

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

written by

I wish I was asleep

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If you are reading this script... sorry

EXT. FARM FIELD - NIGHT

Crops sway in a gentle breeze under a clear sky.

A loud BOOM disrupts the peace - a circular spaceship falls from the sky, slams into the field.

WRECKAGE

Through a hole in the hull, two dead blue ALIENS entwined into a ball shape. From underneath them, a baby CRIES.

INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Large space with dark wood furnishings.

SUPER: 10 years later

MAHLI (10) blue skin, antennae poking through his red hair, walks to the back door, opens it--

--It slams shut again. Holding it, BARNEY (40's) moth eaten suit and thick glasses.

BARNEY HILL

Last time, no going outside. The world
can't handle seeing a freak like you.

Mahli scowls. Barney pats a condescending hand on his face.

BARNEY HILL (CONT'D)

Good boy. I suggest you get rest,
you're going back to the lab tomorrow

INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mahli lies in a single bed.

The bedroom door swings open. Barney sticks his head in, checks Mahli is asleep. Satisfied, he shuts the door.

Mahli throws the covers off, picks up a holdall bag from a wardrobe and moves to a barred window. He pries open the metal bars and squeezes through.

EXT. COUNTRY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mahli slides down a drainpipe to the floor, slides into a basement window.

INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Mahli clicks the light on, it flickers to life.

In the corner, a pile of old technology. Mahli approaches, finger raised, which begins to glow, and touches the pile--

--which erupts into life. Up stands HOPE, a 4ft robot, A circular head with a camera lens eye, a microwave torso on top of rubber continuous track. Copper pipe arms.

HOPE

He- he- he- hello Mahli. Happy to see you again, how are--

MAHLI

--We are going, tonight. Grab your maintenance kit.

HOPE

Bu- bu- bu- but, your surprise, it's almost ready.

MAHLI

I can't take anymore, Hope, the tests, the needles, we need to go.

Hope dutiful packs his tool kit in his microwave torso, including a compact circular saw.

Mahli goes up the steps to the basement door.

Hope rolls over to an old PC, wires trail from it to a small piece of alien technology. He taps at the keyboard with his metal fingers.

MAHLI (CONT'D)

All clear.

Mahli rushes down the steps. Grabs hold of hope, pulls him away. With a desperate reach, Hope taps the ENTER key.

Mahli uses all his might to haul Hope up the basement steps

The alien technology lets out a soft intermittent beep.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - NIGHT

A 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air cruises by.

INT. CHEVROLET - NIGHT

Mahli can barely see over the steering wheel.

HOPE

Yu- yu- yu- you shouldn't have stolen his car. I- I hypothesise that this was a spur of the moment plan. Did you ensure there was enough--

-- The engine begins to chug; the gas meter reads empty.

HOPE (CONT'D)

--petroleum.

Mahli bashes the accelerator pedal, nothing. The car rolls to a stop.

HOPE (CONT'D)

We can walk home?

MAHLI

Home? I don't have a home. All I have is you, Hope. We can set up a home together

Mahli places a hand on hope, his eye glows a happy green.

HOPE

I would like that, but-- I believe a car is approaching.

Mahli turns off the headlights, grabs Hope and pushes him into the footwell, he accidentally knocks the handbrake.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD

The Chevrolet rolls backwards towards approaching headlights.

The other car spots it late, tries to swerve, SLAMS into the back of it sending it into a spin.

The Chevrolet spins to the mountain edge, hits the barrier - rests on its side dangling over the mountain edge.

INT. CHEVROLET

Hope falls through the open car door towards the bottom of the cliff, Mahli grabs his arm just in time, his other hand tentatively grapples a seat belt.

Mahli tries to pull Hope back into the car but his other hand slips, he falls-- but a pair of hands grab his ankles.

Barney holds onto Mahli tight. The human and robot chain dangle dangerously over the edge of the cliff.

BARNEY HILL

Let him go, I can't hold you both!

MAHLI

Hope, try and climb up my arm.

Hope slowly shakes his head.

HOPE

I- I- I- I can't do that, Mahli.

BARNEY HILL

I can't hold on much longer, you got to let him go!

MAHLI

no! I'd rather fall with him; I'm not letting go.

(to Hope)

I'm not letting go.

HOPE

You mu- mu- must let go Mahli, it will be okay.

Tears fall from Mahli, land onto Hope's metal exterior.

MAHLI

you're all I have.

Hope reaches his other hand to his torso, opens the microwave door and removes the handsaw.

HOPE

No, I'm not. They are coming for you Mahli. Have hope.

Hope sees at his arm that Mahli has a hold of.

MAHLI

Stop! Don't do that.

HOPE

I lo- lo- love you, Mahli.

The saw cuts through - Hope drops into the darkness. Mahli watches, WAILS. Barney pulls him through the car to safety.

INT. CAR - TRAVELLING - NIGHT

Barney drives. Mahli, in the back, stares out of the window. His eyes wet and bloodshot.

A bright light shines through the windscreen. Blinded, Barney slams on the breaks.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Barney steps out of the car, shields his eyes from the light.

Two figures move towards him from the light. The light dims, the two figures are blue ALIENS - the light comes from a small circular spaceship parked on the road.

BARNEY HILL

Whoah! Hello, my- my name is Barney
and I--

ALIEN

--The boy. Where is he?

BARNEY HILL

Boy? What boy?

The backdoor of the car opens, Mahli gets out, walks towards the aliens.

BARNEY

Mahli, stop, get back in the car.

Mahli runs past him - Stops short in front of the aliens, they smile at him. Mahli grabs them, holds tight.

ALIEN

We have been looking for you,
little one, we almost gave up, but
then we received it.

Mahli smiles, wipes away a tear.

MAHLI

Received what?

ALIEN

A message from Hope.

The aliens lead him onto the spaceship.

The engines fire up, they send out a shock wave which sends Barney flying into the windshield of his car.

The spaceship blasts into space.