

Nightmare Town

by Jonathan Breen

Beyond Fear

The giant three headed beastly snake opens its devilish mouth and its face shreds and grows into five. The beast now has seven deadly heads with sinful needs and unnatural deeds. Six of its gruesome heads lurk back into the shadows but the alpha and most fearful one stays. It announces loudly with a demonic voice, "I shall devour you and your sacred little soul!". The child, beyond the fear he once felt a minute ago, stutters with a weak, panicky voice "wha...wha...what a..re you?". This inhuman beast replies with a grin and small nerve racking laugh, "we are the seven deadliest demons of mankind's' inner soul". The other heads silently re-emerge from the shadows. As they do, they repeat that same line. Then all together, they continue saying "no one but we, can fully feel and see!".

Alan stared with no thought to speak. He could only hope to rise from his slumber but by now, he doubted the chance of ever leaving this insanity. He remembers his hair sticking up and jaw left hanging from the theatre. Back then he thought nothing worse could ever happen to him. "You were wrong!", the beast announced. "Wha...what?", Alan spoke, finding it hard not to scream. The beast replies with a great hunger, "you were young, you were wrong. As long as you are here, you shall go deeper into the core of fear". The fearsome scaly snake lets out a grumble from his stomach, then continues saying with huge impassions, "That is if you can survive – which you shall not!". This scaly demon opens every mouth it holds and tears Alan into shreds. Nothing is left to see but the pain can still be felt.

Suddenly, Alan re-emerges from the dark void. He lies there. He is pale, cold. His heartbeat barely faint yet still able to breath. He is surrounded by monsters, creatures of unknown species, wear wolves and zombies. Some look familiar, others just disgusting and hairy with bugs, dirt and droll covering them, but for some strange reason they're not taking any steps near him. It's as if they are forbidden from going any closer to him. Alan clenches his eyes shut, begging that he's home in bed but full on knows that he is still in his hell-like nightmare. Alan, given up on any hope of waking to normality, reluctantly opens his eyes to a confusing predicament. Surrounded by creatures, he steps back. They don't move. He notices a narrow gap and makes a run for it. He's through the gap. They still don't follow him. To his knowledge, he is unaware that he could run straight into a creature that strikes fear into the deadly souls of these other vicious creatures.

Alan now looks around him. He sees bright, grass covered mountains, bigger than Mount Everest and waterfalls with clear blue lakes below. He is confused but temporarily relieved to be in a land that is extraordinary and calming. In a place that finally feels like paradise. He gets so caught up in the moment that he falls and rolls at a great speed, down a steep rocky hill. At the bottom of it he sees a freshly built tunnel. His happiness fades deep back into his soul as he knows it was too good to be true.

He knows that he should not enter but he is not one to be able to resist curiosity. His brother Josh always said that his curiosity would kill him, but by now Alan did not see it as a bad thing. He sees the hole and trying not to break his sanity, he takes one deep breath and jumps straight down into an abyss. Better than the void he says to himself. As he enters some sort of unnatural cave, with a few bad splinters in his arms, he hears music, like the ones sung by a holy choir. It gets closer and closer and then ceases. Suddenly, from thin air, a sea creature as yet not known to mankind appears to him.

“You shall not give up dear child. There is still a chance for you to make it home to your family”. Alan with disbelief announces “HOW?!”. “You just need to fight your fears and overcome the obstacles ahead”. Alan, with no faith in himself responds, “Bu... but how I’m not strong enough”. “You need not worry child, I shall be beside you to help. That’s my purpose to guide you towards your potential and nurture it back to the light. You are brave, deep in your heart. Only one who may not be strong knows the true greatness of strength”. Alan, finding it hard to process everything that has happened, yells on an impulse saying “Very well. I shall fight”.

The creature vanishes, but not without saying “This is a chance for you to overcome your fears. I will be here for you when you need me”. Alan finally feels the odds are on his side. He feels power like nothing before. He runs back up the hill and yells with all the air in his lungs, “I’m ready for you, you overgrown snake. Come out and face me or I will come for you. Even if it takes me an eternity, I will beat you”. Suddenly, the void opens on top of the mountains. The grass dies, the lakes and waterfall freeze over and the sun fades out of existence. The seven-headed furious snake comes out of the void and laughs at Alan. With power, he roars like nothing known saying, “THIS IS WHERE YOU DIE CHILD HA HA HAAA!!”. Alan trying to keep a smug look on his face, tears a branch out of a nearly dead tree, uses it as a spear and runs straight towards the Devil’s pet screaming. The beast lets out a roar and dives with the alpha head first, wanting the first bite.

Alan jumps and is ready to jump into the mouth of the beast and stab it in the throat. Everything turns white. All that was heard was a scream of agony. Alan’s vision starts to reappear. He sees some kind of doctors looking at him. He’s in some kind of holding facility. A doctor asks, “are you ok there? You were screaming very loud”. Alan replies with a voice sounding older than before, “I am now. Where am I?”. The doctor looks at him with confusion. He tells Alan he is in the psychiatric ward. To be continued...