

# Resident Evil 1 Script Rewrites

By Mike MacDee

Resident Evil was notorious for its terrible dialogue and voice acting. While the performances can be chocked up to bad actors, they cannot be blamed for the terrible writing, which is almost entirely due to a lack of localization. In many cases lines were translated from Japanese as literally as possible (“what is it?” instead of “what the--?!”), making the dialogue sound stilted and almost alien at times.

So I took a word-for-word transcript of the game courtesy of Dave Schmidt ([go here](#) if you want to compare mine to the original), doctored the dialogue to sound more natural, and made it punchier where applicable. This is a compilation of the best parts to showcase my skills as a localizer and script doctor in general.

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## **1. FIRST ZOMBIE ENCOUNTER**

### **Scene 1 - Entering The Mansion**

\*(Wesker, Barry, and Jill stand in a huge ornate-looking main hall.)\*

Barry: Wonder if the Munsters are home.

Wesker: My god, what a palace...

\*(Jill turns to face Wesker.)\*

Jill: Wait a minute...where's Chris?

\*(Jill runs toward the door.)\*

Wesker: Jill, stand fast! Don't open that door!

Jill: But Chris is--

\*(A gunshot is heard. All turn to look in its direction.)\*

Barry: What the hell's going on around here?

Wesker: Maybe it's Chris. (pauses) Jill, take point and check it out.

Barry: I'm going, too. Chris and I go way back.

Wesker: Fine. I'll secure the lobby.

\*(Barry and Jill nod and walk towards the door on the west...)\*

Wesker: Stay frosty.

\*(Barry and Jill exit.)\*

### **Scene 2. The Dining Room**

\*(Barry and Jill enter a lavish-looking Dining Room.)\*

Barry: Helluva dining room...

\*(Barry proceeds to walk to the other end of the room.)\*

### **Scene 3a. Mysterious Puddle**

\*(Barry kneels down near the emblem fireplace.)\*

Barry: What? Holy shit...

\*(Jill walks over.)\*

Jill: What is it--?

Barry: Blood. (pauses) You go on ahead. Whoever's bleeding like this will need help right away. (looks down) Hope this isn't *Chris's* blood...

### **Scene 3b: Zombie Attack 2 (Semi-Secret)**

\*(Jill exits the dining room once without investigating. She returns to the main hall to find Wesker.)\*

Wesker: Investigate the shooting and report back to me. Move it.

\*(Jill acknowledges him and returns to the dining room. She attempts to leave again. The camera view switches to Barry. He stands up from his crouch.)\*

Barry: Losing your nerve? You're the one who always wants to take point. Now's your chance. (returns to crouching)

### **Scene 4a. Zombie CGI**

\*(We see a man wearing a green jacket who has a bald, white, diseased-looking head. He is crouched over another man, apparently eating the poor soul. He takes a soft bite, then a loud one, which causes a puddle of blood to ooze out over the carpet. The zombie then slowly turns his head to look at you with his cataracted blue eye and bloody lips...)\*

### **Scene 5a. Zombie Attack 1**

\*(Jill heads back out to the dining room. She runs over to Barry.)\*

Jill: Buh...Barry!

\*(The door opens. Barry turns to look at the zombie emerging from it.)\*

Barry: What's happened?

Jill: There's a monster right behind me! (begins to back away from the approaching zombie)

Barry: I got it.

\*(Barry fires his Colt Python 3 times into the zombie's head, popping it on the last shot. The body falls to the floor with a thump. Barry then walks over to its corpse and looks down at it.)\*

Barry: Jesus...What *is* it?

Jill: Kenneth is dead. That thing...*ate* him... (pause) Christ, let's report to Wesker.

## 2. MASTER OF UNLOCKING

\*(Barry and Jill enter the Main Hall.)\*

Barry: Wesker! (pause) Help me find him, Jill. Stick to the lobby for now.

\*(Jill nods and proceeds to search behind the staircase as Barry walks around. She turns back to speak with Barry.)\*

Barry: Any luck?

Jill: (shaking her head) He's disappeared. Monster dogs, abandoned mansions, *zombies*...What the hell's going on?

Barry: You're asking *me*?

Jill: He said he was gonna secure the lobby. Where did he run off to?

Barry: We don't need any more dead teammates tonight. Let's split up and find him. (Jill nods) I'll check the dining room again.

Jill: Okay. I'll try the room across from it.

Barry: This mansion is gigantic. With everything that's been going on, if we get lost we've had it. We stick to the first floor for now, agreed? Oh... take my lockpick. I never went to Juvie, so I won't have much use for it. (Jill nods)

\*(She walks over, and Barry places the lockpick in her hand.)\*

Jill: You're a laugh riot, Barry.

\*(Barry nods and runs toward the dining room door. He stops midway, and starts to talk to Jill)\*

Barry: Anything else weird happens, we meet back here.

\*(Jill salutes him.)\*

Barry: Don't salute me. Makes me feel old.

\*(He exits.)\*

### 3. JILL SANDWICH

\*(After taking the shotgun, Jill returns to the small anteroom. Strangely, she hears a \*click\* come from the doors. The ceiling then begins to descend on her! After walking around for a while, she stops.)\*

Jill: What the--?

\*(The camera switches to Barry in the hall. He pounds on the door while saying...)\*

Barry: Jill? Is that you in there? What's going on?

\*(Camera back on Jill)\*

Jill: (frightened) Barry! The ceiling's coming down! Open the door, for god's sake! (pause) *Hurry!*

Barry: Stand back! I'm gonna hafta kick it down!

\*(Barry kicks the door open.)\*

Barry: Out! Out! Out!

\*(Jill runs out, and the ceiling trap descends down to the floor. They are now in the greenish hallway.)\*

Jill: I hate this goddamned house!

Barry: Talk about a close shave. Three more ticks and you'da been a really pretty hamburger.

Jill: (laughs) I'd kiss you if weren't for that raccoon on your face. (pause) Wait, I thought you were going back to the dining room. How did you know to come for me?

Barry: (coughs) I had to check something I overlooked. Turned out to be nothing. Look, we better get to finding our teammates before *they* get squashed.

\*(Barry begins to walk off)\*

Jill: Barry...I owe you one.

Barry: Heh. *Two* at *my* last count.

\*(He leaves.)\*

#### 4. ESPECIALLY AGAINST LIVING THINGS

\*(Main Hall. First floor.)\*

Jill: Barry!

\*(They walk over to each other.)\*

Barry: Jill! What's happening? Anything to report?

Jill: Yeah. This house sucks.

Barry: This hall has too many routes they can attack us from. We should set up an escape route in case things go south. There's gotta be a back door... Let's find it and secure it.

Jill: (nods) Sigh...Splitting up *again*... (turns)

Barry: Hang on a sec. Got something for ya.

Jill: Yeah?

Barry: Ammo for your bazooka. It's guaranteed to burn away your troubles, I'll say that much. Lock n' load, Jill.

Jill: I don't like taking all your toys. You need protection, too.

Barry: (raises his Colt Python) Debbie's looking after me.

Jill: Great. Am I invited to the wedding? (walks over and collects the Acid Rounds)

\*(The two then salute each other, and Barry runs back into the dining room.)\*

## 5. KILLING PLANT 42

\*(Plant 42 Room. As Jill shoots Plant 42, its tentacles fall off. Once a few have fallen off, it contracts into a smaller ball. As it opens back up into its original size, one of the tentacles grabs out and snatches Jill up. Barry then walks in.)\*

Barry: Oh, what the hell is *this* crap?

Jill: Barry!

Barry: Jill?!

\*(Barry then walks up to Plant 42 and begins to fire his flamethrower at it. It begins to burn. It throws Jill to the ground, and dies burning, its purple remains falling into a puddle on the floor.)\*

Jill: You saved my ass *again*!

Barry: Sure did.

Jill: God *dammit*, six years of training and what am I? Princess Toadstool!

Barry: Hey, they didn't have Giant Ungodly Monsters in Basic Training back in my day, either.

[Extra Click: Talk to Barry again, and he'll say...]

Barry: I'm gonna check the barracks next. There might be something useful in that other mansion, too. Just shriek if you need me to save you again.

Jill: Get bent.

## 6. REUNITE WITH CHRIS

\*(Jill walks over to the prison door and tries to open it. From inside comes Chris's voice.)\*

Chris: Holy shit... *Jill?!!*

Jill: *Chris!* Thank god!

Chris: (walks over to the cell door window) You would not *believe* the day I've had.

Jill: Unless it involved a giant snake, I don't wanna hear about it. \*(She bangs on the handle twice, and moans.)\* Ugh! *Keys!* I'll be right back to let you out, Chris. Just sit tight.

Chris: Where would I go?

\*(Scene ends.)\*



## 7. WESKER REVEAL

\*(The two get off the elevator. Barry slows down and lets Jill get ahead of them. After they turn the corner, they find Wesker waiting. Barry points his gun at Jill's head.)\*

Jill: Wesker?

Wesker: Thank you, Barry.

Jill: I *knew* it...

Wesker: Sure you did. That's why you let him keep his gun and turned your back on him. Don't be mad at him. He's gotta do as he's told if he ever wants to see his daughters in one piece again.

Jill: I swear to god I'm gonna *kill* you!

Wesker: Don't talk tough with me. Barry tells me he's been pulling your bush league ass out of a jam every ten minutes. You're a damsel in a chic beret.

Jill: Why are you doing this? Why destroy S.T.A.R.S?

Wesker: Umbrella's call, not mine. We're standing in a bio-weapon wonderland paid for with Umbrella dollars. Trouble is, the eggheads had a slight accident, and...well, you've seen the results. Can't have news of this disaster going public.

Jill: So you just bury us along with it, huh? You're no better than the abominations infesting this place.

Wesker: Actually, I am, because I won't be here when this place burns to the ground. That's why I'm here. I'm the cleaner, sent to mop up Umbrella's mistakes. It's a dirty job, but somebody gets to do it. Barry, wait for me topside. I'll be right up.

\*(Barry begins to walk away.)\*

Jill: Barry, for god's sake!

\*(He hangs his head in shame and walks offscreen.)\*

Wesker: He can't help you. He'll always be an Umbrella lapdog.

Jill: Look who's talking. You don't see *him* threatening people's families for a percentage.

Wesker: Neither do I. Umbrella thinks I'm here to quietly get things back under control. If they thought I was gonna blow it all to hell, they'd have a collective aneurysm.

Jill: Then...you're not...?

Wesker: You don't get it, do you? Umbrella gave us the keys to their kingdom and somehow hoped we wouldn't just steal it all from under their noses.

Jill: Steal--? You've *got* to be kidding!

Wesker: Jill, this is the Fort Knox of bio warfare, and it's all up for grabs *right now*! I can cut you in, or I can leave you to burn with the former residents.

Jill: (guardedly, stalling) ...I can't say I'm not tempted.

Wesker: C'mon, let me show you what you're missing.

\*(Wesker leads her into the next room.)\*

## 8. CHRIS MEETS REBECCA

\*(1f West Save Room. As Chris enters, he is hit in the face with pepper spray.)\*

Chris: *G'aaaaaah! Jee-zuss Christ! Aaahhh!*

\*(Rebecca gets out of her defensive crouch.)\*

Rebecca: Oh! Omigod! Omigod I'm *so* sorry! I thought you were a--!

Chris: H'nnnngh. (coughs) Lemme guess. Bravo Team?

Rebecca: Uh. Yeah. I'm Rebecca. Rebecca Chambers. I'm the rookie. I joined last month. Geez, I'm really sorry. Are you all right?

Chris: Depends if my eyesight ever comes back. (coughs) I'm Chris Redfield. Are you the only one from Bravo Team who made it?

Rebecca: I don't know. The helicopter made a forced landing, and the dogs came, and I panicked and ran into the house...

Chris: Don't feel too bad. That's exactly what us veterans did. You're alive and that's what counts, so buck up.

Rebecca: (salutes) Yes, sir. But it's strange... I serviced the helicopter yesterday, and it was working fine. We fly out here and outta nowhere it dies on us.

## 9. MOONLIGHT SONATA

\*(Chris uses the sheet music on the piano, but is unable to play because he can't read it. He plunks out a few notes on the piano. Suddenly the door opens, and in comes Rebecca, who waves at him.)\*

Rebecca: It's just me.

\*(Chris waves back.)\*

Chris: Christ, don't sneak up on people in a haunted mansion.

\*(She looks at the piano, then walks over to it.)\*

Rebecca: Oh! Moonlight Sonata.

Chris: You play piano?

\*(Rebecca proceeds to play the song, but not without errors. She eventually gives up, clunking on the keyboard.)\*

Chris: I'll take that as a "maybe".

Rebecca: Okay, you got me. I'm out of practice. Mind if I play awhile?

\*(Decision point. End scene.)\*

**Scene 1a. Answer Yes** (Note: This path is no different than saying no. It just enacts a different cinema.)

[Will you have Rebecca practice?]

[Yes]

Chris: Knock yourself out, Shoepin.

Rebecca: Chopin.

\*(She begins to practice. End scene.)\*

**Scene 2b. Answer No** (Note: This path is no different than saying yes. It just plays a halfway funny cinema.)

[Will you have Rebecca practice?]

[No]

Chris: Later. We gotta find the others fast.

Rebecca: All right.

\*(As Chris turns to exit, Rebecca is still playing on the piano.)\*

Chris: (scoldingly) Hey, Shoepin...

Rebecca: *Chopin*. Just a minute, I promise...

\*(She continues practicing. End scene.)\*