

Slime

...If there was a big animal out there Connie had a very simple plan, run and not stop until she was sure there was a long distance between her and it. However she had no intention of running because some deer had stepped in a pothole so Connie moved gingerly out of the tent to see just what was there. When she did all her plans went right out of her head because she just couldn't understand what she was seeing, she wasn't even sure it was even actually alive until it slithered towards her.

(C)BLACKSTAR ORBIT



The gelatinous mass pulsed and squirmed at the edge of the clearing and Connie stared at it in a sort of fascinated horror. The only thing she had seen that remotely resembled it were some slime moulds that grew on trees but they were only a few centimetres in size, this thing was a good two metres across and seemed organized, *focused*.

The alien was also observing Connie. It didn't have eyes, ears or even a sense of smell. What it did have was a highly developed sense of touch and the ability to detect the electromagnetic patterns that flowed through almost all life forms. The slime had passed by any number of animals in the forest and ignored them; their patterns were simple, nothing

there but pure instinct. The creature before it now was different; the slime could detect complex patterns of thought, the clear signature of intelligence, of a life form that would let its kind propagate on this new world....

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