

[static.]

TACITUS

Hello my brothers and sisters of the wastes of Earth. This is Tacitus with the whispers from what was ever since invasion day with an aurel experience to pass the time away and solidify within your soul the spirit of resilience, persistence, and perseverance. Earth may be abandoned now but we will rise again. I will find each and every one of you. If anyone is out there, if any one is listening, I'm with you. Your pal Tack is with you. Colleting bits of history left behind to piece together the mystery of what happened to human kind. Now let me settle down on your ear drums with something right here from the files of the American mid west where Tacitus rcently found a treasure trove of knowledge. I shit you not these are the audio files of what was.

[static, a dial hones in]

MARK

Are you a journalist?

KELLY

I'm not just recording this for fun, I'm recording because I think this is gonna be useful. I'm gonna go ahead and you can uh chat, whatever you wanna say-

MARK

yeah sure.

KELLY

-for the record this is file number 12. Uhm. yeah go ahead, tell me whatever you want.

MARK

right now?

KELLY

yeah.

MARK

what do you want me to say?

KELLY

whatever you remember. why don't you start when it happened?

MARK

Uh...Okay. It was August 14th, 2007. I didn't actually find out what happened until that night. Oh, it was like 11.30 in the morning when we noticed them. That's when they came.

KELLY
where were you?

MARK
I was at the theatre, North Rock 6, they were showing 'Stand Ashore Timeless', an old Randy Jacobson movie...and I walked home, i didn't have a car so i was walking home and listening to music, i had my headphones in so I was sort of in my own world and reading, cause i read while i'm walking, and didn't realize anything was going on. I took a nap. When i got home i napped-

KELLY
did you...what did you think when you saw the saucer?

MARK
Uh well...it was almost 7 before i finally saw the news. We didn't have a saucer, i was in Decater, Illinois. We didn't have one. the nearest one was i guess in texas. but that was, eventaully obviously they sent one to colorado. Sorry, right. first i saw the news, they came. the saucers were everywhere. the whole world. I called some people, my dad called me. my sisters. i didn't really react though. no one did, right? I feel like no one did. there was that sound bite they played everywhere, for the short while we could still play soundbites. the president:
instert president
"stay calm. stay home. We are in communication with them"

MARK
THATS when everyone got scared. Right? We had like, two days? not quite, of sort of waiting. obviously lots of people were freaking out already, i remember what happened to the orlando airport...

KELLY
the orlando airport?

MARK
Yeah...got shut down cause all the tourists tried to leave and then all the major airports shut down, it's not like people...we were scared i guess but most of us didn't...like we were in our homes thinking "so where am i supposed to run to?" I'm sorry...okay hang on hang on. there's that line from hitchhiker's guide to the galaxy, you know it?

KELLY

Vaguely. I know of it, I haven't read it.

MARK

Okay, well, it's when the vagon ships appeared and..it's something like "people were running into their houses, people were running out of there houses, but there was no where to go". It's not that, i can't remember the actual line. i'm sure it was funnier than that...But when the president said that. *insert line again*...what does that mean?? "In communication"? that means anything, it means nothing! if we just said 'hello' to the outside of the ship, that's 'in communication', if they show up and announce they're going to harvest our blood, that's 'in communication'. **[BLEEP BLOOPING WITH RISING HUM]**they could just be shooting prime numbers at each other. it was just enough information to let us know there's more information that they aren't giving us. **[[BLOOPING STOPS]** especially the *stay home* part. stay home? that sat wrong, i think. I have, uh i had a communications degree so maybe i'm over thinking it but...i mean no i guess not right? look where we are now. so i was right..we were all right who worried.

KELLY

So at that point then when you started to feel actually worried what did you do?

MARK

Uhh...okay...yeah wait wait. cause i know, okay here's what I know they DIDN'T do.
[CRASHING, BURNING, LOOTING NOISES]

KELLY

uh...

MARK

What..what'd you just ask?

KELLY

So when you started getting worried at that point as you say what then did you do when you started feeling that way?

MARK

Sorry. It's all getting a little fuzzy. You know there was all these looting and fires...people went nuts. which i thought was funny, like in a gallows humor sort of way, cause whenever i would see that in movies, like in when the end is nigh, i never really bought it. There was an episode of Slider's, you watch it?

KELLY
uh, yeah yeah.

MARK
Oh, oh okay where a flood or meteor or something...

KELLY
A meteor yeah!

MARK
Something was gonna end the world and people where in the streets rioting and having sex and going nuts and i always thought "no way. people don't want to spend their last minutes on fire. that one i got wrong, we started eating each other. Figurativley. Then the rolling blackouts came. I still don't know if that was us or them. i don't know if it was the chaos, or the government or if they were...doing whatever. So i didn't have power at all that third day. I called my family[**phone buttons beeping**] again to see if they were okay, but i stayed off the phone to keep the charge. Some of my neighbors were getting like a sort of posse together to go to the walmart and get 'doomsday' supplies. I didn't go cause i figured if the walmart hadn't been picked clean already, it was gonna be a war zone. [**deep, quiet, low rumble. maybe storm clouds. hint of doom**] i don't know what happened, but they didn't come back. not one of them.

KELLY
I'm...sorry.

MARK
It's okay. What are you gonna do?

KELLY
What um...at what point is this now? How much time has passed?

MARK
Uhh four days. Day four is when the rest of the saucers came. [**saucer noise**]300 for us. 30 for canada. a hundred thousand for india. population density was the thing. about a million people per saucer, we figured out. that's when you started seeing the tanks on tv. [**boots marching. jet noise. tank noise. channel changing with each sfx. tv turns off**]jets flying overhead. the police left. everyone left. I don't know where they thought they could go. running out of their houses felt productive i guess. I stayed, i called my family. didn't get a hold of my sister, dad was making his way to the cabin. I was terrified beyond the capacity for rational thought, but i had nowhere to go. I could see the saucers

from my front yard now.
Then the information stopped. that's when even i got scared. but not because it stopped.

KELLY
what do you mean?

MARK
It just stopped. When my power came back on i was watching [tv turning on. muffled news report] the news, trying to get any information uh, about them. They were reporting that we had lost contact with the rest of the world. what, the real kicker is that they divided us all up by country. we didn't know what was going on in canada and mexico unless you could shout across the border. Wrap your mind around that. How is that possible? how is that even possible?? how did they keep us isolated? we could see all our own news, they but not anyone else's?? that's not how technology works, right? even the internet! we could only see american websites, we could only call inside our own countries phone lines. that's magic. that's basically magic! And beyond just a display of their power and intellect, which is considerable, the real boggle was why. why do that at all? why not stop all information? why cut us off from each other? I don't know, i don't know. and it's so weird to make the distinction with us. what do they care if north america is three countries to us? why isn't it just one land mass?

KELLY
Why do you think that is then?

MARK
Your guess is as good as mine, you know? any comforting answer sounded like a fiction. and even this is our best guess. stuff we heard from people who jumped the border. Maybe spain and portugal could talk to each other. they blinded us and isolated us. so we just guess. best guess. so we don't know how the other nations reacted, if they fought back. Right? we didn't. all we know is the last thing the president told us before the lights went out.

KELLY
You...are you...what exactly are you referring to, that the president said?

Mark
Of all the thing I've remembered today...I remember this...
instert president
"We must co-operate with the newcomers. we have been made aware of their intentions. if we resist, it will only be to our immediate detriment. this is not the last chapter of the human race. stay safe. stay home. they are coming"

MARK
and then they did.

[static. a dial tunes in]

TACITUS

There you have it confusion collateral callerbation. and thats only file 12. tune in next time you know where you know when. stay safe my brothers and sisters. watch the skies.

[static]