

LANDING ON WATER

By

This Better Be Good

Sci-Fi

Truck Stop, Hawk Feather, Anthropologist

(c) 2020

FADE IN:

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

A blue sedan exits off the main road and pulls into a truck stop.

SUPER: BLACK ROCK DESERT

EXT. TRUCK STOP

DEENA, 30, long flowing hair, tye-dye shirt, gets out and stretches in the open air.

A black jeep is also parked.

INT. JEEP - PARKED

BARRETT, 45, worn jeans, flannel shirt, in need of a shave, sits behind the wheel. He watches Deena enter the rest facility. He touches his shirt pocket. A beat later she comes out.

BARRETT EXITS HIS JEEP

and cuts her off.

BARRETT

Deena? I'm Barrett. You need to come with me.

DEENA

Slow down there, partner. I may look like a hippie but I'll cry rape for miles.

He reaches into his shirt pocket and takes out a dream catcher made of hawk feathers. Surprise and recognition hit Deena in the face.

BARRETT

Your parents gave it me. They knew I would need something to convince you to come with me. Something from all those summers spent in Arizona.

DEENA

Where did you?--

BARRETT
It's starting here now. We can't
waste any more time.

INT. BARRETT'S JEEP - MOVING

He drives. She rides shotgun, knees pulled up.

BARRETT
You're an anthropologist?

DEENA
Yes, I was going to the Burning Man
festival.

BARRETT
You still are. Glad you haven't
tried to claw my eyes out and jump
from the vehicle or anything stupid
like that.

DEENA
Yeah, well, I still might.

BARRETT
I'm taking you back to Earth. Your
skills aren't exceptional, but
you'll still be needed to study
behavior.

DEENA
(laughs)
You're telling me we're not on
Earth?

BARRETT
After the swine and bird flu wiped
out nearly all of the population,
it became necessary to colonize the
moon. Now the spores have left
Earth and made their way here. So
people are being brought back.

DEENA
The moon. Well, how it is I've
traveled to other parts of the
world for my work. South Asia,
Europe.

BARRETT
Yes, replicas on other moons.

DEENA
Other moons?

BARRETT
Several have been acquired.

EXT. BURNING MAN - FESTIVAL GROUNDS

A large crowd of trailers and tents, floats, bicyclists and a rag tag group of wanderers. People in face paint and costumes, dancing to techno music.

INT. BARRETT'S JEEP - PARKED

BARRETT
Stay in the car until it's safe.

POV

From over the mountain top comes a black shadow racing toward the congregation.

DEENA
What is that?

BARRETT
Mutant sand people.

DEENA
Are you kidding?

BARRETT
Afraid not.

EXT. FESTIVAL GROUNDS

The sand people are armed with lasers and blast at the crowd.

A fifty-foot long metallic being sits up out of the sand. It stands to its full height. The Robo-Man shoots its own lasers at the mutants, smoking them all.

INT. BARRETT'S JEEP

BARRETT

That's our way home. Come on.

He grabs Deena and pulls her out.

EXT. FESTIVAL GROUNDS

The Robot stands still as a door opens on the side of its leg. They crawl in and up a ladder.

INT. ROCKET - SAFETY POD

DEENA

What is this? Where are we?

BARRETT

It's a rocket. And we're basically in its stomach. This pod will eject once we land.

DEENA

But--

BARRETT

Buckle in.

THE ROBO-MAN

takes off. It soars up into the sky and breaks free of the atmosphere.

INT. SAFETY POD

The force of the liftoff and the upward momentum forces them both back into their seats. Barrett turns on a screen which shows them leaving the moon.

BARRETT

Now do you believe me?

EXT. SPACE

Robo-Man breaks through the earth's atmosphere in a diving motion.

INSIDE

the pressurized safety pod retains equilibrium so the passengers always face right side up.

EXT. EARTH

Robo-Man breaks through the clouds and dives into the deep water of an

OCEAN

The stomach compartment opens and releases the safety pod which shoots up to the

SURFACE

The metal on the top half retracts leaving a pane of glass as protection. Floating, surrounded by ocean in all directions.

DEENA

So where are we now?

BARRETT

(looks at coordinates)

Sargasso Sea. North Atlantic Ocean.
Perfect.

DEENA

You call this perfect?

BARRETT

NASA fleet will be coming to take
us on land.

Her phone rings. The screen says "Dad."

DEENA

Hello?

DAD (O.S.)

Deena. Thank God you made it.

FADE OUT.