



Living in the Nut

Story Three

Conspiracy Theories and Conspiratorial Theorists

Riots breakout as conspiracy theories appear to be proven.

Lakemoron.com

As I walked down tunnel EC, I found more of those holes drilled in a grid pattern in the tunnel wall. On there, they don't seem to be much, but together they seem to be making a pattern. What doesn't make sense is why and what is the end goal for whoever is drilling them. Ever since the loss of signal from Granite Mountain, there has been this quiet unease and more than a little talk about how many thought we could have done more even when those people couldn't say what that more could have been. We tried sending out drones, but all of them exploded after about ten minutes of exposure to the exotic radioactive particles. We also sent in two of the industrial construction robots into the parking deck, and there they sit after they stopped receiving or sending signals. We do still have access to the satellite system with a full view of the earth. Three weeks after the signal loss a massive storm started over the Pacific Ocean.

Back when people lived outside, they would track storms and name them, but according to all our records, no one had ever seen such a storm. A pink hurricane with a blood red center nearly covering the ocean slowly moving to North America. As the storm moved, it left the ocean dark. Before this, the sea was choked with what the systems called a red alga. The storm struck land around 2am with an earthquake we could feel hundreds of miles away. The storm moved into our valley below flooding the once dry river bed and the parking lot. We had to fill in the newly made door to the parking deck after the pressure of all the water filling the lot started to break the seals. When the skies cleared, the landscape was changed. The parking deck was an underground lake, the ground was covered in a red alga that was either being blown around in the wind or moving on its own. Within a week the red turned brown then broke down into the earth. The red water in the parking deck cleared.

As the skies cleared the signal with the construction robots resumed. They wouldn't move, but they would send and receive a signal. One of the two robots had radiation sensors, and they weren't in the red anymore well, they were at a readable level. Another sensor detected movement outside of the parking deck. A drone was sent out, and the dam thing stayed in the air until the battery died. What it saw was a van moving in from the northwest. The van was a dusky

red with steel covering the windows and what looked like cameras on the roof. The van rolled to a stop near the door to the parking deck

A small figure appeared on one side in some sort of thick suit. The person walked up to the entrance then stepped back. We sent a drone out to direct the person to the smaller door. The drone scanned her, and yes, she was her and about eight-years-old. Another drone scanned the van finding the warm but dead bodies of a woman and another girl around the age of thirteen. The girl was also showing signs of severe radiation poisoning. She walked up to the door and walked into it before it opened falling backward. I found myself being held back by my crew as I got up to go to the door and pick her back up. She stepped through the door, and a spray washed off the residue with a chemical doing its best to clear off any radiation. She stripped off her first suit than the one underneath it showing she was indeed a young girl. I turned off the camera just before she took the rest of her clothes off and took a nasty chemical shower.

The light outside of the chamber turned green showing it was clear, and we raced in finding the naked young girl passed out on the deck. She had a reddish rash with deep purple parts and open wounds. The medics carefully picked her up as one of the few doctors did their best to treat her open sores while giving her shots to boost her immune system. In a faded black mark on her back was the name, Addie. They took her to the main medical ward on level seventeen as the two drones pushed the van closer to the Nut. The drones scanned the contents of the van cataloging anything and everything without touching. The drones were both automated and supervised by Gregg. At one point something on a piece of paper flashed as the writing was cataloged, but Gregg flagged it blocking the writing from being released. Something felt off by his actions.

The medics put Addie in a mix of water and a special gel made sometime in the 2020s to treat radiation exposure. They did their best to protect her modesty in the thick clear gel but to prevent images of the nearly naked girl getting out the cameras in her room were removed. The gel removes toxins while keeping the patient anesthetized without the need for a respirator or

harsher drugs which we don't have. I was told from the medics she opened her eyes and tried to speak but said nothing. Even with gel Addie had little chance to survive. The big question was how she made it all this way to us.

Using DNA from the bodies, we could say with certainty they body of the older woman was Addie's mother Nancy and the teenager were related but not a sister. The Nut has a version of the old social media platform known as Twitter called the Nuttery. It started as a way for people to connect and share stories, but it turned into a harbor for nude pictures and conspiracies. Maybe it was the loss of so many people, the need to connect or people are genuinely horny, but almost everyone posted a nude pic on the Nuttery in hopes of finding something they might not have even when they are married. They also talk about theories on everything from the composition of the mystery meat to the outside. It was the Nuttery where the first riots started as theories turned to calls for action. What didn't help was the secrecy so when people saw the papers from the van being blocked as well as images of Addie, the conspiracies started.

Two days later as I walked the tunnels word came out Addie died from her radiation exposure. I came out of the tunnel to chaos. The control room was flashing red with people running about. A group gathered around the medical ward but not in mourning. They came for the answers they thought they deserved. A story was circulating about the medics keeping her from talking and exposing the fact that the outside was safe, and we were prisoners in the Nut. The group was around ten people chanting and writing on the walls in chalk but nothing violent. Word of the protest went out, and soon more than half of the Nut was watching as security moved in, and all hell broke loose. The protestors threw chalk and security shot back with tasers. The optics and history of the security force made the scene appear as they were killing the protestors not stunning. Either way, security turned a peaceful protest into an open revolt.

Security ran out of stunners before they ran out of targets and were overrun by the mob. The remaining security came in behind the fresh wave of rioters, and they clashed in the hall. The rioters backed down the hall and into the passage to the grow room locking the door behind

them leaving ten people dead. Word went around that security killed fifty people in the hall outside of the medical ward prompting more people to come to the aide of those trapped in the garden. The rumors about the redacted papers as well as the crackdown by security grew as people rushed the elevator to the penthouse. Word went out that the medical ward was at capacity and needed blood for the wounded. The people that went to help ended up in the middle of a shootout with security and those people locked in the garden. The majority of the Nuttery wanted the brothers to step down and answer for security with a few wanting them dead. It wasn't mentioned that the dead numbered ten not fifty and they were mostly members of the security force.

Soon the shootout became a standoff with the people in the garden holding all the cards. They had access to all the food and could starve out the Nut. Inside the garden, they started alive feed showing what was happening. Inside they wrote a new constitution and voted people into a new government. What surprised everyone was they elected people outside of their group. Some teacher on level six was named as a president with several voted into a Senate. They also voted to not prosecute the Fine Brothers. They would have to give up the penthouse turning it into the seat of government. Their first act as this new government was to order the release of all secure documents including video of Addie. They also ordered the unlocking of all doors from the control room to the outside door. They also ordered the arrest of all those people that pushed the conspiracies leading to the deaths out in the hall. At this point, their laws were a little than demands from terrorists, but something changed all that.

After months of no one seeing them, the brothers came down from the penthouse and surrendered turning over their home to the new government. To no one's surprise, the two most valuable people in the Nut could live and given almost free reign to keep working. The lead conspiracy theorist made his way to the small door to the outside and living about an hour before he bled to death while trying to start the van. The people demanding to see the papers and Addie were granted access. The papers outlined how Nancy with Margaret and Addie escaped the Mountain. The group saw the small, frail body and did their best to wrap her up and gave her the

only kind of funeral they could. A standard cremation at the end along with the bodies of the fallen security and two civilians that died in the hall.

The papers outlined how her son interrupted the men just before they could violate Addie killing one with an ax. He helped them to a van the men were retrofitting for a trip to the Nut to either steal from our supplies or take over. The van didn't have enough for all four of them, so the son stayed behind to give them a chance to escape. She wrote how her son left the door open to the mountain exposing the remaining people to the radiation and in her words, "*hopefully killing every last one of those motherfuckers.*" They drove the way over passing dead towns and cities camping out in the van. They pulled into a building when the storm hit. It was about this time when she knew they couldn't all make it so she killed Margaret and gave her suit to Addie hoping the extra protection would save her. Her last words nearly ended all life in the nut. She wrote, "*somehow they knew this was going to happen. Some people were ready.*"

Her words made conspiracy theories seem real. People questioned how this place was ready just as the world was eradicated. I lived in the Nut for about a year alone, but the facility was ready and almost abandoned for years before the event. Among the release of the paper, I found an unfinished termination letter letting me go as they phased out the project wanting to turn the Nut into a prepper's vacation spot. As the metaphorical keeper of the keys they couldn't remove me from my job or kill me, but I was once again the most hated and mistrusted person in the Nut even more than the Fine brothers. So, back to the usual, I guess. But no, I had a new job. It was my job to push the button and execute those people sentenced to die for their actions by the new court of law. The first three of the seven people were guilty of posting calls of violence on the Nuttery. The last of the seven was the head of security who did nothing wrong. She was in charge when the false hallway massacre happened, and the new government needed someone to blame. I just hope they don't realize how easy it was for me to fake her execution.