

FUEL OF LIFE

An Illustrated Novel

By Luis M. Cruz



Dark Fire Press
DIGITAL PREVIEW
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Art by
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MMMP
2019

Published by Dark Fire Press LLC

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ISBN Paperback: 978-1-7346365-1-2

ISBN Digital: 978-1-7346365-3-6

www.darkfirepress.com

First Edition: October 2020

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Published by Dark Fire Press
New Jersey, USA



Turner orbits Earth several times, before landing the ship on Central Park, New York, near the Dakota building. It's a little past midnight, as she exits the ship, takes a few steps and falls to her knees on the grass looking up at the beautiful night sky. never giving a thought to how lovely this warm spring night air feels.

"This is incredible." Turner muttered as she looked around.

"Why. Did you think we would destroy ourselves?" Asked a voice from a man who stood behind the ship, "Forgive me, my name is Antonio Carro."

"I'm Elizabeth Turner." She said while getting up from the ground.

"Military, from what I can tell by your clothing and, is that blood?"

"Yes."

Antonio walks towards her while passing his hand against the ships steel hull,

"So what brings you back, other than the ship I mean." "It's a long story."

"The night is young."

Turner sits on the grass and begins to tell him what happened,

"I guess it all began when we detected the oncoming asteroid..."

The past

Within hours, every nations leader met in the neutral country of Switzerland. It's the first time in history the government leaders had all came to one decision, to keep the information of the asteroid from the public, at least until a confirmation of the was made.



During the following years, thousands of newly designed space shuttles were built, much larger than its predecessor, but the most significant change happened two years after the confirmation of the asteroid, the unification of Earth's countries. As a result of the unity on Earth, the asteroid transmitted the codes required to shut down the shield. Certain laws were also passed, that of course, the people had the right to vote for.

There was one law in which the people could not vote for or against, no matter how inhumane it sounded. The law stated that anyone who has committed a crime, i.e., murder, would remain on Earth and die with it. Everyone, even the prisoners themselves, considered the law to be harsh and cruel.

Eight years passed, and humans during the time have become accustomed to the living accommodations of the asteroid, which was really about the size of the Earth's moon. However it wasn't as round as the moon, it had more of an oval egg shape. The inside of the asteroid was very technologically advanced than anything the human race had ever seen or thought of. The surface of the asteroid was made of rock, but the interior was constructed of steel.

A new government is quickly established, calling itself the U.H.E. (United Humans of Earth,) this new government was formed much like that of the former United States. The aliens that designed this asteroid thought of everything, they knew the humans would need to travel from one side of the asteroid to the other. They built tunnels that resembled subway tunnels, except for the trains.



However, there were small, elevator like, cabins that would take a person completely around the asteroid in three minutes. What people found most incredible about the cabins was that no one felt the speed of it, and nobody could figure out how many each tunnel contained. Just as the people from Earth were getting comfortable living on the asteroid, human bodies were being discovered dead. Every body that was found, whether adult or infant, was drained of his or her blood. The victims had three puncture wounds, one on the neck and the other two were on both the right and left wrists of the bodies. At first the authorities thought that there was a criminal on the loose committing the crimes, but that was quickly dismissed seeing as how there were fifty to a hundred people being killed a day. The authorities were ordered to search the asteroid thoroughly and cautiously, inside and out. The authorities, since the arrival to the asteroid, were always working as one unit but divided into several platoons.

One of these platoons is dispatched to search the upper north section of the asteroid, and each soldier from the platoon had order's to split-up and search the perimeter. One soldier, a female, suddenly came across an odd looking door, at the end of a long corridor. The door wasn't on any of the schematics the aliens had provided, it was four stories high and thirty-five yards wide, it looked like an oversized garage door.

The soldier, before entering, radio's her commanding officer who was several hundred yards away, "Private Turner to Colonel Claremont, come in sir." "Colonel Claremont here."



He responded while looking in her direction. "Sir." She said nervously, "I think you should come and see this." "What is it?" "It's some kind of door, a really large door." "Whatever you do, don't touch it. I'm on my way." As Col. Claremont ran down the corridor toward Private Turner he ordered the rest of the platoon, which were scattered throughout the perimeter, to converge on her location.

As Private Turner stood by the door, she heard a noise coming from inside. It was a loud banging sound, as if a sack of potatoes were being dropped to the ground continuously. The young, inexperienced, female soldier quickly stood in front of the door pointing her machine gun at it. The banging sound suddenly stopped, the door is once again silent, at least that's what she thought.

Not a minute has passed and yet again a sound is heard from the door, this time it wasn't a banging sound. It was now a low scratching sound, as if though someone or something was rubbing its nails up and down the steel door, trying to lure her inside. Private Turner becomes impatient, and begins to take small, nervous-like, steps towards the door. When she got close enough, she reached, with one hand, for the control panel attached to the door that she assumed would open it, while holding the machine gun in the other. The sound seemed to get louder with every heartbeat and, just when she was about to touch one of the buttons on the control panel, she heard footsteps. At least a dozen, or more, running towards her.