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Diamond Cufflinks, Part One

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Diamond Cufflinks

Part One

Alan Foreman

For the last six years I've flown jets in the Air Force and the Navy. I've experienced every possible situation. I flew during the Gulf War and made bombing raids in Yugoslavia. But none of these missions compared to my last. It was a beautiful day, and I was stationed on the Lexington in the South Pacific. The sun was shining, but there was a pleasant breeze and the water was unusually calm. Without warning, the sky turned black, gray and blue. The colors were unlike anything I had ever seen before, almost unnatural, like something you'd read of in the Bible – hell and brimstone type stuff. But this was very real.

All action on the aircraft carrier stopped. We stood on the deck looking upward in awe. I remember hearing a shout from a yeoman. He was leaning out of a window on the bridge shouting something, and pointing upward. The words he spoke were not important; just the sound of his voice was enough to shatter the silence and break the concentration of everyone on board. He was pointing at the ominous clouds above. The object of his excitement was off the bow. I turned my attention to it, and what I saw takes some explanation. Amongst the dense, black mass of clouds was an upward funnel twirling and twisting like a tornado. It glowed faintly with a red haze. And here comes the strange part; the water below this upward funnel (for lack of a better term) was being sucked upward into its bosom. It was as if the gods were sipping from the ocean through a straw of clouds.

It was like something out of ancient Greek mythology—the most amazing, enticing, and frightening thing I had ever seen. Indeed, remains emblazoned in my memory to this day. Why was it frightening? Well, the funnel was not stationary. To my left I heard voices quarreling. I did not hear what they said as I was fixated on the funnel that sucked the ocean to the heavens. But I did hear one thing. “It’s moving!” That caught my attention. I looked at the funnel questioningly, as if to say, “What are you? Why are you here? What are you doing?” And then I realized....the funnel was heading toward us.

TO BE CONTINUED...