

Alfred

You had it all. You had an easy life. You grew up in a middle-class family and went to a good college. In college, you became fascinated by paleontology. You went on to get your Ph.D. You made a few significant discoveries about early vertebrate life-forms and were offered a tenure track position straight out of graduate school.

You took on some graduate students, taught a few courses and were well on your way towards tenure. You loved your students. You loved your research. Many of your fellow professors hated lecturing, but you found it satisfying. You have a broad knowledge base and you are always happy to help people learn. Your research also went quite well, and you were happiest over the summer when you could spend weeks out in the field.

Then the aliens came. One evening, you were walking home and the aliens pulled you up to their spaceship. They kept you prisoner for 3 long days. They did all sorts of terrible experiments on you and implanted a tracking device that lets them read your thoughts.

While you were up there, you learned a great deal about the aliens, however. They seeded this planet with life billions of years ago and left a homing beacon in the junk DNA of all life-forms. This beacon would alert the aliens when sentient life began building sufficiently advanced cities. This would indicate that the planet was ripe for enslavement. They arrived around 100 years ago, and have been infiltrating themselves into society. They abduct powerful figures. Then they either brainwash them or replace them with aliens.

By now, many people in the government of this country are either alien puppets or aliens. That's why no one talks about the aliens. The aliens in government have created a vast cover-up.

After what happened to you, you couldn't keep it secret. You talked to anyone who would listen: newspapers, your students, other professors in your department. For the first time, you couldn't focus on your research. You needed to make sure everyone knew what was happening. You began trying to find evidence of the aliens in your fossils. You needed collaborators in genetics, and you started seeking help from the biology department.

At your annual review, you realized your terrible error. The head of your department had been brainwashed by the aliens. He tried to play nice. He thought you couldn't tell. He said that he was concerned about your ideas about aliens. Of course he was: he couldn't let you be heard. At the end of the school year, they told you to clear out. You felt horrible leaving your grad students, but worse about leaving the only platform you had to tell people about the aliens.

Since then, you have gotten more careful. You were never able to get another teaching job, but you have learned to confuse the aliens. If you change topics really quickly before talking about the aliens they can't understand you as well. Fire also seems to disrupt the signals they use, as does the presence of strong electric currents. You left your apartment. You couldn't pay the rent, but mostly you knew it was bugged. As long as you keep moving they can't track you as well.

You come to this fire most nights that you can. There are good people here who deserve to be warned about the aliens. Also, the combination of the wires overhead and

the fire provide some protection. The aliens can't read your thoughts as well through all that interference. Tonight, you particularly want to warn Rich. All the signs indicate that he is going to be the next one taken. Also, you want to make sure to warn the young people about the aliens. Toni is new, and Tracy and Corvus are just asking for trouble.

Who you know:

Misty: She has an implant. She doesn't know it. They're using her to watch you. Best not to let them know you're on to the fact that she's bugged.

Rich: Rich is a good drinking buddy. You really hope you're reading the signs wrong and he isn't going to be abducted next.

Chris: Chris listens to you. Maybe you can get through.

Hetty: She's crazy.

Sarah: Poor girl. She's trapped in this world and she has no idea what's going on.

Manny: Manny is another drinking buddy. Manny doesn't trust the government any more than you do.

Alex: Alex wants to go looking for what's out there. You just hope it doesn't find Alex.

Flash: Oh, Flash has been abducted. Probably a lot. They got Flash worse than they got you.

Jack: There are all kinds of reasons and ways to hide from the truth. Jack dispenses one of them.

Toni: A musician who is new around here. Rich has been giving Toni some contacts for gigs. You need to warn Toni about which bar owners are aliens.

Corvus: Corvus is looking in the wrong direction for finding concealed truths.

Mel: Mel always has a warm fire and a pot of stew. The fire and the crossed power lines overhead interfere with the tracking device, so you come to this fire whenever you have some food to throw in the pot.

Rose: You saw Rose get into a car with one of them five days ago. You haven't seen her since, and don't think she's coming back.