

## **Evolution by Mohammad Khan**

A quiet town is awoken by a sea of police cars traveling into the dark forest. Slowly the lights of the houses turn on and the televisions screeched to life. What happened? Was there a murder? Kidnapping? A fire?

“Come down quick”, spoke my mother from the ground floor.

Her stern tone woke me from my sleep. There was something different about it. Her voice echoed in my ears as I got out of bed. ‘Come down quick’. ‘Come down quick’. She was afraid. But what was she afraid of? Our town’s a quiet place near the forests. We’re 40 miles from any large city. Nothing happens here.

The floorboards creak as I creep down the stairs as to not wake anyone. But I saw my entire family there. Everyone was awake. Glued to the tv. The local newscaster can be heard. His voice is fearful. But even he’s not entirely sure what’s happening.

“We’ve been getting reports of a possible airplane crash outside our quiet town. No details have been provided to us. We will keep you posted as the story progresses..”. The tv volume drops.

My younger sister stared into the distance at the blue lights in the forest. My parents spoke silently to each other as the tv showed images of broken trees and police searching the forest.

“What happened?”, I ask softly.

“They think someone crashed in the forest” spoke my father not looking at me but at the tv.

“They’re coming”. My sister saw a blue aura approach our house. A police man and another man got out of their car. Soon a loud knock came to the door.

My father opened the door. The policeman stood at the door.

“Darren? What’s going on?” said my father curiously.

“I’m sorry to bother you this late Dave, but we need you and Aubrey”, spoke the officer gently.

“What you need us for? What’s going on?”

“I don’t know. You and your wife are the only anthropologists in this town. We need your help examining something.” The officer took heed not to scare us seeing that my sister and I stood a few feet behind Dad.

Our parents hug us goodbye and leave me alone with my sister. They go to the forest with the officers. We watch their arrival on the tv. The newscaster speaks for us.

"Dave and Aubrey Richards have arrived? Excuse me officers! Excuse me! Why did you bring them here? Care to comment?"

"Please Stand back, Jeff. We don't know the situation yet." The officers spoke gently but with authority.

I saw mom and dad go into the darkness past the lights of the camera. The camera stays pointed at the darkness for what feels like eternity until my mother returns from the darkness. She speaks with the officers and with their approval goes to the camera.

"We don't know what it is. It is human, but nothing like we've seen before. But we-"

"-Aubrey." My father's faint voice can be heard. He repeats. "Aubrey!". His voice is getting closer to the camera. Behind my mother is my father running from the darkness with the officers. "Everybody needs to run! NOW!" My father grabs my mother and runs out of the frame of the camera.

The newscaster unsure of running for safety decided to stay and capture a big story. His tone oscillated like waves in a turbulent sea. His confidence wavers like the wind.

"Everyone is fleeing the scene. We don't know why yet" Until the newscaster saw why everyone is running.

"O God. What are they?! There's-There's more of them! They're coming!". The camera dropped to the ground as the newscaster and camera operator ran away. We saw tall figures emerging from the darkness and running after the officers and our parents. The picture was blurry, but the sound was clear. Screams of terror. I saw feet sprinting by. Large human feet. A wave of these creatures passed by the camera. They kicked up dirt creating a dust storm behind them. We could hear their archaic growls on tv as they charged past to hunt the people.

My sister went to the window to look for our parents in the dark night. We could hear the wailing of the people from the window. A wall of terror was moving towards the town. I saw lights from houses nearby the forest shut off. I could hear the large running of these creatures as the wails of terror died down.

Our house is a few miles from the forest. I knew I have minutes to hide.

I grab my sister and run to the closet hide in the crawl space .

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We buried ourselves in the 1 and a half foot high crawlspace that spanned the entire ground floor. Cobwebs covered the walls and gravel covered the floor of the space.

"Close your eyes" I whisper to my sister. She obeys and I clamp her ears shut.

I hear the stampede outside. Footsteps running past the house and people falling down. The howls of the creatures as if this is sport to them. People scream in terror but they're quickly silenced. I don't want to imagine how.

The putrid stench of the creatures arrived in my house before they did.

The horrible retched smell of wet moss, filthy hair, and death. The creatures have never cleaned themselves. I hear the sloshy footsteps of the creatures on the floor above. Drops of blood seep through the floorboards onto me. I shudder in fear. Daring not to make a sound. The television broadcast continues, I forgot to turn it off. The joists tremble under the power of the creatures.

The creatures' gorilla-like breathing and growls echo throughout the house. The floorboards bend to their weight.

They trash the house searching in vain. With a final cry, they leave.

I closed my eyes and slept in the crawlspace that night.

Daylight peeked through the floorboards. I opened my eyes. The monsters did more damage than I thought. Some of the floorboards were cracked and others were broken from the invasion.

I began to move out of the crawlspace slowly unsure if any of the creatures remained.

"Hello?" Spoke a soft voice from outside. "Anyone home?"

I froze. Any sound frightened me. I slowly crept out of the crawl space to look at the source.

The house was in ruins. Glass shards were everywhere. The furniture and walls are torn. I didn't recognize my own home. It was entirely different. Monstrous bloody footsteps covered the floor.

"Hello? Is someone there?" Spoke the voice again. This time I could make it out to be a woman's voice. A human.

"Yes" I replied sheepishly.

"It's ok. I'm with the national guard. We were dispatched. Where are you?"

I slowly walked to the front door. The woman smiled kindly at me out of politeness and pity.

"Are you alone? Where are you folks?" She asked.

"The-they went to the forest last night. I don't know where they are. It's just me and my younger sister. She's sleeping."

"Ok. Can you wake up your sister and bring her here? I can take the both of you to a shelter to get some food and warmth."

As I left to get my sister from the crawlspace, I could hear the woman talk with other people on the phone in a stricter and darker tone than before.

The woman led us to a shelter in the middle of town. It looked like a tornado ripped the town apart. I didn't recognize any building. People's belongings were scattered everywhere. The creatures

flipped the entire town upside down. Armed sentries stood at the edge of town and patrolled the streets in case they returned. Are we at war?

The school gymnasium was converted to a shelter lined with tables and beds. We sat at a table. I hadn't realized how hungry I was until I saw food. I ravenously ate my breakfast. My sister didn't eat. She sat quietly unsure of where our parents were.

The news played in the background. It seemed another town close by had been attacked by the creatures as well.

"Do you think they'll come back" asked my sister.

"No sweetheart they won't. If they know what's good for them" spoke a soldier from an adjacent table.

"If they do come we'll take care of them." The soldier was sitting amongst four other soldiers. They were enjoying their lunch as if today was just another day on the job.

The newscaster talked louder. "Rumors of Sasquatch attacking a town are real. I think it's the government has been doing illegal testing they were doing in that town since the 1960s. The MK Ultra experiments are still going on people. Wake UP-"

One of the soldiers shut off the TV. "I think I've heard enough of this guy".

"He's not entirely wrong" spoke a different soldier at the table. "We could've caused this by destroying the environment. Maybe it's nature striking back."

"Lyells, we've been destroying the environment since the industrial revolution. Why would they attack us now and not then?" Said the soldier exasperatedly.

"Fuck me, Tom, I don't know. Why do anything? They're here aren't they? Maybe they're here for a reason."

"If you don't know, then don't guess!" Shouted Tom.

"That's not stopping him." the soldier Lyells pointed to the conspiracy theorist on television. He turns on the sound. "He might be spouting theories but he's raising a fair point. Is this revenge from Nature?"

Before soldier Tom could answer, sounds could be heard from outside.

"Do you hear that?" Said Tom. "Is everything alright?"

Lyells calls on his radio. "Steven, is everything alright out there?". Radio silence.

Soon the sound become audible. Screams can be heard outside the complex. The creatures are back.

The soldiers ran outside. I looked around for a place to hide. There was none.

I grabbed my sister and hid underneath the table.

The newscaster's voice grew louder, accompanying the screams outside amidst the chaos.

"Reports of Sasquatches terrorizing a small town and are now ramping through the rest of the US!" Shouted the newscaster. His voice filled with fear and craze.

"We've had stories of these beings for a while now and thought they were legends. But they're very real! Reports have been coming in from throughout the world of creatures of folklore emerging from the darkness. Undead soldiers terrorizing people in Norway. The mothman in southern Ohio. Flying creatures in the Philippines. The yeti burying people in the mountains. And now Sasquatch is real.

Wake Up! They are REAL! And they are out there!! Has anyone even wondered what we did to the Neanderthals that used to exist before Homo sapiens? We ate them and now these things are out there and are going to eat us alive! And if we don't act now. WE ARE DEAD! WE ARE ALL DEAD!

THE END