

The Arrival

Today was the day, the day that I would finally step outside into this new world. See, 10 years ago they came, took what we called life, and then now we're here with what's left of the world. I only got to see what normal life looked like for about 9 years until they came, and my parents immediately hid me while I heard the warfare going on outside. From what I remember, my father went outside to check how everything was going after many hours of waiting. But he never returned, leading my mother, and myself to survive amongst each other. Me and my mom vowed never to step outside because she worried for years that they'd come back and take the remains of the world. We don't even know how much is left of it, but if we took a lucky guess, then that'd be that most of the population is dead, or worse. My mother had almost taken her own life because of this disastrous encounter with whatever god knows what. We stayed in the home for many years, and eventually, we got used to it. Though, it would've been nice to have a normal life. Another thing, you must be wondering. How have we survived for so long without any food or water? Well, there was one person we knew who was still alive. He's helped us so much throughout the years, going out there to find the resources, and supplies we need for survival. We often wonder how he's even still alive after all this time. After all this time, I am now 19, thankfully my mother is still alive. Currently, she's trying to convince me not to go out.

"Luke, please... don't do this. Don't go out there, I love you too much to let you do this to yourself." My mother said, while I just gave her a look. "Listen, I'll be fine. It's about time I find out what we're actually hiding from." She rolled her eyes and turned to the front door. "What if the same thing that happened to your father, happens to you." I clench my fists in anger at her words. "And what if he isn't dead? Mom, what if he's out there." She turned back to him and then banged her fist kind of heavily on the door. "If he isn't dead, then he broke the promise that he made to both of us." I look back to the door. "Well, if he broke the promise because of living. I know there'd be a valid reason for his actions." She sighed, slightly nodding her head. I face in front of the door put my hand on the door knob readying to twist the door knob, while she looked at me with a worried expression. "I'll be fine, I'm old enough to experience what's out there Mom." I pulled the door open, and with more force than I expected opening it, a huge dusty gust of wind blew against me. The light of the sky blinded me, this moment felt so unreal that tears started to form in my eyes. I took a deep breath, and then released it, "This - this is it." I took the first steps into the new world leaving the apartment building, I then opened my eyes to see the surroundings. Horror shook my mind from the sight, it's exactly how I thought everything would look. Everything looked so aged even though it had been 10 years since the invasion, but the buildings were now one with the environment, emptied cars filled the streets but covered in

blood. There were splotches of blood in odd places and dripping off some building edges and massive holes in buildings. But scary enough, there were no bodies. I was so put off guard, that I even glanced at the sun to see if it looked right. Even the sun was offputting, even with its amitting light, that light in the darkness still felt dark itself. Thankfully, I hadn't forgotten to bring a backpack with me just in case I needed to eat, drink, or do something I didn't want to do. I've heard rumors, rumors that there are still a decent number of people living, but the thing is if that's the case. I doubt that they're nice or harmless, which is why I brought my mother's gun in the first place. You must be wondering what attacked us, and how it damaged the world so much. Well, with the little information I've obtained throughout the years, I've only got that they came in the appearance of being faceless. But even though I didn't get to see one, my mother accidentally saw one. While I heard their awful screeches, the most terrifying noises I've ever heard before, even made my ears bleed. While walking in the street, I waved my mom goodbye, but she only gave me an awkward wave and then closed the door. "Damn, not even a smile at least." There was no joy behind the wave or in that face, I tried my best not to have a bad feeling about this. Walking in the streets, I passed buildings slowly, most of them were tall buildings, except the occasional apartment here and there that wasn't nearly as tall but still tall. After walking for a while I noticed the sun seemed not to be changing much at all, I could've sworn I was walking for hours yet the sky was still so bright. I looked at the concreted road underneath my feet, for some odd reason, the ground was steaming hot, and I mean I was hot but not as hot as the ground, and everything else around me. All of a sudden everything became blurry to me, and my ears were ringing intensely at the same time. Some blood was coming out of my left ear as it was one of my weak spots, but also bleeding this bad is concerning. I brought my hands up in front of my face while I was shaking uncontrollably. I tried my best to remain calm, but it was too much for me and I ended up passing out from the excruciating pain. Hours passed while I was unconscious, long enough that darkness crept through the sky. I had finally awakened from the deep slumber. Slowly opening my eyes, I saw how it was pitch black in the sky, with no light whatsoever. "I-It's so dark, and cold." I said, reaching for my backpack to get a flashlight and my weapon out of it. With flashlight in hand, and my sidearm on my side, I cautiously walked further into the streets. It didn't take long to find something different from the constant buildings in this huge city. What I found, was the giant tunnel leading to the other side of the city underneath a massive hill. The darkness inside that tunnel was even darker than out here. I looked around the hill to see if there was any way I could avoid the tunnel. There was a large gated fence going around the entire hill, the only way to get to the other side of the city was through that tunnel. I took a deep breath, and then let it out, "Okay - okay, this is for you Dad. If you'd be anywhere. I know it would be the other side of the city, and even if you aren't there. There must be survivors there, good ones too." I started my walk to reach the tunnel, only some steps ahead. Walking to it, I passed by various destroyed cop cars, even some SWAT vehicles. Whatever happened here, was very serious. This must be one of the areas where they started the attack. I got to a sudden stop while looking into the tunnel, chills went up my spine. "It's not worth it son." I heard a familiar voice but tried to ignore it because it was probably just the

insanity of this environment getting to me. I began walking further and came to the front of the tunnel. The first step I took into the tunnel, I felt like I was traveling through another realm, and was going to never escape. Finally being in the tunnel, I turned on my flashlight and shined it at an abandoned car. The car was so bloodied that it was like red was the car's original color, I then shined the flashlight through the windshields. There was something in the car that seemed to be sitting in the car seat, so I walked towards the car door to get a closer look at the driver's seat. Looking through the window, it was a dead body, but scary enough he seemed recently deceased with his current state. I noticed that his entire bottom half was gone, and only his top half remained, but there were a lot of bite marks all over his top half, especially his face. The corpse also seemed to have a badge that remained on him, it read "Redwood Police Department". I was shocked at how this brought one of those members to come out over here. A low growling emerged inside the darkness, it didn't sound like an animal either. Like an inhuman snarl, that was hungry for blood. I did a full 360 flashing my flashlight but didn't see anything in the dark. The growling seemed to be getting louder, and ever closer. "I'm not scared of you bastard! Come out and fight me!!" I shouted from the top of my lungs, which inevitably was most likely not the wisest choice. Out of nowhere, I got the feeling to turn around and then shined my flashlight in front of me. A 7-foot, bony, mangled creature stood a few feet from me. It was smiling at my fear, so sinister it was with its white appearance. I slowly brought my gun up to point towards it, while I was shaking violently now. In return, it tilted its head to the right almost like an animal whenever they're fully interested in a toy. "I'm going to die, I'm going to freaking die!" I screamed in my mind, as its smile kept on widening. I wanted to shoot it but at the same time that would most likely come to no prevail, not going the way I want it to go. I slowly looked to the right, without moving my head, it's eyes looked to the right at the same pace, and timing as mine. "This thing, it's studying me. Testing me, for what I'll do. It's practically playing with me!" Without a lot of thought in mind, I was too scared to fight this thing. So I quickly ran to the left instead and then took another left before I hit the tunnel wall. I took a quick look back and realized it was still standing there menacingly just watching my actions. I kept on running and heard more growling around me, each one sounded unique. "Oh god, don't tell me there's more of these - these things!!" I spoke in my mind again, while trying to keep the same pace I was going at to try my best to get out of this awful place. Many of them started jumping from car to car behind me, laughing at me with their disturbing vocals. Their laughs hadn't even sounded like laughs either, just sounded very distorted. I saw the light at the end of the tunnel ahead of me, "Yes! I'm going to make it!" I screamed to myself, as they kept laughing more. While not looking I tripped all of a sudden, in a giant puddle of blood. "No!" My shoes were stuck in the muddy ground because of the hole that was in the concrete road, I heard them getting closer. "Come on - come on - come on!!!" I finally got my feet out of the shoes, but in this situation getting my shoes out of that blood hole was the least of my problems. I started running again, slower now without the running shoes I had, but the only thought I tried to keep in my mind was that I could do this. I was so close to the end of the tunnel, but then I heard the monsters stop following me all of a sudden, so I looked back. They were gone, all of them, gone. I had a weird

feeling to look behind me, but I was consumed by fear of what would happen if I did. A gust of wind quickly went passed me and suddenly the creature that I saw earlier was right in front of my very eyes. The same smile from before, but behind those small dark eyes was murder content. This time I quickly pulled out the gun on my side and shot it. It was faster than my bullet, at that I had a missing arm now, gushing out lots of blood. I looked at the monstrosity of a beast and gave it a slight smile. "Guess I wasn't meant to be in this new world after all..."

Luke's head was torn off his body for the creature's consumption, while his body was dragged back into the darkness of the tunnel. Perhaps, he should've listened to that little familiar voice of his father.