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About 1900 words

Science Fiction & Fantasy

Fantasy Story

The Day Before Valentine's

by Tracy Altvater

Sarah finished cutting out the red construction paper hearts and placed them on the overflowing pile that she had stacked up between herself and her boyfriend, Tommy. The pile was too high, so it toppled over spilling all over the gym floor where Sarah, Tommy and their two friends, Taylor and Nate, sat cross-legged in a circle.

"I am not picking that up," said Nate. He was the goof ball of the school and he was also rather lazy.

"It's fine. I got it," said Taylor as she walked over to the pile on her knees. Most of the school was surprised that she was even friends with those three. Afterall, she was a cheerleader and cheerleaders didn't typically hang around kids like them. The nerdy, smart and goofy type. But that is what those four were. The Gang. Not one of them alike, but their differences brought them together.

Taylor finally got all the hearts put back on the pile Sarah had created. She picked up a black permanent marker and started writing little notes on the hearts. Things such as *Miss U*, *Love U*, *Kisses*, *Be Mine*.

"I can't wait for this dance," said Nate.

"Why is that?" asked Sarah.

"Because I might actually get a girl!" Everyone chuckled. They all knew that wasn't happening. Nate had never had a girlfriend. He was too picky. They were either not pretty enough, social enough, funny enough or too much of the latter. But, regardless, he was just going to the dance to show off the new dance he had found on social media. He didn't have much of a talent in that department, but he really didn't care.

They were about to gather up all the decorations for the dance and head back to class. Before Sarah could reach the pile of hearts again to put them in her bag, they toppled again.

"Seriously?" She bent down so she could gather them and a jolt from the gym floor sent her toppling over too.

"What was that?" asked Taylor.

"I don't know," Sarah got up and started rubbing her bumped knee.

The whole room began to shake. Parts of the ceiling came tumbling to the gym floor. Other students started screaming as they ran past The Gang. Everyone put their hands on their heads to shield them from the debris.

"What is that terrible smell?" Tommy asked as he pinched his nose.

"I don't know but it's making me want to puke," Taylor replied.

All four of them ran out into the hall. It was complete chaos. Kids running everywhere, teachers trying to get them to stop and form some kind of order. Not only was everyone dealing

with the smell that resembled year old rotting garbage, but the outside had grown super dark. A fog rolled into the hallways making it hard for everyone to see each other. The kids kept bumping into one another as they tried to make their way anywhere they could.

"We need to go find where this is coming from," said Nate. One by one they found each other's hands and Nate led the way to the back exit of the school where the football field began.

They found the double doors through the fog and slowly stepped outside. It was even darker and smelled worse out there. They all put their noses inside their shirts and tried to see through the fog. Off in the distance they could make out lights.

"Um, why does that look like a ship or plane?" asked Tommy.

"Well, because it is," said Sarah.

The ground began to shake again, stronger than before. Whatever was causing that was getting closer.

Suddenly, three giant creatures were upon them, towering over them like skyscrapers in the fog. They all screamed and ran under the bleachers.

"What in the world are those things?" asked Taylor. She was visibly shaking.

"I don't know, but this is not good. Not good at all," said Nate. He seemed to have lost his sense of humor now.

The giant creatures stopped moving and started talking to one another. Surprisingly, they spoke English.

"Gargog, what do you want us to do?" asked one of them with a gnarly voice. He was the ugliest of the creatures. He had horns coming out of his nose, pure black eyes and colossal wart looking things on his forehead. His ears were pointy, and he was carrying a machete.

"Gut Slayer, why do you always ask such idiotic questions. This isn't our first planet invasion. You know what to do!" Gargog slapped his hands together causing a thunderous echo to howl through the stands. It caused every one of The Gang members to jump. Taylor squealed.

"Quiet!" said Sarah as she covered Taylor's mouth.

"What was that?" asked the third creature. He wasn't as tall as the other two, but just as ugly. He had fangs that overlapped his bottom lip and deep red eyes. His face was full of wrinkles and random hairs. He was holding a massive hammer.

"Probably one of those nasty humans, VileSpawn," said Gut Slayer.

"Did that dude just call us nasty?" asked Nate. "Have they seen themselves?"

"We don't have time for jokes right now," said Tommy.

"You idiots need to just do your jobs. I better not have to tell you again." He took the staff he was holding and hit the ground with it. As he did so, a bright red light came from the opposite end, shooting up into the sky.

"Yes Gargo," they said in unison.

They started to walk closer to where the kids were hiding. Their weight on the ground was causing them to bounce all over the place. The tallest one, Gut Slayer, grabbed the bleachers they were under and pulled them right out of the ground, exposing the kids. They all screamed and started running. Everyone but Sarah that is.

"Sarah, come on!" shouted Tommy. He stopped and ran back for her.

"Go. I got this. Go now! Get as many kids to safety as you can."

Just then her eyes started glowing purple and she held out her hands as a beautiful lavender light filled the space between them, jolting back and forth between each of her hands. She started floating off the ground.

"Tommy, I said go now!"

This time Tommy did as he was told almost tripping over air as he turned to look back at his girlfriend once more. Or who he thought was his girlfriend.

"Hey ugly," said Sarah. Gut Slayer turned to look at her. He started to run as fast as his large frame would carry him and just as he thought he was about to snag Sarah out of the air, she threw a ball of light directly at his face. He fell backwards to the earth causing a Tsunami of cars in the teachers parking lot to flood out in the field. Gut Slayer screamed and took both hands to his face. When he removed them, half his face was missing.

"You are dead human!" He started to run towards her again, but this time she sent an even bigger ball flying at him. This time it took him down, and he didn't get back up.

Sarah floated back to the ground and as her eyes became normal, the light disappeared. She took off running to find her friends. They were huddled beneath the awning of the side porch of the school.

"Guys, are you okay?" asked Sarah.

"Is it true?" asked Nate.

She didn't even have to ask what he meant. She already knew.

"Yes, it's true."

She embraced herself for their reactions.

"Wow, that is so cool! How come you never told us before?" asked Taylor.

"Can you do it on command? Or is it like being The Hulk, only when you are mad?" asked Nate.

"Can you show us?" asked Taylor.

"Listen, I can answer all these questions later, but for now, we have a massive alien invasion happening on our football field. Now, I have the power to take them all down, even if the big one is going to be a harder quest, but what I need from you guys is your help. I need distractions from two of you and the other must get all the other kids and adults as far from here as they can. We have to stop them before they get into our town."

"Yeah, and before they ruin our Valentine's Day dance," said Taylor.

Nate laughed. "Really Taylor?"

Tommy took off to help the other kids and teachers. Nate and Taylor decided to be the distractions.

"Humans! Where are you?" said Gargog. He started picking up the cars from the field and tossing them to the side, smashing them into the athletic building, taking down light poles and leaving huge holes in the ground.

"Over here!" shouted Taylor. Gargog took his staff and the end of it lit up like a Christmas tree, bright red and angry. He pointed it to where the voice was coming from which gave Sarah an opportunity to zap him from the side. He grabbed his waist where her light had hit and turned his staff in her direction. He let it rip through the fog, hoping it would land on the annoying human. Sarah dodged it and shot another back, with more force and aimed towards his chest. He smacked the light away.

"Uh-oh," she said.

Just then her parents came running onto the field.

"Sarah, watch out!" yelled her dad.

Sarah ducked just as his red beam flew past her head.

"Mom and Dad? What are you doing here? You need to go."

Her parents started floating. Pink light filtered out of her mom's eyes and blue out of her dad's.

"Honey, there is something we forgot to mention," said her dad. Her parents floated over next to her.

"Gargog, we are here to help!" said Vilespawn.

"About time you deficient idiots," said Gargog as he shot his light towards Sarah's dad. It grazed his arm and he let out a yelp.

"Dad, you okay?" asked Sarah.

"Yeah, I am good. Now let's take these ugly invaders down."

Sarah went after Gargog, her mom went after Gut Slayer, and her dad continued his fight with Vilespawn. One by one the family took each of the invaders down. As their blood spilled into the Earth, their bodies withered away into ash. The fog started to lift, and the stench began to disappear.

Once they were able to see clearly again, they saw the damage the monsters had done. Nothing that couldn't be repaired and thankfully the school was still in decent shape.

The flying trio floated back to the ground and Sarah's parents wrapped their arms around Sarah tightly. The rest of The Gang surrounded them, and more hugs were given out.

"So, I think we all have a lot of catching up to do on things, huh?" asked Sarah as she half-grinned at her parents.

"I guess we do," said her mom.

"But first, let's go finish decorating the gym for the dance," said Tommy as he draped his arm around Sarah's neck.

Police sirens now filled the air and the only lights touching the sky was the ones they wore on top of their cruisers. Sarah saved the town that day, and the dance. The best Valentine's gift any of them would ever receive.

The End