

“QUAZZUM”
by Johnny Atkinson

LOG-LINE (one sentence – 20 words or less)

A chameleon alien is growing up in a secluded Louisiana bayou. Once discovered, he battles police, media and scientists in an effort to return home.

PREMISE: (story – 100 words)

After exploration of Quazmopolis, a female scientist (LACY) winds up unexplainedly pregnant, costing not only her career and fiancé (BEN), but the entire life that she’s built in California. Lacy returns to live with her Dad in Louisiana and gives birth to a chameleon reptile baby (QUAZZUM) of an unknown species. When discovered years later, Lacy and her father are shot, and police begin an investigation. Ben steps in to rescue Quazzum from a life of hiding in a big city and return him home to Quazmopolis. After dramatic chase and to board new mission, Quazum changes his mind and wants only to return home.

SYNOPSIS (500 words)

Two workers (BEN and LACY) from Science Exploration Agency Network are planning a wedding after a ten-day mission to the island of QUAZMOPOLIS, the hottest place on earth. The island is made up of uniquely colored granite rock and is slowly sinking into the Pacific. During investigation, Lacy is injured while exploring a secret cave. Mission continues, but no life is discovered on the island.

When crew returns, Lacy is shown to be pregnant. Ben is hurt and calls off wedding. Mission crew is tested, and head of SEAN (DR. PALMER) fires Lacy for going on mission while expecting a baby. Devastated, Lacy returns to father’s home, a swampland in Louisiana. After nine months, Lacy gives birth to a chameleon reptile baby they call “QUAZZUM”.

Ten years later, GRAMPA and Lacy are raising the unique color-changing and disappearing chameleon boy. He can hide anywhere, he can climb trees with ease, and his skin is not easily pierced by bullets. Quazzum eats swamp food and insects, and drinks salt water. He is also technologically advanced building and operating solar panels, satellite, and computer.

When Ben finds out Lacy’s pregnancy was not from another astronaut, he realizes it must have been his baby in spite of the abstinence and birth control. Ben vows to find Lacy and make up for his past actions, and meet his child.

During investigation, with aid of local sheriff and police, Lacy and Grampa are shot. Near death, Lacy explains to Ben that Quazzum must have come from a fertilized egg implanted in her by an undiscovered species during the mission to Quazmopolis. Nearly invisible, ten-year-old Quazum escapes and begins a new life in the city.

Ben vows to find Quazzum and become the loyal father that he never was. Media begins publicizing reports of ghosts in southern parts of Louisiana, and police begin investigating the strange sightings. Quazzum struggles to survive hiding in downtown New Orleans, eating insects, drinking salt water and experimenting with alcohol.

SEA is planning a new mission to Quazmopolis, and when scientist Dr. Palmer learns of Ben and Lacy's experience. He flies to Louisiana and brings in a brain specialist to try and save Lacy's life. Dr. Palmer is also curious of coincidental ghost sightings around Back Bayou and New Orleans and vows to make up for his unfair treatment of Lacy and Ben ten years earlier.

Ben discovers Quazzum and agrees to get him home to his true family via SEA's new mission to Quazmopolis Island. Media asks questions of witnesses and broadcasts news of ghost sightings in Louisiana. Sheriff and police investigate reports and examine information taken from hidden cameras. Specialist performs brain surgery and implants on Lacy, and Dr. Palmer uncovers interesting circumstances of Lacy's life and new sightings.

Ben struggles to sneak Quazzum on board new solar jet leaving for Quazmopolis, but Quazum escapes at the last minute. Ten-year-old Quazum then reveals he's just too scared and wants only to return to his true home in the Back Bayou. Ben rushes him out of SEA before Dr. Palmer arrives and confronts them. He sees Quazum for the first time and understands.

In the epilogue, Quazzum and Ben return to a private life in Louisiana swamps and pay mortgage by studying and documenting life on the island. In the end, Palmer visits cabin with recovering Lacy, Quazum's mom.