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# The Sphere

James L. Gagni Jr.

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*For my wife, Cherry Gagni  
You'll forever be my muse.*

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“Whooosh!”

As it masked the deafening sound of thunder and the torrential rain, the flood water inside the dam sloshed around. Even as it held on, the dam was no match for the amount of rainfall poured upon it this time. The release of its waters was not enough to contain the rainwater. The dam's openings cracked from the sheer weight and force of the flood waters. Seconds later, the dam shattered and flood waters bursted out.

The rushing water inundated the forest near the dam and immediately covered the towering trees surrounding it. As it continued to rush out of the broken dam, it quickly moved towards the town center. Officials within the town did not expect the speed at which the flood waters reached them. A loud siren went off along with the pre-recorded unappreciative voice of the town mayor saying “Your

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attention please. The emergency broadcast system has been activated. Please proceed to the emergency evacuation centers now. This is not a drill.”

Even before the town siren wailed, people thronged the streets. They shoved against one another as they rushed out. Everyone ran for higher ground, most towards the evacuation centers. But the flood waters were too fast and it soon overtook most of them. However, it didn't matter as the flood waters washed over the evacuation center moments later.

Soon, flood waters reached the a densely populated town. Amidst the chaos several meters away, a Man hurriedly parked his car in front of their white picket-fenced house, knowing the flood would reach them in a matter of minutes. He quickly jumped over their small gate and ran across their lawn towards their house. As if his Wife sensed he was coming, she opened their front door and greeted him with a worried look saying “What's happening?”

“It's time! Get in now!” was all the Man managed to say as he took his Wife by the shoulders, pulled her inside and closed the door behind them.

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Seconds ticked. The siren stopped wailing. The emergency broadcast was drowned out by the combined noise of panic-stricken people, the rain and the rising flood waters. Outside the Man and Wife's house, chaos still rocked the whole town. Massive panic arose as people tried to look for higher ground. The supposedly safe haven of the evacuation centre had long been under water.

A full minute after the Man and Wife went into their house, the full force of the flood came upon their neighborhood. It crashed upon people's houses and belongings like two trailer trucks colliding head-on at full speed. The strong current washed out cars and homes along with everyone else who tried to get to safety. It only took seconds before the whole town became inundated by the still rising flood water. As the strong current moved along and took over other neighboring towns, bodies of drowned men, women and children floated on. Their sad, panic-stricken eyes looked towards the heavens as they waited for the rescue they never got.

From beneath the murky water, a huge fiberglass figure slowly emerged. As its spherical shape broke

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through the flood water's surface, its occupants stared at the carnage all around them. The Man held onto his Wife and mouthed soothing words against the oxygen mask they both wore. As he did so, his Wife managed a weak smile, clutched the Man's hands tightly as they silently looked at the destruction outside them.

As their sphere floated along the dark floodwaters, the Man and his Wife brought with them something they could look forward to: Hope.

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## About the Author

Though the author spent his 10-year career working as an IT professional, he always had a passion for writing. During that period, he wrote poems for his wife. He also went on to write some short stories and essays for a blog. When his wife received information about sites that offer self-publishing, it renewed the “writing flame” inside of him, triggering him to refurbish three of his surviving works and self-publish them. That compilation was what he published thru self-publishing sites, most recently with Lulu.com, which the author hoped to share with a lot more people... along with the new short stories and the novella he recently finished writing.

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