

Earth Reset

(Prologue)

Have you ever wondered what would happen if the nuclear powers went to all out war? Would mankind survive? Would the earth survive? I thought it would make an interesting story to see what could happen and the aftermath of such an event.

Jeremy was a bright student, almost at genius level. No one really thought that because he did poorly in school. It wasn't because he didn't know the answers on the tests, he just wasn't interested. He sailed through high school with average test scores and when his parent asked if he wanted to go to junior college, he declined. His real passion was environmental studies. He wondered if mankind really had much effect on the earth's condition. All the supposedly experts said the earth was doomed. Global warming caused by fossil fuel burning was out of control and unless something drastic changed, there was no turning back. Jeremy didn't think so. Yes, mankind did pollute and add to green house gases, but he didn't think that had much effect on the overall health of the earth. In the past 15K years, the earth was much warmer than today and it wasn't caused by man. His real fear was nuclear annihilation. He believed that an all out nuclear war would bring about what experts called, "A Nuclear Winter". Mushroom clouds and debris would block the sunlight and cause everything on earth to die out, including mankind.

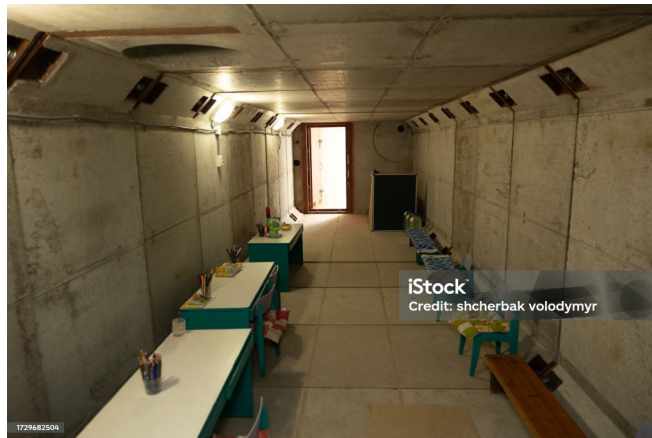
He spent the next 10 years preparing for this event that he was sure would happen someday. Making money was easy for him. He started with the money he made working as a box boy in a grocery store. He advanced to checker and was promoted to assistant manager. Using his work paychecks, he invested in the stock market. The secret to investing was not so secret to him. He chose fairly secure stocks and examined their 1 year history. He also tracked global trends. When war in the middle east was imminent, he waited until oil prices plummeted. He bought low and when a peace settlement was discussed he sold high. Nothing stays the same for long.

Author's note: I have used this same theory and have never lost in the stock

market. I don't gamble too much money. Just playing around.

He had purchase a large section of land in the Mohave desert. One of his friends had a father who dug tunnels in Italy and also worked for the railroad in New York before coming to Orange County. He told his friend about his plan to make kind of a bomb shelter in the desert. His father gave them advice on how to dig the tunnels and what kind of machines would make the digging go fast. Jeremy didn't advertise his tunnel activities. In fact, no one knew of his plans except his two best friends. The tunnels were 20 feet below the surface. He dug wells in various places for fresh water. He had scoped out the area years before. It had lots of geothermal activity. He knew if Armageddon ever occurred, nothing on the surface would be safe. He couldn't rely on solar power.

The Tunnels and Bomb Shelter



He had arraigned for hydroponic gardens, air purifying filters, and surface

monitoring sensors for air quality, radiation, and temperature.

As years went by, the world tensions increased. If Jeremy's prediction ever came true, nothing on the surface would be livable for years, if not for decades. In order to preserve mankind, he would need hundreds of volunteers to take to his tunnels for survival. Where would he find them and how could he convince them of the real danger? He decided he would enlist the global warming fanatics. He started a website and loaded it up with a bunch of phony statistics. He offered visits to his underground bunker to demonstrate how everyone could survive. He was amazed at how many showed up and continued to show up. He collected a data base of potential enthusiasts. His real reason was to vet who would be the best candidates. He needed a mix of ethnicity, culture, and sexes. His criteria was that they should be an only child, preferably single, under 40, and athletic. If this ever happened, the group has to be compatible to insure the propagation of the human race. If his predictions came true, politics, religion, and fanaticism would be replaced with the desire for clean water, fresh air, and food.

Earth Reset *(Chapter 1)*

Jeremy didn't realize how soon things would boil over. The first thing that happened was China finally took Taiwan. The US sent warships to the China Sea and rattled their sabers. They also positioned several of their fleet of Ohio class nuclear subs in the area. All the super powers were put on alert. There was always some protocol before any nukes were launched. That went out the window when Iran finally completed their nuclear testing and launched a nuke strike that annihilated Israel. Iran knew that the US would reciprocate, so they launched two missiles that they had camouflaged with American symbols into Russia and China thinking that would divert attention away from them. They were wrong on that front. Tehran was wiped with a single warhead. Both Russia and China, believing that America had launched a preemptive strike, countered with a barrage of their own aimed at Washington DC, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and many other top American cities. They could have saved their ammunition for San Francisco.

They had already destroyed themselves by not enforcing laws. The crime and homelessness made the whole city unlivable. The president gave authority to the sub captains to launch on Moscow and Beijing. The sub captains received an EAM (Emergency Action Message) alert with permission to launch.

Author's note:

Theodore Roosevelt issued this historical statement. “Walk softly, but carry a big stick!” Our fleet of nuclear subs represent our “Big Stick”.

I know about this EAM message because the equipment that I designed and programmed during my engineering career processed the EAM message and initiated instrumentation recording. The Navy would package all the data showing that our “Big Stick” still worked and send it off the Moscow, Beijing, and other the super powers. Even today, my programs are still active aboard our nuclear subs. This was always done during the annual missile launch test. Of course those missiles were not armed.

Before the Internet crashed, Jeremy sent out messages to all of his chosen followers to meet at the bomb shelter tunnel.

There were only two of Jeremy's friends that he trusted with his real motives. He also sent messages to them to get to the tunnels ASAP.

Jeremy had planned out the actions needed for this scenario. Both of his friends had already been clued in. He anticipated, besides his followers, that many others would try to gain entrance into the shelter.

The whole world was experiencing collapse. The nuclear winter was in full effect. All infrastructure collapsed. No power in the major cities, telecommunications, except for the military channels, were down.

Jeremy met with his two comrades. This is what we must do. We only let in those who had previously subscribed and visited our tunnel. All others will be rejected. We three must be armed and ready to make difficult decisions.

You will be confronted by women with babies or children demanding

entrance. The sick and the elderly. You must be firm and not give in. Our shelter has a limited capacity. Overloaded and our whole plan will fail. There can be some exceptions. If we still have room, eligible men or woman can be accepted. They must meet our original criteria.

So it went as Jeremy predicted. Way more people than those notified turned up. It was the hardest day of his life to have to reject so many crying to get in. He had to remain steadfast in order to have any kind of success. One of his tactics was to tell them that there was another shelter 5 miles down the road that was still accepting people. If you hurry, you might get in. This was a lie, but it was better than having to shoot people.

All in all, he received 300 persons. That was the maximum he could accept. The men/women ratio was about 50-50. In the coming months, couples would pair off and begin a new life underground.

When the steel vault door was shut, Jeremy gave an introductory speech. He had monitors displayed for all to view. It showed the dark cloud blocking the sun and also displayed the instrument readings. The outside temperature plummeted to near freezing. The air quality became UN-breathable and radiation permeated the ground.

For those of you who were lured here by false information about global warming, I apologize. What you are seeing on the monitors was always my real fear and I constructed this underground chamber for the survival of the human race.





There may be other places on earth where someone created their own shelters, but no one will know for a long time. Some areas of the globe like South America might escape the initial blast, but eventually people will die off due to starvation, lack of clean water, and contaminated air.

He explained about the fresh water wells, the geothermal energy plant, and the hydrophobic garden. The atmosphere still contains oxygen and my air filters will clean out any contaminants. I constructed a double chamber with double filters. There is only one problem that may confront us in the future. The outside air filters will have to be replaced occasionally. During this process, whoever does the maintenance may be exposed to deadly air or radiation. We do have some bio-hazard suits that can be worn to minimize the danger.

I have distributed some pamphlets that have information about the shelter and rules that must be followed. For the time being, I have taken the position as interim mayor. My two associate are my deputies. After some time, we will have an election to chose a new one. Besides bathrooms, bedrooms,

kitchens, and exercise chambers, we also have a jail. Even the smallest Navy ship has a brig. Why is this necessary? As witnessed by current events, mankind has always been warlike. It is in our nature. So I expect there to be some disagreements among us. Minor offenses will be dealt with jail time. Hopefully, no major offenses will occur, but if it happens, a death penalty is on the table. This group has no space for an unproductive team member who threatens our peace.

I am also sorry to inform you that we are all now vegetarians. Not because I don't like meat. On the contrary, In & Out was my favorite fast food place. It is just that we don't have the resources to feed animals and handle their waste. I did install a fish pond though. Health experts were always touting the health advantages of omega 3 oils. Fish will be our main source of protein along with our soy bean garden. You may be surprised at my cooking skills. I make a killer tofu dish. The groans were heard loud and clear. Don't prejudge.

At first, everyone was too stunned to fully understand their circumstance. As time went on, they finally accepted their fate. They started to pair off as Jeremy had hoped. Even though Jeremy was the nerdy type, many of the women tried to hook up with him. In these circumstances, intelligence was more important than physical appearance. Instead of choosing the most beautiful, he approached a late 30's something woman who he had seen had an easy going personality and exhibited a caring attitude toward others. He started searching her out and found excuses to be in her company. She was not unaware of his attention. She outright confronted him. Are you stalking me? What? No no, I just admire your way of intermingling with others. Being the nerd he was, he did not get her sarcasm. Why aren't you chasing those stunning beauties? They seem to be throwing themselves at you. I guess it is because it is you that has caught my eye. Finally, he showed some real guts. Well, look no further, as she grabbed his hand. That is how he connected up with Abbey.

Earth Reset
(Chapter 2)

Most of the group had hooked up with partners. Jeremy told them that if it would make them feel better, as the only official inside the chambers, he had the authority to conduct marriages. About half of the group followed through. Others thought it wasn't necessary. There were a few men who didn't want to be tied down with just one person. There were partner exchanges going on. Jeremy saw this as a red flag. Jealousy is one of the strongest and most dangers of emotions. It can drive a man or woman to violence throwing out reason in the process.

This was a problem that he had no solution for. Abbey came to his rescue. She understood people and relationships way more than he did. She said we have to separate the married from the wannabe singles. He didn't like the idea of having two compartments, but if Abbey thought it was necessary, he would go along.

During the next general meeting, he made an announcement. We are going to have a separate area for those who wish to remain single. The married couples and those who chose to stay with one partner will occupy the largest area of the shelter. A smaller area will be designated for the others. This doesn't mean total isolation. There will be no barrier between the areas, just an understanding will be sufficient.

This arrangement worked out fairly well for months until a fight broke out between two males. This was what Jeremy had been worried about. Of course it was between two guys who wanted the same woman. During the confrontation, one of the guys was seriously injured. Jeremy had prepared for some type of medical facility, but nothing that would substitute for a real hospital. The guy ended up dying. So now he was faced with what to do about the other guy. According to his original established rules, the guy could be put to death. Jeremy didn't really want to enforce that, but he needed to do something.

The guy was remorseful and sorry for what happened. That didn't change what needed to be done. Jeremy decided to give the guy a chance for some kind of redemption. Still, he needed to be removed from the group. The only solution left was to send him to the outside. In effect, this was a death sentence. Jeremy said, I will give you a bio-hazard suit and a backpack full of supplies. We need to access the condition of the earth beyond our sensors. We will equip you with a radio and camera and you can send back reports on what you see. The guy accepted this sentence. He knew this was better than just being executed outright.

It had been six months since they all had been enclosed in the shelter. The monitors still reported unsafe conditions. Maybe it wasn't as bad as they thought.

The guy's name was Jack. He managed to trek 5 miles before he succumbed to the elements. He reported that it was still freezing, he saw no wildlife, the streams and lakes were polluted with ash and frozen dead animals. It looked like the earth was not ready for habitation yet.

A year later, there were 50 new members of the group. Jeremy realized that he had miscalculated on one issue. He should have included some middle aged children in his original plan. The group should have been able to increase incrementally. Now there will be a span of 15-20 years before the population increases again. He also made sure that a record of descendants was documented. There could be no inbreeding.

He had also planned for the expansion of the shelter. He had used heavy machinery to dig the initial chambers. That was no longer feasible. His friend's father had dug miles of tunnels under the rock strewn in the ground in Fresno by hand.

Author's note:

I have mentioned this guy in past stories. Here is a brief summation of who he was and what he had accomplished. My wife and I took the tour.

Baldassare Forestiere, a Sicilian immigrant, came to America in 1901 to

pursue his dreams of becoming a citrus farmer. The businesses in Orange County and Apple Valley were already established. He decided to try the central valley in Fresno, California. He bought ten acres of land. What he discovered was the top soil was unsuitable for growing citrus trees. Not willing to give up, he dug a subterranean shelter to get out of the high heat. Over time, he expanded his underground living quarters. Later, he found that he could still grow citrus trees in the underground soil. He even tried to graft mixed fruit trees and was successful producing some amazing hybrids. Frestiere crafted a subterranean complex of patios, grottoes, and garden courts, all featuring arches and stonework using the local hardpan sedimentary rock. He became a self-taught artist, and patterned his underground world after the ancient catacombs he admired as a boy, near his home town of Filari, Sicily. No plans were put on paper; each room and passageway was created in Forestiere's mind as he worked. With simple farm tools (a pick, a shovel, and a wheelbarrow) the young immigrant dug, chipped, and carved the unforgiving hardpan for 40 years, all in his spare time! By the time he was 44 years old, he had excavated and planted over 10 acres.



Forestiere Underground Gardens

If he could do something like that, so can we. Our shelter expanded with our growing population.

Earth Reset
(Chapter 3)

Jeremy had thought of most everything. He had figured that when the shelter population reached about 1000, that was the maximum sustainable capacity. Over population would increase internal problems. He had stocked the supplies with birth control of various types. He had also made a time capsule showing the earth before the bombs fell. Animals, bugs, fish, and plants of all types had been photographed along with a copy of the US constitution and his original instructions for taking care of the shelter. This was all contained on a thumb drive he had placed in the capsule. He had instructed the inhabitants to open the capsule upon his death. He was 86 when he passed away. Abbey had been elected mayor in the first election. He was surprised and happy at the same time. Her calm guidance and intuitive smarts kept the people content. She had been reelected over and over again. Of course his death was a shock and sadness for all. The time capsule was forgotten.

His shelter had an impenetrable viewing window inside the double security chamber that led to the outside filters. It had remained dark all during his lifespan. The shelter sustained everyone. As time went on, lots of the beginning history got lost. Four hundred years later, knowledge of the outside world was only a myth.

Author's note:

This reminds me of a movie I saw years ago. A cruise ship had sunk in about 1000 feet of water. It was called Goliath Awaits. The passengers stayed alive because the ship had not broken up. It just laid on the bottom and they used the ships power system to make oxygen. They did a similar thing like Jeremy did with a hydroponic garden. After years of living in the ship, people forgot that the outside world even existed. They could see the sun through the porthole windows, but did not realize what it was. One day, a diver tapped on the ship's hull. Eventually, everyone was saved.

MARK HARMON CHRISTOPHER LEE ROBERT FORSTER

**Trapped beneath the ocean for 40 years...
what they fear most is rescue.**



The background of the poster is a deep blue, textured surface resembling the ocean floor or the interior of a submarine. A large, circular porthole is centered in the upper half, showing a woman with dark hair and a serious expression. Bubbles and faint, glowing lines are scattered around the porthole. The title 'GOLIATH AWAITS' is written in a large, stylized, white font with a blue outline, slanted upwards from left to right, positioned below the porthole.

GOLIATH AWAITS

DVD
R

COMPLETE UNCUT VERSION

During the past 20 years, the air quality inside the chamber was getting worse. Along with the forgotten capsule, the need to change the outside filters was also forgotten. Calvin was a descendant of Jeremy. He had inherited his IQ. He knew there was something wrong inside the shelter. They had never had trouble with air quality before. He started looking through a chamber that had been designated historical data. He found a large envelope that had been sealed. He opened it up and a picture of Jeremy fell out along with a thumb drive. He was struck by the resemblance to himself. Who was this Jeremy? As I said, stories had been past down from generation to generation and everyone just thought the stories were folk lore. Jeremy's memory had been lost over the centuries. He picked up the thumb drive. Back in the main cabin, he inserted it into a computer USB slot. Opening up many of the files, he saw those images of the animals and forests that Jeremy had included.





He opened up one called basic instructions. There on the list was the one crucial statement about changing the outside filters.

He summoned a couple of the elders and showed them the list. Jeremy volunteered to check on the outside filters. He donned the bio-hazard suit as was instructed. No one even knew it existed. Someone had put up a sign marking the double chamber as hazardous. Kind of like the forbidden zone in the Planet of the Apes movie.

He performed the necessary maintenance, but also noticed a bright light from a giant globe streaming through the window.

The air quality in the shelter returned to normal. Calvin wasn't satisfied with leaving this alone. He speculated that the pictures he had seen displayed on the computer must have come from the outside. It was time to take a risk. He told everyone about his theory. There has got to be more to our world than these tunnels. No one believed it possible. He essentially took the same trip that Jack had taken so many years before. A backpack full of supplies and the bio-hazard suit. He shut the inner hatch and opened the outside one. As he stepped out, the sun hit him right away. Such warmth.

Author's note:

After a nuclear blast, radiation levels drop dramatically. The ocean is a nature filter for radiation contamination. As an example, the Bikini Atoll is still unsafe for human habitation even 60 years after the Castle Bravo blast.

The largest nuclear test ever conducted by the US. Russia had a larger one. The waters around the island are safe for divers and the fish are safe to eat. The coconut crabs that repopulated the island are still radioactive and unsafe to eat. When the bomb went off, everything on the island was obliterated. The coconut crabs lay their eggs in the ocean, so they still were able to reproduce. The only things alive on the island are coconut crabs and coconut trees.

How about Chernobyl? Some areas are deemed safe, but the exclusion zone is not. The Chernobyl exclusion zone, due to the high levels of radiation, is estimated to remain uninhabitable for humans for at least 20,000 years.

It is speculated that the Japanese nuclear plant that was ruptured during an earthquake will take at least 40 years before the radiation levels will be harmless. Humans and the earth would be able to survive total mutual annihilation by the super powers. Forget global warming and rising sea levels. A nuclear winter would be the worse man made disaster of all time.

To continue:

The view that Calvin was presented with was much different from that shown on the computer files. He saw no animal larger than a mouse. Lots of bugs though. The effect of the nuclear winter had an effect similar to the massive meteor in the ocean that hit off of the Yucatan peninsula creating a huge cloud that blocked the sun for months killing off all plant life. Some dinosaurs, such as, Stegosaurus, Triceratops, Brachiosaurus, Diplodocus, and Ankylosaurus no longer had any food to eat. The meat eaters lasted the longest feasting on those herbivore carcasses. The forests had come back. The air quality was fresher than that inside the shelter. As he walked along, he could view fish in the clear waters of the streams and lakes. There were clouds in the sky and soon it began to rain. The rain was pure and refreshing. The earth had indeed reset itself. He removed the bio-hazard suit.

When he returned to the shelter he told all what he had seen. Even after that, many were reluctant to venture outside. It took a while before everyone believed what he had said was true.

Humans are sometimes strange. When Spanish conquistadors first arrived in the Americas, they thought tomatoes were poisonous. Probably because someone ate one and became sick. Several of the shelter people spent too much time outside in the sun and got sun burnt. They spread the word that the sun was harmful to humans. Partially true. A couple drowned in the lake and streams not realizing that they could not swim. Calvin was the first one to dispel these fears. Remembering pictures of animals that had crossed the rivers, he figured that there must be some method to it. He spent some time in shallow waters until he learned to swim. He taught others to do the same. He was the first one to try fishing. He bent a thin piece of metal into a hook, tied it to a slim tree branch with some bark strands and attached a bug on the hook.



Now fresh fried fish was on the menu. He used the same technique to fashion a bow and arrow. There were still birds flying around and after a long time practicing, he managed to hit one. None of the shelter people had

ever tasted meat.

At first, the people were afraid to venture out too far from the shelter that they had lived in their whole lives. That was understandable. Eventually, the more adventurous spread out and actually built their own shelters outside. There were still the tools from the tunnel digging that they could use to carve out some flat plots. They always dug cellars with expanding tunnels just in case.

So what of the rest of the world? Did anyone else survive? You will have to wait for the epilogue to find out.

The End for now!

Maybe I will do Calvin in new California.

Earth Reset *(Epilogue)*

So what was the condition of the earth in my post-Armageddon fictional world.

Not too bad really. Now as far as human kind was concerned, they didn't do so good. Only Jeremy's group survived. As mentioned before, South America didn't get the radiation from the initial nuclear blasts and those people survived for a while. The winds did blow the radiation around the globe and many died from radiation sickness. Mostly they couldn't handle the nuclear winter.



Even when the clouds cleared in some spots, the frozen earth just reflected the sun light back into space acting like a giant frozen mirror keeping the earth frozen. Most of that continent wasn't used to freezing conditions. Many just froze to death. Others managed to find shelter in caves and underground burrows. The debris and mushroom clouds hung around for years killing off all plants. Many of the animals starved. Those humans left fought for the dwindling food sources. There were many conflicts fighting for resources and killing off more people. Eventually, even those left met their end breathing the poisoned air and drinking polluted water. No one had the foresight to prepare like Jeremy did. The Eskimos did OK for a while. They were used to frigid conditions, but even they couldn't escape the lingering radiation and loss of their main food sources.

There were still cement ghost towns where cities used to prosper. It would take eons before the elements reduced them to dust.

Just like his distant great great great etc. grandfather Jeremy, Calvin was now the most popular male in the group. Intelligence over physique. He had yet to marry. Instead of choosing a homely girl with a calm personality, he

picked the hottest babe in the group with a fiery personality. His high IQ didn't transition to smart choices in the pursuit of love. He did marry Tanya and his relationship was like the early earth period of volcanic eruptions. A hot and cold union.

Author's note: I remember a song from the 60's. One of the lyric lines went something like this, "If you want to be happy for the rest of your life, make an ugly woman your wife." There is a corollary for that, but I can't think of it at the moment.

In spite of that, Calvin was one of the first to build an outside shelter, he hunted, fished, and took long hikes to check out the renewed earth.



He saw some of the results of radiation mutation.



Come on! I don't believe these.

Jeremy had not pushed religious concepts inside of the shelter. Most were just concentrating on surviving and getting along. Over the decades, historical figures like Mohammad, Jesus, and Buddha were lost. So when the

survival group emerged from the shelter and started to expand out to new areas, the prophetic words of John Lennon in his song “Imagine” took on real meaning.

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world

For the next 100 years mankind lived in peace. Eventually, someone found historical documents preserved in glass vaults in the decayed cities detailing the lives of those religious prophets.

New zealots were born and once again battles in the name of religion started up again. Is mankind doomed to repeat its mistakes over and over again?

There is no telling.

The Real End