

The Monument

by Jason Curlin

At the end of the 21st century, mankind, fearing its own demise,
gathered together in harmony to build its magnum opus, a tower, a 1000 feet tall,
containing all of man's greatest accomplishments: art, history, literature, science,
and in its center a strand of human DNA, both male and female.
Never before had man stood so united, so powerful.
And then the inevitable happened; they destroyed themselves.
A thousand long years passed.
Powerful storms crawled across earth's surface, stripping away all life.
Clouds covering the sky kept the rays of the sun from reaching the barren world
below.
Only deep under the seas dwelling in vast volcanoes that ignored the passing of
man, dwelt tiny microbes that managed to glean some living off the remnants of
this shattered world, waiting to restart life once more.
The immortal tower with its precious treasures remained.
And then the offworlders arrived, to see what the mysterious monument meant,
what tales the dead
cities of twisted metal told.
They looked all around.
And burned the tower to the ground.