

The Fate of One Planet

by Ian Dow

Chapter 7

Start

Going back to near the beginning of this story...

The Balls had bickered with each other for some time due to a combination of both fear and greed.

"We must settle our debts or face elimination," said the Left Ball.

"But if we play this right, we could be made for life," said the Right Ball.

The Left Ball ordered the White Ship to get a sample, so they could now leave as soon as possible.

"We have a..." the White Ship started to reply before the Right Ball interrupted.

"We need a good one! Show me on the planet which one you have selected?"

"It's that one, the one I have already," the White Ship tried to continue but was interrupted again.

"Go get that sample now," the Right Ball commanded.

"I just hope the ship doesn't try and lecture us again about how this is a protected primitive species, on a forbidden planet, blaa blaa blaaaa." The Left Ball laughed.

The Ship dove through the atmosphere at speed, hitting the ground in front of Jay on the Ducati, as it opened up to expose the parallelogram. Jay drove through and disappeared. The Ship saw the police car coming and decided to hop a couple of hills over. It stopped on the road, exposed the parallelogram, and a brand-new Jay drove out.

"What the heck!" said Jay as he wobbled to a stop.

The Ship climbed hard out of the atmosphere and it informed the Balls that the local security forces had been alerted to their action. "Who cares?" was the mocking reply. "What are they going to do, throw rocks?"

"Show us our specimen!" the Left Ball demanded.

A hologram of Jay in his bike leathers and helmet appeared in front of the Balls.

"No. No. No. We cannot see it like that. Show us what it looks like without the covering on it. I want a good look at it."

The Ship produced a naked Jay from the White Parallelogram machine. "What the hell!" said Jay.

He wandered about the Ship until he came to the control room. Suddenly, he realised the two large Balls in front of him were, in fact, living creatures, and so he froze. The Balls realised that Jay was behind them and swivelled round to examine him. He was confused and petrified, so he didn't even blink.

"That's better," said the Right Ball.

"Wow, isn't it ugly! We are going to make a fortune out of this freak," the Left Ball added.

"Have you noticed how good the hologram equipment is on this Ship? With its long dangly bits, this monster could be in the room with us. I'm glad it's not." Both Balls laughed. Jay did not understand their language, but he understood laughter and let out a nervous laugh himself.

"What?" said the Left Ball,

"Is that monster in the room with us?"

The Right Ball spat at Jay and gasped when the saliva did not pass through a hologram but hit him on the forehead. Both Balls went into a panic.

"There's a monster loose on board."

"Get it off the Ship. Get it off the Ship NOW!"

Jay had been stepping back from the Balls as they appeared to have a big hissy fit. Then, the white walls enclosed him, and he disappeared from the room. The Ship had been given orders but did not want to destroy Jay. It chose a course of action and made an intergalactic jump. When at the new location, it popped Jay into an Enviro Bubble, with a small part of the White Ship itself, and his rucksack. This was set adrift near a group of quarantined ships.