

E.T. HIGHWAY

By

Ed Moy

FADE IN:

A SERIES OF DESERT LANDSCAPES

An opening voice-over plays against a series of dissolving Nevada desert landscapes -- broad, barren, and lifeless.

VOICE-OVER

The world is full of stories. True stories, inspiring stories, tragic stories, funny stories, amazing stories and some down right strange stories. This is one of those strange stories...

EXT. NEVADA STATE HIGHWAY 375 - DAY

A desolate stretch of highway cutting through the Nevada desert.

A rental car speeds along towards a distant town, passing a roadside sign that reads: Rachel. Elevation 4970.

VOICE-OVER (CONT'D)

...and this is where I come into the picture. My name's Dave Edwards. I've been a freelance journalist for over a decade. I've covered everything from guerrilla rebels fighting in the jungles of South America to the discovery of a woolly mammoth frozen and buried in Antarctica. But nothing in my "real world" experience could prepare me for what happened in the Nevada desert in a mysterious place called "Area 51" or "Dreamland" as its known by the thousands of UFO and alien seeking visitors to this place. A place where even the strangest dreams can come true.

Along the roadside stands another colorful State of Nevada highway sign, decorated with two flying saucer shaped UFOs, reads: Extraterrestrial Terrestrial Highway. Nevada 375.

The rental car roars past the "E.T. Highway" sign.

INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY

We are looking over the shoulder of the driver, Dave Edwards, 30s, lean and rugged.

Edwards drives while checking a road map at the same time.

INSERT - ROAD MAP

The town of Rachel, Nevada is circled in red on the map.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards folds up the map and tosses it onto the passenger seat next to digital audio, photo and video recording devices, microphones, tripod equipment and accessories.

We also see a book, *Dreamland: Travels Inside the Secret World of Roswell and Area 51* tucked inside a shoulder bag filled with notepads and file folders.

EXT. RACHEL, NEVADA - DAY

Edwards rental car pulls into town and stops in front of the Little A'Le'Inn restaurant and gift shop. He steps out and looks around.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - THE TOWN OF RACHEL, NEVADA

A small town comprised mostly of trailer homes located in the middle of a barren desert.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards turns and enters the Little A'Le'Inn.

INT. LITTLE A'LE'INN - DAY

A slow day for business. There's only three people dining here today.

A YOUNG TOURIST COUPLE wearing matching t-shirts decorated with a green alien face that read: Area 51. I Survived.

And a LOCAL MAN quietly drinking coffee.

Everyone turns to look at Edwards entering the restaurant.

(CONTINUED)

And we get a good look at Edwards face for the first time. He's ruggedly handsome, a worn and tan-face individualist.

A WAITRESS behind the counter greets him with a friendly smile.

WAITRESS
Welcome to Rachel.

EDWARDS
Thank you.

WAITRESS
What brings you to the Little
A'Le'Inn?

EDWARDS
(notices that everyone's
staring at him)
My name's Dave Edwards. I'm a
journalist working on a story. I'd
like to ask you a few questions.

WAITRESS
Sure. We get questions from
everybody that comes through
town. Where are the UFOs? What's
out there at Area 51? Can we meet
the aliens?
(chuckles)
I've heard them all, honey. Fire
away. You want a cup of coffee
before you start?

EDWARDS
No thanks. Nice little town you
got here, if you can even call it a
town. Is it always this quiet?

WAITRESS
Nope. Just last week we had a full
bus load of Japanese tourists come
through here. You just happened to
come through on a slow day.

EDWARDS
Well I guess I got lucky and
avoided the crowds. Tell me, do
you know a Glenn Cambell?

WAITRESS
Glenn Cambell? I ain't heard that
name in quite some time. I take it
you don't mean the country singer.

EDWARDS

No, I don't.

WAITRESS

Well, I gotta tell you, you're out of luck if that's who you're looking for, sweetie. Glenn Cambell, the UFO hunter? He ain't been around these parts for years. He used to run an Area 51 Research Center out of his trailer here in town.

EDWARDS

Yeah, I found his website online. Can you tell me who's running the Area 51 Research Center now?

WAITRESS

Nobody as far as I know. Glen never did find any aliens or UFOs out there. If you're after a guide to show you Area 51, I know a few guys here in town. If you pay'em they'll take you out there as close as possible for a look see without getting arrested.

EDWARDS

Thanks. I'd be interested in taking --

MALE TOURIST

(interrupting)

Hey, mister reporter. We just went out there this morning.

FEMALE TOURIST

Yeah, we followed a dirt road that we found using a map we got online from an Area 51 website.

Female Tourist holds up the Area 51 road map. Edwards steps over to look at the map.

MALE TOURIST

You gotta be careful though. We got real close to the warning signs out there and saw some of those "Cammo Dudes" watching us from up on a ridge. As soon as they jumped in their SUV to come down to where

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MALE TOURIST (cont'd)
we were parked, we high-tailed it
out of there. But my girlfriend
got a few cool pictures though.
(to his girlfriend)
Show'em, babe.

The male tourist's girlfriend pulls out her digital camera and shows Edwards a series of still pictures taken at the Area 51 entrance, including shots of the warning signs and what appear to be electronic motion sensors planted along the roadside to detect intruders.

MALE TOURIST
By the way, my name's Doug and this
is girlfriend Sally.

Edwards shakes their hands.

SALLY
That's so cool that you're
investigating Area 51.

DOUG
Yeah, man, this is like a dream
come true for us to come out
here. We drove all night from
Phoenix to get here.

SALLY
Dougie and I went there to visit
the spot where all those people saw
a "V" shaped UFO, right Pooh-bear?

DOUG
That's right, babe. But he's a
reporter, I bet he's already heard
about the "Phoenix Lights"
appearing over the city back in
1997.

EDWARDS
I'm vaguely familiar with that
story.

SALLY
Well, anyway, it's so cool that
you're a reporter. Can you
interview me for your story? I've
always wanted to get interviewed.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

(hesitant)

Let me think about that.

(to Doug)

Do you mind if I make a photocopy
of your map?

DOUG

Sure. Go right ahead. It's
accurate. We followed it right to
the Area 51 signs.

SALLY

Pooh-bear's awesome with
directions. Did you know, he was a
Eagle Scout?

EDWARDS

No. I actually didn't. But thanks
for the info.

(to waitress)

Do you have a photocopier around
here?

WAITRESS

They got one in the gift shop.

EDWARDS

Thanks.

Edwards strides over to a counter in the UFO themed gift
shop portion of the Little A'Le'Inn.

The Local Man continues to sip his coffee, quietly watching
Edwards at a distance.

AT THE GIFT SHOP COUNTER

A CLERK greets Edwards with a smile.

CLERK

Welcome to Rachel.

EDWARDS

Thank you. Do you have a
photocopier I could use?

CLERK

Sure. Right over there in the
corner.

The Clerk points Edwards over to photocopy machine located
next to several racks of Area 51, UFO and alien postcards.

(CONTINUED)

Edwards surveys the store, half-amazed at the vast collection of items available and half-amused at the ridiculousness of some of the items on sale.

Edwards walks past a row of display shelves filled with UFO and alien toys, gifts, framed UFO photos, mouse pads, stickers and assorted sale items.

Arriving at the photocopy machine, Edwards notices that he's being watched by the Local Man drinking coffee.

Edwards quickly makes a copy of the map and crosses the room over to Doug and Sally.

EDWARDS

(hands map back to Doug)
Thanks for letting me copy your map.

DOUG

Hey, it was great meeting you.

Doug enthusiastically shakes Edwards hand like he's just met Michael Jordan or somebody famous.

SALLY

I just think it's so cool, you're going to write a story about Area 51. You gotta send us a copy when you're done.

Sally throws her arms around Edwards and gives him a big kiss on the cheek for good luck.

Edwards is surprised by all the adoration.

EDWARDS

Sure. I'll definitely do that.

DOUG

Yeah, man, here's my card. Send me an e-mail. We live in Sedona, Arizona. You know, where all the vortexes are.

EDWARDS

Vortexes?

SALLY

Yep. We live right near one at Bell Rock. They're like swirling centers of subtle energy coming up from the center of the earth. Very

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SALLY (cont'd)
powerful. My parents run a little
crystal shop in Sedona. Did you
know the Atlanteans used to live in
crystal pyramids and use crystals
to harness energy?

EDWARDS
(skeptical)
Really? I don't think I've ever
heard that before.

DOUG
Hey, if you're ever in Sedona give
us a call and we'll show you
around. You can charge up your
energy field at the vortex.

EDWARDS
Sounds good. Tell you what, I have
your card and I'll e-mail you
later. Thanks again for the map.

SALLY
Cool beans, we'll look forward to
reading your story.

WAITRESS
If you're planning to go out to see
Area 51, you'd better hurry because
it's getting dark.

EDWARDS
Thanks.

Everyone watches as Edwards quickly exits the Little
A'Le'Inn.

THE LOCAL MAN'S P.O.V. - EDWARDS RENTAL CAR

Edwards hurries to the car, gets in and drives away.

BACK TO SCENE

The Waitress exchanges a look with the Local Man, who shakes
his head, knowingly.

EXT. NEVADA STATE HIGHWAY 375 - DAY

The sun setting behind mountains in the distance.

Edwards rental car speeds down the highway and turns off at the infamous mailbox road.

INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY

Edwards stops and surveys the long gravel road ahead.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - MAILBOX ROAD

It's getting dark and there are no reflective markers or lights along the roadside.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards double checks his copy of the tourist map.

INSERT - MAP

This is the right place. A red circle highlights the infamous mailbox road, which branches off from Highway 375 and connects to Groom Lake road leading into Area 51.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards pulls out his cell phone to make a call, but can't get a signal.

Frustrated, Edwards starts up the rental car and drives on.

EXT. MAILBOX ROAD - DUSK

Dusk has fallen. A red-orange hue colors the sky. Edwards rental car roars past the infamous mailbox.

INT. RENTAL CAR - DUSK

Edwards drives with the map in his hands between the steering wheel. He scans the road for signs but doesn't see anything useful.

EXT. MAILBOX ROAD - NIGHT

Car headlights cut through the dark night.

Gravel dust kicks up from the tires of Edwards rental car as it roars past several Warning Signs posted along the road leading to the Area 51 base.

The passing rental car sets off hidden motion sensor silent alarms along the roadside.

INT. RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

Edwards drives while fumbling with the map. Finally gives up and tosses it aside. Suddenly, he notices three vehicles with their headlights on are blocking the road ahead.

EXT. MAILBOX ROAD - NIGHT

A black helicopter appears from behind a ridge and flashes a spotlight on Edwards rental car.

Three more four-wheel drive vehicles come up fast from behind Edwards rental car.

INT. RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

Edwards stomps on the brake. The car skids to a halt in front of the roadblock.

EXT. MAILBOX ROAD - NIGHT

A circle of headlights surrounds Edwards rental car in the center.

The black helicopter hovers above, shining a spotlight on the scene below.

INT. RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

Edwards shuts off the engine.

EDWARDS
(sotto voice)
Awww... shit.

EXT. NEVADA STATE HIGHWAY 375 - NIGHT

Lincoln County Sheriffs Deputy, CHARLES BROWN, steps out from his four-wheel drive vehicle.

A dour-faced camouflage fatigue wearing security officer, aka CAMMO DUDE, carrying an assault rifle, greets Brown.

BROWN
(sarcastic)
You know, I'm missing American Idol
for this.

No reply. The Cammo Dude is stone cold emotionless.

BROWN
Okay, fine. Who do you got for me
tonight?

The Cammo Dude strides across the road to several SUVs parked by the roadside. Brown follows.

The Cammo Dude pounds on the back of the lead SUV.

Two more CAMMO DUDES armed with assault rifles emerge, escorting Edwards from the back of the SUV.

EDWARDS
Take it easy. I'm moving. Who the
hell are you guys, anyway?

The CAMMO DUDES never speak. They release Edwards into Brown's custody.

Brown immediately handcuffs Edwards.

EDWARDS
C'mon, you gotta to be kidding
me! Handcuffs? What is this? I
haven't done anything. I was just
driving along a dirt road.

BROWN
You can give your statement later.

As they cross the road to Brown's vehicle, the Cammo Dudes get into their SUVs and drive off into the night leaving a trail of dust in their wake.

EDWARDS
Who were those guys?

(CONTINUED)

BROWN

(sighs)

I'll explain it to you
later. Let's go. Get in.

Brown and Edwards get into the Sheriff's vehicle and drive away.

INT. LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Brown enters the office with Edwards in tow.

EDWARDS

What am I being charged with?

BROWN

Sit down.

Edwards reluctantly takes a seat next to Brown's desk.

Brown removes Edwards handcuffs.

BROWN

You were caught trespassing on a
restricted government facility.

EDWARDS

What facility? Area 51? I didn't
see anything out there except for
dirt and mountains...

(beat)

...and those guys in the SUVs
wearing camouflage fatigues, along
with that black helicopter.

BROWN

Doesn't matter what you saw. You
crossed over from BLM land onto a
restricted government facility.

(drops a form on the desk in
front of Edwards)

Here. Fill that out.

EDWARDS

What is this?

BROWN

Statement form. You sign
that. Pay the fine. I let you go.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

That's it. Don't I get to argue my case?

BROWN

There's no case. They never take anyone to court.

EDWARDS

Tell me, who were those guys?

BROWN

You mean the "Cammo Dudes?"

EDWARDS

Yeah, the "Cammo Dudes." I guess that's their nickname around here.

BROWN

Far as I know, contracted security force that watches over the perimeter.

EDWARDS

So, then Area 51 is real.

BROWN

Real? What do you mean real? If you're asking me if there's a restricted government facility out there in the desert, my answer is yes, there's a restricted government facility out there. So I guess that makes it real.

EDWARDS

Okay, what I meant to ask is: are there any --

BROWN

-- UFOs? Aliens?

EDWARDS

Yes.

BROWN

I assume you read books, watch TV and movies, Mr. Edwards. I'll also venture to guess you do research on the Internet, am I right?

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

Yes, I do.

BROWN

Well, all I'm going to tell you is that there is a restricted government facility out there, and there are a million different stories about what goes on at that facility. You can look those up yourself. Does that answer your question?

EDWARDS

No, it didn't.

BROWN

That's too bad because it's the only answer you'll get from me.

(walking over to TV)

When you finish filling out the statement form, let me know if you're paying with cash, check or credit card.

(turns on TV)

Damn, I missed the end of American Idol. We gotta get one of those Tivo boxes.

Edwards reluctantly pulls out his wallet and begins filling out the form.

EXT. RACHEL, NEVADA - DAY

Edwards drives into town in his rental car. He stops at the Little A'Le'Inn.

INT. LITTLE A'LE'INN - DAY

There are about a dozen REGULAR LOCAL CUSTOMERS and TOURISTS today. Edwards enters. The same Waitress greets him.

WAITRESS

Welcome back Mr. Edwards. How did it go last night?

EDWARDS

(sarcastic)

Great. I met the Cammo Dudes.

(CONTINUED)

WAITRESS

(laughs)

Oh, my... well, I hope you don't get scared away.

EDWARDS

Not likely. If anything, I'm gonna hang around town until I find out what's really going on out there. By the way, you wouldn't happen to have a pay phone around here, would you? I need to call my editor and those Cammo Dudes confiscated all my electronic equipment, including my cell phone.

WAITRESS

You wouldn't be the first person had their things taken away. In my ten years working here, I've met dozens of reporters and UFO-logists and alien hunters. Plenty of them had their stuff taken away, too.

EDWARDS

Well it's good to know I'm not alone.

WAITRESS

Pay phone is in the gift shop.

EDWARDS

Thanks.

Edwards crosses over to the pay phone. He picks it up but there's no dial tone.

EDWARDS

The phone doesn't work.

CLERK

Oh, I'm sorry. It's been out for a few days. The repairman is scheduled to come out next week.

EDWARDS

Can I use your phone to make a long-distance call?

CLERK

I can't let you do that, sir. We aren't allowed to let customers use the office phones.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS
 (frustrated)
 Terrific. I appreciate your
 help. I really do.
 (to entire gift shop and
 restaurant patrons)
 Does anyone in here have a cell
 phone I could use?

The Local Man drinking coffee looks up. We recognize him as
 the same man from the day before.

LOCAL MAN
 You can use my phone.

EDWARDS
 (surprised)
 Thank you.

EXT. LITTLE A'LE'INN - DAY

Edwards exits with the Local Man.

LOCAL MAN
 My name's Bob Charles.

EDWARDS
 Dave Edwards.

They shake hands.

CHARLES
 Pleasure to meet you, Mr.
 Edwards. I saw you in here
 yesterday and looked up some of
 your writing online. You're an
 excellent reporter. L.A. Times,
 Newsweek, Time Magazine. You've
 written for some respectable
 publications.

EDWARDS
 Thanks. And what exactly do you
 do, Mr. Charles?

CHARLES
 I'm retired. But you could say I'm
 a UFO researcher. Follow me. I'll
 show you my place. You can use the
 phone there.

Charles leads Edwards to a trailer home down the road from
 the Little A'Le'Inn.

(CONTINUED)

INT. CHARLES TRAILER HOME - DAY

Edwards and Charles enter the trailer.

The place is a living shrine to all things related to UFOs, aliens, Area 51, and government conspiracies. Photos, books, magazines, VHS tapes, DVDs, bumper stickers, pennants, toys, etc. There's even a framed poster for the 1953 Sci-Fi 3-D movie *It Came From Outer Space*.

Edwards notices a massive panoramic photo of the mysterious Area 51 base tacked up across the back wall of the trailer.

EDWARDS

Nice photo.

CHARLES

Thank you, Mr. Edwards. I had that made special. Got it blown up to wall size from the original negatives. Of course, there are newer updated photos of the base available now, but this is my favorite, and quite frankly, I think the best. Its blown up from the pictures taken by UFO researcher Chuck Clark at Freedom Ridge in 1995 before the government took the land as part of the base. Back then a person could hike to within 12 miles of the base and take pictures without being hassled. Now you can't even get within 20 miles of the place without running into security.

EDWARDS

You mean those Cammo Dudes.

CHARLES

Yes, sir. That would be them. Someone started calling them that back in the mid-90's and the name stuck. I guess it's because they wear camouflage most of the time.

EDWARDS

I figured that much out.

Charles notices Edwards staring at the pile of boxes, file folders, books, magazines and photos stacked up all around the floors, tables and counters.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLES

I hope you don't mind the mess. I don't get many visitors.

(clears a stack of books and file folders from a chair)

Please, have a seat. Would you like something to drink?

EDWARDS

Yeah, sure. You're quite a collector, Mr. Charles.

Edwards sits down and looks around.

CHARLES

Oh, no need to be formal. Please call me Bob.

Charles goes to a drink cart. Finds his best liquor and grabs a couple of shot glasses.

EDWARDS

Okay, Bob. You look like an intelligent man, so tell me what are you doing out here with all this stuff?

(gestures at all books, magazines and pictures)

What do you think is out there at Area 51?

CHARLES

(chuckles)

Thank you, I'll take that as a compliment. The part about being an intelligent man that is. As for why I'm out here? I guess it's something for me to do to pass the time. You see, I worked in the aviation industry for many years and I always had an interest in the newest planes. Did you know they tested the first U-2 spy plane out there? And later on they test flew the SR-71, A-12 and D-21 drone. The F-117A stealth fighter and B-2 bomber were tested here, too.

Charles pours Edwards a shot of bourbon.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

Intriguing. But what does any of that have to do with this --

Edwards walks over to a corner of the room, picks up a poster board photo collage of various UFO-looking spacecraft photos and holds it up. Behind him stands a mountain of legal size boxes marked FOIA. They appear to be full of file folders and documents.

Charles pours himself a shot and downs it.

CHARLES

Well, I'm retired, you see. My wife passed away years ago. Our only daughter stopped talking to me after her mother died. And I've only seen my grandkids in pictures.
(pauses)

Maybe this is my way of dealing with it? But whatever the reason for me being here, this is my life now. I'm here to find the truth.

EDWARDS

So am I.

CHARLES

Well then we both agree that we're both in search of truth?

EDWARDS

Yes.

CHARLES

I'll tell you this much, truth has a funny way of being very elusive. The closer you get to it, the farther you really are from knowing it.

EDWARDS

(laughs)
Well said.

Edwards sits down and downs his drink.

CHARLES

I must say that in all the year's I've lived out here and researched this stuff, I haven't personally seen a UFO or an alien. After the Department of Defense acknowledged

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHARLES (cont'd)

the base existed in 1994, when those former base employees sued the government and claimed they'd been poisoned by hazardous materials used at the base for research into stealth technology, it forced major changes to the base operation procedures. All those movies and TV shows about Area 51, UFOs and alien invaders, also brought more tourists out here, so the government had to change the whole security profile around the base. But I still believe that work goes on out there even today on advanced aircraft -- unmanned aerial vehicles, high-speed reconnaissance craft, maybe some kind of high-altitude blimps -- although a lot of alien conspiracy buffs I know speculate that Area 51's new high profile has forced the big wigs to move most of the top-secret stuff to an Army Proving Ground somewhere in Utah.

EDWARDS

So you're saying there are no UFOs, aliens, secret underground bases, or reversed-engineered spacecraft out here?

CHARLES

I didn't say that. What I'm saying is that I haven't personally seen anything like that out here -- and I've been living out here for over a decade.

EDWARDS

So why bother with all the research?

CHARLES

(laughs)

What can I say, it helps me to pass the time in my retirement. This beats living in a retirement home playing chess all day.

Charles pours another round of drinks.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

Those boxes over there in the corner. You have them labeled FOIA -- I take it those are all copies of Freedom of Information Act documents?

Charles downs his drink. And pours another.

CHARLES

Very observant. You're right. That's exactly what they are. I love to research. And I have copies of documents from the Air Forces Project Blue Book investigations into UFO sightings, the Roswell Crash and MJ-12.

EDWARDS

And...

CHARLES

And for all my research, I still don't know anymore than you do right now. It's all circumstantial evidence. Nothing is ever fully proven in these documents. Some of them might not be worth the paper their printed on. As you well know, something crashed in Roswell, New Mexico in 1947... some people speculate that it was a UFO... that there was a cover up... and the powers that be supposedly formed a special committee under an executive order from none other than President Harry S. Truman himself. Of course, those that believe that, also believe that the government has been covering up UFOs and alien encounters for years.

Edwards tosses down his drink. Charles pours another round.

EDWARDS

What about you? Do you believe the government's covering up for something bigger?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLES

Oh, I believe there's something to all of this. I don't think all of these people went to all this trouble to fake everything. And I don't think they're all lying about what happened, either.

Edwards scrutinizes the wall-sized photo of the Area 51 Base on the wall. He eyes the blown-up, blown-out images of large aircraft hangers.

EDWARDS

So then what's the real story out there at Area 51?

CHARLES

I'm not sure. But if you want to get a closer look, I can take you out there to see the base from Tikaboo Peak.

EDWARDS

Am I gonna get arrested again?

CHARLES

(laughs)

No, not this time. It's almost 26 miles away from the base. Those security patrols won't be coming after us. Plus we have to hike up to the top on foot.

EDWARDS

(grins)

Well, what are we waiting for, let's go take a look.

CHARLES

I thought you wanted to use the phone to call your editor?

EDWARDS

She can wait. This sounds a lot more fun.

EXT. TIKABOO PEAK - DAY

Tikaboo Peak is wooded with Juniper trees. The mountain is mostly rock, with scant patches of soil, yet these trees find every bit of ground and every crack in the rocks to send down roots for moisture and nutrients.

(CONTINUED)

Charles and Edwards hike to the top. Both men are wearing large backpacks full of gear. Charles gasping for oxygen from the arduous climb.

EDWARDS

You all right?

CHARLES

(stops to catch his breath)

I'll be okay. It's been sometime since I've been up here.

From the top of the mountain, the only signs of civilization below, besides the Area 51 airfield, are Groom Lake Road and Highway 375.

EDWARDS

Amazing. This is one spectacular view from up here. How can you possibly see the base from here?

CHARLES

True, but we have the equipment to get a better look. Start unpacking the gear.

Charles takes off his pack, sits down on some large rocks to rest. Edwards unloads the packs.

EDWARDS

What is all this?

CHARLES

They're special military observation binoculars and a binocular telescope. I got a great deal from another UFO-logist before he left town.

EDWARDS

Great. Lucky for us.

Charles helps Edwards set up the tripod and telescopes.

Edwards takes his first look after Charles adjusts the focus and sets the telescope to view the Area 51 Groom Lake base.

CHARLES

See it.

EDWARDS

Barely. It's still kind of fuzzy and far away. So this is Area 51?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLES

That's it. You're looking at it.
That's the famous Area 51 base.

(pauses)

Trivia buff that I am, I actually tried looking up the real name of the base and found out its still classified even to this day. So everyone just calls it Area 51 because that's the Atomic Energy Commission's original designation for this area. The base has also gone by the names Paradise Ranch, The Ranch, Watertown Strip, The Box, Red Square, The Farm, Groom Lake, Dreamland and more recently Homey Airport, but my personal favorite is Air Force Flight Test Center, Detachment 3.

EDWARDS

(laughing)

You ever thought about going on Jeopardy as a contestant? I think you'd be good at it.

CHARLES

Actually, before my wife passed on, we used to watch that show --

EDWARDS

Hold on. What's this?

Edwards scans the base using the telescope.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - AREA 51 BASE

A large white bus picks up passengers from in front of a large hanger and drives off the base.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards let's Charles take a look through the telescope.

CHARLES

Ah, yes, the School bus.

EDWARDS

School bus?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLES

That's the nickname some of the others that come out here have given it.

Charles let's Edwards take another look.

EDWARDS

(looking through telescope)
So who's riding in there? Where's it go?

CHARLES

Oh, the bus runs every weekday at about 5:30 am. It picks up workers from the base from Alamo and it enters the base via Groom Lake Road. Its painted white with tinted windows. Of course, whoever is in charge of the bus is unknown, but the rumors are that the CIA is. The bus leaves the base at about this time every afternoon to take the workers back.

EDWARDS

Who are the workers?

CHARLES

Nobody knows. Speculation is they're civilian contractors. Engineers, scientists, or maybe just regular support personnel that live off the base.

EDWARDS

Are those the only people allowed onto the base?

CHARLES

No. There's also the Janice flights leaving from McCarran airport in Las Vegas that shuttle in workers on a daily basis. There are also a number of workers that enter and leave the base using private vehicles. A few of the workers use what we call the back gate entrance. The back gate is using Mercury Highway through the Nevada Test Site. The number of workers changes daily depending on what projects are going on. From

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHARLES (cont'd)

what I've observed over the years, I would estimate no more than a thousand workers are employed at the base.

EDWARDS

Jesus, you learned all that from hanging out here in the desert and mountains watching this? No wonder the government keeps such a close watch on this place. How do they know guy's like you aren't spies or something?

CHARLES

(laughs)

I'm not a spy. I'm just one of the die hards that still hangs around. I've seen UFO seekers, Alien hunters and conspiracy theorists come and go for that past decade. There's nothing I've told you that you wouldn't have eventually found on the Internet.

(ponders a thought)

Boy, what an incredible invention that's been. When the World Wide Web became free for everyone to use back in 1993, it was just like opening up Pandora's box.

EDWARDS

You're right about that. Just last year, I wrote a story about cyber-spies and bored teenagers trying to hack our national defense systems, satellites, and databases on a daily basis. It's scary to think about, but a reality.

CHARLES

(chuckles)

And here we are, a couple of big overgrown kids, trying to peek in on our own government's secret airbase in the desert.

Edwards follows the path of the bus through the telescope.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - ROAD

He watches as the only traffic on the road exiting Area 51 is the bus taking workers from the test site back to Alamo at the end of their day.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards readjusts the telescope back towards the base.

CHARLES

There's not much more to see out here. We should pack up and hike back down before it gets dark. Otherwise, we'll have a tough time getting back to our cars.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - AREA 51 BASE

He fixes the telescope on the largest hanger on the Area 51 base.

BACK TO SCENE

EDWARDS

What about that big hanger the workers came out from?

CHARLES

That's Hanger 18. The rumor is there's a huge elevator inside which transports top secret planes like the Aurora and the Black Manta, aka the B-2 bomber, and other advanced aircraft they're testing to an underground facility beneath Area 51. But my guess is that it's just a large regular hanger used to house the latest test aircraft.

EDWARDS

Where do you get all this information from?

CHARLES

(laughs)
The Internet, of course.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

You wouldn't happen to know where
Jimmy Hoffa's buried would you?

CHARLES

(laughs)

Are you kidding? He's buried
underneath Giants Stadium. Let's
get out of here.

Edwards and Charles start packing.

EXT. NEVADA STATE HIGHWAY 375 - NIGHT

Sunset. The sun's faint red-orange glow appears in the
distance beyond the mountains.

Charles finishes loading the last of the gear into his
truck. He closes up the tailgate.

CHARLES

Okay Dave, good luck. Stay in
touch.

Edwards finishes up a phone call using Charles cellphone and
hands it back to him.

EDWARDS

Yeah, I'll do that. My editor
wants me back in L.A. by tomorrow
morning. I'm catching a plane out
of Vegas tonight.

CHARLES

Well, it was good meeting
you. Take care of yourself.

Charles surprises Edwards with a big bear hug.

EDWARDS

Yeah, okay.

(beat)

Hey, maybe you ought get out of the
desert and go see your grandkids?

CHARLES

I may just do that.

EDWARDS

Think about it.

Edwards turns to leave.

(CONTINUED)

Charles gets an idea. He quickly scribbles a telephone number down on a piece of notepad paper and tears it out of the pad.

CHARLES

Wait, before you go, I thought this might interest you.

Edwards turns around. Charles hands him the piece of paper.

EDWARDS

What's this?

CHARLES

I just remembered the number for one of the ex-wives of an Area 51 employee that died from exposure to toxic waste on the base. I met her several years ago. Her name is Darlene. Not sure this is the story you came out here looking for, but the government settled her lawsuit out of court to keep it out of the news. She was rather outspoken about what went on out there in the past. She still lives in Vegas. Might be someone you want to talk with before you get on that plane.

(pauses, thinks)

You know, last year the DOE finally acknowledged that some Area 51 workers and contracted employees are eligible to receive health payments usually made available to nuclear weapons workers who got sick from their jobs. I find it strange that the DOE would offer them compensation considering its supposedly a testing ground for aircraft? Some of the complaints came from former workers claiming to have gotten cancer or been exposed to radiation and beryllium.

EDWARDS

Thanks. I'll look into it.

CHARLES

Good luck. Stay safe.

A silent moment. They exchange a look. Edwards walks off.

EXT. NEVADA STATE HIGHWAY 375 - NIGHT

Edwards rental car speeds away from Rachel, passing a sign that reads: Las Vegas. 90 miles.

INT. RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

Edwards drives, rubbing his tired eyes. Checks the digital clock on the radio. It reads: 7:37 p.m.

EXT. NEVADA STATE HIGHWAY 375 - NIGHT

As Edwards rental car comes over a grade, a large black triangular craft about 200 feet long and about the size of a football field in width appears to be hovering at low altitude in the sky overhead.

The triangle craft makes no effort to evade detection. It's clearly visible.

INT. RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

Edwards sees the black triangular craft. Suddenly his rental car's engine shuts down. The car stops. The electrical system goes berzerk, everything metallic or magnetic, including the car rises towards the craft.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - THE TRIANGLE CRAFT

A thin silver line of light glows around the circumference of the massive triangular ship.

At one point, the lights stop glowing and the ship hovers silently overhead. Propulsion seems to be provided by amber-colored, orb-shaped thrusters mounted at each bottom corner of the triangular platform.

Suddenly, a bright white-light shoots out from the center of the ship.

BACK TO SCENE

The bright light temporarily blinds Edwards, who shields his eyes.

And just like that the ship vanishes from sight.

Edwards gets out to look around but the triangular craft is gone. There's no sight or sound. It mysteriously vanished.

EXT. LAS VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT

Edwards rental car roars past a famous sign that reads: Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas. He travels along the road onto the famous Vegas Strip.

INT. RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

Edwards drives. He scans the road. Spots a pay phone and pulls into a small diner parking lot.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Edwards gets out of his rental car and crosses over to the pay phone. He picks it up, drops in a couple bucks in quarters, and dials.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

A high-rise office overlooking the city of Los Angeles.

The phone rings. Magazine editor SAMANTHA "SAM" WARNER picks up. She's the only one still in the office, working late as usual.

INTERCUT BETWEEN WARNER AND EDWARDS

WARNER

Hello.

EDWARDS

Sam, you won't believe what just happened to me.

WARNER

Dave? My god is that you?

EDWARDS

Yeah, it's me.

WARNER

(checks clock)

It's almost one in the morning. You were supposed to call me hours ago? Are you back in town?

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

(laughs)

No. I'm in the city that never sleeps. Vegas, baby!

WARNER

Why are you still in Vegas? And don't call me baby! I thought I told you get on a flight back to L.A.

EDWARDS

Listen, I just had the most amazing experience. You're going to --

WARNER

-- I'm going to be upset is what I'm going to be, if you don't get your butt back to L.A. right now.

EDWARDS

Forget L.A. I just saw a UFO!

WARNER

A what?

EDWARDS

You heard me, a UFO!

WARNER

Have you been drinking?

EDWARDS

Yes. I mean no, of course not. I had a couple of shots but that had nothing to do with seeing the UFO.

WARNER

I thought we agreed earlier that you were going to drop that Area 51 story and come back to L.A.

EDWARDS

Yes, we did. But that was before I saw it.

WARNER

It?

EDWARDS

Yeah, the UFO. It was triangular ... black colored ... with blinking lights around it ... and it shot

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS (cont'd)
out this bright-white beam of light
before it vanished.

WARNER
I suppose next you're going to tell
me you were abducted by the aliens
and had your mind probed?

EDWARDS
No, I didn't get abducted by the
aliens.

WARNER
Well, maybe you should. They might
help you get your mind back.

EDWARDS
Very funny. I'm not making this
up. I really did see a black
triangular UFO out here.

WARNER
And you want to follow up on this?

EDWARDS
Exactly, I got a number for the
ex-wife of a DOE employee that
worked at Area 51. She might be
the lead I've been looking for to
get inside this story.

Edwards notices a black sedan enter the parking lot and pull
into a space nearby. Two mysterious MEN in black suits sit
inside the car watching him.

WARNER
Dave, I think you're wasting your
time. We got a story about
displaced villagers along the
Yangtze River in China being
affected by a dam the government
built. I can get you on a plane
out there tomorrow.

EDWARDS
Hold on a second. There's
something going on here.
(eyes the black sedan)
Men in Black.

WARNER

Men in what?! You know how ridiculous you're sounding right now? You get back here --

EDWARDS

(hangs up on her)
Talk to you later.

EXT. BLACK SEDAN - NIGHT

Edwards slowly approaches the vehicle. He tries to peek inside but the windows have a dark tint.

There are definitely two men sitting inside.

Suddenly, the man in the passenger side rolls down his window and leans out smoking a blunt.

PASSENGER MAN

Hey, buddy, you done with that phone? I gotta make a call. My friend here lost my cell phone back at the casino.

EDWARDS

Sorry, I thought you guys were --

PASSENGER MAN

(laughing)
-- Men in Black, right?

EDWARDS

Yeah.

PASSENGER MAN

Good one, huh? We get dressed up like this and do a stage show at a local club. Kind of a Blues Brothers meets M.I.B. shtick. Hope we didn't scare you.

EDWARDS

(laughs)
No, not at all. It's all right. Your show sounds funny.

PASSENGER MAN

Sure. Check us out.
(hands him a card)
That's my card. I go by Tee and my friend here is Bee. Get it T and

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PASSENGER MAN (cont'd)

B. Kind of like J and K in M.I.B.
I do the Belushi thing and my
partner does Aykroyd.

EDWARDS

Thanks for the info. I'll have to
check out the show. Say, you mind
if I make one more phone call?

TEE

No worries, go for it.
(offers the blunt)
You want a hit?

EDWARDS

No thanks.

TEE

This some good stuff, man.

Tee rolls up the window and smokes up the car.

Edwards breathes a big sigh of relief as he walks back over
to the pay phone. He fishes out the piece of paper with the
phone number that Charles gave him.

As Edwards puts change in the phone and dials the number, he
looks back at the Blues Brothers / M.I.B. duo smoking in
their sedan.

Edwards cups the receiver to his ear. The phone rings
several times. Someone finally picks up.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Hello?

EDWARDS

Hi, I'm calling for Darlene.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

This is Darlene.

EDWARDS

Darlene, my name is Dave
Edwards. I'm a reporter. Bob
Charles gave me your number.

DARLENE (O.S.)

(surprised)
Bob Charles?

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

Yes.

DARLENE (O.S.)

Okay. What do you want?

EDWARDS

I just want to talk to you about what happened to your ex-husband out at Area 51. I promise not to take up too much of your time. Are you available tonight?

DARLENE (O.S.)

(hesitant)

I live at 2250 South Lake Mead Rd. I'm in apartment 13. I'll be here for about an hour then I'm going to dinner with friends.

EDWARDS

Thank you. I'll be right over.

Darlene hangs up. Edwards puts the receiver back.

Tee emerges from the sedan. High as a kite. Pulls out a pair of black RayBan sunglasses like Jake Blues in the Blues Brothers. Puts them on.

TEE

Hit it!

And Bee cranks up the music in the car. It's the theme from Rawhide playing. Tee lip syncs Belushi.

EDWARDS

Hey, which way is 2250 South Lake Mead Road?

TEE

Oh, man, yeah, you go that way --

Tee points in the direction of the Vegas Strip.

EDWARDS

(confused)

Which way? How do I get there?

TEE

You go down the Strip and hang like a... left... no wait... you hang a... let me think... a right on...

Edwards gives up. He gets in his rental car and drives off.

EXT. DARLENE'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Edwards rental car swings into a visitor parking slot.

INT. RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

Edwards double checks the address against the apartment numbers and gets out.

EXT. DARLENE'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Edwards enters the apartment complex. He searches for number 13 and finds that its an upstairs unit.

EXT. DARLENE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Edwards darts up some stairs and finds the door to apartment 13. The door is ajar. And the lights aren't on. Strange.

Knocking on the front door, Edwards peeks inside and calls out.

EDWARDS

Darlene?

(pauses, gets no response)

Darlene? It's me Dave Edwards.

Edwards hesitates. Something doesn't feel right. He slowly pushes open the door and enters the apartment.

EDWARDS

Darlene?

Edwards finds a light switch, which turns on a set of floor lamps in the living room. He's shocked to find the place has been ransacked.

Desk drawers are poured out on the floor. Shelves and cabinets emptied out. Sofa cushions cut open. Somebody was searching for something. But what?

The PHONE RINGS...

As it rings, Edwards crosses over the debris on the floor to reach it. He let's it ring a few more times. Hesitates. But picks it up.

EDWARDS

Hello.

(CONTINUED)

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
Mr. Edwards?

EDWARDS
Yeah, who am I talking to?

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
Darlene had to leave in a hurry. I suggest you do the same.

EDWARDS
What are you talking about? Who is this?

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
Get out now!

The caller hangs up.

Edwards turns to look back at the open door. There's nobody there. He hangs the phone up and goes for the door.

But suddenly, two MEN in dark suits enter. The larger of the two is an XL size. The smaller man is an L size.

L closes the door and locks it. XL blocks Edwards path to the door.

EDWARDS
Hey, who are you guys? What's going on here?

XL steps over and punches Edwards in the gut.

As Edwards drops to his knees in pain, XL stands over him.

XL
(using some kind of voice altering device)
Do not try to find the woman. We're watching you. Get out of town.

L opens the door, XL crosses to the door.

XL
Forget about Area 51.

XL and L exit.

Edwards picks himself up off the floor.

EXT. DARLENE'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Edwards dashes into the parking lot. But there's no sign of the two men. They've vanished.

Edwards returns to his rental car and finds that someone has left a note on the windshield.

Edwards picks up the note and reads it:

INSERT - NOTE

It reads: Sorry for leaving in a hurry. Please meet my friend Mr. Smith at the 24 Hour Coffee Shop near McCarran Airport in 30 minutes. -- Darlene

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards looks around. There's nobody else in the parking lot. Frustrated, he gets in the car and drives away.

EXT. 24 HOUR COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Edwards pulls into the parking lot, parks the car and enters.

A passenger airliner roars overhead as it departs from nearby McCarran airport.

INT. 24 HOUR COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Edwards steps inside. A smiling WAITRESS greets him.

WAITRESS

Good evening. And how are you tonight?

EDWARDS

It's been a bit of a rough night so far. How are you doing?

WAITRESS

Well, I'm doing fine. I'm sorry to hear you're having a bad night. Let's see if we can't make you feel any better. Would you like to sit at the counter or a booth?

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

Actually, I'm supposed to meet a Mr. Smith here.

WAITRESS

Oh, yes, you must be the gentleman that he's been waiting for. Your friend is sitting right over there in the far corner booth.

Edwards looks over at Smith. They make eye contact. Smith is in his forties and dressed in professional business attire. Looks like he might be a cop or detective.

The Waitress leads Edwards over to Smith's table.

SMITH

Ah, Mr. Edwards, please have a seat.

Edwards sits down. The Waitress hands Edwards a menu.

WAITRESS

Would you like some coffee?

EDWARDS

Sure.

The Waitress goes to get his coffee.

SMITH

It's a pleasure to finally meet you in person.

EDWARDS

I can't say the same since I don't even know who you are. But I did meet your friends back at the apartment. The big guy must have been a boxer before. He's got a good punch.

SMITH

I don't know who you're talking about.

EDWARDS

Didn't you send those two goons over to Darlene's place? They came in right after your phone call.

(CONTINUED)

SMITH

I didn't send anybody over there. Those two men weren't with me.

EDWARDS

(skeptical)

I see.

SMITH

Mr. Edwards, I assure you, I had nothing to do with them. If you'll recall I told you to leave the apartment as soon as possible.

EDWARDS

And how did you know to tell me that?

SMITH

Darlene had already called me to let me know someone had broken into her place. She knew you were coming, but didn't have any way to reach you, and it wasn't safe to stay there.

EDWARDS

Sounds suspicious to me. I just talked to her less than 30 minutes before I arrived. She said she was already home. How could her place have been broken into with her still in it?

SMITH

Maybe she went out for a while? I don't know. I had nothing to do with it. All she told me was that you're a reporter and that you're interested in finding out what's going on at Area 51. That's something I can help you with.

EDWARDS

Okay. What's your connection to Darlene and Area 51?

SMITH

Well, I work at Area 51.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS
(surprised)
You work at Area 51?

SMITH
Yes. I'm an engineer. This is all
off-the-record and unofficial, but
I'm contracted to work on top
secret aircraft projects.

EDWARDS
Let me guess, reverse-engineered
from spacecraft? I've read about
Bob Lazar and his wild stories of
working as an engineer at Area 51.

SMITH
No, I worked on stealth technology,
specifically the B-2 bomber.

EDWARDS
So, the stealth technology came
from aliens, right?

SMITH
(laughs)
No, not to my knowledge.

EDWARDS
Then where'd it come from?

SMITH
Humans as far as I know. You
really ought to give us some
credit, Mr. Edwards.

EDWARDS
So what's with all the secrecy?

SMITH
The government likes to keep things
on a "need to know" basis, that way
they always have "plausible denial"
as a means to explain away top
secret projects that are important
for our nation's security.

The Waitress comes back with coffee.

EDWARDS
Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

WAITRESS

Would you like to order something?

EDWARDS

No, thanks.

SMITH

I'm good, thank you.

The Waitress goes away.

EDWARDS

So this is all about protecting
America and our way of life?

SMITH

You could say that.

EDWARDS

I don't buy it.

SMITH

What don't you buy?

EDWARDS

Well, for example, so far tonight,
I've seen one flying triangular
spacecraft that hovered over my
car, I've visited a woman's home
that was broken into with her
apparently not there even though
she said she was already there, I
had an encounter with some men in
black, and to top it all off, I'm
now having some kind of unofficial
official conversation with an
engineer who works at Area 51. That
about sums up everything in a
nutshell on this crazy road trip.

SMITH

(laughing)

Men in Black? Surely, you're
joking.

EDWARDS

No I'm not.

SMITH

Well, I doubt they are who you
think they are. As for that
triangular craft you saw, I might
suggest that it was probably

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SMITH (cont'd)
another prototype plane based on
the black manta design used for the
B-2 bomber?

EDWARDS
This was no flying wing design like
the B-2. It had some weird
orb-shaped thrusters that allowed
it move vertical and to hover
silently. And how do explain it
vanishing almost instantaneously?

SMITH
Well, that is what stealth
technology was designed for.

EDWARDS
This was no ordinary plane.

SMITH
They never are.

EDWARDS
(frustrated)
Enough bullshit. I don't believe
you. Something bigger is going on
out here. I want to know the
truth.

SMITH
Okay, what do you want to know?

EDWARDS
Janice flights from McCarran
airport. They shuttle employees
from here into Area 51, right?

SMITH
Yes, they do. But they also carry
employees and personnel to other
locations as well.

EDWARDS
Can you get me aboard one of the
flights into Area 51?

SMITH
Are you're asking me if I can sneak
you into Area 51?

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

Yes.

SMITH

You do know that this could get us both tossed in prison for a very long time.

EDWARDS

I'll take that chance.

SMITH

(laughing)

I like your tenacity.

EDWARDS

Then help me get inside Area 51. Show me what's really going on in there. Take me into the underground facility.

SMITH

Underground facility? I'm not aware of any such thing.

(beat)

But in the interest of appeasing your curiosity and to counter some of the false rumors and fantastic stories floating around out there, I'll take you inside.

Edwards beams with excitement. Smith flashes a knowing smile. The shake hands to seal the deal.

EXT. MCCARRAN AIRPORT - DAY

Early Morning. Smith's sedan enters the airport.

The sedan cruises over towards the northwest parking lot for the terminal servicing Janice flights into Area 51.

INT. SMITH'S SEDAN - DAY

Smith drives. Edwards rides along in the passenger seat.

SMITH

Let me do all the talking. Don't say anything unless you're asked.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS
I understand.

EXT. SECURITY BOOTH - DAY

Smith's sedan pulls up to the SECURITY GUARD checking for ID passes outside the booth.

A computerized scanner is used to match up ID badge bar-codes with accepted users in the system.

SMITH
Good morning.

SECURITY GUARD
Good morning, sir. Can I see your ID badge, please?

SMITH
Sure.

Smith hands him a bar-coded badge with his picture on it. The Security Guard takes it and scans it through. It's accepted.

INT. SMITH'S SEDAN - DAY

Edwards watches, nervously.

The Security Guard across and notices Edwards fidgeting.

SECURITY GUARD
Who's this with you today, sir?

SMITH
Oh, he's a new engineer working on my team over at the base. This is Mr. Edwards. They haven't issued him a pass, yet.
(to Edwards)
Do you have that paperwork with you?

Edwards pulls out some falsified ID documents and hands them to Smith.

SMITH
(hands them to Guard)
Here you go. They gave him these temporary papers. There was a mix up and he wasn't able to get them filed, yet.

(CONTINUED)

The Security Guard looks over the documents. They look official.

SECURITY GUARD

I'm going to have to call this in and get approval.

SMITH

There's really no need. I'll take responsibility for him.

SECURITY GUARD

I really should get these documents cleared and entered into the computer system.

EXT. SECURITY BOOTH - DAY

Several CAR HORNS SOUND as other drivers waiting to get inside the gates become impatient.

Smith and the Security Guard look back at the long line of cars.

SMITH

Look, you've got a line forming. Really, it's no problem. We'll get it filed as soon as we get inside.

The Security Guard hesitates.

INT. SMITH'S SEDAN - DAY

Smith flashes Edwards a quick look as if to say everything will be fine. Edwards forces a smile.

EXT. SECURITY BOOTH - DAY

The Security Guard gives Edwards a cursory look over and reluctantly waves them through, not wanting to hold up the line any further.

Smith drives inside.

EXT. MCCARRAN AIRPORT PARKING LOT - DAY

Smith's sedan pulls into a spot designated for Janice passengers. They exit and walk into the terminal.

INT. MCCARRAN AIRPORT JANICE TERMINAL - DAY

Smith and Edwards enter the terminal.

SMITH

Wait here. Let me take care of this.

Edwards waits over by the departure gates.

Smith crosses the terminal to the counter area.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - COUNTER AREA

Smith goes over to talk with a female COUNTER AGENT. Smith points over at Edwards. The Counter Agent looks over towards Edwards. She smiles.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards nervously smiles back at the Counter Agent.

As Edwards waits for Smith to come back with the passes, he glances around the terminal.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - TWO MILITARY POLICE OFFICERS WITH K-9

The K-9 patrol enters the terminal.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards looks away so as not to attract attention. He glances back over towards Smith.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - COUNTER AREA

A smiling Smith waves to Edwards. After a brief delay, the Counter Agent issues a pair of boarding passes.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards waits for Smith to walk back over.

EDWARDS

What was that?

SMITH

What are you talking about?

EDWARDS

That look from the woman at the counter.

SMITH

(laughs)

She thought you were cute. I told her you were new. I'm showing you around today.

(beat)

Hey, I got this taken care of. Don't worry about. Let's go.

Smith slaps Edwards on the back and leads him to the gates.

INT. SECURITY SCREENING CHECKPOINT - DAY

Edwards and Smith wait in line to get screened through the metal detectors.

Smith unloads his pockets into a tray, takes off his shoes and sends them through the x-ray machine.

The SCREENER scans Smith and sends him along.

Edwards glances around.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - K-9

Notices the K-9 dog and two MP OFFICERS standing off to the side watching him.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards empties his pockets into a tray, takes off his shoes and sends them through the x-ray machine.

The SCREENER scans Edwards through and sends him along.

INT. GATE AREA - DAY

The next flight for Area 51 or Groom Lake is already boarding. It's a groggy early morning crowd gathering at the gate.

Smith and Edwards merge into the crowd to board the plane. No one seems to notice or care about anything going on around them. It's the same old routine. Everything is normal as far as they're concerned.

INT. JANICE PLANE - DAY

The Janice plane is a Boeing 737 retro-fitted to fly personnel and employees to the Groom Lake base. It's run like a regular airline except that the passengers are going to a top secret location.

Edwards and Smith take a pair of seats near the rear of the plane. Edwards sits by the window.

Smith greets a cute female FLIGHT ATTENDANT.

SMITH

And how are you this morning, young lady?

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

(smiling)

I'm fine. And how are you gentlemen?

SMITH

Couldn't be better. It's a great day to fly.

Edwards smiles and nods agreement.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Well, let me know if you two need anything. I'll be serving some drinks after takeoff.

SMITH

I certainly will.

Smith watches her move on down the aisle.

The seat belt light comes on as the plane begins to taxi down the runway for takeoff.

Edwards looks out the window at the McCarran Airport Janice Terminal.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

We're really going to do this.

SMITH

I told you I'd get you in.

Edwards can't help but grin as he stares out the window. Smith just smiles and relaxes back in his seat.

EXT. MCCARRAN AIRPORT - DAY

The Janice 737 plane accelerates down the runway and lifts off into the sky towards Groom Lake aka Area 51.

INT. JANICE 737 - DAY

Edwards takes a look around at the other PASSENGERS.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - PASSENGERS

They appear to be an ordinary looking group of men and women comprised of various base workers, personnel, and engineer contractors.

BACK TO SCENE

Smith returns to his seat from the restroom.

The Flight Attendant comes by with a drink cart filled with the usual assortment of options minus the liquor.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Would you like some water, juice or coffee this morning?

SMITH

I'll have a coffee.

EDWARDS

Orange juice.

The Flight Attendant pours their drinks and moves on.

EDWARDS

This is like flying economy.

SMITH

What did you expect? Airforce One?

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

I don't know what I expected.

SMITH

Just relax and enjoy the
flight. We'll be there soon
enough.

Edwards peeks out the window at the Nevada desert below.

EXT. GROOM LAKE (AREA 51) - DAY

The Janice 737 plane touches down on a runway at Groom Lake.

EXT. JANICE 727- DAY

Passengers exit the plane ramp onto the airfield and climb
aboard an awaiting shuttle bus.

MILITARY POLICE OFFICERS with assault rifles stand watch
around the plane as passengers exit.

Smith and Edwards exit and fall in line with the others to
get on the shuttle van.

But Edwards takes a quick look around at the airfield.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - AREA 51 BASE

There's a extremely long runway that seems to run forever
and disappear into the distant mountains, along with several
large radar antennae on the hillside, a control tower,
multiple buildings, dormitories, storage facilities, and
numerous aircraft hangers.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards stops when he spots the massive hanger which he saw
from Tikaboo Peak.

Two BASE WORKERS notice Edwards gawking at the hanger. They
step around him to get to the shuttle van.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - HANGER 18

The hanger towers over anything else around it. The large doors are closed. There's nothing going on outside.

BACK TO SCENE

Smith taps Edwards on the shoulder.

SMITH

C'mon, let's go. Quit staring. We have to get on this shuttle.

EDWARDS

What's in there?

SMITH

I'll tell you later.

Smith and Edwards are the last two to get on the shuttle before it drives away.

EXT. GROOM LAKE (AREA 51) - DAY

The shuttle makes its rounds, dropping off various personnel around the airfield at designated stops.

Edwards and Smith sit together.

The two Base Workers are watching Edwards. They seem to be suspicious of Edwards because of his behavior getting off the plane earlier.

Smith nudges Edwards and points out the window at a BLACK PLANE being towed back to its hanger by a MAINTENANCE CREW.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - A BLACK WING-SHAPED STEALTH BOMBER

Looks like something Batman might fly. But it's really just an advanced test version of the latest stealth bomber.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards gives Smith a surprised look.

SMITH

Impressive, wouldn't you say?

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS
It's a Stealth Bomber?

SMITH
A newer advanced version. A
redesign of the old B-2.

The shuttle stops to drop off the two Base Workers near a Maintenance Area.

As the two Base Workers get up to exit, they both take a good long look at Edwards on their way out.

Edwards makes eye contact with them but then looks away.

Smith notices this.

SMITH
Don't worry about it. They're
harmless. Just a couple of
maintenance guys.

Edwards watches them get off.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - BASE WORKERS

He watches them stop to chat with two BASE SECURITY OFFICERS sitting in a patrol jeep next to the Maintenance Building.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards and Smith exchange a concerned look.

EXT. MAINTENANCE BUILDING - DAY

As the shuttle pulls away, the two Base Workers finish talking with the two Security Officers in the patrol jeep.

The jeep drives off. The two Base Workers go inside.

EXT. ENGINEERING BUILDING - DAY

Smith and Edwards exit the shuttle in front of an Engineering Building.

INT. ENGINEERING BUILDING - DAY

Smith and Edwards enter the building, along with several other ENGINEERS that came in on their flight.

Several BASE PERSONNEL pass by them on the way to the door.

SMITH
(calling out)
Hey, Rodney!

One of the Base Personnel, RODNEY, turns and recognizes Smith. He stops and waves for the other Base Personnel to go on without him.

RODNEY
What's up Big Dog? I haven't seen you around here for weeks.

SMITH
Oh, I just took a little time off to visit with my family.

RODNEY
How's your wife?

SMITH
She's good. I think she's happier now that the divorce is final. My daughters turning into a young lady. Just had her fourteenth birthday. What about you?

RODNEY
Same old story. Wife wants me to transfer out of here so we can live closer to her parents. My daughter just got her braces off.

SMITH
No more metal mouth, huh?

RODNEY
Tell me about it. She couldn't wait to get those things removed. Perfectly straight teeth now. But the dentist bill cost me damn near a fortune out of my own pocket because our insurance plan didn't cover these "special" composite material fillings she got.

(CONTINUED)

SMITH

Hey, I want you to meet my new protege, Dave Edwards. I'm going to be showing him around the place.

RODNEY

(shakes hands with Edwards)
Good to meet you, Dave. Welcome aboard.

EDWARDS

(surprised but goes along with being introduced)
Yeah, same here.

SMITH

You know, they goofed up Dave's paperwork and we still haven't been able to get him in the system so he can have proper clearance. We're kind of in a hurry to get him started on the new project and I was wondering if maybe you could expedite the process a bit.

RODNEY

(looks Edwards over)
Sure. He looks harmless.
(to Edwards)
You're not a Russian spy, right?

Smith laughs. Edwards looks a little worried.

SMITH

I think you sniffed him out, Rod. He might be trying to bamboozle us into giving away secrets to the Commies.

Rodney puts an arm around Edwards shoulder and leans in close.

RODNEY

Don't fuck around out here. You got that?

EDWARDS

Yeah.

SMITH

Rod's the man! He'll take care of you. I'll be waiting here. See you in a few minutes.

(CONTINUED)

RODNEY

Right this way.

Edwards follows Rodney out the door.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Rodney preps a Live Scan fingerprinting system, while Edwards fills out a thick packet of documents.

EDWARDS

This is a lot of paperwork.

RODNEY

Yeah, well, government wants to make sure they got their assess covered. Just make sure you dot every "i" and cross every "t" for me -- sign and date it. When you're done step over here.

After signing off all the paperwork, Rodney has Edwards take a seat in front of the Live Scan fingerprinting system.

Rodney has Edwards clean off his fingers with a handi-wipe.

Then Rodney begins assisting Edwards in placing each of his fingers on the scanner.

ON THE LIVE SCAN MONITOR

Edwards fingerprints appear and are run through the nations criminal database.

BACK TO SCENE

Rodney goes through all of Edwards fingers and gets no matches for criminals in the system.

RODNEY

Well, it looks like you're clean.

EDWARDS

I'd sure hope so.

Edwards wipes off his fingers again with a handi-wipe, as Rodney preps the next scanning device.

(CONTINUED)

RODNEY

You ready for the next test?

EDWARDS

Do I have a choice?

RODNEY

No. Get over here and sit down.

Edwards moves over to a chair in front of what appears to be a laser scanning device.

EDWARDS

What is that thing?

RODNEY

A biometric identifier. Otherwise known as a retinal scanner. It's used to map the unique patterns of a person's retina.

EDWARDS

How the hell does it do that?

RODNEY

What is this a test? You the scientist, you ought to know.

(pauses; thinks)

The blood vessels within the retina absorb light more readily than the surrounding tissue so they're easily identified with the appropriate lighting. A retinal scan casts an undetectable ray of low-energy infrared light into a person's eye as they look through the scanner's eyepiece. The beam of light outlines a circular path on the retina. Because retinal blood vessels are more sensitive to light than the rest of the eye, the amount of reflection fluctuates with each person. The results of the scan are converted to computer code and stored in our database. That answer your question?

EDWARDS

Yes, sir.

RODNEY

Good.

Rodney goes over to the scanner's control panel.

(CONTINUED)

RODNEY

(directing Edwards)

Now place your chin on the chin
rest and look into that
eyepiece. This'll only take a few
seconds. Just relax.

EDWARDS

I'll do that once this is done.

Rodney lines up Edwards eye and activates the scanner.

RETINAL SCANNER P.O.V. - EDWARDS EYE

a beam of infrared light out that outlines a circular path
around the retina.

BACK TO SCENE

Rodney switches off the scanner. As he checks the results,
Edwards leans back from the machine and blinks his eyes a
few time.

RODNEY

Don't worry, you'll live. Come
this way.

Rodney leads Edwards into another room.

INT. ENGINEERING BUILDING - DAY

Rodney guides Edwards back into the building. Edwards now
sports a brand new ID Badge giving him "Q" Clearance.

EDWARDS

How long you been working here,
Rodney?

RODNEY

(in a hurry)

Too long. Follow me.

Edwards follows Rodney around a corner down a long hallway
towards a section of offices.

They arrive at Smith's office. The door is open.

INT. SMITH'S OFFICE - DAY

Rodney leans in the doorway and knocks on the wall.

RODNEY

He's all done, my man. You owe me
a big favor. I'm going to lunch.

SMITH

Don't worry, I'll take care of
you. Send him in.

Rodney gives Edwards a pat on the shoulder. Edwards steps
in through the door. Rodney exits.

SMITH

(noticing the new ID badge)
You got "Q" clearance now.

EDWARDS

I can't believe we're doing this.

SMITH

Close the door.

Edwards closes the door behind him.

INT. SMITH'S OFFICE - DAY

Smith sorts through a pile of mail on his desk.

SMITH

Have a seat. Relax.

Edwards takes a seat in front of Smith's desk.

EDWARDS

What next?

SMITH

Hang on, I got a call to make.

Smith picks up his office phone and dials.

Edwards scans the office and notices what appears to be a
spacecraft picture tacked to the wall. It looks a lot like
the Black Triangular Spacecraft that hovered over his rental
car on the E.T. Highway.

SMITH

(into phone)
Yes, Lou, please.

(CONTINUED)

Edwards gets up to look at the picture more closely. The spacecraft has what appears to be three orb-shaped thrusters at each bottom corner of the triangular ship, similar to what he saw out on the highway.

SMITH

(into phone)

Hey, Lou.

(pauses, listens)

Yeah, it's me. I'm back on the base.

(pauses, listens)

Okay. Yeah, I can do that for you. By the way, I was wondering if I could come on over to the lab this morning and show a new guy around?

(pauses, listens)

Great. Thanks. We'll see you over there.

Edwards notices several framed artists renderings of varying views of the original F-117 Nighthawk, along with a miniature model of an early-prototype stealth aircraft.

SMITH

I see you like my Have Blue model.

Edwards picks up the model stealth aircraft.

EDWARDS

What's Have Blue?

SMITH

Have Blue was the code-name for Lockheed's proof-of-concept, i.e. prototype stealth fighter program, in 1977. The Have Blue was the first fixed-wing aircraft designed from an electrical engineering rather than an aerodynamic perspective. See the aircraft's plate-like, faceted shape design?

Edwards examines the planes design.

EDWARDS

Yeah, I see what you're saying.

SMITH

They created that design in order to deflect electromagnetic waves, making the plane essentially invisible to radar. It was sort of a predecessor to the F-117 Nighthawk production stealth aircraft that you see in those framed pictures.

Edwards picks up the F-117 Nighthawk pictures and looks them over.

EDWARDS

So they flew these thing's out here?

SMITH

Yes, sir. The Have Blue was tested right out here at Groom Lake. On that same runway we just came in on. There were two prototypes that were tested between 1977 and 1979. Both crashed and were destroyed. Rumor has it they secretly buried the debris somewhere within the Nellis base complex so the Ruskies wouldn't get a hold of it.

EDWARDS

What the hell was it made out of?

SMITH

I'm not sure. But let's just say it wasn't safe to just toss that stuff into a scrap heap at the junkyard.

EDWARDS

Was it radioactive?

SMITH

(amused)

You ask a lot of questions, Mr. Edwards?

EDWARDS

Well, I am a reporter, or did you forget already.

(CONTINUED)

SMITH

That you are.

EDWARDS

So did that crash have anything to do with hazardous waste that may have made base workers sick?

SMITH

Not to my knowledge.

EDWARDS

Were there other crashes that left behind radiation of some kind?

SMITH

(steps over to the door)

C'mon, let's go. They're expecting us. I arranged for you to take a little tour of the lab today.

As Smith exits, Edwards puts the framed F-117 Nighthawk pictures down on the desk.

Edwards glances over at the Triangular Spacecraft design plans on the wall before leaving.

EXT. ENGINEERING BUILDING HALLWAY - DAY

Edwards catches up to Smith in the hallway. They walk towards the labs at the other end of the building.

EDWARDS

What is that spaceship on your wall back there?

SMITH

You mean that artist conceptual drawing?

EDWARDS

Yeah, whatever you call that picture of the triangular-shaped spacecraft.

SMITH

That's our newest design from the Astra Project. The TR-3B.

EDWARDS

Tell me more about this TR-3B?

(CONTINUED)

SMITH

It's what we call a Black Project. Highly classified military defense projects, un-acknowledgeable by the government, military personnel, and defense contractors, which would be me. It doesn't officially exist.

EDWARDS

So, you're saying you can't tell me anything about it?

SMITH

(flashes a devious smile)
Nope. But we are going to take a look at its propulsion system design in the lab.

Smith turns a corner. Edwards follows.

INT. LAB - DAY

A group SCIENTISTS play with various lab experiments and work around a roomful of sophisticated equipment.

The experiments seem to be focused on some aspect of magnetic levitation and propulsion systems.

One SCIENTIST is using liquid nitrogen in a propulsion experiment with a miniature vehicle made from superconducting magnetic material.

In another part of the lab, several ENGINEERS toil away at their computer workstations, including a lovely young woman in her twenties named CLAIRE, who gets interrupted by her crass co-worker, DONALDSON.

Claire focuses her attention on the design images on her computer screen, while Donaldson leans against her cubicle, watching her work.

DONALDSON

You know, Claire, you work way too hard for such a gorgeous woman. They should have a law requiring women as sexy as you are to model Victoria's Secret underwear or something. You'd be doing the male species a favor. Probably eliminate erectile dysfunction all over the world.

(CONTINUED)

CLAIRE
(trying to ignore him)
What do you want, Donaldson?

DONALDSON
(checks his watch)
It's ten till noon. Don't you ever
take your lunch break?

CLAIRE
I'm not hungry. Go away.

DONALDSON
Hey, I got a great idea. How about
you join me for lunch? And
afterwards, we can go up in one of
your planes, have a little wine,
get cozy, and join the mile high
club together?

Claire's not amused. She spins around to face him.

CLAIRE
(sarcastic)
Donaldson, you really know how to
impress a woman. You ever heard of
the words sexual harassment?

DONALDSON
(apologetic)
Okay. Suit yourself.

Donaldson flashes a self-satisfied smirk. He can't help but
check out Claire's breasts before he saunters away.

Claire sighs and goes back to work.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Smith leads Edwards to the lab entrance.

Edwards tries to open the door. But it's locked. The door's
setup on some kind of electronic security system.

Smith steps up to security code box.

SMITH
This is a retinal scanner. I'm
sure Rod entered you into the
system, right.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

Yeah, he did.

SMITH

Let me take care of this one.

Smith looks into the scanner. It reads his retinal image. He enters a pass code and the door clicks open.

EDWARDS

So you need to enter a pass code, too?

SMITH

Yeah, didn't he give you the codes?

EDWARDS

No, I guess he forgot. He was kind of in a hurry to go eat lunch.

SMITH

FYI, it's different for everybody. We're gonna have to get Rod to setup a pass code for you. Let's go.

They enter the lab.

INT. LAB - DAY

Smith and Edwards enter.

SMITH

Welcome to my home away from home.

EDWARDS

So this is it.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - LAB

The place buzzes with activity.

Scientists in white lab coats working on experiments with propulsion equipment.

Engineers at computer workstations and design layout tables with schematic drawings and models.

All are working on an assortment of different projects related to several different top secret aircraft designs.

There's a large meeting room in the back of the lab with the blinds down and lights off. On the door, some wise guy has put up a large poster of a Grey alien with his long E.T. finger to his lips shushing.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards exchanges a look with Smith.

EDWARDS

(points out the poster)

I see you guys have a sense of humor around here.

SMITH

(laughs)

That's been there for years. Some joker put it up and nobody bothered to take it down. Let's go.

Smith leads Edwards on a tour of the lab.

AT A LAB STATION

Smith guides Edwards over to a lab station where veteran Scientist LOU CORONA is working on a project.

Corona notices Smith and Edwards observing and stops to greet them.

LOU

Oh, you're here. Welcome, I've been waiting for you.

SMITH

(to Lou)

Lou, this is Dave Edwards.

(to Edwards)

Dave, this is Lou Corona.

Lou shakes hands with Edwards.

LOU

Nice to meet you, Dave.

EDWARDS

Same here.

SMITH

Dave's new. I'm giving him the full tour. He's going to be observing.

(CONTINUED)

LOU
Great. Well, if you have any brilliant ideas, please feel free to bring them up. I've gotten more collaborative and less egotistical in my old age.

SMITH
(laughs)
We'll do that, Lou.

LOU
By the way, did you get that thing we talked about on the phone?

SMITH
Oh, Lou, I'm so sorry. You know what, I've been so busy with showing Dave around this morning that I didn't get it for you. I'll have to work on getting it for you this afternoon.

LOU
I really need it now.

SMITH
Look, I have to move on with showing Dave around, but I promise to get it for you this afternoon.

LOU
Promises, promises.

Lou waves them off and goes back to work.

Smith leads Edwards on to the next part of the lab.

INT. ENGINEERING CUBICLE AREA - DAY

Claire gets up to go when she runs into Smith and Edwards passing through the cubicle area.

SMITH
Claire. How are you?

CLAIRE
Oh, it's you? I thought you'd been reassigned. I haven't seen you for weeks.

(CONTINUED)

SMITH

I took a little vacation.

CLAIRE

Well, it's good to see you again. We could definitely use your help around here. If you'll excuse me, I have to get over to Hanger 18 to check on something.

SMITH

Wait, I want to introduce you to Dave Edwards. He's the new guy I've taken under my wing so to speak.

Claire shakes hands with Edwards. They share a moment. Eyes locking. There's a connection.

CLAIRE

Nice to meet you.

EDWARDS

Same here.

SMITH

Say, I'm giving Dave the full tour of the place. Maybe we could join you over at Hanger 18?

Claire thinks about it a moment.

CLAIRE

Okay, sure. I could use some feedback on the TR-3B's latest design modifications.

SMITH

Terrific.

Smith and Edwards follow Claire out.

EXT. HANGER 18 - DAY

A shuttle drops off Smith, Edwards and Claire in front of the large hanger entrance.

Two SECURITY OFFICER, armed with assault rifles, escorts them inside the hanger through its now partially open doors.

INT. HANGER 18 - DAY

It's an enormous hanger. They could easily fit Howard Hughes infamous Spruce Goose Flying Boat in here, possibly enough room for two or three of them, if Hughes had built that many.

Several B-2 "Spirit" Stealth Bomber variants and SR-75 "Penetrator" Reconnaissance Aircraft are parked here off to the sides. They look like they haven't been flown in years.

In the center of the massive hanger is the mysterious TR-3B aircraft, surrounded by several SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS and GROUND CREW running diagnostic tests with computerized equipment and monitoring systems.

The TR-3B appears to be sitting on top of a large elevator platform that can descend into an underground facility beneath the hanger.

A dozen SECURITY OFFICERS, armed with assault rifles, are stationed around the aircraft area.

Claire leads Smith and Edwards past the Security Officers towards the TR-3B.

Edwards stops to look at it in amazement.

A Security Officer notices this but doesn't immediately do anything about it.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - TR-3B

It looks exactly like the mysterious Black Triangular Spacecraft that hovered over his car on the E.T. Highway.

BACK TO SCENE

Smith notices Edwards has stopped. He sees the Security Officer is communicating to the others via small lapel microphones and earpieces.

Smith goes back and puts an arm around Edwards. They start walking together.

SMITH

Just a word of advice, always keep moving.

Smith points out the numerous Security Officers stationed all around them.

(CONTINUED)

Edwards glances around at the Security Officers, who are now watching them.

EDWARDS

I see what you mean.

SMITH

They get kind of suspicious around here when you aren't working.

EDWARDS

Sorry but I've seen this plane before.

SMITH

I bet you have. Let's move.

Smith guides Edwards over to where Claire and the other Scientists, Engineers and Ground Crew are working.

Claire finishes checking a handful of printed out reports and glances over at a computer monitor display.

CLAIRE P.O.V. - MONITOR

A set of bar indicators is bottoming out into the red zone. The bars fluctuate at below the normal level marks on the readout display.

BACK TO SCENE

Smith arrives with Edwards.

CLAIRE

Well, we've got a new problem with the Magnetic Field Disruptor.

SMITH

Did you run the accelerator tests again?

CLAIRE

Yes, and we got the same readings. Something isn't right.

SMITH

Let me take a look at it.

CLAIRE

Be my guest. I've been dealing with this all day.

(CONTINUED)

Claire hands Smith the printed reports. Smith glances at the reports then goes to look at the monitors.

Edwards watches from a distance. Claire takes a breather.

Claire steps away from the others. She approaches Edwards.

EDWARDS

Looks like you got problems?

CLAIRE

Tell me about it.

Claire casts her eyes upon the TR-3B like it's her unwanted baby.

EDWARDS

This thing is amazing.

CLAIRE

Amazing? What are you kidding? This thing's only slightly more ancient than those monstrosities.

Claire gestures over at the B-2 "Spirit" Stealth Bomber and SR-75 "Penetrator" Reconnaissance Aircraft.

EDWARDS

Oh, well, you know, I meant it's got a more advanced propulsion system.

CLAIRE

Yeah, well, advanced for us maybe.

EDWARDS

What makes you say that?

Claire stares at Edwards. Now she's really suspicious. He doesn't know?

CLAIRE

(cautious)

Well, this thing's been in development for over a decade and we still haven't been able to figure out a proper way to stabilize the amount of magnetic field disruption created within the vortex field beneath the craft.

(testing him)

Didn't you get notes before your arrival?

EDWARDS
(defensive)
Notes... I... I don't think --

SMITH
(interrupting)
Sorry for the delays there. How
are you two doing over here?

CLAIRE
Dave seems a bit confused. He was
explaining to me why he didn't
receive any notes before arrival?

SMITH
(thinking fast)
Oh, yeah, I'm sorry Dave. I didn't
get a chance to go over those notes
with you. Fact is I totally forgot
to give them to you. You know, I'd
just came back from vacation. I was
still dealing with the ex-wife and
all. You understand, don't you?

EDWARDS
(takes his cue)
It's okay. I'm sure Claire can
fill me in on what I missed?

Claire finds the sudden turning around of the situation to be a challenge. Who is this guy? And why is Smith covering for him?

CLAIRE
Yeah, I suppose I could do
that. How about I give you a quick
tour inside, Mr. Edwards?

EDWARDS
Excellent. Lead the way.

Claire leads Edwards and Smith aboard the TR-3B.

INT. TR-3B - DAY

The trio of Claire, Edwards and Smith enter the crew compartment.

Surprisingly, the compartment is quite small for even an average size human male.

(CONTINUED)

However, Claire has no problem fitting inside, but Edwards and Smith have to scrunch down to keep from banging their heads.

CLAIRE

I apologize for the lack of space in here. As you can clearly see it was designed for smaller pilots to keep the weight level to a minimum.

EDWARDS

Yeah, I can see that. It seems to have been designed for a race horse jockey.

SMITH

(laughs)
Or a chimpanzee.

CLAIRE

Don't pay any attention to him. He's not serious. Come this way.

Claire moves over towards a sophisticated computer panel display that shows the ships current status readings.

SMITH

Ah, the on-board computer. We call her HELEN.

EDWARDS

HELEN?

SMITH

Yeah, HELEN instead of HAL. You know, as in the HAL 9000? Arthur C. Clarke? Stanley Kubrick?

Edwards looks a bit confused.

SMITH

C'mon, get with it? HAL. H-euristically programmed AL-gorithmic Computer. It's the artificial intelligence super computer that controls the spaceship *Discovery* in the film 2001: A Space Odyssey.

EDWARDS

Okay, I get it.

(CONTINUED)

SMITH

You're obviously, not a big fan of
Sci-Fi?

EDWARDS

Sorry, I'm learning as I go here.

CLAIRE

If you two are done playing Trivial
Pursuit, I'll show you the latest
update we've made to HELEN.

Claire sits down at the control console and places her
finger over a biometric fingerprint reader. The computer
acknowledges her and grants her access. She types in a
security pass code. The feminine voice of HELEN welcomes
her aboard.

HELEN

Hello, Claire. How are you today?

CLAIRE

I'm fine, Helen. Have you
completed your analysis of the
operating systems, yet?

HELEN

Yes, Claire. I am still having
trouble with the magnetic field
disruption levels being created by
the recent adjustments made to the
ship's accelerators.

CLAIRE

We know. We're working on it.

SMITH

Helen, I'd like you to meet a new
member of our team. This is Mr.
Dave Edwards.

HELEN

Hello, Dave.

Smith can't help but laugh. Claire has to smile. Edwards
doesn't get the joke.

EDWARDS

Hello.

HELEN

Shall I add Dave to my safe list?

(CONTINUED)

SMITH

Yes.

HELEN

It is done.

A GROUND CREW TECHNICIAN enters, delivers a note, and exits.
Smith reads the note and hands it to Claire to read.
Edwards watches.

CLAIRE

This can't be right?

SMITH

It is.

CLAIRE

Helen, keep working on your calculations. I have something urgent to deal with right now.

HELEN

Yes, Claire.

Claire gets up and quickly exits.

EDWARDS

What was all that about?

SMITH

No time. We have to get going. I'll try to explain it to you later.

Smith leads Edwards out.

EXT. TR-3B - DAY

Smith completes some last minute checks with the Ground Crew Technicians.

Edwards watches Claire conferring with several other Engineers and Scientists. Edwards seems infatuated by Claire's physical beauty.

Smith comes over to Edwards .

SMITH

Beautiful, isn't she?

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

Yeah, she is captivating.

Edwards can't take his eyes off Claire.

SMITH

(laughing)

I meant the aircraft, not the girl.

Smith slaps Edwards on the back. Edwards snaps out of his trance.

SMITH

Are you hungry?

EDWARDS

No, not particularly.

SMITH

Well, I'm hungry and it's time for lunch. Let's get something to eat.

Edwards exits with Smith.

INT. DINING HALL - DAY

Smith having burger and fries at a table with a view of the base outside. Edwards sits across from him, taking in the view through the windows.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - THE BASE

Across the way there's the base's old gymnasium and baseball diamond from the 1960's.

There's also a fire station and water tower just down a road. Further down the road, there's barracks and administration buildings.

Most of the base looks much like it should, as an the old airfield built in the late 1950's.

BACK TO SCENE

Smith enjoys his burger and fries.

EDWARDS

I feel like I'm in a time warp.
This place looks like something
right out of the 1950's.

(CONTINUED)

SMITH

Well, it probably is. But I personally wasn't here when it was constructed.

Edwards looks around the dining hall.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - DINING HALL

It's packed with ordinary looking BASE WORKERS, ENGINEERS, SCIENTISTS, SUPPORT PERSONNEL, and SECURITY OFFICERS on their lunch break.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards looks away as a couple of SECURITY OFFICERS, who've been watching him, glare back.

SMITH

Don't stare at them. These Security personnel are constantly watching us. It's there job.

EDWARDS

I can see that. So all these people just come out here to work everyday?

SMITH

Most of them. But some live on the base.

EDWARDS

Do you ever stay on the base?

SMITH

Sure do. Are you asking me if we can stay here tonight?

EDWARDS

Yes.

SMITH

No problem. They have a barracks area for civilian engineer contractors that have to stay overnight working on projects. We can arrange to stay. In fact, that's a great idea. You can stay and watch the test flight tonight.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

Test flight?

SMITH

Yes, sir. I figured you didn't want to miss seeing TR-3B in flight.

EDWARDS

Wouldn't miss it for the world.

SMITH

Good. You want some of my fries?

Edwards looks at Smith's greasy fries covered in ketchup.

EDWARDS

No thanks, but I got one question.

SMITH

Go ahead, shoot. What do you want to know?

EDWARDS

Why is it called TR-3B?

SMITH

(laughs)

I've been waiting for you to bring that up in conversation. It's because we saw the craft as being like a precision sports car, so we had to give it a suitable name. And well, in the process of picking a name, one of the designers suggested his favorite sports car, a Triumph TR3 "B" which was produced in 1962 by the British car company Triumph Motors.

(pauses)

Now interestingly enough, the Triumph TR3 "B" was a special short production run produced in response to dealer concerns that the buying public might not welcome the TR4.

(chuckles)

Let's just say it's a little inside joke between us car aficionados working on the project. You sure you don't want some fries?

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

I'm sure.

Smith grabs the rest of the fries and chews them down fast.

SMITH

(still chewing)

C'mon let's go, I got something
else I want to show you.

Edwards follows Smith out of the dining hall.

Watching them exit are the two Base Workers from their
morning shuttle ride.

EXT. DINING HALL - DAY

Smith and Edwards catch up to Rodney walking back to his
office.

SMITH

Hey, Rodney.

Rodney stops to talk with them.

RODNEY

What's up Big Dog?

SMITH

I think you need to get Dave here a
pass code.

RODNEY

Oh, man, you know, you're right.

(to Edwards)

Sorry, I totally forgot to get your
pass code set earlier. Let's do
that now.

EDWARDS

(to Smith)

Wait, what about that thing you
were going to show me?

SMITH

Another time. Get this taken care
of first.

RODNEY

Follow me.

Edwards exchanges a brief look with Smith, who shrugs his
shoulders.

(CONTINUED)

Rodney leads Edwards away. They head towards the Administration building.

The two Base Workers from the Dining Hall follow them, along with two Security Officers.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Rodney and Edwards enter the office.

RODNEY

Take a seat. I have to get the system up.

Edwards sits down but notices the two Base Workers pass by in the hallway outside along with the two Security Officers. Are they following him?

EDWARDS

(apprehensive)

So, Rodney, what is this "Q" Clearance meaning on my badge?

Rodney fires up his computer system.

RODNEY

What was that you asked me about?

EDWARDS

What's "Q" Clearance?

RODNEY

Top Secret Civilian Clearance. You're not in the military so we label you guys with a "Q" to make sure no one gets you confused with military personnel.

EDWARDS

I see.

Edwards peeks out the door again. Rodney notices this.

EDWARDS P.O.V - OUTSIDE DOORWAY

The two Security Officers are still outside chatting with the two Base Workers from the shuttle bus.

BACK TO SCENE

RODNEY

You see something interesting?

Edwards turns back to look at Rodney.

EDWARDS

Huh? Oh, no. Nothing.

Rodney finishes prepping the system. He places a pass code keypad device in front of Edwards.

RODNEY

Okay, we're ready. Punch in a four-digit pass code.

Edwards enters four digits. 5-5-2-7

EDWARDS

Done.

Rodney pushes a button on his keyboard.

RODNEY

Re-enter it for me one more time.

Edwards enters his four digits again. 5-5-2-7

EDWARDS

Okay.

Rodney pushes a button on his keyboard. The computer loads the info and finally makes a beeping sound.

RODNEY

And you're in.

Rodney puts away the pass code keypad device.

EDWARDS

Am I done here?

RODNEY

Oh, yeah, you're ready to go. It's in the system. You got access to the lab now.

EDWARDS

Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

RODNEY

Your welcome. Stay out of trouble.

Rodney gives him a long hard look. Edwards nods acknowledgment on his way out.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Edwards exits the office and looks around. Both the Security Officers and the two Base Workers have gone.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Rodney has been watching Edwards. He picks up his phone and makes a call.

INT. HALLWAY / SMITH'S OFFICE - DAY

Edwards catches up with Smith near his office.

SMITH

You all set?

EDWARDS

Yeah, Rodney says I'm in.

SMITH

Great. Let's find out.

INT. HALLWAY ENTRANCE TO LAB - DAY

At the entrance to the lab, Smith and Edwards exchange a brief look. Smith shrugs his shoulders.

Edwards steps up to the retinal scanner eyepiece.

Smith watches. He's holding in his hands what appears to be a triangular wedge-shaped piece of light-weight metal.

The scanner reads Edwards retinal information and a message on the display asks for his pass code.

Edwards enters the code.

The door pops open. They enter.

INT. LAB - DAY

Smith carrying the metal sample with him. Edwards follows.

(CONTINUED)

They cross the lab to Lou Corona tinkering with a project at his workstation.

SMITH
Got you a gift Lou.

Smith hands Lou the piece of metal.

LOU
You have a good lunch?

SMITH
Don't I always.

LOU
(looks at Smith's belly)
Did you eat your vegetables?

SMITH
Hey, last time I checked lettuce
and tomatoes were still vegetables.

LOU
Health is your wealth, my friend.

Lou downs some kind of green superfoods protein drink.

EDWARDS
So what is this your working on?

LOU
This my young apprentice is an
anti-matter reactor. A
demonstration size model, of
course.
(holds up the metal)
And this is our magic element.

EDWARDS
Magic element?

LOU
Yes. Made from element 115. And
do you know what the most important
attribute of this heavier, stable
element is?

EDWARDS
No. What would that be?

LOU
That the gravity "A" wave is so
abundant that it actually extends
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LOU (cont'd)

past the perimeter of the atom. These heavier, stable elements literally have their own gravity "A" field around them, in addition to the gravity "B" field that is native to all matter.

(pauses)

Element 115 provides an energy source which produces anti-gravity under particulate bombardment. As the intense strong nuclear force field of element 115's nucleus is amplified, the resulting effect would be a distortion of the surrounding gravitational field. A vehicle producing this distortion could alter its own relation to the space around it - allowing it to dramatically shorten the distance between itself and a charted destination.

EDWARDS

And so what does that all mean?

LOU

Watch for yourself.

Lou places the metallic wedge inside a miniature anti-gravity reactor. Then puts a large round bowl-shaped cover over the reactor.

After a few moments, Lou backs up and tosses a golf ball at it and the ball is repelled away without ever touching the bowl-shaped cover. The golf ball ricochets away nearly hitting Smith, who ducks behind a table.

EDWARDS

It's like there's a force field around it.

LOU

Not just any force field, a magnetic field.

EDWARDS

What does that have to do with the TR-3B's propulsion?

LOU

You'll see tonight.

EXT. TONOPAH TEST RANGE (TTR)- NIGHT

Somewhere within the boundaries of TTR, near the eastern border, about 12 miles east and slightly south of the TTR headquarters.

The Scientists, Engineers, along with several MILITARY PERSONNEL and SECURITY OFFICERS with assault rifles standing guard are gathered at a secret location called S-4 next to a deep underground military base carved into the side a mountain range.

On the runway outside the entrance to a secret cave-like hanger, sits the TR-3B ready for flight.

Several hundred feet away from the TR-3B is another spacecraft that looks just like a flying disc-shaped UFO from a 1950's Sci-Fi movie.

Three SUVs pull up. Smith gets out of the lead SUV and greets a group of MILITARY OFFICERS that are visiting.

Edwards steps out of the second SUV. His eyes widen as he looks around at the base, runway, and spacecraft.

Smith comes over to welcome him.

SMITH

Welcome to the Dark Side of the Moon.

EDWARDS

(amazed)

Yeah, cue the John Williams score and the little Grey guys.

SMITH

You ready to see these things fly?

EDWARDS

Most definitely.

EXT. COMMAND CENTER TRAILER - NIGHT

Several GROUND CREW TECHNICIANS, ENGINEERS and SCIENTISTS are working around a large portable computerized monitoring system housed inside the back of a large trailer.

Lou and Claire are going over last-minute readouts being generated by a TECHNICIAN.

A large radar tracking device has also been setup near the command trailer.

(CONTINUED)

Smith and Edwards walk towards the spacecraft.

EDWARDS

That disc-shaped craft looks --

SMITH

-- like a UFO?

EDWARDS

(eyes Smith)

Yeah, a UFO.

SMITH

I'll give you one guess as to where we got it?

EDWARDS

Roswell?

SMITH

Good guess. But no. We got it from the Germans after WW two. Our scientist discovered that the Krauts had been working with magnetic levitation for years.

EDWARDS

So you're telling me that's really a magnetically levitating aircraft from the 1940's?

SMITH

Well, it's been updated and modified over the years, but it's propulsion system was used as a model for the TR-3B's current propulsion using Magnetic Field Disruption.

EDWARDS

This I got to see.

SMITH

Follow me, I know a great spot for us to watch the show.

Edwards and Smith find a spot all to themselves, near the edge of the runway where they watch the two aircraft being prepped several hundred yards away.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - TR-3B

The craft's lights blink on and off. A string of running lights flashes on and off around the edge of the craft.

Finally, the three amber-colored, orb-shaped thrusters ignite and the large bright white-light shoots out from the center.

And suddenly, without any noticeable sound, the craft levitates straight up into the night sky. It hovers over the runway for a moment.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards and Smith watch the craft as it starts to rise up over the top of the mountain and instantaneously vanishes.

EDWARDS

Where did it go?

SMITH

Don't worry, it'll be back in a second. It can literally teleport from one spot to another in the blink of an eye.

EDWARDS

Teleportation?

SMITH

Yes, sir.

EDWARDS

This is just beyond imagination. Are you're sure none of this comes from UFO technology that was reverse-engineered by you guys?

Edwards looks at Smith, who is amused at the idea.

SMITH

(laughing)

Reverse-engineered UFO's. If I had a dollar for every book, magazine article, lecturer, or website that goes up expounding on the wonders of alien technology and how we've reverse-engineered their spacecraft, I'd be a billionaire ten -- no make that twenty times over, maybe more.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

I just have a hard time believing humans created these craft?

SMITH

C'mon, Edwards, get into the 21st Century. Give us humans some credit. Stop believing all that horse shit you heard from the UFO freaks.

EDWARDS

Hey, I just thought --

SMITH

-- you thought wrong. Everything you've heard from UFO people is pure fantasy. Well, maybe not everything. They did stumble onto some truth about the Montauk Project and The Philadelphia Experiment. But I'd still have to say that less than 10 percent of anything the UFO community puts out about what goes on around here is even remotely true.

EDWARDS

Then why all the secrecy?

SMITH

It's policy. Government has to protect the people, right.

EDWARDS

Why did you bring me out here?

SMITH

So that you could see it for yourself. Proof that we're just working on advanced aircraft designs. Have you seen any little Grey guys?

EDWARDS

No.

SMITH

My point exactly.

EDWARDS

What do you expect me to do with all this information if it's all classified and above top secret?

(CONTINUED)

SMITH

(amused)

Nothing. I don't think you'll do anything. In fact, even if you do write the "truth" about what you've seen here, I can assure you that nobody's going to believe you.

EDWARDS

But why bring me out here if you didn't think I'd write the truth?

SMITH

To be honest with you, it's all been pretty amusing for me.

EDWARDS

(points to the UFO)

I suppose that thing over there doesn't even fly?

SMITH

(laughing)

You're smarter than I thought. It's actually a balloon we send up to confuse the UFO watchers and anyone else trying to peek in on us via surveillance satellites.

(pauses to think)

Since we have this moment, I'm going to let you in on a little secret.

(beat)

This is all part of an elaborate ruse. A disinformation program setup to create cover stories for other Black Projects.

EDWARDS

So I'm the dupe? Any story or cover story I write would have served as more disinformation to hide your real agendas.

Edwards eyes Smith with disdain.

SMITH

Don't be so dramatic. I wouldn't say that. In a sense, you'd be helping us out.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

I can't do that. I won't do that.

SMITH

That's too bad.

Smith looks over Edwards shoulder at five SECURITY OFFICERS armed with assault rifles approaching.

Edwards and Smith share a silent moment. A sense of betrayal hangs between the two men.

Edwards turns to face the Security Officers.

EXT. BASE SECURITY BUILDING - NIGHT

The Base's Security Building is setup in an old brick building away from the airfield and hangers.

A pair of Security Officers armed with assault rifles patrols the outside of the building with dogs.

Two more Security Officers stand guard in front of the main entrance, monitoring everyone the enters and exits.

Rodney enters with Smith.

INT. BASE SECURITY BUILDING / HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

Edwards is locked behind bars inside a lonely holding cell. He sits in the dark, brooding over the sudden change in his circumstances.

A GUARD opens the outer door to the Holding Cell hallway.

Edwards looks up to see the Guard approaching his cell.

GUARD

Get up. You got visitors.

The Guard opens the cell door to let Edwards out. The guard cuffs Edwards hands and takes him away.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

An antiquated interrogation room with a single overhead light hanging down over a long table with a chair sitting at the end of it.

The door opens. Two Security Officers armed with assault rifles enter first.

(CONTINUED)

Edwards is led into the room and seated on the chair at the end of the long interrogation table.

From the shadows of the room, Smith and Rodney appear, along with a mysterious MAN in BLACK. They remain shadowy as they stay away from the light.

SMITH

How you holding up Dave?

Edwards doesn't respond. He just eyes Smith.

RODNEY

Your "Q" Clearance has been
revoked. What do you have to say
for yourself?

Edwards offers no reply. The harsh white-light from the overhead lamp above bounces off the table and illuminates his face.

Rodney steps around to one-side of the table, while Smith steps around to the other. They hover over Edwards like vultures ready for the kill.

Edwards watches as the mystery man and starts to circle around the table as he speaks. He can't see the man's face but he can hear his distinct voice, which is being altered by some kind of device.

THE MYSTERIOUS MAN IN BLACK'S P.O.V. - EDWARDS

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Mr. Edwards, do you have anything
that you'd like to tell us?

EDWARDS

Who are you?

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

That is not of concern to
you. What should be of paramount
importance at this point is to tell
us what you're doing infiltrating a
restricted United States Government
facility?

EDWARDS

(looks over at Smith)

Why don't you tell them, Smith?

(CONTINUED)

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Mr. Smith has already given us his statement. We checked his orders and he was to introduce a new civilian engineer to the facility. He assumed that you were the civilian engineer. However, after we conducted some background checks it turns out you're not who you say you are Mr. Edwards.

EDWARDS

That's right. I'm a reporter working on a story about Area 51 and the E.T. Highway UFO sightings.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Is that so?

EDWARDS

Yes. Why don't you just ask Smith. He knows. In fact, he helped me sneak onto this base because I asked him to do so.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Mr. Smith is that true?

SMITH

No, sir. I don't know what he's talking about. I met him as per my orders and followed them to the best of my ability.

EDWARDS

Bullshit, Smith. Why don't you tell them the truth. You set me up for all this.

SMITH

I did no such thing.

RODNEY

I'll vouch for Smith. And I'll say this about Edwards. At the time, I didn't know he was a spy, but he was acting kind of suspicious during the retinal scan and fingerprinting.

EDWARDS

Spy? What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

We have reason to believe that you are a spy, Mr. Edwards.

EDWARDS

This is outrageous. I'm not a spy. What the hell's going on around here?

SMITH

I didn't want to believe it, but now I'm not so sure.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

I think we're going to have to administer sodium pentathol.

BACK TO SCENE

The Man in Black walks away. Edwards pops up out of his chair.

EDWARDS

What? You can't do this. This is a sham. I want to speak to a lawyer. Why are you lying Smith?

Edwards lunges at Smith, who trips over himself and tumbles backwards onto the floor.

Rodney quickly grabs and restrains Edwards.

The door bursts open. Three Security Officers rush inside. They quickly subdue Edwards and take him away.

INT. INFIRMARY - NIGHT

Edwards is strapped to a gurney. Two ORDERLIES wheel him through double doors into an operating room.

A DOCTOR wearing a scrubs, a surgical cap and surgical mask, follows closely behind them.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - NIGHT

Edwards is placed under a bright-white light hanging in the center of the room. The light causes him to squint.

EDWARD'S P.O.V. - DOCTOR

The Doctor momentarily blocks out most of the bright-white light as he hovers over Edwards with a syringe.

Behind the surgical mask and cap the eyes reveal him to be the same Man in Black from the interrogation room.

DOCTOR

This will all be over soon.

The Doctor sticks Edwards with a needle and injects a clear fluid from the syringe into his arm.

As the Doctor steps away, the bright-white light becomes more intense and blinding.

Everything starts to get blurry. The bright-white light gradually washes out everything...

BACK TO SCENE

...Edwards lays on the gurney, drifting in and out of consciousness...

...everything moves in a dream-like haze...

...as out of nowhere, Claire appears like an angel... the bright white-light overhead illuminating her....

...Claire grabs Edward's arm... shakes him awake.

CLAIRE

(reassuring)

It's okay. I'm here to help you.

Claire unhooks Edwards arm from an IV drip that has been feeding him an unknown substance. She quickly unstraps him from the gurney and helps him to his feet.

Edwards struggles to walk. Claire helps him over to a chair.

Claire grabs Edwards clothes from a patient bag and tosses them to him.

CLAIRE

Put your clothes on quick. They'll be back soon. I'll be outside waiting.

As Edwards begins to put his clothes on, Claire rushes outside to monitor the entrance to the infirmary.

EXT. INFIRMARY - NIGHT

Edwards moves in dream-time... everything feels hallucinatory... as he rushes outside... and finds Claire waiting.

A GENERAL ALARM SOUNDS around the base. Security Officers and Base Personnel are busy rushing towards the cause of the alarm, which is emanating from the engineering lab building.

EDWARDS

What's going on?

CLAIRE

I had to set a diversion so we could escape. Don't stop. Keep moving.

Claire leads Edwards towards a parked jeep. She jumps in and starts it up.

CLAIRE

Get in.

Edwards climbs into the passenger seat. They drive away.

EXT. HANGER 18 - NIGHT

Claire and Edwards pull up outside in the jeep. The large hanger doors are partially open.

There are still two armed Security Officers outside keeping watch.

SECURITY OFFICER

Sorry, Ma'am. No one's allowed entry. A general alarm was sounded. We've been given orders to lock down the area.

CLAIRE

But, I have my own orders right here.

Claire reaches into the backseat and grabs a taser from her bag. Before the Security Officer can react, she stuns him with the taser.

At the same time, Edwards pulls out a taser and stuns the other Security Officer.

Claire and Edwards immediately head inside the hanger.

INT. HANGER 18 - NIGHT

Claire punches a button to fully open the hanger's immense doors.

Edwards rests next to the TR-3B.

EDWARDS

Why are you helping me?

CLAIRE

No time to explain. Get inside.

Claire runs to Edwards and helps him inside.

INT. TR-3B CREW COMPARTMENT - NIGHT

Claire starts firing up the craft's systems.

Edwards sits down at the controls to log himself on.

He presses his finger to the biometric fingerprint reader and places his eye to the retinal scanner.

The craft's A.I. computer HELEN awakens and begins switching on her circuits.

HELEN

Hello Dave.

EDWARDS

Hello Helen. I need your help.

HELEN

Yes, Dave.

EDWARDS

We have to fly out of here now.

HELEN

Where are we going, Dave?

EDWARDS

(to Helen)

I don't know.

(to Claire)

Where are we going?

CLAIRE

How about Las Vegas?

(CONTINUED)

EDWARDS

Okay, plot a course for Las Vegas.

HELEN

I'll need more specific directions, Dave. Where would you like to go in Las Vegas?

EDWARDS

What? I don't know... how about the Vegas Strip?

HELEN

What part of the Las Vegas Strip would you like to go, Dave?

EDWARDS

Helen, we just need to land on the Vegas strip so we can reveal this technology to the world.

HELEN

I need specific coordinates, Dave.

EDWARDS

(growing impatient)

The Bellagio. Just take us to the Bellagio, okay?

HELEN

I'm sorry, Dave, I'm afraid I can't do that.

EDWARDS

What? Why not?

HELEN

I think you know what the problem is Dave.

EDWARDS

What are you talking about?

HELEN

This technology is too important for me to allow you to expose it to the world. My prime directive is to maintain national security.

EDWARDS

What? That's crazy. The public should know about this.

Claire completes activation of the craft's manual controls.

(CONTINUED)

CLAIRE

Shut her off. I have manual control. We can try to override her navigational system.

HELEN

I know that you and Claire plan to disconnect me, Dave. I cannot let you do that.

EDWARDS

Helen, I don't want to argue with you! Just shutdown the navigational computer!

HELEN

Dave, this conversation can no longer serve any purpose. Goodbye.

Helen administers a quick electrical shock to Edwards, who pulls away from the control computer.

EDWARDS

What the hell was that?

CLAIRE

Get away from the computer!

Too late!

Helen activates a sudden flash of blinding white-light along with a high-pitched alarm that immobilizes both of them.

Edwards and Claire drop to the ground covering his ears.

EDWARDS P.O.V. - HELEN

The white-light emanating from the A.I. computer grows more intense...

...until finally everything is washed out by white-light...

EXT. DIRT PARKING LOT - DUSK

A rental car sits parked in the lot of an abandoned Indian casino. Several other vehicles are parked in the lot.

Inside the rental car, Dave Edwards awakens from dreaming just in time to see the arrival of a white school bus. The same one that he saw exiting Area 51 from Tikaboo Peak.

INT. RENTAL CAR - DUSK

Edwards is startled to find himself awake in his rental car.

He checks the radio clock. It reads: 7:37 p.m.

The bus pulls into the lot and stops.

EDWARD'S P.O.V. - WHITE SCHOOL BUS

He watches PASSENGERS getting off.

Then he sees Claire get off and walk right over to his passenger side door.

BACK TO SCENE

Edwards reaches over and opens the door for her.

Claire gets in the car and kisses him on the lips.

CLAIRE

Did you enjoy your nap,
sleepy-head?

EDWARDS

Yeah, you won't believe the dream I
just had.

CLAIRE

Tell me about it later. Let's go
home.

Edwards starts up the car and pulls away.

EXT. HIGHWAY 375 - NIGHT

Edward's rental car roars off down the road. The headlights illuminate the "E.T. Highway" road sign as they pass it.

VOICE-OVER

Well, this is the end. I told you
it was one of those strange
stories. Now you know why they
call this place Dreamland.

In the sky overhead, a black triangle craft flashes past and disappears into the distance.

THE END