

# TERMINUS: HOME OF THE BITTERSWEET REUNION

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**The Walking Dead ends its 4th season with a gnaw.**

**(Disclaimer: This review includes MAJOR spoilers. So, if you haven't seen it yet (don't know why that would be the case), DO NOT continue reading. So...yeah...SPOILER ALERT)**

He's baaaaack! Rick that is. Having to leave farm life behind, along with the prison after the Governor wreaked havoc, Rick had to take a page out of the zombie book to save his son and friends.

The finale titled, 'A' (what does that stand for? Animal? Cause that would be very appropriate), saw Rick, Michonne and Carl on the path to Terminus for some so-called sanctuary. Not before searching for food though, and Rick teaching Carl and Michonne the art of catching your own food: "...then you put sticks all around it so any animals going by have to run this way, right into the trap" (foreshadowing at its best. We'll talk about that later). By the way, that 'rabbit' they caught wasn't fooling anybody. I think I saw one like that in Toys R' Us. But the culinary lesson was interrupted by screams for help from some poor soul who, for some reason, could not escape the slow moving zombies. Obviously he was on the menu. Carl rushed out to save him, but Rick stopped him, which, in hindsight, seemed to be a good idea. If you can't escape a group of slow moving walkers with available running space, you just can't hang with the crew.



Foreshadowing and juxtapositioning took root with the help of flashbacks featuring our beloved Herschel who we got to see again. Which kind of left us wondering, “What’s up with the flashbacks?” Here’s what those flashbacks taught us:

### **One was a set up/reminder for a pivotal part of the episode**

We’re reminded that Herschel gave Glenn his pocket watch as a token of his appreciation (see Season 2’s Judge, Jury, Executioner). This little tidbit comes in very handy later on.

### **Herschel shows Rick how to save Carl’s humanity**

In the apocalyptic world, it’s easy to be disillusioned and lose all parts of your senses, which is what young Carl seemed to be experiencing. All this came to a head back in Season 3 when Carl cold-bloodedly shot a boy in the face. Sure the boy was with the Governor, but he was surrendering, and unarmed. Herschel was on hand to watch the ordeal and beseeched Rick to snatch Carl back from the darkness. That was done by Herschel showing Rick the therapeutic advantages of farming. Let’s face it, Rick needed it too, he was going through some inner struggles – with the loss of his wife and all.

### **So that means Rick didn't give up the fight JUST to farm**

Viewers got a half season full of Rick plowing the field and wondering when he'd get back to his fighting form. As these flashbacks showed, he was trying to save his son. Interrupting Carl's gun cleaning, Rick brought him outside to help him till the land. It seemed to help...for the most part.



### **It was a juxtaposition of 'Rick the Farmer' and 'Rick the Barbarian'**

Rick had to slow down for a bit for the sanity of him and his son which made way for his stint as an agriculturalist. But when his back's totally against the wall in this episode, all of that had to make way for the season's most unbelievable and gruesome kill.

## **Pigs in a Forest**

Herschel talks about 'pigs in a forest'. We'll talk about that later. Let's just say Rick doesn't only know how to plant crops.

## **Sloppy 'Joe'**

This brings us to the meat of the matter (pun intended). Around a campfire, while Carl slept in an old truck, and Rick and Michonne talked about how recently all they ever talk about is food (isn't that a good thing?), they are surprised by the gang of hunters led by Joe. Surrounded by the gang with guns to their heads, Joe wants to exact revenge for Rick killing his friend. Daryl, who's been reluctantly travelling with them, tries to settle things and begs for their lives, but that doesn't work. As Daryl is being beaten, Joe promises that Daryl will be beaten to death, then they'll have their way with Michonne and Carl, then he'll shoot him.



What really sends Rick over the edge is seeing one of the gang members drag Carl out of the truck, only to hold him down and proceed to unbuckle his pants, with the obvious intent to rape him. Rick went into full father/beast mode, and after some fist fighting which looked like Rick would be out for the count...

Rick went straight HAM...burger on 'em. I mean, he took a big chunk out of Joe's neck – WITH HIS TEETH. That instantly had Joe falling like a tree, and gave way for Michonne to get rid of the other gang members, all except for the guy who had plans for Carl. Remember those 'pigs in the forest'? Yeah, that guy was a pig to Rick. He spared nothing in dealing with him. Carl looks on, but is he terrified or satisfied?

After the dust settles Michonne and Carl, Daryl and Rick have heart to hearts reassuring each other that sometimes the monster have to come out in order to survive, and they can all lean on each other.

### **Sanctuary?**

The group of four continues the journey and finds Terminus, but is very cautious with how to enter. They enter through the back entrance and walk into a building with what almost looks like a sweatshop, and the mysterious lady on a microphone they've been hearing on car radios. A guy steps up, Gareth, who reassures them that they've found sanctuary and can trust them. After being searched, they are led outside for some 'food'. Rick is observant and notices something – Glenn's/Hershel's watch on somebody else. Looking around on other Terminus residents, he sees Glenn's riot gear, Bob's backpack, and Maggie's poncho. Something's up. He demands to know where his people are, but nobody is forth coming.

That's when things go haywire. Shots are fired and the group tries to find shelter from the barrage of bullets. In what seems to be the worst aim in humankind, the Terminus gunmen shoot at them, but missing them horribly...for good reason. They're not trying to kill them; they're trying to herd them...like cattle. Like food. The same way Rick was teaching Carl to catch food (see? Told ya). Them running past carcasses looking a little human gave that away. Yeah, they eat people.



They're cornered, and the leader, Gareth, gives orders to the four to enter a large container, and they are subsequently locked in. There's a surprise – they're reunited with a portion of their gang, along with some new friends. A bittersweet reunion.

As we wait a whole seven months for Season 5, we have a lot to look forward to – namely, Carol and Tyreese's arrival to Terminus (with baby Judith of course). How will that turn out? Will Carol and Tyreese be the ones to save the crew? Will Rick and the crew come up with a way to escape?

All those things we'll have to wait to find out, but one thing's for sure, we'll be in for an exciting ride come next season.

Rick: "They're gonna feel pretty stupid when they find out."

Abraham: "Find out what?"

"They're screwing with the wrong people."



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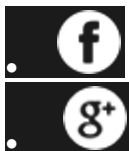
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