

MOON X

By

John P. Warren

Copyright © 2019 by John Paul Warren

E-mail: warrenjpaul@gmail.com
Telephone: +353 899688953

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - ORBIT OF THE MOON

A small space station called "APOLLO HORIZON" orbits the barren Moon set against the seemingly tranquil Earth.

INT. APOLLO HORIZON - CONTROL CENTER

Computers are on. Large LCD monitors flicker observing the Moon.

LT. WORTHINGTON, a young man, is working at his station.

ANNEKA SANCHEZ, a woman in her 30's, station's doctor, is watering the plant.

LT. WORTHINGTON

Two months and nothing new about the Moon's surface. I have to say I had my obvious doubts about this mission in the first place.

No reaction from Anneka, now she is too consumed by the process of transplanting the shoot of the plant into another pot.

Lt. Worthington glances at Anneka to ensure she is listening. His inuring gaze lingers a little longer on her slightly rounded belly.

LT. WORTHINGTON (cont'd)

Only a complete idiot would finance this expedition.

COMMANDER RICK SANCHEZ, a middle-aged man, enters the room without a single noise. He overheard Worthington.

LT. WORTHINGTON (cont'd)

Commander Sanchez, the computer logs show that a small probe was launched two nights' ago.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ

(awkwardly)

Oh, that was me -- just fragments of rocks floating through space. I wouldn't worry too much about this mission, Lieutenant, think of how good it will look on your resume.

(MORE)

COMMANDER SANCHEZ (cont'd)

(Anneka)

Well, it is our honeymoon on the Moon if so to speak.

ANNEKA

Like you promised me.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ

Anneka, I'm just kidding. You know I have something more romantic planned for us when we get back home.

ANNEKA

I know. That's one of the reasons as to why I married you. You are easy to predict. I always know where I stand that way.

Rick and Anneka share a loving smile and she kisses him on the lips. He places his hand on her stomach.

EXT. MOON

ZOOM in on the rocky surface.

EXT. MOON'S SURFACE

The ROCKS begin to change into GRASS.

Then a PATHS and Roads begin to emerge from the Moon's rocky surface.

INT. APOLLO HORIZON

Lt. Worthington sighs in disbelief and gives Rick a look that screams "Can't you see it already?".

Before Anneka replies -

COMMANDER SANCHEZ

Rick's body begins to FLICKER but his appearance doesn't change. Anneka notices this weird effect.

ANNEKA

(concerned)

Rick?

This version of Sanchez (PARALLEL SANCHEZ) is very confused.

PARALLEL SANCHEZ
(astonished)
No way!

LT. Worthington notices strange readings on the sensors.

LT. WORTHINGTON
Did you just see that too?

ANNEKA
Yes.

No reaction follows. Lt. Worthington glances back at Anneka, she doesn't look at the screen.

LT. WORTHINGTON
I mean, here.

He points at the flickering spot on the Moon surface.

Anneka takes her eyes off Rick and peers at the view screen.

LT. WORTHINGTON (cont'd)
There is something really strange
going on in the near side of the
Moon's surface.

ANNEKA
Magnify the image!

VIEW SCREEN

The massive LCD screen displays the Earth and the Moon followed by a CLOSE UP of the near side of the Moon.

The FLICKERING effect is also visible there. A TINY DWELLING is EMERGING literally piece by piece out of the rock on the surface.

Seconds later, it begins to MULTIPLY and now a SMALL CITY is visible.

ANNEKA (cont'd)
My God? Where did that come from?

Parallel Sanchez stumbles closer to Anneka and places his right hand on her stomach. A mole is seen under his sleeve.

PARALLEL SANCHEZ
My baby is still here.

PARALLEL SANCHEZ

The FLICKERING effect occurs again and Commander Sanchez is fully restored back to his former self. Anneka looks at Rick in astonishment.

ANNEKA

Rick? So you know?

He becomes dizzy.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ

Anneka, I don't feel so good.

ANNEKA

Lieutenant Worthington, help me bring him to the sickbay.

LT. WORTHINGTON

Of course, Doctor Sanchez.

As he moves over to help Anneka and Commander Sanchez, he glances at the view screen:

The city that was on the Moon has vanished.

LT. WORTHINGTON (cont'd)

Look, Doctor Sanchez, that city is no longer there!

ANNEKA

Check the oxygen level. We are having a collective hallucination.

Lt. Worthington assists Anneka with Commander Sanchez.

INT. APOLLO HORIZON - SICKBAY

Commander Sanchez is lying on a bed, asleep. He begins to open his eyes. Anneka approaches him.

ANNEKA

Can you describe what happened to you?

COMMANDER SANCHEZ

One moment I was on the bridge doing my job when I felt I was being pulled away. Apparently your husband developed a new skill - teleportation. I always said to you, Anneka that I wanted to invent

(MORE)

COMMANDER SANCHEZ (cont'd)
 something profound only something
 else brought me to there.

ANNEKA
 Really, where? Where do you think
 you were teleported to?

Lt. Worthington ENTERS.

ANNEKA (cont'd)
 (to Lt. Worthington)
 What's with the oxygen, lieutenant?

LT. WORTHINGTON
 Within acceptable limits. And the
 lunar city wasn't a hallucination.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
 Lunar city? Come to think of it, I
 could see the Earth.
 (to Anneka)
 There. I was on the Moon. In the
 city.

LT. WORTHINGTON
 After looking back at the
 recordings, there is evidence that
 these buildings appear to be Earth-
 like as if they were indeed
 constructed by humans. The readings
 indicate that the city is coming
 from outside our universe one
 molecule at a time. And... it
 consists of antiparticles.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
 (mumbles to himself)
 Incredible.

ANNEKA
 (to Lt. Worthington)
 Are you sure there is no
 interference altering the
 recordings?

LT. WORTHINGTON
 Yes, I am.

Rick jumps off the bed in excitement.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
 This proves the theory of parallel
 realities. My theory!
 (MORE)

COMMANDER SANCHEZ (cont'd)
(to Anneka)
I was right.

Anneka turns her back on Rick in annoyance and starts drawing her blood from a vein into a syringe.

LT. WORTHINGTON
Let's hope you are not. By your theory, if this expansion continues mirror Universes each containing their galaxies, star systems right down to their planets will annihilate at a unit of time equivalent to a few seconds. Two worlds will disappear.

Anneka looks skeptical about all this. She's doing tests on her blood while men are arguing.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
(to Lt. Worthington)
What did I tell you? Never allow other people's myths about space to fret you out.

LT. WORTHINGTON
Fretting is what we should be all doing right now.

Anneka makes a suspecting expression.

ANNEKA
What kind of a job you were doing on the bridge, commander?

Fear of being exposed crosses Rick's face.

There is a message tone that interrupts them.

LT. WORTHINGTON
Commander, it's Houston!

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
(with a touch of sarcasm)
I'll take it in my study. It's gonna be one of those days.

ANNEKA
We are not done yet.

She points at an empty syringe.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
I'm fine.

Anneka shoots him with a look.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ (cont'd)
Alright, do the tests then let me
take the call.

Anneka takes his blood.

Rick leaves the room. Lt. Worthington heads for the exit too, but Anneka steps in his way holding another syringe.

ANNEKA
You too, lieutenant.

INT. APOLLO HORIZON - CONTROL CENTER

Commander Sanchez comes back beside Anneka and Lt. Lieutenant Worthington.

ANNEKA
(to Commander Sanchez)
How do they wish us to proceed?

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
They want us to observe the
dwelling more when and if it
reappears again.

Rick looks excited about that order, others are concerned.

ANNEKA
I didn't think that the thought of
approaching death would be so
amusing to you.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
No death is approaching, honey.
It's safe to assume that this
transferring process probably began
down in that city. I have to go
there.

ANNEKA
To stop it?

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
(annoyed)
You don't understand. No need to
stop it - we just have to learn to
control it. If we can bring bricks
and concrete from another Universe
then why can't we take their
energy, resources? No death in
(MORE)

COMMANDER SANCHEZ (cont'd)
hunger and poverty on Earth. We
will always be remembered by the
coming generations. I don't want to
bring our future children into a
dying world.

ANNEKA
Well, it's a little late to decide
now.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
What do you mean?

Anneka places his right hand on her tummy. Rick realizes.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ

The FLICKER occurs once more. Anneka notices the change on
Rick's hand.

ANNEKA
Where is your mole?

Parallel Sanchez quickly assesses the situation.

PARALLEL SANCHEZ
It was always on my left hand.

ANNEKA
I know exactly where it was.

Parallel Sanchez takes his hand away from Anneka.

PARALLEL SANCHEZ
I have to go back to work on the
bridge.

ANNEKA
Forgot about the lunar city so
quickly?

Parallel Sanchez leaves the room in a hurry.

Anneka nods to confused Lt. Worthington.

INT. APOLLO HORIZON - BRIDGE

Parallel Sanchez is poking around in wires. He turns around
facing Anneka yelling.

ANNEKA
Stop! Lieutenant Worthington?

Lieutenant Worthington takes out his WEAPON and STUNS Parallel Sanchez. Parallel Sanchez starts falling down but lieutenant catches his body and notices something sticking out in Sanchez's pocket.

EXT. SPACE - THE MOON

The city is fully visible on the near side of the Moon. Apollo Horizon comes into view continuing its orbit.

INT. APOLLO HORIZON - SICKBAY

This time it's the Parallel Sanchez lying on the bed. Lt. Worthington is present while Anneka is perplexed by his readings.

ANNEKA

Take a look at his X-Ray chart. His organs are inverted.

LT. WORTHINGTON

It must be an alternate version of him. From a parallel reality where everything is in reverse order of our universe. He is your husband from a mirror universe. This is too bizarre, not what I signed up for.

ANNEKA

What would my husband tell you if he was here right now? He would say that he, and me, always had a liking for you because you showed potential. The kind that makes you special to be in this situation. I'm telling you and this goes from he also, we need you! You're the right guy for this job.

LT. WORTHINGTON

You're right. I always wanted to show my gratitude by having you proud of me for some reason. I won't let you down.

ANNEKA

Just have faith in yourself.

He nods in agreement and she moves over to a nearby table and picks up a HYPO-SPRAY.

LT. WORTHINGTON
Are you sure that's wise, Doctor?

She rolls up her sleeve and uses the hypo-spray. Seconds later, he begins to awaken.

PARALLEL SANCHEZ
(mumbling)
It must be a second chance.

ANNEKA
Who are you? Where is my husband?

PARALLEL SANCHEZ
I am better.

Anneka slaps him in the face.

PARALLEL SANCHEZ (cont'd)
Ouch. But it is true! He is down there killing your daughter. Not literally, but...

ANNEKA
(to Lt. Worthington)
Get the shuttle ready.

Lt. Worthington is in disbelief at what he heard.

LT. WORTHINGTON
You can't go, doctor, you are...

ANNEKA
C'mon, finish the sentence, lieutenant.

EXT. SPACE

A small SHUTTLE CRAFT leaves APOLLO HORIZON for the city on the near side of the Moon.

Anneka, seen from the shuttle's window, consumed with fear of the unknown before her. Lt. Worthington is piloting the craft and a restrained Parallel Sanchez is in the back.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOON CITY

It appears as if it was designed and built by humans. Seconds later, the shuttle lands on an empty public park. The distant Earth can be seen in the sky.

Anneka and Lt. Worthington who is escorting the Parallel Sanchez exit the shuttle. Anneka gazes around these strange surroundings for a moment.

ANNEKA

How long?

PARALLEL COMMANDER SANCHEZ

It's not far.

ANNEKA

What happened to everybody here?

PARALLEL SANCHEZ

This is a city from the future.
People who lived here didn't have
your husband's invention.

Anneka looks puzzled by these words. They head toward a nearby run-down house.

INT. RUN-DOWN HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

The creaky door opens allowing light inside this dusty room.

Rick's doing some manipulations with a LARGE POLYGONAL SHAPED CRYSTAL that is pulsating light. Anneka rushes to her husband.

ANNEKA

Rick, are you alright?

COMMANDER SANCHEZ

(re: Parallel Sanchez)

He's me, isn't he?

Lt. Worthington analyses the crystal with a FUTURISTIC PAD SENSOR.

LT. WORTHINGTON

(to Parallel Sanchez)

You need to shut it down.

ANNEKA

Where did you find that, Rick?

PARALLEL SANCHEZ

(to Lt. Worthington)

Who said I didn't.

Anneka and Lt. Worthington exchange suspecting looks.

Suddenly, a flash wave of WHITE/BLUISH LIGHT fills the room.

Everybody present is flung to the ground.

EXT. SPACE - THE MIRROR UNIVERSE

The alternate version of the Moon with a rocky surface where there should be the city and the demolished silhouettes of civilization and the resultant carnage is visible on the alternate mirror Earth where the appearance of the continents appears to be inverted -- a mirror reflection of our Earth.

EXT. SPACE - THE ALTERNATE MOON

A MASSIVE CRYSTALLINE ARRAY which is like an illuminated branch of a tree can be seen.

The city reappears quite quickly back to its original location on the alternate Moon.

INT. RUN-DOWN HOUSE

Anneka gets up. She is in pain.

PARALLEL SANCHEZ

The crystal brought us back to my universe.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ

(to Parallel Sanchez)

Unbelievable! What's wrong with my current version of the crystal?

PARALLEL SANCHEZ

It works.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ

How?

Anneka interrupts.

ANNEKA

Answer my question, Rick!

COMMANDER SANCHEZ

Okay, darling. I found it in space two nights ago. I launched a small probe to capture it and bring it aboard Apollo Horizon. It was beckoning me to have it.

ANNEKA

How we stop it?

COMMANDER SANCHEZ

Stop? It's the only salvation!

PARALLEL SANCHEZ

He is right. Both crystals wouldn't do any harm if two Universes were in balance. If a person exists in your world a mirror counterpart of this person should exist in the mirror one. Your daughter was not born in my world. She is the reason of the future collapse, no counterpart. We require the energy from both crystals to make up for this imbalance.

Anneka is crying. She looks over at her husband. She knows him well. He is considering this.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ

What choice do we have? We need to correct the imbalance.

ANNEKA

By killing our daughter?

PARALLEL SANCHEZ

There's no need. I said we can use the energy from...

ANNEKA

That's not what my husband's thinking.

Lt. Worthington who is becoming increasingly distressed at his two mentors arguing sneaks out of this run-down house.

Parallel Sanchez reaches for something in his pocket. It's empty. The realization of inevitability is written on his face.

He grabs commander's gun off him and points it at Anneka. She freezes.

PARALLEL SANCHEZ

I love you. Both.

In a second he shoots himself.

Rick realizes that now he doesn't have a mirror counterpart. It's his life or life of billions of people. Aneka silently waits for his decision.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
We have to destroy the crystal.

EXT. MOON CITY - THE CRYSTAL

Lt. Worthington goes over to the crystal. He pulls Commander Sanchez's version of it from his pocket.

LT. WORTHINGTON
(to himself)
Rick, Aneka, I owe you both so much, you are my mentor, Rick. I hate the way this man is driving a wedge between you both.

Lt. Worthington places his crystal over the second one.

LT. WORTHINGTON (cont'd)
I sure as hell hope I know what I'm doing!

It overloads and blows.

EXT. SPACE - OUR UNIVERSE - THE MOON

It is now fully restored. Apollo Horizon comes into view.

INT. APOLLO HORIZON - BRIDGE

It is empty. There is the FLICKERING EFFECT and three figures emerge out of thin air.

It is Commander Sanchez, Aneka and Lt. Worthington.

INT. APOLLO HORIZON - CONTROL CENTER - ONE DAY LATER

It's just Aneka and Commander Sanchez present. The mood is somber.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
Aneka, how many times do I have to apologize?

ANNEKA
Don't bother.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
Please, Anneka?

ANNEKA
You still don't get it! You don't care about your child! You were willing to have her never born!

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
Why do you think our daughter wasn't born in his world? He came from the future, he knew the crystal would be destroyed. You know him better than I do, so tell me would he want to bring his child into a dying world? I somehow neglected to tell you that the crystal I found came from the future -- it will be invented by me somehow and some day.

ANNEKA
(astonished)
What?

Anneka turns her back on Rick.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
You knew you were pregnant when you signed up for this expedition. You faked a medical report risking your baby's life. Otherwise, you wouldn't get on board.

Anneka knows he's right but doesn't acknowledge it.

ANNEKA
Okay, if the situation was all over again. Would you still sacrifice our baby?

Commander Sanchez tries to answer but can't. Anneka knows what the answer would be. She shakes her head in revulsion.

ANNEKA (cont'd)
I knew it.

She walks out of the sickbay.

COMMANDER SANCHEZ
(yelling at her as she is leaving)
Our marriage breaking up is the first step in beginning a new life
(MORE)

COMMANDER SANCHEZ (cont'd)
as a scientist for me. Some day I
will invent that crystal and I
won't send it back to this time in
the future. None of this will ever
happen!

Commander Sanchez notices something green in the trash can.
Commander Sanchez takes it out - it's a shoot of the plant
with a little flower on it.

EXT. SPACE

Apollo Horizon is continuing its orbit of the Moon, fully
restored back to its insipid former self.

FADE OUT.

THE END