

Fried Grid Friday.

Watch in amusement as a dysfunctional family of white trash thrive and survive a grid down event in style.

(speaking in l33t in an online chat room:)

Gerbil hutch:

OMFG G3n0m3_X RU serious? it's ready?

Gen0m3_X:

I got fifty bros ready to roll at midnight! :D

we R calling it "Grid fry Friday" W3 w1ll rake in so much \$\$\$!1

Fatti3_2dix:

OMGOMGOMG! So U R sure th3n?

Gen0m3_X:

Y all is ready, come midnight we shut this fuxx0r down! U guys got a few days grub? No stores=no food right?

Gerbil hutch:

Y. U?

Fatti3_2dix:

Of course.

Ponysexx_666:

Yeah bro, lets burn this fuXXor down!!1 (A)

Gen0m3_X:

I figure fifty billion in untraceable bit coin split fifty ways sets us all up good until our next hack attaxx, That's a sh1tt0n of weed

boys, hell we could demand other shit 2!

Ponys3xx_666:

I DEMANS ALL HAWT B1TCHES HAVE TO GO NAKED ON FRIDAYS AND B33RS R T3H FREE!

Fatti3_2dix:

Shut up b1tch, 1MP0RTANT \$tuff li3k free food for t3h h0meless and h0usings and sh1t.

Gen0m3_X:

Fuk all that, I need moneys, fuk the homeless. In three hours, be r3dy or B fukd!

Fatti3_2dix:

HAIL (A)!!!11

Ponys3xx_666:

(A)!!1

Gen0m3_X:

Hail us getting rich as fuck. LOL!

D3athg0d:

HAIL FUXxing CHAOS!

Gen0m3_X:

Wondered when you'd sp33k up. RU ready?

D3athg0d:

Y. all prepped like a doomsday survivalist, on your mark boss!

Gen0m3_X:

Lets do this sh1t kids! Cum m0ndae we R going to be fat cats!

Fried Grid Friday:

Huh? 11:30?!

I'm going to be, hell I AM late! Ugh. Power is out. Where is my cellphone? I gotta call in! No service? What the hell? Oh well, land line, the boss is going to kill me, I can't stand two late days in a row! The phone is out too? Whatever happened must be bad! Time to grab the crank radio under the bed!

“...And repeating, we have no news other than locally, and that news being that the power grids have mysteriously been shut down by a hacker group called “Satan’s lost children” current evidence implies this is not just a local event, but seems to be international as best we can tell as all internet traffic is also down! More news as we get it. Local authorities ask that everyone stay in your homes as all stores are shutting down anyway due to the power outage and lack of card readers. This just in, the president has declared a state of national emergency and issued a state of martial law! Please stay home until this national crisis has been resolved! This message will repeat in thirty seconds:

Bweee

This is a message from the Emergency Broadcasting Network, the world’s power and communications grids have fallen to a cyber attack, there is no power or internet service on five of the seven continents, all lines of supply are down as well, local authorities are trying to contain law and order and will shoot to kill any rioters or looters on sight! we have no news other than locally, and that news being that the power grids have

mysteriously been shut down by a hacker group called “Satan’s lost children” current evidence implies this is not just a local event, but seems to be international as best we can tell as all internet traffic is also down!

Click! Ohcrapohcrapohcrap! I got to get to my aunt and uncle’s farm outside town! I hope there’s no roadblocks up! I can get what’s left of the canned food in these milk crates Habib gave to me, there’s another maybe two weeks worth in my Winnebago and a couple of cases of water, I’d better grab all the toilet paper in the house too! Go bag is in the camper, but I’d better take my pets too and all the ammo and see how much of the food in the fridge I can put into coolers, good thing the ice machine at the corner has such a crappy lock, I can pick it in thirty seconds, less if I just use bolt cutters! Then I’ll see how much I can gorge myself with on what’s left! Suddenly I’m glad to be single. Where are my cats and the cage? I’m not leaving Princess and Wampus behind to be eaten, Princess is heavy with kittens too! Better grab all the meow-chow as well!

Crap, its taking all damned day to get packed, good thing I topped Winnie off last month, I hope the Blazer fits the tow bar and I don’t get stopped and searched on the way out, how am I going to explain fifteen guns and all this ammo? Not to mention my stash of weed, booze and painkillers. Nobody will give a shit about the fish pharmaceuticals and antibiotics, at least after dark, I won’t be roasting in the sun, traffic is going to be hell.

Yep, it was hell, I made the twenty five mile trip to my folk’s place in eight hours, give or take. My cousin SS met me at the gate with his AK-47 dressed in his red suspenders and a Nazi helmet. “You bring your own woman? You ain’t getting mine!”

He said. "I brought Hydro tens, let me in." I told him. "We might have a trade." He laughed. "Nah, I've seen your old lady, pigs ain't my thing." He gave me the finger. "Your loss!" He laughed as he swung the gate open. His wife was as big as a fattening hog, I'll pass.

My aunt and uncle were glad to see me, after I got parked I took a well deserved nap, then tuned in the radio, more of the same, global emergency, stay home, national guard and military shoot on sight, nothing open, stay off the roads, blah blah blah, stay home! It was lunch time, One of SS's kids beat on my hatch door. "Grandma says come eat!" My adopted niece, all of seventeen and built like a well paid stripper, before lights out, off limits, now??? Meh, I'm too old to be thinking about stuff like that, even if I know for a fact she's a little slut.

My folks greeted me with open arms, Uncle wanted to know how much of my own stuff I'd brought with me, Auntie was just glad I made it. My cousin SS asked me about what guns I'd brought and seemed to be pleased at what I selected. Auntie served up a garden fresh feast of vegetable soup, corn bread, and fish fillets. Feeding seven of us would clean out the deep freeze just as things would start to go bad. That Canadian goose and wild turkey would be the last to thaw and be eaten, Unc and SS were capable hunters, when his brother got here we'd have four capable hunters, "Skinny" was expected at any time, he was a good dude, but bat-crap crazy, he talked to a stuffed doll he kept with him in his pocket at all times, other than that, he was fine.

SS and I pulled guard duty after dinner, around 3:00 AM a truck load of drunks pulled in, just outside the main gates, three of them got out and took a piss, we listened to them talking about whether or not to pull on up and test the gates, but the one who

seemed in charge decided against it, he said:

“I know there’s at least five or six up in there, looks like more have come in, we’d be getting lucky with just six, if they have guards up, it ain’t happening!”

At that point I fired a round in their general direction and called out to “Piss off, private property!” And with that, they loaded up and left.

Auntie brought us breakfast about dawn, eggs, biscuits and bacon with sweet tea. We stayed until around nine when uncle's crazy brother turned up in his gypsy wagon, a beat to hell 70's or 80's era van, covered in stickers and poorly chosen dabs of paint, it looked like a hippy wagon except for the NRA and Trump 04' stickers, he had a pit bull and two cats with him, the rest of his ride was full of garbage bags containing everything he owned including his sink and toilet. He had an M-1 carbine laid across his lap.

“Howdy boys, glad you all made it! Willie (his doll!) said you all would make it, my boys are holed up at camp 30, they’re not coming until they have to, and with all the game down there and their set up, that might not be until winter!” He chuckled, “either you boys want to finish this joint before I go?” We both looked at the oversize Barbie doll in the passenger seat. “New girlfriend?” SS chuckled. “Naw, some old whore Willie picked up beside the road, you know I got better taste than that! I have standards! How’s my brother doing? Him and his lovely mate having any problems?” he asked. “Nothing we can’t kill yet!” Said SS. “We had lookers before daylight, but we put them on the road!” He grinned, patting his AK. “Now about this Joint...” He said.

Around noon, My uncle and his crazy brother relieved us. “back by 9:00 boys, Or I come hunting you!” He growled. After a quick trot back to my Winnebago, my cousin and I had a shot of

tequila apiece and I dug into my lunch meat in the cooler and made a sandwich, my lucky cousin loped off to a home cooked meal, at least that tub of lard he married could cook, that was all she was good for, other than that she complained endlessly.

Gen0m3_X beat his fists bloody on the unresponsive keys, the attack was perfect, the virus, flawless and undetectable, but out of fifty hack attackers nobody had realized the one crucial thing, without the internet, how would they get paid and how would they transmit the unlock codes? He stared at his dwindling supply of energy drinks, bottled water and ramen noodles and sighed, soon he'd have to leave the bunker he'd made in his mother's basement and look for food, he was sad that gun control had been a flop, all he had was a pocket knife and a wiffle ball bat. His mother hadn't been seen since the lights went out, even after he had begged her not to go to work Friday. It was then he heard the front door being kicked it, He silently prayed it was the Police, come to arrest him, he knew better.

Hei Bao cursed as she made her way up the dirt road, her sneaker sole had detached and was beginning to flop despite the duct tape she had applied earlier, this was a nightmare, she felt she would never go home to Taiwan or see her parents again, she cursed the Chinese government, she just knew they were behind this mess somehow, and she cursed the cheap Chinese sneaker that just self destructed on her foot, she thought briefly about her house slippers and decided they were useless on this gravel road or concrete, this was NOT the road back to her college and its relatively safe dorm, her last water bottle had maybe one drink left in it and she only had a bag of chips and a beef log in her pack and it was getting dark, she had only just escaped being raped the day before by a pickup full of drunks, but her shoes were in better shape then. The memory shot through her like a

knife as she sat down in the middle of the road and began to cry like a baby. Every dream she had ever had after going home to Taiwan went up in a puff of smoke with the flip of a switch somewhere. She had no doubt China was invading as she sat here.

“Who’s that up the road SS? They’re just sitting there in the middle of the road.” My cousin shrugged. “Too far out to take a shot at them with my AK, you want to try your FAL?” He snickered. I scowled at him. “Dude, that’s mean, they ain’t hurting nobody, they might be sick or hurt.” I said as I zeroed in with my scope to have a better look. “HEY! it’s a chick, I’m going to take the quad and go get her, see what’s up!” He gave me the stink eye and shrugged. “Might as well, world’s changed a lot in three days, who knows? She might fall madly in love with you!” He laughed. I laughed back and flipped him the bird and set off to see who she was.

The electric quad was pretty silent and I was almost upon her when she looked up and screamed at me and pulling a steak knife, grabbed her gym bag and made to try get up to run, when she screamed again and fell, clutching her ankle, she continued to scream and make wild slashes in the air with her knife. I just sat there a moment looking at her, pretty Asian babe, pretty nuts too! “Listen baby, when you get all that shit out of your system, I’ve got hot food, a clean bed and medicine for that wrecked foot of yours. When you’re ready, I’ll help you into my ride and take you to it.” I said. She looked at me bitterly then at the FAL in the seat beside me and threw the knife into the ditch. “FINE YANKEE, go ahead and screw me, just don’t hurt me please?” She whimpered. Yankee? I mused as I walked to her. “Maybe after you rest and we fix that foot up huh? You look like you’ve been through hell kid. You hungry? I got all kinds of canned

food, sodas too. Here, put your arms around my neck, I'll carry you kid." She did as I asked and hugged into my shoulder and said something in Chinese. "You're safe now kid." I told her. "Welcome to my home."

Hei Bao sat up straight in bed and pulled at the over sized shirt Auntie and my cousin's wife had put on her, on Rhoda, it was a shirt, on Hei Bao it was a knee length dress, then she stared at the rude cast on her ankle. "It was cracked kid, better safe than sorry." I said from my chair in the shadows. "Where are my clothes?!" She demanded. "Did you..." I laughed at her. "NOPE, the women folk changed you out and are washing what you had on you. My niece found some of her shoes to fit you, pretty old, but in good shape, you got tiny feet. Hope hiking boots are alright, that ankle will need support for a couple of weeks. It hurt? I have some killer chronic or pain killers if you like." She grinned like a Cheshire cat. "Not bad big man, but yeah, a little toke would go a long way right now!" I held up the bong and a bag for her to see. "Well slide in next to me hero! Lets get this party started!" She giggled.

About two hours later my uncle beat on the hatch of my Winnebago. "How's the little Chinese girl doing? you ain't... JESUS CHRIST, YOU BEEN SMOKING POT! "Guilty as charged sir!" Giggled Hei Bao, poking her head up from under the sheets. "Care to guess what else we did?" She giggled. "That's just great, you got that little girl stoned and screwed her, you old pig! dinner is ready, then guard duty, don't be late for either!" He snarled as he slid a plate on the table for Hei Bao. "Actually, it was the other way around mister. I needed some stress relief." She said quietly. My uncle threw his hands up and left as Hei Bao rolled over and kissed me. "Not bad old man, not bad at all! I could have had a worse fate! In fact that was one of the best I've had since I came to your country to study

medicine!” Medicine? “So you know a little about being a doctor?” I asked. “Nursing, this was my last year, but I do like to play doctor!” And with that she ducked under the sheets again! Later, after dinner, SS and I took our posts at the front gate behind the old steel containers that once held shipping goods, now were home to the goats and chickens. “I always said the world would have to come to an end before you got a girlfriend worth having!” SS laughed. I gave him the finger. “I happen to have standards, unlike you marrying Behemoth over there with two kids in tow. Does she ever shut up?” He flipped me off back. “Screw you man, its true love!” He snarled. “It must be bro, at least she can cook.” I chuckled as He scowled at me. “You two hate each other don't you?” we truly did. “She started it, I think she's pissed because I wouldn't mess with her because she was married!” I laughed. “ABOUT TO BE DIVORCED” He retorted. I threw my hands up. “Sniff another dog's meat, you get bit! Or did you forget us patching those bullet holes in your Jeep?” He sighed long and hard. “She was prettier then bro, you know. We both needed somebody.” I nodded. “We all do I guess.. see if my Uncle Al and Skinny left us any wood for the camp stove, I'll get the coffee going, it'll be a long, cold night!” I sighed.

Around 4:30 Hei Bao and SS's wife came out with sandwiches and hot coco “You boys look cold!” Said my cousin's wife. “We made you chicken dressing and cheese sandwiches, its all there was left over. Life's going to be hell without sliced bread and stuff like mayonnaise.” She sighed. Hei Bao nodded. “I know how to make mayonnaise and brown mustard if you can find the ingredients, I see you have tomatoes growing, maybe I can make something close?” She said as she limped up to me and snuggled into my jacket. “Winter is going to be a bitch!” She whispered.

My brother's old lady left after a few minutes, Hei Bao hung around until my uncles came at 9:00. Hei Bao was squeezing my hand and looking me in the eye. "What's up kid?" I asked. She smiled sweetly. "I've had a taste of American ingenuity, and I want more!" She laughed quietly. "You're not like the boys at home or at college, I have the feeling you'll be around a long time even now you've gotten into my pants!" She sighed. "Yup." I said, then I kissed her.

We hurried through the morning chores of chicken feeding, goat milking and egg gathering, carried in the daily wood supply and headed right to the Winnebago, I needed sleep, and she had other needs I was more than happy to satisfy.

I woke up around 4:00, Hei Bao was snuggled into my back. "I've rode your horse twice now, and still don't know your name, or anybody else's name yet for that matter, I feel like such a slutty girl!" She giggled. "I'm Tomas, my bro is Stephan, Uncle Alvin, Skinny's name is Virgil, there's Aunt Dora, Stephen's wife Rhoda, and their daughters, Courtney and Collie, you have yet to meet her, she's a little bit creepy and likes to hide in the basement. I wonder how she's doing without her social media? Not that I give a shit. She creeps me out and likes her drama a bit too much." We got dressed and headed out to do afternoon chores, Stephen's wife Rhoda was next to my Blazer, using the hose to fill a couple of wash buckets. "Think you two could keep it down a bit? It sounded like you was killing her a couple of times!" She growled. I started to tell her to go screw herself but Hei Bao was all on her! "My man may not have a big gun, but I assure you his aim is perfect Buddha woman!" Rhoda's eyes got huge in rage! "What's your Chink girl mean by that shit huh?" She snarled. "I mean you so fat all pigs envy you, you block out the sun! You don't like to hear us? Do not listen voyeur! Go home, go get real love from your own man!" Hei Bao hissed! All

four hundred pounds of Rhoda turned bright pink and she charged us! I drew back to body block the obese bitch, but Hei Bao Sank back on one leg and extended the other and with an ear rupturing shriek....

WHACK!

SMACK!

CRACK!

THUMP!

This sweet little hundred and ten pound soaking wet girl succeeded in kicking her on each jaw twice before body flipping her onto the concrete pad! Rhoda lay there stunned a moment before bawling like a calf being butchered alive! Alvin, Stephan and Skinny came running at a trot! “You not touch me, you not touch my man never again oh so fat one EVER!” She shrieked in her face! Stephan ran to his bawling blob to comfort her. “What the hell happened?” he asked! I shook my head. “Rhoda tried to bully the wrong girl and paid for her mistake with some lose teeth! Apparently my China doll knows Kung Fu!” I laughed. My uncle snorted. “I thought it sounded like a cat fight over here! Back to the woodpile you lazy bums, that crosscut saw won’t run itself! Tomas, get your welding gear, I need you to fix the wood maul again, the head is cracking along the old weld.” I reached into my tool box to get my tools, hood and leathers as Hei Bao stalked off to the chicken house with her nose in the air and chest thrust out like a cat that had just whipped a bulldog! I’m in love guys!

Just as Stephan and I took up guard duty for the night, two military double deuce trucks rolled up with about a dozen national guard troops, a Captain got out and looked around. “Relax civilians, welfare check and food aid. How many people here?” He asked.

Stephan and I looked at each other. “Ten, but we’re expecting

seven more any time.” I said.

The Captain nodded. “Family farm or corporate? How many acres of food do you grow?” He asked. Snooping through a clip board.

“Five, but some of it is flowers.” Said Stephan. “Mom grows day lilies.” The Captain sneered but said nothing.

“Anybody here hurt or sick? Any deaths?”

“Nope.”

“That’s good to hear, I’m authorized to pass out a month’s food supply to everyone here, but I need names and social security numbers. Those rifles registered? I might need the numbers next time I’m out here, just so see who has what, but not now.” Said the Captain. “You guys got a well or a pond? We need water for the trucks and some to drink as well.” Stephan pointed to the hand pump next to the gate. “Good well, but you might want to pump it a few times before you drink it to get the iron out of the pipe. Tastes shitty if you don’t.” About that time Aunt Dora came running with a platter of fresh biscuits and jelly, Rhoda was lumbering behind with a couple of gallons of cold goat milk and red plastic party cups.

“You soldier boys look like you’ve had a rough ride, this is for you!” She said as she passed out the goodies to the grateful squad. “What’s it like out there?” A bulky Sargent shook his head sadly, “the cities have gone to hell ma’am, the bigger highways are worse. Every nut with a gun and a grudge is having a field day!” The Captain coughed to get attention.

“Thank you for the biscuits Ma’am. But we need to do what we came to do and move on, so I need everyone on the property to sign this sheet to collect your supplies, we’ll be by again in a month.” We all signed his paper and they gave us four cases of MREs each, a small pouch of vitamins and medical supplies, and a cheap water filter each, and with that, they filled their canteens

and Jerry cans and left. “Alright boys, take that shit to the root cellar and make sure its off the ground, we might need it this winter.” Said Uncle Alvin.

A few hours later a white Humvee with a trailer pulled in, it had a red cross on the side. A guy in a white bio suit and respirator got out.

Medical welfare check civilians, get everybody on the property out here for booster shots and vitamin infusions, there’s a few diseases cropping up we thought were long gone and we want to prevent an epidemic. Line up between these two tables. This is NOT an option, it is mandatory by congressional emergency order 76254 R!” So they set up their portable inoculation stations and we got two pops in each arm and a stab in the ass on our way through. “Just what’s in this shit anyway Doc?” I asked him as my turn came. “Four combination shots for influenza, typhoid, tetanus, rubella, whooping cough, anthrax, a couple more I can’t remember and an immune system booster. Pretty much the same mix our soldiers get before going overseas.” as we finished, one of the guys in suits handed us king sized chocolate bars for our cooperation. “Eat up citizens, you might not see chocolate again for a very long time, if ever.” He sighed. “Is it that bad Doc?” I asked the one in charge. He looked at me long and hard in silence a moment before speaking... “If you people have everything you need here, I’d stay put! Atlanta is an encephalitis and diphtheria hot zone and victims are drifting this way before they collapse, if you find a body, steer clear of it! The black plague is popping up here and there as well!”

BLACK PLAGUE!? Aw man, that’s all we need! “What’s that?” Said uncle Alvin. “The Black plague damn near wiped out Europe and caused the dark ages dude!” I told him.

“EXACTLY!” said the bio suited guy. “So steer clear of any corpses, human OR animal! Before the grid went, we could treat

it easy, NOW its just as fatal and contagious as it was then! Might want to give any pets that roam an extra shot of flea spray as well, here. Have some!" He said, handing me a bright orange bottle.

Just wow. Only a little over a week and the world was turning into a disease infested, Mad Max type cluster fuck of biblical proportions, we wouldn't know just how bad until spring, when denied the benefits of insecticide, wave after wave of bugs hit! But that would be five months in the future, our big threats right now were Atlanta clearing out and headed north, looking for food and Chattanooga all coming south for warmer temperatures and fuel. We were square in the middle! Just up the road, Dalton had blocked off all the routes into the city and had organized the locals into a militia to guard the borders, I wasn't going home for a while, even if I still had a home to go to, which I doubted with all the looting going on. Ever so often, I would borrow a cellphone a few minutes, always the same, no lines, but when the local radio stations began to shut down one by one, I realized there was no turning back, the end had come!

"How many clips left in the pouch Hei?" I asked as I sighted in on the running figure... BOOM! Down.. "Three more Daddy-San!" She whispered back. "Give me the red tipped ones, they're moving their vehicles up, time to see if I can hit a gas tank or two!" Hei Bao scowled at me. "No Tom-tom, that will not work! We learned in ROC training that just waste ammo! You must already have fire present! Shoot into dead grass first, then I shoot with armor piercing ammo from AK rifle!" I mused a second. "You were ROC? You don't look like a soldier." I said as I cranked off a few rounds into the dead grass ahead of the raider advance. "Yes, I am fully trained, I was here to finish medical training before going into the medic corps!" She snuggled down behind her AK and fired a burst into the

oncoming SUV as it neared the burning grass patch, in a few seconds there was a delightful “WOMPH!” and two advancing cars were engulfed in a fireball. We got half their vehicles in the next few moments before they realized what was going on and retreated under a hail of rifle and shotgun fire. Hei Bao scowled at her rifle. “Mainland made piece of junk, I wish you had Russian made at least!” She spat. “It shoots.” I shrugged. “Maybe one of those turds dropped a Russian AK for you? It’s time to tend to our wounded if we have any. Its a good thing Larry and Wayne showed up with their families or this might not have gone well! Seven extra guns helped a lot!” Hei Bao nodded. I go help tend wounded, Alvin and his sons go out to see if any survive and collect guns. “I’m staying with you Hei, I can stitch a wound fair myself.” A pistol shot rang out as Uncle Al or one of his boys put down a surviving raider. “Well enough, I’ll get the EMT kit and you go see about first aid Hei.” She grinned at me like a cat. “I’m having so much fun Tomas San, I am glad I met you! This is like American wild, wild west!” HUH? Being shot at and having to sleep with one eye open and mucking with livestock is fun huh? OOh Kayyyy? At a glance Hei Bao looked like some rich boy’s party girl, but that pretty face and slinky body held a coiled spring, ready to spring in your face! And she was getting meaner and harder by the day! She did not flinch at killing livestock nor people in the least, in fact it seemed to turn her on! I was silently glad her and Rhoda had made peace, or by now, Rhoda would be out behind the day Lilly patch and Stephan would hate us both!

Later, as I rolled our after dinner evening Joint, it occurred to me to ask Hei Bao what her name meant. She smiled sweetly and shrugged. “Direct translation maybe not accurate, it is Black Panther cat or electrical explosion. Father name me this because I was born with such violence, father swears when honorable

doctor Kim spanks me, I punched him in the mouth!” I passed her the doobie. “Hell cat from day one huh? It fits you!” Hei Bao grinned silently as she rubbed oil into her new Yugoslavian AK-47 meticulously.

Six months today since the power went down and the communications satellites stopped relaying their streams of data and communications. I sat pondering my new life as opposed to my old one while Princess and Womph cuddled in my lap, their six kittens gathered around my feet. My old life... huh. Ten hours a day at the steel fabrication plant, two days of the idiot box, maybe go shooting once a month. Get drunk ever so often, buy a gun ever so often. Pretend I have a social life ever so often, Some life! I don’t care if the power ever comes back on.