is foul-mouthed, racist and violent. Ronnie started as a nightclub bouncer and prospered with the boom in security industries, ending up as head of security for Oxenford Medical, until he was fired for stealing.

It was while Ronnie was working for Oxenford that Karim met him. Karim's employer won the contract to install a state-of-the-art alarm system at Oxenford's lab, and Karim designed it.

Ron now tells Karim he may not have to sell the house after all. You can have £250,000, cash in hand, this time tomorrow, he says. Just call me Santa Claus.

He explains that he is working for people who want to break into Oxenford Medical for reasons of their own. They will pay Karim for helping. All he has to do is disarm the alarm system he installed.

Karim is desperate, but he hesitates. Ronnie assures him there will be no rough stuff. In the end Karim agrees. He apologises to his guests, picks up his laptop and mobile phone, and leaves with Ronnie.

5. Miranda arrives at Steepfall with Ned, Tom and sulky Sophie. Cliffie is very taken with Sophie, who wears a tight sweater that shows her pierced navel.

Miranda is desperate for the holiday to go well, without friction, but she immediately has a problem with Hugo. She met him before Ned, and began a relationship with him until she discovered he was married. (Ned does not know about this.) Now Hugo comes on to Miranda. She finds him attractive, but turns him down firmly. She also begs him not to flirt with her in front of his brother. She is hoping to get Ned to commit to a wedding, and the last thing she needs is for Ned to think she is attracted to his brother.

Then Olga arrives and starts a row about rooms. Mamma Marta has put Miranda and Ned in the principal guest room, because it has an adjacent small bedroom suitable for little Tom. (The older children will sleep in the barn.) Olga, a star barrister and the eldest Oxenford child, is imperious and dramatic. Outraged that she and Hugo have been "exiled" to the guest cottage, she starts making plans to leave early. Marta flies into a rage.

Miranda offers to swap, so that Olga can have the guest room. The only downside is that Tom will have to sleep in the barn with the older children. A quarrel is averted.

Davy Oxenford arrives. At 25 he is the youngest Oxenford child. With him is his latest girlfriend, Véronique, a well known supermodel, French, thin as a stick, pale and beautiful. The adults find her charmless, but the kids are impressed, and Sophie recognises a kindred spirit.

6. Toni is about to leave home for her grown-up Christmas when she gets a call from her unreliable brother. His wife does not want him to drive in the snow, so he cannot take Mother after all.

Toni cancels her plans and drives to the old folks' home. She is disappointed, but also anxious. Mother cannot be left alone—so what will happen if there is an emergency requiring Toni's presence at Oxenford Medical over the holiday? She calls in. Steve Tremlett reports that all is well, although the snow is falling more heavily. She tells herself not to worry.

Carl Osborne calls. He wants to drop by and give her a gift. She doesn't even like him, but he is very insistent. She tells him she has her hands full with her mother. To get rid of him, she agrees to meet him after Christmas.

7. The Oxenford grandchildren hang out in the barn, playing pool. Sophie smokes cigarettes.

Cliffie is smitten by Sophie. She is maintaining a classic teenage façade of catatonic cool, but he is determined to get under her guard. He is not without charm, and he turns it on full. He offers to show her around the property, and takes her into the attic over the kitchen. It is a large space created when the old dairy was converted. There are two ways in: an outside door high in the gable end, reached via a lean-to roof; and a door hidden behind a wardrobe in the master bedroom.

In the attic are an old sofa, photograph albums, a dusty guitar, boxes of junk, etc. It has always been the children's favourite hidey-hole. Cliffie shows Sophie how you can look into the kitchen and eavesdrop on adult conversations. He warns her that the dog, Nelson, always knows you are there, and observant people such as Mamma Marta may notice Nelson cocking his head to listen, and deduce your presence.

He tells her how much he likes her. She says she is dating a boy of nineteen. Cliffie does not know whether to believe her.

They exit into the master bedroom—and surprise Véronique, looking guilty. She claims she has wandered into the wrong room by mistake, but Cliffie suspects she was looking through drawers.

8. Karim and Ronnie rendezvous in Harbourmouth with mastermind Nigel Buchanan, who has flown in from his home in Majorca. Nigel is a successful professional thief who steals only to order and for a prearranged price (works of art, special jewellery, secret documents, nuclear warheads). He is cold, ruthless, and scary. With him is George Cox, a shaven-headed brute who is in charge of transport.

Nigel explains that they are going to break into Oxenford Medical. Afterwards, they will rendezvous at a nearby airstrip. There they will be paid, and they can all be home in time for Christmas lunch.

Karim says he does not want to be part of the break-in. Nigel assures him the break-in will not be noticed, even by the security guards, until the regular staff come back to work after the holiday. Nevertheless, Karim insists he will not go inside the laboratory, but will give the others instructions. He anxiously repeats his insistence that there be no rough stuff.

On Nigel's instructions, Karim hacks into Oxenford's phone system, using his laptop and mobile. He diverts all calls into and out of the laboratory complex to his mobile. Then, to get the guards' attention, he causes all the phones in the complex to ring and flash briefly.

Almost immediately, an outgoing call is made by the security guards. Karim's computer tells him it is destined for a mobile number that Ronnie identifies as Toni's. Karim plays a voicemail message.

Next, the guards call Wessex Telecom, the company that maintains the phone system. Karim answers and promises to send an emergency repair team to the site as soon as possible.

Then Karim, Ronnie and George get into a van marked "Wessex Telecom" and drive into a worsening snowstorm.

9. Miranda speaks to Stanley about money. He explains that all his cash has gone into the new lab—in fact he has a personal overdraft of more than a million pounds. However, the family owns a painting, a small Poussin, which is probably worth about half a million. It is jointly owned by the three children, and Stanley always told them they should sell it in an emergency.

*I am  
not sure  
if this  
is  
necessary.*

Over dinner, Miranda asks about the painting. It turns out that both Olga and Davy sold their shares to Ned at different times. But Olga claims Ned bought at unfair prices. Miranda tries to get Ned to insist on his rights, but he backs off.

Olga accuses Miranda of having been determined to get into this family by hook or by crook for mercenary motives. She reveals that Miranda dated Hugo before Ned. Ned did not know this, and now he is furious, and Miranda is mortified.

The row comes to an abrupt end when Lukey, the Filipino butler, announces that he has caught Véronique rifling through Stanley's wallet. She has stolen his plastic key card for the isolation lab.

Véronique admits being with Animals Are Free. Stanley orders Davy to take her away. They leave for the station.

Stanley calls Toni and tells her the threat from Animals Are Free has been averted.

Then Davy and Véronique return. The snow is much worse, and they have been unable to get to Harbourmouth. Véronique is stuck here for the night.

10. Karim, Ronnie and George arrive at the lab in the Wessex Telecom van. They show fake ID and are admitted. Karim reminds Ronnie that he is going to stay in the van. Don't be so fucking stupid, Ronnie says; you're coming in with us. He threatens violence, and Karim has no choice but to obey.

Karim disables the alarm system and they enter the isolation lab. But they do not liberate the animals. Ron locates a steel case containing vials. He explains that these are samples of a new, unpatented Aids drug that is worth millions to a rival pharmaceuticals outfit. Karim believes this.

Before they leave, something goes wrong. A guard surprises them and realises they are not fixing the phones. Supervisor Steve Tremlett, who is secretly working with the gang, helps avert disaster; but nevertheless there is a fracas. To Karim's dismay, Ronnie and George pull guns and wound one of the guards. Worse, Ronnie seems glad of the opportunity for violence, and George is particularly brutal with the one female security guard.

The gang overpower the guards and tie them up. However, their hope that the theft will go undiscovered for two more days is now dashed.

There is more bad news. The weather has turned worse, with heavy snow, gale force winds, and a rapidly falling temperature. They drive away into a blizzard.

11. In the barn at Steepfall, Sophie produces a bottle of vodka, and they all try it. Caroline goes to sleep. Little Tom throws up. Cliffie does not much like booze or drugs, and would prefer Sophie to stay sober. He succeeds in distracting her from the bottle, and they begin to fool around.

12. Toni calls the lab to check in. She is answered by a voice she does not recognise. (In fact it is Karim, on his mobile phone in the van, still intercepting calls to and from the lab.) Toni becomes suspicious.

She decides to must go to the lab and see what is wrong. She has no option but to take Mother with her.

As they are leaving, the persistent Carl Osborne shows up, not drunk but definitely mellow, with his Christmas gift. Despite Toni's repeated rejections, he follows her car.

13. In the small hours, Miranda looks out of the window of the guest cottage and sees lights in the barn. She puts on a robe and boots, and fights her way through the blizzard to investigate.

She catches Cliffie and Sophie petting, and sends them to their beds. She finds that Tom has puked, and cleans up.

Furious, she returns to the cottage and tells Ned to get his daughter under control. They have a major row, and Miranda sleeps on the sofa. She is miserable: the holiday is having the opposite result to that for which she hoped.

14. Karim, Ronnie and George get stuck in the blizzard. Ronnie calls Nigel Buchanan and explains the situation. Nigel says he can get a helicopter to them as soon as the snow stops.

But they will die if they stay where they are. After an acrimonious argument, they head across a field, making for the only lights they can see. They approach a large house, not knowing it is Steepfall.

As a precaution, they cut the phone lines.

15. Cliffie and Sophie get up again. They decided to move to the attic over the dining room. They have to wade through deep snow to get from the barn to the house, but their tracks are immediately covered by fresh snow.

Once there, Sophie produces some "brown sugar"—unrefined heroin—and begins to roll it up with tobacco. Cliffie persuades her to kiss him first.

16. Toni arrives at the lab, furious that Carl Osborne is still behind her. She is horrified to see there is no guard at the gate (which means Carl is able to follow her in). She discovers the tied-up security guards, one bleeding. She calls the police on her mobile.

She starts to question the guards to establish what happened.

Carl calls his news desk.

17. Ronnie proposes to bust into the house, terrify everyone, and tie them all up. Karim persuades him it will be easier if the gang pretend to be innocent people lost in the blizzard and asking for shelter.

They knock on the kitchen door at 6am. Marta is already up, making coffee. To Karim's relief, she believes their story, and offers them breakfast. (Lukey and Lori, the staff, are snowbound in their house a mile away and Marta does not expect them to show up for work today.) *What day is this? Christmas Day.*

Karim wonders how long Ronnie and George can keep up the pretence of innocence. They turn on the television for a weather forecast. The wind has changed to the west, blowing the blizzard across the British Isles. The snow will persist until midday, then a rapid thaw will set in. They are stuck here for several hours.

18. Toni realises that the gang have stolen samples of a lethal virus. She is devastated. She has totally failed in her task—unless she can make sure the gang is captured in the next few hours.

She alerts the regional police and demands they get a snowplough to search for the getaway van, reasoning that it may not have got very far in this weather.

The police say this is impossible, and they do not seem to grasp the importance of what she is telling them. The duty officer is someone Toni knows from the old days. He refuses to call the Chief Constable. Toni suspects he harbours lingering resentment against her for being a whistleblower.

She calls her friend in the FBI.

Unfortunately, she is unable to keep any of this from Carl Osborne.

19. Miranda is unable to sleep after her quarrel with Ned. She comes into the kitchen in search of coffee and is astonished to find three strange men eating eggs.

Her instincts tell her something is wrong with their story, but she can't prove anything. Nevertheless she is worried, and tries to think of some way to check on them.

20. Up in the attic, Sophie and Cliffie have fallen asleep after adolescent sex. When they wake up, Sophie wants to smoke her brown sugar, but Cliffie distracts her again, this time by calling her attention to the strange men in the kitchen.

21. Stanley Oxenford gets up, goes to the kitchen, and immediately recognises Ronnie Sutherland. Ronnie comes up with some kind of story, saying he is now working for Wessex Telecom, but his story is full of holes.

Stanley looks in Ronnie's bag and recognises the steel vials. He is appalled. He tries to explain that what the gang have stolen will kill them and their families if it is ever released. Karim is shocked by this revelation. Ronnie accuses Stanley of lying and knocks him to the floor.

Ronnie pulls a gun. George gets some cable and ties them all to chairs. Then George and Karim search the house. They round up Davy & Véronique and Olga & Hugo. They also collect all the mobile phones.

22. Miranda hides in a wardrobe and evades the searchers. She manages to sneak out of the house. She goes first to the barn, to warn the children. To her horror, only Caroline is there, fast asleep. Where are the others?

23. In the attic, Sophie and Cliffie watch, terrified, as Ron brutally interrogates his prisoners about who else is on the property, and where. The family respond with a mixture of truth and lies.

Cliffie realises he must phone the police. But he does not have a mobile phone, and Sophie's battery has run out. There are phones in all the cars, of course. The visitors' vehicles are under a couple of feet of snow, and locked; but Stanley's and Marta's cars are in the garage—and Cliffie left the keys in the Mercedes after he dented it. If he can get there, he can make a call.

24. Carl Osborne's report of the theft of the virus appears on national television news, and this galvanises the police into action. They suddenly find a snowplough.

Toni looks at the map. Leave the lab, the gang almost certainly headed for the main Harbournmouth-London motorway. But they probably did not reach the motorway. She proposes that the snowplough starts at the motorway and works its way towards the lab. A police car will follow it, and the cops will examine every abandoned car, searching for a van marked "Wessex Telecom".

25. The gang have the television on continually in the kitchen, watching the weather forecasts, so they and the captives in the kitchen see the TV newsflash about the theft of the virus. Now there can be no doubt of what they have in their hands. Stanley pleads with the gang to leave the vials behind when they flee. Ronnie gags him.

There is a slight lull in the snowstorm, and Ronnie sends Karim and George to search the rest of the property. As a precaution, he makes them leave their mobile phones behind.

He also calls Nigel, who says the helicopter still can't take off.

26. Miranda is desperate to locate Tom, Sophie and Cliffie. As they do not appear to be in the house or the barn, they must be in the guest cottage—where she left Ned sleeping—or the garage. She is about to go looking for them when she sees Karim and George cross the yard to the cottage.

A moment later, they come out with Ned and Tom. Miranda is disgusted with Ned for giving up so easily.

Tom tries to get away. George recaptures him and hits him brutally. Ned, contrary to expectation, attacks George fiercely, protecting Tom. George beats Ned up severely, but his attention is distracted from Tom. Watching all this in terror, Miranda sees that she had misjudged Ned.

27. Cliffie and Sophie make it to the garage and get into the Mercedes. But it is locked and the keys have gone. Lukey, the Filipino butler, must have locked up last night (and failed to notice the dented front).

Cliffie knows where the keys are kept. There is a key cupboard in the boot lobby between the kitchen and the back door. He thinks he can sneak in there without being seen by Ronnie in the kitchen.

First, he takes Sophie to the barn where she joins Miranda and Caroline. Miranda orders him not to risk going to the key cupboard. He disobeys her.

28. Toni gets a call back from the FBI. They know who is behind the theft. A terrorist group they have been tracking has been trying to buy biological weapons for some time. They are very concerned because this group is wealthy and organised: if they get hold of the virus, they have the capability to do untold damage with it. The Bureau has already been in contact with Scotland Yard and Interpol, ostensibly to offer any assistance, actually to make sure—as tactfully as possible—that the local police understand the level of threat they are dealing with.

But the snowplough arrives at the lab without having found the Wessex Telecom van. Could the gang have turned the other way when they left the lab? There is nothing in that direction but the sea, Steepfall, and—Toni now realises—a disused airfield.

The snowplough sets out in that direction, and Toni goes with it, leaving Mother in the care of the security guards.

Carl Osborne follows Toni.

29. George and Karim bring Ned and Tom into the kitchen and tie them up. Ronnie sends George to check the garage and Karim to check the barn.

Miranda, Caroline and Sophie jump Karim as he enters the barn and overpower him. He tells them he is willing to change sides.

30. Cliffie sneaks into the lobby and gets the Mercedes keys. But he is almost caught by Ronnie and has to hide in a cupboard.

31. Karim tells Miranda everything. They talk about how to end this nightmare. Karim agrees to try to phone the police—if he can get his phone back from Ronnie.

32. The snowplough gets all the way to the airfield without finding the Wessex Telecom van. Toni realises it must be on a side road. And the guys are either in it or in one of a small number of nearby buildings, the largest of which is Steepfall. She

tries again to phone the house, but the lines are out of order, which in itself is suspicious. She calls Stanley's car phone and leaves a message on the voice mail.

33. Karim returns to the kitchen and tries to call the police, but he is caught by Ronnie. Ronnie sends George to the barn.

34. The three attractive women in the barn are too much for George, and he tries to rape Sophie. Miranda defends her. George beats Miranda but she will not give up. Eventually George abandons the idea and takes the three women back to the house at gunpoint.

35. Cliffie escapes from the kitchen.

36. Toni approaches Steepfall with the snowplough and the police. She passes Lukey & Lori's house, and speaks to them, but they are snowed in and know nothing of what might be happening at the house.

37. As the snowplough approaches, Karim tries to distract Ronnie, so that he will not see it until too late; but he fails. Ronnie sees the snowplough and sets a trap for the police. If he can get past them, he can use the track cleared by the snowplough to get to the airfield.

38. Cliffie gets into the Mercedes and tries to figure out the phone. He gets Toni's message and calls her back. He briefs her on the situation at the house as she approaches.

39. Karim makes a last desperate effort to stop the gang leaving the house with the virus. Ronnie breaks his arm.

40. A helicopter appears.

Leaving Karim behind, Ronnie and George make a break for it. In a rage, Miranda attacks George. She knocks him down. Ronnie abandons him.

Outside, as the helicopter descends, its door opens, and gunfire rakes the police.

Ronnie runs for the chopper. The garage door opens, and Cliffie drives the Mercedes out.

The chopper lands. Ronnie makes it to the door. Cliffie drives the Mercedes straight at the chopper. He jumps out at the last minute. The car hits the helicopter. There is a mighty explosion, killing Ronnie and everyone in the helicopter.

*What happens to the virus with  
the virus?*