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Alien Invasion: S.U.M.1

By Christian Pasquariello

The nonsuch has killed
95% of our
fellow human beings,
but this is still our world.
We will claim it back.
This is your chance to serve
mankind in our darkest hour.
We will fight for our future.
Your future.
The people
of the united national
depend on you.
You are the final line
of defense.
The future of humanity
depends on you.
For the first time
in human history,
mankind stands together as one.
Do not let our enemy prevail.
Eta outpost lalops
in t-minus 60 seconds.
Private kes9,
prepare to disembark.
Rendezvous back here
in 100 days, soldier.
Eta outpost Cerberus
in t-minus 8 minutes.
Welcome to exilium.
We'll get you inside.
You're safe now.
Eta outpost Cerberus
t-minus 60 seconds.
Private sum1,
prepare to disembark.
Rendezvous back here
in 100 days, soldier.
Hello?
Hello?
Fuck.
Shit.
Hello?
I'm coming up!
Hello?

Anyone here?
DNA decoded.
Identification positive.
Welcome to outpost Cerberus,
private sum1.
Your 100-day mission
begins now.
Maintain the defense circle
and monitor
the surveillance cameras.
Watch out for the nonsuch
and deliver any straggler
to exilium.
Commence system check now.
Defense circle intact.
No intrusion.
All cameras operational.
Defense circle intact.
Power stable.
When I arrived,
there was no guard present
in the tower
for the transfer of duty, sir.
Your predecessor
had to be evacuated.
You've been called up
as part of the emergency
replacement task force.
You must report
to the base every 12 hours.
You are strictly forbidden
to leave your operational area.
Stay alert.
The unu requires your service.
Your vigilance
means mankind's survival.
1900 hours.
This is outpost Cerberus.
Private sum1 reporting.
All systems intact.
DC active.
No intrusions or false alarms.
Requesting current
safety bunker code, sir.

-Code transferred.

Copy. Sir, the tunnel
to the bunker is damaged.
There's a second entrance
at the edge of the clearing.
But then I have to go outside,
sir.

Don't worry about that.
Concentrate on your duties,
soldier.

Private sum1 out.

Attention, please.

The united national unions
advise you
to leave the surface
immediately.

Resistance to the nonsuch
is futile.

I repeat, resistance
to the nonsuch is futile.

I repeat, resistance
to the nonsuch is futile.

Please proceed directly
to the nearest exilium
entry point.

Our soldiers will guide you
to a secure location.

Consider your safety.

Consider

your children's future.

- Wake up, soldier.

You are on duty.

99 days of active service
remaining.

Defense circle intact.

-No intrusion.

1900 hours.

This is outpost Cerberus,
private sum1 reporting.

All systems intact.

DC active.

No intrusions.

No false alarms.

Requesting current safety

bunker code, sir.
Code transferred.
--Copy, sum1 out.
- Wake up, soldier.
You are on duty.
- -Wake up, soldier.
- -You are on duty.
Defense circle intact.
No intrusion.
Attention, please.
The united national unions
advise you
to leave the surface
immediately.
- -Wake up, soldier.
You are on duty.
87 days
of active service remaining.
Shit. Shit.
- -Attention all guards.
Incident dispatch.
A sudden attack
by the nonsuch
has been reported
near the outpost lalops.
Despite adequate warning,
stragglers failed
to reach exilium.
- -There were no survivors.
System check engaged.
All defense circles are intact.
This line should only
be opened for emergencies.
But this is an emergency.
I might have seen a nonsuch.
There are no nonsuch
within your area.
-But is the DC intact?
-The defense circle is intact.
Roger that.
Don't worry, soldier.
Base out.
What?
Okay.

Eat.
That's all there is.
Eat.
Camera d malfunction.
Toxic emission alarm.
Toxic emission alarm.
Toxic emission alarm.
Toxic emission alarm.
Did you receive my report,
sir, about the birds?
Yes, private.
Could that have been
the nonsuch?
The nonesuch don't kill birds.
They kill us.
Perhaps some strange
straggler's ritual.
I also found an ID tag.
It was hanging
with one of the dead birds
nailed to the trees.
It says "vax7."
Is this the soldier
i replaced, sir?
Positive.
Why was he evacuated?
He became ill and waited
for us in the bunker.
He's back now safe and sound.
Private, we need you to focus
on your mission
and watch out for the nonsuch.
-That's what I'm doing, sir.
-Don't worry, soldier.
-Roger, I won't, sir.
-Stay alert.
Requesting current
safety bunker code, sir.
- Code transferred.
Copy. Sum1 out.
Don't worry.
I won't report you.
This will be our secret.
This is a hazard warning

issued by
the united national unions.
Do not remain on the surface.
All resistance
to the nonsuch is futile.
Report to the nearest
exilium entry point,
where you will receive
further assistance.
Be vigilant.
- -Toxic emission alarm.
Toxic emission alarm.
Toxic emission alarm.
Toxic emission alarm.
I'm private suml,
unu force!
Identify yourself!
Identify yourself
or I will open fire!
Sir, I saw something
in the woods today.
Some kind of... figure.
I couldn't get a clear visual
because of the toxic emissions.
We understand your
concern, private,
but as long as the DC
does not indicate
intrusion by the nonsuch,
we must assume
that what you saw
was some kind of an animal.
Don't worry, soldier.
Access denied.
Don't gimme that look, doc.
I'm just making sure he gets
his stuff back when I leave.
Shit.
Must be ancient.
Look at this.
You were his mate, too.
If only you could talk.
Must be our neighbor.
- -Attention.

Approaching
defense circle border
do not leave
your operational area.
Approaching
defense circle border
do not leave
your operational area.
Approaching
defense circle border
do not leave
your operational area.
History mode engaged.
Scanning files.
Shit.
Hello?
Show yourself!
I'm armed!
I'm sorry.
This outpost Cerberus
private sum1, do you copy?
Copy, private.
Report complete power failure
for at least 156 minutes.
Is all power back up now?
Yes, it seems to be.
But there was something
in my tower.
That's impossible.
Sir, the power was out
long enough for the nonsuch
to reach the defense circle.
The DC has an independent
power supply.
That's reassuring.
We'll dispatch
a Mac immediately
to carry out a complete
inspection of your system.
What is the power goes down
before the Mac arrives?
Private, we do everything
in our power
to support you

and your mission?
Then why is nothing working?
We know guarding the front line
is a tough job.
You're not kidding.
You only have 40 days left.
You must stay focused
and alert.
Remain vigilant.
Do I make myself clear?
-Yes, sir.
-We're counting on you,
private.
Your mission means
everyone's survival, base out.
History mode engaged.
Replay mode.
Error, missing data
due to power failure.
Last saved data and 046660.
Shit.
You look after me,
don't you, doc?
This is ker4.
Do you copy?
Ker4 for vax7.
Do you copy?
Do you copy?
This is vax7 for ker4.
Copy, over.
Haven't heard from you
in a while.
I was worried about you.
Do you send me the morse code?
You are not vax7.
Identify yourself.
I am sum1 of outpost Cerberus.
I sent you the morse code.
It's great to hear you...
To talk to a real person.
Where's vax7?
You were in touch?
Where is he?
He was evacuated.

Some health issues.
You knew him?
What was he like?
What happened to him?
Our communication
is strictly forbidden.
But you talked to him.
W-why--
I found his-- his stuff,
his drawings.
Talk to me. Please.
At least we're not alone
anymore.
You love that stuff,
don't you?
You said the Mac
would come immediately.
It's been days.
It's not easy to organize
a safe passage for the Mac.
Surely you heard about
the attack at lalops.
No point in sending you
a dead Mac, is there, soldier?
Don't worry,
you only have 35 days left.
Hang in there, soldier.
The Mac is on his way.
Copy.
That's what I'm doing, sir.
Code transferred.
Base out.
They told me not to worry.
Again.
I don't trust them, doc.
I know.
--Shit.
I'm private suml unu force!
Identify yourself!
I am armed!
It's okay.
I'm here to help.
You must seek shelter
immediately.

The next entry point
of the exilium
is 16 kilometers away.
The nonsuch
can't touch you there.
Please, let us go!
You are in great danger.
The nonsuch could attack
at any moment.
If you come with me, I'll get
you and the child to safety.
No!
Wait!
Approaching
defense circle border
do not leave
your operational area.
You dropped this!
Attention, guards,
following the attack
on outpost lalops,
a number of stragglers
were detected on the surface.
They are in great danger
and on the run.
If they enter your zone,
your orders
are to make contact with them
and save them
from the nonsuch.
Looks like they don't
want to be saved!
There are stragglers
in your area.
You must convince them
to leave the surface.
For the safety of exilium.
Remember, our safety depends
on your watchfulness.
When I sleep,
I see children.
They're happy.
They laugh and jump.
Everything is warm and bright

I don't know where
these images come from.
They're not like memories.
They're different.
Someone once told me that
before the chaos,
people could do this
in their sleep.
They called it dreaming.
They said that it was
a special gift...
And that I shouldn't
tell anybody
because they'd diagnose me
as mentally disordered.
But I'm telling you this
because I know you'll keep
my secrets, won't you, doc?
I will take you somewhere
better, I promise.
This is sum1.
Do you copy? Do you copy?
If you can hear me,
please answer me.
It's important.
This is sum1.
I need to speak to you.
This is sum1.
Do you copy?
I can see you.
It's me.
Answer me.
Answer me!
Answer me!!
Answer me!!
Won't answer me.
Toxic emission alarm.
Toxic emission alarm.
Toxic emission alarm.
Toxic emission alarm.
Toxic emission alarm.
Sum1 for ker4.
Do you copy?
Sum1 for ker4.

Do you copy?
Sum1 for ker4.
Do you copy?
You don't wanna talk to me.
But I want to talk to you.
I saw something
in the woods today.
Something is out there.
I think the nonsuch
have penetrated the DC.
I think they got vax7.
You're good.
You listen.
14 days, and then
we're out of here, doc.
It's safe there.
It's safe.
Shit.
Nice to meet you, too.
Could you please put away
that fucking gun?
I'm 7q7, your Mac.
Now can I do my job?
Sorry, i-- I just--
I didn't think you'd show.
Whatever, you don't listen
to the PR, do you?
Lalops was attacked.
Did you see it?
What was left of it.
And the casualties?
No, the ici took care of them
before I got there.
Before that, the nonsuch
took care of them.
So there wasn't much left
to take care of.
Shit.
Again, that smell of rat piss.
Hi, king.
Good to see you again.
-You've been here before.
-Okay, let's see.
DNA decoded.

Welcome, 7q7
system check engaged.
-What do we got here?
-Power is unstable.
And monitors for the DC cam
just dropped out.
-That's not mine.
-I know.
It's from the bastard
who was here before you.
-He asked to do my portrait.
-What was he like?
That guy was friends
with a rat.
What else do you know
about him?
I just told you.
He was friends with a rat.
What else is there to say?
He was...
-Kind of unstable.
-Can you access his data?
That's not allowed
and you know it.
I want to show you something.
There. What's that?
That spooky shadow?
It's you, blade man.
It's a glitch.
The faulty overlap
of a previous image.
You thought it was the nonsuch,
didn't you, soldier?
Have you seen one?
What do they look like?
Let's take a look
at the monitors.
They are all intact.
That means all cams
at the DC are down.
They can't be.
I just recharged them.
That's your business.
No go to that and tell me

if the circuits react.
Circuit a?
-Affirmative.
-Circuit b?
Affirmative.
Circuit c.
Affirmative.
--Doc!
Ah, again with the rat.
Man, you are as fucked up
as the last bloke.
Please don't do this to me.
Please, doc, hey.
Please don't,
don't do this to me.
A doc, that's exactly
what you need, my friend.
I promise I'll take you with me.
I won't leave you hear alone.
Thank you.
Try mouth-to-mouth.
That usually does the trick.
Shut the fuck up.
What did you say?
-Are you crazy?
-Sit down.
-Cool down, partner.
-Sit down.
Tell them you have to turn off
the internal cam
-to do the diagnosis.
-Listen, soldier, I told you--
do it.
I have to shut down cam d
to run a full diagnosis.
Now I want you to bypass
the system.
I want to show me
the internal-cam data
-from before I got here.
-Listen, soldier,
i told you I can't do that.
-I don't know how.
-Then you'd better

figure it out fast.
You don't have the guts.
I knew it.
That's felt good.
That felt even better.
Now apologize to him
before I really get on a roll.
-What?
-You heard.
Sorry.
Look at him.
His name is doc.
I'm sorry, doc.
Es tut mir leid.
Good.
Now access the fucking data.
Whoa, whoa!
Come on, man,
i need these to work.
Stop fucking aiming
your gun at me.
You want the data,
i gotta concentrate.
And that thing
makes me nervous.
Just hurry up.
That's it.
The best I can do.
What do you mean?
I bypassed
the first firewall,
but to access this,
we need to know
the personal access code
of a guard.
-All right, my code is--
-no, not yours.
The second firewall
can only be deactivated
by a second soldier's
access code.
This is a leftover
from when we could have fought
six guards on each tower.

That's all I can do
unless you have
another soldier's
personal access code.
Hey, man, I swear,
without that code,
I can't do it.
I don't give a shit
whether or not
-you see this fucking data.
-Get up.
All right.
Doc is bleeding!
You want to know
what they look like?
They not like us or anything
else you have ever seen.
I got this little
souvenir from them.
I was in the legion.
I must have been
around your age.
Back then, we were stupid enough
to think we could win this war.
Our helicopter crashed
in the desert.
In the middle
of fucking nowhere.
Everyone was killed except me
and this little guy, Santino.
We had names back then,
not just numbers.
We survived the crash.
We were cut off
from all communication,
and I thought
he would die out there.
I knew we both would.
Mind?
If I have a smoke?
I bandaged his leg and set out
on my own in search of help.
On my way back, I found Santino,
both his ears cut off.

And he just looked at me.
Before that,
i didn't know what fear was.
I didn't need to see
the nonsuch for myself.
I saw them in his eyes.
But I did see them later when
the fucking sandstorm hit.
There were shadows out there
in the storm,
big, fast, circling around us.
Santino was already completely
nuts.
He tried to get away,
but they tossed him around
like an ant in a tornado.
Then I understood.
It wasn't the storm
that got him.
My ears started to bleed.
Their screams
make your ears bleed
even before you can hear them,
but when you do,
their screaming
is nothing but pure pain.
That's why Santino
cut off his own ears.
When they found me,
my lungs were full of sand,
and my larynx was
now you know how I got
this little souvenir, soldier.
Let's go.
What are you doing?
If your plan with the access
code doesn't work...
This... will be your grave.
0700 hours,
this is outpost Cerberus,
private sum1 reporting.
No special... incidents.
Are you all right,
private?

I'm fine.
I was just doing
some sit-ups to keep in shape.
Did the Mac fix the system?
Yes.
The Mac fixed the system.
You were right.
He was delayed by the attacks.
Roger, private.
Hang in there, soldier.
Roger. Sum1 out.
Sum1 here.
This is ker4.
Access granted.
Accessing files private vax7.
Hi, sweetie,
sweetie, sweetie.
Come on, come on.
This is private vax7.
I'm very tired.
I don't know what to do.
They are not telling the truth.
They lied to us.
--He just lost it.
What do you mean?
Tell me what happened.
This place, the fear...
They drill it into us,
day in, day out.
It drove him nuts.
What are you talking about?
What if the nonsuch
don't exist?
You can't be serious.
They just attacked lalops.
How do you know?
Were you there?
Have you ever actually seen
a nonsuch with your own eyes?
If I had,
I'd probably be dead.
Yeah, yeah,
that's what they say.
What if they're gone?

Gone a long time ago,
or what if they never existed
to begin with?
Staring at trees.
That's all we do.
But why? Why would they
set this all up?
They invented the nonsuch to
force us all down into exilium.
-Why?
-With nature poisoned
and resources running out,
there was no longer enough
for all of us,
but for a few privileged
classes,
it could last forever.
That's why they want us to send
the stragglers underground.
That's why they want
to force us
beneath the surface
of the earth.
No, it's all in your mind.
Says who, you?
Listen, sum1,
this is my second tour.
I'm at 200 days now,
so you finish your 100 days,
and then you go home.
Home?
What's home?
Rotting underground?
It's safer than being
up here.
I met a straggler woman
with a child.
She wasn't afraid
of the nonsuch.
She was afraid of me.
What about all the casualties,
all the bodies?
No, they always say
that they're all mutilated

beyond recognition.
What if they're
just killing innocent people
and dumping their bodies
like trash?
No, this is madness.
Like the madness
that got Vax7.
Vax7 was a very unstable guy.
Think.
Can you prove me wrong?
I tried to help, but I failed.
What's that song?
It's a very old nursery rhyme.
Vax7 liked it.
-It called him down.
I don't like it.
- Attention, guards.
The nonsuch have advanced
to the northern border.
You are ordered
to maintain maximum...
Shut up!
Repeat--
you are ordered
to maintain maximum vigilance.
Our future depends
on your vigilance.
Our lives are in your hands.
Shut the fuck up!
Shut--
maintain maximum vigilance.
You don't scare us anymore!
Right, doc?
Doc?
Doc?
No. No.
Finally.
I did everything I could,
i swear.
The nonsuch.
You fought them,
and you survived.
In fact,

you were the only survivor.
Funny, that, isn't it?
Does this look funny to you,
asshole?
Yeah, that was a great story.
I bet you told that vax7, too,
didn't you?
Well,
let me tell you a story.
I just killed vax7.
You fed him the lies.
And he ate them up.
You drove him nuts.
That's the big plan, isn't it?
-There is no big plan.
-Poison us with fear.
Spread fear among any stragglers
to force them down
into our wonderful exilium.
But you don't fool me.
I don't believe
your stories anymore.
Believe what you like.
If you don't want to go back
to exilium, no problem.
I'll tell them that
and you can go find
your own little sanctuary,
okay?
You think I'm going
to trust you?
I don't give a flying fuck
about you and exilium
or anything else
but I have a wife
and a boy down there,
and they are my future.
Good.
That means you have
something to lose.
I don't.
Now tell me where I can find
the DC power supply.
You're fucking kidding me,

right?!

You want to see them again?

I'm going to put an end to all
of this madness
once and for all...

Set us all free.

You will get us all killed!

No.

I won't.

And you know it.

No more lies.

Ker4, do you copy?

This is ker4, copy.

I'm coming to see you.

What are you talking about?

I know how to disable
the defense system.

What? How did you--
the Mac.

It's time to end the madness.

What madness?

There's no madness.

The madness that killed
vax7.

Vax7 is dead?

The madness
that keeps us underground,
the madness of the nonsuch.

Okay, sum1,

I'll be waiting for you.

We're gonna sort this out
together. Okay?

All barriers will fall.

The truth will out.

We will be free.

Wake up, soldier.

You're on duty.

Six days of active service
remaining.

You're free to go.

Scheisse.

Attention.

Approaching
defense circle border

do not leave
your operational area.
Approaching
defense circle border
do not leave
your operational area.
- -Alert state Alpha.
Defense circles disabled.
Seek the exilium
bunker immediately.
Alert state--
hello?
Ker4?
Are you here?
Come on, man, get on the rig!
Run, boy, run!
Let's get the fuck out of here!
Access denied.
Access denied.
Fuck!
Access granted.
Alert stage Alpha activated.
Access to security bunker
is enabled.
Stay in your bunker
and remain calm, soldier.
An evacuation unit
is already on its way.
We thank you for your service.
Your vigilance
means our survival.
Alert stage Alpha activated.
Access to security bunker
is enabled.
Alert stage Alpha activated.
Access to security bunker
is enabled.
Stay in your bunker
and remain calm, soldier.
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