

MARS ATTACKS!

Original screenplay by Jonathan Gems

Rewritten by Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski

Suggested by images on "Mars Attacks" Topps Trading Cards

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Producer: Larry Franco
Director: Tim Burton

FIFTH REVISED DRAFT

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MARS ATTACKS!

FADE IN:

1 EXT. FARMHOUSE (KENTUCKY) - DUSK 1

A farmhouse (with porch, garden and outbuildings) overlooks a two-lane road. Across the road is a wide empty field -- deep in shadow. All is quiet.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION: "4 MILES OUTSIDE LOCKJAW, KENTUCKY. TUESDAY, MAY 9 - 6:57 P.M."

The sound of a TRACTOR is heard approaching. An old tractor comes INTO VIEW, driven by an elderly HILLBILLY FARMER.

MR. LEE, a Filipino in his late 40s, comes out of a side door of the farmhouse. He is carrying garbage.

He goes down the path to the trash cans next to the mailbox. He waves to the Hillbilly, approaching on the tractor.

The Hillbilly comes to a stop. He frowns and wrinkles his nose.

HILLBILLY

Howdy, Mister Lee. What is this?
Filipino New Years?

MR. LEE

No. Why you say that?

HILLBILLY

'Cause you're cooking up a feast.
You can smell it all the way from
the interstate. What is it -- a
barbecue?

Mr. Lee sniffs. He can smell it too.

MR. LEE

Oh yes.
(mystified)
But it's not coming from here...

The THUNDEROUS ROAR of a thousand head of STAMPEDING CATTLE becomes audible in the distance.

HILLBILLY

What's that noise?

The RUMBLING ROAR GETS CLOSER. It's coming from behind the house. The sound becomes DEAFENING. The ground shakes.

(CONTINUED)

1

CONTINUED:

1

MRS. LEE, her two children and dog run out of the house. The children are screaming. They join Mr. Lee at the tractor.

HILLBILLY

Oh my Lord!

A herd of burning cows appear from behind the house and stampede across the garden -- like a river of flame. Mrs. Lee pulls her children up on to the tractor.

The cattle gallop past them and away across the wide field -- into the night.

Then there's a strange THROBBING NOISE.

In the distance, rising through the sky, is a flying saucer! The flying saucer shoots straight up at hyper-speed. For a moment it is a silver dot in the night sky... then it is gone.

START OPENING CREDITS.

2

EXT. PLANET EARTH AND SPACE

2

The curve of the Earth BISECTS the SCREEN. We can see part of the continental United States -- much of it obscured by cloud-cover. A tiny silver dot appears through the stratosphere. The silver dot travels across inter-planetary space. Then the silver dot shoots out a flare.

3

EXT. SURFACE OF MARS

3

A crater opens up and a flying saucer rises out of it. Further off, another crater opens and a second flying saucer emerges. Then, more craters open and more saucers rise out of them. A hundred flying saucers ascend through the thin Martian atmosphere -- and enter the blackness of space.

SERIES OF SHOTS OF MARTIAN ARMADA

as it journeys through space. The planet Earth comes INTO VIEW.

END OPENING CREDITS.

4

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

4

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION: "WASHINGTON, D.C. - MAY 10 - 11.25 A.M."

5

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

5

JAMES DALE -- the President of the United States, examines b&w photographs of the Martian fleet.

Watching him are PROFESSOR DONALD KESSLER -- a know-it-all British scientist. GENERAL DECKER, a four-star military hawk. GENERAL CASEY, a humanistic African-American general and JERRY ROSS -- a younger, eager and faintly sleazy press secretary.

PRESIDENT

What's your take on this, Jerry?

JERRY

The people are gonna love it! Our only decision is whether to ambush the six o'clock news, or hold out for primetime.

DECKER

Screw the press. This situation is on a need-to-know. We gotta keep this top secret and go immediately to Defcon Four.

JERRY

Mister President -- we can't sit on this!

PRESIDENT

General Casey, what's your opinion?

CASEY

Well, sir, do we know they're hostile?

DECKER

They've got thousands of warships circling the planet!

CASEY

Do we know they're warships?

PRESIDENT

Professor, what do we know about them?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KESSLER

We know they're extremely advanced technologically -- which suggests, very strongly, that they're peaceful. An advanced civilization is, by definition, not barbaric. This is a great day Mister President. I, and all my colleagues, are extremely excited.

PRESIDENT

Good. Extra-terrestrial life! You're right, Jerry, the people are gonna love it. This is a momentous occasion. It's a day we've all dreamed of since the caveman first stared up into the night sky and wondered 'Am I alone?'

DECKER

Mister President...

PRESIDENT

(ignores General Decker)

What do you say we go all -- media? ... and I'll wear my blue Cerruti suit. And, Jerry, I'll need a good speech. Statesman-like. Historical -- but warm, neighborly. Abraham Lincoln meets Leave It To Beaver -- you know the kind of thing.

JERRY

Yessir.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - STATEROOM - DAY

Looking critically at the room is FIRST LADY, MARSHA DALE. She is accompanied by a MALE DECORATOR and female assistant and trailed by her sullen, alienated, pretty 17-year-old daughter, TAFFY.

Swatches of different furnishing fabrics have been thrown over the furniture.

DECORATOR

I thought perhaps the watered silk?

FIRST LADY

Hmm, not bad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DECORATOR

And this week it's on sale.

FIRST LADY

I hardly think I need worry about that. My husband is the leader of the Free World. No, it's not right -- but it might be a way to salvage the Roosevelt Room. Taffy, what do you think?

TAFFY

Why don't you leave the Roosevelt Room the way the Roosevelt's wanted it?

FIRST LADY

Because Eleanor Roosevelt was too fond of chintz -- that's why.

TAFFY

(exasperated)

Mother -- this is not your house!

FIRST LADY

Taffy, if you're going to be a pest, I'm just going to have to ignore you!

She turns her back on Taffy.

7

EXT. LAS VEGAS - DAY

7

Las Vegas. We can see the Luxor, the Excalibur, the MGM Grand... and Caesar's Palace.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION: "LAS VEGAS, NEVADA - TUESDAY, MAY 10 - 4:30 P.M.

8

INT. CAESAR'S PALACE HOTEL AND CASINO (LAS VEGAS) - DAY 8

A camera flashes. BYRON WILLIAMS, 55, is a big, gentlemanly African-American -- and the ex-heavyweight boxing champion of the world. He is dressed as a gladiator and works as the official greeter at Caesar's Palace Hotel. He is having his picture taken with three elderly NUNS. The Nuns are very excited.

NUN #1

Thank you, thank you!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NUN #2

I saw you fight Sonny Liston in '69!

BYRON

(chuckles)

Really? Were you a nun back then?

NUN #2

Oh yes! We've always been fight fans -- haven't we, sisters?

NUNS #1 and #3

Oh yes!

P.A. LOUDSPEAKER (V.O.)

Byron Williams, telephone. Byron Williams.

BYRON

That's me. Would you excuse me, ladies?

He bows politely. The Nuns nod and smile.

INT. CAESAR'S PALACE CASINO - DAY

Byron walks through the busy casino. At the slots, an ELDERLY SLOTS LADY plays three machines, clutching a plastic bucket of nickels. ART LAND and his wife, BARBARA, walk INTO FRAME.

ART

Hey, Byron, how's it going?

BYRON

Good Art, thanks. Hey Barbara.

BARBARA

Hi.

Art is a hard-edged moneymen working on the biggest deal of his life. Barbara, his sexy, ex-model, trophy-wife is a recovering alcoholic who has recently embraced all things "New Age."

Byron goes to a blinking house phone. A CASINO MANAGER (Mr. Bava) is watching him suspiciously. Byron picks up the phone.

BYRON

Yeah? Oh, Louise, what's up?

A big room divided into many small cubicles in which telephone operators, wearing headsets, answer 411 calls. In one of the cubicles is LOUISE WILLIAMS, a warm, sympathetic African-American woman in her forties. She is upset. On her workstation is a framed photograph of her twin sons Cedric and Neville (16).

LOUISE

I'm sorry to call you at work, but I'm losing my mind. The boys haven't been back for two nights and I don't know where they are! The teacher says they weren't in school today -- what am I gonna do?

INTERCUT.

BYRON

Listen, sweetie, you're doing the best you can. They're at that age. But if I was around, this wouldn't happen. Let me come back. Let me come back, Louise. I've changed.

LOUISE

I don't know, Byron. A leopard don't change its spots.

BYRON

This one has.

LOUISE

(she wants to believe him)

I wish I could believe it.

The casino manager stares ferociously at Byron.

BYRON

Louise, the Casino manager's giving me the hairy eyeball. I better go. I'll call you later, okay? You still cool with me coming to Washington?

LOUISE

Yeah, sure -- course I am. Take care, honey. 'Bye.

She presses a button on her console, terminating the call, and sighs.

CLOSEUP PHOTOS

of Cedric and Neville.

11

EXT. ROOF OF DERELICT APARTMENT BUILDING (EAST WASHINGTON) - DAY

11

CEDRIC is aiming an old pistol. He pulls the trigger. BLAM! A tin can flies off the low parapet wall. There are two other cans next to it.

CEDRIC

And that, Neville, is how it's done. Now you try.

He gives the pistol to Neville. They're both dressed in "gangstah" fashions.

CEDRIC

Aim dead center, then move a touch down and to the left -- cause the gun don't shoot straight.

Cedric watches as Neville grips the gun with both hands.

CEDRIC

(approvingly)

You got it. But don't hold your breath. Breathe easy. And squeeze the trigger real gentle.

BLAM! Neville FIRES. The next can flies off the wall.

CEDRIC

(delighted)

Yay! Good shooting bro!

They low-five.

12

INT. CAESAR'S PALACE BAR - NIGHT

12

Sitting at a booth are Art and Barbara. He drinks a Scotch.

BARBARA

Do you have to drink in front of me?

ART

You're a friggin' adult. Just cope.

BARBARA

It doesn't help me that all we ever do is sit around bars.

(CONTINUED)

ART

Hey, it's work, baby, okay? I'm studying the lighting, the decor, the traffic flow. Since when did you get to be such a bitch all the time? You didn't used to be. When you were dancing at my club -- remember? You were so sweet back then. Sweet Barbie Bordeaux, the best bump-and-grinder in Vegas.

BARBARA

That's when you were still a stand-up guy. If I'd known you were gonna turn into this... crook, I never would have married you.

ART

I'm not a crook. I'm ambitious -- is that a crime? Is that a crime to be ambitious? Jesus! And if you think you can make money without being crooked in this town, you don't know shit about business. And I'm doing it for us. And now we're really starting to make it. With this new hotel, we're gonna make it big. No more loansharks, no more bingo concessions. The Galaxy is gonna be the best hotel in Vegas. The best.

BARBARA

But don't you realize what you're doing? You're destroying the Earth! All this greed -- all this money system -- we're destroying everything!

ART

Don't give me your New Age crap. I'm sick of hearing about it.
(to barkeep)
Hey, gimme another drink.

A beautiful shot of Manhattan.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION: "NEW YORK CITY - TUESDAY, MAY 10 - 7:50 P.M."

14

INT. MTV STUDIOS AND CONTROL BOOTH - SAME TIME

14

On a TV screen a ROCK VIDEO SCREAMS. We PULL BACK -- revealing a row of identical TVs.

In a control booth, busy technicians prepare for a live show. A large sign says: "MTV UNPLUGGED." An anxious MTV CORPORATE GUY comes INTO FRAME, his CELLULAR PHONE RINGING. He flips it open.

CORPORATE GUY

Yeah? Make it quick -- we go out live in eight minutes. What?? The actual President? What do you mean, cutting in? He can't cut in...

Across the studio is the MTV newsdesk. Working at a desk-top computer is MTV reporter, NATHALIE WEST, 26. She is cute, sexy and hip. Her chihuahua dog -- Poppy -- sits on her desk. Nathalie glances over at the Corporate Guy and realizes something big is happening. She picks up the phone.

15

INT. CNN STUDIOS (NEW YORK) - SAME TIME

15

CNN -- a well-oiled, quietly humming news operation. Attractive, conceited CNN reporter JASON STONE, 32, is admiring himself up on a monitor.

JASON (V.O.)

(on TV)

'... sources at the U.N. say the economic summit went well...'

JASON

Hair's good. I like the hair.

His PHONE RINGS. He answers it, and Nathalie's voice shouts.

NATHALIE

(on phone)

Jason, it's me!

JASON

Are you wearing a bra?

NATHALIE

Shut up a second! This is big. President Dale is cutting in on 'Unplugged'!

(CONTINUED)

15

CONTINUED:

JASON

(scoffing)

That's absurd. Why would he stoop
to being on MTV?

NATHALIE

He's interrupting everybody!
They're making an emergency
announcement!

Jason's feelings are hurt.

JASON

Jesus -- and you heard before us?

Suddenly a door behind Jason opens. A CNN BOSS runs in.

CNN BOSS

Everyone! Get to a monitor! The
White House is going out live!

CUT TO:

TV

is full of static. Suddenly the presidential seal comes
on. President Dale appears. He is trying to look
relaxed: in an armchair, wearing his blue suit, in front
of a roaring fire.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

(on TV)

Good evening, my fellow Americans.
I apologize for interrupting your
regular programs, but I have a
very important announcement to
make...

ANGLE ON JASON

and other CNN reporters crowding round a TV.

16

INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY (SAME TIME)

16

President Dale addresses a TV camera. Watching him are
the First Lady, Jerry, Professor Kessler, Generals Decker
and Casey, Mitch (the Secret Serviceman) and other White
House staff.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT

My friends, there are times when the actors on the world's stage do not know that they are in a drama destined to alter the very foundations of our modern civilization...

17 INT. CNN - SAME TIME

17

Jason and other CNN Reporters shout out their theories.

JASON

He freed the hostages!

CNN REPORTER #1

He's not running for re-election!

CNN REPORTER #2

They've balanced the budget!

18 INT. TAFFY'S ROOM (WHITE HOUSE) - DAY (SAME TIME)

18

Taffy has papered the walls with posters of famous people who have committed suicide, or died tragically. Her favorite is Kurt Cobain. Taffy is sitting on her canopy bed, holding a teddy bear, eating Cheetos.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

(on TV)

How many of us know with absolute certainty that history is in the making? How many know the day? How many know the hour?

TAFFY

Get to the point!

19 EXT. PERKINSVILLE (KANSAS) - DONUT SHOP - DAY

19

This is a small, white-trash town. The center of town is an intersection containing a gas station on one side and a mini-mall on the other. In the mini-mall is a donut shop.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION: "PERKINSVILLE, KANSAS - WEDNESDAY,
MAY 10 - 5:32 P.M."

INT. DONUT SHOP - DAY

The donut shop is empty except for a ragged, dribbling, bearded HOMELESS MAN who's nursing a cold cup of coffee and reading an old newspaper. Behind the counter, a depressed HISPANIC WOMAN wiping the counter very slowly. At the back, near the sink -- surrounded by metal trays of raw donuts -- a man in his early 20s is watching an ancient b&w TV. This is RICHIE NORRIS. He is wearing a Kurt Cobain T-shirt, smoking a joint and watching President Dale on TV.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

(on TV)

Today an extraordinary discovery was made by the Hubble Space Telescope. A much-criticized program which, I might add, has been solidly supported by this administration.

RICHIE

(stoned)

Go for it, dude!

EXT. ALLEY (WASHINGTON) - DAY

A banner is stretched across the alley which states: "This area is under police surveillance." There is also a sign, which looks like a no-parking sign, but which simply has the word: "DRUGS" -- with a diagonal line through it. IN one corner of the alley, three young African-Americans are doing a drug deal. CEDRIC and NEVILLE are sitting by some dumpsters, smoking cigarettes and listening to a GHETTO BLASTER. The PRESIDENT'S VOICE comes out of every station they try.

CEDRIC

He's taken over!

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

(on radio)

The data from the Hubble Telescope was decoded then analyzed by the most powerful computers at M.I.T. The verifications are complete. The images are undeniable. We are entering the dawn of a new era. The frame enlargements provide an astonishing sight.

22 INT. CAESAR'S PALACE - SPORTS HALL - DAY

22

People sit in rows looking up at the large TV screens -- which usually show horse racing but now all show the face of President Dale. The Casino Manager watches, standing by a poster announcing: "TOM JONES - LIVE AT CAESAR'S PALACE" -- with a photo of Tom Jones and the play-dates: "May 11-20." Cindy, the waitress, stands with a tray of drinks, watching the big screens. Next to her is Byron.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

(on TV)

A large fleet of vehicles -- which can best be described as flying saucers. These flying saucers have emerged from the planet Mars and, at their current course and speed, will be entering Earth's orbit in approximately sixteen hours.

Everyone's jaw drops.

CINDY

Holy shit!

23 INT. CNN STUDIOS - DAY

23

The newsroom is chaos. Everybody runs around, crazed. Jason barks orders.

JASON

See if we can get patched into NASA! You, get me some man-in-the street reactions! And somebody track down Carl Sagan!

24 INT. MTV STUDIOS - SAME TIME

24

More chaos. Nathalie screams into the phone.

NATHALIE

We have to completely reorder the show! I want the Martians to come right after the Michael Jackson thing!

25 INT. CAESAR'S PALACE CASINO - DAY

25

Every single gambler is glued to a TV. Forgotten at the craps table is an obnoxious RUDE GAMBLER with a toupee. He holds dice in his hand.

RUDE GAMBLER

Hey! Am I the only one shooting craps?!

26 INT. LANDS' VEGAS HOME - DUSK

26

The beautiful but sad Barbara watches TV in her lavish modern house, with its "New Age" decor -- candles, etc.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

(on TV)

We don't know what they want --
or if they intend to contact us.
But we sincerely hope we will have
the opportunity to meet with them...

Her eyes are shining. She is breathless with excitement.

BARBARA

Martians! This is great! Please
come to Earth. Please! We need
you!

27 EXT. GALAXY HOTEL AND CONSTRUCTION SITE (LAS VEGAS) - DAY 27

On the perimeter fence is an advertising board -- showing an artist's rendition of the completed hotel -- and the words: "Coming soon! THE GALAXY HOTEL AND CASINO. Another LandMark Hotel." Beyond it is the real hotel -- partially built -- the only completed section being its tower, crowned by a saucer-shaped restaurant.

28 INT. ART LAND'S VEGAS OFFICE - DAY

28

Art is watching TV in his unfinished office. On a table is a scale model of the hotel. A sign says: "Art Land's GALAXY HOTEL."

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

(on TV)

I feel this is the perfect summation
to the Twentieth Century... a time
that has seen the dropping of
borders and the extending of
friendship in all directions.

ART

(on the phone)

We're stalled until the new
finance comes through... Soon.
Don't worry, I got people coming
in next week. I got investors
from the Teamster's Union and
Switzerland and Texas and Saudi
Arabia -- everybody wants to be
a part of this. So, how's my
credit?

29 INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

29

The President addresses the cameras.

PRESIDENT

Communism has fallen, and now there
is no East or West -- just us.
We have become one planet. And
soon we will become one solar
system.

30 INT. WHITE HOUSE - TAFFY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

30

Taffy watches TV...

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

(on TV)

It is profoundly moving to know
that there is intelligent life
out there.

TAFFY

Glad they got it somewhere.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

(on TV)

Our lives and our world will never
feel quite the same again.

(pause)

Good night and God bless you all.

The Presidential Seal appears on the TV.

31 INT. CAESAR'S PALACE (VEGAS) - ON BYRON AND CINDY -
NIGHT

31

The casino is strangely quiet. Nobody speaks.

32 EXT. STREET CORNER AND NEWSSTAND (MANHATTAN) - DAWN

32

Early dawn. A closed-up newsstand.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION: "NEW YORK - THURSDAY, MAY 11 -
5:26 A.M."

A truck goes by. A pile of tied-together newspapers
lands with a thump on the sidewalk. It's The New York
Times. The headline, accompanying one of the pictures of
the Martian fleet, is: "EXISTENCE OF INTERPLANETARY LIFE
CONFIRMED." ROAR of a second TRUCK. Whap! A second
pile of newspapers lands on the sidewalk. This time it's
The Post -- with the same picture on its front page --
and the headline: "MARTIANS!!!!!"

Jason and Nathalie are having breakfast and devouring the papers. Jason reads the New York Times -- Nathalie reads The Post.

JASON

This is intense!

The PHONE RINGS. POPPY BARKS.

JASON

Hey, Poppy, shut up! Shut up!

(grabs the phone)

Jason Stone.

(beat)

Uhhuh. Uhhuh.

(turns; disappointed)

It's for you.

NATHALIE

(grabs phone)

Yeah? Yeah sure. I can be at the studio at eleven. Okay, 'bye.

She hangs up and resumes reading her paper. Jason looks at her impatiently.

JASON

Yes...??

NATHALIE

They want me to go interview that professor guy from the White House.

JASON

(surprised)

Kessler? Donald Kessler?

NATHALIE

Yeah, I think that was his name. You know, the scientist.

JASON

This is crazy. CNN should be getting him!

NATHALIE

I can't help it if your people are too slow.

(coos at the dog)

Isn't that right, Poppy?

Poppy seems to smile. Jason sulks.

34

EXT. TRAILER PARK (PERKINSVILLE) - MORNING

34

A small trailer park off a dirt road. Outside a battered trailer, surrounded by a yard filled with junk -- including a dusty red pickup -- is a big old refrigerator.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION: "PERKINSVILLE - THURSDAY, MAY 11 - 9:37 A.M."

The trailer door opens. Richie Norris comes out, opens the fridge, takes out a box of donuts and goes back into the trailer.

35

INT. TRAILER - CLOSE ON HANDS - MORNING

35

Assembling the component parts of a rifle at high speed.

BILLY-GLENN (O.S.)

Finished!

NEW ANGLE

BILLY-GLENN NORRIS, 28, (a meathead) is blindfolded and shirtless. His father, GLENN NORRIS, 52, a farm laborer, is timing him with a stop watch.

GLENN

One minute fifty-seven seconds.

Billy-Glenn pulls off his blindfold.

BILLY-GLENN

Hot damn! Didn't I tell you under two minutes?

GLENN

(proud)

You did, son.

SUE-ANN NORRIS, the mother, 48, overweight, wearing a slip, her hair in curlers, is reading a story in the Weekly World News. It features photos of burning cattle and of the Lee family. Headline: "Kentucky Fried Cattle!" Caption: "Aliens did this to my cows!" GRANDMA NORRIS (88) sits in a corner. She is senile. Sue-Ann absently wipes the spittle from her chin.

On TV it's the news. Newscasters are full of the Martian story and showing the Hubble photographs. Billy-Glenn's army uniform is hanging on the wall. Richie stands at the door, holding the box of donuts.

(CONTINUED)

35

CONTINUED:

RICHIE

Hey, Mom, you want a donut?

SUE-ANN

How old are they?

RICHIE

Fresh baked Monday.

SUE-ANN

Richie, that's six days ago! Okay, gimme two.

Richie passes around the box. They all take one.

RICHIE

This Martian thing is awesome, huh?

GRANDMA

(feeble-minded)

Has anyone seen my Muffy?

They ignore her.

GLENN

Your brother's gonna volunteer.

BILLY-GLENN

(chewing)

Soon as I get back to the base.

RICHIE

Volunteer for what, Billy-Glenn?

BILLY-GLENN

Martian detail.

RICHIE

Cool.

GLENN

I tell ya, if any of them Martians come 'round here, I'm gonna kick their butts!

Glenn burps.

36

EXT. GALAXY HOTEL (LAS VEGAS) - DAY

36

ESTABLISHING SHOT of the Galaxy Hotel and the construction site.

37 INT. ART LAND'S OFFICE - DAY

37

Two builders are putting up a plaster-board wall.
Art is on the phone.

ART

Uhuh? Listen, pal, I was thinking Martians before there even were Martians! You see the brochure? The Galaxy is gonna be world class. 10,000 rooms, a five million dollar space ride and a whole building full of that virtual reality shit. This is gonna be the best hotel in Vegas!

38 EXT. GOLF COURSE (WASHINGTON) - DAY

38

The exclusive Georgetown Golf Course. Humorless General Decker and three fellow MILITARY BRASS are golfing.

MILITARY BRASS #1

So what'd the President say?

DECKER

(mocking)

He said 'Peace and Love.' Open the doors and let the invaders in.

MILITARY #2

George Bush would never let this happen.

DECKER

I'll be damned if I'll stand by and watch 'em piss away America.

Decker glances sideways at the goofy caddies. He gestures -- and the military guys step over. Decker lowers his voice.

DECKER

Look, without going through official channels, I want to put the reserves on alert. What do you say? Let's beef up the troops, just in case...

39 EXT. STREET AND GUNSHOP (WASHINGTON) - DAY

39

Cedric and Neville are looking in the window of a gun store.

(CONTINUED)

NEVILLE

Hey, Cedric, check that .38
police special -- that's cool!

CEDRIC

Naw, naw -- the Glock -- that's
way better. Semi-automatic --
fires 14 rounds. 38's only got
six.

Three HOOKERS stroll by, chatting.

HOOKER #1

So would you screw a man from
Mars?

HOOKER #2

Yeah -- but no kissin' on the lips.

A black limo pulls up. The girls run over, and the back
window glides down.

HOOKER #1

Hey, baby, you want a date?

JERRY (O.S.)

Sounds good.

The Hooker leans in and we see Jerry in the back of the
limo. He smiles.

JERRY

The stress at work is unbelievable.

In the blackjack pit, Cindy takes drink orders.

CINDY

We're running a special tonight:
the 'Martian.' It's creme de
menthe and Bombay gin in a souvenir
plastic flying saucer.

RUDE GAMBLER

Sounds terrible. Gimme a Scotch.
(to a dealer)

Hey! I saw that! You trying to
cheat me?!

Byron Williams walks by in his gladiator outfit. He
approaches the Casino Manager.

(CONTINUED)

40

CONTINUED:

BYRON

Mr. Bava, could we speak in private?

CASINO MANAGER

No, I gotta watch the floor. Whatdya want, Byron?

Byron pauses uncomfortably.

BYRON

Well, you know, I'm supporting a family back east...

CASINO MANAGER

I thought you were divorced.

BYRON

Well, I am -- but I'm trying to take care of them.

(pause)

Anyway, times are kind of lean... and I was wondering if I could get a raise.

CASINO MANAGER

Absolutely not. Out of the question.

Byron is taken aback.

BYRON

But, Mr. Bava... I'm an asset to this hotel. People like me...

CASINO MANAGER

(unimpressed)

Look, Byron, don't push it. I can get Leon Spinks or Buster Douglas for the same money, okay? Maybe less.

(glances at his watch)

Now you better get moving. You're on in five minutes.

The Casino Manager walks away. Byron is crestfallen.

41

INT. MTV STUDIO - DIRECTING BOOTH - DAY

41

The DIRECTOR and a TECHNICIAN sit at the control desk, observing the floor of the studio -- where a makeup person is touching up Nathalie and Kessler -- who are seated in a small, jazzy set.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

DIRECTOR

(excited)
We're gonna get a helluva rating
with this show!

42 INT. MTV STUDIO - JAZZY SET - ON NATHALIE AND KESSLER - 42
DAY

Poppy lies in her lap.

KESSLER

So you see, Miss West, Wittgenstein
was right, it all depends on the
language you choose to employ. And
in certain circumstances, the
proposition that two and two equal
five is entirely legitimate.

Nathalie finds the intellectual Kessler extremely
attractive.

NATHALIE

Call me Nathalie.

Kessler finds her extremely attractive, too.

KESSLER

And you, uh, do please call me
Donald. I've always admired your
show...

NATHALIE

(deeply flattered)
R-really?! You like my work?

An ASSISTANT DIRECTOR signals them.

KESSLER

Yes -- very much!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Coming out of commercial -- five.
Four... three, two...

The makeup person hurries off. The Assistant Director
signals Nathalie. She spins perkily to camera.

NATHALIE

Welcome back. We're speaking with
Professor Donald Kessler, Chairman
of the American Academy of
Astronautics.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

42

CONTINUED:

NATHALIE (CONT'D)
 Professor, isn't it weird that we
 sent a space probe to Mars and
 didn't even find anyone?

KESSLER
 Not really, uh, Nathalie, because
 we didn't go into the canals.

43

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

43

The President, the First Lady, and Rusty the dog are
 watching TV. ON TV: Kessler is speaking.

KESSLER (V.O.)
 The Martian canals are actually
 canyons -- some of them over a
 hundred miles deep. Martian
 civilization has clearly
 developed under the surface of
 the planet.

44

INT. LOUISE WILLIAM'S APARTMENT - DAY

44

The apartment is cheap, but neat and clean. Louise is
 watching TV and drinking a cup of coffee. The door opens
 and Cedric and Neville shamle in -- and head for their
 room.

KESSLER (V.O.)
 (on TV)
 Their science and technology must
 be absolutely mind-boggling.

LOUISE
 Hey, where you going? Come back
 here, I wanna talk to you!

Cedric and Neville look at their mother reluctantly.

KESSLER (V.O.)
 (on TV)
 They will have an awful lot to
 teach us.

Overlapping --

LOUISE
 You think it's smart to cut school?
 Do you? Do you?

(CONTINUED)

44

CONTINUED:

CEDRIC/NEVILLE

No, Mama.

NATHALIE (V.O.)

(on TV)

But why haven't we seen any
evidence of Martians before?

~~KESSLER (V.O.)~~~~(on TV)~~

~~But why haven't we seen any
evidence of Martians before?~~

KESSLER (V.O.)

(on TV)

I'm positive we have.

NATHALIE (V.O.)

(on TV)

You mean U.F.O.s?

KESSLER (V.O.)

(on TV)

Yes, exactly.

LOUISE

No, Mama, 'cause it's dumb.
You're gonna flunk. You're gonna
get in trouble. You're gonna go
to jail. You foolin' with guns?

CEDRIC/NEVILLE

No, Mama.

NATHALIE (V.O.)

(on TV)

I see, so, what, in your view are
some of the things the Martians
can teach us, Professor?

LOUISE

You smoking crack?

CEDRIC/NEVILLE

No, Mama.

KESSLER (V.O.)

(on TV)

Quite a lot about Mars, I expect
-- ha ha!

Nathalie and Kessler chuckle together and exchange
sparkling glances.

45 INT. CNN - JASON'S OFFICE - DAY

45

Jason watches the TV with two other CNN reporters.

JASON

Look at that -- she's flirting
with him!

Reporter #1 shrugs. "What can you do?"

46 INT. MTV STUDIOS - DAY (SAME TIME)

46

KESSLER

But, seriously, this is
tremendously exciting. We're on
the brink of a Copernican change
-- a new Renaissance. Think of
it! The knowledge, the new
ideas! It's going to change
everything. And we must be open
to it. Embrace it! After all,
we are being given a very, very
big present.

Suddenly the monitor flashes and the image of Nathalie and
Kessler gets distorted. The DIRECTOR freaks.

DIRECTOR

Oh, Christ! What's wrong with the
picture? Go to camera two!

CREWMAN #1

(pounding a button)
I can't. It's busted!

DIRECTOR

Then go to one! Go to four!

The picture gets more distorted. Suddenly a PHONE RINGS!
CREWMAN #2 grabs it, listens, then turns pale.

CREWMAN #2

It's engineering. Something's
jammed our signal!

They all turn to the monitor, helpless. The pixels on
the TV start changing.

47 INT. CNN - JASON'S OFFICE - DAY

47

ON TV. Bit by bit, a new image appears...

JASON

Now what?

(CONTINUED)

47

CONTINUED:

He gets up and fiddles with the TV, trying to fix it.

REPORTER #1

Maybe it's the cable?

Jason looks around the back of the TV -- nothing. He pounds the TV with his fist. The head and shoulders of a Martian come into focus. Behind him is a large Martian flag. This is the Martian Ambassador. His head resembles a human skull -- but with an enormously swollen brain -- and vivid crimson eyeballs.

REPORTER #1

(shocked)

What's that?

JASON

Jesus!

48

INT. CAESAR'S PALACE - BAR -- SAME TIME

48

Byron and Cindy are staring at the bar TV -- as are also a bartender and six tourists.

NATHALIE (V.O.)

(on TV)

This is Nathalie West. You can't see me because the picture signal is being jammed. It's coming from beyond the planet -- so we think what you're seeing is probably a Martian.

Byron's reaction is cool -- almost a statement.

BYRON

That's a Martian?

49

INT. WHITE HOUSE - TAFFY'S BEDROOM - DAY

49

Taffy is on her bed, now hung with sheets so it's like a tent. She peers out.

TAFFY

(deeply intrigued)

That's a Martian?

50

INT. DONUT SHOP - DAY

50

Richie, smoking a joint, watches the TV at the back of the shop.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

The depressed Hispanic woman is behind him, eating a donut.

RICHIE

Whoa! Lookit that brain! He must be really smart!

51 INT. WHITE HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - DAY

51

The President and the First Lady are watching TV. Their pet GOLDEN RETRIEVER, Rusty, GROWLS at the screen.

FIRST LADY

Oh, my God!

PRESIDENT

Yikes!

The scary Martian talks.

The DOG, Rusty, WHIMPERS and hides behind the sofa.

FIRST LADY

(appalled)

I do not want that thing in my house.

PRESIDENT

We might have to. People are going to expect me to meet with them.

FIRST LADY

Well, they are not eating off the Van Buren china.

52 INT. MTV STUDIOS - DAY

52

Nathalie, Kessler, the makeup person, the cameraman and the Assistant Director are gaping at the studio monitor -- showing the Maritan. Nathalie clutches Kessler, frightened. He puts his arm around her.

NATHALIE

Ugh... it's gross!

KESSLER

Don't forget, Nathalie, that we will look equally 'gross' to him.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

NATHALIE
 (getting it)
 Oh, yeah! Like the blonde niece
 on 'The Munsters'!

Kessler is puzzled.

ON TV MONITOR

The Martian bows. Then he draws a big circle in the air.

53 INT. BACK OF DONUT SHOP - DAY

53

Richie and the silent Hispanic woman are watching the
 b&w TV and sharing his joint.

RICHIE
 Whoah! He made the international
 sign of the donut!

Suddenly -- flash! -- the Martian is gone. STATIC.

54 INT. CAESAR'S PALACE - SPORTS HALL - DAY

54

A crowd watches the big screens of the sports hall --
 stunned. The static is replaced by Nathalie and
 Kessler, clutching one another. POPPY is BARKING
 angrily.

55 INT. CNN - JASON'S OFFICE - DAY

55

The Reporters are crazy with excitement about the
 Martian. They all talk at once. Jason watches Kessler
 and Nathalie onscreen as they disentangle from one
 another.

JASON
 Did you see that? He just copped
 a feel!

56 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

56

Three easels hold charts. Chart #1 is a bad drawing of
 a Martian measured in centimeters. Chart #2 has photos
 of Martian flying saucers. Chart #3 is a drawing of
 Mars and Earth with connecting lines and vectors.

Professor Kessler speaks -- using a pointer.

(CONTINUED)

KESSLER

From the limited information available, I've made three extrapolations. One: our Martian friend is a carbon-based life-form. Two: he breathes nitrogen and Three: the large cerebrum, here...
(points)
... indicates telepathic potential.

Seated at the conference table are the President, Jerry, Generals Decker and Casey and DOCTOR ZEIGLER, a German linguistics expert.

JERRY

(disturbed)

You mean, they can read our thoughts?

KESSLER

Potentially, yes.

Decker scowls all the way through the meeting. He is not happy.

PRESIDENT

What about their intentions? Are they friendly?

KESSLER

Logic dictates that, given their extremely high level of technical development, they are an advanced culture -- therefore peaceful and enlightened. The human race, on the other hand, is a dangerously aggressive species. I suspect they have more to fear from us than we from them. Doctor?

Kessler stands to one side, as Zeigler crosses to where an elaborate computer is set up.

DOCTOR ZEIGLER

(German accent)

Thank you, Professor. For many years I have been refining a translating computer. I have broken down 227 phonemes, 48 diphthongs and 292 other sounds in a four point five octave range.

(CONTINUED)

He flicks a switch and the video terminal blinks on.

DOCTOR ZEIGLER

I have run the Martian transmission through seven different linguistics programs. The results are not perfect but this may answer some of your questions.

He presses a button and the voice of the Martian Ambassador is heard. Doctor Zeigler adjusts some controls. Computer tapes revolve, and then a synthesized voice speaks.

SYNTHESIZED VOICE (V.O.)

... all green of skin, eight hundred centuries ago. Their bodily fluids include the birth of half-breeds.

PRESIDENT

(trying to take notes)

How many centuries ago?

The men try to puzzle out a meaning. Decker looks around -- confused and idignant.

SYNTHESIZED VOICE (V.O.)

For the fundamental truth is self-determination of the cosmos, for dark is the suede that mows like a harvest.

DECKER

What the hell does that mean?

Doctor Zeigler scratches his head. Everyone is baffled.

An A.A. meeting is in progress. Twenty recovering alcoholics sit in folding chairs listening to Barbara, standing up front. They are all smoking cigarettes.

BARBARA

Hello. My name is Barbara.

ALCOHOLICS

Hello, Barbara!

BARBARA

I'm an alcoholic -- but I haven't had a drink in three months.

(CONTINUED)

57

CONTINUED:

57

Everyone claps.

BARBARA

And I'm feeling so optimistic because of these Martians. We're not alone in the universe! And it's so perfect that it's happening at the beginning of a new millennium! Our planet was suffering, with the ozone and the rain forest and so many people unhappy in their lives...

(as she gathers
her emotions)

And then the Martians heard our global karmic cry for help. People say they're ugly, but I think they're here to show us the way! They've come to save us!

She smiles triumphantly, tearfully. The crowd cheers.

58

EXT. BUS STOP (PERKINSVILLE) - DAY

58

At the bus stop, Billy-Glenn is dressed in the uniform of an army Private. He loads his duffel bag into the baggage hold. The Norris family and his girl friend are seeing him off.

SUE-ANN

(embraces and
kisses him)

Bye-bye, honey, bye-bye.

GIRL FRIEND

Be careful, baby -- don't get killed or anything.

BILLY-GLENN

Aww, ain't she cute?

GLENN

We're real proud of you, son. Perkinsville's finest.

BILLY-GLENN

Thanks, Dad.

Richie shakes his hand.

RICHIE

So long, Bro'.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY-GLENN

So long, retard -- just don't touch any of my stuff while I'm gone.

GRANDMA

Good-bye, Thomas.

BILLY-GLENN

It's Billy-Glenn, Grandma.

SUE-ANN

(tearful)

Now, you take good care, you hear?

BILLY-GLENN

I will, Mama.

(as he kisses his
girl friend)

I gotta go. Adios.

ALL

'Bye! 'Bye now! 'Bye!

He gets on. The bus door closes and the bus drives away. The Norris family turn and start off down the road -- with Sue-Ann pushing GRANDMA's wheelchair.

RICHIE

(stupidly)

Well, he's gone for a while.

The Girl Friend glances at him, through tear-streaked eyes.

SUE-ANN

Oh, Richie, why can't you be more like your brother?

GLENN

We was lucky with Billy-Glenn. You can't expect the same luck twice.

Richie stares at the ground, gloomy. He's had this all his life.

GLENN

Hey, Richie, you wanna do something useful?

RICHIE

Yeah, sure Dad.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: (2)

58

GLENN

Take Grandma back to the Home.

59 INT. MOVING TRUCK - DAY

59

Grandma is seat-belted into the passenger seat of the red pickup. Richie is very fond of his grandmother.

RICHIE

Say, Grandma, I bet you never thought you'd live to see Martians coming to Earth. Pretty far out, huh? But then just think of all the crazy stuff you've seen in your life. I bet people were scared when they invented the train.

GRANDMA

(insulted)

Boy, I ain't that old!

(Typical of senility, Grandma will suddenly have lucid moments -- like this one.)

RICHIE

(startled)

Huh? You okay, Grandma?

She starts to slip away again.

GRANDMA

I want to get back to Slim. Slim and Muffy and Richie.

RICHIE

I'm Richie.

GRANDMA

I know. Richie was the best one.

Richie sighs and concentrates on driving.

60 EXT. LAWRENCE WELK RETIREMENT VILLAGE - DAY

60

The pickup drives through the gateway to the retirement home. A sign announces: "LAWRENCE WELK RETIREMENT HOME."

61 INT. RETIREMENT HOME - LOUNGE - DAY

61

Richie and an Asian nurse (MRS. DONG) push Grandma in the wheelchair through a lounge filled with old people watching the Lawrence Welk show on TV.

62 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

62

They go down the corridor and stop outside a door. The Nurse opens the door with a key and Richie and Grandma go in.

RICHIE

Thanks Mrs. Dong.

63 INT. GRANDMA'S ROOM - DAY

63

The room -- which overlooks a garden peopled with geriatrics -- is cluttered with Grandma's memories -- including her favorite cat, Muffy -- now stuffed.

Grandma wheels herself over to the record player. The record on the turntable is "SLIM WHITMAN AND HIS SINGING GUITAR -- VOLUME TWO." She TURNS it ON.

RICHIE

Grandma, you gonna be all right?

Grandma, with trembling hands, drops the needle on the disc.

RICHIE

If you need anything -- any donuts or anything -- call me, okay?

Slim Whitman sings: "I'M CASTING MY LASSO TOWARDS THE SKY." Grandma closes her eyes and smiles blissfully.

64 EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

64

A line of cars is being checked through the White House gate.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION: "WASHINGTON, D.C. - FRIDAY, MAY 12 - 9:28 A.M."

65 INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - DAY

65

Jerry is facing a crowded press conference.

JERRY

Right now the President is talking to other world leaders. They're preparing a shopping list of issues of common interest to discuss. There's a concerted, unilateral diplomatic effort being made. Yes? You.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He points at Jason -- who has his hand up.

JASON

If the Martians land, will the press have access? Can we do interviews?

JERRY

That depends. We need to establish contact, work out whatever communication problems, and set the parameters for talks. Then, I guess we'll just have to see how things develop. Next?

Jerry points to a JOURNALIST in Armani suit and glasses.

JOURNALIST

Do the Martians use money like we do?

JERRY

Money? I don't exactly know. Uh, here's the President.

The President comes on to the podium, and Jerry steps down.

PRESIDENT

Good morning. Nice to see you all again. I only have a few minutes for questions, so let's get started...

Many Journalists have their hands up. He points to an ASEXUAL-LOOKING WOMAN.

FEMALE JOURNALIST (ASEXUAL-LOOKING WOMAN)

Do the Martians have two sexes like we do?

INT. BYRON'S CONDO (VEGAS) - KITCHEN - DAY

Byron, in jogging clothes, is sitting at the kitchen table, leafing through a scrap-book of press clippings. He has just finished a micro-waved, single-man's meal -- and sips from a beer bottle.

ON SCRAP BOOK

As he turns the pages, we see press clippings reporting his triumphant bouts with fighters like Joe Frazier, Floyd Patterson and Muhammad Ali.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

Byron turns to the last page -- which contains a small clipping stating: "Ex-champ arrested for spousal abuse." He sighs deeply and closes the book.

67 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE BYRON'S CONDO - DUSK

67

Byron is jogging down the street.

Suddenly a dark limo glides around the corner and begins tailing him. Byron glances back. The car inches closer.

Wary but unafraid, Byron suddenly stops. The limo pulls up... and Art Land leans out, grinning charmlessly.

ART

Good evening, Byron... I see you're carless. You want a ride?

Byron raises an eyebrow.

68 INT. MOVING LIMOUSINE - DUSK

68

Art and Byron sit in back.

ART

Byron, I want to do you a favor. I owe you. I made a lot of money off your fight in Jamaica in '73.

BYRON

I'm glad somebody did.

ART

I know it's tough for athletes. You hit a certain age, opportunities dry up. So, here's the deal. There's a guy owes me money, needs a wake-up call. I want you to use that famous left hook.

BYRON

I used to fight in the ring.

ART

I know that -- but I'll pay you two grand. Soon as it's done, come to my office and I'll give you the cash.

(CONTINUED)

BYRON

This ain't funny.

(angry)

I'm trying to get back with my wife! We had a problem with this kind of shit before -- but I changed myself. I found Allah. I gave up pork and I'm a better man. I tamed that bull -- and I don't want to bring him out!

69 INT. CAPE KENNEDY TRACKING STATION - NIGHT 69

A screen is filled with racing numbers.

NASA TECH

General! They're sending coordinates!

Three NASA men and General Decker crowd around the radar.

70 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DARLY DAWN 70

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION: "WASHINGTON, D.C. - SATURDAY, MAY 13 - 4:58 A.M."

A sleepy President Dale, Generals Decker and Casey -- and Professor Kessler are gathered. The President is in his bathrobe.

PRESIDENT

Where are they landing?

KESSLER

Pahrump. It's in the Nevada desert.

DECKER

Sir, my reserve troops are on full alert. They can be there at 0800 hours.

KESSLER

Mr. President -- we must not send the wrong message to these people. We need a welcome mat -- not a row of tanks!

DECKER

Hey, you want Martians roaming across Nevada without security?

(CONTINUED)

70

CONTINUED:

70

PRESIDENT

You're right, General -- this needs to be supervised. General Casey -- do you think you can handle it?

GENERAL CASEY

(surprised and pleased)

Yessir! Be proud to, sir.

General Decker turns red with outrage.

71

INT. WHITE HOUSE CORRIDOR - EARLY MORNING

71

Decker storms down the corridor.

DECKER

(furious)

This country's in the hands of half-wits! It's an outrage!

A door opens. Taffy sleepily pokes out, in a nightgown, rubbing her eyes.

TAFFY

Hey, you wanna keep it down?
People live here!

72

INT. JASON AND NATHALIE'S BEDROOM - DAWN

72

Jason, Nathalie and Poppy are sound asleep. Suddenly the PHONE RINGS. POPPY springs up and BARKS. Jason fumbles for the phone.

JASON

Yeah...

(suddenly alert)

What? It's happening today?!?
God, this is incredible! I'll be at the airport in thirty minutes!

He slams down the phone and leaps from the bed. He yanks a suit from the closet. Nathalie groggily turns over.

NATHALIE

What's going on?

JASON

(jazzed)

The Marians are gonna land in Nevada! Can you believe it?

(CONTINUED)

72

CONTINUED:

NATHALIE

In Vegas..?

JASON

No, Pahrump! And C.N.N. wants me
to cover it!

NATHALIE

(yawning, tiredly)
But we had plans... there's that
sale at Barney's...

JASON

(frustrated)
Nathalie! You gotta learn to
prioritize!The PHONE RINGS again. POPPY BARKING. Nathalie answers
it.

NATHALIE

(casual)
Hello? Yeah, I've heard.
(pause)
I guess I could move a few things
around. Okay, ciao.

She hangs up and smiles -- pleased.

NATHALIE

Hey, hey, we're both going! It's
a 'His and Hers' Martian landing.

73

EXT. NEVADA DESERT - DAY

73

The desert is silent. A cactus stands alone. Suddenly
a LOW WHIR... and MILITARY HELICOPTERS rise from behind
the dunes! They soar in through the bright blue sky.
Across the desert ARMY VEHICLES SPEED across the sand.

IN JEEP - GENERAL CASEY

rides in back. He talks proudly into a military phone.

GENERAL CASEY

I get to greet the Martian
Ambassador! Isn't that great?
Yeah! It's one hell of an honor.
Didn't I always tell you, honey?
If I stayed in line and didn't
speak up, good things would
happen?

74 EXT. ANOTHER PART OF DESERT - DAY

-74

A line of cars moves along a desert road -- past a sign saying: "WELCOME TO PAHRUMP."

In a Mercedes is Barbara.

75 EXT. DESERT LANDING SITE - DAY

75

The helicopters arrive at the landing sight. Soldiers hastily erect barriers around the perimeter. Private Billy-Glenn hammers a fence-post into the ground. A giant banner is being erected: "Welcome To Earth."

General Casey confers with two COLONELS, one Hispanic, one white.

GENERAL CASEY

I want the Martians to be treated like foreign dignitaries. I want your men alert and majestic -- with a snap to their step. This has got to look good -- the whole world is watching.

The Colonels salute smartly.

COLONELS

Yessir!

Doctor Zeigler is assembling his translating computer. General Casey strides INTO VIEW.

GENERAL CASEY

Are you positive it's going to work?

DOCTOR ZEIGLER

Yes, General.

GENERAL CASEY

Good. We don't want any slip-ups.

General Casey gazes up at the sky.

HIS POV

The sun -- shining brightly.

OUTSIDE BARRIER

a crowd of civilians gathers. They all radiate excited anticipation. Inside the barrier a stage has been erected -- on which a military band is tuning up.

76 EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING LANDING SITE - DAY 76

Barbara Land is sitting, cross-legged, on the roof of the car, inside a circle of stones, candles and smoldering sage. She is chanting her mantra.

BARBARA

Omm -- ananandamahi chaitenyahamahi
satyamahi paramei...

77 EXT. DESERT LANDING SITE - DAY 77

Media trucks and reporters get ready. Nathalie stands on the MTV truck. Poppy peeks out of her pocket.

Nearby, Jason stands on the CNN truck, speaking into camera.

JASON

The teeming masses are gathered here from who knows how many states, watching and waiting.

SERIES OF SHOTS OF CROWD

including a kid wearing an "alien" hat -- with antennae.

JASON

Why have they come? Curiosity?
Or something more? Hope for
change? For progress? For
adventure? For something to tell
their grandchildren?

ON Jason through TV monitor.

JASON (V.O.)

Or just to say: 'I was there. I
was there when first man met with
Martian.' This is Jason Stone,
C.N.N. -- Pahrump.

78 EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING LANDING SITE - DAY 78

Barbara meditates on top of her car. A strange, unearthly NOISE makes her look round...

79 EXT. DESERT LANDING SITE - DAY 79

A MAN IN A WHEELCHAIR looks round and points up.

(CONTINUED)

79

CONTINUED:

MAN IN WHEELCHAIR

They're here!

All heads turn. A child clings to his mother and gapes. Nathalie West stares. Scores of video cameras get whipped out. Sound of approaching SPACESHIP GETS LOUDER.

SPACESHIP'S POV

a BIRD'S-EYE VIEW of the landing site -- which is ringed by stationary helicopters.

BACK TO SCENE

Soldiers gaze upward -- motionless, awed. Billy-Glenn's jaw drops.

HIS POV

The flying saucer blocks out the sun.

BACK TO SCENE

The spaceship descends. Its crablike landing gear unfolds. In the crowd everybody stares.

ON GENERAL CASEY

-- speaking into a walkie-talkie.

GENERAL CASEY

Give 'em room.

WIDE SHOT - LANDING SITE

The helicopters lift off as the massive saucer descends.

VIEW FROM GROUND

the descending spaceship, surrounded by ascending helicopters -- a kind of aerial ballet.

80

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING LANDING SITE - DAY

80

Barbara, her candles lit and incense burning, gazes awestruck. The massive saucer settles on the ground. The ENGINES speed up to a high-pitched WHINE, then CUT OFF. There is no motion. It is ominously quiet.

81 EXT. DESERT LANDING SITE - DAY

The Hispanic Army Colonel speaks into a walkie-talkie.

HISPANIC COLONEL

The egg is in the nest. I
repeat, the egg is in the nest.

82 INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

The President, First Lady, Taffy, General Decker, Jerry,
and Professor Kessler gawk at the TV. Rusty, the dog,
sits at the President's side.

NATHALIE (V.O.)

(on TV)

It's an awesome sight. The giant
spaceship glinting in the Nevada
sun...

83

EXT. DESERT LANDING SITE - DAY - SAME TIME

83

Nathalie is standing on top of the MTV truck -- micro-
phone in one hand, the other hand trying to control her
hat. A cameraman is filming her. They are parked near
the barrier -- surrounded by onlookers. Suddenly, a
deep THROBBING comes from the spaceship. The crowd
murmurs.

NATHALIE

(into camera)

Something's happening!

A GRINDING of GEARS. The spaceship DOOR SLIDES open and
a ramp glides out and extends downwards.

ON JASON

talking to camera.

JASON

A doorway is opening...

The crowd gasps.

ON NATHALIE

NATHALIE

A ramp is emerging like a silver
tongue...

General Casey stares in wonder.

(CONTINUED)

83

CONTINUED:

GENERAL CASEY

(quietly)

Gee whizz!

The ramp reaches the ground and stops. Everybody peers at the empty doorway. The MARTIAN AMBASSADOR appears. He wears a perspex dome over his megacephalic head, breathing apparatus and a long red cloak. There's a sharp intake of breath from the crowd.

The Martian Ambassador comes down the ramp, followed by twelve Martian guards. Jason and Nathalie are too stunned to speak.

SERIES OF SHOTS - PEOPLE WATCHING SCENE ON TV

84

RICHIE

watching TV.

84

85

CAESAR'S PALACE BAR

Byron watching TV.

85

86

PRESIDENT'S DOG

RUSTY -- BARKING at the TV.

86

87

TROOPS

are "on parade." The Martian guards come off the ramp and spread out opposite them. General Casey steps forward and extends his hand. The Martian Ambassador reacts with suspicion, folding his arms across his chest. It's a dangerous moment. Then General Casey has an idea. He draws a big circle in the air.

The Martian Ambassador relaxes, steps forward and starts speaking.

DOCTOR ZEIGLER

Wait, wait -- one second please!

Zeigler twirls some knobs, presses a button, and the COMPUTER SPEAKS.

SYNTHESIZED VOICE (V.O.)

Greetings. I am the Martian
Ambassador.

(CONTINUED)

87

CONTINUED:

DOCTOR ZEIGLER
 (proud it worked)
 Everything is in phase, General.
 You may speak.

GENERAL CASEY
 (takes a breath)
 Greetings. I am General Casey,
 Commanding Officer of the Armed
 Forces of the United States of
 America. On behalf of the people
 of Earth -- Welcome!

88

INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

88

The President and his group are pleased.

JERRY
 He did that well.

Decker snorts derisively.

89

EXT. DESERT LANDING SITE - DAY

89

Doctor Zeigler translates Casey into Martian. The crowd
 waits expectantly. Jason holds his breath. The Martian
 Ambassador speaks! Billy-Glenn is in awe. Doctor
 Zeigler hits buttons, translating the Martian once again.

SYNTHESIZED VOICE
 We come in peace. We come in
 peace. We come in peace.

SHOTS OF CROWD

delighted. General Casey beams. The Colonels smile.

90

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING LANDING SITE - DAY

90

Barbara throws up her arms ecstatically.

91

EXT. LANDING SITE - DAY

91

The kid with the "alien" cap starts applauding. Every-
 body starts applauding. A HIPPIE is joyful.

HIPPIE
 They came in peace!

(CONTINUED)

91

CONTINUED:

He pulls out a white dove and tosses it into the air. The applause increases. The people clap harder. The dove flies over the Martians. The Martian Ambassador looks worried. The dove approaches. Its reflection appears in the Martian Ambassador's dome. He pulls out a RAYGUN and FIRES! The dove erupts in flames and drops, charred, to the ground. There is a stunned silence. General Casey's eyes widen.

GENERAL CASEY

Get down!

The Martian Ambassador BLOWS a hole in General Casey's stomach! All the Martians start SHOOTING! The two Colonels and Doctor Zeigler are disintegrated. The Hippie stops clapping as he combusts. A Martian fires his flame-thrower-like weapon at a frightened rattlesnake. A Martian with a WEAPON shaped like a tennis racket FIRES light-rings at a TANK -- BLOWING it UP.

92

INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

92

President Dale and the First Lady gape in horror.

ON TV

Martians FIRING. People running for their lives, screaming in panic.

93

EXT. LANDING SITE - DAY

93

A Martian FIRES at a HELICOPTER flying overhead. It EXPLODES.

The Martian Ambassador sweeps up the ramp and disappears into the spaceship. Billy-Glenn aims his pistol at a Martian.

BILLY-GLENN

Die, you alien butthead!

He FIRES. The bullet bounces off the body armor of the Martian, who turns to face Billy-Glenn.

BILLY-GLENN

Uh-oh.

He turns and grabs a nearby American flag -- and offers it to the Martian.

(CONTINUED)

93

CONTINUED:

BILLY-GLENN

Uhh... I surrender!

The Martian raises his RAYGUN. The CNN cameraman sees this and pans over -- just as Billy-Glenn and his flag get HIT. We see Billy-Glenn explode THROUGH the viewfinder.

Nathalie dithers on top of her camera truck, clutching Poppy. A Martian FIRES -- the TRUCK is BLOWN over. Nathalie is thrown to the ground. Jason jumps off his camera truck and crawls to where Nathalie is lying, unconscious.

JASON

Nathalie! Nathalie!

She opens her eyes. She's alive!

JASON

Thank God!

He reaches out to take her hand. Nathalie moves her hand towards his.

CLOSE ON THEIR TWO HANDS

clasping.

A Martian steps INTO VIEW and FIRES. WHOOSH! Jason's flesh evaporates. He becomes a skeleton. Nathalie screams! She is holding Jason's severed hand! She drops it. Poppy runs INTO FRAME, grabs the hand in her mouth and trots away with it.

A Martian SHOOTS -- hitting a soldier. He falls. Before he dies, he FIRES -- and hits the MARTIAN in the head. His dome cracks open and fills with gas. He SQUEAKS and staggers...

94

INT. NORRIS TRAILER - DAY

94

Glenn and Sue-Ann Norris watch TV -- shocked.

95

INT. LOUISE'S APARTMENT - DAY

95

Louise, Cedric and Neville watch TV -- amazed.

96

INT. CAESAR'S PALACE BAR - DAY

96

A crowd at the bar, including Art and Cindy, watch the destruction on TV, open-mouthed.

97 EXT. LANDING SITE - DAY

Poppy, the hand in her mouth, trots up to a Martian -- who picks her up. A Martian picks up the charred dove. A Martian retrieves Jason's hand and looks at it. Two Martians lift up the dazed Nathalie. Nathalie is carried up the ramp into the flying saucer. Martians board the spaceship. The ramp retracts.

98 EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING LANDING SITE - DAY

Barbara -- on the roof of her car -- cries hysterically and shakes her fists. Then she falls to her knees.

The flying saucer rises OUT OF FRAME. The landing site is a burning, smoking graveyard of devastation.

99 INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

President Dale and his group are in shock.

PRESIDENT

Holy Mother of God! Did you see that?! Did you see that?!

DECKER

Mr. President, it's my formal recommendation that we hit those assholes with everything we've got!

The President is too shocked to speak.

KESSLER

Sir, I know this is terrible but, please, don't be rash! You saw how they reacted to that dove. It frightened them.

DECKER

I say we nuke 'em!

KESSLER

We must establish communication!

JERRY

Why not set up a Town Hall? We'll get the public's opinion.

The President is exasperated. He turns to his wife.

PRESIDENT

What do you think, Marsha?

(CONTINUED)

99

CONTINUED:

FIRST LADY

Kick the crap out of 'em.

KESSLER

But this could all be a cultural misunderstanding!

TAFFY

Yeah! Maybe on Mars, doves mean war?

They all mull this over. Jerry Ross flicks channels on TV.

JERRY

Hey! Carl Sagan's on!

They all turn.

ON TV

Dr. Carl Sagan is being interviewed by Larry King.

CARL SAGAN (V.O.)

(on TV)

I believe it was a mistake.

LARRY KING (V.O.)

But they massacred all those people!

CARL SAGAN (V.O.)

That's right -- and it was a terrible tragedy. But if you review the footage, Larry, you'll see the Martians react adversely to the sound of people clapping.

LARRY KING (V.O.)

Clapping? You think it was the applause that set them off?

INTERCUT:

PRESIDENT

They did say 'We come in peace'...

CARL SAGAN (V.O.)

Yes, that could be the explanation.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

99

CONTINUED: (2)

CARL SAGAN (V.O.)

For us applause is a sign of approval, of approbation and support -- but to the Martians, it may be offensive -- a sign of aggression, if you will. Symbols are not universal. For example, among the hill tribes of New Guinea, if you smile it means you're sad, and if you frown, you're happy.

ON EVERYONE

watching TV. Everyone is frowning.

100 EXT. CAESAR'S PALACE - DUSK 100

A newspaper vending machine gets loaded. The headline screams: "MARS TRAGEDY." Below this is a photo of Billy-Glenn holding the flag. The image has a mythic, heroic Iwo Jima quality.

101 INT. CAESAR'S PALACE - BAR - DUSK 101

At the bar, customers watch the bar TV -- which is showing footage of the Pahrump Massacre -- with commentary.

The volume from the fervent gambling is deafening. The Elderly Slots Lady is playing as usual. She is wearing a T-shirt displaying the "Iwo Jima" picture of Billy-Glenn and his flag, and the phrase "American Hero."

Byron, in gladiator costume, has his picture taken with three KOREAN BUSINESSMEN.

KOREAN MAN #1

Thank you thank you! You are
greatest champ ever!

KOREAN MAN #2

Number one left hook!

BYRON

Thanks. You're very kind.

The Koreans bow and hurry away.

Cindy passes by with a tray of drinks, sees Byron and grins.

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED:

CINDY
Isn't this great? I always get
huge tips during national
disasters!

Byron nods. Cindy goes. Byron looks at the madness
surrounding him and shakes his head.

102 INT. WHITE HOUSE - RADIO ROOM - NIGHT

102

A small room of radio and satellite equipment. A nerdy
TECHNICIAN with headphones sits at a transmitter. Next
to him is another translating computer. Standing over
him are the President and Professor Kessler.

KESSLER
The new computer is ready, Mister
President.

Kessler presses a button -- and computer tapes turn.

TECHNICIAN
Ready to transmit.

PRESIDENT
Okay, let's do it, I know we're
making the right decision...

The Technician presses a button. The President speaks
into a microphone -- reading from a script.

PRESIDENT
This is the President of the
United States.

103 EXT. SATELLITE DISH (MONTANA MOUNTIANS) - NIGHT

103

A large satellite dish turns slowly -- pointing at the
sky. It gleams palely in the moonlight. Sounds of
BEEPING.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)
I'm speaking to you in the hope
that what happened earlier today
in the Nevada desert was a
cultural misunderstanding. There
is no doubt that we two peoples
have a great deal to offer one
another. You must be as excited
as we to find intelligent life in
this solar system.

104 INT. RADIO ROOM - CLOSEUP ON PRESIDENT - NIGHT 104
speaks into the microphone.

PRESIDENT
And, let me make it clear: you
have nothing to fear from us. Our
customs may be strange to you, but
we mean no harm.

105 EXT. SATELLITE DISH (MONTANA MOUNTAINS) - NIGHT 105

PRESIDENT (V.O.)
So lets us sit down together, in
friendship...

106 INT. SPACESHIP - RADIO ROOM 106

In a high-tech chamber, opposite a futuristic radio,
sits a nerdy Martian radio operator. He hears the
message through his headphones and writes it down.

107 INT. SPACESHIP - SPECIMEN ROOM 107

Two Martian scientists are looking at the charred dove on
a specimen table. Scientist #1 pokes at it with a thin,
metal baton. They are freaked-out by it. The Martian
radio operator passes by, holding a note. FOLLOW Martian
radio operator. He goes through a door.

108 INT. SPACESHIP - SPECIMEN ROOM AND CONTROL ROOM 108

The Martian radio operator hurries past a row of giant
glass eggs containing biological specimens from Earth: a
cow, a giant squid, a pig, a sheep, a clown, a camel and
Nathalie West in her underwear holding her chihuahua.

The Martain radio operator comes into the control room.
The Martian leader is sitting, looking at "Miss May" in
a copy of Playboy Magazine. He looks up.

109 EXT. LAND'S HOME (VEGAS) - NIGHT 109

The back yard is a gorgeous fortress. High walls sur-
round a large pool which reflects blue light everywhere.

Barbara staggers around, eyes glazed. She has the face
of someone who has seen the End.

She sees a whiskey bottle sitting on a table inside the
house. She shudders, then goes in.

110

INT. SNYDER HOME - NIGHT

110

Art paces, speaking pompously into a dictaphone.

ART

When the investors fly in, I want
a limo waiting for each of them!
And make sure every car is top-of-
the-line, with leather interiors...

BARBARA (O.S.)

Art, are you still spinning your
wheels on that cockamamie hotel?

He looks up.

BARBARA

Hello! Martians have attacked!
That was no misunderstanding! I
was there! I saw it!

ART

Look, you're worried about
yesterday -- I'm worried about
tomorrow. Martians come to
Earth... they need a place to
stay like anybody else.

Barbara goes berserk. She shouts, impassioned.

BARBARA

God, maybe we should all be
destroyed! The human race
doesn't deserve to live!

She grabs the whiskey bottle and marches out. Art goes
back to his dictation.

ART

(into dictaphone)

That reminds me. Stock every limo
with a bottle of Dom.

111

INT. WHITE HOUSE - RADIO ROOM - LATE NIGHT

111

Professor Kessler and the nerdy Tech hover, exhausted,
over the radio, waiting... when, suddenly, lights blink
-- and MARTIAN TALK comes out! Kessler perks up.

KESSLER

They're responding!

112

INT. OVAL OFFICE - LATE NIGHT

112

Jerry bursts in on the President, waving a note.

(CONTINUED)

112

CONTINUED:

JERRY

A message from the Martians!

PRESIDENT

Really?

JERRY

They've issued a formal apology!

PRESIDENT

This is great! Didn't I tell you
this would happen?

JERRY

(reading)

The Martian Ambassador feels
terrible, and asks permission to
speak to Congress.

(looks up)

That's good isn't it?

PRESIDENT

You bet. It's a major victory
for our administration.

113

INT. OPERATING THEATER - DAY

113

ON: body of MARTIAN killed in Nevada -- its brain rup-
tured. Kessler and three surgeons examine it.

KESSLER

Notice the highly developed
cranial nerve system. This
explains the unusual cerebral
arteries. And we seem to have
several glands here, beneath the
optic chiasm. Very curious...

114

INT. MARTIAN OPERATING THEATER - SPACESHIP

114

Three Martian scientists are gathered around a futur-
istic chair. Our view is partially blocked -- but we
can see Nathalie's body, in her underwear. Many tubes
sprout out of her body. Another Martian passes by --
carrying a specimen jar filled with fluid. In the jar
is Nathalie's head, alive, eyes looking around! The
group of scientists part -- revealing a full view of
Nathalie. Her body now has the head of her chihuahua!Martian Scientist #1 attaches circuit grips to her toes.
ELECTRICITY BUZZES through her. The CHIHUAHUA HEAD
BARKS! NATHALIE'S HEAD in the jar SCREAMS!

115 EXT. V.A. CEMETERY (PERKINSVILLE) - MORNING

115

A somber, forlorn military funeral for Billy-Glenn. A stoic soldier plays "Taps," while Glenn, Sue-Ann, Grandma (in wheelchair), Billy-Glenn's Girlfriend and Richie surround the coffin. Hushed STRANGERS crowd nearby. T-shirts emblazoned with the "Iwo Jima" picture of Billy-Glenn. Sue-Ann turns her face away and starts quietly sobbing.

GLENN

Why'd it have to be him?

Glenn shakes his head, distraught.

STRANGER #1

Imagine... dying while fightin'
for our flag.

STRANGER #2

There ain't many heroes.

Richie looks around. He whispers.

RICHIE

Who are these people?

NEW ANGLE

There are hundreds of onlookers and media -- there to see the "hero" buried.

116 INT. LOUISE'S APARTMENT (WASHINGTON) - KITCHEN - MORNING 116

Louise is making breakfast for Cedric and Neville -- who are playing a violent video game on TV in the living room. The PHONE RINGS. Louise picks it up.

LOUISE

Byron! Is everything all right?
You still coming tomorrow?

117 INT. BYRON'S CONDO - BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING 117

Byron, in pajamas, is on the phone.

BYRON

Try and stop me. The plane gets
in at four.

INTERCUT.

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED:

LOUISE
That's fine. The kids can't wait
to see you.

BYRON
How about you?

LOUISE
(smiles)
I can think of worse things than
seeing your ugly mug again.

BYRON
Kids there?

LOUISE
Yeah -- hold on.
(calls)
Cedric! Neville! Your dad's on
the phone!

CEDRIC
Me first!

NEVILLE
No, me! Me!

They scramble into the kitchen. Neville gets there
first.

NEVILLE
Hey, Dad!

BYRON
Who's that? Neville?

NEVILLE
Yeah.

BYRON
How's it going?

NEVILLE
Okay.

BYRON
You taking care of your mother and
being a good boy?

NEVILLE
Yeah. We're going to the White
House.

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED: (2)

BYRON
You're going to the White House?

Cedric grabs the phone from his brother and pushes him away.

CEDRIC
Yeah -- tomorrow!

NEVILLE
Hey, give it back!

CEDRIC
It's a school thing -- like a tour.

BYRON
So, I guess this means you're still making it to school once in a while?

CEDRIC
(chuckles)
Yeah!

BYRON
Cedric? Gimme your mother again.

CEDRIC
Ma!

Louise wipes her hands and takes the phone.

LOUISE
What you wasting this phone time for? We're seeing you tomorrow!

BYRON
Yeah, I just want to say something to you 'cause I feel like saying it.

LOUISE
What's that?

BYRON
I love you.

LOUISE
I love you too, Byron -- now stop wasting money. I'll see you tomorrow.

She puts down the phone. Byron smiles.

118 EXT. NEWSSTAND AND CAPITOL HILL (WASHINGTON) - DAY 118

On the newsstand, the New York Post headline shouts:
"MARTIANS TO ADDRESS CONGRESS."

On Capitol Hill, excited spectators wait eagerly.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION: "CAPITOL HILL, WASHINGTON, D.C. -
MONDAY, MAY 15 - 11:07 AM."

Policemen patrol, keeping the spectators behind the barriers. One cop holds a sign saying: "NO BIRDS."
Cop #2 holds a sign saying: "NO APPLAUSE."

Suddenly a WHIRRING ABOVE! Everyone looks up. Some people start to clap -- then remember they shouldn't. They laugh and watch the flying saucer descend.

It makes a perfect landing on the Capitol grass. The spectators are thrilled.

Far away is a row of tanks. General Decker, angry, is sitting in one, staring into field glasses. A COLONEL is with him.

COLONEL

How come we can't get any closer?

DECKER

Because my goddamn hands are tied.
Just keep everybody on alert.

119 INT. HOUSE OF REPRESENTITIVES - DAY 119

The ancient, Southern SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE addresses Congress from the podium.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

This is a proud day for all Americans -- and expecially for my good friends in Tennessee's Fifth District. Now, if everybody would quiet down, I believe we're ready.

120 INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY 120

President Dale, the First Lady, Taffy, Mitch (the Secret Serviceman) and Jerry Ross are watching a TV.

(CONTINUED)

120 CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT

This is a hell of a photo-op.
Are you sure I shouldn't be
there?

JERRY

Ehh, for some picky reason, the
Secret Service don't want the
Executive Branch and the
Legislative Branch in the same
place at the same time.

121 INT. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DAY (SAME TIME)

121

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Martian Ambassador is going to
say a few words. Come on up here,
Mister Ambassador.

The Martian Ambassador walks down the aisle -- followed
by his Martian guards. The Congressmen watch and wait
with bated breath. He steps up to the podium -- filmed
by a bank of TV cameras. Professor Kessler's eyes
glitter expectantly. The Martian Ambassador taps the
microphone. Then he reaches under his cloak. The
Congressmen react alarmed. But the Martian Ambassador
only pulls out a speech. The Congressmen laugh with
relief. Then the Martian Ambassador turns his head to
his men -- who are now ranged behind him. Turning back
to face Congress, he pulls out a RAYGUN and starts
FIRING! The Martian guards whip out WEAPONS and SHOOT
in every direction. Congressmen dissolve! Kessler
faces the Martian Ambassador -- pleading.

KESSLER

Mister Ambassador, please! What
are you doing? This isn't logical!
This doesn't make any sense!

Whap! The Martian Ambassador clubs Kessler with his
raygun. Kessler goes down. The Martians decimate
Congress. Two Martians pick up the unconscious Kessler.

122 INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY (SAME TIME)

122

The President and Jerry Ross stare at the carnage on TV.

JERRY

Oh no!

PRESIDENT

Not again!

(CONTINUED)

122 CONTINUED:

122

TAFFY

I guess it wasn't the dove?

123 INT. CAESAR'S PALACE BAR - DAY

123

Barbara sees the massacre of Congress on TV -- surrounded by patrons of the hotel. An intense thought crosses her mind. She quickly downs a shotglass.

124 EXT. DECKER AND HIS TANKS (WASHINGTON) - DAY

124

Decker shouts into a mobile phone.

DECKER

Get in there! Get in there and
take them out!

125 EXT. CAPITOL BUILDING - STREET AND SPACESHIP - DAY

125

Smoke comes out of the windows of the Capitol building.

NEW ANGLE

The Martians go up the ramp into the spaceship.

126 INT. RETIREMENT HOME - LOUNGE - DAY

126

Grandma and a group of old people are watching TV.

GRANDMA

They blew up Congress!

She laughs.

MOROSE OLD GUY

Least now we won't have gridlock.

INCREDIBLY OLD GUY

Hey, what happened to 'Baywatch'?

127 EXT. WASHINGTON - ANGLE ON DECKER - DAY

127

in tank and troops.

DECKER

(into radio)

Quick -- open fire!

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED:

127

Soldiers SHOOT at the Martians. BULLETS BOUNCE OFF THEM. The door closes, the ramp retracts, the SPACESHIP WHIRS -- and ascends.

TANKS FIRE. SHELLS HIT the FLYING SPACESHIP and EXPLODE harmlessly. General Decker angrily shakes his fist.

DECKER

And stay out!!

The spaceship zooms away at high speed.

128 INT. BACK OF DONUT SHOP - DAY

128

Richie, holding a donut in one hand and a paper cup of coffee in the other, gapes at the TV. The Hispanic Lady, his co-worker, is behind him.

RICHIE

What did they do that for?

HISPANIC LADY

Maybe they don' like the earth people?

129 INT. WHITE HOUSE - WAR ROOM - DAY

129

The war room is a mass of activity. PHONES RING constantly. Military types push deployment symbols around the floor-map of the world. On a big wall map, lights indicate troop positions. Seated at the large round table are the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and Navy, Airforce, Marines and Army Chiefs, General Decker and Jerry Ross. The President takes his seat.

PRESIDENT

Hello, gentlemen. Thank you for coming at such short notice. It seems I owe you an apology, General.

DECKER

We all make mistakes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT

Well, not anymore!

He bangs the table. He is a bit delirious.

(CONTINUED)

129

CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT

We're gonna take charge of this thing!

DECKER

Excellent! I've prepared the order, sir.

He hands him a piece of paper. The President takes it.

PRESIDENT

What's this?

DECKER

Your executive order authorizing full use of our nuclear deterrent.

PRESIDENT

Are you out of your mind? I'm not gonna start a war.

DECKER

The war's already started! We gotta nuke 'em now. Right now!

PRESIDENT

General Decker, if you don't shut up, I will relieve you of your command.

DECKER

But, sir, if we don't retaliate hard, right now...

PRESIDENT

Shut up! Shut up! Shut up!

Decker is stunned. The President addresses the others.

PRESIDENT

Okay. Now, we've got to let the people know they still have two out of three branches of government working for them. That ain't bad! I want people to know the schools are still open, okay? I want people to know the garbage still gets picked up! I want a cop on every corner! Jerry? How soon can we go on air?

Jerry looks at his watch.

JERRY

Uh...

130 INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

130

The screen is filled with the image of the Presidential Seal. The image is replaced by that of the President, soberly dressed, behind his Oval Office desk.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

My fellow Americans. It is with a heavy heart that I speak to you this afternoon.

131 INT. LANDS HOME (LAS VEGAS) - KITCHEN - DAY

131

Barbara is packing a large backpack and two suitcases with food and supplies -- and watching TV.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

(on TV)

As you know, earlier today, the Martian Ambassador and his confederates attacked and killed many of your representatives on Capitol Hill...

132 INT. WASHINGTON CLASSROOM - DAY

132

A class is watching TV -- supervised by an African-American teacher. Most of the kids are black or Hispanic, and clearly from the ghetto. Among them are Cedric and Neville.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

(on TV)

We opened our hearts and minds to our Martian neighbors and this is how they have repaid us. Clearly, they have no love for humanity. So, the time for dialog is over. and I have decided to take the grave step of suspending diplomatic relations.

PUERTO RICAN GIRL

That'll show them, for blowing up Commerce!

NEVILLE

Not 'Commerce'! Congress!

(CONTINUED)

132 CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

(on TV)

I will be conferring with other world leaders as time goes on. Rest assured that, working together, we will soon come out at a very real outcome. Thank you.

The Presidential Seal comes on.

133 INT. MARTIAN SPACESHIP

133

Martians are watching a giant TV. They are fascinated by the Presidential Seal -- maybe because it's a bird. Who knows?

134 INT. SPACESHIP - MARTIAN OPERATING THEATER

134

Six Martian scientists with weird tools work on two experiments. On one operating table is Professor Kessler. He has been completely dissected -- but all of his body parts are still alive. On another operating table is Nathalie's head -- now loosely attached to the body of the chihuahua.

Kessler opens his eyes and painfully looks around. He sees Nathalie.

KESSLER

Nathalie?

(beat)

Nathalie, is that you?

NATHALIE

Yes. How are you feeling?

KESSLER

Not terribly good, I'm afraid.

NATHALIE

Can I ask you a question?

KESSLER

Yes, of course.

NATHALIE

Were you flirting with me on the show? Because, if you were, I just want you to know -- I liked it.

(CONTINUED)

134 CONTINUED:

134

KESSLER

(pleased)

You did -- really? Because, you know, I've watched you on TV quite a bit and, uh, well, I've had something of a schoolboy crush on you for, oh gosh, ages.

She gives him a sexy smile.

135 EXT. WHITE HOUSE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

135

Jerry Ross comes out of the White House, carrying his briefcase. He is tired. His driver steps out and opens the limo door.

JERRY

(exhausted)

Man oh man, what a day... what a day!

Then Jerry sees something.

Standing outside the gates is a glamorous GIRL, with a big beehive hair-do, gazing at the White House. She wears an elegant and very sexy gown -- which has a faintly other-worldly quality.

Jerry crosses over to her.

JERRY

Hi. You interested in the White House? I work here. I'm the Press Secretary. My name's Jerry Ross -- maybe you've heard of me?

The Girl looks at him, chewing gum.

JERRY

You wouldn't believe the pressure of my job. It's good to meet a new face.

The Girl shrugs prettily and adjusts her dress.

JERRY

Hey, are you doing anything? If you want, I could give you a personalized tour. Would you like that? The White House is quite enchanting after hours...

(CONTINUED)

135 CONTINUED:

135

The Girl nods sexily. Jerry is enthralled, but trying to hide it.

JERRY
(under his breath)

Wow!

136 EXT. WHITE HOUSE - BACK ENTRANCE - NIGHT

136

Jerry and the Girl stand in the shadows of the Colonnade. He taps on the French doors.

A Secret Serviceman (MITCH) approaches.

JERRY
Hey, Mitch, it's me. Can you let me in?

MITCH
Oh hello, Mr. Ross. Sure. We're just a little nervous here, after what happened to Congress.

As he unlocks the door, Mitch casually checks out the Girl's body.

137 INT. WHITE HOUSE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

137

Jerry and the Girl stroll along a gilded corridor of paintings. He leans close to her.

JERRY
Many great men and women have passed through here. And now we're passing through here. Feels good, don't it?

They turn a corner.

JERRY
You're very graceful. What's your name? Do you speak English? Are you on drugs? I know! You're from Sweden!

The Girl nods.

JERRY
I knew it! This is the Roosevelt Room. This is where they sometimes have state banquets.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JERRY (CONT'D)

It's a nice room. The King of Sweden came here once, I believe. Look, here's Thomas Jefferson -- he wrote the Constitution. And of course this is George Washington. Never told a lie. And here's Dwight D. Eisenhower.

They look at a smiling portrait of Dwight D. Eisenhower. Taffy passes by, eating a carton of ice cream.

TAFFY

Ah, the midnight tour...
(leans in to
the Girl)

Make sure he wears a condom.

Taffy wanders away. Jerry pulls the Girl aside.

JERRY

Man, it sure is busy out here. Tell you what, there's a quieter room which is secret. The public doesn't know about it. You want to see it?

She nods, chewing. He reaches for a hidden door...

The door opens and Jerry ushers the Girl in and turns on soft lights. Inside is a bookcase, sofas and a tropical fish tank.

JERRY

Like it? We call this the Kennedy Room. Watch this.

Jerry goes to the bookcase and presses a secret button. The bookcase revolves into the wall, revealing a fully-stocked bar.

JERRY

Pretty nifty, huh? So, what'll you have?

The Girl is examining the fish tank. He peers at her through the glass.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

How about a Brandy Alexander? I
was a bartender in college.

She smiles sexily. He fixes the drinks. She looks around the room, swaying sensuously. She is fascinated by a bronze statuette of a naked girl. The Girl compares her body with the statuette's. She starts unbuttoning her dress.

JERRY

Ah, getting comfortable I see.
That's good.

He carries the drinks to the sofa. She takes them -- puts both on the floor -- and pulls him towards her. She presses her lips on his. They make out on the sofa.

Jerry comes up for air.

JERRY

Whew! You're terrific. But could
you get that gum out of your mouth?

He puts his finger in her mouth.

She bites down hard.

Jerry screams in pain. She has bitten off his finger!

The Girl spits the finger out of her mouth. It lands in one of the glasses -- the liquid bubbles!

Jerry runs to the phone -- moaning. Panicked, he punches in 911 with his good hand.

The Girl is having trouble breathing. She swiftly picks up the bronze statuette, strides over, and whacks him on the head. Jerry is killed instantly. She drops the statuette and grabs desperately inside her purse and takes out a stick of blue gum. She frantically unwraps the stick of gum (which is bright blue) and pops it in her mouth. As she chews, her breathing returns to normal.

She scratches her head. Her hair is irritating her. So she rips at her hairline, and it peels off -- revealing, under the beehive, a giant brain. She is a Martian!

She takes a raygun out of her purse -- then rips off the bottom of her dress (so she can walk easier) -- and strides out.

139

INT. WHITE HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

139

The Martian Girl looks at a map on the wall of the interior of the White House, then heads off.

Half way down the hall, she breaks one of her heels -- and bends down to take off her shoes.

Behind her, a Secret Serviceman comes INTO VIEW. He takes off his dark glasses -- the better to admire her shapely rear end. Sensing something behind her, the Martian Girl peers under her armpit.

The Secret Serviceman reacts with shock to her face. She FIRES! He is blown across the room. He grabs at a nearby American flag. It tears as he slides, dead, to the floor.

The Martian Girl kicks off her other shoe -- which flies through the air and bounces off the Secret Serviceman's head!

140

INT. PRESIDENT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

140

Quietly, the bedroom door opens and the Martian Girl steps in.

The President and the First Lady (her hair in curlers) are asleep. Their dog, Rusty, is asleep at the foot of the bed. The Martian Girl reacts with fear at the sight of the dog.

She touches the side of the large ruby ring on her finger. The ruby covering slides open revealing a small electronic eye.

The dog's nose quivers... then he wakes.

141

INT. MARTIAN COMMAND SHIP - SAME TIME

141

The Martian Leader, flanked by subordinates, watches a large crystal-ball-like monitor. It shows a fish-eye view of the President's bedroom.

ON MONITOR

the Martian Girl aims her RAYGUN at the sleeping President. RUSTY BARKS! The Martian Leader and his men spring back -- scared by the dog.

142 INT. PRESIDENT'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

142

Rusty leaps at the Martian Girl who FIRES -- missing the President and the First Lady (the blast hits the bed between their bodies). Rusty fastens his jaws on her thigh.

The President and the First Lady wake up. She sees the Martian Girl and screams. He hits a button on the headboard. An ALARM WAILS.

The Martian Girl kicks the dog across the room -- a piece of rubber thigh in his mouth. She FIRES at him. Rusty is reduced to bones in an instant.

The First Lady ducks down under the bed, where she sees Rusty's steaming skull!

The Martian Girl is about to shoot the pajama'd President when WHAP! she's hit in the head by Rusty's skull -- thrown by the First Lady.

The President grabs the Martian Girl's gun-arm. They struggle.

Mitch bursts through the door.

The Martian Girl grabs the President and puts her raygun to his head. The ALARM STOPS sounding. The First Lady gets behind Mitch.

MITCH

(to Guards)

Don't shoot!

The Martian Girl pulls the President backwards towards a doorway and kicks it open. Mitch keeps his weapon trained on her.

143 INT. MARTIAN COMMAND SHIP

143

The Martians look at Mitch on the curved monitor.

144 INT. DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

144

The Martian Girl and her hostage back into the room. There are closets and a covered bird cage. She keeps chewing. The Girl bumps into the bird cage. The cloth slips off -- revealing a small PARAKEET on a perch. Startled, it SQUAWKS. The Martian Girl jerks, alarmed, and SHOOTS the parakeet.

MITCH

Get down!

(CONTINUED)

144 CONTINUED:

144

The President drops. Mitch SHOTS the Martian Girl in the head. BLAM! Her brain explodes, splattering the wall. Her body hits the floor, twitches, then goes still. The President is covered in slime and brain gook.

PRESIDENT

Thanks, Mitch.

MITCH

It's my job.

145 INT. COMMAND SHIP

145

The globe monitor goes dark. The Martian Leader reacts with rage.

146 INT. MARTIAN LABORATORY

146

Nathalie and Kessler are on display shelves. Nathalie is still half-dog and Kessler is a tray of limbs and organs.

KESSLER

Did you feel that? The ship's changed course.

NATHALIE

I'm scared!

KESSLER

Oh, Nathalie, if only I could hold you in my arms!

NATHALIE

Oh, Donald...!

KESSLER

(frustrated)

I simply don't know what's going on anymore!

147 INT. WASHINGTON LABORATORY - DAY

147

Three DOCTORS and a nurse in hospital gowns are doing an autopsy on the Martian Girl. A LAB TECHNICIAN comes in, holding a specimen jar.

LAB TECHNICIAN

Excuse me, but you said you wanted to know as soon as we had an analysis of the chewing gum.

(CONTINUED)

147 CONTINUED:

147

DOCTOR #1

Yes, what is it?

LAB TECHNICIAN

It's NO2 -- highly concentrated.

DOCTOR #2

Nitrogen!

DOCTOR #3

So that's how it could breathe in
our atmosphere!

148 INT. MARTIAN COMMAND SHIP - BIG HALL

148

A large metal iris in the floor opens revealing a large globe. The globe ascends. On top of it stands the Martian Leader.

NEW ANGLE

The globe rises into a great hall -- lined with galleries, in which hundreds of Martian warriors are assembled. Two giant robots watch the globe ascend and stop in mid-air.

A light switches on inside the globe -- revealing on it a map of the earth. The warriors cheer!

The Leader launches into an impassioned speech. He waves his arms. The mob goes nuts. Martian flags are raised.

Everyone screeches back in unison. It's like a Nuremberg rally. The Leader makes a circle in the air with his arm. The warriors follow suit.

The Leader reaches under his cloak and brings out a flame -- which burns (not harming him) in the palm of his hand.

The warriors gasp! As the globe descends to the floor, the Leader theatrically touches the flame to the Earth Globe on which he is standing. The tiny planet erupts in flames.

Huge cheers!

CLOSE ON MARTIAN LEADER

Flames lick up around him -- not harming him.

(CONTINUED)

- 148 CONTINUED: 148
 CLOSEUP - HIS HEAD
 which DISSOLVES into an image of the planet Earth.
- 149 EXT. SPACE AND EARTH ORBIT 149
 Scores of flying saucers ENTER the FRAME -- heading for Earth!
 The Martian attack has begun!
- 150 EXT. WASHINGTON SKIES - DAY 150
 Ten flying saucers descend on Washington.
- 151 EXT. WASHINGTON STREET - DAY 151
 People stare up at the descending saucers -- astounded.
- 152 INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY 152
 Mitch runs in.

MITCH

It's a full-scale invasion!
 C'mon, we need to get you to
 safety!

The President is on the phone -- with him are the First Lady and Taffy. THROUGH the window, behind them, a saucer is landing.

- 153 INT. WHITE HOUSE - HALLWAY INTERSECTION - DAY 153
 The hallways are full of secret servicemen talking into their radios. Mitch, Secret Servicemen #1, #2 and #3, the President, First Lady and Taffy are running.

FIRST LADY

Shouldn't we go that way?

MITCH

Sorry, ma'am, there's a tour going through there.

154 INT. WHITE HOUSE - BLUE ROOM - DAY

154

A school tour is in progress. The female TOUR GUIDE addresses the high school teacher and his class -- including Cedric and Neville.

TOUR GUIDE

The Blue Room is often considered the most beautiful room in the White House. In fact it is often used by the President to receive guests.

155 INT. WHITE HOUSE - BLUE ROOM - DAY (SAME TIME)

155

Sound of something CRASHING. The Teacher, Cedric, Neville and several students look 'round.

TOUR GUIDE

It is furnished to represent the period of James Monroe.

CEDRIC

(off noise)

What's that?

TOUR GUIDE

That is a portrait of James Monroe.

A Martian steps into the room and BLOWS away the Tour Guide. The students scream and run for the exits. The Martian BLOWS away the Teacher.

Two secret servicemen come through a doorway -- FIRING. The Martian SHOOTS them both. Their guns land near the boys. Cedric grabs up a GUN and SHOOTS the Martian in the head!

156 INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

156

Smoke is everywhere. Mitch hurries by with the President and the First Lady.

PRESIDENT

We lost Taffy!

MITCH

Keep moving, Mr. President! We have to get you to the back stairs!

(CONTINUED)

156

CONTINUED:

156

A Martian steps from a doorway and FIRES -- hitting Mitch in the arm. Mitch falls but instinctively SHOTS back. The Martian dodges it, then blasts a deathray across the wall and ceiling!

A vulgar red chandelier breaks loose. The First Lady gasps.

FIRST LADY
The Nancy Reagan Chandelier!

It plummets down and crushes her.

PRESIDENT
Marsha!

The Martian raises his raygun. Suddenly THREE BULLETS FIRE into him! The Martian's head blows up!

Wounded, Mitch turns. Cedric and Neville are standing behind him, guns smoking! Mitch stares in amazement.

CEDRIC
What you gawking at? Get the President outta here!

Another Martian appears. Cedric and Neville swing 'round in one synchronized move and BLAST him!

Mitch and the President hurry out through a doorway. Cedric and Neville grin at one another and low-five.

157 EXT. WASHINGTON SKIES - DAY

157

Three jet fighters fly past the Capitol and the Washington Monument. They approach a flying saucer. The saucer FIRES at a JET -- BLOWING it UP.

158 EXT. GROUND (NEAR WASHINGTON MONUMENT) - DAY

158

A Boy Scout troop gazes up at the saucer as it SHOTS and BLOWS UP the second JET.

159 INT. FLYING SAUCER - DAY

159

Two Martians are looking at a globe monitor showing the Boy Scouts and the monument.

160 EXT. WASHINGTON MONUMENT - DAY 160

The saucer SHOOTs the base of the monument. The Boy Scouts run as the monument cracks and falls towards them.

The Boy Scouts turn and run away from the direction of the toppling monument.

The saucer hops over the falling monument -- catches it on its rim -- and flips it back over. So it CRASHES on the Boy Scouts!

161 EXT. LAS VEGAS - DUSK 161

Five flying saucers approach Las Vegas.

162 EXT. GALAXY HOTEL - DUSK 162

Sounds of SIRENS and CAR HORNS and DISTANT RAY GUN BLASTS and EXPLOSIONS.

Two tourists run past, looking up, alarmed, at a flying saucer coming towards the unfinished hotel.

163 INT. ART LAND'S OFFICE (LAS VEGAS) - DUSK 163

Tables are laden with food and drink. The model of the Galaxy Hotel sits on a table. Art gives his presentation to a group of investors.

ART

... and I guarantee your investment will be returned within the first five months of operation.

The investors are distracted by the disturbing SOUNDS outside.

SAUDI INVESTOR (IN WHITE ROBES)

Mr. Land, excuse me please...

ART

Just a minute.

(continues)

Gambling is a leisure activity that will never go out of style! Look at the last few days -- even in a time of national crisis, people want to play blackiack!

(CONTINUED)

163

CONTINUED:

TEXAN INVESTOR

Mister Land, I believe we oughtta reconvene this meeting at a later time...

ART

Five more minutes! I want you to look at our beautiful showroom. It's stupendous -- and it's gonna attract the biggest stars!

A flying saucer appears outside the window behind Art. The investors are struck dumb!

ART

I tell you, there's no way we can lose!

- 164 EXT. GALAXY HOTEL - DUSK 164
The flying saucer FIRES at the hotel! KABOOM!
- 165 INT. ART LAND'S OFFICE - DUSK 165
Everything BLOWS UP!
- 166 EXT. GALAXY HOTEL - DUSK 166
Art Land's Galaxy Hotel collapses.
- 167 INT. CAESAR'S PALACE THEATER - DUSK 167
Tom Jones and his band are on stage performing "It's Not Unusual." The audience is loving it.
- 168 INT. CAESAR'S PALACE - SLOT MACHINE AREA - DUSK 168
Sound of TOM JONES singing is heard faintly from the theater. Byron is on the phone.

BYRON

Louise? I've been trying to call you all day! The flight was cancelled. Hello? Louise? I can't hear you!

169 INT. LOUISE'S APARTMENT (WASHINGTON) - NIGHT

169

Louise, scared, is on the phone.

SOUNDS OF WAR from outside. Cedric and Neville are peeking out the window, guns in hand.

LOUISE

Byron, there's Martians
everywhere!

An EXPLOSION rocks the room. Cedric and Neville duck.
The phone goes dead.

170 INT. CAESAR'S PALACE - SLOT MACHINE AREA - DUSK

170

BYRON

(desperate)

Louise?!!

Byron tries to get a line -- but it's no good. He takes a deep breath and thinks.

BYRON

I gotta get to Washington.

Nearby, the Elderly Slots Lady is pumping nickels into a machine. Not far from her, the Rude Gambler is playing a machine and sipping a drink. Cindy goes by with a tray of drinks.

RUDE GAMBLER

(to Cindy)

Hey, it's the end of the world!
Stop watering the drinks!

171 INT. ANOTHER PART OF CASINO - DUSK

171

The CASINO MANAGER, in suit and tie, is standing half-way up the main staircase addressing a crowd of anxious guests. Behind him stand two Roman soldiers.

CASINO MANAGER

Please, everyone, if we just keep calm, we can get through this!
The Army's survived and they will have the situation under control very soon. Until then, please stay inside, make use of the many excellent facilities of the hotel, and keep calm... and, once again, thank you for coming to the Caesar's Palace!

172

INT. CAESAR'S PALACE - SLOT MACHINE AREA - NIGHT

172

Byron is trying the phone again.

BARBARA (O.S.)

Byron! Byron!

He looks 'round. It's Barbara -- hurrying towards him.

BARBARA

(very agitated)

Do you know anyone who can fly a plane?

BYRON

Yeah, your husband, Art.

BARBARA

No, he's dead. I told him this was going to happen! I even loaded the plane with supplies. I want to go to Tahoe. To the Tahoe Caves. It's remote -- the Martians won't find it.

BYRON

Where's the plane?

BARBARA

Private airfield -- other side of the freeway.

BYRON

Could it fly to Washington, D.C.?

BARBARA

Why? I want to go to Tahoe!

173

INT. CAESAR'S PALACE THEATER - DUSK

173

TOM JONES is singing "She's a Lady."

Suddenly, the audience's faces undergo a change of expression. Behind Tom Jones, two Martians appear onstage and start copying his dance movements.

Tom looks 'round and is startled by the sight of them.

TOM JONES

Good God!

The band, ashen, comes to a ragged halt.

The Martians OPEN FIRE. People leap for the exits. The band bolts offstage. Tom Jones ducks a death ray and runs into the wings.

174 INT. CAESAR'S PALACE THEATER - BACKSTAGE _ DUSK 174

Tom Jones runs for his life. A Martian chases him. Tom knocks over a stage light as he rushes to the stage door. A RAY GUN BLAST EXPLODES near his head!

He pushes through the stage door. The Martian follows.

175 INT. CAESAR'S PALACE - SLOT MACHINE AREA - NIGHT 175

Cindy is serving the Rude Gambler a glass of whisky. A door bursts open and Tom Jones comes out, breathless.

TOM JONES

Martian! Right behind me!

Byron and Barbara react alarmed.

RUDE GAMBLER

Hey, you're Tom Jones. 'It's Not Unusual' -- am I right?

Suddenly a DEATH RAY EXPLODES through the door! Everyone scatters, except for the Slots Lady, who continues working her machine -- oblivious.

The door falls off its hinges and a Martian steps out. He aims his ray gun at the Slots Lady.

Suddenly Byron appears and throws a furious right hook straight into the Martian's glass helmet.

The Martian shrieks! Green gas pours out. He staggers, falls and dies, twitching on the floor.

Tom Jones and Barbara come out from behind the slot machines.

TOM JONES

That was a helluva punch!

BYRON

Get his gun. You might need it.

Tom Jones picks up the dead Martian's ray gun and examines it. Byron takes the ray pistol from the dead Martian's belt.

TOM

I'm Tom Jones.

BYRON

Byron Williams.

(CONTINUED)

175 CONTINUED:

175

TOM JONES

I saw you box -- in Cardiff,
Wales.

BYRON

Henry Cooper. Good fighter. You
okay, Barbara?

BARBARA

(shaking)

Yeah. I need a drink.

The Rude Gambler appears cautiously from behind a slot
machine, followed by a shaken Cindy.

RUDE GAMBLER

You and me both, honey.

TOM JONES

We've got to get out of here.

BYRON

You know how to fly a plane?

TOM JONES

Sure -- you got one?

BYRON

She has.

They all look at Barbara.

176 EXT. TOWN STREETS - NIGHT

176

Citizens runs screaming -- pursued by two Martians.
Martian #1 is carrying a translation device -- which
keeps repeating: "HAVE A NICE DAY. HAVE A NICE DAY."
Martian #2 FIRES. A citizen is blasted into a skeleton
and falls. TWO CARS SMASH into one another. The Martians
keep FIRING.

177 EXT. TRAILER PARK - NIGHT

177

ESTABLISHING SHOT of the trailer park.

178 INT. NORRIS TRAILER - CLOSE ON FRAMED FRONT PAGE
CLIPPING - NIGHT

178

of the "Iwo Jimo" photo of Billy-Glenn. The Norris
trailer is now a shrine to Billy-Glenn.

(CONTINUED)

WIDER

There are many newspaper clippings and photographs of Billy-Glenn and a bronze bust of him. Glenn and Sue-Ann are loading shot-guns. The trailer door opens. It's Richie, breathless.

RICHIE

There's a saucer landed right by the donut shop!

GLENN

You're kidding me!

RICHIE

Give me the keys to the truck. I'm gonna get Grandma.

He hands Richie a .45 revolver.

GLENN

Forget Grandma -- she's halfway to outer space already. Here, the shells are in that box on the table.

Sue-Ann snaps her shotgun barrel shut.

SUE-ANN

I'll tell ya one thing -- they ain't gettin' the TV!

of the world on the floor in the center of a round room. The room glows by emergency lights. On the big board, blinking green lights indicate Martian forces amassing in every country. The President sits at the round table, his head in his hands.

PRESIDENT

(in shock)

What happened to Marsha? Is she dead? Where's Taffy? And where's my dog?

MILITARY AIDE

The President of France on line two.

(CONTINUED)

179 CONTINUED:

179

PRESIDENT

(ignoring him)

Where did I go wrong? I should
have stayed in local politics. I
was happier back then.

The Military Aide picks up the phone in front of the
President and gives it to him.

MILITARY AIDE

It's the French President. He
says it's important. He's got
some good news.

He takes the phone. The Military Aide presses a button.

PRESIDENT

Hello, Maurice? Comment ca va?

180 INT. ELYSEE PALACE (PARIS, FRANCE) - DAY

180

In a magnificent state room, looking out of an elegant
window at the Eiffel Tower, is the FRENCH PRESIDENT --
on the phone.

FRENCH PRESIDENT

Tres bien. I have some good news
for you. Very good.

The room is filled with French politicians, the Martian
Ambassador and four Martian soldiers -- all sitting at a
large conference table.

FRENCH PRESIDENT

The Martian Ambassador is here
and we 'ave negotiated a
settlement.

181 INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

181

President Dale is alarmed.

PRESIDENT

Get out! Get out of the room --
now!

The sound of RAY-GUN BLASTS, HUMAN SCREAMS and SHATTERING
GLASS come from the PHONE! The President is holding the
phone away from his ear.

182 INT. ELYSEE PALACE (PARIS, FRANCE) - DAY 182

The Martians SHRED the French Cabinet with RAY-GUN FIRE!
Outside the window, in the distance, a flying saucer FIRES
at the base of the Eiffel Tower. The Eiffel Tower falls!

183 EXT. LAS VEGAS STRIP - DUSK 183

Four flying saucers SHOOT UP Las Vegas.

Martians march down the street, SHOOTING at everything
that moves. A Martian carrying a translating device
with speakers passes by. Sound of TAPE REWINDING, then:

SYNTHESIZED VOICE (V.O.)

Don't run. We are your friends!
Don't run. We are your friends!

Two tourists run, terrified -- and are dropped by DEATH-
RAYS.

Byron, Tom Jones, Barbara, the Rude Gambler and Cindy
cross the street between burning cars. They pass a burn-
ing tour bus. A Martian appears from behind the bus and
aims his weapon. Tom Jones FIRES his RAYGUN. It hits
the Martian's AIRTANK - which EXPLODES!

184 EXT. TRAILER PARK (PERKINSVILLE) - NIGHT 184

ESTABLISHING SHOT of Trailer Park.

185 INT. SEVENTIES-STYLE TRAILER - NIGHT 185

The bedroom is a '70s love nest, with lava lamps, fairy
lights and a disco ball. THROUGH the window, two
Martians watch the love-making COUPLE lasciviously.

CLOSE ON MARTIANS

Their domes fog up. The Woman sees the Martians.

WOMAN

Mike! Mike!

MIKE

Sorry, honey, was that too hard?

WOMAN

No, look!

She points at the Martians in the window. Small wind-
shield wipers inside their domes are going at speed --
wiping the glass clear!

186

INT. NORRIS TRAILER - NIGHT

186

Sound of RAY-GUN BLASTS. DOGS BARK. Glenn and Sue-Ann stop preparing their weapons.

SUE-ANN

What was that?

Glenn and Sue-Ann peer out the windows. Richie sees the truck keys on the table and grabs them. He opens the door.

GLENN

Where you going?

RICHIE

I'm gonna get Grandma!

GLENN

No you ain't. You're gonna stay here and defend this trailer!

SUE-ANN

That's what Billy-Glenn would do!

GLENN

You leave here, you're disgracin' an American hero!

RICHIE

I don't care. I'm gonna get Grandma!

He closes the door behind him.

SUE-ANN

Richie! Come back!

A weird HUMMING NOISE comes from above. Glenn and Sue-Ann look up.

GLENN

What the hell is that?

187

EXT. TRAILER PARK (PERKINSVILLE) - NIGHT

187

A flying saucer appears over the trailer park. Richie drives away in his pick-up.

The saucer has an inverted "U" shaped giant magnet hanging from its undercarriage. The trailers are sucked up into the air by the giant magnet. The trailers bunch up on the magnet's arms.

- 188 INT. NORRIS TRAILER - NIGHT 188
 The trailer is now upside-down -- everything is falling about. Glenn and Sue-Ann scream!
- 189 EXT. TRAILER PARK (PERKINSVILLE) - NIGHT 189
 Weird jaw-like crushers unfold from the undercarriage of the spaceship, and "clap" together on the trailers -- smashing them into a mangled ball!
- 190 INT. PICKUP TRUCK AND ROAD (MOVING) - NIGHT 190
 Sounds of SPACESHIP with magnet. Richie drives as fast as he can down the dark road. He looks, with fear, in his rearview mirror.
 IN REARVIEW MIRROR: The spaceship with the giant magnet drops the ball of crushed trailers to the ground.
- 191 INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT 191
 The President is sitting at the round table, his head in his hands, sunk in depression. General Decker is holding a piece of paper and trying to get his attention.
 DECKER
 Mister President! Mr. President!
 I need you to sign this.
 He puts a pen in the President's hand.
 PRESIDENT
 What is it, my last will and testament?
 DECKER
 No, sir, it's your order to deploy our nuclear capability.
 With great heaviness, the President signs the paper.
- 192 EXT. SILO - NIGHT 192
 The silo sits in the middle of the desert. Suddenly, a DEEP RUMBLING sound and a NUCLEAR MISSILE SHOOTs out of the ground and into the sky!
- 193 INT. WAR ROOM (WASHINGTON) - NIGHT 193
 Everyone in the War Room tensely watches the missile on the large monitor. The President's face is ashen.

194 INT. SPACESHIP - NIGHT 194

Martians look through the window at the approaching missile. They gabble to each other, gesticulating wildly. A Martian nods and pulls a lever.

195 EXT. SPACESHIP - NIGHT 195

A hatch opens... and a balloon floats out. It has two little antennae and a trumpet-like nozzle. SLOW MOTION: the MISSILE gets within a few yards of the spaceship, then DETONATES.

196 INT. SPACESHIP - NIGHT 196

The force of the EXPLOSION rocks the spaceship. The Martians fall over.

197 EXT. SPACESHIP - NIGHT 197

SLOW MOTION: The EXPLOSION SPREADS. Smoke forms. But then the bobbing balloon's nozzle opens and sucks the explosion in. It sucks all the gas -- expanding as it does so. Once it's finished, the weird balloon floats back into the space-ship. The hatch closes.

198 INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT 198

Everyone is watching the spaceship on the screen -- appalled.

DECKER

What happened?

The image on the screen blacks out for a moment -- to be replaced by a view of the interior of the Martian spaceship control room.

The President and his staff watch as the MARTIAN CAPTAIN takes the nozzle of the balloon into his mouth and breathes in. Then he speaks. His VOICE is now high and squeaky! The Martians crack up laughing. Then the screen blacks out. Everyone is stunned.

ON MITCH

His arm in a sling.

MITCH

(under his breath)

Only God can help us now.

- 199 EXT. HIGHWAY (PERKINSVILLE) - NIGHT 199
- Richie's pickup races along the highway. Chasing him is a giant robot!
- The robot is 20 feet tall, made of metal, with two legs, a glass bubble for a head (inside which a Martian can be seen, operating the controls) -- and three retractable metal arms which end in three fully-articulated giant metal fingers -- or "pinchers."
- 200 INT. MOVING TRUCK - NIGHT 200
- Richie has the pedal to the metal. IN the REARVIEW MIRROR, the giant robot is gaining! Richie, desperate, looks around for some means of escape.
- THROUGH side window, in a field, opposite the entrance to the home, is a row of power lines. He turns the wheel.
- 201 EXT. HIGHWAY - FIELD WITH POWER LINES - NIGHT 201
- Richie drives off the highway and into a field. He bumps along the uneven ground -- towards the power lines.
- The giant robot follows and catches up to him fast! Richie swerves violently under the power lines. The giant robot goes after him... and collides with a pylon tower! POWER LINES break and dance around SPARKING! Big sparks rain on to Richie's pick-up. The robot's "pincher" arm grabs the tower -- and is immediately hit by 1000s of volts! The robot shudders and vibrates as the electricity surges through it. Richie's truck speeds back towards the highway!
- 202 EXT. VEGAS STREETS - NIGHT 202
- Soldiers in a Jeep flee from a Martian. The Martian FIRES! The JEEP CRASHES near to three cannons deployed across the road -- and serviced by three gun crews.
- Above, a flying saucer FIRES at a TALL BUILDING -- which BLOWS UP -- toppling onto the cannons and gun crews below.
- 203 EXT. STREET (LAS VEGAS) - NIGHT 203
- Byron, Tom Jones, Barbara, Cindy and the Rude Gambler are at a tall wire fence, beyond which are some low industrial buildings and an industrial site housing a company named, "YesCo." Byron is squeezing through a broken fence.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

What are you doing? It's this way!

BYRON

This is a short cut. The airstrip's on the other side -- and we're less likely to run into Martians.

RUDE GAMBLER

How do you know?

BYRON

Trust me. Come on -- let's go!

Barbara, Cindy and Tom Jones squeeze through the fence opening.

RUDE GAMBLER

Hey, just because you're dressed like Caesar doesn't mean you're a leader!

Sounds of WAR. Keeping their heads low, Byron, Barbara, Tom Jones, Cindy and the Rude Gambler weave their way through an extensive junkyard of old Las Vegas signs (a massive Silver Slipper, a giant, bulb-encrusted Aladdin's Lamp, etc.).

The sky is full of TRACER FIRE from distant Army ARTILLERY -- trying to shoot down the flying saucers.

BYRON

(to Tom Jones)

Tom, after we get to Tahoe, I want you to fly me to Washington, D.C.

TOM JONES

Why?

BYRON

My wife and kids are there.

TOM JONES

Look, I'm sorry, but even if we could make it, Washington will be a war-zone. We wouldn't last five minutes.

(CONTINUED)

BYRON

You won't take me?

TOM JONES

It'd be suicide.

BYRON

Okay, then show me how to fly the plane. I'll go on my own.

Tom looks at him doubtfully.

ON RUDE GAMBLER, BARBARA AND CINDY

following behind.

RUDE GAMBLER

He's lost! He's led us into a maze!

The Rude Gambler runs away.

BARBARA

Where are you going?

The Rude Gambler runs past a giant fish and a bucking bronco sign.

RUDE GAMBLER

Assholes! Why didn't I stay in the hotel?!

He freezes. Less than ten feet away, a Martian is staring at him.

RUDE GAMBLER

Shit!

He glances around -- there's nowhere to run. He puts up his hands.

RUDE GAMBLER

Look, I surrender, okay? You understand what that means? Surrender?

The Martian doesn't move.

(CONTINUED)

RUDE GAMBLER

Lookit, you're intelligent beings
 -- let's cut a deal. I can help
 you! I'm a lawyer! You want to
 conquer the world, you're gonna
 need lawyers, right? Here --
 you want my watch?

He takes off his watch and offers it to the Martian.

RUDE GAMBLER

Take it, take it -- go on! It's
 a Rolex!

KAPOW! The Martian reduces him to a skeleton with one
 RAYGUN BLAST! His BONES CLATTER to the ground.

BLAM! The MARTIAN'S HEAD EXPLODES!

ANGLE ON BARBARA

inside the "O" of "The Golden Nugget" sign. Her raygun
 is smoking. She is joined by Tom Jones.

TOM JONES

Good shot!

BARBARA

Pity I was too late.

TOM JONES

(not so sure)

Yeah.

Byron and Cindy appear.

BARBARA

Look!

BYRON

What?

BARBARA

The airfield.

She points.

THEIR POV

THROUGH a gap between signs can be seen the airfield -- a
 hangar -- and a crushed, burning plane.

BARBARA (O.S.)

That's where the plane is --
 right there in that hangar!

- 206 EXT. LAWRENCE WELK RETIREMENT HOME - NIGHT 206
- Sounds of FIRING and SCREAMING. An old man in a wheel-chair speeds INTO FRAME -- he is on fire! An old lady with a "walker" hobbles away as fast as she can from a Martian. The Martian FIRES!
- 207 INT. LAWRENCE WELK HOME - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 207
- Four Martians come down the corridor. A door opens and a NICE OLD LADY steps out. Behind her are three nervous people.
- NICE OLD LADY
- Hello!
- The four Martians FIRE!
- NEW ANGLE - FOUR MARTIANS
- continue down the corridor.
- 208 INT. RETIREMENT HOME - HALLWAY - NIGHT 208
- Martian #1 opens the door to Grandma's room and peeks through.
- He turns to the others and indicates for them to come over. He puts his finger to his lips and goes "Shhh!" The three Martians look through the crack in the doorway.
- 209 INT. GRANDMA'S ROOM - NIGHT 209
- Grandma looks like Whistler's Mother -- sitting on a rocking chair, wearing headphones -- which are connected to her record player. She is knitting a shawl. The three Martians look at each other and grin.
- 210 EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT 210
- Richie drives as fast as he can down the highway.
- 211 INT. RETIREMENT HOME - GRANDMA'S ROOM - NIGHT 211
- The three Martians tip-toe into Grandma's room -- each carrying a piece of equipment. Quietly, trying not to giggle, the Martians begin assembling a large death-ray gun.

212 INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

212

General Decker tears a sheet of paper from the computer printer. The President sits depressed at the table. The others sit around -- gloomy. General Decker approaches him.

DECKER

The computer says if they maintain this level of assault, they will destroy the world in six days.

PRESIDENT

(depressed, musing)

In six days God created the world, and in six days it will be destroyed. I'm gonna go down in history as the guy who gave away the store.

213 EXT. MANHATTAN - NIGHT

213

Manhattan is burning! Two FLYING SAUCERS fly THROUGH the FRAME -- FIRING. A SKYSCRAPER CRACKS and FALLS.

214 EXT. MANHATTAN STREET - NIGHT

214

Crowds run screaming down the street. Above, a FLYING SAUCER FIRES! People are turned into skeletons! Others run, screaming and panicking. A BABY, alone, lost in the crowd, CRIES with terror!

215 EXT. LONDON - DUSK

215

Flying Saucers over London! A FLYING SAUCER FIRES at "BIG BEN" -- BOOM! It EXPLODES.

216 EXT. EASTER ISLAND - DAY

216

Natives look scared as a flying saucer approaches a hillside on which are dotted the famous giant stone heads of Easter Island. A mechanical hand is lowered from underneath the flying saucer. It is holding a ball. The hand throws the ball -- which knocks over six of the giant heads.

217 INT. COCKPIT OF FLYING SAUCER - DAY

217

The three Martians in the cockpit, leap and "high-five." It's a strike!

218 EXT. PARKING LOT AND MOUNT RUSHMORE - NIGHT 218

In the parking lot, a crowd of tourists see a spaceship fly up to the carved heads of the Presidents. A zig-zagging BEAM PULSES from the ship -- into the stone faces. Clouds of smoke FILL the FRAME.

The tourists run, petrified, to their cars and drive away as fast as they can.

ON MOUNT RUSHMORE

The smoke clears -- revealing that the heads have been re-carved into the features of hideous Martians!

219 EXT. RETIREMENT HOME (PERKINSVILLE) - NIGHT 219

Richie drives his pickup right up to the front porch of the main building. There are bodies of old people on the lawn and porch steps. He stops and gets out -- holding his .45.

Richie carefully approaches the front door and opens it.

RICHIE'S POV - LOBBY

a scene of destruction -- broken furniture, scorched walls, dead bodies... Richie takes a deep breath and goes in.

220 INT. RETIREMENT HOME - HALLWAY 220

Terrified, Richie walks down the hallway to Grandma's room. He steps over two skeletons and reaches the door to Grandma's room. Very carefully, he pushes open the door and looks through.

221 INT. RETIREMENT HOME - GRANDMA'S ROOM - NIGHT 221

The three Martians have finished assembling the large DEATH-RAY GUN which is pointed straight at Grandma's head. Martian #1 sees Richie at the door and FIRES. WHOOOOSH! Richie ducks. The DOOR above him DISINTEGRATES. Grandma turns her head sharply at the noise -- pulling her head-
phone cord out of the socket on the record player. The room is filled with the sound of SLIM WHITMAN YODELING! A queasy expression crosses the faces of the Martians. Their eyeballs bulge out, their cerebra vibrate and small green capillaries burst in their brains!

(CONTINUED)

221

CONTINUED:

221

Richie gets up, staring. Grandma peers at her visitors, adjusting her spectacles. The Martians' brains expand and contract rapidly. They squeal! Martian #1's brain explodes inside his dome. He dies.

GRANDMA

(agitated)

Oh, Richie! I'm awful worried!
Look at these men here! I think
they're sick!

Martian #2's brain explodes inside his dome.

RICHIE

What's killing 'em?

Martian #3's brain explodes and he drops dead.

RICHIE

What's killing 'em?

GRANDMA

It's my music.

RICHIE

(amazed)

What music?

222

INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

222

Decker paces around the War Room, holding his pistol.

DECKER

Quiet! I can hear something.
Everybody quiet!

Everyone stops what they're doing and holds their breath. The PITTER-PATTER of TINY FEET becomes FAINTLY AUDIBLE. Then -- BOOM! An EXPLOSION BLOWS a HOLE through the WALL!

A PULSATING green ORB is tossed through the hole in the wall. It rolls, ominously, to a stop in the center of the room. Everybody ducks under chairs and tables. The Martian Leader and six Martian officers stride in. They cover the war room with their weapons. The Martian Leader walks over, picks up the orb and shakes it.

CLOSE ON ORB

A little model of a baby Martian becomes visible inside it -- with snow falling. It's a Martian snow globe toy!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BACK TO SCENE

The Martians laugh.

Decker gets up, a gun in each hand.

DECKER

(angry)

You think you can come over here
and do whatever you want? Well,
you don't know human beings!

He FIRES both PISTOLS at the Martians. The BULLETS BOUNCE off their body ARMOR. The Martian Leader barks an order. Three Martians rush him -- grab him, disarm him and push him against the wall...

DECKER

We will never give up! We will
fight you and fight you to the
last man! We will never surrender!

The Martian Leader takes out a tiny little GUN. It looks like a Crackerjack toy. The Martian nervously steps away from Decker. The Martian Leader FIRES! A weird light emanates from the gun -- hits Decker and shrinks him down to three inches high!

The military, under the tables and behind chairs, watch, astonished, as DECKER runs, SQUEAKING across the floor, towards the Martian Leader. Decker shakes his little fists.

DECKER

Damn you to hell, you ugly
Martian peckerhead!

The Martian Leader steps on him!

Terrified, everyone runs for the doors. The Martians FIRE! The humans glow -- and drop. A Martian aims at the President. Mitch (his arm in a sling) throws himself in front of him and takes the fatal BLAST! The President steps forward. All fear has gone. He speaks from the heart.

PRESIDENT

Why are you doing this? Why?
Isn't the universe big enough for
both of us? What is wrong with
you people?

The Martian Leader holds up his hand to his troops. They lower their weapons and listen to the President.

(CONTINUED)

PRESIDENT

We could work together. Why be enemies? Just because we're different? Is that why? We could work together! Think how much we could do! Think how strong we would be! Earth and Mars together! There's nothing we couldn't accomplish! Think about it! Why destroy when you can create? We can have it all -- or we can smash it all -- which is better? Which is better? Why can't we settle our differences? Why can't we work things out? Why can't we just get along?

The Martian Leader seems impressed. He offers the President his hand. The President, surprised, shakes it. The Martian Leader's hand detaches from his wrist and scurries up the President's arm -- to his shoulder. (NOTE: the hand has a mechanical tail -- curled up like a scorpion's tail.)

PRESIDENT

What is that? What's going on?

The scorpion-tailed hand scurries over his shoulder. He tries to brush it off. Then the hand tenses its fingers -- the tail uncurls -- and jabs its sharp point into the President's back.

PRESIDENT

Ugh!

The sharp-pointed metal tail comes through the President's chest. He looks down, horrified. The spike-tail tele-scopes out of his chest!!! The President falls backwards, dead, onto the floor-map of the world. The spike-tail's tip flips open. A Martian flag snaps out. The Martian Leader and his troops look at the dead President with the Martian flag impaled in his chest. All is quiet.

Richie is driving. Grandma is on the passenger side. Between them on the bench seat, is a RECORD PLAYER -- wired to the car battery. The SLIM WHITMAN ALBUM is PLAYING.

- 224 EXT. MINI-MALL (PERKINSVILLE) - NIGHT 224
- Much of Perkinsville is burning. Richie's pickup truck comes down the street. There are two big SPEAKERS in back -- blaring out COUNTRY MUSIC.
- Three Martians are looting. Martian #1 is carrying a TV. Martian #2 is carrying a box of donuts. They look up apprehensively -- then fall to the ground, clutching their heads -- squealing!
- 225 INT. PICKUP - NIGHT 225
- Richie and Grandma grin in triumph.
- RICHIE
- Okay, Grandma -- next stop the radio station!!
- The town of Perkinsville burns behind them.
- 226 INT. HANGAR - NIGHT 226
- WAR sounds are more DISTANT now. Byron, Tom Jones, Barbara and Cindy enter the dimly-lit hangar.
- BARBARA
- There it is!
- Before them is a white twin-engined Cessna.
- BYRON
- Tom, get it started up.
(to Barbara)
- You go with him. Cindy -- help me get the doors!
- Tom and Barbara get into the plane. Byron and Cindy cross to the hangar doors.
- 227 INSERT - HAND 227
- A hand puts a needle on to a record.
- 228 EXT. RADIO STATION - NIGHT 228
- Sound of SLIM WHITMAN YODELING. Animated circles pulse out the radio tower -- representing radio waves.

229 INT. PLANE - COCKPIT - NIGHT

Tom Jones leaps into the pilot's seat and starts flicking switches on the instrument panel. Barbara watches him anxiously.

TOM JONES

Righto. I can fly this.

Tom Jones accidentally turns ON the RADIO -- which is playing the SLIM WHITMAN yodeling SONG. Barbara frowns.

TOM JONES

Who put that on?!

He TURNS OFF the RADIO.

230 INT. HANGAR - NIGHT

230

Byron and Cindy have trouble unlatching the doors.

CINDY

It's stuck!

BYRON

Let me see that!

The plane ENGINES COUGH into life. The propellers turn! Byron unhitches the complicated latch.

BYRON

That's it!

Cindy and Byron pull open the doors. On the runway, the Martian Ambassador is addressing a squad of fifty Martians. Cindy freezes.

BYRON

They haven't seen us! Quick! Get the doors open!

They slide open the doors.

231 INT. PLANE - COCKPIT - NIGHT

231

Tom Jones and Barbara gape at the Martians.

BARBARA

Oh, my God!

TOM

That's the Martian Ambassador!

232

INT. HANGAR - NIGHT

Byron looks at the Martians. An angry, violent rage is coming over him. His eyes burn. Cindy glances at him anxiously.

BYRON

Cindy, you go.

CINDY

What?

BYRON

I'm staying. I'll distract them. Soon as you get a chance, take off!

CINDY

What?

BYRON

Just do it! I'll draw them off.

He pushes her.

BYRON

Go!Go!Go!

She runs towards the plane. Byron glares at the Martians.

BYRON

I hate those fuckers!

Byron lopes out of the hangar towards the Martians.

233

INT. PLANE - COCKPIT - NIGHT

233

Tom and Barbara watch anxiously from the cockpit.

BARBARA

What's he doing?

TOM JONES

He's flipped!

Cindy appears in the cockpit.

CINDY

He's gonna draw them off so we can escape.

TOM JONES

We can't leave him!

(CONTINUED)

233 CONTINUED:

CINDY

That's what he said!

BARBARA

Oh, God!

234 EXT. HANGAR - NIGHT

234

Byron marches towards the Martians.

BYRON

Hi, guys -- How ya doing?

The Martians turn to look at him and raise their rayguns.
He drops his ray-pistol on the ground.

BYRON

See? No weapon.

Byron jogs away from the hangar -- and puts up his fists.

BYRON

Come on! Come on! What are you --
a bunch of pussies?

The Martian Ambassador approaches him.

BYRON

Okay, Mister Ambassador...

He punches the Martian Ambassador in the head. The
Martian Ambassador drops his raygun, but comes back and
boxes Byron. Byron dodges and weaves -- then lands
another hard left hook. The Martian Ambassador is dazed,
but recovers.

Byron moves further away from the hangar.

The other Martians chatter in their weird language, and
form a circle around the fighters.

NEW ANGLE - PLANE

taxis out of the hangar.

235 INT. MOVING COCKPIT - NIGHT

235

Tom Jones, Barbara and Cindy look devastated. They are
horrified at the prospect of leaving Byron.

TOM JONES

What do we do?

236

EXT. AIRFIELD - NIGHT

236

Byron has led the Martians even further from the hangar. He boxes the Martian Ambassador and smashes his dome with a vicious uppercut. The Martian Ambassador dies -- squealing. The other Martians are shocked. Three Martians move in on Byron. He knocks one down -- dodges another -- gets hit -- recovers -- knocks down another Martian... four more Martians join in. Byron fights furiously! Another five Martians join the fight. It's too much. Punching like a madman, he cannot stem the tide of Martians!

NEW ANGLE - PLANE

speeds along the runway and lifts off.

Byron is hit from all sides. Then the Martians swarm over him -- like ants on a carcass.

The plane rises into the sky.

237

INT. AIRBORNE PLANE - COCKPIT - NIGHT

237

Tom Jones, Barbara and Cindy stare out the window.

THEIR POV

The Martians move away from Byron. His body becomes visible -- lying on a wide white line -- painted on the tarmac. His arms are on a second painted line -- which bisects the first line. Seen from above, the image is like Christ on the cross.

238

INT. LOUISE'S APARTMENT - CLOSEUP - LOUISE - NIGHT

238

Tense, her eyes wide.

LOUISE
Something's happened.

Sounds of WAR OUTSIDE. In their barricaded apartment, Neville keeps lookout at the window, guns in hand. They look round at Louise.

LOUISE
(haunted)
Something's happened to Byron!

MONTAGE

- 239 INT. BARRICADED SUBURBAN KITCHEN 239
A woman turns ON her RADIO.
- 240 INT. CANDLELIT WINE CELLAR 240
A group of Monks listen to the RADIO and tape the song on a tape recorder.
- 241 EXT. OUTSIDE VEGAS - ARMORED CAR 241
with huge speakers mounted on it, moves down a damaged highway. A flying SAUCER falls from the sky and CRASHES into the Caesar's Palace Hotel.
- 242 EXT. LONDON - HELICOPTER 242
flies over Westminster Bridge -- broadcasting the SONG through specially mounted SPEAKERS. A platoon of Martians who are crossing the bridge fall dead.
- 243 EXT. WASHINGTON - THREE HELICOPTERS 243
with mounted speakers fly above the city, broadcasting. TWO FLYING SAUCERS wobble, drop and SMASH into each other before CRASHING to the ground.
- 244 EXT. BURNING WASHINGTON STREET 244
Two Puerto Rican kids push a shopping cart containing a GHETTO BLASTER. Four Martians run away from them -- their heads exploding!
END OF MONTAGE.
- 245 EXT. SKY - DAY 245
The Martian command ship is pursued by a jet, with speakers mounted under its wings.
- 246 INT. MARTIAN COMMAND SHIP - CONTROL ROOM - DAY 246
The Martian Leader and four Martian soldiers clutch their heads and fall to the ground. The floor tilts suddenly at 45 degrees.

(CONTINUED)

246

CONTINUED:

246

All the SPECIMENS slide off the shelves and SMASH on the floor. Kessler's head smashes and his organs are pulled from their life support tubes. The Martians shriek in their death-agonies.

Nathalie falls -- SMACK! -- and her head comes detached from its chihuahua body. Her head rolls next to his head.

KESSLER

Good-bye, darling, I wish things could have been different!

NATHALIE

So do I!

The Martian Leader's head explodes!

NATHALIE

Good-bye. I love you.

KESSLER

I love you, too, Nathalie.

With her last breath, she kisses him on the lips. They die.

247

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

247

The command SHIP CRASHES into the OCEAN -- bubbles for a moment on the surface, then sinks.

248

EXT. SPACE - PLANET EARTH

248

The remaining fleet of 40 flying saucers leaves Earth's atmosphere -- and heads back towards Mars.

DISSOLVE TO:

249

EXT. TAHOE CAVES - SUNRISE

249

The sun peeps over the mountains. A ROBIN, on a branch, fluffs out its feathers and begins to SING. Emerging from the mouth of a cave, come Barbara, Cindy and Tom Jones. They look out, blinking, at the new day.

250

EXT. WASHINGTON STREET - DAY

250

People are cleaning up. A man goes by with a wheelbarrow filled with two dead Martians. A woman sweeps the street. Two men are repairing a shop window.

(CONTINUED)

250 CONTINUED:

-250

A line of people fill a dumpster with black plastic bags of garbage. Fires burn in the distance. No one is talking. The silence is extraordinary.

251 EXT. CAPITOL BUILDING (WASHINGTON) - DUSK

251

The sun sets over the burned-out city. On the steps of the half-destroyed Capitol building is a small crowd in the glare of TV lights.

Six Marines in crumpled, dirty uniforms stand behind Richie and Grandma Norris. They are lit by TV lights and being filmed by a student TV crew. In the crowd, watching them proudly, are a handful of survivors -- including Louise, Cedric and Neville, their guns stuck in their belts.

On the steps, holding two medals, is Taffy. Behind her are two elderly mailmen.

TAFFY

Florence Norris, I am proud to present you with the Congressional Medal of Honor. The highest decoration our nation can bestow.

She hangs the medal around Grandma's neck -- and kisses her on both cheeks.

GRANDMA

Thank you, dear.

Taffy moves along to face Richie. Richie looks at her. She's beautiful. She looks at him looking at her -- and blushes. Then she recovers herself and...

TAFFY

Richard Norris, on behalf of my parents -- who couldn't be here today -- for saving the world from the Martians, I hereby award you the Medal of Honor.

She puts the medal around his neck. And is about to kiss his cheek, but hesitates. She is very attracted to him, and it makes her shy.

RICHIE

You don't have to kiss me if you don't want.

TAFFY

I've got to.

(CONTINUED)

251

CONTINUED:

She kisses him quickly on both cheeks.

RICHIE

I, uh, prepared a speech. Is that okay?

TAFFY

Sure. I think that's very appropriate.

RICHIE

Okay, uh...

Richie pulls out a crumpled piece of paper and hesitantly addresses the crowd and the camera.

RICHIE

Well, folks, I just wanna say... I didn't really... I mean, there's lots of people in the world did more than I have --

CUT TO:

LOUISE, CEDRIC AND NEVILLE

Their faces grim. They are thinking about Byron.

BACK TO SCENE

RICHIE

And they should be here now, getting a medal, too. So, uh, we made it -- but we almost didn't. It was close. And...

He glances at his speech.

RICHIE

... now we must rebuild. We must rebuild our cities, but maybe not the way they were before. Maybe instead of houses we should live in teepees -- it's better in a lot of ways.

People have trouble following what he is saying -- but they like it anyway! Taffy gazes at him, her eyes shining.

(CONTINUED)

251 CONTINUED: (2)

RICHIE

And the environment -- let's take care of it this time. And let's have a decent justice system which is fair. Then we won't need so many lawyers. And psychiatrists -- do they really help? If we get society right this time, we won't need 'em!

The crowd applauds!

RICHIE

And there's no need to cut military or government spending now because that's been taken care of!

The crowd cheers!

RICHIE

The future's gonna be great! Let's go for it! I guess that's all I have to say. Thank you.

He steps down. The crowd continues applauding.

RICHIE

(to Taffy)

Was that all right?

TAFFY

Yeah. Have you got a girl friend?

Richie looks at her, shy and excited.

ANGLE ON GRANDMA

looking at Richie and Taffy with love.

ANGLE ON CROWD

FAVORING Louise, Cedric and Neville.

WIDE ON WASHINGTON

-- in ruins.

PAN UP TO the night sky.

FADE OUT.

THE END