

Passover

By Damien Kelly

All God fearing Christians know that one day Heaven and Hell will have to answer the question of redemption, and Rocky Ford, Colorado is, on the whole, a God fearing town. So when the Day of Judgement comes, Rocky Ford should be ready. *Well it's here, and they're not.*

They fell upon the world and began to burn it down - Beasts of torment and hatred, who reared up from fields of flowers and watermelons, from the heart of the Rockies, and ripped every man, woman and child in their path to shreds. And there was no questioning who sent them, for they proclaimed themselves to the sky.



*WE ARE LEGION. WE ARE DAMNATION. WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN -
WHAT YOU HAVE TAKEN FROM GOD, WE WILL RECLAIM.*

Devils ran amok on the face of the earth, waiting for heaven's response.



Then the Angels came - but not as expected. The people of Rockford thought the Host of Heaven - beautiful winged beings, wrought of might and holy fire - would descend from the sky to save them. But instead they came from within their own homes. From their own children. Each man's daughter and every woman's son under the age of thirteen became possessed of a Holy Spirit. A warrior spirit. The force of such a being burned out their little eyes, scourged their little voices with their roars, and the flames they could make dance about their bodies, or rear up into weapons, scorched and blistered their soft skin. But they were angels nonetheless, and the God fearing folk of Rockford offered their children up in the name of salvation, to play their part in Armageddon.

Armageddon? But this is not the End, said the angel children.

This is but a Passover. A trial from God.

Look to your spiritual leader - To the Man of God.

He will lead you through the plague.

So every eye turned to Lucas Barry, the Reverend. And he marshalled the people; he held the town together. He was their anchor in the storm. And to aid him, God touched his child Sarah, and one other besides her, to be Lucas' guides, his divine eyes. His personal angels. Reverend Lucas led Rockford in prayer and kept hope alive.

But still there came the night of blood and terror.

The war finally spilled onto the streets of the town and in through the wall of the pastoral centre where the entire town had sheltered together. The people fled into the streets in panic, trampled each other underfoot, and ran headlong into the arms of damnation and death. The Reverend pulled together what few followers he could keep sane, and they in turn grabbed what wounded and hurt they could, and with Lucas leading they made a break into the night. And God made for them a path. His angels spoke to the children. They said,

Go to the desert.
There is a cave, a shelter.
Hide there, and God will bring you into safety.
As His first child sought refuge in the deserts of Egypt, so you too will be safe there.

They fled to the desert - those who could walk carrying the bleeding and unconscious. They were few, but they had faith: faith enough to move a mountain. They came to the cave and slipped gratefully inside. With tearful relief they left behind the night and things roaming in it. Sleep quelled their exhausted sobbing.

And so here they bide, and wait for God. And God will surely come to lead them out into the sunlight, triumphant in His Might. But until then, that none should reach them - that none of his flock should be lost to the sands and the devils - the reverend has brought some might of his own - an explosive might - and with his faith assured, he's about to move part of that mountain.

You who find yourself in the dark - shattered and exhausted from your struggles - have your dulled and confused senses shaken rudely awake, as the bellow of an explosion echoes down the tunnel that leads to the cave mouth. Some of you came here willingly, some of you weren't so sure, but had nowhere else to go. Some of you were dragged against your will, or stumbled along because someone who you wanted to be with was going. Some of you are only now finding out where you are and what has happened. But regardless of how you got in here, it doesn't look like any of you are getting out in a hurry. God had better save you, because other options are slim on the ground. You've precious little in the way of food or water, and the air in here won't last forever. But who's to say He won't save you? With Heaven and Hell at each other's throats outside, He must be around here somewhere, mustn't he? There can be no arguing He doesn't exist anymore, surely.

Rockford has always been a God fearing town, and now He's finally given them something to fear. But they are His children, and just as He delivered His people from Egypt, so He will save Rockford.



They called it a *Passover*. So the angel of death will *pass over*.

Won't it?

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

- **Revered Lucas Barry** - Spiritual leader of Rock Ford, greatly respected for his level head and wisdom. Has just used a very large amount of dynamite to seal you all in a dark hole to wait for the Second Coming.
- **Clara Barry** - The Reverend's pretty and unassuming wife. One of life's born organisers, and the rock on which he leans.
- **Sarah Barry** - The Reverend's 12 year old daughter. Touched by God, and suspected to be an angel like the rest of the children, she is seen as her father's guide in this time of war. Rumour says she can work miracles, only lending weight to the notion she has actually been taken by an angel like the rest of the children.
- **Tony Mayhew** - Lawyer in town. Stiff, conservative type, but a very good facilitator. Currently badly wounded from the attack.
- **Briony Mayhew** - Tony Mayhew's daughter and, similarly to her best friend Sarah, touched by God and guiding the Reverend in His name. Not given to miracles as Sarah is though.
- **Dr. Ian Calvert** - The town's family doctor, a friend of everyone, despite being an atheist in such a devout community. Always a very vocal man, he has made his opinions on the current situation very clear. He's here under duress, but then he can't abandon the badly hurt. He does not believe the attacks have any divine origin and has fought the Reverend's orders since the trouble began. The guns in the room are mainly pointed in Ian's direction.
- **Amber Calvert** - The doctor's wife. A local campaigner with eyes on political office, she makes the effort to attend service in town, but it is seen as a bit of a publicity move and that she only really pays lip-service to it. Usually concerned with finding middle ground in conflicts, she is helping see to the ill and scared.
- **Shaun Standish** - The sheriff. A solid reasonable man to date, he is very devout and has stood by the Reverend and helped realise his strategy to save the people of Rock Ford.
- **Kane/Jane Stiles** - Deputy sheriff, hurt in the collapse. Carried here unconscious last night. Has argued with the Reverend a number of times, but, to date, always abides by the sheriff's orders.
- **Stephen Soames** - High school English teacher. A very quiet and private man, who attends church daily.
- **Barney Maguire** - High School Maths teacher. A reputation as a party animal follows Barney, he likes to drink all week and beg God's forgiveness regular as clockwork come Sunday. Is rumoured to be something of a womaniser, but nobody can prove it so far.
- **Shiela Maguire** - Barney Maguire's long suffering wife. It would seem she drinks just as much as her husband, if not more, but obviously for different reasons. Regularly turns up to his work or to the bar he is in to make as big a scene as she can. A figure of pity in town if truth be told.
- **Connie/Cooper Brubaker** - High school physics teacher, incredibly intelligent and broad minded, and a popular author on UFO sightings. Formerly something of a sceptic as to whether contact was a current reality, with the advent of current situation is not so sure, and has tentatively queried the idea that it's really angels and demons that mankind is facing.
- **Stan Hutton** - Owns a chain of convenience stores and undoubtedly the wealthiest citizen in Rock Ford, former mayor and town counsellor. A genuine and honest man who has done a great deal to develop the area and make lives easier.
- **Stella Hutton** - Stan's wife. Glamorous, beautiful, rich and bone idle, she likes to hang around the bar on the outskirts of town and buy drinks for underage football jocks, or so they say.
- **Philippa/ Philip Han** - Chinese immigrant, a few years in town. Drives the high school bus. A Christian, and devout, but still treated like "less than" by most of the town.
- **Theo/Thea Carlisle** - Public enemy number one. Local pagan advocate. Rude, derisive and trouble-making, leads a coven in a nearby town. Publishes anti-Christian manifestos and gives impromptu lectures to high school kids at which marijuana is served. Has yet to be successfully prosecuted, or driven out of town.
- **Shannon Miles** - Dr. Calvert's nurse. A quiet, caring individual, genuine and warm. This woman is a walking hug.

