

Living With An Urban Survivalist

By

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&
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Urban Survivalist Husband vs Holistic Mediaphysical Wife

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ACT I

Scene 1

Jillian places hand to heart and breaths deeply.

JILLIAN

Hey, I'm glad you stopped by to visit your gal pal Jillian before the storm. I didn't know where else to turn. I knew you'd understand. As you can see by the boxes of survival supplies and hunting gear scattered in the living room and dining room table we've become a supply shelter.

Jillian points to boxes and hunting gear scattered about.

JILLIAN

In the last couple of weeks my husband's passion for being prepared for a natural disaster, country uprising, power outage, brave new world scenarios have escalated. And our power didn't even go out during Sandy! You should have been here yesterday! Boxes of new shipments filled with various supplies to round out "our" survival kit were being sorted. Frankly I'm a little worried. Ever since he's been hanging out with Rick and friends, Gilligan has taken up target practice and hunting wild game. He's going around the house practicing wild turkey calls.

Gilligan walk up stage past Jillian making turkey calls with a special call whistle.

Jillian shutters and then keeps talking.

JILLIAN

Why did the wild turkey cross the road? All Gillie's mating calls must have done it, because the other day Gilligan sat straight up in bed as he distinctly heard a wild turkey in our neighborhood! Our friend who lives across the way confirmed it was in her neighborhood earlier that week. Gilligan must have summoned the wild turkey across the street!

Jillian cups her hand over mouth to tell a secret.

JILLIAN

Truth be known he has not caught anything and he's still practicing with a kid's bow.

Gilligan walks upstage in hunter stance with a bow. He struggles to pull back a kids cross bow as he works on his strenth training.

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JILLIAN

One time I joined Gillian in Skippers' back yard to shoot targets. Eleventh grade suddenly came back when I cried shooting my first riffle. One of the guys said, "Don't be upset, you came closer than me hitting the clay birdie!" I quickly found myself more happy swinging in the hammock on the other side of the property. It's not that I couldn't shoot. I hit the big rings on the edge of the paper target.

(Deep Breeth)

When I married Gilligan I never thought my polite, soft spoken, young looking, Computer engineer, ambitious cyclist with his own successful Web design business would take a liking to anything like this!

Gilligan holds up a big sign that reads:

"Nerds are Sexy!" (flip) "Hunters are Heroic!"

RUTH

It started right around the seven year mark in our marriage. He kept asking for kids and I had already told him to quit his job and start a business. I said not yet too many times and the boy cracked. Now he is practicing turkey calls.

Gilligan walks in with another big box.

GILLIGAN

Hi, Love.

He puts it down and gives Jillian a hug and the audience a big smile.

GILLIGAN

Hi Carol, I didn't see you stop by!

Gilligan leans in and makes a kissing sound to Carol/ audience.

GILLIGAN

What's wrong Jillian?

JILLIAN

(overwhelmed)

Everyday there are boxes of survival gear delivered to our door. Gilligan I can't stand another stock pile of food, ammo or fuel. I called in support and Carol agrees.

Jillian point to the audience/ Carol.

GILLIGAN

Love, you'll thank me later when everyone else is out of power, food and shelter.

JILLIAN

What makes you think there's going to be another Sandy or crisis? You know the Mayans and Aztecs had different calenders. It's kind of like a relay race where one calender ends and a new team passes the torch.

GILLIGAN

That's why we are on team prepared. Come, I think you'll like what came in today.

JILLIAN

I guess if I understood what all this stuff was all about and organized it so it's not falling out of the closets. Guns and cross bows make me nervous.

Gilligan puts a supportive hand on Jillian's arm.

GILLIGAN

(Gently)

Jillian, I hear you telling me you want to understand my obsession for planning for our secure future.

JILLIAN

Yes!

GILLIGAN

Where would you like to store the MRE's- Meals Ready to Eat? Have you ever had a MRE?

JILLIAN

No, they look disgusting!

Gilligan slides a big box down stage.

GILLIGAN

I just bought a bunch of stuff.

JILLIAN

I know! What did you buy this time?

GILLIGAN

If they can't see our shinny new tent that's a lot lighter then our old one here are rescue whistles

Jillian grabs the whistle package.

JILLIAN

Always carry your whistle and other survival gear on your person. International Whistle Code: One Blast:

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JILLIAN (cont'd)

"Where are you?" Two Blasts: "Come to me." Three Blasts: "I need help!" Caution: Do not blow whistle in close proximity to people or animals for it may cause permanent hearing loss.

GILLIGAN

I bought batteries for flashlights and an emergency radio. The flashlights are also good to sign for help or communicate across the camp site.

Gilligan starts jerking off the flashlight trying to get it to turn on.

JILLIAN

You know if you keep doing that you'll go blind.

GILLIGAN

(Playing dumb)

But we would have light from the flashlight.

Jillian rolls eyes and picks up the second flashlight and does the Luke Skywalker move.

JILLIAN

Luke, I am your Father... What else?

GILLIGAN

Camping utensils, a machete with a log saw. See it's got a little pruning saw.

JILLIAN

Ok.

GILLIGAN

A whole bunch of dried bean.

JILLIAN

Why?

GILLIGAN

Lentils and beans, are dried and store well.

JILLIAN

Oh yea?

GILLIGAN

Brown rice, water filter and water tablets.

GILLIGAN

I also got an acre worth of survival Heirloom seeds.

JILLIAN

What kind?

GILLIGAN

Over 20 seeds kinds; Black beauty Lucullus Swiss Chard, zucchini, Snowball Cauliflower, Detroit Dark red beet, Lucullus Swiss chard, Yellow spinach onion, Golden Acher Cabbage, blue lake bush bean, Champion radish, Beefsteak tomato. golden Bantam corn... and ten more!

JILLIAN

So, heirloom seeds, produce their own seeds that we can gather and plant over and over again?

GILLIGAN

Yes!

JILLIAN

What's that for?

GILLIGAN

Paracord, for anything that needs rope. It's extremely strong rope. Emergency food rations and emergency blankets.

JILLIAN

What kind of food did you get?

JASON

Food bars, that look disgusting, three or four years from now when it gets close to expiring.

JILLIAN

Why did you get it?

GILLIGAN

Just to round out our emergency kit.

GILLIGAN

Check this out Jillian, it's a light weight straw- you can go in any creek in the US and drink for a year.

JILLIAN

Whoo!

GILLIGAN

Candles

JILLIAN

Those are tea candles.

GILLIGAN

Yup a 100 of them.

Gilligan accidentally spills Zippo lighter when he pours it in the small container. He lights it and then blows it out.

JILLIAN

Why did you do that? You can just shut it!

GILLIGAN

Oh I guesst your right.

These bolts are feather light. They're too nice. You don't even see them. You pull them back...it's crazy how fast they go. I also got Spit Fire Gobbler Getters. Turkey hunting Broadheads. They go on the end of theses things and they make for not so live turkeys. Hit a Turkey with that and it's going to your campfire or oven.

Gilligan whips out the zippo lighter again and blows on it.

Jillian shakes her head.

JILLIAN

That stuff smells. I'm gonna have to hide that from you until Armageddon.

Ignoring Jillian.

JILLIAN

That's it. Thanksgiving is over.

Gilligan shakes his head yes.

JILLIAN

Where are we going to store all this stuff?

GILLIGAN

I'll put some of this stuff in our Bug Out Bag.

JILLIAN

Why is it called that?

GILLIGAN

Look it up. Hey, what are you taking?

Jillian opens new bottle of enzymes and dumps the cotton.

JILLIAN

The doc has me on these new enzymes so I can digest food and eliminate waste better. Everything that the medical intuitive said about me only absorbing and digesting 50% of my food was confirmed by the urine test! Petty cool huh?

GILLIGAN

I'm glad your taking care of your body better. Maybe now we can try again to have a baby.

Jillian rolls her eyes and groans.

JILLIAN

I don't think this house is ssfe for... kids.

GILLIGAN

Wait, don't throw that cotton out!

JILLIAN

Why?

GILLIGAN

That can be used for a fire starter kit, which is a total rip if you buy it online.

RUTH

Ok folks, you heard it here. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water. We're saving cotton, packing material, dryer lent, Baby we're saving it all!

JILLIAN

By the way, my CPR card arrived in the mail so I can renew my massage license.

GILLIGAN

Hey now we both have cards. I have my ORANGE Fish and Wildlife card!

JILLIAN

You mean your RED card.

GILLIGAN

You didn't just make a RED neck reference?

JILLIAN

(Sarcastically)
At least my card SAVES lives!

Gilligan is excitedly digging through a big box.

JILLIAN

Oh is that your stick powered stove?

JASON

That's exactly what it is! Look, Jillian. It's even got a cell phone charger!

JILLIAN

I can see him now. "My phone is about to die. Can I call you back? I have to build a fire!"

JASON

Cool! They mailed me the bundle of sticks!!

Jillian rolls eyes.

JILLIAN

We have plenty here in our neighborhood.

Gilligan lights a match and then the stove.

The fire is going.

Gilligan plugs in the cell phone.

GILLIGAN

Let's test this baby. Great it's 10% charged! Damn no signal!

Jillian shakes head.

JILLIAN

What good is a charged phone during a natural disaster if the phone service stops working?

GILLIGAN

Cell phones are the first to get service restored in natural disasters.

Gilligan is onto opening another box.

GILLIGAN

(Upset)

I don't believe these guys. Can you believe they wasted a big box for a small bag for my cross bow.

JILLIAN

The nerve of those people wasting packing material on a bag for a deer killer!

GILLIGAN

Why don't you read the government issued check list to make sure we have everything.

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JILLIAN

Fine. Prescription medications.

GILLIGAN

Check.

JILLIAN

Important family documents including insurance, bank accounts placed in a water proof bag.

Jillian holds up documents in plastic bag.

JILLIAN

Check. Cash or traveler's checks or change.

Jillian pauses and looks up reflectively.

JILLIAN

Change. Do you think you could collect every thing you need to survive a disaster and still run into trouble?

GILLIGAN

What do you mean?

JILLIAN

Well, look at you. You have a stove, camping gear, most of the stuff on this list, weapons for hunting small game, even though you can count me out of eating squirrel.

GILLIGAN

What's the point?

JILLIAN

Take the Chinese for example before Columbus time. They had everything they needed in their country to survive and thrive without the outside world. They certainly didn't need those smelly Europeans that showered once a month or once a year to survive. They had gun powder, silk, acupressure with advance knowledge of the human body and how to control the flow of energy to treat and prevent illness.

GILLIGAN

You're still thinking about what Bill told you, silver being the one thing Spaniards had that the Chinese didn't?

Gilligan rolls out is gunny sack and crawls in it.

JILLIAN

The Chinese had medicine, silk, spices, gun powder even gold... just about everything to support and protect a

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JILLIAN (cont'd)

nation and they fell in love with a useless metal called silver.

GILLIGAN

True, you couldn't eat it or build with it at that time and yet they made their main form of currency something that they had to travel outside their sovereign nation across the ocean on dangerous trips to Europe to get it.

JILLIAN

Stupid. And the Spanish got into a heap of financial trouble waging wars to supply it and get it from various suppliers on different continents.

GILLIGAN

So what are you saying?

JILLIAN

I'm saying, what if you collect all this stuff, months of toilet paper, amo, food, heirloom seeds, batteries and the one thing we need is owned by someone else, then what?

GILLIGAN

We'll use leaves and we'll trade.

Loud sounds of a storm pass through the area.

JILLIAN

I guess the storm is here sooner than they predicted.

GILLIGAN

I guess it is. Join me.

Jillian meets Gillian's outstretched hand in the gunny sac.

END