Nanobe

By

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SPACE

An asteroid hurtles through the cosmos.

EXT. ASTEROID

Trillions of NANOBES live in a constant evolutionary state—feeding on each other to sustain their existence.

A Nanobe grows teeth and eats another that grows claws to protect itself. Once eaten, the Clawed Nanobe rips its way through the other’s stomach and attacks another that sprouts horns to defend itself.

Sudden, bright sunlight envelops the asteroid frying billions of Nanobes.

As one, the Nanobes stop their murderous rampage and look beyond the bright light where they witness, for the first time, the magnificence of Earth.

SPACE

The asteroid glances off a passing satellite and hurtles toward the Earth, its whole being becoming nothing more than a hurtling ball of fiery hell.

Nanobes fry as the asteroid shrinks on its descent through Earth’s atmosphere.

INT. MARKS’ HOUSE - JOSH’S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CORBY, a golden retriever lying at the side of JOSH MARKS’ (10) bed, pricks its ears and cries at the window.

Josh wakes and looks out to see a meteor burning through the sky as it hurtles toward the ground.

    JOSH
    It’s just a shooting star, Corby.
    Go back to sleep.

After patting his head to reassure him, Josh lies down and falls asleep.

Corby stays alert, ears pricked, staring out the window.
EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Moonlight reflects off the surface of the water and is joined by a red glow as the asteroid, now a tiny pebble, thuds into the ground nearby.

Atop the pebble, the only one left of its kind, a Nanobe sheds an armor-plated skin as it rolls off and plops into the water.

INT. LAKE - NIGHT

The Nanobe illuminates an intense green and draws the attention of a BASS that swims over and swallows it.

INT. BASS

In the bloodstream, the Nanobe evolves a straw-like nose that it uses to dissolve and devour cells.

The Nanobe travels into the Bass’s brain where electricity shoots from synapse to synapse. A spark hits the Nanobe and it absorbs it.

Hungry for more, the Nanobe jumps from synapse to synapse, catching every spark of energy it can.

INT. LAKE - NIGHT

The Bass ages quickly and floats, dead, side-up to the surface where it is snatched up by the huge claws of an OWL.

INT. NEST - NIGHT

The Owl lands and feeds the best parts of the Bass to its five hungry CHICKS. It saves the head for itself and pecks out one of the eyeballs.

INT. MARKS’ HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Josh bites into a piece of toast.

  JOSH
  Just taking Corby out.

NINA MARKS (32), dark, curly hair escaping the edges of her floral headscarf, smiles sweetly.
NINA
Don’t be long, you’re supposed to be helping Pop today.

EXT. SKY - DAY
The Nanobe rests in the Owl’s brain, controlling it as it soars over mountains and forests.

As the Owl flies, its feathers gray and it ages until it can barely fly. It wobbles, falters, then crashes into a meadow where it breathes its last.

EXT. MEADOW - DAY
The Nanobe wiggles onto the Owl’s protruding tongue.

A dog barks off in the distance.

Corby runs toward the downed Owl with Josh chasing after.

Corby gets to the Owl first and sniffs around it until Josh arrives and drags him away.

EXT. MARKS’ HOUSE - YARD - DAY
HORATIO GRANT (35), stripped to the waist revealing a torso well used to manual work, cleaves clean through another hunk of wood.

Horatio pauses as Josh walks by with Corby who looks sick.

HORATIO
Everything OK, son?

JOSH
(worried)
It’s Corby.

INT. MARKS’ HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY
Josh, Horatio and Nina stand over Corby who lies panting and whining on his side.

HORATIO
I’m gonna call a vet.
INT. CORBY

The Nanobe absorbs electricity from Corby’s brain and watches the concerned faces of the humans looking back.

INT. MARKS’ HOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

Josh hugs Corby, and cries.

NINA
You should move away, honey. He could be contagious.

JOSH
He’s... he’s not breathing. No! No!

The Nanobe crawls onto Josh’s skin and wriggles through the tear duct of his left eye.

EXT. MARKS’ HOUSE – YARD – DAY

Horatio digs a grave and stops when Josh arrives with his own spade.

HORATIO
Leave it to me.

Josh digs anyway.

EXT. MARKS’ HOUSE – YARD – EVENING

Horatio stamps down the last of the dirt on the grave and glances over to see Josh, who has aged to a fifty-year-old, sitting on the ground out of breath next to his spade.

INT. MARKS’ HOUSE – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Worried, Nina wipes her hands on her apron as, face full of panic, Horatio carries Josh in through the back door.

NINA
What is it? What happened?

She looks at Josh’s face and sees that he has aged so much.

HORATIO
Call Doctor Michaels. Now.

Nina calls Michaels while Horatio carries Josh into his room and lies him in bed.
INT. MARKS’ HOUSE - JOSH’S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Clearly having dressed in a hurry, MICHAELS (65) sits on a stool near the bed, a stethoscope pressed to Josh’s chest. Nina and Horatio stand nearby.

MICHAELS
He needs urgent medical attention at a hospital. My skills aren’t enough. However...

HORATIO
Doctor?

MICHAELS
I fear there just isn’t time. He will not survive the journey.

Nina wails in sorrow.

HORATIO
What’s wrong with him?

MICHAELS
It’s something I’ve never seen before. Some type of virus, I’d guess.

HORATIO
Guess? Guess!? You’re a doctor, do something!

MICHAELS
I’m sorry. I really am.

INT. JOSH

Through Josh’s eyes, the Nanobe watches as Horatio sobs at the bedside.

HORATIO
Please. Whatever you are, take me instead. Leave my boy to what life he has left.

Knowing that it will soon need to find another host, the Nanobe is happy to accept Horatio’s offer.
INT. MARKS’ HOUSE - JOSH’S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The Nanobe crawls out of Josh’s tear duct and sits waiting on the edge of his wrinkly cheekbone.

Horatio goes eye to eye with it.

    HORATIO
    I’ll do it willingly. D’y’hear me?

Horatio lies next to Josh who has now aged to a 65-year-old
The Nanobe wriggles into Horatio’s eye.

EXT. MARKS’ HOUSE - YARD - NIGHT

Horatio stacks piles of wood against the walls of a barn and pours fuel over it.

INT. MARKS’ HOUSE - JOSH’S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nina strokes the thin wisps of white hair on Josh’s head who has gained enough strength to sit.

    JOSH
    Where’s Pop?

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Aging rapidly, Horatio lights a match.

    HORATIO
    I just hope this is enough.

He sets the match to a strip of fuel that leads outside.

EXT. MARKS’ HOUSE - YARD - NIGHT

The barn is engulfed in flames.

END.