

A Dark Room

With a sharp breath, I opened my eyes to a blurry haze and vertigo. The sensation in my limbs returned with a dull ache and the sharp pinching at my pressure points against a hard, wooden surface. I had awoken in the shallow pit of a waterbed frame, the mattress long since slashed and drained, staring up at a broken and dusty ceiling fan.

Slowly, laboriously, I sat up and tried to focus my vision, as the haze cleared, I took sight of the room I was in. There were broken shambles of furniture and belongings.

Suddenly, I felt a thundering underneath me and the lights in the room went out. I got up and felt around the walls of the room, they were cold. I stopped as my fingers felt something on the harsh metallic wall. It was a switch.

I cautiously pressed it, intrigued as to what would happen next.

A loud thump could be heard as something kicked in without hesitation and bright red lights began to flicker into life.

“Must be some sort of emergency backup system”, I muttered to myself.

Now there was a light source in the room I could properly take in my surroundings. I looked around and saw there was a door, before I could inspect it any further I was suddenly overwhelmed with a burning pain in my mind. It felt like someone had taken a sledgehammer to my head.

I fell onto my knees holding my head in my hands but as suddenly as it has started, it stopped. I immediately thought this was off as I had never experienced anything like it before.

Getting back up I decided my focus was getting out of here, I would have time to worry about it later.

I timidly walked over to the door and pushed it open. With great hesitation and a sinking feeling in my stomach, I slowly reached for the knob. I ventured out into what appeared like a ceaseless corridor, lit up by an arrangement of red lights along the roof, indistinguishable from the ones from the previous room.

Something about this place didn't feel right, it was some way or another off, yet I couldn't put my finger on what it was.

I began down the corridor.

After what felt like hours I came across a door.

The door was large and dusty, it looked like it hadn't been opened in years. I thought this was odd as I hadn't seen any other entrance into this place, whatever this place was I had to have come in this way. On further inspection I saw there was an emergency release button to the right of the door.

I pressed the button, nothing happened. I pressed it again, still nothing. Panic overcame me as I began to think of what would happen to me trapped here with no way out.

My feelings of dread were put to rest as he heard an uproarious bang and the door began to slide upwards. A bright light shone in though the crack at the bottom of the door, the light cascading into the corridor as the door opened slowly more and more.

My eyes burned from the light and took a few moments to adjust. When they did I saw the door led into a field I recognised from my town. Strange. I never remembered any door there.

There was no life in this place, this course of our former world. I smelt a musty smell in the air, it was a smell I didn't recognise. I stepped out onto the grass, as I did the door slid shut behind me.

I started to make my way back to my house, everything seemed off. The bizarre odour still lingered in the air and the dust that had been on the door also covered everything in sight with a thin layer.

I didn't see anyone as I was making my way back, but I passed it off as I guessed it must have been the early hours of the morning.

I walked up to the front door of my house, the handle was canvassed in a layer of the dust that seemed to be everywhere.

"Hello", I called out.

There was no answer.

I pushed open the door to the kitchen, it was stiff, but I put all my force against it. I jumped back as the door fell in and landed on the floor with a deafening crash.

I walked over to the kitchen table, it was covered in the same layer of dust.

I flipped the light switch on, but nothing happened. After looking around I realised all the electronics were dead, I swung open the fridge and gagged as I saw the contents. It looked and smelled as if it had been there for a considerable amount of time.

The blood drained out of me when I saw a newspaper that was laying on the kitchen counter.

"Comet still on course for Earth, discharging lethal particles into the environment. Anticipated to wipe out 99% of the Earth's populace".

No sooner had I read I was overwhelmed with the same head pain I had felt earlier, this time it felt a thousand times worse. I tumbled to the floor in agony and don't recall that anything after that.

When I came too I was in a hospital bed with my mother at the side, the doctors said I had almost died. I had been hit by a car while walking home and had been unconscious for days.

I cannot explain to this day what I saw, and I would have passed what I saw off as a stupid dream except for one thing. The date on the newspaper was from 2024.