

Seekers Writing Submission:
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Panel-1-

The following scene takes place the following morning of the scene in the Vegas casino outlined for all writers. It is in Jennifer Hart's Henderson Nevada apartment...her nephew Bobby who Jennifer is currently the legal guardian of is caught up in a re-occurring nightmare.

The scene is one of a middle aged man driving a station wagon through the darkness of the desert highway at night. His wife is at his side, her head on his shoulder...she is almost asleep.

Caption-1-

U.S Route 95 just a few miles southwest of Boulder City.
A lonely stretch of highway that works its way through Clark County Nevada.

Caption-2-

One year ago.

Panel-2-

The man at the wheel is looking in his rear view mirror at his son. 11 year old Bobby Hart. Bobby is sleeping in the back seat, behind the passenger seat. He is wearing his seat belt and his head is leaning against the window of the back right passenger door of the car in a very uncomfortable looking position.

Panel-3-

The man at the wheel suddenly grips the steering wheel of the car tightly as the car starts to swerve violently to the left. The woman raises her head. There is a loud sound outside.

Two Sound Effects:

Whoompp!

Screeching tires.

Woman/ Annie Hart: What was that, Michael? Did we hit something?

Panel-4-

Michael Hart at the wheel of the car. He is panic struck as he tries in vain to correct the car's path.

Michael Hart: I don't know...Honey. It was like the highway suddenly buckled or something.....hang on!!!

Panel-5-

The station wagon starts to flip over a couple times down the road

Crash noises.

Annie: (frantic word balloon only) Oh My God....Michael!!!

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Panel-1-

The station wagon is on its top now...in the middle of the road. Chunks of the asphalt does appear to be buckled in spots. The car is totaled...broken glass everywhere and the wheels of the car are still spinning.

Panel-2-

Annie hanging upside down and her seat...she has a small head injury which is bleeding above her left eye.

Annie: Michael....

Panel-3-

Annie looks over to the driver seat and spies her husband....we don't have to show what she sees but its obvious Michael didn't make it.

Annie screams!!

Panel-4-

Annie still hanging in her seat...bright lights can be seen through the shattered windshield of the car. She looks back at to where her son was sleeping.

Bobby: (spoken off panel) Mom...what happened? What's going on??

Truck honking its horn loudly.

Panel-5-

Annie frantically unfastens her seat belt....

Truck still honking.

Annie: Bobby...

Panel-6-

Annie reaches into the back seat to un do Bobby's seat belt....

Truck horn getting louder.

Annie: Bobby...you have to do Mom a big favor...open that door and run away from the car as fast as you can....now!

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Panel-1-

The approaching truck starts to jack knife as it attempts to brake and avoid the wreckage in the road....

Panel-2-

Bobby Hart leaping from the upside down door of the station wagon...

Panel-3-

Close up of Annie with tears in her eyes...

Annie: Mommy loves you...

Panel-4-

The truck has flipped onto its side and is sliding over rippled pavement, crashing into the over turned car.

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Panel-1-

Both vehicles explode in a deafening ball of flame...the force of the explosion hurls Bobby Hart through the air.

Panel-2-

This panel is pitch black...with no words at all.

Panel-3-

Another black panel.

Caption-1-

Bobby?

Panel-4-

Another black panel...but this panel is fading black....streaks of light can be seen in it.

Caption-1-

Bobby? Come on, Bobby...I know you can hear me. Wake up already!!

Panel-5-

Close up of Bobby's eyes as they flip open.

Caption-1-

Exactly one year later.

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Panel-1-

Bobby is in his bed. He is being awoken by a very attractive young lady with long blonde curly hair. There is a window near Bobby's bed and the sun is shining brightly outside. The young lady is wearing a dress shirt and a necklace and a pair of slacks. Bobby is wearing his favorite Spider-Guy pajamas (if we can use that type of thing)

Young Lady/Jennifer Hart: You had me worried there for a minute kid. You slept through breakfast...

Panel-2-

Jennifer kneeling down in front of Bobby's bed even as Bobby starts to sit up in it.

Jennifer: Is everything ...okay?

Bobby: I'm fine Aunt Jen...it's just...

Panel-3-

Jennifer sitting down in the rumpled bed next to Bobby. She puts her arm around the boy. Bobby has his knees curled into his chest with his arms wrapped tightly around them

Jennifer: You had the dream again last night? Didn't you?

Bobby: Is it every going to go away? Ever??

Panel-4-

Jennifer pulling Bobby closer to her.

Jennifer: I don't know. It's only been a year...not the best year of our lives, I'll give you that...but I'd like to think one day the dreams will fade away.

Panel-5-

Jennifer turning to look at Bobby who is staring down at his feet.

Jennifer: Or at the very least maybe one day the dreams won't hurt as much.

Bobby: I miss them everyday....why did they have to go?

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Panel-1-

Jennifer still holding Bobby as she looks out the window and the bright morning sun.

Jennifer: You lost your parents...I lost my older sister. It just doesn't seem fair. I know. But we have to keep living our lives....Annie and Michael would have wanted us to.

Jennifer: (2nd word balloon) I'm not saying we forget about them...or anything like that. But we can't just stop breathing. We don't have an off button.

Panel-2-

Bobby looking up at his Aunt who is still looking out the window.

Bobby: What about a reset button? I'd settle for a reset button...

Panel-3-

Jennifer turning to kiss her nephew on the forehead.

Jennifer: I'd like one of those too. But I think we're both out of luck there...

Panel-4-

Jennifer messing up Bobby's hair.

Jennifer: C'mon kid. I know this is going to be a hard day for both of us, but I'm running late....I want you to head downstairs and stick some pop tarts in the toaster or something.

Panel-5-

Jennifer walking out the room as Bobby is stretching and yawning.

Doorbell is ringing in the distance.

Jennifer: That's my friend Linda...you remember her right?

Bobby: I like Linda. She let's me say damn....

Jennifer: But I don't! I want you to be good for her...my boss called last night and wants me to cover some stupid story in Vegas. I should be home by dinner....

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Panel-1-

Jennifer in her car...a nice but small sports car. A few years old...she is driving past a road sign that reads

Henderson City Limit

Another sign in the distance reads

Las Vegas 9 miles

Panel-2-

Close up of Jennifer, side view.

Caption-1-

Man I feel like dirt. I lied to Bobby. I called off today. Saw something on the internet last night I wanted to check out for myself.

Caption-2-

It's probably nothing. But I just can't shake the feeling that I should make the drive anyway... but now I'm thinking that maybe I should have stayed with him. It's a beautiful morning...we could have went bike riding...disc golfing...something. Anything to help keep his mind off of....

Caption-3-

Has it really been a year already?

Panel-3-

Straight view of Jennifer's face. Small tears are starting to form in the corners of her eyes.

Caption-1-

Annie. I miss you so much.

Panel-4-

Jennifer reaches over to turn on the radio.

Caption-1-

That'll be all of that. I don't need to dwell on things I can't change.

Radio Voice: Good Morning Henderson...it's me Mike Crable waking up with you at KXMB 94.1 FM...looks like we're in for another bright and sunny Nevada morning...looking at a high of 104 and tonight's low will be around 85...

Panel-5-

Jennifer's car speeding down the road....

Caption-1-

What was it that Mom used to say?

Caption-2-

Everything happens for a reason.

Caption-3-

Wonder if you would still feel that way today, Mom?

Radio Voice: Here's the latest from Maroon 5...

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Panel-1-

A somewhat tall and thin middle aged man in a hat is standing in front of a building on Dean Martin Drive in Las Vegas. He has short brown hair which is starting to grey at the temples and a five o'clock shadow. Although in this view his back is to the reader...he is also wearing a thin short sleeve shirt, nice jeans and hiking boots. An attaché case is clutched in his right hand.

To his left is a shorter man...what is left of his hair is black and he is also staring at the same building. He is wearing a black business suit. Several people are already walking down the street despite the fact it is still somewhat early.

Caption-1-

Dean Martin Drive
Las Vegas

Man in the hat/Arthur Norden: So this is what it comes down to, hunh Marty? You got me booked for two days of seminars at the Govinda.

Marty Goodson: Best I could do Arthur. Look at it this way...at least you're still in the Death Valley region..talking aboutyou know...important Death Valley topics of interest.

Panel-2-

Arthur turning to glare at Marty who is wiping the back of his hand across his forehead. It's pretty hot in that suit already.

Arthur: Marty...people come this town to see David Lee Roth try to sing...get married by Elvis...that kind of thing. Nobody here is going to give a crap about Nitrophila mohavensis...

Marty: The plight of the Nitrophila mohavensis is a very important...

Arthur: It's a plant Marty.

Marty: It's an endangered species..

Arthur: David Lee Roth is an endangered species...trust me. More people are going to go see that guy than come to hear me talk about some plant.

Panel-3-

Close up of Marty

Marty: What do you want me to do Arthur? What?

Panel-4-

Arthur who is starting to look a little frustrated.

Arthur: I want you to do whatever you have to do to get me back on that dig in Death Valley. That's what I want you to do, damn it. I was just starting to make some serious progress there.

Panel-5-

Marty...not appreciating Arthur's tone of voice....more foot traffic...some people may take slight notice of the two bickering men.

Marty: Making progress? Is that what you call it, Arthur? Two men lost their lives on that dig...

Panel-6-

Arthur pointing at Marty.

Arthur: Damn it to Hell Goodson. I'll tell you like I told everybody else. That wasn't my fault!

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Panel-1-

A shot of Marty's back as he stares into the face of a very angry Arthur Norden.

Marty: I never said what happened in Death Valley was your fault. I've known you for what...15 years? If you say you did everything right at that site I believe you.

Marty: (2nd word balloon) But you don't have to prove anything to me...I'm the guy that's on your side here. The funding was pulled. The research partners want to continue on if possible and would like for you to be a part of the team in some capacity once they acquire new funding.

Panel-2-

A reverse shot this time...Arthur's back....Marty is looking towards him.

Marty: In the meanwhile...until the investigation team can confirm you followed all the safety regulations you should have you still need a paycheck. So for the next few days you're here...talking about plants. And only plants. You understand me.

Panel-3-

Arthur and Marty are slowly walking towards the building now...heading for the main doors.

Arthur: And what exactly is that supposed to mean?

Marty: You know exactly what that is supposed to mean.

Panel-4-

Marty and Arthur in the lobby of the building, getting closer to the check in desk

Marty: It means you talk to the people at the seminar...that's it. And you keep the conversation focused on our endangered plant. Nothing else. You're not here to answer questions about the accident that killed Atkins and Moore. No press whatsoever.

Panel-5-

Arthur stopping a few feet from the desk.

Arthur: It wasn't an accident.

Panel-6-

Marty spinning on his heels to turn to face Arthur once again.

Marty: Stop right there. Whatever you're about to say...I don't want to hear it come out of your mouth. What happened six months ago was a tragic accident that we're trying to put behind us. An accident that you were not the blame for but an accident none the less.

Panel-7-

Marty walking away towards the desk leaving Arthur standing by himself.

Marty: Nothing more.

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Panel-1-

Arthur is sitting at a bar, still wearing his hat. There is a bartender wiping down the bar across from him.

Caption-1-

A few hours later, after Arthur Norden gets settled in to his room.

Arthur: Hey, pal...I'll take a Scotch when you get a moment.

Panel-2-

Bartender poring the drink for Arthur.

Bartender: You starting a little early today. It's not even 11:00 yet.

Arthur: You know how it goes....problems at work...plus I've got this bar tab I don't want to go to waste.

Bartender: I hear ya.

Panel-3-

Bartender going back to wiping down the bar. Arthur is holding his drink in his hand and looking down at it, but making no real effort to drink it yet.

Caption-1-

How much Scotch have you swum in these last six months, Arthur old boy? Still hoping that maybe you drink enough to forget that night?

Caption-2-

Forget Atkins and Moore?

Panel-4-

Arthur drinking his drink.

Caption-1-

Forget about what you saw in that cavern. The....creature that caused the cave in...?

Panel-5-

Arthur sets his empty glass on the bar.

Arthur: Barkeep...I'm pretty sure I'm going to need at least one more of these....

.....

Jennifer Hart and Arthur Norden are poised to meet. She had seen on the internet the night before where Norden would be in Vegas doing a speaking engagement. Since the six months that claimed the lives of Charles Atkins and Kevin Moore, Norden has been very vocal about what he saw the night the two of them died. Especially in the first few weeks after the “accident”. His business partner and good friend Martin Goodson has since done a very good job of trying to shift the attention from the comments Arthur made early on and get him back to work. A few of these “rants” were captured on video and since found their way to YouTube, where Jennifer ran across them. She is a solid reporter who typically tries to stay away from “far fetched” stories but can’t help being drawn into the details of the deaths of Atkins and Moore. She feels there are some factors in the deaths of her sister and her brother-in-law that seems to tie the two separate events together, they happened not far from each other. There were signs of an earth tremor of unknown origin at both events. And there are the comments that Norden made about a creature, a man like creature erupting from the ground and causing the cave in that killed Norden’s men.

When Bobby first told the stories of his parents’ deaths, he would mention a similar man like creature emerging from the flames of the wreckage and walking away into the darkness.

Many hours of counseling has since pretty much convinced both Jennifer and Bobby that he saw nothing of the sort. It was his mind and the flames mixed with a love for “funny books” playing tricks on him that night. That was until Jennifer heard Norden mention seeing something similar, six months to the day of the deaths of Michael and Annie. Less than 150 miles away.

Jennifer realizes through conversations with Arthur that he feels very guilty about the deaths of his colleagues, more details on that will follow. (The Gatherer may have spoken to Arthur that night and mentioned that he had be awoken out of sequence) Before leaving Vegas the two of them learn of the incident that occurred in the casino earlier as the “wise guy” is overheard talking about running into a crazy broad that broke his wrist, after what felt like a slight earth quake. Six months since the Death Valley incident. Our heroes work together going over details of the fatal car crash and eventually make their way back to the Death Valley dig, once there they have their first run in with “Section P”.

They are saved from the clutches of the government organization by the same “Seeker” who emerged from the ground and inadvertently caused the deaths of Bobby’s parents. He goes on to explain the Seekers back story. He is one of seven “Seekers” all of which are just now starting to awake from their “Life-Sleep” due to a trigger event. An event kept secret from the common knowledge of the inhabitants on the planet Earth.

Weeks before the accident in the highway, government officials from across the globe worked together to detonate a small nuclear device in space to change the course of a large asteroid, keeping it from crashing into the planet. The staged event worked perfectly but some of these same government agencies are already discussing other possible uses for nuclear devices in space which include possible new star drive engines driven by nuclear power sources, the mining of elementally enriched asteroids and planets and even quite possibly the colonization of inhabitable planets.

All seven Seekers and The Gatherer buried themselves deep within the Earth at the dawn of time waiting for an event like this to wake them, at which time they are to judge

the fate of the planet. All of the Seekers and the Gatherer were buried close together in the what one day would be the Western United States. The actual Doomsday Device itself has been primed with the awakening of the first Seeker and is located under the Denver Airport, dangerously close to being discovered by the humans and Section P.

This Seeker who later joins forces with Norden and Hart (he believes humans are worth saving, after all the use of a potential weapon of mass destruction in space was done so to save their own planet from a possible extinction level event, and he was at the crash scene where we witnessed the love of a human mother save her only child).

We also learn that this Seeker and the female Seeker first seen in the casino scene have a “personal” history. This female Seeker is one of the most ruthless of the seven. Their will be a developing supporting plot where the Seeker who sides with Norden and Hart will try to win the affections of his former lover back.

Bobby and this Seeker will also become close friends as the Seeker tries to make amends for his part in the events that caused the deaths of Bobby’s parents and Bobby sees the Seeker as a super-hero of sorts trying to save the planet with the help of his Aunt Jen and Arthur Norden.

I have not yet decided if a romantic interest between Jen and Arthur would come across as cliché’.

Actual clues to the other Seekers are discovered first at the Death Valley dig and again at the scene of the death of Bobby’s parents, this is actually discovered by Bobby, immense energies are released when a Seeker awakes, burning an image into the surrounding Earth. This “Burned Shadow Effect” that not even the Seekers are aware of can actually be used as a map of sorts to locate the other Seekers but it is not until they meet the Gatherer that everybody learns the location of the Doomsday Device.

The story would climax with a confrontation at the Denver Airport between Norden, Hart, and their Seeker ally, that same Seekers past love interest, Section P, and The Gatherer as well as the other Seekers.

The Seekers learn during the conflict that the Gatherer is nothing more than android and has to channel the “life force” of all seven Seekers through the device that would then charge to full power as the life force of the Seekers is supposedly transmitted through the device and later channeled back to new host bodies waiting for them on their planet.

One Seeker doubts this theory and refuse to give his life to some untested theory and decides it is better to rule Earth then possibly die being used at the hands of the Gatherer and his own people, The Gatherer orders the other Seekers to capture this renegade without harming him, if he dies then the device will not work as designed, it needs the life energies of all seven to properly charge and detonate the device.

Hearing this the Seeker makes one last ditch attempt to convince his former lover to come back to him, and the two of them can leave Earth to find their destiny among the stars. She refuses.

The Seeker then takes his own life, the machine cannot function properly now...but may still work well enough to ensure galactic peace by crippling mankind’s evolution for a few thousand years if the renegade Seeker is subdued. The fate of the world now rests in how the female Seeker reacts to the death of her former lover.

