

# **LAST DAYS**

A new dramatic series  
by Chad Kukahiko

## **Logline:**

**“Four people from very different walks of life, scattered throughout the western United States are forced to decide for themselves how they truly value life and love as they fight for survival in a world decimated by a deadly pandemic.”**

## **Synopses:**

Last Days is a dramatic series about survivors of a horrifying pandemic that turns the afflicted into undead, man-eating killers. The story follows four main characters: Ned in Los Angeles, Sandy in Utah, Kim in Seattle and Allan in Oregon. Additional characters appear now and then, but their stories always lead back to those of our main four.

Ned, who had been a jaded worker-bee before the fall, finds himself in the middle of ground zero – highly-dangerous, undead-riddled downtown Los Angeles – and turns himself into a heartless killer in order to survive; but the appearance of an old love threatens to shatter his carefully constructed shell. Sandy, the smart and lovestruck teenager, finds herself trapped with the family of her high school crush, but in order to save them, discovers the strong and powerful woman she never knew was inside her. Kim, the sober nurse, fights her way to a growing and optimistic community of survivors making the best of it in a local football stadium, only to witness the lengths of evil to which some men will go in order to attain power. Allan, a reflective wanderer before the fall, continues to wander after, and noticing that little has actually changed for himself since the world fell apart he continues his life-long search to find some kind of meaning to it all.

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS:

**Ned Pulaski** – Ned is a sensitive, but strong man in his late-twenties/early-thirties. Normally a funny, intelligent man, we first meet him not long after an abrupt, painful break-up, so Ned is much more quiet and melancholy than seems entirely natural to him. This new detached quality however ends up saving his life since he keeps to himself as the world falls apart around him. Cognizant of this, Ned builds upon it by steeling up his demeanor, getting himself into top physical shape and finding more and better ways to avoid the undead, secure his environment and acquire the food and water he needs to stay alive in his downtown Los Angeles apartment building.

Several months later, Ned becomes a vital part of a large military group holed up in a nearby skyscraper, by which time his well-guarded front hardens so impenetrably that, when a rookie messes up and gets himself infected during a foraging mission, Ned doesn't even blink as he puts a knife right into this young man's eye, killing him instantly. Ned's true passion and sensitivity is expressed only through the fervor with which he pursues the defense of the many, even at the cost of the few. But this is all threatened when an old flame of his is rescued one day, reminding Ned of a side of life that he rejected long ago: Love.

**Sandy Brewer** – A bright high school student in the suburbs of Utah's Salt Lake Valley, Sandy is partnered up for a class assignment with a boy on whom she has a huge crush, John Lundberg, so when stories of the spreading disease reach them, causing school to shut down, like many around her Sandy doesn't take them seriously and goes over to John's house to study. John's family is LDS (Mormon) and uses an old Cold War era bunker in their backyard to store their "one year's supply" of food, water and other emergency equipment, which is a practice common amongst Mormons, so Sandy is trapped at the Lundbergs' house when the pandemic hits the Salt Lake Valley in earnest.

Sandy and the Lundbergs spend several months in that dark underground bunker, listening as the radio stations shut down one-by-one and as their precious few CB contacts stop answering their hails. The pressure becomes too much for the oldest sister Franci and the father James, whom both convince themselves that the whole horrible catastrophe is a test from God which needs only to be confronted with faith and love of God to be overcome. So one morning Sandy awakens to see that James and Franci have opened the hatch and stepped outside, exposing themselves and the rest of the family to the hordes of undead all around. Sandy, John and Samantha - the youngest sister who occasionally display an uncanny prescience - are the only ones who survive when they escape through a back hatch and then drive away in an abandoned truck they find in a neighbor's yard.

Their panicked escape takes them east to a tiny town fortified by a family of Native Americans and a dozen or so others who have had to earn their entry by proving their worth to the group. It is that night when Sandy starts to understand the true strength behind her will to live as she alone - but for a few warning shouts from Samantha - fights off a handful of undead outside the town's walls after John abandons them to fend for themselves. Impressed by her courage, the townspeople let Sandy and the others in, but while this new world slowly evolves into an ideal home for Sandy and the increasingly gifted Samantha, John's betrayal haunts him more and more until he can't bear it anymore.

**Kim Saunders** - When news of the rapidly spreading disease first hits Seattle, Washington, Kim is a sober, concerned nurse recently hired to re-organize the emergency wing of a local University hospital. So the news worries Kim not just because of how the epidemic might effect her own life, but even more so because of how terribly unprepared her new workplace seems to be in case the disease hits the

Pacific Northwest. But then it does hit, faster and with more ferocity than anybody – even Kim herself – could have imagined and she only barely escapes from the hospital, aided by a paramedic friend of hers named Barry and an infant newly born to a mother who died immediately after.

As Seattle seems to instantly turn into a chaotic horror around them, Kim, Barry and the oddly silent infant find a moment to breathe in a local bookstore. Then, with a dwindling group of fellow survivors, they fight from rooftop to rooftop finally making it to the University stadium where a loose safety zone has been established by a motley group of survivors.

As Kim and the others come to terms with the fact that there will be no rescue party coming for them, they also start to understand the disease in ways that help them stay alive. Eventually they decide to make the best of it and the apparent leaders announce their intentions to turn their new home into a kind of utopia. Using the river as a source of sustenance, irrigation and safe passage Kim, Barry and the few others who spearhead this new Utopian project start to build a sustainable community of trust, respect and care, but then Kim starts to suspect a smarmy, conniving ex-Ad exec named Stephen of having nefarious intentions. Unfortunately no one believes her until it's too late, and Stephen strikes quickly and mercilessly to seize control.

**Allan Kunewa** - Since the world of ghosts and spirits is not to be laughed at or left unheeded amongst the people of Allan's Native Hawaiian background, Allan is at least partially prepared for the pandemic since his deceased grandfather has been coming to him in his dreams for weeks to warn of the coming disaster. So after sending his only nearby relative – his jolly Uncle Dino – on an extended fishing trip, Allan packs up his things and heads out from his uncle's place in Eugene, Oregon out to Crater Lake, where Allan works as a Park Ranger.

It's in this strange and suddenly barren wilderness that Allan meets the end of the world, and instead of fighting off hordes of the undead Allan wanders the woods occasionally stumbling into hints and remnants of humanity but rarely having to defend himself except from the increasingly bold animals of the wild. He joins forces with a dog which he never names, hunts, hones his skills with a bow and arrow and generally fights to keep the elements at bay, all the while keeping a diary of his thoughts and experiences, which provide a thoughtful, existential narrative to Allan and the dog's journeys.

However, when spring comes Allan decides to search for humanity, and so meanders his way toward Portland. When he finally gets there he finds a group of children surviving in the city's sewers and ventilation shafts, but the dog refuses to come into town with him so they're forced to separate and Allan becomes a kind of combination between a father figure and an invalid to the children since he's way too big to fit through the tiny holes and shafts which are their source of food and resources. Eventually it becomes obvious to Allan that he is more of a drain than a boon to these struggling kids so he prepares to head back to the wilderness, journal in hand.

## **SECONDARY CHARACTERS:**

(Some of these characters appear briefly and then die or vanish from these story-lines quickly and there are yet others that don't appear for many chapters, but all included here are listed because they are instrumental to the action or otherwise important to the over-all theme of their particular story-line)

**Sal Ligonis** – The jolly, brilliant neighbor that Ned meets and communicates with via flashlights before they meet the military unit at the Equitable building. He keeps Ned honest and faces life's set-backs – both little and large – with positivity and humor.

**Tania Simmons** – The kind, beautiful woman with whom Ned had been in love with for the four years that they went to college together, but the love was unrequited as Tania was the girlfriend of one of Ned's best friends. She is a naturally caring person and begins working right away in the unit's make-shift hospital, completely unaware how troubled her presence makes Ned.

**Colonel Marks** – The brisk, serious leader of the mixed military force that moves into Ned's neighbor several months after the fall. The Colonel is humble, but committed to the health and well-being of every soldier and citizen in his charge and expects nothing less from all those under him.

**Paul** – A burly truck-driver in his early forties who's trying during his unfortunately shortened life to get back into the Salt Lake Valley to rescue his wife and son from the home they're trapped in. Desperate, Paul steals a truck and makes it to his home only to be killed by his own infected son. It's his truck that Sandy, John and Samantha make their eventual escape in as Paul is the Lundberg's neighbor.

**John Lundberg** – A quiet, earnest young man completely unprepared for such a disaster. He tries to be a source of courage and discipline for his slowly deteriorating family, but often ends up acting petulant and insecure instead. He is occasionally able to draw strength from Sandy's resolve, but only on occasion.

**Samantha Lundberg** – A reserved, perceptive girl of ten with the personality of a sage. Her uncanny abilities of prescience are considered by her family to be a gift from God, even though she doesn't always say what people want to hear. She and Sandy become so attached it eventually seems as if they are able to read each other's mind.

**Franci Lundberg** – A frantic, disturbed 20-year old young woman, Franci is incapable of keeping her illogical fears to herself or from lashing out at others around her during her frequent bouts of hysterics. Franci only finally becomes calm at the point at which she loses touch with reality entirely.

**James Lundberg** – The kind, caring patriarch and only surviving parent of the Lundberg family, James has kept his family together for the three years since his wife died, but when the pandemic strikes he finds it increasingly difficult to stay composed in the rising panic of his family. This struggle eventually becomes so unbearable that James retreats into the world of fantasy that Franci has created.

**Barry** – A handsome, brash East Coast transplant who takes Kim under his wing in a sense because of qualities in her that he greatly admires. He's a man of integrity and courage with an immense amount of emotion which he doesn't even try to hide or hold in. Unfortunately, he's a little too trusting of others however and is therefore one of the first of Stephen's targets to fall.

**Stephen** – A perpetually-smiling mess of a human being, Stephen grew up pampered and spoiled but always had a deep distrust of others coupled with a genius' ability to read people. What he lacks though in true understanding he makes up for in a sense with an uncanny ability at predicting people's actions and reactions and it's this ability which allows him to fool every one that could have stopped his evil plans until it's far too late.

**The Baby** – Kim lets nobody know that the baby she saved (whom she eventually names Adam) was born to an infected mother, but his odd grey complexion and his refusal to ever cry make people suspect anyway. He eventually displays a supernatural ability to influence the undead, but uses this ability only very, very rarely as the act seems to disturb him.

**Tandy** – A manipulative, but ultimately harmless climber in her early-twenties who had made her way into the lower echelons of the cabinet staff in DC before the end, but then in the chaos of the falling capital Tandy successfully talks herself into a position in the State Department recently made available because her friend is missing, and because of that she is airlifted with the Veep's entourage to a nearby bunker. Unfortunately for her that bunker ends up being more of a feast than a fortress.

**Uncle Dino** – Allan's jolly, retired uncle. Having spent most of his adult life here and there on the mainland, Dino has become too restless to live for any length of time in the islands and so, although he misses his family very much, he's made Eugene his home and enjoying his retirement his mission. Although during his perpetual wandering Allan eventually came to rest in Eugene with the understanding that he was going to take care of his beloved uncle, Dino sees it as the other way around – seeing his strange, quiet nephew with much more pity than he would ever let on.

**The Dog** – Allan's eventual companion is independent and very smart, so smart in fact that Allan finds it arrogant to try to name him and eventually gives up trying – especially since he responds so much better to 'Dog' anyway.

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### **Chad Kukahiko – writer/creator:**

Such a strange, eclectic project would have difficulty finding a more strange, eclectic creator than Chad Kukahiko. An actor in well-over fifty plays, Chad has also been a poet, musician, playwright, screen-writer, director and singer-songwriter.

He traveled the world for years as the original “Ringo” in the first national tour of STOMP and later signed with Elektra as the drummer of the rock band Kane. His film and television acting credits include “Charmed”, “Killian's Chronicle” and “Mid-Century” with John Glover and fellow Boston University alum Faye Dunaway. As a recording artist, he completed the album 'swell' in 2005 and currently writes, sings and produces for the electronic band '100k' and the acoustic 'Superfreakos'. Since his directing debut in 2007 of the short format film 'Sloppy Seconds', Chad has directed or served as acting coach in nearly half a dozen other short-format films – most of which he also either wrote or co-wrote.

Chad's first experiences as a writer happened before he was even a teenager, when he began a nightly routine of making up and telling stories to his younger brother as the two would lie in their bunks, waiting for sleep. He wrote his first actual play in December of 1990 about a man and his murderous, talking suitcase and after a handful of subsequent plays – most of which surprisingly did not include homicidal luggage – he co-wrote and co-starred with recording artist Kyle Puccia in “Longshot”, a rock musical that debuted in the 2000 New York Fringe festival. Since writing his first feature “Angels in the Night” in 2004, he has also written “Heaven and Hell”, the feature version of “Last Days” and over half a dozen episodes of “Last Days” amongst several short-format films.

In October 2007, Chad created the original [lastdaysjournal.com](http://lastdaysjournal.com) which still attracts users from all around the world, giving them a place to virtually fight for survival in the world's first social-networking site for survivors of the zombie apocalypse.