

THE  
BOTTOMLESS  
HOLE

A

Story

Written

by

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An earthquake rocked the city during the night. The next day a group of teenage mountain bikers riding on a trail spotted an unusual opening in the ground, going down a cliff on their right hand side.

They went down to check it out.

As they came closer they noticed the danger: The opening seem to be getting wider as more earth was sucked in.

Getting closer carefully, one of them threw a rock in the growing hole and noticed their was a noise. Another rolled a log into the hole and still they couldn't hear any

crashing sound.

They continued their way  
intrigued by their finding.

The next day they came back and  
found that the opening grew wider  
overnight. The hole was now huge.  
The earth around it seem now stable.

Johnny, Tim and Jeff decided to  
get closer. They stepped carefully

checking the ground: It felt pretty solid up to a couple feet from the hole. Johnny wanted to get near the edge. Tim and Jeff told him not to go. Johnny went anyway and took a peek in the hole. He said he couldn't see anything. Tim and Jeff approached carefully.

Jeff took from his bag a couple of molotov cocktails: a glass bottle

with gasoline and a piece of cloth attached. He lit one up and threw it in. The teenagers stuck their head in the hole, laying at the edge, waiting for a burst of fire. Instead the light just faded away disappearing in the darkness.

Johnny wanted to toss another one. He grabbed and lit the molotov. Jeff said it was a waist of time and

tried to take it away from Johnny. It fell on the ground and exploded , setting Tim's foot on fire. Tim retreated, tripped and fell into the hole. Jeff and Johnny were stunned and confused for a moment, then tried to blame each other.

They soon realized they needed to get help, got on their bikes and raced back home.

Rick, a fireman, met Johnny, Jeff and their neighbor, Sam, at the beginning of the mountain trail. The boys guided them to the scene by bike, while the adults rode on a small pick-up truck.

When they got there, Rick wanted to go inside lowering a cable. Jeff said he was wasting his time: The hole was so deep he would need to

put together all cables and ropes of the fire department, and maybe that would not be enough.

Rick lit up a signal torch and threw it inside: It disappeared in the darkness. He radioed the central station asking for the longest cable available.

Sam looked around intrigued with that unusual geological formation.

He was a professional engineer with some knowledge of geology. He said he never saw something like that before.

A helicopter arrived at the scene bringing a huge cable roll and more firemen. A police vehicle also arrived at the hole site bringing Tim's parents.

Rick was lowered down the hole

using all cable available. He threw another signal torch down into the darkness. He radioed up saying there was no sign of the bottom and asked them to pull him up.

A firemen told Tim's inconsolable parents there was nothing they could do for now. They would try to rescue the body the next day.

Later that night, Sam went back to

the hole. The area was sealed by the police. He found Jeff and Johnny sitting beside the hole and advised them to go home saying it could be very dangerous because the ground around the hole could collapse. They didn't pay attention and just stared at the dark hole.

Sam approached the hole carrying the equipment he brought from the

truck. The boys wanted to know what he was doing. Sam told them to shut up and be careful where they were stepping if they were going to hang around. Sam took out a sonar instrument he said would give a reading of the dept of the hole. To his surprise the equipment wouldn't give a reading. Jeff asked what did that mean. Sam said it meant that or

the equipment was broken or that was the deepest hole on this planet.

Sam continued his investigation collecting samples of the hole's wall: an extremely hard black material not similar to anything he ever saw around there. He decided to go into the hole to collect more samples at deeper spots. After a long way down, Sam took more samples,

hanging from the cable with a flashlight on his head. On his way up he noticed a square opening in the wall. He stuck his hand inside: It got pulled up as if it was sucked by a vacuum cleaner. Sam put his head inside to take a look. His whole body was pulled in slowly but firmly as he tried to resist. Sam's body was driven up by some sort of energy

field. He came to a stop and found himself in a dark passage.

Sam followed the passage and ended up at the top. He surprised Johnny and Jeff approaching them from behind while they were staring inside the hole. Sam said they would not believe what just happened. The boys wanted to know but Sam told them he was on his way to a lab and

that they should go home.

Sam drove to his university in the middle of the night.

Meanwhile, Jeff and Johnny started searching in the direction Sam came out from the hole. Jeff found an opening in the middle of some bushes. He and Johnny crawled in. The small passage was

not the one Sam walked out of and as the boys got ahead they started sliding down slowly. The inclination of the passage grew and the boys slid down faster and faster. The passage ended in the hole and the boys plunged down, free falling.

On his way to the lab, Sam phoned and woke up a colleague asking her to meet him at the lab. They met at

the lab and as Paula started complaining about what could be so important that it couldn't wait until the next day, Sam showed her his material sample bag saying he would bet she never saw something like that before. Paula on a preliminary examination agreed with Sam. Her curiosity grew as she went on with some testing. Sam

asked her to continue and that he would call her back for some answers. Paula wanted to know where that came from. Sam told her about the hole, the boy who disappeared and that he was going back there.

Back to the hole site, Sam found Rick, the fireman, wondering

around. Rick said he couldn't sleep. Sam asked if he saw two boys. Rick said he did not and that they shouldn't be there. Sam called Jeff's home with his cell phone. He spoke to Jeff's father who said his son was nowhere to be found. Sam also couldn't find Johnny.

Sam tried to go back to the passage he came out from and was

followed by Rick. Sam showed him how he was pulled up and came out somewhere around there. He searched with a flashlight but couldn't find the spot. Sam said he came out of an underground passage.

They were going back to the main hole, looking around, when Rick spotted a handbag. Sam said it might

belong to one of the boys. Then he saw the opening the boys went in earlier.

Sam's cell phone rang. It was Paula. She told Sam she couldn't match the samples with nothing studied before. The material resisted intact temperatures that would melt any known similar material. And the material was carbon dated to be so

old that one thing was for sure, it wasn't made or handled by any man because mankind didn't exist at that time. Sam said that judging by the material covering the wall, the hole probably went deep down the earth where the temperatures were very high. Perhaps the hole was some sort of mineral exploration system.

Sam crawled into the opening.

Rick advised him to get tied up to a rope and said he was going to his truck to get one. When he came back Sam was gone.

Sam was sliding down increasingly faster as happened to the boys earlier. Rick heard a scream coming from the hole and fading away. It was Sam taking a dive down into the darkness. He was free

falling. He continued on and on,  
down and down. His speed was  
increasingly higher. His never  
ending free fall came to a point  
where his speed was now  
decreasing. He was going down and  
down but now slower and slower.  
Eventually he got to a point where  
his free fall continued in slow  
motion. A long time after he finally

came to a stop. He was now floating in the dark. Above and below there was only darkness. Sam was dizzy. He eventually recovered and started spinning around trying to reach the edge or anything. He lost notion of where he was, where was left or right, up or down, he was lost in a pitch black nowhere.

Sam scraped his leg on something.

It was an extended cable. Sam grabbed it and pulled himself towards the hole's side wall. There was a square opening similar to the previous and just like before he put his hand inside, feeling the energy field pulling up. He went inside and was swiftly driven up.

After a long time riding that energy elevator he came to a stop.

He heard noises and voices. He stepped ahead and followed a dark passage towards a light. He was back up and the bright sun blinded his sight.

The hole site was completely crowded: firemen, policemen, reporters, cameramen and curious people.

Sam walked towards Rick who was talking to a policeman standing next to him. The policeman jumped on Sam, cuffed him and pushed him into a van. Detectives came in and started to ask him questions. They wanted to know where he had been last night and where were the boys. Sam was totally confused but soon realized they suspected he had

something to do with the  
disappearance of the boys. A  
detective said Sam was with Jeff and  
Johnny last night and now they were  
missing. They asked Sam where he  
was when Tim disappeared earlier.  
Sam told them what he knew from  
Jeff and Johnny: Tim fell inside the  
hole and the last time he saw Jeff  
and Johnny they were wondering

around the hole. He suspected they also fell in the hole. Sam told them he also fell inside the hole but came back up using an “energy elevator”. At this point the detectives thought Sam was a crazy killer. Rick was called inside the van and said the last time he saw Sam he was crawling inside a small lateral hole. Sam said that hole led to the bigger

one. A detective, treating Sam like a nut case, asked how come he didn't die falling in such a deep hole. Sam said he didn't know but he had a theory. The detective, smiling, ask him to go on. Sam said he didn't die because the hole was not a hole. It was a passage that went all the way to the other side of Earth. The force of gravity decreased as a falling

body approached the center of Earth and eventually came to a stop. One detective, not believing a word, asked him how come he didn't die from the heat. Sam replied that the wall of the hole was sealed with a thermal resistant material. Another detective , holding his angry laughter, asked Sam how come only him “flew up in the energy

elevator”. Why didn't the boys do the same? Sam said he didn't know, but if they weren't down there, and they weren't up here, they should be on the other side of Earth. Perhaps they took the energy elevator leading to the other side and they were now somewhere in China. A detective lost his patience and grabbed Sam demanding to know

what did he do to the boys. Sam started to repeat his story, but they pushed him out of the van. A detective told a policeman to take Sam down to the station.

Sam broke away from the policemen, ran to the hole and jumped in to the surprise of everyone at the scene.

A reporter, live on a TV network,

described what just happened as a suicide of the arrested "child molester" who killed and threw the bodies of three boys in that deep hole. He said the authorities were now studying a way to rescue the bodies. The fireman in charge was interviewed saying the proper equipment would be available only by tomorrow.

Sam was now floating in the darkness recovering from his second long free fall. Angry, he shouted into the darkness he was not crazy. He pulled himself, using the crossing cable, to the left side instead of the right as he had done before. Again he took a long trip on the "energy elevator". When he got to the

surface, he walked out through the dark passage saying that he wanted to see the face of those people when he reappeared from the dead. Sam was surprised, after he came out with some difficulty and found out he was in a totally different place surrounded by huge mountains and a totally different vegetation. Driven by amazement and curiosity, he

started exploring that new environment.

Back home Rick was talking to Paula on the cell phone. They exchanged information about what they saw and knew so far about the whole hole case. Rick was not so sure he believed Sam's story at first, but after what he heard from Paula

he started to change his mind since he seem to be a very normal rational guy. Paula wanted to meet Rick at the hole for further investigation. Rick told Paula he would pick her up.

When they were together in Rick's car driving through a highway a powerful earthquake struck hard with no warning. The

car shook around as if it was sailing in the sea. It stopped as quick as it started. Rick received a call from the firemen central station requesting all personnel for duty. Rick dropped Paula off and headed the other way.

The next day Paula met Rick at the hole site. Rick said the earthquake didn't cause much damage in the

city. Two policemen were also at the site. Rick and Paula found for themselves that the hole no longer existed: The earth crumbled and the hole was totally sealed. A policeman told them that due to the recent events the police decided to close the case: it would be impossible to rescue the bodies.

Rick searched around but couldn't

find other openings. He gave up.  
Paula though, was determined to  
check Sam's story to the end. Rick  
asked her what else could they do.  
Paula said they should look  
for the other side of the hole,  
somewhere in China. She could get  
a precise location for the straight  
opposite side of the hole on the  
other side of earth. Rick was

skeptical about looking for Sam and the three boys... in China!? Paula told him he didn't have to come and should go back to work.

Rick, charmed by Paula, said that it was not a problem and was willing to help, with obvious second intentions.

Meanwhile, on the other side, Sam was wondering around searching for signs of the three boys. From the edge of a hill he could see a sign of smoke above a small village down in a valley. He took the long walk to the place. The villagers surrounded him as he entered what looked like a gathering of nomad shepherds. He

noticed they had all Asian facial features.

Someone came running towards him from a distance. It was Jeff. They hugged each other. Sam asked if Johnny and Tim were also there. Jeff said Tim was injured but Johnny was ok. Sam followed Jeff and one of the nomads to a tent. They were all excited to meet each other. Sam

wanted to know what happened.

Johnny told their adventure: He and Jeff were exploring a small opening.

They slid down into the big hole. He thought he was going to die, but after a long fall they came to a stop.

They found Tim unconscious floating in the darkness. They spent a long time down there. Tim finally recovered and later found a opening

in the hole's wall, disappearing as he entered it. He and Jeff made also their way into that opening and here they were in this strange world. Tim said maybe they were in the center of the earth just like that movie. Sam said he didn't think so and explained his theory of a passage from one side of the world to the other. He thought they were somewhere in

central China.

Paula arranged the trip to China as a research expedition from her university but it was her father who was financing the trip. He was a businessman and arranged with an American company doing business in China to take care of their transportation to the calculated

opposite side of the hole.

Paula and Rick flew to Beijing and from there to the interior of China in a small plane owned by the American company. The communist Chinese authorities were informed they were in a seismological investigation. The American company was thinking they were in a mineral exploration. They flew

over the theoretical location but couldn't spot anything or anybody. After several flybys they were running out of gas so they flew to the nearest town and landed on a dirt airfield. They bought an old vehicle on the spot from a villager and headed to the site. They crossed a convoy of carts carrying wool. Inside one of the carts were Sam and

the three boys. Paula and Rick followed on missing completely who they were looking for.

They got to the presumed hole site. As they were searching around, a group of vehicles was heading their way. They were Chinese military personnel. Paula and Rick were arrested, taken to a military base and questioned. The Chinese

thought they were on an unauthorized mineral investigation of the Chinese soil. One officer showed Paula a sample material from the hole and asked what was that. Paula answered that it was something taken from a hole found after an earthquake in the USA, she was sure they heard about.

Two days later Paula and Rick were dropped in front of the United States embassy in Beijing. As they were sitting in the lobby a door opened and out walked Sam and the three noisy boys. After the surprising and warm reunion, Paula demanded to know what happened. Sam told his story. Paula told him about their trip to the hole site and

that they didn't find anything. Sam said there was no fully opened hole on this side. It was probably sealed just like the one in the USA was before. Paula said the hole back home no longer existed since the earth crumbled over it in an aftershock quake. Rick told Sam that back home he made the news as a maniac who committed suicide

after murdering those three boys.  
Paula added saying they were  
arrested by Chinese military who  
thought they were searching for  
some new kind of mineral. Tim  
interrupted the conversation wanting  
to no just one thing: Who the hell  
made that hole! Nobody answered.  
After a moment Sam took his best  
guess: a mineral exploration starship

thousands of years ago. The hole  
across was a mining system  
allowing for a complete reading and  
mining of the earth all the way  
across. They could even pump out  
directly melting magma. The energy  
elevator was probably maintained by  
a geothermal generator fueled by  
Earth's interior heat. The exploration  
probe may have never reached or

sent the information back home... Or  
maybe they did... and some day they  
might return.

Paula said it would now be  
difficult to get more answers since  
the hole crumbled.

At the chinese hole site, a tractor  
was digging. The earth gave in and  
the tractor was swallowed,

disappearing in what looked like the  
other side of... the alien made  
mining bottomless hole.

The End.

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