

[static]

TACITUS

Hello my brothers and sisters, welcome back you are here with Tack Tacitus, your man with the plan. Have you been keeping yourselves safes out there? Have you been laying low? I know I have but not because I don't care, don't put that on me! I care deeply so deeply I spend my time compiling for you. Compiling for your souls. The echos from our scared brethrin. What must they have felt in the monts after? Where did they go? So pipe up and pipe down listen in in to this round of eye witness accounts. Not I that have witnessed but those that have gone before me and I am resurrecting the memory. So here you go you stalwart survivors here's a bit of audiophonic ephemerality for ya. Here is a story of tragedy.

[static. a dial tunes in]

KELLY

...obviously what we're recording here is very important.

JACK

Important for what? who gonna listen to em? People?

KELLY

we do honestly think this is a really important thing that we're doing. to get these accounts so that we can learn about what is happening-

JACK

Okay, you know what you're done preaching. You're done. I get it.

KELLY

You don't have to do this-

JACK

No I get it, you wanna say your piece, you said your piece. Iit dont matter what you done, what we doin.

KELLY

Well we think-

JACK

you need to be digging down not digging up. C'mon.

KELLY

We-we-we want your piece. We want to hear what you have to say-

JACK

Yeah, I get that. Well go on.

KELLY

...uh, we are recording now, for the record [clears throat] sorry, for the record file number 72.

JACK

[scoffs] Goddam number.

KELLY

And the uh...whenever you're comfortable. Whenever you're ready. Just tell us about your experience, what you remember about how everything started might be a good place...

JACK

Yeah...yeah what I remember. I got lucky. I was in tennessee, a town called Hot Black, Tennessee. i was on business, driving through, so i spent those first few days in my hotel watcing the news. Hot Black is one of those little towns you drive through between real cities in america. pretty much just a truck stop, hotel, general store. It's like driving back in time 40 years. so there wasn't a saucer anywhere near us until the very end. I didn't like the way it smelled from jump. nothing the president said made me feel any better. after the first day, not one truck left the station or pulled in. we all just sat in our rooms or the diner and waited. when the president said they were coming, hell broke loose. i mean that. People ran. they ran no where. it was like watching cats in the rain. I don't know what you saw when they came, i don't want to know. i've heard a few stories, and they're all about the same. the spaceship, that black frisbee, i don't know how loud it is. i couldn't tell how far away it was cause i don't know how big it was, but it was shaking the cheap window frames of my motel room and it was 20 miles away if it was a foot. and it was headed our way. most of us ust watched. but it got louder, and closer. then those damn arms came out.

KELLY

Wait um, what arms?

JACK

You kidding me right?

KELLY

No.

MARK

those ropes or wires or tubes, I don't know. i'm sure i'll find out soon. they started snaking and sniffing all over the ground. we could see what they were doin, you know, it was too far. it came so fast. i left everything. i got in my truck and just left. everyone was leaving. I saw...god, I saw an 18 wheel semi drive right through mini van in the parking lot. guy barely found the road, he wasn't thinking, he was just running. the van was empty but the family I belonged too...they tried to run after the truck. they ran after every car. they could leave. that truck driver, he killed that family.

KELLY

He...killed them?

MARK

Oh yeah. He didn't hit em, but he stranded them there. I don't blame him though. that kind of fear, all you can do is run. i had room for the family in my truck too. I didn't stop either. I looked that man right in his eye and I drove past. he knew. course the truck tipped over when he tried to take the road too hard. fell right out the door, it swung open, he rolled and flopped over. didn't see him get up, but I was long gone man.

KELLY

So...long gone. Where were you heading? What was your plan?

JACK

Plan? I didn't have no plan! I didn't HAVE....I drove to the mountains. as far up as my truck would take me. I could still hear the spaceship, I could see them anywhere, but I could hear it everywhere. so I got out and ran when my truck got stuck. i ran like a scared little kid who knew his daddy was gonna whup him when he got home. I didn't even think about food or water, I just wanted to hide. I had some beef jerky in my truck, that's it. didn't even grab that. got damn lucky you folks were already up here hidin. I guess. they'll find us sooner or later, especially with them shit-heads of yours going outside.

KELLY

So um...what else can you tell us?

JACK

that's it. what else do you want? they came, I saw, I ran. heroes are all dead. there's just people who got caught and us who ain't been caught yet. So...so there.

KELLY

Did you see more saucers, or did you see people get taken by them?

JACK

(pause) yeah I saw some. I saw a little. you want to know? you think you want to know.  
you'll find out soon enough.

KELLY

I'm...I'd be willing to find out now if you'd be willing to share that with me.

JACK

I drove up the mountain here, iIcould see down the valley some city, I don't know which, but it was pretty close. there was a spaceship, maybe the same one, I don't know, it had it's tubes snaking around. just hooving people up. anyone running around outside scooped right in. miles and miles up the tubes into the ship. that buzzing noise, like a diesle engine made of bugs, it's all I could hear. I was doin 90 around these curves just get away. I felt like that ship could see me. I wanted to be in the woods, under cover. that's when i drove my truck off road and straight up got it stuck after a couple miles. panic. pure panic. cause I saw em. You understand? is this what you want? I SAW them. couldn't seem em too good cause I was halfway up this mountain but these guys are big. 10 feet high, I dunno. dark and solid. like a kodiak. you even seen a kodiak bear? big. fast. climbing on the building and bringing people out. they're gonna find us. they're gonna take us. I don't know why. why would they take us? why not just kill us here? they want us. they want to do something with us or to us. think about why we do it. why do we go into an animals habitat and take em all out alive? to eat em. to farm em. study em maybe. put em in a nature perserve. cull the herd. best case senario: human zoo. but we don't put every single animal in a zoo, we' just take a couple. they're taking all of us. against our will. whatever they want...

KELLY

take a second, if you need-

JACK

I don't need no second! I'm damned to hell...you know that truck driver who killed that family? I truly hope he died in that ditch. and I say that with all of Jesus' mercy in my heart. I hope he died quick so he doesn't have to meet that family up in the hell that came for us.

KELLY

um...there's always the possibility that they could be done. That perhaps not everybody is

going to be taken....since it hasn't happened yet.

JACK

if you really believed that you wouldn't be hiding up here. Listen...you hear that? That's them. they're gonna come pull us out of this hole and stuff us into a tube. we're going to die screaming in a space ship. if anyone here has a gun and an ounce of mercy you'll shoot those kids out there in the back of the head so they don't have to look the devil in the eye when he comes.

(buzzing is loud now. scuffle. Screams.)

KELLY

Oh God...OH-

JACK

too late! too late! jesus! save me! lord no!

(we hear the aliens voices. soothing but metallic and grating. the mic gets bopped. there are some screams. then it's over)

[static. a dial tunes in]

TACITUS

So that's that. does it not rattle your cage like it did mine? That right there is our damnation. I don't believe in salvation. Yees my brothers and sisters, you get a good picture of where I am now. Picking thru debris of what might be still if we get together and build up. I say to you now if you're hiding if you don't want to show your face I understand but the human race deserves more. I'm not gonna sit idly by while my brethren fly to the sky taken against their will. No, still I search on. and that threats not gone. Neither am I. vengeance will be mine.

[static]