

Alexis Torres

Professor Edlund

Eng-304

7 June 2018

Max Mind: And the End of the Universe

The monster might have been waiting for a friend. I couldn't take any chances. One shot from my laser gun turns the 8-foot monster into the same height as anyone else when they're laying down. I never thought I'd see the day when I'd feel so much anger that I could do this. I just wanted to live a normal life. No powers, or anything like that. But all that ends now. I run into the local liquor spot looking for signs of life. The clerk is hiding behind the counter.

"Oh my God, just take the money, but please don't kill me!"

I lower my laser gun and hold my other hand up. "Hey, Hey, it's okay, I'm just as scared and confused as you are. What the hell is happening?"

"I. I don't know. I, I just looked up, and, and next thing you know... half of the people on the street just. They just disappeared! In thin air!"

"I know. My wife and I were about to leave our apartment and she..." I choke up a little and then look at my phone. "Let's put this phone number to use for once". I scroll down in my contacts to a number I never thought I would need and press the call button. It rings. My heart is beating super fast. "Fuck!" I yell out loud. No answer. I need to get to the bottom of this, now.

"What's your name, man?"

"M. My name?" the cashier continues to tremble. "Ronald. But my friends call me Ronnie"

“Alright, Ronald. Take this. I don’t need it. Stay here for now, if anyone comes through that door looking half as threatening as me you shoot them on the spot”.

I continue down the street looking for reason. Any sign of logical life. Mercy. Within me. People have vanished completely, but I would let all of them go just to have my wife back. My blood is boiling. “Arrghhhh!!” I cock my arm back and strike the ground beneath me breaking through. Breaking my hand. I focus on my hand. Focus my body. Focus my mind. It is healed. I hurry into a random bar.

“Does anybody know what’s going on?”, I ask as I see a couple of people in the bar. One woman crying while she hides behind a table. The bartender with a confused look on his face and his mouth open. He points to the Ultra Definition TV screen.

“Hello... To the citizens of Johnstown. Or, Keplar III in general. This is an emergency broadcast informing all who receive this, about a strange occurrence that has been reported from multiple places in the area, the province, and a couple reports have just come in from other parts of the planet in general. People have been reported missing in a mysterious way—”

“I don’t need to hear anymore”, I say to myself. “If this is who I think it is”, I tightly curl my fist into a ball. I head toward the prison.

My mind is getting the best of me once again. Those poisonous thoughts return. I fall to my knees. I cry.

I finally get to the prison and reach the cell of that piece of shit. “If you want to live, you will tell me exactly what you did, give my wife back, and MAYBE I won’t break your fuckin’ neck”

Silence fills the cell. But I know that trash is in there. A mini-tornado starts to form.
“Well, hello to you too, Max”

“Cut the wise act, you stole my wife once and you did it again, where is she”

“I don’t have your wife this time. I’m in prison remember? Not that I can’t get out or anything, I’m just trying to be a better person now”, the Sandman says with a smug look on his face.

“I’m not playing games. If the next words out of your mouth isn’t in regard to where my wife went or what happened to her...”

“Oh. You don’t know what’s going on old pal? How about you use that brain of yours for once”

I feel anger. Then I feel calm. My mind is at work and The Sandman is the workplace.

“What? What are you doing?” says The Sandman as I stand 5 feet in front of him with my eyes closed. I open my eyes. And I smirk. His body completely shuts down and now he is permanently lying motionless on the ground.

On the way back, I stop at the bank for a quick second. Loot some cash and make my way.

I get home. Confused. Not knowing meaning, emotion, or feeling right now. I just want this nightmare to end as I lay in bed with an empty spot next to me. My pills over there on the dresser. They remind me of my wife. Constantly reminding me to take them even though I don’t want to. But I need to. She knows better than I do though, she wants to be a doctor someday, but we just can’t afford her schooling yet. The thoughts are coming back worse than ever. I will take my pills for you, baby. I grab a handful and stuff them down my thought. I pour the entire bottle in my palm, a few spill over and hit the ground as they ricochet off the hardwood floor. I

swallow, and swallow, and choke. My lips completely shut as I try my best to give in to the restriction of airflow or the effect of the pills themselves, which ever comes first, but the moment is not arriving fast enough and damn it, finally a few of them enter my system; my heart starts to feel it. But my mind destroyed them all. My self defense kicked in. I don't even want this damn thing, and now I can't even control it?

“Why can't I just die!” I scream in a dark apartment. A cold one. An empty one. With one window. And the sky didn't respond back.

I fall into deep sleep. My body is asleep, but my mind has never been more conscious. It feels like I'm in some sort of sleep paralysis and then my body shoots up violently, towards the sky, towards space. “Whaat? Am I?” I don't know what to make of it, this must be some strange nightmare again. And then I see a man. A giant. With three faces, and it speaks to me, with almost an echo-like effect.

“Son, what was done in the snap of a finger, you can reverse in the blink of an eye”

“What are you talking about” I reply.

“What I speak of, includes your wife”

“My wife? Pfsch, you don't know me!”

“I know you very well son. Your mother passed at an early. And your father, is above all of us. Including myself”

“Now I know you don't know what you're talking about. My father left my mom at my birth. He's probably dead by now or something”

“Just know, there is power in your mind. You have all the power left from your father, but it simply cannot be contained inside a human body. Take a look at the world and at the universe, the choice is yours—”.

My heart beats, my breath shortens, I gasp for air...

I open my eyes and I am awake now. The sunlight is out, but my bed is still one body short. I put on some clothes and head to the liquor store.

“Ronald, you’re still here”

“Hey! Thank God it’s you. Yeah, I’m here, so far so good. Er, I mean, as good as I can be. The guy on the TV, there was this rich guy, says some planet terrorizer is out to take out the whole universe or something like that. And it’s not looking good for life in general... There’s this weapon, or, I don’t know something like that which is the reason why all this happened—”

“I know what to do”, I zone out, staring into a random spot in the store.

“Please be safe, brother, don’t try anything brave. They have a weapon!”

“I have a weapon too”.

I walk outside. Those visions. Was that real? Something is starting to tell me that it was. I see someone frantically jogging by with a water jug, I make her stop. Not with words, not with actions, and I make her drink. I make her do pushups and then jumping jacks after, and then I let her go, and she continues as she was. Jogging with the water jug as if nothing ever happened. I look back inside the liquor store, I close my eyes, and all the survivors raise one hand in the air, on my command, yet I didn’t say a word. My eyes open and they all resume looking at the TV again for the breaking news.

“Where is this happening, Ronald” I say, peeking back inside.

“Earth. It’s that thing right there, and that’s the weapon”

I can sense it in my mind. If what happened last night is true, then I know. I can sense it in my heart. My whole life of trying to find a reason to live, and I now have a reason to die. Now I feel.

“Hey bro, it’s not looking too good for us according to the news. Oh no”, Ronnie pops out and says to me as his hands tremble.

As I look to the sky, I whisper to myself, “You’re coming home, love”.

This is it.

I close my eyes, the ground starts shaking as an intense earthquake erupts, everyone stands still, I control their minds and make them all get to cover safely. I open my eyes, my world is under me and distancing itself as my breathing gets faster, “Aggh!! Shit...”, it begins to hurt, I channel planets, I find the source. Earth. The noise in general grows louder around me and the rumbling intensifies. “Jesus, c’mon Keplar III, please don’t explode on me”, my mind is raging, my aura begins to glow and I cannot see, as thunderstorms and lightening block my view of my home planet, the God’s roar, it’s impossible to hear, everything is so loud. I look one last time at all of my surroundings, neighboring planets, stars, moons and suns. “The choice is mine”, everything grows even louder, my body starts to deteriorate, and I focus my mind, on the universe. One last time. “Aaggggrrrrhhhhhh!!!!!!!!!!”.

I close my eyes. They never open again. I am at peace, I am conscious, yet I do not feel. I am nowhere, yet I am everywhere. I am complete. My life as I know it, no longer exists.

.....

Ronnie gets up from hiding behind the register. “Whaa.. Woah. Everyone is back? Everyone is back!”, his face shows hope and happiness as he smiles big and wide. “Did you guys just see that? Do you even know what just happened?”

“Oh my God! What just happened, I just started seeing people disappear and next thing ya know, I’m.. I’m—”, the customer couldn’t even finish his sentence as he looks at his hands in amazement. Ronnie motions to the TV.

“Look! Look! Right there. Everyone just started disappearing and then this one guy came out of nowhere and gave me his laser gun! He helped calm me down a bit n’ what not, but I’m telling you. He just started floating towards the sky out of nowhere like Jesus freakin’ Christ! This bright gold light just started casting a shadow from behind his head, and then, and then... In the blink of an eye, he was. Gone. But everything else went back to normal. I’m so, confused. Look, right there! The news station is reporting on it right now”.

Everyone in the town is shocked, but rejoicing as they embrace their loved ones, as order seems to be restored.

Pam gets back up from the floor of her apartment gasping for air, “Oh God... What just...”, she looks around. “Baby? Max? Max!”. She quickly goes into the bedroom and turns the TV on and changes it to the news as her eyebrows rise. The reporter is half way through an explanation.

“—but unfortunately, there is no sign of, Maximus Ramirez, our hero who saved us all from this mysterious entity. We owe him so much, and we thank him. We hope we can find him soon—“

Pam sheds a tear, as she continues to learn what exactly happened. “Baby...” she whispers to herself, as she looks at the picture of the two of them on their first date, way back in high school, which seems to have fallen on the ground inside of its frame.

“Baby”, She whispers once more, the pain becoming unbearable as she closes her eyes.

Right as she opens them, she looks toward the bed and sees a giant bag. There is a note on it. She opens the bag. It is filled with money.

The note reads, “Go get ‘em, Doc. I love you. And I will always be with you”.