



Earth Escape
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Chapter 1

Chapter 1

The temperature had plummeted to a bitter minus 30, or so my computer scanners were telling me, if they had not already frozen solid. I felt the ice-cold air whipping across my face as I, and a handful of scientists, astronomers and geologists mostly, struggled through the harsh and violent weather of the tundra. The white blanket of snow extended in every direction as far as the horizon which seemed to be never ending.

The idea that we would reach our destination in time now seemed foolish but I was not going to give up, not after all of this crap I had been put through. I slowly drifted off, casting my mind back to last month when this would have seemed foolish and so unnecessary to me.

We had been walking now for what seemed like a complete eternity and the sky remained a pale milky white, as expected at this time of the year here. The sun permanently stuck above the horizon, never rising, never setting until the autumnal equinox when it temporarily sets. I enjoyed contemplating this, it calmed me, albeit temporarily.

Chapter 2

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The sun was excruciating as I sat with my back stuck with sweat to my chair listening to another pointless lecture. It was almost the end of term and students were eager to leave and pursue various dreams and ideas, holidays to far away countries, discovering a new star, find the love of their life on an internet dating site or just go out and get drunk every night of the week, some plan!

I myself was planning to travel to America to visit some distant relatives and then to explore the USA in a rented car with my friend Angela, one of our dreams since we had finished secondary school. I had been scrupulously saving every penny I had earned for what seemed like an eternity and now it would all pay off.

My long black hair glistened under the light as I dragged it back into a messy ponytail hoping to reduce the heat that I felt on my sweaty neck. My blue eyes became heavy under the pressure of not sleeping for three days now. What little sleep I achieved was short lived as I would just wake up without reason and could not get back to sleep no matter how much I tried to relax and no matter how high I turned up the newly bought air conditioner. I had even contemplated medicinal drugs and in a moment of sheer desperation I had bought the strongest sleeping tablets the pharmacy could offer without a perscription but when faced with myself in the mirror about to ingest two I quickly changed my mind and threw them down the sink.

Temperatures were at an all time high and all I could wear without passing out were my khaki shorts, a loose fitting t-shirt and flip flops. I was thankful at least for my deodorant which was holding up just fine to my relief.

I was in my final year of college studying to be an astrologist. However, I had become especially interested in global warming ever since I had watched a documentary on it two years previously. I know

that stuff seems boring to some people but I must admit it fascinated me to no end.

Chapter 3

Chapter 3

The lecturer was droning on as my pen scribbled across the page trying to keep up, and trying to keep myself sane and awake. "Earth being heated... greenhouse gas emissions... inevitable doom.. And your not listening to me Katie!"

"What?". I suddenly became aware that the eyes of entire room were staring at me waiting for a reply to be uttered. I flushed red, as was my habit whenever I became even slightly embarrassed, but it was not helped by the extreme heat. "Yes.. sir, I was... I'm even taking notes". the room remained deadly silent. Suddenly a snigger erupted from the back of the room. It occurred to me that nobody was really bothered, they just wanted the bell to ring and release then from this hell.

"So, as I was saying" he resumed as if nothing had happened. He was an older man starting to grey but otherwise looked fit for his age. He insisted on wearing long pants through the heat and he was wearing a pale blue shirt which had patches of perspiration under his armpits. Maybe I should give him my deodorant I pondered, he probably wouldn't take too kindly to that though.

"If we don't do something soon we might as well try moving to mars". The class laughed quietly in agreement and the teacher smirked to himself thinking he had won them over. Just then the bell rang. A tangible sigh of relief swept through the room and people began to shuffle out of the room, a couple staying behind to no doubt kiss some ass with the teacher to earn some extra credit before they sent out the reports.

"Don't forget to study for your end of year exams guys" the lecturer boomed. "You know what they say, you cant fatten the pig the night before the fair".

What an idiot! Grateful for a chance to finally leave I slowly gathered my belongings and left the room.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4

I made my way to the station, unconsciously bought my ticket and made my way to platform three as per usual. The train arrived promptly and I hopped on board the minute the doors slid open. I made my way to a nearby vacant seat, sat down and dropped my bag beside me, grateful for a rest. The train began slowly accelerating down the track and I waited to reach my destination.

My mind was empty on the train journey home, it was as if the heat had evaporated any thoughts from my brain and I could not function properly. So, I began to read over my notes from today's 'invigorating' lecture, hoping that it would ignite something in my mind and get my brain working again. How pointless this all is, I thought as I absorbed the page.

The train began to slow and finally stopped at the station. I mindlessly stepped off as the doors opened and walked home to my apartment. It was a modest space with a large bedroom and en suite, a kitchen-living room and a great view of the city.

That night was the same as any other night of the last month or so. I made my dinner slowly, choosing a cold pasta salad and a glass of lemonade with extra ice. The heat had robbed me of my appetite but I forced myself to eat it anyway glad of the sustenance it gave and gulped down the remaining lemonade in one.

I tried to clean the apartment discovering that the heat had also robbed me of any energy and everything it seemed was running in slow motion. After a while of this I gave up and settled into an evening of TV.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5

As I flicked through the TV, channel after channel, something caught my eye. It was the news. Camera crews were filming people running in terror from flames, lava and plumes of smoke erupting from what looked like cracks and fissures in the ground.

Ok, this is so a joke. It has to be!. Just at that moment today's lecture flashed through my mind. "inevitable doom, the earth will begin to break apart and the core will explode destroying the entire planet and we will cease to exist". I pushed those thoughts to the back of my mind and wondered what to do.

Just to make sure that I was not completely losing it i rushed over to my window to have a look at the city. It was just like what was on the TV screen moments before. Plumes of smoke erupting into the sky miles in the distance. I breathed a sigh of relief. i am safe, for now.

No, this is not happening. Freshly invigorated with a surge of adrenaline now coursing through my body, I jumped from my seat immediately to call my friend Angela. She would be what you would call a science geek, well that's an understatement really. She was specialising in something to do with earth activities or something like that its complete jumbo to me frankly.

She had recently published a paper smashing the theories already widely accepted by scientists far and wide on particle metamorphosis in the earth's core, or something like that. Maybe she could shed some light on this situation. Well if she couldn't than no one could.

Chapter 6

Chapter 6

The phone was answered on the second ring and she seemed totally stressed. "Ang its me Katie what is going on, that thing on the news, its not real is it?". a stream of sweat was beginning to form along my back.

"Oh Katie I'm so glad its you I was just about to call. Yes, I'm afraid it is, all of it. It's a very long story.." "ok" I interrupted "just give me the very dumbed down version then".

She explained that the earth was somehow beginning to shatter into millions of pieces, a type of supernova explosion that is unprecedented in all of history. Apparently the government had known about it for some time but refused to go public on the matter.

She continued to explain how she had contacts up north who were working on a ... type of spaceship.. to carry a select number of people away from the earth, a type of Noah's Ark job. Ok this is getting crazy.

She told me she would be heading out tomorrow and pleaded that I come with her. I agreed, hung up the phone and began packing a bag.

Chapter 7

Chapter 7

My eyes snapped open when I realised that I was back in the icy tundra. What a contrast this is from the heat a few days ago I mused. After the phone call I had hurriedly packed a bag and made my way to Angela's. We set out the next day by plane and proceeded travelling north to the compound where the.. Spaceship was being launched from.

In the distance I could now see a monstrous shape looming and it seemed to be surrounded by an eerie glow. "That's it! Look, I knew it would be here" Angela exclaimed triumphantly. Of course she was right. Until now I had hoped that this was some kind of weird dream but seeing the spaceship for the first time had suddenly brought reality crashing down on me like a ton of bricks.

As we approached I could see people beginning to emerge from the spacecraft. They were kitted out in space gear from head to toe. I couldn't help but snigger as I saw them. However as soon as I saw the rifles brandished in their hands I knew that they were not here to welcome us. They were not letting us on the ship.

Suddenly there were loud shots whizzing through the air and I realised that they had begun firing at us. As quick as anything Angela and her crew were brandishing similar weaponry. "Get down" was all I heard and then darkness engulfed me.

Chapter 8

Chapter 8

A searing pain shot down my right arm, jolting me from my unconscious state, I had been shot, but it was carefully bandaged up which was of some comfort to me at least.

I was in what looked like a sci-fi hospital wing, everything was white. Angela was sitting in a chair beside me and breathed a sigh of relief as she saw that I had awoken.

She began filling me in on what I had missed after I was shot, as per usual I would miss something important. She informed me that two of her colleagues had been killed in the skirmish, but after a long struggle they had forced their way onto the ship and proceeded to take off.

As I looked around and became aware of my surroundings I began to notice what seemed like a black glass picture of stars. I began to realise that it was not a picture, but a window. As I stared out I finally became aware of where we were. We were now thousands of miles above the earth. Floating aimlessly outside the earth's gravitational pull.

As it became smaller and smaller I noticed large blasts of white escaping from the earth's crust, and then I flashed back to that lecture a week before. "Inevitable doom, earth will break apart, entire planet destroyed, we will cease to exist". There was a gigantic explosion suddenly,

and then I felt the ship vibrate,

and then,

nothing.

The End

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The Decisive Moment (2009)

I wrote this short story a few years ago for english homework and really enjoyed it so I decided to publish it to see what people think of it.

This short story is approx 1800 words long, give or take.

Its my first time doing this so please dont be too harsh.



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