

Title: The Signal from Epsilon — A Story for April

In a quiet town nestled among hills and open skies, there lived a curious girl named **April**. She wasn't like other kids her age—not because she was strange, but because she *believed* in something most people dismissed.

She believed in aliens.

Not the kind with green heads and bug eyes, but real, intelligent life beyond Earth. Every night, she would climb onto the roof of her house with her old telescope, a gift from her grandfather, and scan the sky for signs—anything unusual, anything different.

Her classmates laughed at her. "April and her aliens again," they teased. But she didn't care. She felt something deep inside—a knowing that the truth was out there.

One night, while the stars glimmered like scattered diamonds, her telescope caught something odd in the region of the Epsilon Eridani system. A flicker. A pulse.

She thought it was a satellite at first. But it came again. And again. At *exact* intervals.

Beep...

Веер...

Beep... pause...

Beep beep.

A pattern. A **signal**.

April's heart raced. She recorded it, played it back, and converted the pulse durations into binary code—something

her grandpa had once taught her for fun. What she got was even stranger.

It translated into coordinates. But not just any coordinates— *Earth* coordinates.

The signal was answering us.

She rushed to her teacher, to the local observatory, even to the news, but no one listened. They smiled politely. "That's cute, April," they said. "You have quite the imagination."

Frustrated, she packed her bag and set out alone with a map, her journal, and a compass. She followed the coordinates—through forest trails, across hills, until she arrived at a place that seemed completely ordinary: a meadow near an abandoned radar station.

Except... the grass was bent. As if something enormous had pressed it down in a perfect spiral.

There, in the center of the spiral, lay a **stone tablet**—smooth, polished, and humming softly. Not ancient like something from Earth. No, this felt... designed. New. It pulsed with the same rhythm she saw in the sky.

April placed her hand on it.

A light burst outward, but not blinding—welcoming. And in her mind, she heard words, not spoken but *felt*:

"We see you, April. You are not alone. We have waited for someone to listen."

She fell backward, stunned. Her whole life, she had believed. And now, she had proof.

But there was more. The tablet whispered the truth into her thoughts: There are others—many others—spread across stars and moons, watching humanity, not as invaders, but as distant cousins. Waiting until someone was ready to hear them not with technology, but with heart.

She returned home with the stone tablet carefully hidden in her backpack. She tried to tell the world, but the evidence always seemed to vanish—videos corrupted, the field restored, the tablet going dormant when touched by others.

They didn't believe her.

But April didn't mind anymore.

Because *she* knew. And somewhere out there, the others knew she knew too.

And every night, as she lay under the stars, she smiled to herself.

Because there was truth in alien life. And the universe had told *her* first.

John and the Truth Beyond the Stars

John Carter had always believed Earth was the only cradle of life in the universe. A retired aerospace engineer living alone in the quiet hills of New Mexico, he spent his nights gazing at the stars through an old but powerful telescope, searching not for aliens, but for calm—until the night the stars blinked back.

It began on a cold October evening. The telescope caught a flicker near the Orion Nebula, unlike anything John had seen in his 30 years of stargazing. A rhythmic pulse—three blinks, pause, two blinks—repeating endlessly. Morse code? Impossible, he thought. Still, he recorded it, cleaned the lens, and recalibrated the system. The pattern remained.

Intrigued, John contacted his old friend Marie, a SETI researcher at the now-defunct deep-space listening post in California. She dismissed it at first, but the data was undeniable. A signal—not just a natural anomaly, but structured, deliberate.

Over the next weeks, John and Marie triangulated the source using amateur satellites and signal relays. The origin was not light-years away—it was on the dark side of the Moon.

Suddenly, John's modest cabin turned into a command center. Antennas bristled from the roof. Monitors buzzed with raw data. He stopped shaving, stopped sleeping much. Marie flew in to help. The closer they looked, the clearer it became: someone—or something—was reaching out.

Then came the blackout.

All signals ceased. Satellites lost track of the anomaly. Computers fried. The sky, for the first time in weeks, was silent.

Three days later, a knock on John's door broke the quiet. A tall figure stood at the threshold, dressed in a sleek suit that shimmered like liquid metal. No car. No footsteps. Just... there.

"You listened," the being said. Not asked. Stated.

John stared, unsure if he was dreaming. "Who... what are you?"

"I am one of many. A witness. A bridge."

John's voice trembled. "So it's true?"

"Yes. Life is not rare, John. It is ancient. And you have been chosen to remember that."

The being raised a hand and touched John's forehead. In an instant, his mind filled with visions—worlds with purple skies and oceans of crystal; cities built in the clouds of gas giants; beings of light, of sound, of pure thought. War, peace, hope, extinction, rebirth. A million civilizations and a single truth: we are not alone.

And then, silence.

The figure vanished, leaving behind a circular mark on the wooden floor and a burning truth in John's mind.

Marie returned to find him sitting outside, watching the stars with tears in his eyes.

"They're out there," John whispered. "And they know us."

Marie sat beside him, overwhelmed. "What do we do now?"

John smiled faintly. "We remember. We prepare. And we listen."