

# The Number 6



“A zombie,” says the U.S. Post Office Manual, “is a reanimated corpse with an insatiable appetite for human brains.” During the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, zombies were the darlings of the avant-garde performance art crowd, who drew parallels between the behavior of these redoubtable flesh eaters and their own occasionally anarchic attitudes. But as artists increasingly found themselves on the receiving end of some rather ghoulish shenanigans, they began to distance themselves from these self-described living dead. However, the zombies were no dummies (not all of them, anyway), and they soon altered their conduct so as to appear less menacing, more affable, someone you’d like to have, say, trim your hair. Not by coincidence, many 21<sup>st</sup> Century zombies have gotten into the hair care business. Here, for example, we see reanimated corpse Leslie X giving Mrs. Amelia Pomelo a botanical hair and scalp treatment with formaldehyde-free Keratin straightening therapy (a.k.a., a “Number 6”). The process seems perfectly harmless, even if the \$175 fee is a bit high. Unknown to Mrs. Pomelo, though, the hair straightening machine is simultaneously sucking the brain from her cranium and replacing it with potato-scented kapok. Afterwards, her closest friends may not even realize that she’s been “brain-drained.” So the next time your hair stylist recommends a “Number 6” to you, my advice: run away. Very fast!