

# IN THE NIGHT SKY

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The sun had long since disappeared. This far away from the city, Jillian could see millions of stars glittering in the sky above her. She was driving home from work where she had had a very long day. Working as a secretary for the Inport Corporation, she had scheduled countless meetings, redirected people looking for her bosses, and answered so many phone calls and emails that she had lost count.

Jillian sighed. It was good to be going home. She was looking forward to getting some rest. Tomorrow would be another big day.

Jillian lived in a rural area, and it took her two hours to commute to and from work in the city. Her mother always said that she should find a job closer to her home, but Jillian liked her paycheck too much to do that. While she supposed she could try to move to the suburbs, she didn't want to give up the peace and quiet she got from living away from everything.

Casually glancing up at the stars, Jillian smiled. Seeing the millions of little dots was something you couldn't get living in the city.

Turning her black sedan onto a lonely winding road, Jillian's thoughts drifted back to some gossip one of her coworkers had told her about her boss. It was hard to resist that sort of thing, but Jillian really tried to stay away from gossiping about other people. Especially after realizing how much people gossiped about her.

Shaking the thoughts out of her head, she looked up at the stars again and thought she saw a metallic object jet across the night sky.

Using one hand to rub her eyes, Jillian squinted at the stars.

What? she thought. What was that?

She must be awfully tired if she thought she was seeing a UFO. Besides, it could have just been a shooting star or something.

I'm almost home, she thought to herself. Just focus on driving.

Jillian put both of her hands on the wheel and stared straight ahead. She was passing farmlands now where the grass and barbed wire fences stretched on for miles.

Unable to resist thinking about it, Jillian wondered what she would have done if she had actually seen a UFO.

I should have recorded it, she thought. Then I should have posted it on YouTube and made millions of views.

The idea was silly and she couldn't resist smiling.

After a few minutes, Jillian's thoughts returned to wanting to get home and what she would have to do for work the next day. All thoughts of UFOs were almost all gone until the grassy field to her right lit up with a fiery explosion.

Jillian hit the brakes hard, and her sedan made an awful screeching noise. She swerved and thought her car might have bumped into one of the fences.

Feeling her heart pound inside her chest, Jillian peered through her passenger side window. Looking more closely, she saw that whatever had just exploded had come from the center of the field, about a mile away.

I'm still in one piece, she thought, so that's good.

Trying to calm herself, Jillian got out of her car and looked to see what had caused the explosion. It was too dark to see much of anything, though she could see smoke rising in the distance.

Letting her eyes adjust to the darkness, an odd thought occurred to her.

Was it that UFO object that crashed? No, that was ridiculous. UFOs do not exist.

Whatever it was, Jillian decided that she'd better check it out. What if someone had gotten hurt?

Jillian immediately called Joe, the man who owned this property. He sounded groggy as if she had just woken him up, but promised that he would be there as soon as he could to help her investigate. She considered calling the police but eventually decided against it. This wasn't that big of a deal, was it?

Making her way over to the fence, Jillian turned on her phone's flashlight and walked along the fence looking for an opening. After what felt like several minutes, she found a section of the fence that looked as if an animal had snuck through. She could see patches of black fur stuck on the stretched wire. Maybe this was the wolf that Joe had been telling her about. She didn't think he'd be out now, especially not after the explosion, but she decided that she should still be careful.

Once on the other side, Jillian hurried as fast as she could towards the smoke. She saw that it was rising from a dark heap. Drawing nearer, she began to feel a little scared. It looked like a wreck. Should she have waited for Joe? Maybe she should have called the police after all.

No, no. She told herself. I can't be getting cold feet now.

Telling herself to keep moving, Jillian kept walking until she was able to shine her flashlight on an object. Bending down, she

coughed and tried to cover her mouth. The smoke was thick here. Grabbing the object, Jillian backed up until she felt that she could finally breathe comfortably. The object was cool to the touch.

Remembering that she was supposed to be looking for people, Jillian studied the object quickly. It looked like it was some kind of disc. There was writing on it, but she couldn't read or understand it. Warning bells went off in her head and she couldn't stop thinking that she really had stumbled upon a UFO.

Stop being silly, she told herself. Walking back into the smoke, Jillian held her breath and scanned the wreck. The warning bells in her head grew louder.

The heap was huge. She couldn't help thinking that it looked like a starship.

Have I really stumbled on a downed UFO? She thought. How is that possible? This has to be some kind of trick!

Stepping over more rubble, Jillian found what looked like some kind of door. After exerting a lot of effort, Jillian managed to push it open. She peered inside and gulped.

There were wires, screens, and keyboards everywhere. Most of them looked as if they had been smashed or broken in half. Surprisingly, the smoke was not as heavy as it had been outside. It was almost as if whoever had built this...UFO...had designed it in such a way to keep the inside safe.

Jillian was starting to feel very scared. Someone would have had to have been flying this thing in order for it to crash. Did this mean there were aliens aboard?

She didn't want to find out. Backing away from the UFO, Jillian resolved to call the police as soon as she was as far away from the machine as she possibly could be.

Sprinting back in the direction she had come from, Jillian heard sirens in the distance. It was almost a comforting sound.

Ah good, she thought, trying to tell herself to relax. Joe called the police. Everything is going to be okay.

She started running even faster and was about halfway to her car when she unexpectedly tripped. Jillian couldn't believe her own clumsiness, but then realized that she hadn't fallen over anything. Someone had tripped her.

Looking behind her, Jillian grabbed her phone and moved it wildly in all directions. The light fell on a young man wearing dark armor and a long black cape. He looked down at her and Jillian tried to force down her rising panic. She tried to say something but no sound came out.

She could hear the sirens approaching and wished desperately

that they were closer.

The young man pointed a long black sword at her face and Jillian gulped.

Finally working saliva into her mouth, Jillian quietly stammered out a question.

“W-w-who are you?”

The young man glanced up in the direction of the approaching sirens then looked down at her again.

“That is not important. What matters is that you are going to help me escape. If you do not cooperate, I will kill you.”

Jillian could see the police cars in the distance. I should have called them, she thought. I shouldn't have come here.

She blinked back tears and met the young man's eyes.

“Okay, I'll help you...just help me up first, okay?”