
Inside Out

We can't hide what
we truly are

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Preface

I am on a plane with my parents. My sisters are there with one of their friends. We are heading to view vacation property for my parents. It is about 6pm and getting dark outside. My husband was unable to get off work to join me for this adventure, and my brother stayed home to take care of the house and pets.

Both my sisters thought it would be a nice time to hang out together and asked another friend to join them on the trip. They spend most of the time on the plane chattering to one another.

My parents' seats were a few rows behind mine and my sisters were a few rows ahead. I was sitting alone. The plane was designed with a lounge and office in the back, where people could get up from their assigned seat and have a meal or drink in the bar area. Cocktail tables and chairs were placed in the center of the room with our seats in a corner with large windows on the opposite side.

Past the lounge was a pocket door to the rest of the plane cabin and beyond that were rows of seats. Once in awhile passengers would enter and exit the lounge and I would watch them go about their business.

As the plane takes off, we were in for a bumpy ride.

...“Anonymity seems wisest with familiar faces”....

Chapter One

Mom and I were sitting at a lounge table sharing a drink and talking about what kind of vacation home she may be interested in. A waitress comes by our table and gives us appetizers –expensive ones like crab and lobster. I immediately told the waitress that I didn't order these and thus did not want to be charged the exorbitant amount for them. There was some confusion as to whether it was included with the flight or not and I didn't want to be left with the bill. But for some reason the waitress decided to leave them anyway and carry on with her rounds.

I mentioned to mom that I was worried about being charged for the expensive food even though I didn't order it. I had read that there was something about the signal that scans the credit card that gets transmitted from the restaurant to the bank. The signal or satellite would not be able to detect where the restaurant was since to it, it was in space, so it would scan the restaurant that was closest, on the ground, to the plane. So if you were passing over Red Lobster at the same time your card was being swiped in the plane lounge, the signal would think it was a Red Lobster purchase and thus you were charged for eating at Red Lobster!

Once I described this, mom told me that my aunt had that happen to her and all she did was send back the bill to the credit card company and tell them they were not going to pay it because they never ate at that restaurant. My mom continued saying that how could they have eaten at that restaurant if they weren't even there – they were on a plane. She told me it worked for her and that I shouldn't worry about it. We will see when and if I get a bill. I probably should hang onto my plane ticket stub just to make sure.

Chapter Two

I went back to my lonely seat. The seatbelt was stuck so I had to struggle with the darn strap. It was one of those old metal clamp ones where you had to push the strap through the teeth and pull it taught then clamp it at the end. Well my strap wouldn't go through the metal pulley so I had to keep squeezing and pushing and pulling to try to get it to go through. I was getting frustrated so I just gave up and sat there and started looking around at everyone else.

I saw a few people going back and forth from the cabin and lounge. I could hear my sisters and their friend talking back and forth. They were sitting in their seats. My parents were both relaxing in their seats.

As I glanced around the room, I noticed this thing plopping across the floor. The door to the office was slightly open and it sludged its way in then the door closed. That was weird as I thought to myself what it could be. It seemed like no one else noticed it. Maybe I was hallucinating, maybe I had too much to drink perhaps?

Since nothing else seemed to be going on and everyone else was fine, I decided to just sit in my seat and get a nap in. It would be a few hours until we landed so I better make the best of the situation.

I guess we hit a patch of turbulence because I was suddenly awakened to flickering lights and a seatbelt whacking me in the side. The plane was somewhat quiet, it seemed like everyone else was just settled in what they were doing.

I started blinking to clear the fuzziness from my eyes. One blink and the cabin is dark, another blink, I see the flickering lights. Upon opening my eyes again, I saw something strange....

Chapter Three

All of a sudden, this suction-cup creature leaped onto a man in the office and started sucking at his face. He was flailing his arms around and screaming to get the thing off of it. The room was soundproof so no one could hear him. A split second later, he was gone. I couldn't see anything else from the window view.

The creature had this squishy jelly-like pink body. I couldn't even see a face, all I could see was protruding fangs coming from all directions. It reminded me of an artichoke heart, except the spikes were hard and sharp. The



mouth was full of razor sharp fangs. From what I saw, they could open their oval mouth incredibly wide to attack their prey. Once they leap on to you, their suction-cup mouths would not let go of you.

Suddenly this creature flew up against the windowpane of the door and it stuck there trying to get out. I could see its mouth full of prickly spines. Streaks of blood dragged on the window as it slid down the windowpane. I closed my eyes in horror.

It is very dark on the plane. As I peered through my fingers, I could see the pocket door to the rest of the cabin quickly shut with lots of people screaming. I wanted to shield my eyes from the sight but I couldn't stop watching as more and more people were lying on the floor.

I saw one creature start at the head and its pink jelly body would start to expand and stretch until the creature had covered the whole victim... all I could see was a metallic shiny-like cocoon of the creature now sitting on the floor, knowing that inside that cocoon was a body.

Chapter Four

I started crying and crying.

A few of the passengers tried defending themselves with any object they could grab. They were yelling to others to gather what they could to fight off the creatures. As a group, the remaining passengers decided the best way to get rid of the creatures was to open the escape hatch and have them sucked out the window. It would be risky with the cabin pressure change, but it was our only hope of getting rid of them.

A group of us strapped ourselves in and one person went to the hatch to open it. They tied a tablecloth around their waste and several passengers held onto it. We all held on tight as the hatch was opened.

The plane's emergency alarm sounded and a huge wind filled the cabin. The pressure was immense. Within seconds of it being open, all objects that were not bolted down started flying out the window. Tons of tables and chairs, silverware, glassware, luggage. Some of the creatures were trying to remain suction-cupped to the walls or floors, but the pressure was too much for them to handle that, one by one, the creatures started flying out the door. Our plan was working.

The pressure was getting so much that it was getting harder and harder to hold on. I could hear and feel the seats starting to break. Just a few minutes more before we have to close the door, otherwise we would lose too much elevation to gain back control of the plane.

Some passengers were screaming that they couldn't hold on much longer. Others wanted it to stay open because there were still many creatures able to hold on. The hatch had to be closed... now!

Chapter Five

Everything became silent. I opened my eyes and the cabin was destroyed. What managed to stay in was all broken and lying everywhere and the remaining passengers were stumbling around, thankful to be alive.

The pendulum lights above were swaying back and forth struggling to stay lit. I got up and peered into the second cabin window to assess the damage. I couldn't see anymore creatures and there were no signs of any people. As I opened the door, I noticed those cocoons everywhere. They were metallic in color and about six feet high. As I looked further, they grew in number. I counted at least fifty of them scattered along the edges of the cabin.

We may have gotten rid of the creatures, but it looks like we had another more serious problem on our hands. What were in those cocoons and what happened to all the passengers?

I closed the door and went back into the main cabin. I looked around and saw the rest of the passengers huddled in the corner. I was relieved to see my family was among them. I joined them and we all tried to figure out what was going on and what we needed to do now.

The lights were flickering on and off and finally, went out. We were sitting in a pitch dark room surrounded by these cocoons and not having any idea what was going to happen.

Soon after, the backup lights start coming on and a large beam of light breaks out from the office and shines onto one of the metallic, shiny cocoons standing next to the office door.

The cocoon is glittering in the light and I start to see it move. The top of the cocoon starts to open and I can see a hand protruding through. More and more of the cocoon starts to peel open and I can see flowing blonde hair. A shiny, glowing female emerges. It is a well-known movie star. Within a few seconds, a male movie star comes out another one.

More and more cocoons were opening up with more and more shiny, new people coming out. Now I had realized what had happened to all of the passengers. They were all swallowed up by these creatures who formed cocoons and now the passengers were emerging as these new “reborn” beings. But why?

The female movie star brushed herself off, stepped out of the cocoon and waved her blonde hair in the air. She started to tell us who “they” were and what “they” had done to everyone on the plane.

They were tired of our society pretending to cover up what they truly were as a person. They wanted people to be a caring, honest society who loved themselves for who they were, not who they tried to be.

They were here to change all of that. If you were a person who was hiding an over-eating addiction and covered it up with lypo-suction, when you were reborn, you were reborn into your true self – a large, unhealthy sweating slob.

During her speech, the male movie star was gathering all the “new” people together and taking them past the pocket door into the second cabin. As they walked by, I could see several of the newly transformed passengers. I could barely make them out.

I remembered when I first came aboard, I saw this attractive middle-aged woman in a red mini-skirt, high heels and a black push-up bra. She was hovering over a young man at the bar, flaunting her high-cheeked, botoxed face and implanted breasts.

Could this be the same person? This old and wrinkly woman dragging her tired self into the next cabin was the same person? It was her. I could only recognize her by the clothes she had worn.

I focused again on the female creature. She continued telling my group that they have come to revitalize our population. That everything will now be perfect and we will all live in an honest, friendly world.

These creatures were once part of a similar species as us and had to learn the hard way: destruction of their people and their home. With a few survivors, they had learned how to live in harmony and truth, and now wanted to share this with the rest of the world. All we had to do was be re-born.

The female proclaimed how great our future was going to be.

Chapter Six

I started crying and got very upset. All I kept thinking about was the people in my life that I would never see again. I didn't care if I was alive. Who cares what these people are going to do with us. I will never see the rest of my family again. I will never see my brother again. I will never see my husband again.

The group tried comforting me. My parents told me that everything was alright. That these creatures were here to help us to have a better life. My parents held me and told me that at least we were together and we were going to live in a better world.

It didn't matter to me. I couldn't believe I would never see him again.

Suddenly, the female waved to a group of her subordinates and our group was encircled. Everything was different. Her tone had changed. She was no longer nice and trusting. She was angry. She told her minions to start killing us off. We all start crying and pleading for our lives as some of the group members are being pulled away. We were all confused at this sudden change. We started to scream that we thought we were all to live together in a better society...

The female started laughing at our naivety. She told us that because we were not transformed, we would not be easily controlled or molded like the rest of the "new, shiny people" and thus needed to be extinguished.

The creature then pulled a "new" person out of the other cabin and presented the being to us. She forced us to look at the person. Dangling in front of us was an old, stringy white haired old woman. She was intoxicated. The female creature asked me if I knew who they were.

I did not.

The female creature pulls out the women's purse and tells me to go through it. I find the license. My breathe stops. I knew them. How could this be? This is not true. I started to get mad and yell at the woman that she was lying and that she was wrong.

The female creature demands that I be quiet. She pauses for a moment, then she gives me a proposition. If I chose to have the "new" people killed, including the "reborn" person standing in front of me, then she will let our group live instead. But if I didn't choose, she would kill the group. I didn't know what to do.

The group was yelling at me and pressuring me. They wanted me to accept the deal. They proclaimed that the lives of those people were not worth anything because they lived false lives as was proof of their transformations. What was more important, they asked me. A small group of honest people, or a large group of liars?

The female creature stood over me and insisted on an answer, one to which I could not give. I explained to her that I did not have the power nor the right to make such a decision; that it would be going against what I believed in and how I wanted to live my life: to be an unselfish and honest person, true to myself and my family.

She was very confused and angered by this answer. This was not supposed to be. No, she knew our society was full of deception, of people wanting to be something they weren't, but here I stood before her, an example of what her species had tried to become. This cannot be true.

She didn't understand why I would sacrifice myself so that a larger population may live; a population filled of people who were afraid to show their true selves. Did I not want to live? And what about my family in the group? she asked. If I didn't make a choice, I would be responsible for their lives as well.

I told her that I stood by my answer, and that I had no right to choose.

Immediately, an ear piercing shriek cut like a knife through the air as she started screaming in agony. We all covered our ears and huddled together to shelter us from the unknown. Suddenly a large burst of light filled the room and all the creatures vanished...

It was quiet. I open my eyes and the creatures are all gone. Everyone in my group is sleeping; I run to the second cabin and see all the passengers sleeping. What had just happened? Why wasn't I dead? Why weren't all of us dead?

I sat down in my seat and put my head down in my hands. A few moments later, my mom is awake, and with a yawn, asks if we were there yet. I look out the window and the plane is landing. Yes, yes we had arrived safely...