

# The Playground

My life is hard. No, Super hard, because I am an ant. To an ant everything is MEGA-size. I love sticky, syrupy tree sap and I eat it every day .But where I live is dangerous, to an ant...

I could feel the gentle warmth of the sun on my big thorax; the gentle breeze shook my long antenna around. I was also feeding on lovely, sugary tree sap. It was bliss. "Aaaahhh," I sighed joyfully. This had to be the best day RING! RING! The silence was shattered by 'The dreaded Bell'. I jumped so high, I nearly touched the sky. Then immense creatures emerged from the brick mountain; with each thundering footstep the ground reverberated. It was playtime and I was out in the open.

I knew straight away I needed to get back to the nest but I was miles away. THUD! It was then that I saw it: a giant meteor coming to destroy planet Jerry .I needed to hide to hide. Fast! I found a little crevice in the concrete (perfect to hide in if you are an ant) jumped in, and curled up in a tiny ball. I waited. THUD! There was an ear piercing thud and darkness covered the tiny crevice. My 6 legs shook and my thorax tingled. Suddenly, light began to appear. I climbed out of my hole and looked around. Tremendous screams came from the giant's mouths but the meteor was gone. I was safe, for now...

I began to scuttle along the hard gritty concrete. I stopped. I was frozen. 3 of the colossal beings were stampeding towards me. The grit was leaping up from their feet and pierced my skin like knives. I swiftly moved to the right to avoid the first stomp. Then I saw a silhouette loom over me. STOMP! I saw nothing everything was jet black. Was this it ? Was this how I meet my end? Slowly I began to see light. It blinded me. I was safe, for now...

I hurried along expertly through crowds of crushers (feet). The aroma of giant, succulent apples filled my nose. Over the horizon the nest appeared. At top speed I scuttled along but a menacing shadow loomed over me and a waft of air tickled my thorax. I looked up. SQUAWK! A bird ... A hungry bird... It began to descend, fast, I scurried across concrete. SQUAWK! I heard a clunk. The bird missed. I kept moving. Soon after, I heard the wings beating. Swooshh!

"Hhhhhhhh," I gasped. Then instead of feeling cold sharp talons I felt warm, fleshy hands. I opened my eyes (I closed them. It was scary) and saw a pair of warm, blue eyes and a kind smile. It was a...a human. He walked to the nest, carefully put me down and walked away. I leaped into the nest, amazed. I was safe, at last.

By Joshua Jackson