

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD WHEEL KIND

Written by

Jameel Saleem

A segment from Relationships, Monsters and Aliens

JameelSaleem@gmail.com
www.jameelsaleem.com

"CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD WHEEL KIND"

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT

Establishing shot of a quiet suburban home in the middle of the night. The lights are out. Everyone is asleep.

INT. BEDROOM - SAME

BRANDON and his wife TINA, a young married couple, are asleep in bed.

A LOUD CRASH

Abruptly wakes them up. Tina panics.

TINA
(whipping up)
What was that?!

BRANDON
I don't know.

A LESSER CRASH

Then, a BRIGHT LIGHT shines through their window from the BACKYARD.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
(re: light)
What the hell?

Brandon runs to the window. The LIGHT is blinding.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
There's something down there.

JUMP CUT TO:

DOWNSTAIRS

Brandon hurries down the steps and into

THE KITCHEN

Tina follows.

BRANDON
(to Tina)
Stay back!

BACK DOOR

Brandon peers out cautiously. The LIGHT is still shining bright. Tina nervously hangs back.

TINA
What is it?

BRANDON
I don't know.

Brandon quickly darts in another room, then comes back with a BAT.

TINA
What are you doing?

BRANDON
I'm going to see what it is.

He starts to peak out the door.

TINA
Stop!

BRANDON
What?

TINA
What if it's a bear?

BRANDON
A bear Tina?
(then; sarcastic)
I don't know... First, I think I'll ask him, what the hell he's doing walking around our backyard with a thousand watt flashlight... Then, I'm going to say, "Hey bear, who taught you how to use a flashlight? That's crazy!"

A LOUD BANG

Brandon gestures for Tina to be silent. He grips the bat, then carefully exits to the back yard.

ANGLE ON Tina. She's worried.

TINA
(whispering)
Brandon.

A CRASH SOUND. Then, LIGHTS OUT.

WE HEAR A SCUFFLE. After a few beats, Brandon runs back into the house. His bat is missing and he looks like he's seen a ghost.

TINA (CONT'D)
What was it?!

He makes sure the door is locked.

BRANDON
Call the cops.

TINA
Okay.

Tina runs to get her phone. Brandon keeps a close watch on the door. Intense fear in his eyes.

Tina returns with her PHONE in hand.

TINA (CONT'D)
It's not working.

BRANDON
(peaking through the
window curtains)
What?!

TINA
There's no signal, just some
interference noise.

Suddenly, a KNOCK on the door. A startled Tina screams.

TINA (CONT'D)
(to Brandon)
Who's out there?

Brandon slowly backs away from the door.

TINA (CONT'D)
Where's the bat?

BRANDON
I dropped it.

Another KNOCK, this time it's softer. Sounds friendly enough.

TINA
(off the door)
Maybe they need help.

Then, the DOOR KNOB turns and we hear it -- UNLOCK.

TINA (CONT'D)

Oh my God!

Brandon bravely shields Tina.

THE DOOR OPENS

What we see next, is shocking...

AN ALIEN

Strange features, big eyes, greenish-grey skin. Wearing a space suit.

Tina SCREAMS at the sight of it. Brandon holds her tight, for his own comfort.

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

BRANDON and TINA are standing in the kitchen doorway. Still in shock.

THEIR POV

The Alien is seated at the kitchen table.

Every single kind of FOOD available, has been placed in front of it.

They both nervously watch as the Alien tries out different types off food.

Anything it doesn't like gets TOSSED across the room, sometimes in Tina and Brandon's direction. Although terrified, they stand their ground.

TINA

(whispering to Brandon)

He's been doing that for an hour.

BRANDON

Shhh. Just don't make any sudden moves.

The Alien looks up at them, they stiffen up in fear. After a few beats, it goes back to the food.

After TOSSING another food item, it comes across a carton of STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM. It digs in. The first thing that it's liked.

The Alien starts devouring the ice cream.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
He likes strawberry ice cream.

The full carton of ice cream is now completely empty.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
(amazed)
He really likes it.

CUT TO:

SUPER: A COUPLE DAYS LATER

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Brandon enjoying a relaxing day on the couch. He LAUGHS at something he sees on TV.

TINA burst through the door, carrying two handfuls of SHOPPING BAGS.

PAN TO the ALIEN, sitting next to Brandon on the couch. It gets up and follows Tina into

THE KITCHEN

Where she PLOPS all of the BAGS on the kitchen table. She's exhausted.

THE ALIEN immediately digs into the bags, which are filled with CARTONS of strawberry ice cream.

He starts eating, barely acknowledging Tina's presence and showing no gratitude.

She watches with disgust.

TINA
You're welcome.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Brandon LAUGHS at the TV. Tina angrily stomps in from the kitchen.

TINA (CONT'D)

Brandon!

BRANDON

What?

TINA

I just spent two hundred and fifty dollars on strawberry ice cream.

BRANDON

Did you get any bananas? We can make banana splits.

Tina storms upstairs.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

(re: Tina)

So no bananas?

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Brandon, Tina and the Alien are sitting at the table quietly eating dinner.

TINA

I can't do this anymore.

BRANDON

You can't do what anymore?

TINA

(off the alien)

What do you think?

The Alien looks up at Tina, grimaces, then goes back to his strawberry ice cream.

TINA (CONT'D)

I don't like the way he looks at me. Can he understand what we're saying?

BRANDON

I don't think so.

Tina looks over, to make sure the Alien is not listening.

TINA

(whispering)

When is it leaving?

BRANDON

His ship crashed. It might take him
a while to fix it.

TINA

(pause)

Maybe we should just call...

BRANDON

Don't say it. We're not turning him
in, we're not calling the Men in
Black. We don't do that.

(then)

You're an alien snitch aren't you?
I should've never married you.

TINA

I'm not a snitch, I just want your
buddy Alf, to go somewhere else.

BRANDON

Where else is he gonna go? He
crashed in our backyard, we have
take care of him. It's what Steven
Spielberg would want.

TINA

I don't care what Steven Spielberg
wants.

The Alien abruptly stands up.

TINA (CONT'D)

What is he doing?

After a few beats, it RUNS upstairs.

TINA (CONT'D)

Brandon.

BRANDON

I don't know.

STAIRCASE

Brandon and Tina peer up the steps, then proceed upstairs.

TINA

Where is it?

BRANDON

I don't know.

BRANDON'S POV... He looks around, finds that the BATHROOM DOOR is closed.

Suddenly, a NOISE is heard inside the bathroom. SQUEELL!! It sounds like the Alien is hurt.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
(to Tina; whispering)
In the bathroom.

They inch towards the bathroom.

TINA
Be careful.

After a long beat, Brandon OPENS the door, revealing...

THE ALIEN, sitting on the TOILET, going to the bathroom. It angrily looks to Brandon.

BRANDON
Sorry! Sorry!

Brandon and Tina back out and shut the door.

TINA
What the hell was that?

BRANDON
Diarrhea?
(then)
Did you smell that?

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

TINA brings a blanket and pillow to the ALIEN as he makes himself comfortable on the couch. She places them down.

First, walking away, then turning back...

TINA
(to the Alien)
Where do you come from?
(pause)
Can't you just phone home or something?

The Alien looks at her, doesn't respond. It blankly stares.

TINA (CONT'D)
Why are you looking at me like that?

Tina becomes hypnotized by it's big sexy alien eyes. She smiles at him for the first time.

BRANDON (O.S.)
(from upstairs)
Tina!

Brandon's voice brings Tina back to reality. What just came over her?

BRANDON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Tina!

Tina hesitantly exits. The Alien watches her walk away. Do we sense an attraction?

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Brandon is tucked in, ready for bed. Tina enters the room, climbs in her side.

BRANDON
What took you so long?

TINA
Nothing.

Tina's mind is elsewhere.

BRANDON
I was thinking, maybe we should just find someone else that can help him, better than we can.

TINA
(barely listening)
Okay.

BRANDON
Then someone else will get the glory of saving the universe and restoring peace between aliens and humans.
(sarcastic)
It doesn't really have to be me. Since you have a problem with it.

Brandon picks up on Tina's strange mood.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

TINA

Huh?

BRANDON

What's on your mind?

TINA

Nothing.

(pause)

I'm sleepy.

Tina cuts the LIGHTS out.

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

A LIGHT SHINES through the window, from the backyard. Brandon is sound asleep. The light catches Tina's eyes, wakes her up.

She climbs out the bed, walks over to the window.

MOMENT LATER -- DOWNSTAIRS

Tina walks down the steps slowly, then through

THE LIVING ROOM

Looking around, no sign of the Alien.

IN THE KITCHEN

The FREEZER DOOR is ajar. All strawberry ice cream, has been cleaned out, save two cartons left behind.

A LIGHT

Shines through the BACK DOOR. Then, it opens.

THE ALIEN enters, unexpectedly seeming Tina.

TINA

(to the Alien)

You fixed it?

The Alien doesn't respond. He retrieves the remain ice cream cartoon.

A standoff between the two. CLOSE UP of their perspective reactions. Tina eyes emote, longing. The Alien emote nothing, but tilts his head like a puppy dog.

After a LONG PAUSE...

TINA (CONT'D)
(sincere)
Take me with you.

INT. BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Brandon wakes up in bed -- alone.

INT. LIVING ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Brandon looks around and sees an unused PILLOW and BLANKET on the couch.

BRANDON
(looking around)
Tina?

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Brandon walks over to the open freezer door. It's empty.

After further exploring, he finds a LETTER sitting on the kitchen table. It's addresses to "Brandon."

He picks it up and reads...

FROM TINA (V.O.)
(re: letter)
I don't know what to say. This all happened so fast. Sometimes two people are happy together, and then someone or something comes along and shows one of them that life can be better. Or at least different. I don't know where I'm going. But I know that I'd rather be there, than here.
(pause)
I'm sorry. I found some bananas in the frig for your banana splits.

We see the BANANAS sitting on the table.

CLOSE UP on Brandon, looking up from the letter.

A beat.

BRANDON

(defeated)

This is all your fucking fault,
Spielberg.

THE END.