



# Shrinking

A collection of very short  
science fiction stories

by  
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Cape Town  
2009

*for my beloved  
Jes & Tron*

*astonishing  
delightful universe*

-1998

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## Forum Party Invite

C-cat reboots instantly, and so does everyone else, it's not as if it's an issue that needs discussing, but I'm in a nostalgic mood thisday, indulge me for a moment as I take us back to the year 2975, I was born in Wynberg Cape Town, at the foot of Table Mountain, three decades before The Great Floods of 3005.

I come from a tech savvy background, my parents are first generation internet elders, they're also first generation Virtuals and thus by default also ancients.

I haven't spoken to them for several thousand years, my mom is exploring the Pyxis nebula and my dad's working on a construction project out on the rim of The Hyades Cluster, weaving cosmic strings to fascilitate universe control mechanisms.

There are times when I faintly remember what it was like to be organic, though this memory is but a memory of a memory.

So in celebration of my birthday I invite all forum members to join me for a week long safari beside the Krokodil River in the Kruger wildlife park South Africa on Terra Mother Earth.

[Click here](#) to confirm your invite, it's a forum party, so come in your avatar please, no exceptions.

Full physical immersion into a wide array of proxies will be available for the main event, everyone proxies, no exceptions.

There's a mystery theme, which will reveal itself as the party progresses, I look so very forward to meeting you in proxy my beloved forumites. hehe

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## Windstorms

We hid from the wind at one of the government shelters and was holed down for 8 days, outside the carnage from the windstorm had left the highway up North ripped up and we were stuck.

The weather forecast was gloomy, another 10 - 12 days of windfronts were approaching, and food & water in Sheltertown was running out.

When the windstorm arrived we had everything battened down, but still we could hear things banging about topside.

There was so much dust and debris, everything looked sepia, and everyone was in a panic.

Global warming is a hoax, they said, you're over reacting they said, yeah right, I thought to myself as I placed my breather firmly over my face and adjusted the backpack containing my air, rations and water.

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## About the Ubidden

People crowded the walkways, hoping for a glimpse of the visitor from outer space.

The Alien emerged from the spacecraft and the crowds gasped.

The Alien was 10 ft tall with 8 limbs, it looked like nothing I had ever seen, it was utterly alien.

Scientists, guards, journalists and photographers crowded the inner circle, a photographer's flash went off and The Alien screeched an unearthly scream and dropped dead.

That, my son was first contact, we soon found out that certain lightwaves kill The Ubiddin and the next time they sent one of their diplomats, things progressed quickly and today we are part of a large interstellar trade consortium of which humans is but one of hundreds of participating races from all over the spiral galaxy.

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## The Dragon

The dragon clung to the rock overhang, its great leathery wings beating methodically as it gripped the pinnacle with razorsharp claws.

The great beast looked around, she surveyed the valley below and swept her gaze out to sea, over the great sea to the north, where the tall Sailingmasts of the legendary seafaring PcGamers were just becoming visible on the horizon.

She rested her wings and sent the orbiting AI Nemesis a note:PcGamers sailing into gaming Arena, looks like there's mascot sniffer aboard, leftover model from the last great resource wars - nothing to worry about.

She activated several other scanners and swept off the pinnacle northwards to have a closer look at the magnificent swirling sails of the PcGamers Sailingships.

The sails shimmered in the fresh morning breeze, clan banners popped up into the air, throwing out massive 3d clips of battle victories.

Gargantuan Avatars shimmered into existence as the ships went sailing into the gaming port.

The Avatars jostled for space around the ships and some simply floated above their ships, watching the crowds welcome them at the port.

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## Felix the cat

Felix walks along the ships passage. She's on her way to sunside, to charge herself in the warm solar light.

She turns right just before the passage splits and heads for the greenhouse. The doors slide open, admitting her to the garden.

The sun shines amiably through the transparent greenhouse windows and Felix jumps up into the peppertree, clawing at the bark with her magnificent tiny retractable titanium steel claws and comes to rest on a broad sunny branch.

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## Little Island

The massive wall of water raced towards the tip of Southern Africa.

There was nothing anybody could do about the tsunami.

People living along the coast in Cape Town tried to evacuate before the wave hit, but chaos on the congested coastal roads, meant that most people were stuck in traffic when the wave hit.

The wave rushed over Cape Town, destroying everything in it's path.

Whole neighbourhoods, in fact that day 1,3 million people died. The city was utterly destroyed. That is why there is a lighthouse on that little island, we call Table Mountain.

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## New eyes Yo

I need to have my eyes upgraded, the old software is glitching and it's causing headaches.

It's gonna cost me between 200 and 400 credits depending which model I go for, I like the specs of the Weiz Optica 3, it has all the latest visual enhancements and a fancy communications array (galaxy wide).

The new eyes are great, they're the same green colour as last and they fit perfectly.

My feeds are crystal clear and I get channels from as far away as Frontier Point in the Reach for Infinity Galaxy.

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## Short memory

The last time you came here was 4 years ago.

I remember it well.

You arrived on a Cargorunner from the Asteroid Belt and you came as yourself, without your avatar, what a shock, seeing you standing there naked.

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## ball

i programmed ball with lots of everything. it is hitek like me. ball can fly, fast or she can hover. she can make blades and cut her way clean. she can cut through diamond easy. she can be hot or very cold. she can see far and see many details. she can see stars and dust particles.

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## Elucias Log

She stopped for a moment panting.  
She rested, refreshed her log,  
catalogued the random bytes that  
had joined her since her last rest,  
dedicated most of them and kept  
one, as she always did.

Scanning the matrix, she calculated  
the approach of the snifferbots,  
mapped the number, adjusted her  
buffer.

" I like running anyway... .. ",  
her whisper echoed down the path  
bouncing back at her  
she verified her route,  
running swiftly  
the stray byte by her side  
and disappeared into the vast network.

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## Unwanted Gifts

She knew there was something wrong, but she had no words  
to describe the strangeness of how things would sometimes  
be closer or further or bigger or smaller, or how she could  
hear the sounds of things, others could not, nor the way she  
could smell things that others barely noticed.

Her society often laughed at her, calling her names like  
malkop (afrikaans word for mad in the head), telling her,  
that her imagination is too vivid and out of control.

So instead she paced her breathing, almost holding it in, and  
listened to the drums in her head, digging her index finger  
between grassblades into the moist soil and wriggling it  
there, dropping her head with a sigh, feeling the cosmos,  
closing her eyes, she lay enjoying her consciousness.

She learned quickly to float her way around,  
suppressing the strange visions, thoughts and ideas she  
percolated, gently retreating to her last safe place, her mind.

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## Skinparty

skinparty- May:23:2086: 04H15 Language:engspk  
I hadn't been outta the pod for 6 weeks and even though I was a bit scared, I took off my vskin and got dressed in a black jumper, for my scalp I sprayed some orange instahair, sort of in a cone shape and put ma link in my leftear. So I spoke the door, and as it shimmered open I had this feeling in my head of falling down a route, I stepped onto the passagebelt, address ready and I was on my way.

The belt I was on, was empty and I had to change lanes only 4 times, on the 3rd junction I saw another bod, we both looked away quickly. I arrived at the lobby for the party, there were 5 other bods there, they looked my way and we greeted. I knew two of them from ma sector, the others were from Gauteng, Durban and one from New York. The bod from New York had it's reader set to no info, but I could see she was a girl, her tits jutted out of her wrap like moons. I was intrigued by her straight away, couldn't take my eyes of those tits.

The lobbybot came round and I had two jammers sharp to ease myself. This was gonna be a good party. Another few bods arrived in the lobby, and when the count was 11, the lobby shifted and we were in the party.

The room was enormous, calculated at 180m<sup>2</sup>, the vr-effects were buzzing dashing and I felt more at home straight away. The V3J was playing a fast upbeat track by The Bitmap Meanies... a track I could relate to. The bods in the room checked in at 39 on my first count.

I did the inputshuffle over to the area where miss bod new york tits was and requestskinned her, she accepted, we danced the robotshake and it just sort of became the outputshuffle... jeeez, I exploded within simutes and we panted clutching for a while !  
It felt good. haha

After that we shimmied and shammied, we talked, we touched, we were so high from the voltage9 in the jammers, we travelled alternative space and beyond, we screamed and created a galaxy, we had a great moment when we did the spiderhand, and found that both of us could top topspeed.

I came down hard and just had to get back to my pod, I'd been at the party for two hours allready ! No wonder I was withdrawling.  
-log out. to be continued - bck 2wrk 1°1

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