

The Story of Thomas Costello

By

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Meliora Hero's Journey

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Chapter 1

It was just another hot typical day in Phoenix, Arizona I was just your average “geek” kid. Always sitting in the back of my classroom just writing anything that would find its way into my brain. I kept to myself, not telling anyone really anything apart from my best friend Phil. Phil and I were best friends, we’re both in 7th grade and no matter what happened, he would always be on my side.

I never really talked that much in the classes I was in, in fact, there was only one thing that wouldn’t keep me quiet if someone even dared to mention it and that was Aliens, I was obsessed with Aliens, UFO’s really anything related to something so bizarre. I knew that Aliens exist and are probably living somewhere on Earth, but the government would never tell the public anything like that.

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” I heard those words spinning around in my mind like a ping pong ball. I then looked up from my desk and saw my teacher Mrs. Larson was handing us papers. Mrs. Larson wasn’t like any other teacher I’ve had a class with, she was often not in class so we always had a substitute, She stuttered when she talked and always looked around the classroom.

She handed me a piece of paper with the title “What do you want to be when you grow up” in **bold**. I honestly didn’t know what I wanted to be, I looked around trying to look at what the other kids were writing on their papers. It mostly turned out to be simple jobs like “Fireman” or “Doctor” or something like that. “I... J-just want you k-kids to fill out t-this sheet and turn it in bb-before class, If you don’t turn it in t-today, then it’ll be homework.” As soon as the words “homework” flew out of her mouth like a jet plane all the kids started quickly writing down

anything that popped into their mind, since it was a Friday and nobody wanted to worry about anything on the weekends.

A few minutes passed and then the bell rang, All the kids except me started turning in their papers. I decided to walk home today instead of taking the bus since I wanted to clear my mind, allowing me to come up with an idea to write on my paper when I got home.

As soon as I got home, I went to my room, closed the door, sat on my comfy chair in front of my desk and slapped my paper on the hard surface. I was thinking for what seemed like hours, but when I looked at my clock it had only been five minutes. I then went downstairs, got something to eat and sat down in front of the tv and watched cartoons till the stars were bright in the night.

“Son, did you make sure to finish your homework?” Asked my dad looking confused across the room. “Yeah, We didn’t have much so it didn’t take much time to finish it.” I said, I knew it was a lie and I felt bad for saying it so I decided to just go to bed. I went to my room and was about to crawl into bed when all of a sudden I saw a bright light flash outside my window, I quickly ran over and uncovered the window blinds when I saw what looked like a bright light no! It was a UFO! I was about to scream to call my parents in to see it, but within a flash it quickly flashed away. At that very moment I decided I wanted to be an alien hunter when I grow up.

When I went to school on Monday I told Phil all about what I saw Friday night. “Maybe it was just a bright light from a store sign or something like that.”

“No! It was moving and flashing and everything!”

I replied so loud that the principle came out and was trying to figure out what I was going on, before I knew it tons of kids were surrounding me. “Did you just say you saw a UFO?” Asked one of the kids I looked around shocked that so many people seemed to care and felt really happy. “Yeah, you wanna know more ab-” right before I finished the kid screamed “NERD!” And broke out laughing along with everyone else, including the principal. I knew it was too good to be true, I walked over to class trying hard not to cry. When class started everyone seemed to calm down, which made me feel better. “Alright c-class, Time to t-turn in your assignment from y-yesterday.” I froze, I completely forgot to do my homework so I quickly grabbed the paper and wrote “Scientist” and passed it up front.

“Please don’t tell me you put alien hunter on your homework sheet” Phil said at the cafeteria table.

“No, I put down scientist since it was the best possible answer that Larson would take seriously.”

“Oh good,” Phil said

“Why is that good?” I asked with a strange look on my face.

“Well,” Phil said. While clearing out his throat. “I heard some kids talking in the hallway a couple weeks ago, apparently this one kid said he wanted to be an alien hunter and then a few days later he just vanished like out of sight and all the teachers acted like he never existed in the first place, pretty creepy right?” He said

“That has to be a joke” I said laughing.

Maybe it wasn’t maybe the teachers were in on something big that I didn’t know about. That night I went online and searched “Mrs. Larson” online. My eyes froze when I saw the

results that were shown on the screen. “Is Mrs. Larson missing?” Was shown in all caps along with “Mrs. Larson, ex Area 51 worker” “Mrs. Larson, who is she?” I clicked on the article and scrolled down. ***“Mrs. Larson was a great scientist who specialized in top secret investigations in underground bases like Dulce base, Project 20 and even Area 51 until she went missing. The FBI stated that she disappeared sometime around 11:00am on May 20th 1997.”***

I froze again, 11:00 was the same time I had class with her and she always seemed to look around the classroom during class. Was she a missing victim? I continued reading the article. ***“She was later believed to still remain alive, but people who saw her reported saying she vanished the minute they tried to speak to her. Some theories claim that if you tried speaking with her you would also disappear along with her.”***

This was a lot to handle in one night and reading it made me feel sick to my stomach, so I decided to go to bed and talk to Phil about it in the morning. The next day I told Phil about what I saw online.

“No way,” he said laughing.

“Oh really?” I said, smiling while I pulled my phone out of my backpack revealing the article. I watched him read the article showing the same exact emotion that I had when I first read the article.

“Oh my gosh! We need to go see Mrs. Larson right now!” He said looking scared, “Class hasn’t even started yet” I said.

“She’s still probably in there hurry lets go!” He said running towards the classroom, he then slowly looked through the door window like a sloth

“Oh, uh” he said.

“What..What happened!” I said.

“She’s not in there...”

Chapter 2 *The New Teacher*

When class started everyone came in and took their seats and waited for about five minutes quietly until someone said “Where is the teacher!” Right as he said that a man in a black suit came in.

“Hello everyone, my name is Mr. Remington I’ll be your new teacher.”

New teacher? That’s strange, “What happened to Mrs. Larson?” I asked

“Mrs. Larson actually got a new job and has moved on anywa-”

“What kind of job,” I said, interrupting him.

“That is classified and personal information.”

“I’m glad Larson is gone! Now we won’t have to hear that annoying stuttering anymore,” said one of the kids and everyone laughed except me.

“What is your name?” Asked Remington.

“Uh, Thomas why is that?”

“Alright, Thomas why don’t you sit up front”

I was confused on why he wanted me to but without asking any more questions I moved up front. The entire time during class Remington would keep a close eye on me, but not in a way that made it look like he was mad at me, it was more like he was afraid of me, Like he thought I knew something, something wasn’t right I needed to figure out what happened to Mrs. Larson.

“Excuse me, may I please go to the bathroom?” I said

“Of course, just make sure to take the pass,” He said.

I hurried out the classroom and walked towards the teacher’s lounge. I tried listening in but all I heard was teachers talking about how much they hated teaching. I then heard a weird noise, **woosh....Woosh** There were security cameras watching me! I never noticed them in the past which really made me feel nervous, so I went back to class. Everything seemed normal during class up until the bell rang.

“Thomas I would like to talk to you.” Remington said he looked normal but I could tell he was very angry, as soon the last kid left the classroom he closed the door and stared at me for some time.

I couldn’t take the suspense so I said. “What is it?” I regret saying that as soon as the words left my mouth.

“Mrs. Larson is gone so there is no need to be lurking near the teacher’s lounge looking for her” He said.

I couldn’t believe it! He was spying on me through those security cameras.

“Why does the school have security cameras?” I said.

“Why are you doing this?” He said

I stared at him with a confused expression on my face

“You’re digging too deep into something that you can’t handle Thomas,” he said, right as he said that another teacher came in.

“Um, excuse me mister Remington we need you in room five.”

“Alright, I’ll be there in a minute,” he said and quickly got his stuff together and pushed me out of the classroom.

“What happened?” Phil asked.

“He told me that I was digging too deep... I’m really scared Phil I don’t know what to do” I said.

“I don’t either, but I don’t want to dig any deeper or else we’ll be in serious trouble” said Phil.

“Yea....You’re right,” I said.

That night I couldn’t sleep, I just kept thinking about what was really going on did the UFO mean something? Where is Mrs. Larson? Why are there security cameras in the school? I decided to start looking for answers.

Chapter 3 *Something isn’t right*

Today’s a perfect Saturday, The birds were chirping the sun was shining bright in the sky and the warm sweet smell of pancakes greeted me when I woke up. I noticed that my mom put a tray on my desk with a bunch of food, eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuit and to top it all of a large glass of sweet glowing orange juice. I rushed over to the tray since I was really hungry and saw there was a note on the tray.

“Hey Thomas, me and your mother went out shopping so you’re the man of the house until we’re back, we’ll be home soon son so don’t get into too much trouble.

- From dad.”

I was a little surprised they went out shopping without me, but I just shrugged off the idea and started eating. After I finished eating I started looking up some info about the whole Mrs. Larson situation. I first searched “UFO over Phoenix.” A few results came up, but most of them were just pointless so I moved onto the next search. “Security cameras at little hikes middle school.” Again, nothing popped up I then searched “Mrs. Larson.” Nothing seemed to pop up, I looked through my history to look for the article I found in the past but the entire page had been deleted. This was starting to get really weird and I wanted to get to the bottom of the story so I went over to Phil’s house.

“Look Thomas I know we’ve been friends for a while and all but I really don’t want to get involved in this, I don’t want to become one of those kids that just disappears without a trace. I’m sorry, but I don’t want to investigate this anymore.”

He then closed the door. It was up to me now, I quickly developed a plan to try to sneak into school that night. As the sun started to set I noticed my parents still weren’t home, I was a little bit worried, but that didn’t stop me from trying to sneak into the school so I got on my bike and rode to school. My plan contained a few windows that were sometimes kept unlocked that I would try to open from the outside. The first one was located near my math class, but when I went over to where it was I noticed that it was locked and contained quite a few chains on it that weren’t there previously. I then moved to the second one which was near my English class and just like the last one it was also locked, but this one didn’t have any chains on it so I tried opening it. It only opened a smudge, but it was just enough to crawl my thin body through it. As soon as I landed in the classroom, I heard talking so I quietly tiptoed out of the classroom and near the teacher’s lounge. However, when I put my head up to the door, I heard the same

teachers talking about how they hated teaching! I knew this wasn't normal, so I slowly opened the door and stood in fear.

Chapter 4 *The Truth*

When I opened the door all I saw were recorders with our teachers saying the same thing for around 3-4 minutes and then looping. I walked around the room, shocked not knowing what to do next when all of a sudden I heard a strange clicking noise. I started walking near the sound when I landed near a red flashing button, I clicked it without even thinking and watched as the walls at the back of the room started to open. When the walls finally opened there was a tunnel! But there was something strange about it. It looked endless, regardless of that I started walking through it.

About 20 minutes passed and I was still seeing the same walls again and again, but I wasn't going to stop, suddenly I heard machines and people screaming and other people talking and then saw a door! I quickly ran to the door and opened it with all my force and saw machines! Machines everywhere and a few rooms with people strapped to chairs it was a madhouse! It was inhuman! I quickly noticed there were stairs so I ran down them and stopped right in front of Remington.

“Oh wow look who we have here... I knew I should've kept an eye on you! I bet you're looking for your parents, well follow me.”

I was scared, but without a word I started following him while we were walking I didn't notice any aliens or anything like that just people. He led me towards this large steel door and opened it and inside were my parents! And Mrs. Larson! “Mom! Dad!” I screamed!

“What are you doing to them!”

“Oh, nothing it just turns out that Larson is your mom’s sister and she knew everything!”

“What do you mean everything?” I said

“Well, since you won’t be leaving here alive, I guess I’ll tell you. Mrs. Larson used to work at one of our smaller hangars, Area 51 and just like you she wanted to work there only for the purpose of finding out what’s inside and telling everyone! We couldn’t have that so we tracked her down. We finally found her here at the school so we started building small tunnels, kidnapping her each day and using mind tricks so she would forget what happened, but her mind was so traumatized that she would never forget! I didn’t want anyone to catch on to us so we had the school on lockdown for the teachers so they could never leave and during the day, we had clones of the teachers working while we kept all the teachers in these cages!” He then started to let out an evil laugh and I made a run towards my parents. “Oh no you don’t!” Suddenly a bright flash hit me.

I woke up lying in my bed. Was it all a dream? My mom ran into my room and screamed “Thomas what’re you doing in bed you’re going to bed late for school! I’ll be in the car to drive you.” As soon as I made it to school Phil came up to me “hey Thomas so what happened with the Mrs. Larson case?” I was confused but I didn’t want him to worry anymore about the situation so I said.

“Oh, it turns out she got a job in California... Cool right?”

“Oh, okay! I knew it wasn’t anything serious I guess we might’ve been over thinking it ha-ha” and he ran off.

I guess some things are better to be left alone. As the day went by everything seemed to be different, teachers were acting very strange, I didn't even hear anyone talking when I walked past the teacher's lounge! However the kids seemed perfectly fine, so I just went with it until I made it back home. When I opened the door to my room, I noticed that my entire room looked completely different. My computer was a different color all my posters on my wall were gone and there was a note on my bed. I opened it and it read. *"Having fun in the simulator? We changed a few things in your room, I hope you don't mind!"* I froze, I was in a simulation!? How do I get out? Why am I here? What's going on? I had so many questions and sadly none of them could be answered at that very moment. That night when I went to bed It was very hard to sleep knowing that I was in a simulation. I kept tossing and turning until I was suddenly on the edge of my bed. I clutched onto my soft, warm pillow, trying not to fall when I noticed a small tiny red bump on the edge of my bed. I uncovered the piles of warm sheets and covers when I recognized that it was a button, a large red button! Right on my bed! Was this a way out? I slammed on the button and blacked out.

Chapter 5 *The End*

When I arose from what seemed like seconds I noticed that I was in my room except everything seemed normal again. I immediately checked to see if the button was still there, but it was gone! I ran downstairs and saw my parents in the kitchen sipping coffee and reading the paper.

"Mom! Dad!" I said running over to them.

"Yes son?" They both replied simultaneously.

“What’s going on?” I said.

“Well, son what happened yesterday was real and well....We aren’t allowed to tell anyone about what’s going on so let’s just leave it like that alright?”

“Oh..Okay,” I said and headed out for school. For the remainder of the day everything seemed back to normal Phil never mentioned anything about what happened Mrs Larson was back and her stutter was gone, in fact, it almost seemed like everyone had their memory erased except me and my family which made me feel special..

To this day I always wonder what really happened to Mr Remington.

To Be Continued.....?