

Safe and Effective

by

JtF writing as Roland Butter

Urban Legend
Headlights in the mirror +

For the

Halloween challenge

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FADE IN:

EXT. CAR - PRE-DAWN

A TAURUS SHO speeds along I-395. A BIG RIG behind it drifts between lanes. The straight desert road is Bible black.

INT. BIG RIG - PRE-DAWN

A TRUCKER 40's, rubs weary eyes and checks the clock: 5:30 AM. His speed increases as he reaches for his thermos. Glancing up, he sees the car ahead, slows and pulls in close behind it.

INT. CAR - PRE-DAWN

The Rig's headlights illuminate the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station lanyard hanging from the mirror. SUZANNE GEE 30's, smiles from her picture. Suzanne squints, raises her arm as the mirror's glare dazzles her.

INT. BIG RIG - PRE-DAWN

The Trucker sloshes out a capful of coffee, takes a sip then jolts at something he sees ahead.

INT. CAR (IN THE MIRROR) - DAWN

HEADLIGHTS Blinding

SUZANNE
Just pass me!

EXT. BIG RIG - DAWN

The Trucker SOUNDS his air horn and flashes his headlights.

EXT. CAR - DAWN

Suzanne slows while Big Rig gains, its engine ROARING, its headlights on HIGH. Almost upon her, Suzanne floors it.

INT. CAR - DAWN

SUZANNE
Crazy man!

She spots a small green sign - Exit 99 One mile.

EXT. CAR - DAWN

As her speed increases the Big Rig tailgates her. They both weave between lanes. The Taurus flips on its HAZARD lights. The Big Rig BLASTS a baleful horn note as -

It careens closer still - At the last possible moment the Taurus exits right to Inyokern Airport.

INT. CAR - DAWN

Suzanne settles as the Rig has not followed her. She slows down and stops in Airport parking. Exhaling a deep sigh, she snatches her lanyard and purse and gets out.

EXT/INT. INYOKERN AIRPORT - DAWN

Two CLEANERS go about their business, as the desert sun claws its first insistent fingers of light into the nooks and crannies. The airport is not yet awake. Suzanne walks towards a small Pharmacy whose security grille is pushed UP two feet from the floor.

EXT. PHARMACY - DAY

Suzanne calls out.

SUZANNE

Are you open yet?
I just need some Tylenol.

A kindly PHARMACIST, 40's is somewhere in the back.

PHARMACIST (O.S.)

Give me a second! You're early.

The Pharmacist makes his way to the front then slides up the CLATTERING grille. Seeing Suzanne, he's confused.

PHARMACIST

Oh. I was expecting a stock delivery.

SUZANNE

Could I get some Tylenol? I just had some mad truck try to run me off the road. This is a migraine prevention intervention.

PHARMACIST

Goodness! The truckers fall asleep on these desert roads. I was just putting the kettle on.

PHARMACIST(cont'd)

A sugary tea will ease your shock. Come and sit down in my office.

He points the way. Suzanne enters the small store.

INT. PHARMACY OFFICE - DAY

Suzanne sits. The Pharmacist passes her drink.

PHARMACIST

This tea will sort you out. I'll grab you a pack of Tylenol too.

SUZANNE

Thank you.

She holds the STEAMING brew in both hands like a touchstone. Then - there's a shout from the front.

DELIVERY (O.S.)

Bob! Gotya Warp Speed stuff here!

The Pharmacist goes off to take the delivery. Suzanne sips the tea then muses -

SUZANNE

(to herself)

Tired truckers eh?

It's lucky I'm still alive.

The Pharmacist returns holding a shoebox size flightcase and a pack of Tylenol. He passes her the pills, then sets about unclipping the flightcase. His progress hampered by internal seals and instructions. Suzanne is intrigued.

SUZANNE

Whatya got there? Moonshine!

PHARMACIST

No. It's a few vials of the Warp Speed covid-19 vaccine. I'm doing my bit to keep America safe.

He notices Suzanne's China Lake ID lanyard.

PHARMACIST

You had your shot?

SUZANNE

Not yet.

PHARMACIST

You got a Medicare card?

Suzanne fishes in her purse and proffers her Medicare Advantage Plan ID CARD. He takes it.

PHARMACIST

That's great. I can put the pills on it and give you a free shot at the same time.

SUZANNE

This really is service with a smile. Thank you.

The Pharmacist sets about loading up his first vaccination of the day. Suzanne finishes her tea and rolls up her sleeve. CLOSE ON the colorless liquid going into her arm.

PHARMACIST

There. All done. Sit tight while I finish opening up.

Suzanne looks content as she rolls down her sleeve.

INT. PHARMACY - A LITTLE LATER

The Pharmacist has restocked his shelves, cleared the debris from his counter and awaits his first customer.

PHARMACIST

How you doing in there Suzanne?

There's no answer. He goes to his office doorway.

INT. PHARMACY OFFICE - DAY

Suzanne LIES unconscious on the office floor. The Pharmacist checks her vital signs, she's alive but unresponsive. He snatches up the phone and dials 911.

SUZANNE'S DREAM SEQUENCE -

She's in her car being chased by the Big Rig. Its headlights briefly illuminate two small BLACK EYED KIDS hiding in her back seat.

As she turns her head to snatch a better look, velvet darkness overwhelms her.

END SUZANNE'S DREAM SEQUENCE -

EXT/INT. PHARMACY OFFICE - NIGHT

The Pharmacist is on the phone. He's angry.

PHARMACIST

You don't understand! I need to get an urgent message to the delivery Director.

PHARMACIST(cont'd)

You've sent me a faulty batch.
I've had TEN "droppers" today.
Something is very very wrong.

EXT/INT. RIDGECREST REGIONAL HOSPITAL (RECEPTION) - DAY

Two GOVERNMENT AGENTS 30's, arrive. They flash ID's.

AGENT ONE

We have full and immediate
authority to transfer the patient
Suzanne Gee to Walter Reed
National Military Medical Center.

EXT. RIDGECREST REGIONAL HOSPITAL - DAY

Suzanne on a GURNEY plus her associated medical machinery
is loaded into a private ambulance which then speeds away.

AGENT TWO

Do you think she'll survive this
paralysis?

AGENT ONE

Apheresis will filter her blood
but the microclots will be
everywhere.

EXT. INYOKERN AIRPORT - DAY

The ambulance CAREENS in, screeching to a halt alongside a
black unmarked SCRAMJET. Suzanne is transferred.

EXT. X-43 SCRAMJET - DAY

The afterburners snap ON and the jet ROARS away.

INT. SCRAMJET - DAY

The two Agents attend to Suzanne's associated medical
machinery as a ceiling mounted machine sweeps her body with
red pulsing BEAMS.

AGENT ONE

Hang in there Suzanne. We'll be
in Bethesda in around an hour.

The red beams stop and a computer BEEPS.

AGENT ONE

Computer - what's her status?

COMPUTER VOICE

Patient has Myocarditis, T-cell exhaustion, turbo cancers, Bell's palsy, lupis, POTS, plus many autoimmune conditions such as transverse myelitis, amyloidosis, chronic vertigo, Guillain-Barré syndrome, tinnitus and paralysis, decreasing platelets, a risk of mental derangement with body wide thromboses; Metastasized Cancers Lymphomas, Pancreatic, Lung and Skin inflammations.

AGENT TWO

Crikey!
Does America's doctor know?

AGENT ONE

Emergency Use Authorization Dr. F knows - but does he care?!

A small cabin INDICATOR lights - Mach 5.

AGENT ONE

I bet POTUS will kick him.

AGENT TWO

Do you think she'll make it?

AGENT ONE

She has to!

He pats Suzanne's PALLID hand.

AGENT TWO

We've tried our best. Who is she?

AGENT ONE

Bob Lazar's boss. Our brighter, better back engineering Queen of the dream team. Her security status is 12 points ABOVE POTUS.

AGENT TWO

Wow! That's Inter-stellar.

AGENT ONE

You know it!

After a beat the cabin INDICATOR lights - Mach 6

FADE TO BLACK.