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Cascade Sorte

Cli-Fi (1:30-3:20)

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The Countdown

Over the past century, the burning of fossil fuels and other natural activities has released enormous amounts of heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere. These emissions have caused the Earth's surface temperature to rise, resulting in extensive ice-cap melting and the oceans have absorbed a large burden as a result. When sea levels rise rapidly, even a small increase can have devastating effects on coastal environments and civilizations. Seawater has reached further inland, and has caused destructive erosion, flooding, soil contamination, and lost habitat for plants and animals. Hundreds of millions of people lived in areas that became victim to flooding. Higher sea levels forced them to abandon their homes and relocate. Neighboring islands have submerged completely, never to be seen again. A young boy and his family are troubled with the everlasting effects of mass panic, and struggle to reach the safety they had been guaranteed.

“Hey mom!” Theodore shouts. “The news is broadcasting that there are some problems with our country! People are starting to panic because they can’t live in their homes ‘cause the ocean is getting bigger and bigger and won’t stop.”

Theodore is the only child in his family. He has been constantly watching the news ever since he heard there were only 49 states now instead of 50. He cannot seem to shift his focus elsewhere.

“Theodore turn that off!” His mother shouts back. “We need to make sure we have everything packed before your father gets home. Did you put your clothes away like I asked? I still see your shorts on the floor, along with all of your dinosaurs and toy cars.”

“Mom, the news said that we are going to have to move pretty soon to stay alive. Is that true?” he exclaims, eagerly awaiting a response.

“No don’t listen to the TV we are going to be just fine. We need to get ready to leave the second your father gets back from work so make sure you don’t forget anything okay?” she replies.

Now in the year 2057, armageddon is near. With rising sea levels, coastal states have already started experiencing the consequences of the changing climate; some have already gone under. Buildings and houses have been destroyed; many people have been

forced to leave their homes and find sanction elsewhere. Theo and his family lived in South Dakota, central enough to where they had not experienced any environmental catastrophe just yet. At this point, the state of the United States was weak and grew weaker day by day. Panic and chaos had reaped the streets and large amounts of people began moving towards middle America, the plains, where they believed they would be safe from disaster. Families and citizens in remaining coastal states have been advised to move inwards, away from the ocean, while solutions were in the process of being made. After Florida first submerged, rising sea levels had a tremendous impact in New England and the states in the surrounding area like New York and Massachusetts were in danger.

“Mom, what’s going to happen when the water gets closer and closer to us? Are we going to have to move?” asked Theodore.

His mother was speechless. Not even she knew what was to come for her family. Fear and worry was then made apparent on her face. Theodore began to worry.

“Mom!” he shouted once again, “Why won’t you say anything?”

His mother paused; hesitant and frozen with uncertainty.

“Theodore just make sure you have everything packed alright? Your father will be home shortly,” She replied as calmly as she could.

Theodore's father was a aerospace engineer for SpaceX, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, and was put on as the head technician for their most recent project; project armageddon. SpaceX is an American aerospace manufacturer and space transport services company and their most recent project, project armageddon, is the mass construction and production of pod-like structures. These structures are basically miniature space shuttles, equipped with enough power and fuel to reach a space station currently under construction on planet mars. Each of these pods could fit roughly six people in them, accounting for their respective amount of luggage. Theodore's father, being the head technician, was granted three free free tickets for him and his family (which usually go for \$100,000). Being so expensive, the upper class had priority towards their survival, and whoever else could afford the tickets would also be allowed to purchase their own tickets. Given the fact that these pods were limited in amount, this brought nothing but complications for the remaining citizens of the United States.

Theodore's father arrives...

"Honey, Theodore! We need to leave the house now!" he shouts. "There are crowds of people outside and we need to leave before we aren't able to anymore."

Theodore's father trembles, as the chance for his family to reach sanction gradually decreases with every second spent not on the road.

"Yes everybody is all packed and ready to go!"

“Theodore you ready to go bud? We don’t have much time to get going.”

“Yes dad, but where we are going? I saw that on the news everybody is getting scared because they don’t have anywhere else to go. Are we going to be like them?”

“No son, your dad works with the people that are going to keep us safe. We are going to make it out of this together okay? We just need to leave right now so tha-”

interrupted by live news broadcasting

“This just in... Rising sea levels have accelerated and are expected to reach central states within the next 72 hours. SpaceX, located in Lemmon, South Dakota, has formerly announced the launching of their mission to save tons of lives.”

“Dear god.” mutters Theodore’s father.

“Tickets are now being sold at the front gates of the SpaceX headquarters. Space is limited. May you find peace and happiness wherever else you choose to stay. God Bless America...”

“Honey look outside”, says Theodore’s mother, “look at all the people.”

Theodore runs to the window to see what all the fuss is about.

“Dad! There’s fire on the streets and nobody is trying to put it out!” he cries “Dad, are we gonna die? I don’t want to die today.”

Chaos had taken over. Crowds of people ravaged the streets. Houses were being broken into, vehicles clashed against one another in what it seems like a rushed effort to try and escape the madness.

“Honey, get the bags together, we need to leave now,” says Theo’s father.

Without a second more wasted, not another thought, the family rushed to the car. Driving out of the city, the family witnessed the havoc taking place after the airing of the news broadcast. All order and human morality was lost. People began looting and robbing stores and destruction made its way throughout the entire city. Theodore and his family knew what it meant when they got in the car; to leave behind everything they had, everything they had worked for.

“What’s gonna happen to all those people back there?” questioned Theodore, “Is your job gonna help them stay safe too? I don’t want the ocean to eat them too.”

“Son, I need you to understand that what is happening in the world, cannot be stopped, and right now, I can only make sure that you and your mother are going to be safe from all of this. For everybody else, we can only hope the best for them...”

Driving towards the outskirts of the city, they knew that at that moment, their lives would be changed forever.