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### The Aliens Are Coming. The Aliens Are Coming!

Holy cow, that's good stuff. Ok, I have something to tell you but you have to keep it, like, between us, alright? This is going to sound crazy but it's legit. Let me just start at the beginning. The other day I was just minding my own business, hanging out, playing Xbox, drinking a coke, whatever, you get it, but then I got a voicemail. Which is already weird because my phone didn't even, like, ring. No man, I wasn't tripping, I really got a random voicemail out of nowhere! So, naturally, I played it back and it was this, like, this robotic lady's voice. And this weird robo lady was just saying a bunch of random words. She said something about "Alpha" and "Sierra" and "November", just random words in a random order, it was freaking bizarre. I was super confused and a little freaked out. I remember thinking, like, "who the heck is this?" Dude, I'm serious, it was crazy. But anyway, I just shrugged it off for a minute and went back to my game. Oh, I was playing Call of Duty and man, I just leveled up to a whole new gun. You should see it, it's... Wait, what was I-... Oh right! Ok, but then I started getting curious, right? So I searched on google what all those words were and it turns out they're called "nato phonetic alphabet." Wait, that doesn't sound right. It was "nato phonetic alphabet." So these series of words were called "nato phonetic alphabet" which is, like, apparently used in the military, I guess? But with this newfound information that I... You know, found... I translated the message and read it and that's when things got freaky, man. Okay, listen to this, hold on, I wrote it down. It said "Danger SOS It is dire for you to evacuate. Be cautious they are not human.

042933964230 SOS danger SOS". Like, dude, what the legit hecking heck! So I was looking at those numbers wondering what they could possibly mean and then it hit me: Coordinates. Man, they're coordinates! And guess where they located to... Yeah, you guessed it, somehow... Malaysia. But not just anywhere in Malaysia, dude. This is when it gets even wackier - wait, can I take a hit of that? Thanks. Anyway, ummmm, where was I? Right, so the coordinates were near the last place that, um, that Malaysian plane that went missing was before it, you know, went missing. So I made a tweet about it just being like "Lol, guess what I found" and posted the voicemail and the coordinates and a lot of people started agreeing with me! But this is when it gets messed up, dude. I started receiving texts from an unknown number in a different language. I don't know what language, maybe, like, Indonesian? Anyway, that's not important, but I took one of the texts and used google translate and it translated to: "end the post you just shared about the recording on your phone." No, you can't see it, man. I deleted the text because it freaked me out so much but dude, I swear. I wouldn't, like, lie to you! Then I got another text that was in Morse code. Yeah, I got a text in Morse code, don't make that face at me! So I translated that and it said: "They are"... wait, hold on I'm trying to remember. It said, umm, "they are taking over 41818" and at first I was like "Wait what the heck is 41818? More coordinates?" but then I realized it was April 18th 2018! Can you believe that?! Like, you can't make this stuff up, dude! Now fast forward a few days and I was watching a movie. It was Silver Linings Playbook. You've never seen it? Oh man, Jennifer Lawrence was soooo good. Definitely deserved her Oscar - wait hold on, don't distract me... So, I was watching that J. Law movie when I saw a flash. Yeah man, a flash outside my window. So I looked out the window and someone was taking pictures of my house! The flash was, like, a camera! When he saw me looking he just walked away and I literally thought I was going to die that night. So obviously something crazy was going on, so I did even more research on the voicemail. That's when I

realized it was probably, like, the black box recording. And from what I understand, a black box records everything that's happening in the cockpit, so if a plane crashes or gets, like, hijacked there's evidence of what happened. But more importantly, it records the last interaction of a plane so that explains why it's an SOS recording! It also records the, like, coordinates, which is why I got all the weird numbers! So, it was a warning but a warning from what, you ask?... Ok... Dude... This is the part where my mom thought I was going crazy. So, I gave it a lot of thought and what's the only thing a plane should be worried about encountering in the sky, like, a million miles above ground?... Aliens... Freaking aliens, man. Dude, I freaking figured out what happened to the Malaysian flight that went missing! It was abducted by friggin' aliens! I was, like, the chosen one for getting these voicemails and it's up to me to, like, let the world know that on April... um... did I say 18th? Yeah, let the world know that on April 18th the aliens are coming! I already have, like, a Twitter fanbase. We call ourselves the "Malayalien Believers", pretty sick, right? I came up with that. Anyway, yeah, that's pretty much all I had to share. I'm still tweaking it and figuring it all out but yeah, just be aware of April 18th, dude. Do you have any more of this stuff? It's the freaking bomb.

### **Analysis:**

Conspiracy theories can be rather outlandish, which is why the people who believe and share them have to be creative in how they present their argument. A theory that insists that aliens are responsible for the disappearance of the Malaysian Airline Flight 370 should be introduced in a humorous yet realistic way. After reviewing all the formats, the one that gives this theory the

best chance of being believed would be the “stoner” format. When writing the theory in my own way, I didn’t change or add any details that would make it more believable. In fact, the only thing I adjusted was putting the story into first person. When presenting the theory, I intentionally made it more humorous than serious by having the speaker share his encounter with his stoner friend. This means that my intended audience is different than that of the speaker of the story. While his audience was his friend with whom he was smoking, mine is more general. My audience could include anyone who may have an interest in conspiracy theories, someone just looking for a laugh, or maybe someone who enjoys smoking marijuana and can relate to the situation. I made it the speaker’s strategy to be honest and explain in full detail exactly what happened and how he handled it. He was not trying to be overly convincing nor looking for approval; he was simply and confidently sharing what he knew about the theory thus far. As for how the story was told, the biggest influence would be the amount of emotion put into the writing. When writing for the speaker, I let him interject into the story how “freaked out” he was or how he “thought he was going to die.” By including these emotional outbreaks, I showed that the speaker wasn’t just making up a story but rather was relating his emotional experience. Unfortunately, there was no way to show his credibility or use logic for a theory about aliens in a “stoner” format, so I had to rely on adding genuine emotions to make it believable. In the end, this format selection worked given the topic of the theory. This theory is absolutely bizarre and, in my opinion, putting it in a realistic format such as “blogger” or “memoir” would have made it even more unrealistic. In more formal formats, it could have appeared to take itself too seriously and be less believable. However, by presenting it in a comedic way, it lent joy to the experience and hooked the reader from the very beginning. It doesn’t try to convince them logically but rather shares a series of unusual events to create an emotional connection. By the end,

hopefully the reader will be laughing and still somewhat skeptical about whether this speaker was just high as a kite or maybe actually onto something.