



Second Suicide: A Short Story

Hugh Howey

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Eight days to planetfall, and I'm being transferred to Gunner. My tentacles slime in disgust.

Or is it fear?

If this is the last planet we ever conquer, I'll be glad. Be nice to settle down somewhere, get off this ship, own a square of land, learn to love all that open sky.

Eight more days before planetfall. Eight days before we reach planet Earth.

Second Suicide: A Short Story Details

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From Reader Review Second Suicide: A Short Story for online ebook

Colby says

An awesome little story from a very cool perspective. Howie's genius shows again!

Tiara says

I'd actually give this one about a 3.5. It becomes more compelling towards the end.

Dan Absalonson says

This short story was a great read and really cool! It was not what I was expecting. It's hard to know what to expect with a title like Second Suicide. What the heck could that mean? And why would I want to read about suicide anyway? You'll find out if you read this book. It was written in first person through the eyes of a character who has tentacles. Yep, you just read that right - tentacles. He is an alien who is in a spaceship headed for a planet that he and his kind are going to try and take over. It is amazing how easily you find yourself quickly relating to this character even though he is an alien with long slimy appendages. He thinks like you do, plays cards, uses the toilet, fights, and researches. He learns of the cultures that he and his fellow aliens are heading towards to take over.

I'll let you read the story to discover what the title's meaning is all about but let's just say it's a very intriguing idea. You may rethink suicide, not for us humans but for the characters in the story once you learn of their society and circumstances.

Somehow this is a huge story and at the same time a very small story. Its first person narrative draws you in and you feel for the main character right away. I wanted to know how he felt about his situation and what was going to happen to him. I also wanted to know about his spaceship, what it was going to do, and what his entire alien race was going to do. Howey gives you just enough information to keep you satisfied as you read. You get little snippets and snapshots of information about the aliens and their past. So you're learning about one being's life and the massive race he belongs to as they fly through space ready to try and conquer another world among many.

I thought the character and point of view of the story were very inventive and it was really cool reading a story where the protagonist is an alien so different from me physically and yet very relatable and likable. I was very pleasantly surprised by this intriguing science fiction story. You will be too.

Edmund de Wight says

I bought this on a whim, the 99 cent price was great for that.
It's a short story about an alien invasion except it's told by the aliens.

It's funny with some aliens who would fit in very well in South Park. There's a mystery surrounding the prep for an invasion and a suicide of an alien which causes the protagonist to be transferred to a new position just 8 days before the career making invasion begins.

Hugh has a great sense of the absurd as well as humor and also crafted a great tale.

Well worth the read.

Mike says

This felt very much like Wool, with different characters and setting. I enjoyed it, but didn't love it.

Sarah says

I actually liked this one quite a bit after reflection.

Dan says

One more example of why I love Hugh Howey

What a great story! It's only a 30 minute read, but in that short time you get it all...a story that intrigues, a character you feel, a plot that excites, and an ending that surprises. Way to go Hugh Howey!

Phil says

This was a fun short story. It has the hallmark rhythm, pacing, and gradually building revelations of any Hugh Howey story, but condensed into a lighter reading format that you can burn through in one sitting. The characters are presented from an interesting perspective. The story (and dialog in particular) begins with a pretty lighthearted tone but gets into some pretty deep situations.

Carol says

I enjoyed this short sci-fi tale quite a bit. This author's style of writing never gets old. This story takes the reader into the mind of an alien race that knows only conquering and immortality. Oddly enough, this alien race seems eerily humanistic with many emotions. With Earth as their next target, will this warlike race finally have met their match? You have to read to find out.

Knivesinorbit says

Hugh Howey is amazingly creative. This is a phenomenal approach on an alien takeover and FINALLY from the other side of the attack. Buy this now! Great job Hugh!

Mathew Thomas says

Was interested to read one of Howey's short stories and it didn't disappoint. A breezy 22 pages covering the days leading up to the invasion of Earth, as told by a very thoughtful alien on the attacking ship.

Charla says

This story has a unique and insightful point of view. We get to experience an alien invasion from the alien's side. I enjoyed the relationship between Hyt and Kur. Their interactions were hilarious. The themes that run through the story are universal, no matter what the species.

I had an epiphany while reading this story. It allowed me to put into words something that I hadn't realized as to why I enjoy certain stories more than others. There is a point within the story where Hyt is taking in his surroundings. Things clicked into place for me as a reader just a moment before I knew they would click into place for him. The author did not tell me what was happening, he allowed me to come to a realization in real time with the main character. I know it sounds cheesy, but at that moment, the character and I were connected – we were one. That is extremely fulfilling.

*****SPOILER ALERT*****

I felt the story fell short in a couple of places. I did not feel the hate that Hyt had for his own life.

Dissatisfied, yes, but not hatred. I also did not feel the love that he professed for Mil. These elements could have been left out and not have had an impact on the overall story. As it stands, it should have been better supported by details to be believable.

All in all, it was a great story. I really enjoyed reading it.

Emily says

Everything Howey touches with his genius tentacles is gold.

Patrick says

[you're kind of tipped off to it in the title. (hide spoiler)]

alansplace says

Spin this one into a novel, Hugh!
