

Who's next?

Characters:

- Luke:** The Captain of the group. He is a born-leader with instinctive thoughts. Yet, his cunning mindset and utmost willingness to survive drive him to be a ruthless and cold-blooded person that may find his life more important than the others.
- Ariel:** A friend of Luke. She is an open-minded, obedient and helpful girl. She also has a bleeding heart, which means she possesses human's best quality.
- Cody:** The 'professor' in the team. He has a high caliber in academic studies and could memorize lots of factual information. He is unsatisfied with Luke from the very first beginning.
- Chad:** The chubbiest in the team. Eating has always been his first priority. He is one of the most vulnerable characters in the drama because of his clumsiness and his lack of physical strength.
- Scarlett:** A faint-hearted and innocent young girl. The passage of time gradually transforms her from an innocent figure to an emotionless person.
- Justin:** A playful and active boy. He is a good athlete capable of running for miles before stopping. However he is impulsive and is sometimes too bold. While a born adventurer, he is not experienced and gets into troubles easily.
- Richard:** He is a passive young boy who does not have a firm grasp of what he wants. He follows the herd mentality and has no idea of his own. However, he is loyal and follows commands without questions.
- Cannibals:** As what the name suggests, they take human as food.

Scene 1

(On the island)

Luke: (Wakes up and looks around) Hey, is anyone there? Is anyone still alive? Hey is anyone still alive?!

Ariel: (finding her way out of the forest) Luke? Luke is that you?! (sees Luke) Oh, thank god, here you are!

(People come out and join Luke)

Luke: (looks around everyone) Is everyone okay?

Scarlett: (timid but happy finding companions) I, I guess I am OK. Ariel helped me.

Richard: (looks at himself) I guess I'm fine.

Chad: I am alright!

Justin: Seems no one is seriously hurt in the ship wreck!

Luke: Well I guess that's a good news!

Cody: According to research, the chances of surviving a ship wreck are...

Chad: (turns to Cody) Save it professor, very slim, we know.

Luke: (seriously) Now we are in a deserted place and have no idea when rescue will come. So we must stick together. Survival is the most important thing.

Scarlett: (worried) You mean we can't go home anymore?

Ariel: (padding her shoulder) Don't worry, I believe people are looking for us, rescue will come anytime.

Luke: We should stay optimistic. But still, we have to be prepared in case rescue doesn't come in a few days.

Cody: According to past record, the first 48 hours are crucial to survival.

Chad: Cut your according to, professor.

Justin: (anxiously) Does that mean help usually comes within 48 hours?

Cody: Not necessarily, sometimes people get rescued months after the accident.

Chad: (annoyed) Cut the crap, please?!

Richard: (threatened by Cody's saying) What should we do now?

Luke: (determined) To survive, we have to be organized. We need a leader.

Richard: (immediately) You do it. I can see no better choice.

Ariel: Yes!

Scarlett: You be the leader!

Cody: (hesitated) Excuse me, I always prefer a proper election...

(Everyone stared at Cody)

Cody: But in our present situation, I think that was it.

Justin: (carelessly) I have no objection. Hope you will take us out of here.

Chad: (slow and clearly) As long as you can keep us safe...

Luke: OK, then let's get to work. Now, check your cell phones to see if there is any signal so that we can call for help. If no, turn it off to save energy.

(People check their phone, find no signal and turn it off, put it back)

Luke: It's ok. We have to gather our food and start rationing. Otherwise we will starve to death before people find us.

Richard: (quickly) Well, let's do it. Here is what I have...

Cody: I only have some books with me! (He takes some books out from his bag) Ah, and a pack of biscuits.

Justin: (a bit embarrassed) I don't have any food, who carries food around all the time?

Chad: I do! But I have more food than you all put together, sharing is not fair to me.

Luke: Chad, we have to join forces to survive this. You don't want us to kill you for food, do you?

Chad: (threatened) What? Do you really mean that?

Luke: Just joking. We are civilized. Still, you have to share your food with us, there is no choice. (Turns to the other, Chad reluctantly gives out his food)

Chad: I need more food than anyone here. I request a bigger portion.

Luke: Considering your contribution, request granted. To be fair, Cody can do the rationing and keep track of our food supply. (Pause) You are good at counting, right?

Cody: You can count on me then.

Luke: Now, we need a scout to find out where we are and see if there is any way out.

Ariel: We don't want to go out in the dark.

Scarlett: Not me...Not me...

Justin: I can do it, I run very fast.

Luke: Chad, you do it.

Justin: Chad? Why?

Luke: You are too fast and negligent, Justin.(turns to Chad) Chad, you are meticulous, so keep your eyes open. No need to be fast, but be prudent. Check out the environment and come back safely. Remember, survival is the most important thing. (takes a torch from his bag and gives it to Chad)

Chad: I love looking for food. I'll do my best! (goes away)

Luke: Now we need a fire for protection from animals, and to signal for rescue.

Scarlett: Where can we get a fire?

Richard: I don't know how to set a fire...

Cody: I know, but I need a flint or a magnifier.

Luke: You are in luck, Cody. I have a lighter. Use it carefully and make good use of your books. Others, please help to make shelter for us to spend the night.

Cody: According to my calculation, the food we have can support us for about 4 days ...

Justin: That is not much, right?

Luke: Maybe we have to cut down Chad's rations to last longer...

Ariel: Chad is a good guy. He contributed most of the food.

(Dim light on stage)

(Chad is eating a fruit and holding a torch. He hears some sound from the forest. Chad is terrified and runs away.)

(Light change)

Justin: I really wonder what Chad is finding out there.

Scarlett: I've been worrying about him...

Richard: Maybe he found a village and is having a good treat.

(Chad runs onto the stage, and falls down in front of the group)

Chad: (breathless) Oh my god...Oh my god...

Everyone: (curious) What?

Chad: (stutters) I... saw....

Scarlett: (anxiously) What did you see?

Chad: (Panting)...

Luke: (Pulling Chad towards him) What are you saying?

Chad: Er....

Everyone: Say it!

Chad: WE ARE ALL GOING TO DIE! (He passes out)

(Black out)

Scene 2

Cody: Now we have 3 days of ration left, if rescue doesn't come soon, we won't last long.

Luke: Should we cut down our rations to add one or two days of food supply?

Justin: (big reaction) What? I am already starving. Don't cut it down please.

Cody: (nods) Yes, it is the least we can do. But what we have is not actually food. Most of them are snacks. Maybe we should try to find some food source.

Ariel: (points at the forest) There is a forest nearby. Will there be anything to eat?

Scarlett: Maybe I shall go with Ariel to pick some fruits from the forest?

Justin: (eagerly) Maybe we can go hunting.

Luke: (shakes his head) But we don't have any weapons. Not even a bigger knife to cut meat.

Justin: We can make some.

Cody: Then we have to find suitable material.

Chad: It is too dangerous to go outside.

Ariel: Maybe we can just pick some food from outside the forest?

Chad: (desperately) This is useless...

Richard: Why, we will all starve to death if we don't get more food.

Justin: (points at Chad) Or you just want to save it for yourself? I saw you go into the forest this morning.

Chad: (he shakes his head) Yes, and I've been having an upset stomach after I ate the fruits. Those fruits are poisonous.

Cody: (tries to ease the atmosphere) The more colourful a fruit is, the more dangerous it is.

Justin: God damned us!!

Luke: (looks around everyone) Hey guys. Guys, calm down. Everyone should be careful. If you have diarrhea, we don't have the medicine to cure you. You will have to suffer.

Chad: (embarrassingly) I have to go dump again, please excuse me.

Justin: That mouth of you will kill you one day, Chad.

Cody: Gluttony is one of the seven deadly sins.

(At this time, Cannibal's voice heard. People are surprised and stop talking.)

Richard: (alertly) What was that?

Scarlett: Is it a wolf?

Cody: (authoritatively) Impossible, wolves don't live in this kind of forest.

Justin: (a bit worried) But it must be big.

Luke: (thinking) And big trouble too...Guys stay inside the shelter.

Chad: (cries with all his strength) Guys...they are coming...guys...they are coming...guys...where are you?

Cannibal: Roarrrr.....

(Everyone stays inside the shelter. Chad is caught by the cannibals.)

(black out)

Scene 3

- Luke: (gives instruction) Hey guys, we need to make the fire bigger to protect us and to keep us warm.
- Cody: (reporting the food supply) We should only have 2 more days of food left, but when I recount it, the food can support us for 3 more days. I think it is probably because Chad is gone. God bless his soul.
- Justin: (eagers to do something) We cannot stay here waiting for our food to run out. We have to find a way out.
- Ariel: Yeah, waiting here is not a good plan. It is not a plan at all.
- Luke: But the monster is out there. We are vulnerable.
- Scarlett: I don't want to be the monster's lunch.
- Justin: (confidently) I can go out on my own. I am fast.
- Richard: No, it is dangerous.
- (Justin insists to go out to the forest.)
- Luke: Justin! Let's go together.
- Scarlett: What if we run into the monster?
- Justin: (proudly) I will rip it apart.
- Ariel: I think we better get some weapons to protect ourselves.
- Richard: (surprised) What can we make?
- Scarlett: How about stones?
- Justin: A group of people throwing stones aimlessly, I guess we will hurt each other before we can drive the monster away.
- Ariel: Maybe we should carry some sticks!
- Luke: OK, when we go out, we have to keep close together. Also, if you get lost, come back here and stay inside the shelter. We will come back for you.
- Justin: I am fine by myself. I will kill them for food.
- Luke: (making joke) Or the monsters get you for a big meal and we gain one more day's portion.
- Cody: (seriously) That is not kind. He can't kill the monster but we don't want him to be killed either.

Scarlett: I can't stand one more loss. Please guys.

Luke: I am sorry.

Richard: Well, it is getting late. Let's go and come back soon.

(They start off. And suddenly, the cannibals' yelling sound heard again.)

Luke: (cries loud) Run. Take shelter.

(Scarlett and Ariel run into the shelter and hide there. Cody comes in with Richard and Luke following, Justin comes in after Luke and the cannibal is swaying right behind him. Richard falls on the ground, and Justin tries to pull Richard up. Justin then caught by the cannibals and Luke let go of Justin's hand while Justin is holding Richard. Justin is taken by the cannibals afterwards.)

(People come out from the shelter)

Richard: They are no monsters. They are cannibals.

Ariel: They take humans as food.

Scarlett: Does it mean that we are no longer safe?

Cody: (look at Luke straightly) You killed him.

Luke: Me?

Cody: Yes. Luke, you killed Justin. I saw it.

Luke: (tries to explain) I killed Justin? It was an accident. I was just trying to save Richard.

Cody: (accusingly) You had other ways, but you gave him up to the cannibals.

Luke: (defends himself) No, Richard fell on the ground and I was rushing to pull him up.

Cody: You could've help them both. You made Richard let go of Justin's hand.

Luke: Ha! Why would I do that? Tell me! He is one of US!!!

Cody: The reason is simple. He provoked you and you wanted to kill him to save more food.

Luke: (crossed) Am I that kind of person? Would I kill somebody just to take his food? This whole thing is unexpected!!

Cody: Yes. This thing may be unexpected but I'm sure that you are happy about Chad's death.

Luke: Oh! Now I am responsible for Chad's death too?!

Cody: Yes. Because it leaves so much food to us. Justin is the second prey.

Luke: (losing his temper) What are you saying!

(Cody and Luke fight)

Ariel: Can't you two stop arguing. Justin was taken by the cannibals just now!

Scarlett: What can we do now?

Luke: I'll say it again. It was an accident. As leader, I won't kill any member of our group.

Cody: (sarcastic) But for survival, you WILL!!

(Black out)

Scene 4

Ariel: Because Justin and Chad were lost to the cannibals, we still have around 3 days of food supply.

Luke: (pause) They have made their contribution. God bless their souls.

Cody: Of course you have to thank them for their sacrifice, you killer.

Luke: Stop calling me that. I've told you it was an accident.

Ariel: Don't argue again, we all think it was an accident.

Cody: (sarcastic) Try asking Justin. Oh Justin, is it fair to you?

Luke: Your accusations are testing my limits.

Richard: No, Luke was rescuing me. It was an accident. No one wanted Justin killed.

Ariel: Guys, an argument is the last thing that we need now.

Luke: Yes, Ariel is right. An argument is the last thing that we need now! Though I thank their contribution, it IS the TRUTH!

Cody: You had other choices, yet you chose to let him be killed. If all of us are dead, you can stay alive for much longer.

Luke: No, I don't want to live longer at the expenses of your lives. We are friends, we have to stick together to survive this difficult time.

Richard: (tries to ease the tension) Luke is right. We have to stick together or we will get killed one by one.

Luke: Yea.

Ariel: (Ignores Luke) Let's think about how to get out of this place.

Scarlett: Yes, I miss home so much.

Cody: Do you really mean that, Luke? What were you thinking when you pushed Justin to the deathly jaws of the cannibals? Were you thinking of survival?

Luke: (tries to explain) I think of survival from the very beginning, but not just my survival. I want to lead all of you out of this place safely.

Scarlett: (tries to relieve the confrontation) I trust Luke. We are going to get through this together.

Richard: (in a sorry tone) It was my fault, if I had not been so clumsy, Luke wouldn't have had to help me, and Justin could have escaped from the cannibals.

Luke: Don't feel sorry for an accident, it was nobody's fault. We are just unlucky.

Cody: (ironically) Yes. Having you around is really lucky. I start to worry WHEN a hand will push from my back. Betrayal happened so often at difficult times in history. I don't want to be the next victim.

Luke: So what do you want? You can be the leader.

Cody: Damned you with your so called leadership. You are just fooling these little kids. What leadership you have shown us? What have you achieved besides killing two of our own.

(Luke and Cody start fighting, Ariel stops Luke, Luke leaves)

Ariel: Are you okay?

Richard: Luke is angry...

Ariel: You are overdoing it, Cody.

Cody: I am not. If our main purpose is to survive, I am doing it my own way. Just a little advice, don't trust Luke. Everybody is selfish, he is too. When the situation comes, he will not hesitate to sacrifice any one of you. Trust me, that day will come very soon.

Scarlett: Then what should we do?

Cody: Follow your instinct. That is life. If you rely on someone, you will die.

Richard: (worried) Don't scare us, Cody.

Cody: Wait and see then.

(Black out)

Scene 5

(Cody is packing a bag and ready to leave)

Scarlett: Where are you going, Cody?

Cody: I go to find my way out. There is no hope staying here, and with Luke.

Richard: (surprised) What? You are leaving us?

Cody: Yes, I would rather be in charge of my own life.

(Luke comes out)

Luke: (approaching Cody) Well, Cody, where are you going?

Cody: Leaving.

Luke: Hey hey hey. Stop! It is very irresponsible of you to leave us at this time!!

Cody: (facing Luke) Whatever you say, I won't stay.

Luke: It is between you and me. Why can't we find a way to work together and help all of us out here?

Scarlett: (requests) Yes, don't go Cody.

Richard: You are always my big brother, how can you leave me?

Ariel: We are a team, right?

Cody: Don't be childish. Everyone has to fight for his own survival. If you rely on someone to look after your back, your life is also in the other's hands.

Luke: If you want to quit the team, just go. Don't try to divide us.

Cody: (provocatively) Are you afraid I will expose your hypocritical self?

Luke: (cunning) Ha! You wanna go? Just GO!

Ariel: No, Luke, don't let him go. Cody, tell him you are just joking! Come on!

Luke: Ariel, it is HE who deserts us!

Cody: (challenges back) Ariel, come on! I just don't want to take the risk that someone will push me to the cannibal one day. I have left equal portion of food for everyone. So I am going, and guys, watch your back. (Leaves)

(The cannibals suddenly appear. Cody turns back the stage and the crowd is being revolved by the cannibals. Suddenly Luke pushes Cody out to the cannibals, the cannibal grips Cody. The cannibal takes Cody away. Cody is struggling and yelling.)

Luke: Take him and leave us!!

Cody: (Cody falls towards the cannibals and cries loudly) You did this to me! YOU DID IT! I was right. Luke is a monster!

(Ariel runs to help Cody but Luke stops her)

Ariel: Come on Luke! Save him!

Luke: Ariel, stop.

Ariel: How can you do this, Luke?

Luke: I had to do it. Otherwise the cannibals will not go.

Ariel: But why Cody?

(Luke doesn't answer.)

Ariel: I am asking you. WHY Cody?

Luke: You saw it, Ariel! He wants to go. He is not a part of our team anymore.

Ariel: And then you sacrifice him? Luke, Cody was right about you. You are a monster.

(Black out)

Scene 6

(Luke is in the shelter)

Ariel: (weakly) Our food is going to run out soon.

Scarlett: (also very weak) We have been starving for a week and I don't know how long we can last.

Richard: Now everything I see turns into food. Scarlett, you look like a pork chop.

Scarlett: Go to hell!!

Richard: Sure, we all do soon.

(Starts eating biscuits.)

Richard: The cannibals didn't come back.

Ariel: Maybe they aren't hungry yet.

Scarlett: So what can we do?

(Luke leaves the stage)

Scarlett: Just sit here and wait for our last day?

Richard: Luke looks suspicious. I saw him sharpening sticks the other day. Come on.

(They find the sticks)

Scarlett: (puzzled) What for? We can't do any hunting here.

Richard: His prey is us.

Scarlett: (surprised) What? Do you mean he is going to harm us?

Ariel: What he did to Cody scares me. It will not surprise me if he does it again.

Richard: I guess I know why he made sharp sticks. He will not hesitate to kill a friend for survival. Justin and then Cody, and maybe you or me is next.

Scarlett: You mean he wants to kill us? He promised to take us home!!

Ariel: It is meaningless now. He can't even save himself from starving. Sacrificing others to stay alive is his only policy.

Scarlett: (puzzled) What do you mean?

Richard: (firmly) After our food has run out, we are the only source of food.

Scarlett: No, it's not true!

Ariel: When we are too weak to fight back, or if one is killed, the two left cannot resist him anymore, he will kill us. We ought to do something before it is too late.

Scarlett: Should we take all the food and go?

Ariel: That is no use. We can't go far with this amount of food.

Richard: So we have no choice?

Ariel: Only if we choose to wait and do nothing... (carefully and decisively) but if we have food, we can regain our strength, and use some of the food to distract the cannibals, then we have a chance to escape.

Scarlett: But how?

(Luke enters)

Ariel: We hunt. Right here.

Richard: And our target is ...

Ariel: I say we go.

Richard: Then let's do it.

Scarlett: Yes, while we still can...and it is for survival!!

(Walk towards Luke)

(Black out)

END