KLAATU'S BACK!

by

Curtis J Lofgren
FADE IN

INT. MILWAUKEE ORIENTAL THEATRE-NIGHT

The Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee is the place to watch vintage films. TEDDY FARRANGER and his wife, JILL, are in line for the 1951 film, THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL. Teddy is a short, bookish man with curly brown hair while Jill is drop dead gorgeous, red hair, with a great (hubba-hubba) figure. They’re physical opposites of each other.

TEDDY
My morning was crazy. I finally found Barnhardt’s food bowl. He hid it in a completely different place today.

Teddy stands on his tip toes to see how many are ahead of them in the line.

JILL
Last week, it was next to the laundry bin.

TEDDY
This morning, it was in the laundry bin. Our cat is nuts.

Jill turns toward her husband and nuzzles his face into her bosom. Teddy rubs his nose back and forth across her chest.

JILL
Have you thought any further about adopting?

TEDDY
Yes, I’ve thought of it.

JILL
(beat)
You know, Ted, we’re talking about cats. What if I brought up having a child?

TEDDY
A little human being? Well.....

Teddy spots a few FILMGOERS that have eavesdropped on their conversation. One WOMAN in particular wants more information on the FARRANGER family, so she leans toward their conversation.
JILL
That would not be a subject for a slow moving movie line, that’s for sure. That’s a calm, mature discussion, at home, after dinner, alone, when I’m kissing your chest and you’re..... (looking at the nosy WOMAN)... working the pipes.

TEDDY
It’s our business and no one else’s. What pipes?

Teddy sticks his tongue out at the woman.

JILL
Would you be interested in knowing that I’ve stopped taking my pill for the last few days?

Teddy spins around.

TEDDY
(quickly)
Oh, really? Our neighbor stopped taking her pills? Really?

JILL
I’m just kidding, hon. I’d never trick you into fatherhood.

Teddy becomes more relaxed.

TEDDY
Good, because the only pill you should ever take is one that keeps you loving me forever.

JILL
That’s a pill I’d swallow almost every day.

Teddy grimaces.

TEDDY
Almost everyday?

JILL
(winking at the nosy woman)
I need a vacation once in a while.

Jill looks ahead to see how far the line has moved.
TEDDY
I’d probably swallow the whole bottle. (singing) “Love, soft as an easy chair....”

He kisses himself all over. Jill laughs.

JILL
So, how’s the Milwaukee Consortium of Science? Have you and the rest of your scientists figured out that the string theory is made out of cheese? And a quark is just a lark with a latent Q?

Teddy places his pen in front of Jill as a microphone.

TEDDY
Really, professor? That’s your theory?

Jill bats her eyes, as though she’s being interviewed for the nightly news.

JILL
The universe is expanding, but you can never find decent parking. Our galaxy is huge, but where can you find slacks that fit? What if our universe is just a giant cheese curd, like the hats Packer fans wear, and anyone who wears one will be forced to communicate with Zarcon, your home planet?

The nosy woman is now quite interested in the conversation.

TEDDY
Let me tell ya, those Zarconians are tremendous Packer fans.

JILL
Now I’m not saying that all Zarconians are evil warmongers, but did you see the amazing resemblance between Dick Cheney and Zardoff, the head Zarconian?

The woman’s interest is piqued.
TEDDY
Really? I’ve never noticed. At least Zaroff doesn’t accidentally shoot people in the face.

JILL
Zarcon should be so lucky as to have Dick a there leader.

TEDDY
Oh, Jill, come on! Everyone knows that Zarcon doesn’t even exist, it’s just a trick Saturn does with mirrors to confuse Mars.

The woman gasps at what she overhears.

JILL
That’s true, Teddy. I envision a world where all of mankind is enslaved by vegetarian monkeys, hairless vegetarian monkeys.

The nosy woman is caught by Jill laughing. Now the woman and the long line has annoyed Jill.

TEDDY
Enough with the references about my ex-wife.

Jill rolls her eyes.

JILL
How many people can this theatre hold?

She looks further ahead and sees the Concessions stand. She points to it and taps Teddy on the head.

TEDDY
You want me to go now?

JILL
(singing)
“Let’s all go to the lobby, let’s all go to the lobby....”

Teddy nods, then adds:

TEDDY
I didn’t win my Nobel Prize by waiting in line at a movie with some flaky redhead I just met.
Jill paints more red lipstick on her lips. She uses a fictitious line that still gets Teddy’s goat.

   JILL
   No, you won your Nobel Prize because your father bought it for, how much? A mill?

Nosy PATRONS listen in.

   TEDDY
   Sshh! It only cost half a million.

People in line express interest in the story, so the couple continue the embellishing.

   JILL
   I heard the Nobel committee put out a contract on you.

Teddy pretends he has a gun in his coat.

   TEDDY
   Oh yeah? I heard it was a hit gal named Jill from Chicago-town. Care to comment?

Jill kisses Teddy in a glorious display of passion.

   JILL
   Hands up, Farranger. Hand over the Nobel Prize, or I’ll-

The line begins to move. People lose interest in their story.

   TEDDY
   (whispering)
   I think they got the message. I’ll get your goodies.

Teddy leaves the line and Jill enters the auditorium.

   CUT TO:

INT. THEATRE-CONCESSIONS STAND-CONTINUOUS

Teddy buys a huge tub of popcorn with extra “goo”, a large Junior Mints and a Diet Coke. He returns to find Jill inside, finding seats.

   CUT TO:
INT. AUDITORIUM-CONTINUOUS

Teddy and Jill have found their semi “reserved by the cool college kids that idolize Teddy” seats. The curtain goes up and the film is about to begin. Teddy addresses the audience.

TEDDY
To all of you, I know this is one of the finest films in the world, but we won’t be able to enjoy it unless you......

Much of the audience finishes Teddy’s rant in unison.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS
You all turn off your cell phones and texting devices. Silence is golden.

Everyone settles down by the end of the opening credits.

TEDDY
(whispering to Jill)
How many times is this for us?

Teddy hands over all the junk food to his wife.

JILL
Ssshh! Be quiet or I’ll sit next to the Geeks and let them neck with me.

Jill kisses Teddy.

TEDDY
Okay, okay, okay! But I’m gettin’ me some nooky during the boring hospital part.

JILL
I doubt it.

Teddy squeezes her arm and looks lovingly her way.

TEDDY
I put Spanish fly in your diet Coke.

Jill giggles as though she were a TEENAGER.
JILL
Remember the doctors who discuss Klaatu and they’re smoking? God, how funny.

TEDDY
And they stare at the cigarette as they smoke? Weird, wacky stuff.

JILL
And Michael Rennie? Those lips, those eyes.

Teddy and Jill hold hands during the film. As it progresses, it is clear that Jill loves Teddy by: 1) The way he holds her hand. 2) By the way she almost jumps into his lap during the scariest of scenes. And 3), the way they look at each other during Michael Rennie’s impassioned speech at the end of the movie.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM- 92 MINUTES LATER

The AUDIENCE gets up to leave.

JILL
Michael Rennie. Those eyes, those lips.

Teddy helps Jill on with her coat.

TEDDY
Alright, alright, he’s a good looking guy. So? I could have played that part.

She pulls her collar up over her neck, making her even more sexy than she is.

JILL
Maybe Sam Jaffe’s part? That hair? Those ears?

TEDDY
Well, come on, Rennie and I have the same birth date. That’s a start.

JILL
Of course it is. Sorry, honey, but Michael Rennie is in a class by himself.
They begin walking up the auditorium small steps to the exit.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY-CONTINUOUS

TEDDY
Beside Rennie, what else do you like about the movie?

Jill leans back, closes her eyes and pretends she’s still watching the film.

JILL
I love that it’s in black and white. I love Patricia O’Neal, I love Gort and his words, “Gort, Klaatu, barada, nikto”... isn’t that enough?

Teddy places Jill’s coat over her shoulders.

TEDDY
I love the real special effects, no CGI, and Hugh Marlowe’s character. What a schmuck!

JILL
His character becomes ugly so suddenly. I hope if we ever meet a space alien, you’ll try and be nice to him. Patricia should have known he was a creep earlier on.

Teddy pretends he is Gort, walking stiff, robotic.

TEDDY
Gort, Klaatu, barada nicto... I’ll say them as we go to sleep every night.

JILL
Maybe if you say them your nightmares will vanish.

Teddy lowers his head. The nightmares are a problem.

TEDDY
It may help. Why do you have to bring them up?

Jill kisses his neck and tries to help Teddy relax.
JILL
Honey, we’ve got to see another specialist about them.

TEDDY
I know, I know.

They reach to the top of the stairs.

JILL
I wanna go home, build a fire, take off my clothes and eat sushi naked.

TEDDY
Am I invited?

CUT TO:

INT. FARRANGER HOME- LATER SAME NIGHT

Teddy wakes up in a cold sweat from this dream which has haunted him many times in the past. He turns on the lamp next to his bed. The cold winter night has fogged the bedroom windows, but he can see far enough out in the street to know that this was only a dream. The dream’s bad guy, GORT, is nowhere in sight and all is calm in the wee hours of the new morning. His cat, BARNHARDT, purrs softly at the foot of his bed.

TEDDY
You had the same dream, too, huh, Barnhardt? Gort zeros in on all of us and zaps us into the next century?

The cat meows. Teddy’s wife rolls over and gently kisses his cheek.

JILL
(muffled)
Another bad dream?

TEDDY
Go back to sleep. You need to get your eight hours. I don’t need them as much.

WIFE
You’ll get your eight and then some. Come here.
Jill gets on top of Teddy and starts making love to him. He kisses her, but she does all the heavy lifting.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM—LATER SAME NIGHT

Teddy is snoring like a baby. The clock by the bed says 3:47 a.m. Jill rolls over, sees Teddy and smiles. She sings a lullaby softly, to Teddy. They kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. MILWAUKEE SPACE CONSORTIUM—DAY

Teddy is the curator of the Milwaukee Space Consortium, a huge complex taking up several acres at the end of Wisconsin Avenue, next to Lake Michigan. Teddy is and always has been a man of vision and hope and incredible wealth. He built MSC in 1998 after doing graduate work at Cal Poly. His paper, MAN’S INABILITY TO SPEAK TO THE COSMOS, won him the Nobel Peace Prize and a trophy wife named Jill. The Consortium is his creation.

CUT TO:

EXT. MILWAUKEE SPACE CONSORTIUM—NIGHT

Teddy greets Jill outside his consortium, and they drive off in Teddy’s 1972 MGB Convertible. (Lots of kissing, hugging, and lover’s talk.)

CUT TO:

INT. A.J.’S BURGER JOINT—LATER

A.J. BURGERS are a favorite of Jill and Teddy’s. They are known as good customers. Many of the Consortium EMPLOYEES hang out here. Teddy and Jill are well respected and liked by most of them.

TEDDY
Jill, how many light years does it take for you to get ready to go out for dinner? I was waiting for exactly sixteen minutes.

JILL
Barnhardt hid the food bowl again next to his ball of string.
TEDDY
That’s my cat! Always stretching the string theory limit.

JILL
I’m your wife, not your cat’s interstellar travel guide. If you can’t tell that by now, we should just annul this thing, and you can go back to living in the back of the Consortium, eating graham crackers every night and signing invoices for massive amounts of heavy cream for your precious cat.

Jill looks away, feigning jealousy.

TEDDY
I bought heavy cream by the case?

JILL
(shaking her head)
It’s a wonder I ever said I do.

Teddy kisses Jill. She eases up and grabs a menu.

TEDDY
You weren’t serious about the annulment thing, were you? It’s too late for that anyway.

Teddy grows close to her and kisses her hands.

JILL
I’d find a way. I’d find the best divorce lawyer in the state. You know the guy who cheated on his wife with that Packer cheerleader? I’d get that lawyer.

Her kidding does wonders to wake Teddy up.

TEDDY
Oh, my, where is my life headed? No Jill, no Barnhardt, no consortium? Just graham crackers, heavy cream and a box of tissues?

Jill gets the visual.

JILL
That’s gross. Let’s order. Cheer up, when we get home, I’ll show you why you married me.
TEDDY
I’m part of the deal, right?

She laughs as the WAITRESS arrives for their order.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT-CONTINUOUS

The place is packed, but in their little booth, Teddy is completely happy. Jill, a good burger and MUDDY WATERS on the jukebox. He sings along.

TEDDY
...I got my mojo working but it... just don’t work on you.

Jill goes into a “white girl” dance, raising her arms and shouting like a fool, embarrassing herself, but having a rollicking good time.

JILL
Ain’t that right. Tell it, Mud, tell it.

Teddy is recognized by some college GEEKS who idolize him.

TEDDY
Hey, guys, what up?

Both geeks are scientific GENIUSES who are INTERNS at the Consortium.

GEEK NUMBER ONE
Mister Farranger, I just want to tell you it’s a real thrill to be here, with you. Jill? Nice to see you.

Jill gets no pleasure from Teddy’s FAN CLUB.

GEEK NUMBER TWO
Oh, my gosh, and you, two, Misses Farranger. You’re both so cool.

They gather like SHEEP.

GEEK NUMBER ONE
What’s you take on Professor Jensen’s opinion on String Theory Quantonics?
JILL
Don’t you fellas have family?


TEDDY
Sweetheart, these are just young, inquisitive minds hungering for scientific truth.

GEEK NUMBER ONE
Yeah, Jensen is a real loser.

Teddy shakes his head.

TEDDY
No matter how low Mister Jensen goes in his theories, we still have respect for the man, correct, gentlemen?

GEEK NUMBER TWO
He’s at it again, saying you’re just a fraud who loves to spread his money all over science projects that won’t work.

TEDDY
(whispering)
That guy doesn’t know a theorem from a quantum bowel movement.

Both men look like they haven’t eaten for weeks or showered or washed their clothes.

JILL
You know, guys, a bath and some fresh clothes could get you laid tonight. Well?

She looks at GEEK NUMBER ONE.

GEEK NUMBER ONE
Do you know any possible hook-ups?

JILL
You both have some good points. Society has rules. And they’re not there to break. So find a wash cloth, some soap and water and go to work. The string theories can wait. Getting laid on a beautiful night can’t.
GEEK NUMBER TWO
You’re right. We stink. And we need a sexual release to help us think clearly.

The waitress appears with two BURGERS with thick, yellow cheese dripping down the bun. Jill’s mouth is watering. Teddy is singing again.

TEDDY
I’m a king bee... buzzing ‘round your hive...

Jill takes a bite.

JILL
Careful, king bee, I’m libel to suck that sweet honey right out of your stinger and watch it droop, plum out of passion.

The GEEKS laugh.

TEDDY
Guys, why don’t you take my wife’s advice now and go find a shower? We’re about to eat.

Teddy takes a bite of his burger.

JILL
I could put in a good word for you with one of Teddy’s secretaries.

GEEK NUMBER ONE
You’d do that for us?

JILL
No. I’m sorry, but you guys are just too geeky for me.

TEDDY
I’ll tell you what, men, clean up and I’ll help with the ladies.

JILL
You know how to handle that stuff? Are you some sort of scientific pimp?

Teddy dramatically puts down his burger.
TEDDY
Sweetheart, my string theory is
going to expand the quark theory
and combine the Quantum Leap and
the Lambeau Leap into a huge Quark
Fart.

Jill laughs.

GEEK NUMBER TWO
But, mister Farranger, the Lambeau
Leap pertains to football.

TEDDY
(sighing)
Good night, boys. Sleep tight.

The GEEKS vanish.

JILL
It’s a thrill to see you so happy,
especially at night.

Teddy wipes away some mustard from Jill’s chin.

TEDDY
Honey, with this new chair I’ve
purchased, I feel I’m going to be
able to solve space travel in my
lifetime.

JILL
What kind of chair? A nice leather
barcalounger?

Teddy grows serious. Jill tries to listen intensely.

TEDDY
No, this is a Brainwave Receiver.
It is supposed to channel all of
your senses into pure energy. It
has over thirty five electrodes to
fasten onto your head and torso.

JILL
An I suppose you’re the person
having these electrodes placed all
over your body?

TEDDY
You got it, Sprinkles.
JILL
Eat. We’ll talk about this at home.

TEDDY
Talk? Tonight? You promised me I could slather your naked body with hot oils.

JILL
As long as it’s not thirty weight Valvoline.

CUT TO:

INT. FARRANGER KITCHEN-LATER

Teddy is devouring his dessert like he was a condemned man. When he offers some ice cream to Jill, she shakes her head, then grabs the spoon out of his hand and has a couple of bites.

JILL
There was a time when you couldn’t wait for us to get home to jump into bed. Now look at you.

TEDDY
I’m afraid to sleep.

JILL
You’re willing to sacrifice our love.

TEDDY
What?

JILL
Hall and Oates? The eighties? Is everything the blues with you? Does it all have to be Chicago, the fifties, south side?

TEDDY
Uh, yeah. Why? You knew that when I married you. Just like I knew what disgusting toes you have.

Jill immediately removes her legs from the stool next to Teddy. She is genuinely hurt by his words.
JILL
Why do you treat me like this lately? My toes are no one’s business but my own.

Jill covers her naked feet with a towel.

TEDDY
Telling you that your feet stink is not exactly breaking the marriage vows, is it?

JILL
We wrote our own vows, remember? I told you then that I will always love you.

They kiss and neck a little.

TEDDY
And I said that you were the quantum theory of life itself.

JILL
(softly and sarcastically) Who on earth says those things as a vow?

TEDDY
I do. You are the quivering string that holds all my theories together. Your universe collides with mine in a way that will always combine beauty with knowledge.

JILL
Here we go again. Am I taking one of your tours at the Consortium?

TEDDY
Yes. And I’m the tour guide with the big, throbbing... pointer. I’ll be happy to point out all things Teddy.

They grow close again. Teddy begins unbuttoning Jill’s blouse, as she unbuckles his pants.

JILL
You’re in my arms......

TEDDY
And I’m home again......
They kiss and kiss and kiss some more.

**JILL**
Oh, Teddy, give me the **whole** tour.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. CONSORTIUM—NEXT MORNING**

Teddy is inside his place of work, his dream ship of a building, the Milwaukee Space Consortium. From the top penthouse suite on the twenty-first floor, Teddy’s office, all of Milwaukee’s east side can be seen. Teddy is in the middle of a conversation with his **SECRETARY** about a group planning to take the private tour this morning.

**MISS ALDEN**
Mister Farranger, I really don’t think these kids should be exposed to Level Five. They don’t have the maturity that the older kids have. I know, I have a eleven year old grandson.

Miss Alden is a kindly, older woman with pink hair.

**TEDDY**
They’ll be fine. I looked over the scores on the test we give them. There’s a few that are even at college level.

**MISS ALDEN**
Yes, but... Level Five? The orb?

Teddy ponders her words for a moment.

**TEDDY**
It’ll be fine, don’t worry about it. Let’s get the lights down on Four and tell Oscar to meet me on Five. I want to try something.

**MISS ALDEN**
Very well, Mister Farranger.

Miss Alden walks out of the office. Teddy looks up an old invoice from 1999. He shakes his head as he reads it.
TEDDY
(chuckling)
God, I did spend a lot on heavy cream. My Jill.....

CUT TO:

INT. LEVEL FIVE-CONTINUOUS

Teddy and OSCAR GOLDMAN are in Level Five of the Consortium, a floor dedicated primarily to space travel through the mind. It is an idea years before its time. Oscar is the CEO of Teddy’s company and a dear friend. They both meet up right off different elevators in the hallway.

TEDDY
Oscar, Oscar, Oscar. Good morning to you, sir.

They shake hands.

OSCAR
Good morning, Teddy. I got a call from your lovely wife late last night.

TEDDY
Oh, God, you’re not screwing her again, are you? My wife? You’re having an affair with my wife?

Oscar’s reaction to Teddy’s mock anger is unusually angry. They walk to their destination and hold a conversation.

OSCAR
What if I were having an affair with your lovely wife?

TEDDY
I’d have to get my ray gun and spread your molecules around the universe. And that’s just for starters.

Oscar looks at Teddy’s head closely.

OSCAR
She said your dreams are getting worse. May I see the scar?

Oscar spreads Teddy’s hairline a little so he can see a decade old scar on Teddy’s head.
TEDDY
I’m almost afraid to go to sleep.
You can’t blame the dreams on my operation, Oscar. You just can’t.

OSCAR
I’m sorry, Ted. I always do that.

TEDDY
The operation has nothing to do with my nightmares. It’s just a daily reminder to wear a helmet when on your expensive motorcycle.

When Teddy scratches his scar, he loses focus and vision for just a brief minute or two.

OSCAR
Hey, what about these juvenile delinquents coming up here today? Are you sure about that?

He evades the question.

OSCAR (CONT’D)
Ted? Are you there?

Teddy is lost in thought.

TEDDY
What? Oh, sure, they’ll be fine. I was a precocious eleven year old, but I was smart. Once I yell at them all and get them to turn off all their smart devices, it’ll be good. I want them using their brains only. No help from Apple, Samsung or AT&T!

OSCAR
You showing them the orb?

The two men glance down the hall. Just at the end, a pulsating round shiny metallic globe, hovering three or four feet off the floor, appears in a special glass-walled room. There is a soft hum coming from that direction.

TEDDY
Haven’t decided yet.

They arrive at the new Brainwave Receiver. It is hooked up and ready to be experienced.
OSCAR
When did they finally get it out of the box?

TEDDY
Last night. Haliburton made it, of all people. I don’t care if I sub-contract out to Cheney’s people, but it better not end up shooting me in the face.

OSCAR
What exactly does it do?

TEDDY
The specs say it will help me with my dreams. But I haven’t tried it yet. I doubled security for this floor a of this morning. It cost a few bucks.

OSCAR
No wonder my card didn’t work. Who’s authorized to use it?

TEDDY
For now, just me. Sorry, Oscar. But I can’t worry about security right now. That way, I’m the only one responsible for it. After all, the Board fought me tooth and nail on this.

OSCAR
You’ve got a lot on your mind, Ted. You don’t need what I’m about to tell you interfere with your work.

Teddy glances at the floor and then looks up.

TEDDY
You’re leaving us, correct?

OSCAR
How did you know?

TEDDY
Genius intuition. But why? Money? I can get you another million a year without the board’s approval. Anything over that, I have to break open my own piggy bank. But I will, you know I will, don’t you?
OSCAR
It’s not money, but... wait, how come I have to quit before you offer me decent money?

TEDDY
Look, Oscar, I have it all up here.

Teddy points to his head.

OSCAR
Your memories?

TEDDY
(laughs)
I need your expertise on quantum theory. You are the only one at the Factory who could out maneuver me in that field.

OSCAR
I am the best in that field. And honestly, Teddy, I am your best friend. But I can’t keep growing as a scientist of my own when I’m constantly in your shadow. I need to break out. I need a place like this. Well, maybe not as huge and vanity driven.

Oscar takes in the grander of it all.

TEDDY
Oscar, compared to the universe, this is a small closet.

Teddy shakes his hand.

OSCAR
Don’t throw me out until I see you in this new machine.

TEDDY
I’ll get you for the test run. You’re going to your office?

OSCAR
Yes. Some of us minions have to rough it on the tenth floor. We can only see to Ohio.

TEDDY
Oscar, Oscar, Oscar.
Teddy stops at the elevators and give Oscar a hug.

OSCAR
I was broke and single in the old days. Now I’m comfortable and shackled.

TEDDY
Which do you prefer?

OSCAR
You always knew I was into chains.

TEDDY starts singing.

TEDDY
...“Chains, chains, chains....
Chain of fools...”

OSCAR
Stop. Your dancing will shake the building down to its very foundation.

Teddy continues to dance.

CUT TO:

INT. CONSORTIUM–LATE MORNING

A roomful of screaming STUDENTS, ages 10 to 13, have met together with their respective TEACHERS for a field trip to the Consortium. Teddy is in the lobby, greeting everyone. He comes storming into the area on a Segway Personal Transportation Device.

TEDDY
Okay, kids, hello? It’s me, Teddy Farranger, billionaire and crazy man who thinks he can change the course of mighty rivers with his bare hands. Uh, no, that was Superman. I’m just trying to change space travel. That’s all. Who here has not heard of me?

One STUDENT raises her hand.

STUDENT
I have not heard of you.

TEDDY
What’s your name?
STUDENT
Maria. Maria Consuela Montenegro Milkowski.

TEDDY
That’s a mouthful. Are you Spanish?

MARIA
My mother was from Chile and my father is from South Milwaukee. He is Polish.

TEDDY
I couldn’t have guessed it any better myself.

Maria pulls on Teddy’s coat sleeve.

MARIA
I lied. I’ve heard of you.

TEDDY
Why did you lie?

MARIA
I wanted to get close to you. I want to show you my discovery.

Teddy senses Maria is not telling all she knows. He takes her into a room off the corridor.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Maria opens her dainty purse to reveal a small, round, shiny ORB. Teddy is amazed. He immediately calls for Oscar.

TEDDY
Where? What... is that? Maria, do you know what you have?

MARIA
Yes, Mister Farranger. It is the smaller version of what you have locked up on another floor here. I read the Science Monitor, the article last month talked about the hush-hush scientific discovery you made in Africa ten years ago.
TEDDY
Good ol’ Africa. Why can’t a
discovery be made in Sweden? Or
Boise?

Oscar comes running into the room. The orb is humming.
Oscar is somewhat skeptical.

OSCAR
Where did you find this?

MARIA
Who are you?

She appears to be frightened.

OSCAR
Where did you get this?

Maria cowers in front of Oscar, then runs to Teddy’s arms.

TEDDY
Maria, again, where did you—

Maria’s FATHER walks into the room. He’s a large man,
muscular, with beefy arms and a thick neck.

OSCAR
Who on earth are you? Ted, why
don’t you ever lock a room?

Teddy walks over and shakes the man’s hand.

TEDDY
I’m Teddy Farranger. I presume
this is your little girl.

MARIA
Daddy! Mister Farranger, this is
my daddy, Corky Milkowski.

CORKY
It’s nice to meet you, Farranger.
But my daughter has other things to
do with her time. Her mother
finally told me where she went this
morning and I just got here. Let’s
go, Maria.

TEDDY
Wait, sir. Just a minute. Your
daughter has something very
important and we need to study it
some more.
Corky grows angry.

CORKY
The orb? That glowing little round thing? We found that last year, in Chile. Her mother is Chilean and we were down there for a visit. Maria and her mother were wandering through caves. Personally, caves give me the creeps. But, when Maria ran out with this thing, I had to say, I was intrigued.

TEDDY
Go on.

Maria looks around the room.

MARIA
Teddy, where is your friend? The man who was just here?

Teddy looks around the room for Oscar.

TEDDY
I don’t know. Why?

Maria clings to her father’s side.

MARIA
He looks just like the man who tried to steal our orb, daddy. The bad man.

Ted laughs.

TEDDY
Oh, you’re crazy. Oscar Goldman’s my-

Corky is shocked.

CORKY
-Goldman? Oscar Goldman? That’s the man who tried to kill us! In Chile, when we were about to leave the country.

Teddy laughs off the accusation.

TEDDY
That’s impossible. Oscar is a scientist, like me. We don’t kill people.
CORKY
Listen, Farranger, if my Maria says
that Goldman was in here, and I
know that Goldman tried to kill us,
then Oscar Goldman is a bad man, a
killer. Get it?

CUT TO:

INT. TEDDY’S OFFICE-ONE HOUR LATER

Teddy is on the phone to JILL.

TEDDY
That’s right, Jill. So be careful.
I mean it. Lock the doors. I have
a security team on the way to the
house right now. I can’t believe
it either. Oscar was my dearest
friend, and somehow he’s mixed up
in this orb business. I don’t
know. Okay, bye. I love you.

Teddy listens to a communication from his SECURITY.

SECURITY GUARD’S VOICE
Mister Farranger, we’ve got the
place on lock down. Right now,
this is the safest place to be.

Teddy and the entire MILKOWSKI family is in Teddy’s office.
Teddy is trying to calm everyone down. He tries a little
humor.

TEDDY
Hey, Maria, what do you call a cat
with a smile on its face?

MARIA
What?

TEDDY
An imposter.

Maria laughs, but is trying hard not to cry. Teddy consoles
her as so does her MOTHER. But it is Corky Milkowski that is
livid with Teddy.

CORKY
How on earth could you but my
little Maria in such danger. We do
not know what that man... Oscar...
is capable of.
TEDDY
No, sir... we don’t. I thought he was my friend.

CORKY
I thought they served chili in Chile. Manita, let’s take our family home.

Teddy is dismayed.

TEDDY
I’m afraid you’ll have to stay. We’re on total lock down. Corky, Maria, I’m sorry Misses Milkowski, I don’t know your name?

The shy but pretty WOMAN grins.

WOMAN
My name is Consuelo Muenos Milkowski.

TEDDY
Wow, what a wedding day that must have been. Consuelo and Corky.

CORKY
My first name is Zelbart. You can see how someone might get the name Corky from that.

Maria and Consuelo laugh. They’ve caught Teddy off guard. Jill walks in and greets her husband with a kiss.

JILL
I’m glad to see someone is laughing.

TEDDY
I told you to stay home.

Both Consuelo and Maria admire Jill Farranger for her beauty and her strong personality.

JILL
Your secret police got to the house and I asked them to bring me here.

TEDDY
Are you alright? Don’t call them secret police. I hate when you do that.
JILL
Of course. I worry about you. And if I find that Goldman character, I’ll.....

She brandishes a rolling pin from her large purse. The Milkowski family gasps as one.

TEDDY
I can’t believe it about Oscar. Who’d have thunk it?

Jill pounds the rolling pin into the palm of her hand.

JILL
Friends sometimes become enemies in science. You said that yourself.

TEDDY
I must have been drunk... or on a mind trip.

JILL
Let’s get outta here and get some brats and sauerkraut, cuddle up to a fire and neck.

Teddy calls his SECURITY FORCE.

TEDDY
(speaking into the phone)
We’ve got to allow these people out of here. Oh, she’s here, right next to me. All five feet six of her, red hair, green eyes and a figure that could.... yes, that’s right, she just waltzed right in here. I know you missed her. No, you’re not fired, but if Goldman slips through upstairs to the orb, then we’ll need to speak of a new job.... at Sears!

Teddy motions to the Milkowski family that they can leave.

CORKY
We’re taking the orb with us. I feel safer in my house than in this... whatever it is. Please do not contact us.
MARIA
I am sorry I caused all this stir.
But remember, mister Farranger, the
orb is small, but its powers are
great.

They walk out of the room. Jill and Consuelo look each other
over as they pass through the room.

CUT TO:

INT. FARRANGER HOME-LATER-NIGHT

Teddy and Jill are in their massive living room, plates with
the remains of a true Milwaukee Bratwurst indoor winter
cookout in front of them. The roaring fireplace keeps the
room warm and toasty as Teddy removes the last s’mores from
the oak twig he found outside. Only a few gulps of deep, dark
German beer are left to be consumed. They settle back to an
evening of FREDDIE KING and romance, in that order.

CUT TO:

INT. CONSORTIUM- 3 A.M.

Teddy has snuck out of the house and breached his own
security rules by entering Level Five alone. He calls FRED, one of his night Security men who he has known since the
inception of the Consortium. Teddy fumbles on the phone. It
is clear that he is still a little drunk.

TEDDY
(whispering on the phone)
Freddie, my Freddie! Freddie King
was one of my favorite guitarist,
did you know that?

FRED
(whispering)
No, I didn’t. Why are we
whispering?

TEDDY
(whispering)
Because it’s late and....

Teddy burps loudly and then farts.

FRED
(whispering)
I wonder... you got a belch in
there somewhere?
TEDDY
Okay. I get it. I won’t whisper, for God’s sake, it’s my own building. I own this mother, I can’t believe I own this giant behemoth.

FRED
What may I do for you, sir.

Teddy trips over his own feet.

TEDDY
I need you up here on Five. I’ve got to try a new product and I need your help.

FRED
Be right there, sir.

Teddy puts down the phone and spots a FIGURE in the darkened room. He is slightly afraid, but knows that FRED, an ex-Green Bay Packer middle LINEBACKER, will be here shortly.

Teddy sits and waits in his new chair, the Brainwave Receiver. Moments later, Fred shows up, armed and ready.

TEDDY
(whispering)
This time I have a good reason to whisper. We are not alone. And I’m not talking about the Universe.

Fred is facing Teddy directly.

FRED
(whispering back to Teddy)
Where is he or she? Just wink with whatever eye is appropriate.

Teddy, still a little drunk, blinks and winks and can’t seem to control any movement in his face. Finally, he just points to the back left area of Level Five.

TEDDY
(pointing)
Over there.

FRED
James Bond has nothing to worry about. I’ll take a look.

Fred walks the length of the room, with flashlight pointed in front of him.
TEDDY
Be careful. I don’t know what the deal is, it was just a shadow.

Teddy continues to sit in his new chair. All at once, the thirty five electrodes from the chair clamp onto his body and head. The machine is turned on without any help from anyone. Teddy is shaken and stirred, all at one time. A loud noise comes from the back of the room. Teddy hears Fred protest.

FRED
Aaahh! No! No! What are you doing to me? No.....

Teddy is scared and tries to get out of the machine. He can’t see or hear anything from Fred. Out of the corner comes a large robotic MAN, clinking and clanking his way to Teddy’s chair.

CUT TO:

INT. FARRANGER HOME-SAME NIGHT-CONTINUOUS

TEDDY wakes up in a cold sweat. He cannot believe this dream was not real. This time, Jill is very concerned, as his pajamas are drenched with sweat and he is warm to the touch. This was not the usual nightmare for Ted. Even BARNHARDT is concerned, meowing like crazy until Teddy picks him up.

TEDDY
Jesus, I almost died in that dream. I cannot for the life of me-

As he is speaking, the person in bed with him turns over. It is Jill, but she is not the woman he knows and loves.

JILL
-You have no more life, Teddy. I told you your world is collapsing...

Thunderous explosions rock the house, sirens go off, and bedlam has begun. Jill has a tight grip on Teddy.

TEDDY
What is happening?

JILL
You’re coming with me.
Jill has become GORT, and carries Teddy out of the bed, and into the darkness. The actor MICHAEL RENNIE as KLAATU walks along side of Gort and Teddy.

CUT TO:

INT. FARRANGER HOME-SAME NIGHT-CONTINUOUS

Teddy wakes up again next to his real wife Jill. She is unaware of his dreams and wants to go to sleep. She is annoyed at his insistence of turning on the lamp. As the light brightens the darkness, Teddy watches helplessly as Jill is carried off by Gort, similar to the film.

CUT TO:

A LEGEND ON THE SCREEN:

I THOUGHT I HAD A ROBOT WITH ME WHEN I WALKED IN HERE....

CUT TO:

INT. ORIENTAL THEATRE-NIGHT

The Oriental Theatre is the place to watch old vintage films. Tonight, the original 1951 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL is playing. TEDDY FARRANGER is in the auditorium alone, with no wife JILL, no Nobel Prize, no huge Consortium, just a lonely job at a lonely place called The Discovery Center on Lake Michigan, where he lives in the back with his cat, BARNHARDT. Teddy watches the movie. Sitting behind him is a secretary at the Center, JILL SCOFIELD, with a handsome DATE. Teddy watches as the film reaches its climax. Jill is crying. Teddy is, too.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM-92 MINUTES LATER

The movie has ended and Teddy awaits the crowd’s dispersal so he may leave alone. Jill is crying, her date consoling her with Kleenex. He tries feeding her more Junior Mints. Teddy longs for her but she doesn’t even notice him. As he gets up to leave in the empty auditorium, an USHER walks by collecting trash.

USHER

Great flick, huh?
TEDDY
It’s the finest film ever made.

USHER
Woo dude, TERMINATOR is the best
film ever made.

TEDDY
Right. See you at Sundance.

USHER
I’m a screenwriter. What do you
do?

TEDDY
I janit.

USHER
Cool, dude. What is janit?

Teddy gets up and walks out. There, next to the Men’s room,
is Jill, waiting for her date. He tries to walk past, but she notices him.

JILL
Hey, I know you.

TEDDY
Hey. How are you?

JILL
From the Discovery Center, right?
You work there too?

TEDDY
Like the movie?

JILL
Oh, I love that movie. Michael
Rennie. Those lips, those eyes...

Teddy can’t believe what he’s hearing.

TEDDY
Yes. He’s quite an actor. Of
course, he should be... we were
born on the same da-

Jill’s date walks out of the men’s room and smiles as he
takes her arm and they begin to walk out.

JILL
Bye. Hope to see you again
sometime.
Her date looks back at Teddy. He is a typical Nordic-bronzed-blondewell-built MORON.

        TEDDY
        Bye bye... hate to see you go...

Jill is now out of hearing range.

        TEDDY (CONT’D)
        Hope you dump him before the salad course....

Jill looks back at Teddy again, smiling.

        TEDDY (CONT’D)
        Hope he has a wart on his penis and it drops off.

Teddy looks down at his scruffy shoes and sighs.

        TEDDY (CONT’D)
        Michael Rennie, where are you when the world needs you?

CUT TO:

INT. TEDDY’S CAR-CONTINUOUS

Teddy is quietly sobbing as the car speeds down the street to his apartment. The song on the radio is about love gone bad. Teddy tries to sing, but is muffled by his sobbing.

CUT TO:

INT. TEDDY’S ROOM-LATER SAME NIGHT

Teddy is not a welcome guest of sleep. His nightmares have been very bad lately, always settling on one thing... the film he just saw. But in Teddy’s nightly terrors, GORT blows up the earth and KLAATU leaves the planet in disgust. He gently crawls into bed and tries to go to sleep.

        TEDDY
        Maybe I should leave the night light on?

A VOICE from beyond the light, securely hidden in darkness, speaks to TED.
VOICE
Perhaps your world would be better off being annihilated. Would this be so?

Teddy jumps out of his bed and stands on the cold floor in his barefeet.

TEDDY
Who is that?

The English accent is familiar.

VOICE
This universe grows smaller every day and the threat of aggression by anyone, anywhere, cannot and will not be tolerated.

Teddy recognizes it. It is MICHAEL RENNIE.

TEDDY
Michael Rennie? Klaatu?

A MAN resembling Michael Rennie in a suit from the early fifties appears.

VOICE
It is I, one in the same. I am here.

TEDDY
In my bedroom? In November of 2013? And I’m in my undies?

RENNIE/KLAATU
Yes. I’m afraid so.

TEDDY
I feel stupid.

RENNIE/KLAATU
My planet has learned not to live with stupidity.

TEDDY
Well, my planet is stuck with it.

RENNIE/KLAATU
I am here for a reason.

TEDDY
What?
RENNIE/KLAATU
If you continue to threaten the universe with your violence, this earth of yours will be reduced to a burned out cinder.

Rennie/Klaatu moves into the light. It is Michael Rennie as Klaatu, from the original film he just saw.

TEDDY
Ha! Those words! But why on earth are you holding me responsible?

RENNIE/KLAATU
You seem to have dreams much like the dreams on our planet.

TEDDY
Really? Huh! I never would have imagined that. But these are night mares.

Klaatu moves around the room, his silvery space suit gleaming in the moonlight.

RENNIE/KLAATU
On my planet, your night mares are our dreams... one must be able to differentiate the two.

TEDDY
I see. That’s why there the times I wake up and I’ve got more questions than bad memories.

RENNIE/KLAATU
Does this frighten you?

TEDDY
What? The content of your impassioned speech or the fact that you’re here with me and you don’t exist?

RENNIE/KLAATU
I’m here. I exist.

GORT steps out of the shadows.

TEDDY
Him, too? He’s here?
RENNIE/KLAATU
I am leaving soon, so you will
forgive me if I speak bluntly.

TEDDY
Hey, go for it, Klaat.

RENNIE/KLAATU
Up until now, we’ve had no interest
in your species... but, due to some
of your recent experiments with an
orb discovered in Africa-

TEDDY
Why can’t you find a good
mysterious orb in Frankfurt,
Germany? Just asking.

RENNIE/KLAATU
Your experiments with this orb, and
now, it seems, another, smaller
orb, we have no choice but to
police your planet as we would
police one of ours in our galaxy.

TEDDY
So the orb gets the brunt of the
responsibility? I don’t have it.
It’s in my other life.

Rennie/Klaatu looks at Teddy strangely.

RENNIE/KLAATU
It is of no matter to us who
controls your planet’s destiny...
it is how and when they choose to
do so.

TEDDY
Great, let’s have a party.

Gort moves forward, approaching Teddy.

RENNIE/KLAATU
I believe you know my personal
policeman?

TEDDY
Hi, nice to meet you, Gort. You’re
in my dreams all the time. Nice
suit, no seams... how do you do
that?

Rennie/Klaatu grows tired of Teddy.
RENNIE/KLAATU
My work is done here, Teddy. Your work has now to begin.

TEDDY
I’m just a janitor.

RENNIE/KLAATU
This is our orb from our planet, we use it for different reasons. I know you have found one that was left here millions of years ago.

TEDDY
Yes, yes, it’s in... my Consortium that doesn’t even exist.

RENNIE/KLAATU
Now, you mean. It does not exist now. But things change, Teddy.

TEDDY
Yes, they do. Hopefully.

RENNIE/KLAATU
I must go now.

Teddy clears his throat. He gathers the courage to come very close to Klaatu and Gort. He touches Gort’s arm. There is no movement from it.

TEDDY
I have a question. Actually, (in SAM JAFFE’S VOICE) “Sit down please, there are a few thousand questions I want to ask you.”

RENNIE/KLAATU
Funny, very funny. You know what kind of guy Jaffe was?

TEDDY
Are you carrying any of those diamonds you gave the little boy in exchange for two dollars so you two could go to the movies? Remember?

RENNIE/KLAATU searches in his spacesuit. He shakes his head.

RENNIE/KLAATU
I went to a double feature yesterday. It took seven diamonds to get in, and we didn’t even get popcorn. Your economy is failing.
TEDDY
Tell me something I don’t know.
One more thing....

RENNIE/KLAATU
Yes?

TEDDY
The words... nikto, barada... What do they mean?

He whispers something into Teddy’s ears. Teddy doubles over laughing.

RENNIE/KLAATU
Got it? Be careful with this knowledge.

TEDDY
(still laughing)
You’re alright, Klatty.

Rennie/Klaatu disappears with Gort into the night. Teddy crawls back into bed and sleeps for the first time without interruption.

CUT TO:

INT. DISCOVERY CENTER-DAY

Teddy has received his daily work assignment from Oscar, his boss, to polish the brass on all railings. To speed things up a little, Teddy has developed a uniform method of polishing, from the top floor to the bottom. But Oscar has a problem with it.

TEDDY
Oscar, I think my method will not only save time, but it will prevent hand smudges on the brass from the first two floors. People are going up in the morning.

OSCAR
I don’t care, Theodore. Your work here is sloppy and I’d fire you today if I had a decent replacement. God knows Fat Frankie can’t do the brass, although he could apply Brasso to his midsection and just rub his way down the railings.
TEDDY
You don’t really mean that, do you?

OSCAR
“You don’t really mean that, do you?” Of course, I mean it. I wouldn’t say it if I didn’t mean it.

Teddy begins to apply Brasso on the third story brass railings. He thinks of last night’s midnight meeting with the man who played KLAATU, MICHAEL RENNIE. But was it real?


JILL
Hi ya Ted. How ya doing? Doing the brass railing, eh? Don’t forget the big brass bulbs at the ends. Those big... brass... bulbs are important, aren’t they?

Jill’s sexuality is blatant. Teddy perspires with her around. He accidentally rubs Brasso on his coveralls, and some of it drops to the carpeting which Jill steps on. He tries to rub it off her shoe, making the situation worse by spreading the thick, gooey substance all over her JIMMY CHOOS.

TEDDY
I’m so sorry. What have I done?

JILL
You ruined one of my Choo shoes. Which means you ruined the pair. Do you know how much these cost?

Teddy looks down at the shoe and grovels.

TEDDY
I guess SHOES FOR LESS doesn’t sell them.

JILL
I guess they don’t. What are you going to do about it?

Teddy realizes she is angry. He tries to amend the situation but gets further into social quicksand.
TEDDY
I could take you out for dinner and afterward, we could go shoe shopping.

JILL
I knew I shouldn’t have talked to you after the movie last Friday. But it made me cry and you looked so sad....

TEDDY
I wasn’t sad, I was inspired by Rennie’s speech at the end.

JILL
How do you think I got these shoes, by the way? That’s what my date and I did on Saturday. You know what we did on Friday night? Well, let me tell you, it wasn’t Canasta.

Teddy rolls his eyes.

TEDDY
How about we go to the Shoe Barn and look for an imitation brand and have coffee after?

JILL
You’re one. You’re a real... what would you call yourself?

TEDDY
You mean besides stupid, ignorant and foolish?

Teddy sort of stares at her bosom, which is right in front of him.

JILL
Oh, foolish, too? I had the first two, but foolish was the topper. You’re cute when you’re not staring at my tits. Man, you’re short.

TEDDY
I want to be a scientist.

JILL
You’re a janitor. And we all know janitors... janit.
TEDDY
You know, I said that last weekend.
My, how we think the same.

JILL
We don’t think the same, Teddy.
That would mean we were a bit compatible. And that cannot be.

TEDDY
I dream of you often. But in my dream, we’re married, I’m rich and Oscar here is a... hey, I haven’t figured that part out yet, but you’re not a good guy. You were a good guy, but......

Oscar loses his patience.

OSCAR
Miss Scofield, as you may have figured out, Teddy here is just a low life janitor who has now ruined an employee’s personal property, which means I can fire him.

JILL
You’ll do noting of the sort, Goldman. Teddy, you’ll take me shoe shopping and that’s that. When we come in Monday morning, Oscar here will see you’re a man of your word.

Teddy smiles from ear to ear.

OSCAR
But Jill... I mean, Ms. Scofield....

Jill waves her hand away from her chest.

JILL
That’s the way it is, Goldman. Now, Teddy, go back to work and I’ll give you my address later. We’ll get the shoes and then.....

TEDDY
Whatever you say. Those eyes, those lips.....

Jill smiles.
JILL
Where have I heard that line before?

TEDDY
With me, on our date to see the movie you love, The Day-

JILL
-Our date? Please!

CUT TO:

INT. SHOES FOR LESS-FOLLOWING SATURDAY-AFTERNOON

The store is filled with WOMEN looking for shoes. Jill tries on shoe after shoe until she finds the perfect pair.

JILL
How do these look to you, Ted?

TEDDY
Oh, they’re marvelous. Simply marvelous.

Teddy makes an unflattering effeminate pose which makes JILL laugh.

JILL
Cut that out. You’re here to help me.

TEDDY
You’re buying?

Jill takes a call on her cell phone while TEDDY looks around at all the women. He makes a mental note to apply here on Monday.

JILL
That was Edie. She tells me you live in a room at the Center?

TEDDY
Are we about through?

JILL
(squeezing into a size 4)
I don’t know

Jill looks at the pair she had on over and over again in the mirror. The SALESMAN is starting to do a “slow burn”.

SALESMAN
Ma’am, these are the ones for you.
Anyone can see that plain as day.

JILL
Ted, what do you think?

Teddy looks at the salesman as one man in battle looks at another. He has to agree with him.

TEDDY
These are them, Jill. You’ll be the envy of every woman at work.

SALESMAN
Where’s that?

TEDDY
Milwaukee Discovery. At the edge of Lake Michigan.

SALESMAN
Yes, I know where it is. It’s a shame about what happened.

TEDDY
What are you talking about?

SALESMAN
The explosion. It happened about an hour ago. Tons of fire alarms
Where you two been?

JILL
Oh, my God.

Jill puts down the shoes.

JILL (CONT’D)
Teddy, take me home. Suddenly, I don’t feel like Jimmy Choos anymore.

TEDDY
Sure, sure Jill. This is awful.

They exit the building. The salesman is annoyed at the couple and throws the shoes back into their boxes. He immediately turns around and greets another pretty YOUNG LADY with larger than normal feet.

SALESMAN
How may I help you today?
YOUNG LADY
What can you show me in a size three?

He rolls his eyes and nods his head and life goes on at Jimmy Choo’s Shoes.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHOE STORE-CONTINUOUS
Teddy and Jill get into the car. Jill is sobbing and Teddy wonders what happened.

TEDDY
Was it Rennie/Klaatu?

CUT TO:

INT. TEDDY’S CAR-CONTINUOUS
Teddy has decided to drive faster than he ever has before. He races past red lights, doesn’t slow between intersections and tries to beat every traffic record held.

JILL
Teddy, slow down. Do you want to kill us?

TEDDY
I just thought for a moment... what if this explosion is my fault?

JILL
How on earth could it be your fault?

TEDDY
Maybe I didn’t put some of the chemicals away last night like I should have.

JILL
You’re just acting crazy, Teddy. Let’s not lose our heads.

TEDDY
Jill, I’ve got to see what’s going on over there. Do you mind if we go past it?

Jill ponders the question.
JILL
I don’t have the time. Not today.

TEDDY
I’ll take you home first, if you insist, but I really would like to see....

Jill understands how important this is to Teddy so she acquiesces.

JILL
No, it’s alright Ted. Let’s drive over there. But we probably won’t get close... with all the fire trucks and everything.

TEDDY
Let’s try.

Teddy breaks lose again with his driving. He speeds past all other cars and for a moment or so, Jill could swear they were flying.

JILL
I’m planning a big party for my fortieth birthday, Ted, so slow down. Of course, it’s light years away....

TEDDY
Okay, okay. We’re almost there.

Teddy pulls up two blocks away from the Discovery building. He and Jill get out of the car.

CUT TO:

EXT. DISCOVERY BUILDING—CONTINUOUS

A great number of FIREMEN and POLICEMEN are running around, and it looks like no one in particular is in charge. Then they meet CAPTAIN JACK BRATTEBO. The captain is the picture of control. Jill tip-toes through the rubble, trying not to get her old shoes dirty.

CAPTAIN BRATTEBO
Hey, you two. You wanna stop a sec so I can ask you what you’re doing here?
TEDDY
We work here.... At the Discovery Center. What happened?

CAPTAIN BRATTEBO
I’m not at liberty to release any of the details other than there was an explosion.

JILL
Oh, is it Captain Brattebo?

Jill turns on every female charm she has.

CAPTAIN BRATTEBO
Why, yes it is.

JILL
I get overly excited at explosions... please forgive me.

She bats her eyes and crinkles her nose. Captain Brattebo is eager to please.

CAPTAIN BRATTEBO
What may I do for you?

JILL
Well, my companion and I both work here and we’re a little worried about what happened.

CAPTAIN BRATTEBO
It was an explosion.

JILL
Where did it come from?

CAPTAIN BRATTEBO
Oh, I can’t divulge that information. Other than...

A POLICEMAN interrupts the captain with a form for him to sign. He signs it and looks back at Jill, who has now taken off her jacket to reveal her wardrobe: a snug turtle-neck sweater, tight pants and high boots. She’s transformed into a sassy pussycat. Teddy’s eyes almost fall out of their sockets.

JILL
Whew! It’s warm in this winter sun. Now, Captain...
CAPTAIN BRATTEBO  
(mesmerized)    
It was some kind of an orb.... It that the right word? It was a round, shiny object that hummed and glowed. And it hovered. Yeah, it hovered.

JILL    
Wow, that’s exciting. (to Teddy) Do you know about an orb?

TEDDY    
I know about an orb, but it’s in my dreams.

The duo walk back over to Brattebo.

JILL    
Captain, my companion and I would like to see the extent of the damage to our respective departments. Is that going to be okay?

Jill lays her hand briefly on his shoulder, as if needing moral support.

CAPTAIN BRATTEBO    
Of course, I’d have to go with you two.

JILL    
Of course, Captain. By all means.

Teddy is too concerned about the orb to fully appreciate the great performance by Jill. Somehow, she has not lost sight of her involvement with Teddy. She wants to help him anyway she can. The captain is getting to be quite a handful. As they walk toward the entrance, he has one thing on his mind.

CAPTAIN BRATTEBO    
So tell me, Jill, what do you do here?

JILL    
I’m a secretary for David Daniels.

Brattebo looks her over for “water” damage. None is seen.

CAPTAIN BRATTEBO    
And what does that entail? A lot of sitting on his lap, taking dictation?
JILL
Oh no, nothing like that. We
single gals have to watch ourselves
in this society.

Captain Brattebo clears a path for Jill and Teddy.

TEDDY
(whispering)
What have I done?

JILL
Captain, what floor did it happen
on?

CAPTAIN BRATTEBO
The fifth floor. Inside a locked
room. A small room. It only held
the orb I was talking about.

Jill presses close to the captain.

JILL
And where is that orb now?

CAPTAIN BRATTEBO
Oh, a couple of geeks with glasses
and thin black ties came in right
afterward and grabbed it.

Teddy pulls Jill aside.

TEDDY
Those guys were undoubtedly C.I.A.
And they were probably responsible
for the explosion.

JILL
Or the orb itself was responsible.
Either way, you and I are not
returning to work tomorrow. It’ll
be weeks before this place becomes
operational again.

Teddy surveys the damage. The lobby and first two floors are
shot. The third floor has limited damage.

CUT TO:

INT. THIRD FLOOR ROOM- MINUTES LATER

Captain Brattebo has lead both Teddy and Jill up to the fifth
floor, and the evidence of an orb is mounting.
The explosion has destroyed most of the floor, but a trail of ORB DUST goes from the elevator to a locked, semi-destroyed room. Brattebo unlocks the room and lets them in.

TEDDY
What are you going to do now, captain?

CAPTAIN BRATTEBO
Wait here until Jill is done. Her wish is my command.

Jill keeps flirting and Teddy gets more and more steamed. Jill leads Brattebo over toward the elevator and speaks to him privately. She returns to Teddy momentarily. The captain has gone.

JILL
I’m famished. Acting like a silly, sexy siren has titillated my taste buds.

Teddy is kicking the walls, acting like a SCHOOLBOY.

TEDDY
Come on, say that again, this time in French.

JILL
Where do you want to take me? You got out of buying me my shoes, so dinner is on you. Where to?

Teddy immediately find a happy personality.

TEDDY
How about a burger? A.J.’s is still good and gooey, right?

JILL
I wouldn’t know.... Not a lot of my dates include a hamburger and fries. But it sounds good.

TEDDY
Let’s do it. It’s only a few blocks over. Do you mind walking?

JILL
You read my mind. And after seeing you drive, I believe I’ll need flight insurance.
TEDDY
I’m usually very cautious. But today is different.

JILL
What about this mess?

TEDDY
I scooped up some of the dust and I know a guy at the Center who can run some lab work on it. But that’s tomorrow. I am with a beautiful woman and she’s hungry, so....

CUT TO:

EXT. DISCOVERY CENTER-CONTINUOUS

Teddy looks into Jill’s eyes and they kiss. Quite an unexpected act for the both of them. They begin walking to the hamburger restaurant.

JILL
That was out of the blue. You sure know how to scare a girl.

TEDDY
It was that bad?

JILL
No, it was fine. In fact, it was nice. No tongues. I hate tongues in my mouth unless I invite them. A tongue belongs in a neutral corner until a gal chooses to exercise it.

TEDDY
Well said. I was born without a tongue so that’s why you didn’t feel it in your mouth.

JILL stops waking for a moment.

JILL
Oh, Teddy, I’m so sorry. I didn’t know.....

TEDDY
Gotcha! Of course I have a tongue. How could I talk otherwise?
JILL hits him in him in the right arm.

JILL
You asshole! That was bad. You are a bad boy, Teddy Farranger.

The laugh and continue walking.

TEDDY
What are you going to do for money the next several weeks?

JILL
Oh, I’ll be fine. I own four apartment buildings and have quite a nice portfolio.

TEDDY
Really?

JILL
Gotcha! Payback time.

Teddy raises his hand to hit Jill in the arm, but stops short of her biceps, lowers his hand and kisses her sleeve instead.

TEDDY
In that case, loan me a few hundred... thousand.

JILL
I’m okay financially, but I’ll probably temp for a while, just to keep working.

TEDDY
Too bad there’s no temp janitors. (On an imaginary phone)
“Hello, Janitors Are Us, may I help you? No, I’m sorry, we only work for one day, then we quit. Thank you for calling.”

Jill laughs as they reach the restaurant. Teddy opens the door for her.

JILL
What does A.J. stand for?

He holds the door as he concocts a line.

TEDDY
Already ‘Jested Burgers. People pre-chew the meat for you.
JILL
Ugh! Well, would you chew mine?

TEDDY
Absolutely! Now you’re getting me, Jill Scofield. And it’s about time!

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT-CONTINUOUS

The restaurant is quite busy for a Sunday afternoon. They are seated in a lovely booth, but it is noisy. It’s too late for lunch but too early for dinner. Jill is in a quandary as she looks at the menu.

JILL
I guess I’ll have a salad.

Teddy is shocked. He looks around, hoping no one in the place recognizes him with a strange visitor to the world of ground beef.

TEDDY
A salad? We’re in a hamburger joint. You don’t go to a steak house and order pea soup. You don’t go to a sushi house and order fried bologna. And you certainly don’t come to a burger joint and order a salad. Get a burger, the bigger and sloppier, the better. Who raised you? A pack of salad-eating dweebs?

Jill turns red when accused of being a born-again Vegan.

JILL
Okay, okay. I’ll have a burger. But not too bloody. I hate blood.

TEDDY
Me, too. Especially when it’s my own.

Jill giggles a little and seems to relax around Teddy. The WAITRESS comes over to take their order.
JILL
I’ll have a double-cheese, bacon, avocado burger with lots of Mayo, rare as possible, with blood dripping down the bun. Thank you.

Teddy is dazed and confused.

TEDDY
And I’ll have a green salad. What kind of salad dressing do you have?

Jill breaks out laughing.

WAITRESS
We don’t carry just salads. The only way you’re going to see a salad here is if you order a burger and pull off the stuff on the top... lettuce, tomato and onion. But we don’t have any salad dressings.

Jill is laughing her head off. She cannot believe Teddy.

TEDDY
That blows. Well, I’ll have to have a double, double cheeseburger, large fries and a chocolate milk shake. Honey, didn’t you want a milk shake, too?

Jill nods while she’s laughing at Teddy.

WAITRESS
You two married?

The question abruptly puts the KIBOSH on the laughter. The waitress leaves and there is silence.

TEDDY
So, how long have you worked at Discovery?

JILL
Three years. I know things about that third floor. When the captain spoke of that orb, I remembered seeing memos about it.

Teddy is thinking of sharing his dreams with Jill but doesn’t know if he can trust her.
TEDDY
I’ve been there too long. Oscar is a-

JILL
-Thief. Oscar is a thief, do you know that?

Jill is very matter-of-fact about it all.

TEDDY
No. What do you mean?

JILL
He steals items and sells them to the highest bidder. We have some interesting experiments in the works. People are discovering Discovery.

TEDDY
Touche. All I know is that when I get home, all I’ll have is a message from Oscar telling me not to come in tomorrow.

JILL
Sounds lonely.

TEDDY
Who sleeps in the back of his place of business? A real loser, that’s who.

The food arrives and Jill devours her burger like she has never seen one before. Teddy is staring at her.

JILL
Things change, Teddy Farranger.

TEDDY
My mother said that once, right before she threw me out of the house. She gave me fifty cents and told me to hit the road.

Jill is laughing so hard, the milk shake is coming out of her nose. Teddy points that out to her.

JILL
Aahh, this milk shake. It’s.... gross.
TEDDY
Hey, your dripping milk shake from your nose. It’s totally disgusting.

JILL
I know. Is everyone watching?

Teddy looks around the restaurant. He pretends to count all the PEOPLE staring at her.

TEDDY
No. Just the busboys, the cooks, the waitresses and the manager. No one else. You’re quite stunning.

JILL
With milk coming out of my nose?

TEDDY
Anyway you look, you’re stunning.

They share another kiss, this one longer and more passionate than the first.

JILL
What are your plans for tonight?

TEDDY
Oh, tonight? I’ve got a date with a very liberal mouse. She comes over every Sunday night and we play rodent poker. Then, I’ll watch my favorite reality show, “Top Psycho Chef.”. The contestants cook and offer psychiatric help to Republican candidates in their districts who need mental healing. Then, I watch “Donald Trump Fly Fishing in the East River”. How about you?

Jill begins laughing again.

JILL
I’ve never dated anyone like you.

TEDDY
(as Groucho Marx))
And I hope you never will again.

Just as Teddy feels more comfortable with Jill, the waitress approaches.
WAITRESS
That will be it for you two then?

TEDDY
Yes ma’am. It was great. My companion here loved every ounce of her milk shake.

The waitress places the check on the table. Teddy pushes it ever so slightly toward Jill.

JILL
Now I know why we never dated. You’re cheap.

TEDDY
I’m not cheap, I just like keeping my money in my pocket.

Jill has grown a little bit serious. Her playful mood is gone.

JILL
It’s getting dark out. We have to walk back to the car.

TEDDY
You stay in here, I’ll brave the cold and get the car. When you hear the loudest rickety exhaust pipe coming down the street, it’ll be me. I’ll be outside.

JILL
Oh, that’s great, Ted.

Jill smiles at him. Teddy gets up to leave, while she remains in the booth.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTAURANT-CONTINUOUS

Teddy is on his way to the car. Two MEN follow him in their car, as he walks the dark street alone. Teddy reaches his car and gets in.

CUT TO:
INT. TEDDY’S CAR—CONTINUOUS

Teddy starts the car, the two MEN right behind him.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR—CONTINUOUS

Jill gets in after three honks.

JILL
Where to, mon Cherie?

TEDDY
Uh, I thought I was taking you home. But now, we have trouble. Men are following me. Us. Both of us.

Jill looks over her shoulder and sees the MEN in black.

JILL
You are. You’re taking me to your room, or whatever it is that you call home.

TEDDY
I am?

Teddy watches them follow him. Starting now, they both watch the men without speaking of them.

JILL
Yes, you are.

TEDDY
Well, then, a rousing round of applause for me.

Jill leans over and kisses him.

JILL
That was for you.

TEDDY
I couldn’t think of a better skinny dessert.

JILL
I can’t think, period. It’s too warm in here.
Jill rolls down the window. The MEN are driving now, one car behind.

   TEDDY
   How do I get there?

Jill rolls her eyes and settles into the seat.

   JILL
   Just don’t drive the same way as you did this afternoon. It freaked me out.

   TEDDY
   It freaked me, too. Like I said, I’m usually a very cautious-

A sedan smashes into the Corolla. They both get out. Teddy isn’t injured, nor Jill, but the other car, the car with the two GEEKS, is almost totaled. GEEK ONE steps out of the car and pretends to be injured. GEEK TWO unveils a cloak which he throws upon both Teddy and Jill. They are immediately transported to an empty room, dark and mysterious. Teddy tries protecting Jill by placing his arms around her.

   CUT TO:

   INT. DARK INTERROGATION ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Teddy and Jill are sitting in large, comfortable leather chairs. There is a podium in front of them and the rest of the room is dark, empty. They are not bound by anything they can see or feel, but nonetheless, they can’t move.

   TEDDY
   Jill? Jill? Are you alright?

   JILL
   I think so. I’m not hurt. Where are we?

   TEDDY
   I don’t know. I promise you it’s not my stinky old room. How can I tell? No graham crackers, no Barnhardt.

Jill examines Teddy in his chair.

   JILL
   Can you move?
TEDDY
No. I’m held down, but there are no ropes. I can’t move, but there is nothing binding me.

Into the room, a small shiny orb, much like Maria’s, darts in and out of their limited vision. It’s humming and floating, darting next to them, then in a flash, zooming away from them, as if it were looking at both people.

JILL
What the hell is that?

TEDDY
I’m guessing... not a popcorn maker?

JILL
Quit making jokes, Teddy. I’m scared.

TEDDY
Okay. I’ll quit if you just admit this is your apartment and this thing here is a sex device you use on shy dates.

JILL
Teddy, I’m really scared.

The orb continues to dart in and out of their vision, zooming here and there, confusing both of them.

TEDDY
It could be some kind of new optical exam. You have to concentrate on landing both eyes on it.

JILL
I’m closing my eyes.

TEDDY
Good idea. I’ll tell you a story. And there’s no punchline to this one.

Teddy begins his story, the real story behind his jokes, his feelings toward Jill, everything.

JILL
(eyes closed)
Make it good, Teddy Farranger.
TEDDY
Well, we’re married and I run the Milwaukee Space Consortium. I’m loaded, you’re a genius in your field and we have a cat named Barnhardt. We’re as happy as can be. And my best friend, Oscar....

JILL
Best friend Oscar? Go on, I have to hear this one.

TEDDY
Well, like I said, it all centers around this orb I have in the Consortium, on Level Five and the small orb that a student named Maria Milkowski brings in one day. They both are extremely similar to this stupid thing flying around our noses.

The orb flies around both of them, hovering for a moment at Teddy’s nose when he mentions it in his story. Then it buzzes Jill’s face, scaring her even more.

JILL
Keep talking. Your voice is soothing.

TEDDY
Okay, little lady, well, after we make love one night, and oh, it is a good night of lovemaking, if I may say so myself...

Jill giggles some, but keeps her eyes closed.

JILL
I like the fact that you refer to sex as lovemaking. It’s romantic.

Teddy tries to move the chair closer to Jill, but it’s stationary, bolted to the floor.

TEDDY
I awaken to find that it has all been a nightmare. Our marriage, my Nobel Peace prize and all my money. I’m a fucking janitor in a cool place, but nothing like the Consortium I cooked up in my head. (MORE)
TEDDY (CONT'D)
You don’t even know my name, I mean, you know my name but we’re not...

JILL
I get it. Go on.

TEDDY
Well, I keep dreaming about Klaatu and Gort. Every night.

JILL
Ah, Klaatu, those eyes, those lips....

TEDDY
Thrilling, eh?

JILL
He is the pituitary gland of cool.

Teddy looks at Jill and wonders aloud about her education.

TEDDY
You’re sure you graduated college? Took all the required English grammar classes?

JILL
Yes. Why? I don’t talk good for you?

Jill knows exactly what she’s saying and giggles a little. Teddy is relieved that she feels better about her present condition. He continues to talk movies with her, to settle her down.

TEDDY
What about Sam Jaffe? Isn’t he a hoot?

JILL
Yeah, and I loved Patricia O’Neil, the fact that it’s in black and white, Michael Rennie’s eyes, his lips....

Teddy is amazed.

TEDDY
That’s the same thing you told me in my other life.
JILL
Did you buy my large popcorn with extra goo?

TEDDY
And Junior Mints, and a diet coke. Of course.

JILL
(singing)
"let’s all go to the lobby, let’s all go to the lobby..."

Teddy is laughing.

TEDDY
And Hugh Marlowe... Oh, that no good Hugh Marlowe.

JILL
I see it on the big screen, Oscar Goldman is High Marlowe in “DWEEBS, DIPS AND CREEPS!”

TEDDY
Really?

Teddy ponders that thought for a moment. He hasn’t noticed the MAN who has walked into the darkened room. Teddy can’t quite make out the face. Jill still has her eyes closed.

JILL
Teddy? Is someone else in here with us?

The MAN steps out of the shadow.

TEDDY
You’re correct, madam. Give our contestant fifty extra points for spotting the bad guy.

MAN
So I’m as bad as Hugh Marlowe’s character, huh? So sorry, Ted.

Teddy finds OSCAR in the room and creeping to the podium. He stands behind it as Jill opens her eyes.

TEDDY
Oscar, Oscar, Oscar. What the hell?
JILL
I knew it would be you, Goldman.

Oscar has a POINTER with a RUBBER TIP in his hand and slaps it on the podium like a stern TEACHER would do.

OSCAR
Quiet! I will ask the questions here.

JILL
Shit, Goldman, if you touch Teddy, I’ll kill you!

TEDDY
Alright, Jill!

Teddy is puffed up and proud.

JILL
Christ, Goldman, you even sound like Marlowe a little, doesn’t he Jill?

OSCAR
I am uniquely qualified to teach this class. Believe me, I am.

Jill tries her charm on Goldman.

JILL
Why don’t you trust people, Oscar? Oscy, oh, Oscy?

TEDDY
Say these words, “You’ll feel differently about me when you read about what I’ve done.”

JILL
Nice, Ted. I think that’s the correct line verbatim.

Teddy tries to bow, but cannot move.

TEDDY
I’d like to thank the academy, my agent and manager and my mommy and daddy.

JILL
Haven’t you forgotten someone?
TEDDY
Oh, yes, and Ms. Jill Scofield, who has finally relented and agreed to become my wi-

OSCAR
-I said quiet! Now, Teddy, what about these dreams of yours? Theodore?

The orb is darting in and out of Teddy’s vision. He moves his head back and forth to dissuade the object from getting a bead on him.

TEDDY
It’s Theodore now? A couple of days ago, it was Idiot. What happened?

JILL
He became educated. Perhaps stealing important space artifacts affects the brain waves.

Oscar walks around the two chairs, SLAMMING his POINTER’S STICK on each table, Jill’s first. She begins crying.

TEDDY
See what you’ve done, Goldman? You made my future wife cry. Nobody does that and gets away with it.

OSCAR
I didn’t steal anything. I just borrowed what I needed for the project.

JILL
(sobbing)
What project?

OSCAR
There are a lot of people that want to know what is going to happen to this earth in the next hundred years. Teddy has the answers in his dreams.

Teddy leans back and raises his eyebrows.

TEDDY
(as STEVE MARTIN)
Meeeee?
JILL
I thought I was the only one in your dreams every night?

Teddy smiles and retorts.

TEDDY
Those dreams he speaks of are like the trailers before my nightly feature, starring you and I. You always have to sit through the boring shorts before the feature.

Teddy beams.

JILL
I knew I had you the moment I saw you. But what I didn’t know was that you had me.

Jill would kiss teddy if she could reach his lips.

TEDDY
All the janitor groupies tell me that. You should see them. They are all over me on dusting day.

Oscar slams the STICK down again, this time on Teddy’s desk.

OSCAR
Please, if you’re not quiet, I cannot be responsible for what happens.

TEDDY
Why? Are you using your parents rumpus room without their permission? Is this your laundry room, but the lights are off?

The orb continues to buzz both Teddy and Jill. Jill shuts her eyes again.

JILL
I can’t stand that thing. Get it out of my face.

OSCAR
I can move it if Teddy tells me what I want to know about his dreams.

Jill opens her eyes and looks at Teddy.
JILL
Teddy, help me. Help us.

TEDDY
Okay, Goldman, what do you need from me?

Oscar zeroes in on Teddy, close to his face as possible.

OSCAR
The orb has extracted many of your dreams, but in an objective fashion. We need more of a subjective look at what you see for our future and the future of earth.

TEDDY
And how, dear Oscar, would you like me to do that?

OSCAR
Allow me to place this smaller orb next to your brain. Then, we will place you in a chair....

TEDDY
The chair I just got at the Consortium? In my dream?

Teddy sees possibilities.

OSCAR
Yes. We still don’t know how you came up with that chair. We just designed the prototype last month.

TEDDY
Jill, it’s this really cool chair that has like thirty five electrodes that attach to your head and body.

Jill wiggles to get free, but to no avail.

OSCAR
You’re not a child, Farranger.

TEDDY
No, I just play one on TV. Is this small orb the one you stole from me? The one the little girl’s family found in South America?
OSCAR
Well, we didn’t find it in Sweden.
Sweden, Farranger? Come on.....

TEDDY
Let her go. Put her back at the hamburger place and I’ll let you do anything you want to me.

OSCAR
Uh, we give the orders here.

Oscar then receives a message through a device in his ear.

TEDDY
Otherwise, you’ll just get Bravo reruns as my dreams. And I’ll mix them up. A Top Chef will meet a Real Housewife of Waukesha, and an old hoarding man will win a dream home from HGTV. Padma will marry Doctor Drew and have children that look like Kardashians without hair. Then, all hell will break loose! By the way, what do you call the chair?

OSCAR
The Brainwave-

TEDDY
-Receiver. I knew it. If you let her go, I’ll go into that chair willingly... and that’s the only way you’re going to get the real deal, you know that.

Oscar converses quietly with whomever is talking into his ear, the real boss of this situation. As THEY talk, so do Teddy and Jill.

JILL
(whispering)
Ted, you don’t have to do this. They may kill you.

TEDDY
(also whispering)
But what happens to you? I’ve already ruined your Jimmy Choos, how can I let it get worse?

Jill laughs a little and smiles at Teddy.
JILL
I can try and get help. But where the hell are we? And how did they get us here? And why can’t I move?

TEDDY
All very good questions for the contestants. Johnny, what has she won so far?

Teddy goes into his announcer voice.

TEDDY (CONT’D)
She’s won a washing machine and dryer combination from Whirlpool. And, a trip to... Hawaii, courtesy of Hugh Marlowe Travel. And the chance to live a normal life outside this room... back to you, Teddy.

Jill relents.

JILL
Okay. I’ll try to help, but nobody will believe me.

TEDDY
I know. Don’t worry. I’ll give them a few early dreams from puberty. A little Sandra Dee, some Jayne Mansfield, then the topper, my ninth grade English teacher, Miss Arhelger. Wow, she was a killer.

Jill is laughing and crying at the same time.

JILL
I think I’m falling for you, Theodore Farranger, The Weird.

Goldman interrupts their conversation.

OSCAR
A decision has been reached. We shall let Jill go, just as long as you promise to give us what we need. We know that you are the type of human that would keep his word if the person he loves is protected.
JILL
You love me?

TEDDY
Well, fancy that, Jill. Oscar here can read my mind. Can you read this?

Teddy lowers his head and allows the orb to stop around the lower part of his skull. He then concentrates so hard he passes gas in front of Jill.

JILL
Teddy?

TEDDY
Whoops-a-doodle.

Teddy continues to concentrate. The orb finally falls out of the air and lands on the floor.

JILL
I’ve never dated anyone who farted in front of me. There’s always a first time for everything.

Teddy feels proud.

TEDDY
Take that, who ever you are with the geeky looking ties and short sleeved shirts. Who on earth wears short sleeved shirts anymore?

JILL
You’re amazing. Alright, you assholes, get me out of this chair and back to my-

Jill disappears.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM—CONTINUOUS

Teddy cannot believe his eyes. Jill’s chair is empty, but her fragrance is still circulating the room. He begins speaking BABY-TALK to Oscar, then a song comes through.

TEDDY
Ooga-doo-ga-dooby-doo.
OSCAR
What?

TEDDY
You heard me. Ooga-doo-ga-dooby-doo. I love you and all I want you to do is... hold me, hold me, hold me... Da-da-da-da-da-da... You really got a hold on me.

OSCAR
What are you saying?

The orb rises from the floor and continues to hover and hum, now humming, YOU REALLY GOT A HOLD ON ME.

TEDDY
I can communicate with almost anything and anybody.

Teddy slumps over, passed out from his exhaustive efforts of concentration. Oscar speaks to his PARTNER through his ear phone.

OSCAR
No, I think he's passed out.

CUT TO:

INT. A.J.'S BURGERS-TWO A.M.

Jill has found herself sitting in an empty, closed restaurant. There is nobody inside as she sits in the same booth as before with Teddy. She cries and cries. She softly sings YOU REALLY GOT A HOLD ON ME, off-key and alone.

CUT TO:

INT. DISCOVERY BUILDING-EARLY NEXT MORNING

As he awakens, Teddy finds himself strapped into the Brainwave Receiver. Oscar has been joined by the two GEEKS who have forgone their human shapes and become ALIEN BEINGS. They look like a cross between an upright CAT and a LONG HAIRED HIPPIE. Very strange, yet they manage to speak English.

TEDDY
Somebody wake up Gunther-Gabel-Williams, he's got a few new cats to train.
Oscar makes the much needed introductions.

OSCAR
These are Prutube and Prutex. They come from another planet. They are here to listen to your dreams, with the help of the giant orb.

The huge ORB that Teddy had in his dreams at the Consortium appears. It has all the qualities of the smaller one from yesterday, but since it is larger, it hums LOUDER.

TEDDY
Nice to meet you fellas. Going to the spring dance?

OSCAR
They don’t understand much of earth humor.

TEDDY
And do you do? Okay, hook me up.

OSCAR
They must do that.

Both PRUTUBE and PRUTEX adjust the chair and begin applying the electrodes to Teddy. He winces as they apply the ones near his buttocks.

TEDDY
Help. I’m caught between two rejects from CATS that resemble Alice Cooper.

Oscar almost feels sorry for Teddy.

OSCAR
Just be still. It’ll all be over before you know it.

TEDDY
You’re going into this chair next, Oscar old buddy. Just wait your turn.

OSCAR
Sure, Ted. Guess who’s in the driver’s seat now?

TEDDY
What goes around, comes around.
Both PROTUBE and PRUTEX look at each other as if that was the smartest thing they ever heard. The Brainwave Receiver has been turned on. It is passing Teddy’s DREAMS into a dream vacuum-like machine.

OSCAR
These dreams will correlate with the predictions our friends here have made about this planet.

TEDDY
You mean to tell me that all of my dreams about the Consortium, about being married to Jill, about you being my best friend, all these dreams are true?

Teddy’s expression is one of despair and amazement.

OSCAR
Some. Obviously, not the one about you and I.

TEDDY
Obviously. Is there a Maria Milkowski?

OSCAR
I imagine there might be. Somewhere in the universe.

TEDDY
I hope she and her family are not in danger.

OSCAR
Then just give us exactly what we want.

PROTUBE and PRUTEX both nod their TRIANGULAR HEADS in agreement.

TEDDY
Which dream do you want?

OSCAR
The one that haunts you the most. Klaatu comes to earth and destroys it because there has been no progress since 1951 on many issues regarding the planet.
TEDDY
Yeah, that one blows. It shows up every fifth night or so. But it’s really not Klaat’s fault. He is just another actor looking for work in the universe.

OSCAR
What?

TEDDY
Haven’t you guys ever stopped to think that Klaatu might just be a role and GORT might just be a huge guy with intimacy problems?

PROTUBE and PRUTEX just scratch their tails.

OSCAR
Then just close your eyes and fall asleep. We cannot give you any sleep inducing drugs, as they will foul the truth from your mind.

TEDDY
Shit. What about for after. A bottle of Vicodin and a fifth of Scotch for the late show?

OSCAR
Just lay back and relax. Let the chair do the rest.

Teddy lays back into the chair and allow his mind to wander. He keeps seeing Jill in trouble and he can’t sleep.

TEDDY
You’ve lied about Jill. She is not safe. I can feel it.

PRUTEX adjusts an electrode, the one closest to Teddy’s butt.

OSCAR
Shut up, Farranger.

TEDDY
Oh, now I can feel it. She’s safe. Boy, that’s a real good trick there, Prutey-boy.

PRUTEX almost smiles. Teddy falls into a deep sleep immediately.

CUT TO:
LEGEND ON THE SCREEN: TEDDY’S DREAM

CUT TO:

INT. MILWAUKEE SPACE CONSORTIUM- 2009- DAY

Teddy and Oscar are talking about the ORB in Teddy’s office.

TEDDY
Oscar, this orb, this thing... whatever it is, we have it! It’s ours to explore. I feel another Nobel Prize coming my way.

OSCAR
Don’t you think we should let our friends in the government in on this? They could help with the funding.

Teddy waves him off.

TEDDY
It’s all I can do to keep my mouth shut if front of Jill about this. This is the find of the century.

Oscar’s face lights up.

OSCAR
What if I were to tell you the C.I.A. has an orb just like this one that they found in Sweden?

TEDDY
I’d tell you my dream is filled with my jokes, but you get to deliver them.

A large, PREHISTORIC BIRD passes by on Lake Michigan, SQUEAKING and CHIRPING through the skies. Oscar is now wearing an Indian HEADDRESS, dancing around a small fire in Teddy’s office.

OSCAR
Me think ‘um you need ‘um spooks from the CIA. Me think ‘um right.

Teddy is uncomfortable with the racism, so Oscar goes back to wearing a business suit.

TEDDY
I really don’t what has gotten into me... I mean, you.
KLAATU’S spaceship lands on Lake Michigan. GORT skips out of the ship, running down East Wisconsin Avenue.

OSCAR

Look, it’s Gort!

TEDDY
(singing)
“I can’t give you anything but love, baby...”

Oscar has now become GORT and is heading toward Teddy.

OSCAR

Daisy, daisy, give me your answer do....

Teddy’s dream ENDS abruptly. PROTUBE and PRUTEX both seem confused and dissatisfied with the dream.

CUT TO:

INT. JILL’S APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Teddy speaks to JILL who is alone in her apartment. She sits, alone, sobbing as the phone rings and rings. Finally, as the machine picks up the call, Teddy is speaking to her in the Brainwave Receiver chair.

TEDDY

My darling Jill. It’s Teddy, I mean Ted. I’ll start calling myself Ted from now on.

Jill runs to the answering machine to pick up the phone, but there is no one on the other line. She screams.

JILL

Teddy. My darling Ted. Where are you?

The machine is silent. Jill slams the phone down. As she lays on the couch, an eerie yet soothing VOICE comes through the machine.

TEDDY

Honey, it’s me, Ted. Teddy. Can you hear me?

Jill bolts upright and pays attention to the VOICE.

JILL

Yes, yes, oh yes, I can hear you.
TEDDY
I’m here with you. In my dream, I’m here with you. Are you alright?

Jill looks out her big, bay window onto Lake Michigan.

JILL
Yes. I’m so sorry, Teddy. I went to the police and the Feds. Nobody would help me, they all thought I was loony.

TEDDY
It’s okay. I’m just sleeping and dreaming of you. The worst is over. I’ve come to realize what my part is in all of this.

JILL
What is it? Is it something I can help you with?

TEDDY
I have to conclude this on my own. For all I know, those idiot twins from planet Zarcon are listening to this right now.

Jill gets up and walks around her apartment talking to the VOICE.

JILL
Ted, did any of your nightmares include some small diamonds, unlike any seen by people?

TEDDY
Yes. Yes. They are an intricate part of this equation.

JILL
Then I am part of that equation. I have dreamed of those diamonds.

TEDDY
My God! Every time I have the nightmare, those special diamonds come rolling pout of this guy’s hand, after he unclenches his fist. It’s like a movie, my mind sees the tiny diamonds fall out and tumble onto the floor.
**JILL**
My God, Ted, we’ve had almost the same dream.

Jill is staring out her window. She watches PROTUBE and PRUTEX outside her window. Jill knocks on the pane of glass and yells through the closed window.

**TEDDY**
Those guys are former Jimmy Choos shoe salesmen.

Jill laughs.

**JILL**
Hey, assholes? Yeah, you guys down there.

Both ALIENS look up and see Jill.

**JILL (CONT’D)**
I can hear Ted. You won’t get anything out of him. He’s solid as a rock.

**TEDDY**
Jill, I already let them have a pretty strange dream they will examine for a while, but I’m afraid they want what’s in your dream, too.

**JILL**
The diamonds?

**TEDDY**
Could be. Do you own any rocks that size?

**JILL**
Not to my knowledge. Let me think.

Jill reviews her many suitors.

**CUT TO:**

**LEGEND ON THE SCREEN:** FLASHBACK #1

**CUT TO:**
INT. EXPENSIVE JEWELRY STORE-MILWAUKEE-DAY

Jill and a heavy mid-eastern MAN are looking over necklaces and rings in the store which offers the most expensive jewelry in Milwaukee. It is clear that Jill does not love this man, but is here to accept his gifts only. He sweats as he tries to fondle Jill.

JILL
Why these are real sweet over here.
The rings are gorgeous.

HEAVY MAN
All for you, Jill, all for you. I
must have you now, here, in this
store. Your neck is soft as my
baby’s face. I must take you here.

Jill fights him off.

JILL
That’s not happening, so I suggest
you get me the finest ring you can
afford and we’ll go from there.

Sweating all over himself and Jill, the Iranian man points to the diamond ring he thinks she will like. The JEWELER shows it to Jill.

HEAVY MAN
Now, what do you think of me?

JILL
You sweat too much. I’ll take it.

The jeweler wraps it in a nice box and gives it to Jill. She places the box in her purse and suggests the theme for the rest of the day.

JILL (CONT’D)
How about we go to the zoo. I’m
reminded of elephants for some
reason.

CUT TO:

LEGEND ON THE SCREEN: FLASHBACK #2
INT. FANCY MILWAUKEE RESTAURANT—NIGHT

Jill and her date, a nice looking older MAN who has to be almost twice her age, are having dinner in a swanky restaurant, high above Lake Michigan, looking over the wind swept water. His name is TOM CRUZE.

JILL
You must get so many funny things happening to you because of your name. Tell me a few. Make me laugh.

TOM
What do you mean?

JILL
Your name? Cruze? Like Tom Cruise the actor?

TOM
I never really had any funny incidences. It’s kind of insulting to me. I don’t care for that actor.

They enjoy their meal and Jill has finally gotten to the end of the date. She realizes this man is not for her, but cannot just walk out of the restaurant.

JILL
I’m exhausted. What a full day. I’m ready to go home and fall right into bed.

TOM
I was hoping you’d say that.

Tom takes out a tiny box and places it on Jill’s side of the table. She opens it and gasps. It is an inlay of diamonds on a very pretty bracelet.

JILL
My God! What do you expect from me? This is only our second date.

TOM
It’s enough to know I’ll always love you, Jill. Marry me and make me the happiest man on earth.

The CAPTAIN comes to the table with the check and places it in front of Tom. He smiles at the couple.
CAPTAIN
We don’t get many movie stars in here.

TOM
What?

Jill almost falls off her chair laughing.

JILL
You see what I mean? I’m afraid I can’t accept this. It’s just too much.

Tom Cruze takes the bracelet out of the box and puts it on Jill’s wrist.

TOM
It’ll grow on you... just like me.

JILL
I-I... I don’t think so. May we go now? I’ve got a splitting headache.

TOM
Of course. We’ll go back to my place. You can rest there.

JILL
I don’t think so, Tommy. Take me home. Now!

They get up to leave and the restaurant patrons APPLAUD, thinking that somehow this older man is really TOM CRUISE. Jill thinks it is hilarious. She smiles as she walks out of the restaurant, glancing down at her wrist and smiling at her good fortune.

CUT TO:

INT. JILL’S APARTMENT—CONTINUOUS

Jill has looked back on the many men who could have given her the diamonds that Teddy is speaking about. She cannot remember any. Until...

CUT TO:

LEGEND ON THE SCREEN: FLASHBACK #3
INT. MILWAUKEE DISCOVERY CENTER—ONE MONTH EARLIER—DAY

JILL has worked the entire day and is ready to go home. Her boss, DAVE DANIELS, Vice-President of operations, is a nice guy, but JILL doesn’t trust him. He has called her into his office at the end of a tiring day. She sits across from him as he speaks.

   MISTER DANIELS
   Jill, there’s something I need to speak to you about.

   JILL
   What is it? The month end reports? I’ll have them on your desk tomorrow morning. By nine sharp.

   MISTER DANIELS
   No, it’s not that. Jill, let me level with you.

Daniels gets up and walks over to shut his door. Jill feels uncomfortable being alone with him.

   JILL
   Could we leave the door open? Ever since Poly lost her job by complaining about her sexual harassment, I feel uncomfortable with a door closed in anyone’s office.

Daniels ignores her request and begins telling her a story.

   MISTER DANIELS
   Jill, there are forces here that are sinister. Have you felt anything strange around here lately?

   JILL
   No. Just the usual weirdos that come through on Fridays, when it’s free to get in. Then we get the homeless who just want to use the bathrooms.

   MISTER DANIELS
   No, I’m talking about a feeling. This feeling is something I can’t put into words. I’ve been feeling it now for a few weeks, maybe a few months. It’s an eerie feeling.
JILL
Well... let me think. I have noticed a tendency for the third floor offices to be visited more often by these two men, they look like the kind of guys that fix your computers.

MISTER DANIELS
Those two? Hmm. Perhaps you’re right. They have been here a lot. I don’t know them personally, but Goldman-

JILL
-He’s a crook, you know that, don’t you?

MISTER DANIELS
What do you mean?

JILL
He steals things. Where is that third moon rock, the two we have are here, but the third we got from NASA is gone. And the equipment used to clean certain space artifacts is missing. One of the janitors told me that.

MISTER DANIELS
You hang out with janitors now?

JILL
That’s none of your business.

Jill is upset with his insinuation and wants to leave.

JILL (CONT’D)
Are we done here?

MISTER DANIELS
I guess so. Keep your eyes and ears open.

JILL
Yes sir.

Jill gets up to leave the office. Daniels stares at a special paper weight on his desk. As he turns it upside down, it reveals four tiny diamonds on the bottom.
END FLASHBACKS

CUT TO:

INT. JILL’S APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Jill has remembered the four tiny diamonds in the paperweight. She cries out to Teddy in hopes he can hear her.

JILL
Teddy? I’ve remembered a crucial item, I just brushed it off at the time, I never really thought of it, but I just now—

Teddy’s VOICE is coming from Jill’s bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. JILL’S BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS

TEDDY
I’m here. This is not the way I wanted to get into your bedroom.

JILL
Teddy? Oh, Teddy, where are you? Where are you?

The VOICE travels around the bedroom, one step behind or in front of Jill as she walks around the room.

TEDDY
I’m still here, I can hear you. In my dreams, you are lying on your bed, as beautiful as the first time I saw you.

JILL
Well, the diamonds were in Daniels’ paperweight, his snow globe. On the bottom. The day I saw them, it had been a long day and my mind was—

TEDDY
—Never mind. I’m glad you’ve remembered them now.

JILL
What can I do?
TEDDY
I have some bad news to tell you, Jill. Daniels was murdered.

JILL
My God! When? How?

TEDDY
I'm fading fast.

JILL
Oh, Teddy, my Teddy. What can I do?

TEDDY
Stay in your apartment, lock the doors and don't let anyone in. Not even if they say it's me.

JILL
What?

TEDDY
I don't know, but I have this feeling that they're going to try and get into your place. They think the diamonds are there.

JILL
Ted. They are.

Teddy is silent.

TEDDY
That means you slept with him?

Jill breaks down on her bed.

JILL
Oh, Ted. It was a thing we had for one night. It was after our talk that day. He came over and had been drinking. He carried that stupid paper weight around in his pocket. I didn't realize I had it until an hour ago. I've been forcing myself to remember where I put it.

TEDDY
That's okay. Your safety is what comes first.... I'm in love with you, Jill.
JILL
You’re in that faraway place I’ve put my heart for all these years. You’ve opened me up to real love, Teddy.

Teddy can not respond. There is just Jill now in her apartment, with PRUTEX and PROTUBE staring at her window.

CUT TO:

INT. DISCOVERY BUILDING-THIRD FLOOR-NEXT DAY

Teddy is sleeping without dreaming for the first time in weeks. His mind is empty and he seems comfortable.

CUT TO:

INT. THIRD FLOOR-NIGHT

Oscar has awakened Teddy with a new form of adrenaline which enters the system like a rocket. Almost immediately after the injection, Teddy is awake and talking like a speed freak. PROTUBE and PRUTEX are there with Goldman.

TEDDY
Well, top of the morning to you gents. How they hanging? How’s the old peter meter Oscar. Oscar, Oscar, Oscar. When will you ever learn? Hey, here’s a good one... what goes up and doesn’t come down?

OSCAR
What, Teddy?

TEDDY
My hatred for you! Ha! What about it, Frick and Frack? Did ya get all the dreams you needed?

OSCAR
We need the diamonds, Teddy. Give us the diamonds and Jill will be fine. I promise you.

TEDDY
Why on earth haven’t you just broken into her apartment and stolen them?
OSCAR
They can’t. Their species requires a certain amount of free will from their opposition.

TEDDY
But they can screw in electrodes into my anus and buzz my dreams all night. Why don’t you send in the orb. The mysterious orb.

OSCAR
Knock it off, Farranger. I saved your life yesterday.

TEDDY
Oh, thank you masta, thank you. You want me to clean out the chicken coops and shovel the cow shit today?

Oscar confers with the aliens.

TEDDY (CONT’D)
Hey! I’m talking to you! Hey! Goldman Sucks, you need to pay attention to me.

Teddy gets up from the chair. The aliens are startled by the fact that he wasn’t supposed to be able to get out of the chair. He starts walking toward OSCAR.

TEDDY (CONT’D)
I’m coming for you three morons!

Suddenly, PROTUBE extends his knob of a finger and Teddy falls right where he stood.

TEDDY (CONT’D)
Oh, yeah, well I’ll crawl over to you three and knock your blocks off.

Teddy is “nobbed” again, this time by PRUTEX. He is motionless now.

TEDDY (CONT’D)
At least I can spea-

Teddy’s VOICE is cut off and he cannot move or speak now. He is totally incapacitated. RENNIE/KLAATU, waltzes into the room from out of nowhere with GORT by his side. He startles the aliens. Oscar faints. He approaches Teddy to see if he may help him up.
RENNIE/KLAATU administers a small syringe to Teddy’s neck, and he comes back to the world. He can move and speak again.

RENNIE/KLAATU
There. Better?

TEDDY
It’s about time you showed up and saved the day. I’ve been dreaming of you and the big guy for hours now. That’s why-

OSCAR
-We had the trouble we did. Because of you. Who are you exactly?

Teddy places his hand over his face and cries out.

TEDDY
You guys won’t believe who he is. I don’t believe who he is.

RENNIE/KLAATU
The test of any higher civilization is the police force which supports it. You two creatures are from a planet I have traveled to many times before. But these earthlings have not. They do not know that these two’s planet is a dark spot on the universe.

TEDDY
Go, daddy-o, go!

RENNIE/KLAATU
To you named Goldman, it is of no concern to us how you run your tiny planet until now. And these two creatures will not help you. They are only out for themselves and the knowledge they may sell back on their planet.

OSCAR
So we are not alone. These two have been telling me how there are only their planet and none others.

RENNIE/KLAATU
They are lying. They have been wanted by the interstellar police for many of your years.
GORT walks toward PROTUBE and PRUTEX. They back up rather quickly, until Oscar trips both of them with his leg and they fall to the ground with a thud.

OSCAR
Seems these two are rather clumsy after they’ve had a few.

Goldman holds up a bottle of JACK DANIELS and takes a pretty good gulp himself. Teddy sees something in the real Oscar Goldman he only saw in his dreams.

TEDDY
Oscar, Oscar, Oscar. You do have a heart.

RENNIE/KLAATU
As I said, I am leaving soon. You must protect this planet from people like these two, for there will be more coming and I cannot keep traveling back here. There are other more profitable areas in the universe for my attention to be focused upon. By the way, Teddy, I’ll need that paper weight with the diamonds. It is crucial to my planet. That snow globe, as your people call it, can change the atmosphere on our world. The orbs are of no value to us.

TEDDY
Well, I don’t see that as a problem, Klaatu, but Jill is the key to the paperweight.

Teddy gets up and approaches RENNIE/KLAATU.

RENNIE/KLAATU
Jill?

TEDDY
Which brings up a point… Please, oh, please, before you go, I know someone who would just love to meet you. Have you a little time more to spend here?

GORT grows anxious and starts to move toward Teddy.

RENNIE/KLAATU
Gort! Klaatu barada nikto!
Teddy is jumping up and down.

TEDDY
Oh, God, that is so cool! Say it again, say it again!

RENNIE/KLAATU
I cannot speak those words too many times without there being... consequences.

Teddy has no idea what that means, but keeps smiling at RENNIE/KLAATU. Oscar has tied up PRUTEX and PROTUBE.

OSCAR
You think you could ever see your way to forgive me?

TEDDY
Forgive? Maybe. Forget? Never. But... remember what he just said. They’ll be more coming our way... we have to stick together, I guess.

OSCAR
Sorry about all the bullshit.

TEDDY
I am too. I’m a good janitor.

OSCAR
Yeah, you are.

TEDDY
Where’s that cape you used on Jill and I before?

OSCAR
I can get it from them. Why?

TEDDY
I need you to take all of us over to Jill’s apartment right now, before my two friends leave.

RENNIE/KLAATU
That won’t be necessary. That cape is mine. They decided to steal it a few years ago. We don’t need it. Take my arm.

TEDDY
Oh, a space ride?
Teddy grabs RENNIE/KLAATU and off they go.

CUT TO:

INT. JILL’S BEDROOM—CONTINUOUS

Jill gets up from her bed when she sees Teddy. She runs to hug him.

JILL
Oh, Teddy? How? Who are you? Teddy, who is this?

RENNIE/KLAATU
Allow me to introduce myself. I am Klaatu as played by Michael Rennie.

JILL
Oh, my God! Teddy?

RENNIE/KLAATU
And this is my robot, Gort.

Jill faints. Teddy laughs and helps her over to the couch where she sits down. Jill comes to and looks at her three visitors.

JILL
How did this ever come to be?

TEDDY
You know, it’s a long dream. Better than a story. Much better than a nightmare.

RENNIE/KLAATU
Do you have faith, Jill?

JILL
It isn’t faith that builds good science, it’s curiosity. Sit down, there are several hundred thousand questions I’d like to ask you.

TEDDY
Spoken like a true film connoisseur.

RENNIE/KLAATU
I thought I’d heard those words before. But never uttered by a more beautiful woman.
JILL
Your eyes are just as beautiful up close as they are on screen.

TEDDY
Alright, alright, come on, let’s go. You said you and the robot had a train to catch?

JILL
Teddy? Be nice to our new friends.

RENNIE/KLAATU look around the bedroom.

RENNIE/KLAATU
Spacious. Rent?

JILL
(nodding her head)
No, I own. It’s a condo.

TEDDY
Oh, come on, you two.

RENNIE/KLAATU pulls out a single ruby the size of an apple.
Jill cannot believe her eyes. He gives it to Jill. GORT tries to smile, but, he’s a robot, so, he doesn’t.

JILL
Oh, my God! This ruby is huge.

TEDDY
Someone get me some ice water to douse this fire. Kids? Come on, Michael, you guys gotta go.

JILL
Do you really?

RENNIE/KLAATU and GORT sort of kick the carpets and look down, slightly embarrassed at their affection for Jill.

TEDDY
Are there any men in the universe that don’t give you jewels? I thought you said you had to go.

JILL
No, don’t leave. We can go out for burgers.....

TEDDY
You know, you’re stuck in a chair somewhere while your gal.....
JILL
Whatever. Stay you two... please?

Jill hands over the snow globe to RENNIE/KLAATU. He shakes it and watches the snow fall down upon the tiny village inside. He nudge GORT to get a robotic reaction. GORT sways a little.

TEDDY
Yeah, right, a paperweight is the key to the universe.

Upon looking at the paperweight a little closer, Teddy sees a miniscule orb, similar to the different orbs that he has been exposed to as of late. RENNIE/KLAATU gives Jill a small kiss on the cheek. He shakes Teddy’s hand. GORT makes a silly sound for a robot and pats Teddy’s backside with his hand.

RENNIE/KLAATU
Gort, barada, nikto.

TEDDY
Gort seems quiet for a robot.

RENNIE/KLAATU
The universe has room for all kinds of people, Teddy. Those of us who travel it do not sit and judge others. Ours is a race of beings without malice to no one.

TEDDY

Jill is still quite flabbergasted at her guests but is so happy to see Teddy that she becomes speechless.

RENNIE/KLAATU
I will say good bye and may all the dreams of Zarcon be at your fingertips.

TEDDY
Don’t take any wooden nickels.

RENNIE/KLAATU move a few steps away, then vanish into thin air. Teddy grabs Jill and begins kissing her.

CUT TO:
INT. DISCOVERY CENTER—NEXT MORNING

Teddy and Jill return together to the Discovery Center to find that most of the place is back in business and everyone is happy to see both of them. Wild stories have been running through the CENTER and the rumors fly about Teddy’s friends. Oscar personally welcomes Teddy back with a promotion.

OSCAR
From now on, Ted, you will be our number one janitor. No trash pick ups past the first floor. You’ll be able to see Jill everyday.

TEDDY
I think I can manage that on my own, Oscar. I only gave Jill a ride in this morning so I could give you my resignation effective immediately.

OSCAR
Why?

TEDDY
I’m going to study the universe full time. With the help our friends gave me in that arena, I’ll be a full time student with a wife.

Jill has been standing next to Ted

JILL
You will? You mean?

TEDDY
Yep. If you’ll have me.

JILL
Name the date and place.

TEDDY
Well, we’ll start with this time and universe.

The surrounding people who have gathered APPLAUD.

JILL
(whispering to Teddy)
You know, I never found out what Klaatu, barada nikto means.
TEDDY
I did. It was an extensive, scientific explanation. Go ahead, say the words.

JILL
Nikto, barada, nikto, barada.

Jill waits for some kind of reaction to the saying.

TEDDY
(singing)
“This may be the start of something big....”

Teddy’s pants begin to swell around his crotch.

JILL
Oh, Teddy....

TEDDY
(singing another song)
“I’ve got my mojo working, and it does work on you!”

FADE OUT

THE END

COPYRIGHT 2012 by Curtis J Lofgren