The Newcomers

By Team Scooter Patrol
The Newcomers

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Inside Title Page, Authors Editors and Illustrators Page, Parameters Page, Copyright,
Acknowledgements, Contents Page

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Acknowledgements

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Dedications

We would like to dedicate this novel to the children at Princess Margaret Hospital. We would like to thank all of the hospital staff for ensuring the best possible care for the children during their recovery. We would like to dedicate this novel to Mazenod College, in particular Mr Bruce Derby, deputy principal of the college. Without his enthusiasm and love for English, our participation in this competition would not be possible.

A Message to the Children

Team Scooter Patrol from Mazenod College, Lesmurdie wish the children at Princess Margaret Hospital a speedy recovery. We hope that you enjoy reading our novel as much as we enjoyed writing. We hope that it helps pass the time until you have fully recovered. We hope that our novel brings you joy and happiness.
Parameters

The computer has selected the following parameters which you must use to write your story for the children at Princess Margaret Hospital. You can invent as many as other characters as you like but these character must be the main ones.

Primary Character 1: Alien
Primary Character 2: Brother
Non-Human Character: Crow
Setting: Volcano
Issue: Ecological Disaster

Random Words which must appear at least once somewhere in the story:

Hectic
Fascinating
Cantankerous
Furry
Curious
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Prologue

It was beginning to look like another standard, uneventful evening for Aiden O'Neil. The sun was setting casting a bright red-orange glare over the farm where he resided. The fields of wheat crops glowed golden-orange slowly swaying in the evening breeze. At the top of the wheat fields, a red tin barn stood tall over the various fruit trees next to it, bearing fruits of allsorts including apples, pears, numerous citrus fruits, guava and dragon fruit. The space next to the barn was occupied by a medium-sized, single storey, brick house with an interconnecting garage, topped with a blue, tiled roof supporting a small chimney with a small trail of smoke leaking out of it. The house glowed red in the setting sun. To the east of the house, beyond the wheat fields, a vast bush rose out of the horizon, supporting the sky where the moon had begun to appear, casting its ghostly white shadow over the tops of Jarrah and Marri trees, and the stars had started to come to life to form twinkling, beautiful constellations in the heavens. The whole place had a sort of peaceful feel to it, where nature lived in harmony with civilisation and they both complemented each other and aided each other to coexist perfectly. There was no sense of danger, all was well.

Aiden O'Neil, a tall, well built, man of 30 years was in his house which was neither new nor old, making dinner in his kitchen. His blonde hair shone golden in the sunlight that was filtering through the kitchen window and his blue eyes twinkled like the stars appearing above. He was all alone on his farm. He had no pets, and was unmarried. He didn't mind the loneliness though, it gave him time to think and reflect. It also allowed him to concentrate on manning his farm and cultivating his wheat crop. As he finished preparing dinner - steak and potatoes - he made his way through the hall to his living room where he would spend most of his night.

His living room was painted a light shade of blue and contained a single couch and opposite to the couch was a set of drawers with a 50 inch plasma screen television and an Xbox One perched on top. Between the couch and television was a small coffee table where Aiden put his dinner. He allowed himself to collapse onto the couch and reached out for the remote to switch on the television. Before he could do this, out of the corner of his eye, he saw a bright flash of light and turned to face it.

Through the windows of his living room, in the sky above the bush to the east, was a bright streak of light making its way through the atmosphere. Aiden was about to disregard it when he noticed two things. The object was streaking green through the sky, not the usual colour of meteors. Also, the object appeared to be heading straight for his property. Aiden began to rise out of the couch, abandoning his dinner, when the object suddenly jerked straight down and crashed head-on into the outskirts of the bush. Aiden immediately ran into his garage and jumped into his old, beat-up, reliable Toyota Ute. He started the car and instantly floored the accelerator, speeding out of the garage and down the side of his wheat crop towards the crash site. What he saw when he got there was totally different to anything he could of dreamed of.

The object was not a meteor, a piece of space junk, nor anything that was easily explained. The only word Aiden could think to describe it was 'spacecraft'. The main body of the object was a dull, metallic grey colour and was now enormously dented and disfigured, not surprising given what it had just been through. From the inside of it, blinking lights could be seen, as well as various beeping noises or different frequencies. The object could not have been manmade. The design of the craft appeared to be centuries ahead of anything on Earth and was made out of a strange metal. The craft wasn't small either, almost having the size of
a small bus. Aiden was about to approach it when he saw something that defied all scientific belief at the present moment of their existence.

What appeared to be a door had opened in the side of the craft and on the ground below it, amongst all the leaf litter was a creature. The creature was obviously not from earth. It sported two small arms from its body and then four legs underneath its torso. Its entire body was covered in black-grey armour that looked tough and impenetrable. It was a creature and Aiden had discovered it.

Aiden's first reaction was to run away and hide from this strange being but then he noticed that the creature was barely moving. It looked unconscious and the only sign of life was the jagged rise and fall of its 'chest'. Aiden slowly approached the character, fearful of it and prepared to run at the slightest sign of hostility, but strangely curious and intrigued by the creature that lay before him. He thought about what he should do. Should he call the police? His mind ran through various possibilities until he decided on one. Aiden ran back to his Ute and reversed it into the crash site. He carefully approached the creature, grabbed onto it and dragged it back to the Ute. Despite being bigger than him, the creature was surprisingly light and was easy to lift into the back of his Ute. Aiden got into the driver's seat and with one last look at the craft which had brought this strange creature into his possession, started the car and slowly begun to drive away. He drove back to his barn and opened the barn doors. He slowly lifted the creature out of the tray of the Ute and placed it into a pile of hay to the side of the barn. He then locked the barn doors and returned to his house. He decided that he would call someone with authority in the morning to come and deal with the creature, when he was not as tired and filled with adrenaline. He walked through the front door and then slowly closed and locked it.

Beyond the house, above the crash site of the craft, there was another flash of light in the sky. The light slowly made its way down to the top of a tree near the craft, lighting up the surrounding area. The light began to slightly change shape, intensifying until it suddenly flashed out of existence. The trees went dark again. From where the light once existed stood a crow, with its black feathers and black eyes gleaming in the pale light of the moon. It spread its wings and let out a powerful cry. It then leaped into the air and flew off into the sky.
Chapter One

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With a sudden intake of breath followed by a sharp pain in its chest, the creature suddenly bolted upright and opened its eyes. It quickly turned its head and took in its immediate surroundings and came to the conclusion that it was safe from immediate harm at the present moment. It then inspected its body to insure it hadn't sustained any injuries. Its armour was intact and he couldn't feel any internal damage. The creature shifted position in the hay in which it lay and stood up, first standing on all four legs then leaning backwards until it was supported on its two hind legs. The creature then took a close look at the interior of the barn, properly analysing it.

The creature was positioned on one side of the barn. It lay in a pile of hay and all around him were hay bales. In the center of the barn was a tractor that was in a similar state to Aiden's car; old and beat-up. At the back of the barn was a small workshop containing all sorts of power tools and tools powered by manual labour. The creature made its way to the doors at the end of the barn and tried to open them. To its dismay, it found that it couldn't. The doors were too strong to be broken and the lock held well. The creature started swearing in an unrecognisable language at its inability to escape its prison. It felt quite cantankerous.

Realising that there was no way to open the locked doors from the inside of the barn the creature went back to the place where it had regained consciousness and set down to start planning its escape considering all logical possibilities. The creature decided that the best course of action was to sit and wait for that other creature to return and check on it. And so, the creature began to wait.

While it was waiting, it went through the most recent memories it had, right before the crash. It had been flying through space, close to the speed of light and had hit an asteroid. The creature recalled being knocked off course and sent spiralling towards this blue and green planet it now resided on. Earth was its name. The creature now begun to plan its return to its fleet, how to get back to its own people. Its craft was most likely severely damaged and would not be capable of interstellar travel. Recalling the technology that was on the craft, the creature decided that the best thing to do was use his communications array to contact its fleet and let them know of its celestial location. The creature then focused on the problem of powering the communications array.

Like much of its technology, the craft and everything on it was powered by heat energy. Often considered a low grade form of energy, the creature and its people had discovered a way to turn it into useful energy and powered everything by it. Recalling everything it knew of earth, the creature began to find a way to get a stable supply of heat. He remembered these things called volcanoes which were a link to the planet's inner heat source. Getting to a volcano would be paramount in getting home. Remembering the geography of the planet, the creature decided that the region known as the United States was the best location to get this heat energy due to its vast mountain ranges and volcanoes. With this information, the creature began to make a plan.

First, it would get out of the prison in which it resided. After successfully completing that, he would repair his ship so it could travel intercontinentally and travel to this region of volcanoes. Once there, he would use the heat of the volcano to power its equipment and contact its fleet, get retrieved and brought home. Content with its plan, the creature began to wait for its captor to open the doors and grant it freedom once more.
Aiden was not in a good state. He had barely gotten any sleep that night and was constantly worried about the creature that was in his barn. Various questions flew through his head. What was it? Is it dangerous? What do I do? Aiden had already decided to call the police when the sun rose. They could take this creature out of his hands and he could get back to his work. Aiden rolled over in his bed and looked at his clock. It said 3:12am. Aiden lay back and was about to close his eyes when he thought of something new. He hadn't properly barricaded the door to his barn shut. Usually he put a bar of wood across the two doors to ensure they were properly closed. Worried that the creature could escape Aiden quickly jumped out of bed and bolted out of his house. Guided by the light of the moon, Aiden stumbled over to the barn. He was right; the bar of wood was not in place across the two doors. Aiden fumbled with the lock on the doors and, when he unlocked it, flung the doors open. Squinting at the place where he had left the creature, Aiden swore to himself as he saw nothing but hay. 'What should I do,' he thought, 'the creature has escaped!' He turned around to leave the barn and begin searching for the creature when he saw a flash of grey and felt a blinding pain in his head. His vision blurred and he collapsed onto the wooden floor, no longer conscious.
Chapter Two

Two large black eyes stared down on the seemingly lifeless body on the floor. Perched atop the barn on a cross beam it watched carefully with no obvious intention. A crow, or so it seemed. Its head twitched from side to side carefully taking in all its surroundings. It was a careful and smart being; it knew its limitations and knew exactly when the thing on the floor would awake. The black crow raised its large wings and swooped in a circle towards the door of the barn. Its black feathers blended with the dark sky, as it flew further and further until the outline was no longer distinguishable.

*                                     *                                     *

As Aiden’s eyes began to adjust to the intense light that was hanging above him, his head throbbed as the world around him started to settle into one image. His mind raced trying to recall all the previous events that had led to himself lying on the hard, cold floor of his barn. The wooden floor broke as splinters pierced his clothes and his skin, his entire body throbbed and turned red, but this was of no concern to him. Once he felt like he could maintain his balance he propped himself up and brushed the dust and sweat off of him. With his memory returning, panic began to flow from his head to his toes, as if he was learning to walk again, Aiden stumbled in a fright to the large doors of the barn. They flew open and Aiden sprinted across the dusty ground to the front porch of his house. Leaping up three sets of stairs he crashed into the red oak door that led him into his sitting room and rushed towards the dining room table where his wallet and phone lay. Wasting no time, Aiden began to recall of the events of the early mornings struggle with the creature. He inhaled three large breaths and thought of where the creature could be. Knowing that the craft that he found in the bush was damaged, he predicted that it would be looking for food or something that would enable it to repair its craft. Obviously the town would be the first spot where the creature would head to. Not even caring to lock his door he walked with haste to his car. But before he could open the driver’s side door something caught his eye. A set of footprints that lead from the barn into the fields of wheat to the right. Aiden followed the prints with his eyes until they disappeared from sight; he slowly and carefully followed them, making sure not to disturb the ground or mess up the prints. The tall wheat stalks blocked his view and made tracking the prints almost impossible, even for someone with his experience of tracking and hunting animals. Without knowing where to start, Aiden decided to check the news to see if there was anything that would give him and idea of where to start. He grabbed his remote and switched the television on. Scrolling through the channels he settled on the news channel. He checked all of the channels that could possibly give some information that would help him, but there was nothing about it. He sighed in frustration and stared out the window to see the golden sun rise over the horizon. The sun’s rays shone through the glass and hit his eyes. Every muscle in his body ached as he finally began to relax and think logically about his situation. Ideas and questions raced through his head, what was the creature? Where did it come from? But more than anything else he focused on the question, what should he do next? He buried his face in his hands and completely emptied his mind. He thought hard about his actions, reflecting on whether he should have taken the creature back to his barn. Guilt flowed through him as he thought of what the creature could be doing or how many lives could be in danger because of his actions. Should he have called someone? Of course he could make a better now, but why couldn’t have done the right thing then. Pushing those
thoughts out of his head, he decided he should stop feeling guilty and do something about it. Reaching for his car keys in his left hand pocket he sorted through them and picked out the large key with the Toyota symbol on it. But just as he was about to head off he ventured into his bedroom and reached for the small silver box under his bed. Picking the key that was under his bedside table he unlocked it. Opening the lid revealed a large amount of money in twenty and fifty dollar notes. Grabbing a handful of them he pushed the box back under the bed and jumped up. The sun was now rising higher and higher in the sky, at that moment he knew it wasn’t too late to do something or to find the creature. Aiden pressed the large red button on the top of his remote and which turned the screen of his television black. With his goal firmly set in his mind he ventured out his door and slammed it behind him.
Chapter Three

The crow perched on the bonnet of a vehicle owned by a farmer. He watched intently at the confused expression on the farmer's face as he exited the house. As the human stormed towards the vehicle the crow took flight and landed high up in a nearby tree.

As Aiden walked away from his house in search of the creature, he thought about where it could have gone. He went over to his car and was startled by the crow that was sitting on the bonnet of his old Toyota Ute. As he walked closer the crow flew away towards the bush. Aiden thought nothing of this and continued to get into his car. As the car rumbled into existence he sped out of the garage and took the road into the city. When he arrived he saw a spot of devastation along the way as he drove down a couple of the streets. He saw the twisted wreckage of a car that looked like it had been crumpled by something with superhuman strength. Also he saw the burnt out wreckage of another car and nearby a woman screaming uncontrollably. Aiden stopped and tried to console her but she kept screaming about how a creature had vaporised her car. Aiden moved on because she could not be consoled. Aiden got back into his car and followed the devastation and came across a car that had been dismantled. The engine had been taken from it. He wondered about this and why the creature would take the engine from a car and how it knew about the intricacies of the engine because he had noticed that it had been taken out with precision, not just ripped out. He had no clue what the alien could have wanted. He continued on and found a man on the side of the road shaking as he cradled himself. Aiden stopped and went to check on the man but he was beyond his help and continued muttering about the creature and its horrible features. The city itself was not really anything special but it was the largest place that he had ventured within his life so far. A fog covered the tops of the buildings and the streets were lined with litter. The air was clean for a city but he preferred the smell of his farm and the open space that accompanied that. The people were not friendly like he was and were quite cantankerous. They may have killed the alien on site if they had found him but he was a kindhearted person and hated to have to fight and kill things, only did this when necessary or for self-preservation. The trail seemed to turn down an alleyway and at the other end Aiden thought he saw the grey that he had come to associate with the alien, so he drove around to that side as fast as he could but he was still too slow. When he arrived there he saw nothing but a pile of ash on the path and four footprints within that ash and with utter certainty he got back in his car. He knew exactly where to find the creature and a way to finally end this destructive rampage that the creature had caused. It was then that Aiden realised that he had been searching the city for too long and that he must go back to the place that he had discovered the creature.
The crow glided through the thick, grey smog that lingered over the city and observed the hectic flow of traffic on the bleak ground below. Its dark eyes reflected the image of the soaring skyscrapers at the centre of the city’s beating pulse.

Aiden immediately flung his car around and began to drive at furiously fast speeds back to his house. He gripped the steering wheel firmly with both hands and pushed his foot on the acceleration pedal. The sudden increase in speed sent a jolt through the rusty Ute and gave Aiden a shock. He raced down the bitumen road with his piercing blue eyes until he eventually reached his dilapidated farm fence. Aiden took his hand, slammed the steering wheel and sounded the deep toned horn in frustration as he did not want to waste any more time. His one and only focus was getting to the craft as swiftly as possible in the hope that he would once again see the creature. The sound from the horn scared a flock of elegant black cockatoos out of the pine trees at the rear of Aiden’s property. Whilst Aiden got out of his reliable Ute to open the gate, he watched the cockatoos scatter in different directions as they flew away out of sight. A cloud of red dust rose from the gravel covered ground as he dragged the gate open. Aiden raced back through the dust into his car, hit the accelerator with his foot and roared down his long, winding driveway with a sense of great urgency.

When Aiden finally reached his house he decided to abandon his trusty, dust covered Ute behind the garage so it was out of sight. Aiden stealthily sneaked into the dry bush across from his house as he closed in on the craft. He wiped his forehead with the back of his calloused hands to wipe away the sweat dripping down his face from the harsh radiating sun. Aiden weaved in and out of the gum trees, trying not to lose his footing as he trampled the gumnuts beneath his scuffed shoes. Before long, he had found the craft sitting hopelessly on top of the charred ground.

Aiden gradually shifted closer and closer to the craft in attempt to spot the creature however the raging sun was glaring in his eyes. He decided to walk around to the other side of the craft in order to get a better view. As Aiden crept through the gum trees he was trying not to crunch the dried leaves and sticks that covered the earth beneath his feet. After a considerable amount of time he finally reached the opposite side of the craft and at last he was able to make out an odd shape like none other he had ever laid eyes on; it was the creature.

To Aiden the creature seemed flustered as it was moving expeditiously around the craft, tinkering with different metallic parts. He was unsure of what the creature was actually doing however it seemed as though the creature was frantically checking over the craft, trying to find something or fix something. All of a sudden the window of the craft opened upwards and the creature pulled itself inside with its multiple limbs. The craft then began to glow and lifted itself out of the hole it had created in the ground when it had crashed earlier. Aiden did not want to miss his chance again to meet with the creature and he was far too curious to let this opportunity slip by like sands in an hourglass. The craft began to rotate on the spot and that’s when Aiden noticed an open entrance at the back of the hovering vehicle. Aiden knew that this was his one and only chance to leave his repetitive and dreary life, and swap it for an adventure. At the last second he bolted from the safety of the gumtrees and dived into the
craft. He braced himself in with his feet and arms against the craft’s walls. Without warning it darted into the sky, faster than the speed of light and disappeared into the dark and gloomy clouds.
Chapter Five

The crow’s piercing eyes surveyed the present situation; it watched the spacecraft float seamlessly in the direction of America. The crow lifted up above the craft and swooped down to land on the roof of the creature’s vehicle. The mysterious omen just stood there, eyeing possible outcomes for the farmer and the creature.

*                                     *                                     *                                     *  

The spacecraft shot through the sky at speeds which seemed to Aiden to be faster than light. He walked around the fascinating metal hunk, observing the flashing lights and the beeps which accompanied them. The farmer knew he had to be quiet because the creature found him the consequences would be disastrous. Aiden wandered through the ship, strategically choosing which room to enter next to avoid the creature. He opened the next door, and heard a flurry of robotic voices, different languages shooting from the same person. Hidden behind the metal door standing ajar, Aiden eavesdropped onto the creature.

“… I have reached an altitude of…” the voice suddenly changed but it kept talking without changing pace, in gibberish it continued what Aiden thought to be a transmission. After a few sentences in a disjointed language it returned back to English, the only language Aiden could understand, “… I am now heading to the heat source located in, what the natives of this spherical planet call, North America…” and once again it disconnected and it went to a language which Aiden recognized, an Asian language but he couldn’t understand it. Once again it returned into English but with something of a cockney accent. Aiden stifled a laugh because he was not expecting it.

“… if we do continue with this plan then Earth will be in the same wrecked state that our planet is in…” And again it changed to something foreign, but Aiden understood the word ‘indifferent,’ and ‘worthless land mass.’ Aiden clued together the black-grey creatures plan and went to find something to stop him.

I can’t believe my ‘brother,’ Aiden thought, the person I saved and helped, would think of my world as worthless.

Aiden searched through the remaining rooms and he was curious to see what the final room held. He struggled against the large door to find it filled to the brim with guns and weapons, swords and blades of all lengths. Weapons ranging from the past to high tech guns from the future. To the side of the many racks of weapons, was a window, and suddenly the black shape jetted past.

Aiden snapped back into reality when he saw America readily approaching the metal ship. Aiden knew he had to get off the hunk of metal before the creature spotted him. He grabbed the closest weapon near him, which happened to be a pistol. Aiden grabbed the magazine of bullets next to the pistol and ran out the door. He retraced his steps back to the door, stopping only quickly to see where the creature was. The black-grey body stood in front of, what seemed to Aiden to be the control panel rapidly pressing buttons, in a wild manner, hammering against the board belligerently. Aiden waited at the door of the space craft. The ship hit the land with a thundering belligerent crash, sending quakes over the forest.
Chapter Six

The crow watched the craft crash. The creature came forth from the craft and then some time passed and the man poked his head out and was obviously, scanning for the creature. He looked up just as the crow flapped once and headed for the volcano rim, towards the creature and the doom of humanity.

As Aiden yelled from the back of the craft, the collision had forced him forward and his head had hit the metal bar in front of him and he collapsed to the floor, dazed and barely conscious. He felt the blackness start to drag him down and after fighting for a minute, he surrendered and fell unconscious. When he awoke the creature was gone but the pistol was still there. As he crawled out of the hold still cautious that the creature was close by he looked up and saw the volcano that loomed above the crashed craft. Aiden saw the creature almost to the top and he thought that whatever the creature was going to do was at the top of the volcano and that he must stop whatever it was planning. He crawled out of the crashed craft completely and started the climb. As he started the climb he saw a black bird flit pass and he saw it flying up towards the top of the volcano and he realised that it was the crow and wondered what it had come all this way to do. He continued his climb towards the top while debating what he was going to do. He had brought the pistol from the craft, just in case he needed to use it, because he knew that without this the creature could tear him to shreds without any effort. The walk up the volcano was uneventful and he studied the side and noticed the layer that had formed over time as the volcano had erupted repeatedly in history and marvels at the destructive but also the regenerative abilities of nature. The view from the side of the volcano was spectacular as he looked over the huge city network that branched out for several kilometres in each direction. He though that it was the largest city and population of people that he had ever seen in his life. The city branched out until it met the bottom of the volcano and then all the way to the sea that had a bridge crossing the sea to another small island not too far from the mainland. As he continued his journey up the volcano he saw a couple of small, furry squirrels and chipmunks along the path that lead to the top but if he tried to approach them, they scurried away. The walk up continued and soon he was almost to the lip of the volcano and he paused considering what he would find and what he would do if he was confronted by the creature that he had cared for. He knew that he would have to do whatever was in the interest of humanity but he still could not bring himself to march the final steps up to the lip and confront what he had nursed back to health. He knew that he would survive this and hopefully be able to help the creature to contact others without humanity being destroyed or enslaved by the new found alien race that had come to Earth. He debated on how to communicate with the creature and how he might be able to dissuade it from its current course which Aiden thought might be the end of life as they know it. He took the last couple of steps and came up to the rim. He saw the creature's twisted shape and knew what he must do.
Chapter Seven

Above Aiden and the volcano the crow ominously hovered doing nothing but keeping a piercing eye on Aiden and the speedy creature.

In front of him, the grey head slowly emerged on the horizon as Aiden climbed up the steep rocky hill. He started to panic. The heat was getting to him, acting like a steamer causing Aiden to sweat extremely. He raised a trembling arm, looked down the sights of the pistol and was ready to pull the trigger. The grey creature spun around spontaneously, causing Aiden to turn on the spur of his heel and run, trying to get away from the predator that began chasing him. He was running as fast as he could, remembering when he was younger and ran marathons. His muscles tightened and pulsed, pushing him forward, adrenaline pumping through his body, forced him to keep going. Aiden knew that he couldn’t stop; he was not prepared for a conflict. The pressure of the heat and the alien coming after him was too much, and after running away for the amount of time he was, Aiden had to stop. Pausing for a moment to catch his breath, he raised the pistol with a fatigued arm and waited for the creature to appear over the horizon.

The moment when he saw the grey ball appear, instinct and fear pulled against the trigger, and with little restraint the bullet shot out, missing the alien by only a few centimetres it seemed. Aiden knew he couldn’t continue anymore. Letting the heat consume him and the alien approach him, now slowly.

The alien made a sound, it was foreign and it felt full of regret, but it was also affectionate but Aiden could not be sure. Aiden couldn’t go any more, and the creature left back, after gathering enough energy to take off and get off the planet. The alien walked off and boarded its now energized space craft, and after a few moments, Aiden saw the engine start up and it hurdled away.

In the control room, the creature stood in front of the control board, pressing on the multiple buttons and having to use its extra arms which extend from its chest. Beeps and flashes indicating what is happening would make no sense to the person who saved the creatures life earlier, but to the creature it was only a mere expression of affection and nothing more. The creature continued to press the buttons, while behind the door to the control room stood Aiden, eavesdropping on the creature.

Pressing a large green button, the creature started the transmission to its home planet, of what was still remaining. The conversation went on about the mission, about how the creature had to reenergize the ship with heat and the best heat source was a volcano.

In a foreign language to Aiden, the creature said, “This will end in the same way that happened to our planet, we cannot allow that. The energy will create a reaction and cause an eruption, just like what happened at home…. Yes I know, but I can’t make it home unless we sacrifice this planet…. No, of course I feel indifferent to the worthless landmass. Ok I will be back soon. Transmission over.”

The creature continued to jab at buttons, preparing for the space craft to land. Aiden had already left, and the creature begins to grab what he needs to gather energy.
It steps off and raced up the volcano so it can get enough energy before the volcano erupted. The creature stepped down on all fours to speed up, noticing the human was chasing it. The energy capacitor began beeping as it was gathering energy, already enough to launch off again. Taking a sudden turn it took chase after the human.

The person behind it dropped his pistol and arm and began running, fleeing from the creature, so it took chase trying to figure out what was happening.

Finally, after a few minutes of running he stopped and fell to his knees. The creature came up to the man on his knees and said, “I’m sorry, this is not how a planet should end…” and then walked away. The energy needed was already put into the ship and a few moments after getting on the ship, it launches off. The launch reacted with the volcano, causing an incredible eruption.

After 10 minutes flying off, the creature looks back and views a red cloud of smoke engulfing the earth leaving very little.
The night sky was filled with a red glow, below the star filled sky lava flowed through river solidifying the water and sending steam and vapour miles into the air. Ash filled its vison and the image of humanities burning creations were reflected in the crows pitch black eyes. In a way the multiple areas of devastation were cleansing the earth rather than the destruction that manifested in the minds of the fleeing ants on the ground. There was no sympathy in the mind of the feathered creature, but there was also no pleasure in its mind. As it has done throughout its adventure its job was to observe, and that is what it did. Fleeing birds were rising like the clouds of smoke that they pierced with their wings, insignificant solo but made larger by their numbers. While safe in the vast expanse of the skies, their land dwelling counterparts were trying to reach higher grounds. As if ignoring them, the lava forged a way around them. The crows mind was made as it left this world behind to return home. From the black sky a figure could be made out as it silently journeyed through the sky. Light from the ground was reflected in the metallic material that made up the craft. A bright white was emitted from the object as a set of panels retracted to allow the earths air in. The crow spotted the object directly in front of itself but made no course correction to avoid it. It continued on its original path and collided with the object. It entered the light and was now closer to its original home then it had ever been on this planet.
A loud crash at late evening in Aiden O'Neil's farm sparks a mysterious adventure following a black-grey alien, a mysterious omen and Aiden O'Neil. Searching for a heat source to power the spacecraft and communicator, the alien flies, with the little energy left, to a volcano somewhere in North America. Stowing away on the craft is Aiden. Following the action is the crow keeping a keen eye on the conflicts which fall and arise in this novelette.