

The Fog

Summary

The Fog is a short fiction novel about a sudden worldwide evolution. Every species is evolving to fight for dominating the world. This short novel is about how the main character meets his best friend in this long journey and decides their path in the chaos.

Introduction. The Forerunners.

Three years before the Purge.

A young man was walking through the corridor. It was a short and narrow corridor that only had one room at the end of the aisle with four muscular soldiers guarding. It was the first time he comes down here, five hundred feet under the white house. "They must retire from the navy seal." He thought. He didn't know why he believes that, but he knew that's true. No matter what the object is, if he thinks the object is one thing, it will be proved that it's that thing. His judgment never goes wrong since he was a child. That's why he's the secretary of the general, and he's only 23. But he could not judge what will come next. The command he received seems too weird, and it was out of his area. He graduated from Yale University with all As in all subjects. But nothing he learned can explain the odd message that appears in his mind. He said to everyone that he was coming to assist the general, but only he knew, he's coming to seek help. With all the thinking in his mind, he was right in front of the door, and he didn't even notice. Before any word comes from his mouth, a voice says 'let him in' came out from the room, like the man behind the door already

knew he would be there. He walked into the room. It's a typical general room, a desk, a chair, a lamp, and tons of paper around the man sitting on the chair, nothing else.

"There probably is a gun hidden somewhere. Maybe a Glock 19, the most classic one." Without control, he starts thinking.

"Have a seat, and tell me why you here?" The general says it without a glimpse of him. "Yes, father." He answered without thinking. No one knows he's the son of the general except them. But he never considers the man as his father. He met his father first time when he was 15, and the man who called himself his father said only one sentence, "Come with me, and I will give what you need." With no reason, he came with the man; maybe his judgment told him he has to do.

"I received a weird message."

"From? What're the contents. Get to the point." The general was talking while signing a document.

"It's from my head. The message shows up in my brain. It comes nowhere."

The general stopped writing gradually and looked up at his face. There was no facial expression.

"When it comes to you?"

"About three days ago. And the message is...."

"The fog is coming. The spell will be released. No species can escape from the Great Purge. Come to my throne if you want the power. You only have a week to prepare. Right?" The general stares at his son with his golden eyeballs.

"Yes. You got the message too?" The son said without any surprise.

“3 days ago, summits in all countries receive the same message at the same time. No expert can explain what happened and what will happen.” The general took off his glasses and cleaned them, “And the message appears in different people’s minds. Men. Women. Old. Young. The only thing in common is everyone who got the message has some kind of superpower. Like you.”

“So.. nobody knows what’s happening? And we all just going to wait for a week and see what’s the Great Purge and fog is?”

“Precisely, four days. Yes. All experts of occultism around the world are working together and trying to solve the message. Little progress has been made”

After a minute of silence, “All right, dad, I understand. Please inform me if anything has is found out.” He stared at the chief’s eyes for a second and turned around to the door. Before exiting, he stopped and said: “Dad. I miss your brown eyeballs. They are prettier.” He then opened the door and exited.

The general froze for several seconds, smiled lightly, and whispered, “I miss your blue eyeballs too, son.”

“Sorry for lying. I know where’s the message comes from. And I know why it only sent to several people.”

“Because we are not humans anymore,” the chief continues, even his son cannot hear him anymore, “We are... Forerunners.”

In the dark corridor, nothing shined but two golden eyeballs.

Chapter1 The Fog

".... Let's review the most important point in this lecture again --- the Cambrian

Explosion." The man who's talking on the stage is a young professor, a tall Asian with black frame glasses. About two years ago, biology was added to the mandatory class list for all college students without any reason. Students must take three years of biology classes regarding their majors. At the end of each year, there is a national evaluation final hold by the government. The government never announced the reason; even lots of students and colleges are complaining about the policy; the government unusually forced applying this policy to each college.

"....The Cambrian Explosion is one of the mysteries of modern science.....The sleeping kids, someone wakes him up and lets him answered the question." The professor points the black-hair guy in the back-row. His name is William Fang, a Chinese international student. He had learned this knowledge when he was in middle school since his father is a biologist and loves to teach him biological lessons. He is a typical top student, almost every professor likes this student, and it is abnormal for him to fall asleep during the class. He was preparing for his Ancient Biology class presentation until 4 A.M this morning. His friend sits next to him, named Alex, wakes him up, and murmurous tells him, "Hey, the professor is asking you a question. What is the Cambrian Explosion ." With half-opened eyes, William yawns and answers reluctantly: "The Cambrian Explosion took place around a hundred million years ago; it was a sudden evolution of all lives on earth. All species gained a faster-than-light rate of evolution, and the evolving process is hundreds of millions of times faster than before."

"Nearly perfect. Also, new species are being created at faster-than-light speeds.

Nearly all ancestors of current species appeared during the evolution," The professor pauses, drinks water, and continues, "The Cambrian Explosion is strong evidence against Darwin's theory of evolution. Darwin felt uncertain about this. Let's continue." Suddenly, the classroom darkened, and students are in a tumult. "What happened." Alex looks out through the window. The fog outside suddenly grew thick! The pink fog appears since this morning and hasn't faded away, and now it becomes thick suddenly. High clouds of mist filled the whole outside world as if a great lump of cotton has been crammed into the entire world, blocking out all the light. Because the fog is so intense, the originally pink fog gradually turns to a deep red, and then, as time went on, to a mass of red blood at a rate visible to the naked eye. The sun is completely blocked out, and the whole world fades into darkness, or rather, red in the darkness, and the world turned black and red. This weird color brings a kind of palpitating feeling to everyone. William turns his head around, realizes that every classmate's face is black-red, and facial features become a blur, making him feel palpitation. If the world is only dark, there may be noisy classmates shouting, and even boys to take the opportunity to flirt with their girlfriend. However, no one dares to speak in this weird environment.

Because when the world is in darkness, everyone has experienced.

But when the world is in blood color, no one has experienced it.

Every student sees the frightened expressions on other people's faces, and no one is brave enough to talk. The whole classroom falls in silence.

"I am going to contact other people to see what happens. Class dismissed. You all

can go back home to see your parents. I know you are worried about them. Remember, stay safe and calm." The professor is the first one to recover from the situation, and he goes out of the door and disappears in the thick fog suddenly. With his actions, the class turns empty in several seconds.

Chapter 2 The Evolution

William walks outside the door; as a major biology student, he's curious about the fog, plus he doesn't have a place to go. The professor wants them to find their parents, but he's an international student, and his parents are all in China. He tried to call them with the phone, but it seems that the fog can block all electronic signals. He doesn't know what happens in his hometown and what happens to his parents. He walks inside the fog and tries to analyze the fog. He is good at analyzing, and he is smarter than any one of his age since he was a child. The fog isn't poisonous, he has been walking inside the fog for thirty minutes, and he's still alive. However, the fog has a weird smell, and it is trying to get inside William's body. It's funny, he thinks, fog is not supposed to have a consciousness, so it shouldn't have this weird movement. Or, he realizes, something is controlling the fog. This thought is too horrified; he shivers. What kind of powerful creature can control all the fogs in the New York state, or maybe around the whole world? With all thoughts in his mind, William doesn't notice that the fog in his body is changing him at a surprisingly fast speed, and his eyeballs are splitting and turning golden.

William is woolgathering about the fog while walking toward his rented apartment. When he turns a corner, he finds a familiar figure, Alex. It is so exciting to

see a friend inside the endless fog. "Alex!" William shouts to that figure. He now can barely see the facial expression of Alex. There is no response from that figure. That's stranger, William thinks, Alex should hear his voice, or the fog can block the sound waves? He runs toward the figure and finally understands why Alex cannot responses his voice. Alex's face, maybe it cannot be called face because there's nothing on it, is badly mangled by several birds. These birds may be sparrows; William cannot be sure because they enlarge as big as a person's head. These sparrows are pecking on Alex's face and eating the flesh. Blood splatters all over their body. Alex's whole face had been butchered to a pulp. A vast vine had entangled his feet; the vine had grown tentacles that go straight into Alex's blood veins are absorbs blood greedily. William puts his hands over his mouth, trying not to let his fear make any sound to interrupt these sparrows. He is not sure whether the sparrows want to eat his face too, or they think he's too weak for them to eat, so none of the sparrows looks at him. William tries to move backward quietly with little steps, and he doesn't even try to breathe to let these sparrows notice him. When he retreats far away enough from these sparrows, he finds a little store to move in. No one is in the store. He finds a chair, sits down, and finally allows himself to breathe. These sparrows and vines aren't the only things that scare him. When he looks at these sparrows, he finds a number next to each sparrow. Within approximately 200 meters, he can receive all kinds of moving numbers to his mind. He doesn't know what the number means, but he believes if the number of one that sparrow is three, then the creature has number eight and was moving toward him must be very dangerous.

He finally has time to sit down and try to understand what happens to the world. These sparrows are evolving. Or, more accurately, the world is evolving. These sparrows have grown from tiny and unremarkable birds to meat hunters. And himself is also evolving. He can feel that his ability to analyze reaches an extremely high level. Based on a person's physical appearance, he is sure that he can easily calculate one's breathing rate and heart rate and determine what mood one is in. He can think questions calmly in any situation and find the best solution in the shortest time. But how about these numbers? He's still thinking. He cannot receive any numbers right now besides his number. His number is 1.5, and he doesn't understand what that is.

Suddenly, he feels something. A large group of number 0.05 is moving toward him. William soon finds the best place he can hide while observing outside. Within a minute, he saw a group of ants pass the store. These ants are about a human hand long, and William won't doubt that these ants can quickly kill a person together with their evolved sharp mouths. "So these are the intensity of life," he whispered, "in other words, the numbers are the level of each living thing." William can confirm that the blood-red fog is helping all the species to evolve. The more simple a life's structure is, the easier it can evolve. He realizes that he has evolved too. He can see further distance than he could, and the strange ability that allows him to think calmer and faster and also detect all living things in 200 meters.

"Anybody here?" A sudden voice interrupts William's thinking. He follows the sound and sees there's a girl stands in front of the door. Even with the darkness in the store, he recognizes her. It's Eva, one of his classmates in his biology class. He knows

her because they were in the same group project last time and he noticed that she isn't brilliant, but she's hard-working. He gets out of the hidden place and walks toward her. "Who...Who are you? Where is William?" Her voice sounds very nervous. "So she has not evolved; at least her eyes have not." William starts thinking again. "Hey. I am William. Don't be afraid." William can see her face is full of happiness for a moment, and then she is feeling nervous and worrying again. "It's OK. It's all right. I won't hurt you. Come in and relax a little bit." Eva walks into the store and sits on a chair, and talks to him. "I know you are here... William... Please help me..." Suddenly, tears come out and slide across her face.

"OK, OK. Don't cry. Calm down. I am not going anywhere. Tell me what you need help with." While William is comforting Eva, he suddenly realizes one thing: "The number of Eva is 1, which means she has not evolved yet, but how can she be so certain about I am in this store?" He instantly becomes alert and keeps a distance from Eva, and asks: "Answer a question for me. How can you know I am in this store. You should not be able to see me from outside." "Because...." Eva raises her hand, trembling, and points outside. "Don't doubt her. I told her that you are in this store." Of a sudden, a gentle voice appears from outside. Williams turns around as fast as he can and searched outside the door. He can't feel any number out, but there is a living thing outside, and I just talked to him!

"Can you come out of the store, William? I mean no harm. I just want to talk with you." The gentle voice appears again.

"Why?" William tries to talk with the stranger with no fear, but his trembling

voice betrays him, "Why should I trust you?"

"You don't have to, but I want to cooperate with you. To survive. In return, I will tell you anything I know. I know the fog will make lives evolve, and I know how the fog appears."

William analyzes the voice from the stranger. He concludes that the stranger isn't deceiving him. It seems the stranger wants to cooperate with him genuinely. And he wants to know how the fog appears.

He steps out of the store. What he sees is a massive willow with a human face.

Chapter 3 The Truth.

"Finally, I meet you." The willow breaks the silence with a gratified smile. William understands that he is trying to show his kindness, but the facial expression makes him scarier. "I know you have lots of questions," the willow continues, "To show my sincerity, you can ask me any question you want to know about the fog. I am probably one of the few creatures who know what's going on."

"OK," William thinks a little bit and asks, "What is this fog? And who releases this fog. I can feel that something is controlling these fogs to move into all creatures and let them evolve." The willow smiles and says: "Great question. My judgment isn't wrong. You are one of the chosen people." The willow pauses for a second and continues, "To your both questions, I can answer them by telling you the truth of the world. Let's see what else you want to know after telling the truth."

"You should know the Cambrian Explosion. A sudden evolution for all species on the earth. What you have seen and experienced is the exact thing that happened

during the Cambrian Explosion. Scientists nowadays can't figure out why the Cambrian Explosion happened. It's not their fault because something is controlling the process."

"Something?"

"Yes, something. We call it the ancient one. It is a monster that lives under that Atlantic ocean. By the way, the disappearance of Atlantis is his work also. And, of course, the Cambrian Explosion is because of him."

"So why the Ancient One releases the fog? How did he do this?"

"To answer your question, we have to back to 3 years ago. Three years ago, there was a message sent by the Ancient One to a few creatures in the world, included the most talented people around the world and some random animals and plants. I was one of the plants that receive the message. The message was: 'The fog is coming. The spell will be released. No species can escape from the Great Purge. Come to my throne if you want the power. You only have a week to prepare' I didn't know what was happening at that time, and I didn't know what to prepare. Then, a week later, the same fog appears now appeared around me and made me evolve. After that, I gained intelligence from evolution. Except for moving, I can do anything that a human being can do. Also, I can think ten times faster than ordinary people and", around William, there are several vines that appear from the ground, "attack others like this. That's my answer to where's the fog comes from and who is controlling them. Are you satisfied?"

"Not a hundred percent. You still don't tell me why the Ancient One is doing

this.”

“Because he wants to have some servants,” willow’s voice becomes low and deep, “Remember the message I told you? ‘Come to my throne if you want the power.’ As far as I know, I am the only one who doesn’t go to his throne after evolving. In other words, other evolved animals and the smartest and strongest people already became his servant. They call them ‘Forerunners.’ They are trying to establish a new world under their control. So the Ancient one can control the world. He did once the Cambrian Explosion, but he failed because there aren’t many well-evolved creatures at that time. But time has changed. There are more than enough intelligent creatures in the world nowadays, and they are all seeking power. I don’t want to become someone’s servant, and I don’t care about controlling the world. I just want to live freely. But that’s means I have to fight with Forerunners and the Ancient One.”

William is stroking his jaw while listening; this is his habit when he’s thinking. After a while, he looks at the willow’s eyes and asks: “I understand most conditions. One last question. Why are you finding me? Why you want to incorporate me.”

“Because of your eyes!” Willows becomes excited in sudden, “That’s a miracle. I have met most of the Forerunners, and they all have the same eyes as you have!”

“Wait, you are confusing me. What happens to my eyes?” “You didn’t know? Come, look at the” The willow gives William a mirror with his vines. William was shocked by the weird-looking of his eyes. But he calms down in a second. He hints the willow to continue, “The creature who evolves better and stronger than anyone else will have this golden double eyeballs! You are still evolving right now, and you will have more

abilities later. So please help me. You are the only..."

"I agree."

"...OK., I don't expect you to agree to cooperate with me so fast."

"It's not a tough decision. I can analyze you are not lying based on your tone and facial expression. Then, according to what you said, helping you is my only choice.

After all, I want to live in freedom as well."

"Great! Let's find a place to plan out what we should do next." The willow seems extremely happy.

"One more thing before we leave. Show me how powerful you are. I cannot see any number that indicates your intensity of life. I need to know how strong you are to analyze our next move."

"That's easy." The willow chuckled and closed his eyes.

When he opened his eyes again, William cannot see anything else besides those scary golden eyes --- shining like two suns in front of him. The number appears gradually next to those eyes.

587.

"Remember, what you see isn't what's real. We have to use every trick we can use. No matter how cruel, how evil they are. "

"To survive."

"To survive."