

DUEL IN THE DESERT

Written by

Hermann Buhl

FADE IN:

EXT. NEVADA DESERT ROAD - DAY

The purple 1970 DODGE CHARGER R/T is an arrow as it blurs down the dusty road. It's blasting NORMAN GREENBAUM'S SONG SPIRIT IN THE SKY across the Great Basin Desert.

The Charger is the epitome of the American musclecar era, its 426 Hemi pumping out twice as many horses as Custer had at Little Bighorn. And it needs every one to outrun the UFO.

The funnel-shaped vessel is 50-feet tall, 50-feet in diameter at the top and 5-feet in diameter at the bottom. Contra-rotating bands of different colors lend it a festive air.

CARLOS (V.O.)

That's not a little tornado,  
Charlie. That's a fucking UFO!

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I don't believe in UFOs. And I'm  
hungry, Carlos.

INT. CHARGER - CONTINUOUS

CARLOS and CHARLIE are identical twins in their early 20s. Both have Fu Manchu mustaches, wear loose-fitting khakis and flannel shirts. Carlos is behind the wheel.

CARLOS

What's with the music, *ese*? I'm  
trying to concentrate!

CHARLIE

I thought it was appropriate! Plus  
there's no hip-hop on 8-track!

The CAR ROCKS and there's a WHOOSH! and the colorful UFO ZOOMS PAST. Far down the road it STOPS ON A DIME then COMES BACK, its bottom inches off the road's surface.

CARLOS

You wanna play chicken, *pendejo*?

He SHIFTS INTO TOP GEAR AND FLOORS THE PEDAL and the Charger surges forward. They let out a *grito* and brace for impact.

The UFO tornadoing toward them VAULTS UP at the last second.

The guys laugh, exchange high-fives, and howl the final words -- Linda Ronstadt style -- from the SONG BLUE BAYOU:

CARLOS & CHARLIE  
Blew By You!!!!

Their exhilaration is short-lived as the car is engulfed by a SICKLY YELLOW LIGHT accompanied by a BUZZING SOUND.

The CHARGER STUTTERS, SWERVES, then the ENGINE AND MUSIC DIES, and it COASTS TO A STOP on the road.

CARLOS  
No one fucks with the car!

CHARLIE  
Time to bust heavies!

The guys throw their doors open and jump out.

EXT. DESERT ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The guys stop at the rear of the car, stare up at the UFO circling the car.

CARLOS  
Bastard must've used an E-M-P to kill the engine.

CHARLIE  
Yeah, a fucking E-N-P.

CARLOS  
E-M-P. Electromagnetic pulse.

CHARLIE  
I knew that. I *do* have half the brains here.

They raise their arms to cover their eyes as the UFO KICKS UP A LOT OF DUST as it comes down for a landing.

CARLOS  
Let's get some tools in case we gotta work on these guys.

Charlie keeps an eye on the UFO, while Carlos opens the trunk. The trunk lid pops open and Carlos stares in horror.

POV - THE TRUNK

Nothing but a spare tire and a long handsaw.

CARLOS (O.S.)  
What the hell? Where's the toolbox?

BACK TO SCENE

CHARLIE

Mom took it to work on grandma's pickup.

CARLOS

And the saw? What's up with that?

CHARLIE

It was the only tool left in the garage, so...

CARLOS

I'm sorry, Charlie.

CHARLIE

For what?

CARLOS

I must've had you in a chokehold in mom's womb, and cut off the blood supply to your little brain.

They turn to face the UFO as it LANDS on its narrow base. Charlie reaches behind him and pulls out the handsaw.

CARLOS (CONT'D)

First contact, bro. We're about to become famous.

UFO

A door opens and drops to the ground. An ALIEN steps out. The seven-foot tall humanoid is ugly.

CHARLIE

It's uglier than your girlfriend.

Its scaly skin is greenish-gray; its long narrow head is bald, with overlarge eyes, and dark holes where ears and a nose should be; and it has a thick tubular mouth.

CARLOS

It's uglier than your boyfriend. And it's naked.

CHARLIE

And it's a dude. Ugh.

Alien opens its round mouth and it SHOOTs A VISCOUS STREAM of black liquid that sends the guys diving out of the way.

The LIQUID BURNS A HOLE through the trunk lid.

The guys roll to their feet and head in opposite directions: Carlos to the car door, Charlie to the Alien, saw in hand.

#### CHARLIE AND ALIEN

Charlie whips the flexible band into the alien's head -- BOIIING! -- then slides around behind it and does it again -- BOIIING! The enraged Alien spins around and SPITS.

#### CHARLIE

Didn't I just saw you?

He laughs raucously, then HEARS the CHARGER REVVING UP, so he takes a flying leap off the road as the -

#### CHARGER

- its TIRES SCREAMING AND SMOKING, slams the alien back into the door, then SMASHES into the UFO with a THUNDEROUS CLAP!

#### THE UFO

TEETERS, then SLOWLY TIPS OVER and finally CRASHES to the ground with a DEAFENING CLANGOR that REVERBERATES across the land and raises a SHROUD OF DUST that smothers the landscape.

#### UFO AND CHARGER - DUSK

The shadow from the downed UFO stretches across the desert. The Charger with its crumpled rear end is next to it.

#### CARLOS (O.S.)

I hope the frame's not bent.

#### CARLOS AND CHARLIE

Sit around a fire. Charlie is holding a stick over the fire, occasionally rotating it, so that the Alien's arm spitted on it cooks evenly.

#### CHARLIE

Shit, dad's gonna be pissed.

Off to the side is the Alien's body, minus the arms. The handsaw with dried blood lies next to it.

CARLOS  
(checking cellphone)  
How can there be no bars? This is  
America! Home of *puto* expensive  
data plans.

CHARLIE  
Chill, bro. This wing's almost  
done. And I'm starving hungry.

CARLOS  
I don't think the Area 51 guys are  
gonna like us eating Mr Ugly.

CHARLIE  
Fuck 'em.

Carlos sighs, puts away the phone.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Besides, I think he was like a  
guard dog. The other aliens in the  
UFO don't look like this one.  
(beat)  
Don't know why they're afraid to  
come out.

CARLOS  
That smells good.

Charlie takes the stick off the fire and takes a tentative  
bite. He chews, frowns, swallows.

CHARLIE  
Tastes like...

CARLOS  
Chicken?

CHARLIE  
Tuna.

CARLOS  
Nice.

Carlos picks up the other arm already mounted on a stick and  
holds it over the fire.

FADE OUT.