

"ZYBORG"

By

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Stop-Motion, or CGI, Animation Script

WGA Registered

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY (1950'S)

A sky-blue CHEVY BEL AIR races toward the late afternoon sun; breezing past a "Las Vegas 140" guide sign.

The vehicle is moving too fast for close identification of the driver and passenger - a young African American WOMAN in white cat eye frame sunglasses and, in the backseat, a lively African American BOY.

INT. CHEVY BEL AIR - DAY

THELMA - 20's, caramel Pageboy coiffure, coffee-cream complexion, pink sugar lips, casual day dress, earrings and necklace - taps her fingers on the steering wheel while gently bobbing and swaying her head to the upbeat dashboard radio MUSIC.

OLIVER - 7, the spitting image of his mother - is engrossed in "Zyborg the Intergalactic Space Robot" graphic novel. He energetically role-plays the comic's narrative.

THELMA P.O.V. - OLIVER THROUGH REAR VIEW MIRROR

Thelma appears amused by his enthusiasm for Zyborg.

Oliver, turning the page, comes upon an ad for a Zyborg Robot toy selling for a \$1.99. His eyes grow wide with excitement.

Oliver pops his head up to the front seat. He thrusts the ad in Thelma. She glances it.

THELMA'S P.O.V. - THE \$1.99 PRICE TAG

Thelma shakes her head apologetically. Her answer is an unwavering no.

Oliver, pouts, sits back in the back seat.

ENGINE SPUTTERING

A look of dismay comes upon Thelma. Her eyes dart eyes back and forth.

She spots a TRUCK STOP up ahead.

Thelma maneuvers the car off the main road and on to the truck stop driveway.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - SAME

The car coasts to a stop in the general vehicle parking area as the engine sputters and dies.

INT. CHEVY BEL AIR - SAME

Thelma removes the key from the ignition and sits in silence for a few seconds.

Thelma dresses her face with a smile, and then swings her right arm over the backrest and pivots her body to face Oliver. He is unfazed. Thelma, seeing this, takes a moment to familiarize herself with their surroundings.

THELMA'S P.O.V. - SLOWLY SCANNING TRUCK STOP

GAS AND WEIGH STATIONS, AL'S HOME COOKING DINER, MOTOR LODGE, SOAPSUDS LAUNDROMAT and a THRIFT SHOP.

EXT. GENERAL PARKING - SAME

Thelma climbs out of the car and confidently makes her way to the front end of the car. She lifts the bonnet and inspects the engine.

INT. CHEVY BEL AIR - SAME

A curious Oliver climbs over the front seat and accidentally bumps the horn - HONK!

Thelma looks around the bonnet, through the windshield, and at Oliver. He wears an apologetic smile.

EXT. CHEVY BEL AIR - SAME

Thelma, in frustration, slams the bonnet. She composes herself, as she returns to the car interior.

INT. CHEVY BEL AIR - SAME

Thelma indicates she needs her POCKETBOOK. Oliver hands it to her. She rifles through it.

INSERT - POCKETBOOK INTERIOR

Among the usual pocketbook clutter is the help wanted section of a NEWSPAPER. An ad, circled in red, reads, "HELP WANTED, Cocktail Waitress needed, For more information, call FUN TIME CASINO, 702-555-8739".

THELMA'S HAND -

locates the BALL CLASP COIN PURSE. Her fingers unsnap the clasp, revealing one dollar and a few coins.

INT. CHEVY BEL AIR - SAME

Thelma shuts her pocketbook. She turns to Oliver and again smiles.

EXT. TRUCK STOP LOT - SAME

Thelma and Oliver, walking hand in hands, cross the moderately busy lot.

Oliver notices something out the corner of his eye. He stops dead in his tracks. Thelma wants him to keep walking, but he wishes for her to look at a BILLBOARD ADVERTISEMENT for the Zyborg toy.

Thelma, not wishing to revisit their earlier conversation, coaxes him along. He cannot take his eyes of the billboard.

They make their way to Al's Home Cooking - a classic railcar diner.

EXT. AL'S HOME COOKING - SAME

Oliver holds the door open for his mother. They enter.

INT. AL'S HOME COOKING - SAME

Burly TRUCKERS, and perfectly groomed MOTORISTS, dine on traditional greasy spoon fare. The lone WAITRESS - late 60's, beehive hairdo, pink bubble gum skirt, white apron - attends to the customers' needs.

Oliver, eager to fill his belly, parks himself on a bar/counter stool. Thelma sits to his right. Waitress hands them menus, before...

SERVICE CALL BELL DING

(CONTINUED)

...running off to to pickup and serve an order.

COOK - an overweight middle-aged man in a white v-neck t-shirt, white trousers, and sailor cap beanie - offers two glasses of ice water to Thelma and Oliver. He grabs a pen and guest check pad to jot down their order.

Oliver points to the Cheeseburger Royale and crinkle cut fries for \$1.15. Thelma declines to place an order for herself.

As the cook heads back into the kitchen, Thelma notices the "Help Wanted" SIGN next to the register. She stops the cook to inquires about the available position.

INT. AL'S HOME COOKING - LATER

Waitress serves Oliver's Cheeseburger Royale. He is awestruck by the gargantuan, cheese dripping, sandwich.

Thelma affectionately strokes his hair while fighting to conceal her hunger.

Oliver cuts the burger in half and offers mom half. Thelma's eyes well.

As Thelma takes a bite, Oliver wrestles with the glass ketchup bottle. Thelma offers a solution. She sticks a knife in the bottle to get the ketchup flowing.

Oliver dips a fry in the ketchup and hands it to Thelma and then takes a fry for himself.

INT. AL'S HOME COOKING - NIGHT

It is DRIZZLING.

Thelma, in a WAITRESS UNIFORM, refills a sleepy TRUCKER'S coffee mug. As she attends to a handful of late night dinner guests, Thelma maintains a watchful eye out the window toward her car.

INT. CHEVY BEL AIR - SAME

CONTINUOUS SOUND OF VEHICLES MOVING SLOWLY ON WET ROAD & RAIN PITTER-PATTER

Oliver heaves a big sigh. He's bored..

(CONTINUED)

Oliver climbs to the backseat. He kneels on the seat and rests his chin on his hands. He stares at the Zyborg billboard.

He takes out a blank sheet of PAPER and COLORED PENCILS. He begins to sketch Zyborg.

INT. MOTOR LODGE ROOM - DAYBREAK

KEY UNLOCKING DOOR SOUND

Door yawns. Thelma, in her waitress uniform, enters. She carries her sleeping son on her shoulder.

The room includes a kitchenette and offers a clear view of Al's Home Cooking.

Thelma places Oliver on the bed, removes his shoes, and then spreads a blanket over him. He rolls onto his side.

Thelma steps out of the room and returns moments later with two SUITCASES. She secures the door and shuts the drapes.

EXT. SOAPSUDS LAUNDROMAT - DAY

THROUGH WINDOW - Thelma places wet clothes in a LAUNDRY CART.

INT. SOAPSUDS - SAME

Thelma transfers the WET CLOTHES from the cart to a FRONT LOADING DRYER. She inserts quarters and presses the start button. The wet clothes tumble in the spinning drum.

EXT. SOAPSUDS - SAME

Thelma exits the laundromat and inhales deeply, eyes to the sky. As she lowers her head, she notices the thrift store.

EXT. THRIFT STORE - SAME

Among the usual five and dime items is a knockoff, noticeably inferior, robot toy named ASTRO BOT selling for half the price of the Zyborg.

Thelma enters the thrift store, and speaks to the CASHIER. He removes Astro Bot from the window, while Thelma counts her money.

INT. MOTOR LODGE ROOM - NIGHT

A televised serial WESTERN plays in the background.

Oliver takes a plated bologna sandwich, and a tall glass of milk, from the kitchenette to the round dining table next to the window.

Thelma, laundry basket in hand, approaches the room. Oliver hops out of his seat, runs to the door, and opens it for her. He takes the basket from her and places it on the dresser.

Thelma pats her Oliver's head. She removes her clean waitress uniform from the basket, and then makes her way to the bathroom.

Oliver goes back to his sandwich. He takes a bite and washes it down with a sip of milk. He crosses back to the laundry basket and starts to put away the folded clothes. When he reaches the bottom of the basket, Oliver discovers a DECORATIVELY WRAPPED PACKAGE with an affixed card.

Oliver inspects the card.

INSERT: THE CARD

For my amazing son. Love, Mom

As Oliver unwraps the gift, Thelma, dressed in her uniform, peaks around the corner and inconspicuously observes him.

The wrapping removed, Oliver flips the package over to discover Astro Bot. His brief disappointment turns into pure excitement.

Thelma steps out from behind the corner. Oliver runs to her. They throw their arms around each other. When they release their embrace -

QUICK MONTAGE

Oliver takes a step back. He holds Astro Bot out in front of him, admiring. OLIVER'S FACE AGES. He is now in his early thirties.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY (1970'S)

A group of EXECUTIVES, in hardhats, stand around an inanimate INDUSTRIAL ROBOT. The robot consist of various sturdy appendages, a hefty frame, and belts for mobility.

(CONTINUED)

OLIVER - 30's, professionally dressed, also in a hardhat - presents and demonstrates the industrial robot's functions. He interfaces with the robot from a podium console.

Robot, efficiently and effortlessly, moves and stacks heavy crates.

SUPERIMPOSE IN/OUT - Oliver and Thelma playing with Astro Bot.

The executives are impressed. They clap and offer Oliver congratulatory handshakes on his cost saving invention.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - DAY (1950'S)

A TOW TRUCK hauls the Bel Air away. The truck stop sees moderate vehicular traffic.

THE END