

Haddon Smith's Journal

The journal that you're about to read doesn't belong to me. It belonged to Haddon Smith, whose name is marked on the first page of the dusty journal. Haddon Smith seemed to be a very practical man, aware of his environment and loving his loneliness and his everyday life. He was 56 and owned a gas station, lost in the forest of the national park of Washington state, on a little road that joined the road 101. He lived there with his daughter and her own son, just the three of them. The gas station was separated in two buildings, one that he called the shop, and the other one that he called the house. By house, he meant two rooms and a bathroom, the kitchen they were all using being the one in the shop. In this gas station, customers could apparently eat like in a fast food restaurant, buy their gas and also buy food such as crisps or sweets. All in all, this resumes the first pages of Mr Smith's journal. A daily life, interrupted by the arrival of the different customers, with no big changes other than that. But one morning, everything changed.

Haddon Smith's Journal

3rd April 1987

It's been five days. Five days and still no customers. I know that the station is a bit far from everything, but usually, we see people at least every two days! And the TV who doesn't work! At least, if something was happening out there, we could have known what it was with this engine. But anyway, I'll go to Clearwater tomorrow, and I'll give it to someone to reparate it. Lily's a bit on the edge today because the little boy caught a cold, and with no one coming and no TV, there's nothing here to distract the poor boy. I told her I would take the boy to the city with me tomorrow if he was feeling any better, but I don't really like it. I prefer to go there on my own and have a pint at Freddie's with the boys. It's good to see people sometimes.

4th April 1987

Jimmy and I went to Clearwater. The first thing we noticed was that nobody was walking along the streets. Everything was too quiet when I turned the radio off. But we went to the shop for the TV anyway. It was open, but no one was inside. We looked everywhere. Nobody. Then we went to Freddie's to see if the boys were there. But the bar was closed. The first thing I thought, was that everyone had leave the town because of some nuclear attack or a storm coming or something else. But then I remembered that the boys wouldn't have left me behind without saying a word. They would have come to the station to warn me. I feel like I'm becoming crazy, that all this loneliness might have made me unable to see other people than my daughter and my great son. But, Jimmy too saw the empty streets. He also heard the silence. And he looks in shock. He's not speaking anymore. When we came back home and told his mother about what we had seen, the only thing he said was 'We're really alone this time' and then he went to bed.

I really wonder what's going on. Right now, I only feel like staying home with Lily. Tomorrow, I'll go to Seattle to see if I can find people there.

I'm scared to go to sleep. What if when I wake up, Lily and Jimmy are gone too?

5th April 1987

They were there when I woke up. Both sleeping deeply. I went outside and had a smoke on the porch, wondering if yesterday was only a dream or not. The weather is strangely nice those days, for the beginning of April in Washington State. I sat there, and looked at the sky, thinking. If there is really no one outside anymore, when did they all disappear? What happened? Is there no one here in United States anymore, or is it the whole world who vanished? If that's the case, why are we the only one left behind? It's been seven days since we last saw someone, which means that the thing, could have happened anytime those last six days. I don't recall we did something special last week, I mean, nothing that could have destroyed the human race at least. I was then interrupted by Lily, who yelled by the window that Jimmy had the fever. I held the little boy to the car, and then we left the three of us, to see if we could find any doctors in Seattle. Our car was the only one on the road. And then, apparently the only one in Seattle. The big city had never seemed so small. Papers and leaves, were flying in the streets, doors and windows were open, moving in the wind.

We went to the doctor, but no one answered as I knew no one would. Lily had tears in her eyes but she didn't want to show them to the boy. I think that last night, when we came back, she must have thought that we were having an hallucination. Now that she was standing in front of the hard truth, she was starting to accept it. She looked at me and stared into my eyes, and for the first time, I saw that my Lily who was always so good in taking decisions, was asking me what to do. I went to the closest pharmacy. It was called Amcal and it was closed. I looked around me and found a stick of wood on the floor. She asked me what I was doing. I said that no one here would mind what I was doing and I broke the window of the pharmacy with my stick. An alarm rang inside the shop but no one arrived to stop us, even though I saw Lily looking around, in case we wouldn't be the only one and that someone else would have heard the noise. I took a lot of pills for the boy, and then we started walking back to the car.

Lily said, don't you think we're gonna need anything else, like food. I told her that we would be alright for the moment. I helped her put Jimmy in the car, and I told her I wouldn't be long. I had to get some information. I went to a newsagent and looked at the last newspaper that had been published. The date said '30th of April 1987'. Seven days ago. Seven days ago, men were there to print this newspaper, and then bring it to this shop. But on the 30th of April, something happened that had killed humanity. No, it didn't 'kill' humanity, because in that case, there would be corpses everywhere. But everyone just disappeared! As crazy as it can seem and as long as I know, everyone in the cities of Clearwater and Seattle has vanished.

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Nothing special, happened after that. We went back home, Jimmy went to sleep and I am now finishing a cup of ho chocolate, before going to sleep, because it is always freezing those days in the evening.

6th April 1987

I'm not sure, but it seems to me that I heard some pretty weird noises coming from the forest last night. It must be my imagination with all those amazingly strange things happening to me those days. It sounded like animals or humans fighting and screaming.

I tried to remember with Lily what we did the 30th of April, and we didn't find anything very interesting. No customer came, we remember that. We checked the food in the shop and Jimmy and I played chest during the main part of the day. Lily tried to call her girlfriend Eve who didn't answer. And that's about it.

In my journal, the 30th of April, I only wrote, 'Nice weather in the morning, and cold at night. Jimmy's getting better at playing chest. He asked a lot of questions about WWII.'

Jimmy's feeling a bit better today thanks to the pills we got. But he still has fever.

7th April 1987

This time, I can't be more sure! It wasn't my imagination!!! I really did hear them, those screams in the forest, in the night. Jimmy heard them too, and I had to tell him that it was only wolves, even though I haven't seen a dog or a cat out there since the 30th of April. I guess that animals disappeared at the same time as humans. I wanted to go to the forest to see what was going on, but Lily was too scared something might happen to me. And she's right. What will she do with the boy if I'm dead too.

But I can't stop wondering, what if the 'creatures' out there are men, like us, who survived the disappearance. What if we're not completely alone?! I have to know.

I noticed another weird thing today. This morning, when I woke up, I went have a smoke outside, and as I stared at the sky, I noticed the clouds were in the shape of a rabbit, then in a shape of a hat, and then in a shape of a dragon. That wouldn't be unusual, but the thing is that I remember seeing the same clouds two days ago when I went to the porch. It was, I would say, about the same hour. Around 8am. Tomorrow, I'll go to the porch to see if the clouds are still the same.

Jimmy's fever is starting to go away.

8th April 1987

I went to the porch this morning, and it was exactly the same clouds passing over my head!!! A rabbit, a hat, and then a dragon!!! That's unbelievable! As if we were reliving the same day over and over again! And I think that what I'm writing here is actually true! Every morning since the 30th of April, the sun has been shining, which is something pretty suspicious when you live in Washington state. Then, it is pretty sunny all day long, and when the sun starts disappearing, it gets very very cold.

**Louise DUBRAY – Elève de Céline CEZARD & Stéphanie BERGERON –
Lycée Baudelaire – CRAN GEVRIER**

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We've been living the same day since the 30th of April!!!! As if we were stuck in a different space and time than the rest of the world. I don't know if I can tell Lily. I don't know if she'll support it. But she'll realize someday. When the 1st of August, it will still be that cold at night and that sunny in November, she'll understand something's wrong with the weather.

Jimmy's feeling good now. He found out something very interesting. He remembered that the 30th of April, after the chest match, we went inside the bunker near the forest. He was so interested in WWII that I told him I would show him the bunker that had been constructed for this period of time. We only stayed there ten minutes, and then Lily came inside to tell us that the dinner was ready. But when she tried to open the door, we were locked inside. I pushed with all my strength, and we finally got out of the hole.

Maybe, something happened when we were all stuck in this cage made to resist a nuclear bomb. Maybe it is then that the rest of the world disappeared.

I don't know what happened, and I will certainly never know. But I know that I don't want to spend the rest of my life living the same day over and over again and watching my daughter with that look on her face that shows that she is completely harmless and desperate. I don't want to watch my son being scared of the noises in the forest every night, and I don't want to see him growing to be a thief, who goes to the city to get his meal and his pills. That is why, whatever Lily says, I'll go to the forest tonight, and I will find out what are those creatures, and what they are doing here.

I'll put this journal in the bunker in case something happens to me. I hope that this way, other people will know what happened to Haddon, Lily and Jimmy Smith.

Here is the end of the Journal. I found it in the bunker, near the gas station that I just bought.

We are now in 2010 and there is no record of such a huge disappearance of the human race on the 30th of April 1987. The pharmacy Amcal still exists but it has never been vandalized.

There is also no record of any Haddon, Lily or Jimmy Smith in the archives.