

RECOGNITION

Pilot for TV: S1: E1

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RECOGNITION

FADE IN:

SUPER: SOUTHWESTERN AUSTRALIA OUTBACK

EXT. AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK - DAY

Forty people (20-40) walk along a trail single file in silence. The sun has set on the western horizon, while the full moon rises on the eastern horizon. A didgeridoo can be heard in the distance.

The group include males and females, a mix of whites and native Indigenous Australians, most holding either a lantern or a flashlight.

The landscape is rolling with small rocky outcroppings. The plantlife appears to be a combination of drought-tolerant and sub-tropical, including scrubby trees, shrubs and small plants.

The group hikes up a small incline to a clearing, framed by small boulders and shrubs. To one side, a bonfire crackles and several torches are aflame. The clearing has log seating, some large enough for two and others large enough to seat five or six.

The log seats all face a small flattop boulder, about three feet in height. Behind the boulder is a view out over the expansive landscape. The group files into the clearing quietly and everyone finds a place to sit.

From behind the boulder, an indigenous Australian SHAMAN from the Noongar Tribe appears and takes his seat on the boulder. The didgeridoo player concludes his droning. The shaman looks out over the group with an intense, yet compassionate gaze.

JEREMY LANCASTER (25), a physically fit white male, is seated in the midst of the group. He, along with everyone else, fixes his gaze on the shaman.

After a few seconds, several orbs of light appear above and behind the shaman. The orbs are mostly white and goldish in color, with multi-colored sparkles. They grow in brightness and increase in number until twelve bright orbs appear above and around the shaman.

Superimposed over the shaman's face is the goldish radiant image of a human-like face, sage-like in appearance. Then the face changes and then changes again.

The images are male, some with beards, most with long hair; some with monk-like hoods and others with turban-like head coverings.

The radiant images continue to change. Jeremy's eyes are transfixed on the shaman and the radiant images superimposed with him.

LATER:

Jeremy and two other men, one white (25) and Yarran (23), a native indigenous Australian, walk silently along a trail to a small cave where they have placed their camping gear.

The three men crawl into their sleeping bags.

Jeremy appears asleep, lying on his back with his head propped up by his backpack. Suddenly, there is an explosion of thunder, then a brilliant flash of light.

DREAMTIME VISION:

Jeremy's father, XAVIER LANCASTER (60), the sitting president of the United States, is walking on a dark moonlit rural roadway. Three bright lights appear behind him, each surrounded by smaller rotating lights. He turns and sees them move closer toward him. In the sky above his head, he sees the outline of a large glowing circular object contrasted against the night sky.

He turns and walks away from the circular object. The object follows him. He turns and sees it descending and quickens his pace. Then he begins jogging.

Xavier sees a group of lights in the roadway ahead of him that appear to be headlights. He jogs toward the headlights and sees a group of military vehicles surrounded by soldiers. He stops and looks back and forth at the circular object and the soldiers. A soldier points his rifle at Xavier.

Jeremy is awakened out of the dreamtime by the sound of a stadium full of people shouting; STOP!

DREAMTIME ENDS:

Jeremy's eyes pop open, wide-eyed.

EXT. OUTBACK TRAIL- NIGHT

Jeremy uses his cell phone to illuminate the ground in front of him as he navigates over the rocky, scrubby landscape.

He finds a private spot, sits on the ground and turns on his mobile phone.

INT. WHITE HOUSE EAST WING - DAY

The first lady, BRIE (Brianna) Lancaster (60) is standing in the hallway holding a clipboard with ALFRED (40), her personal assistant.

BRIE

You have the Indian ambassador sitting across from the Pakistani ambassador. We don't want an international incident.

She thinks.

BRIE (CONT'D)

Move the Pakistani ambassador across from the Albanian ambassador and the South African ambassador across from the Indian ambassador.

Alfred nods. Her phone rings. She checks the display and sees 'Jeremy'.

BRIE (CONT'D)

Thank you Alfred.

He walks off.

BRIE (CONT'D)

Jeremy. Hi sweetie. What a nice surprise.

(checks her watch)

It's the middle of the night there.

INTERCUT CONVERSATION.

JEREMY

Hi mom. Yeah, and I can't believe I got a signal out here.

BRIE

Where are you?

JEREMY

In the outback. I had to take a little hike to get away from everybody. We're not supposed to talk yet.

BRIE
They don't let you talk?

JEREMY
It's part of the experience.

BRIE
The experience?

JEREMY
We're learning dreampeak -
telepathic communication.

BRIE
I don't understand.

JEREMY
Dreampeak. It's part of the
Noongar culture. Communicating over
long distances, mind to mind,
without spoken words. I'll explain
later. Mom, is everything okay,
with dad and everything?

BRIE
I'm not sure I follow. Is what
okay?

JEREMY
It's just, I just had this dream,
only I wasn't asleep, I was awake.
I was more awake than I am now. And
dad was pinned between the army and
some kind of invader or power or
something, I'm not sure what
exactly. And then this huge chorus
of voices shouted, stop!

BRIE
It sounds like you had a nightmare.
How are you? Are you taking care of
yourself?

JEREMY
This was a warning. It involves the
military.

BRIE
Well, it sounds rather odd. When
are you coming home?

JEREMY
I'll be in Perth for another month,
and then I'll fly back.

(MORE)

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Just tell dad to be careful.
There's something going on. I'll
call in a few days.

BRIE

Okay sweetie. Love you.

Brie clicks off her phone with a puzzled look on her face.

EXT. OUTBACK - NIGHT

Jeremy turns on his phone's light and heads back toward the cave.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - PRESIDENTIAL MASTER SUITE - NIGHT

Brie is in bed, propped up by pillows with a book in her hands. Xavier is seated in a nearby chair going through some papers.

SUPER: XAVIER LANCASTER: PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

BRIE

Jeremy called.

XAVIER

When?

BRIE

Earlier, this afternoon.

XAVIER

How's he doing?

BRIE

He seemed upset about something.

XAVIER

About what?

BRIE

He said he had a strange dream. He wanted me to tell you. Something about the military. A warning? I don't know. He's involved in some sort of training. Involves telepathy. Communicating over long distances. Part of Aboriginal tradition.

XAVIER
Seems a bit outdated. Why don't
they just use cell phones?

BRIE
It's part of his doctoral thesis.

XAVIER
(shakes his head)
Anthropology. Why couldn't he just
go for something normal, like
economics or psychology.

BRIE
Because he's Jeremy. He wants to
teach.

Xavier nods knowingly and reluctantly. He crawls into bed and
turns off the nearby light.

XAVIER
Early meetings tomorrow.

EXT. FRANCIS E WARREN AIR FORCE BASE - CHEYENNE WY - NIGHT

Under the full moon, two members of the base Security Force
stand guard outside a small security force office beneath a
sentry tower. A jeep drives up and abruptly stops. Captain
VALDEZ hops out.

SUPER:

FRANCIS E WARREN AIR FORCE BASE - CHEYENNE, WYOMING - 2:00 AM

VALDEZ
(to security team)
Seen anything out of the ordinary?

The Security Force officers both shake their heads.

VALDEZ (CONT'D)
I thought I saw something, in the
western sky.

He calls up to the top of the sentry tower.

VALDEZ (CONT'D)
Perkins!

PERKINS leans out of the tower with binoculars around his
neck.

VALDEZ (CONT'D)
Seen anything off to the west?

PERKINS
(nods no)
No sir.

INT. SECURITY FORCE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The landline phone rings inside the small office. Valdez picks up.

VALDEZ
Captain Valdez.

INT. AIR CONTROL TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Two RADAR OPERATORS are both staring intently at their screen.

THE CALL INTERCUTS:

OPERATOR
We've got a blip, a bogey, around two eight zero degrees. Jumping in and out. There it is! Coming this way. Fast!

VALDEZ
Okay.
(to security NCO)
Wake up the Colonel.

He hands the phone to the security force NCO who dials.

The other SECURITY FORCE NCO sees three bright white lights clustered closely together, surrounding a reddish light approaching from the west.

SECURITY FORCE NCO
(points)
Look!

The bright lights drift toward the base perimeter and stop about a quarter mile away, hovering a few hundred feet off the ground.

INT. COLONEL'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

The phone rings three times in the colonel's dimly lit office.

Dressed in sweats, with disheveled hair, COLONEL MONTGOMERY enters the office, switches on the overhead light and picks up the ringing phone at his desk.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
Yes, what is it?!

INT. SECURITY FORCE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Captain Valdez is anxious.

THE CALL INTERCUTS:

VALDEZ
Colonel Montgomery, this is Captain Valdez. We have some kind of bogey out here. Three white lights around a reddish light, drifting toward the base perimeter. It's just outside the gate.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
A vehicle?

VALDEZ
No, it's elevated, aloft, about two or three hundred feet. Radar picked it up.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
Helicopter?

VALDEZ
There's no sound.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
Go out there. Get some lights on it!

EXT. SECURITY FORCE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Valdez jumps into the driver's seat and starts the engine. One of the officers sits in the passenger seat and turns on the jeep's search light. The other officer remains outside the Security Force Office with the phone to his ear.

EXT. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

A siren goes off and search lights are activated. One by one, airmen emerge from their quarters, some jogging toward their posts.

With Valdez waiting in the jeep, the guard unlocks the gate. As he swings the doors open, they drive out of the base. The bright lights, which appear to be coming from the tips of a large triangular-shaped object, nearly the size of a football field, drift overhead, past the jeep.

Valdez quickly turns the jeep around and speeds back into the base. The object continues to drift until it hovers over the center of the base.

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL CENTER - CONTINUOUS

SUPER: UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR LAUNCH CONTROL CENTER

Two MISSILEERS are stationed at the control panel with keyboards, knobs, lights, and switches. Suddenly, all of the lights on their board go to red, a red light on the wall nearby begins flashing on and off and a buzzer blares with intermittent blasts.

FIRST MISSILEER
We're down. We're disabled.

The second missileer grabs the pushbutton landline phone and dials. He puts the phone on speaker.

INT. COLONEL'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

A second phone rings on the colonel's desk. He places the Security Force Office line on speaker and places the missileer call against his ear.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
Yes!

THE TWO CALLS INTERCUT:

SECOND MISSILEER
We're down. Twenty silos down.

Montgomery places the missileer's call on speaker, so now both calls are on separate speaker phones.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
What the hell?!

The colonel yells into the first phone.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)
What's going on out there?!

SECURITY FORCE NCO 1
There's an object with three bright
lights hovering directly over the
base.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
What is it?!

SECURITY FORCE NCO 1
(anxious)
We don't know! It's a big triangle
with lights.

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL CENTER - CONTINUOUS

The two missileers are frantic, one pounding on his keyboard
and the other switching switches back and forth.

Then all of the red lights on the board change to green and
the red flashing light on the wall becomes a green flashing
light.

A large digital display begins counting down seconds with a
computerized voice announcing each second...ninety, eighty-
nine, eighty-eight... The SECOND MISSILEER stands and barks
into the phone.

SECOND MISSILEER
We're in countdown! We're live and
we're counting down!!

INT. COLONEL'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

The colonel is astonished.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
What?! Turn the failsafe.

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Both missileers stands at opposite ends of the small
workspace facing each other. Each quickly pulls two white
lanyards from inside their shirts and they find two white
keys.

Each holds one of the two keys in each of their hands. They
extend their arms and shove all four keys into four key slots
on opposite sides of their small workspace.

FIRST MISSILEER
Ready, turn.

The keys do not turn.

FIRST MISSILEER (CONT'D)
Again. Ready, turn.

They can't turn them.

SECOND MISSILEER
(into speaker phone)
Colonel, the keys won't turn.
They're jammed.

INT. COLONEL'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

The colonel grabs a key out of his pocket and opens the lower desk compartment. He pulls out the hotline phone, puts it to his ear and dials zero.

EXT. AIR FORCE BASE GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

A giant silo's doorway engages and begins opening.

A second giant silo doorway engages and begins opening.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

A landline phone is ringing in the dark bedroom. A groggy GENERAL RAWLINGS switches on the table lamp and answers.

SUPER:

LIEUTENANT GENERAL RAWLINGS - AIR FORCE GLOBAL STRIKE COMMAND

GENERAL RAWLINGS
Rawlings. This better be important.

INT. COLONEL'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

The colonel has two speaker phones going with the hotline receiver at his ear.

CALLS INTERCUT:

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
Colonel Montgomery, Warren Air
Force Base. Sir, we have twenty
ICBM's in countdown.

GENERAL RAWLINGS

What?! What do you mean they're in
countdown?

COLONEL MONTGOMERY

They're in countdown. We've lost
control of the system.

GENERAL RAWLINGS

You've lost...how?...you're in
countdown?!

COLONEL MONTGOMERY

Yes sir. This is not a drill.
(to second missileer)
Where are we, in the count?

SECOND MISSILEER

T minus fifty-nine.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY

(to General Rawlings)
T minus fifty-nine sir, and
counting down.

GENERAL RAWLINGS

Turn the failsafes!

COLONEL MONTGOMERY

The fail-safes are jammed sir.

GENERAL RAWLINGS

Well keep trying! I have to get
General Connors and the President
patched in on this line. Shut it
all down!

Colonel Montgomery holds the receiver against his ear and
barks into a speaker phone.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY

Where are we?

SECOND MISSILEER

T minus fifty-four sir.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY

Jesus!

INT. WHITE HOUSE - PRESIDENTIAL MASTER SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

President Xavier Lancaster is asleep peacefully in his bed. After a few seconds, a slightly muffled phone, with an odd sounding ringer, rings by his bed.

He immediately awakens, sits up, switches on the bedside light and opens the cabinet next to his bed. He pulls out a landline telephone receiver.

Brie sits up with an alarmed look on her face and switches on another light.

XAVIER

Yes!

INT. PENTAGON - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

GENERAL CONNORS (50, black) appears professional and at the same time terrified. He has two Styrofoam coffee cups on his desk and his shirt sleeves are rolled up. The earliest dawn light is visible outside his window.

SUPER: GENERAL CONNORS - SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

THE CALLS INTERCUT:

GENERAL CONNORS

Mister President. General Connors. Sir, we have twenty nuclear armed ICBM's in countdown at our nuclear launch facility at Warren Air Force Base. I have Colonel Montgomery on the line.

XAVIER

We have what?!

GENERAL CONNORS

We have twenty Peacekeeper missiles in countdown. We've lost control of the launch control center.

Montgomery holds the hotline away from his face and barks into the speakerphone.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY

Where are we?

FIRST TECHNICIAN

T minus forty.

Into the presidential hotline.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
Montgomery here. T minus forty
seconds Mister President.

XAVIER
What the hell's going on? Are we
under attack?!

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
I don't know sir!

Xavier grabs his cell phone and dials. Brie wraps herself in
a blanket and moves to a nearby chair.

XAVIER
Get the football up here, now! Yes
my bedroom! Immediately! Get the
chairman of the joint chiefs on the
line! And find out if we're under
attack!

Back into the hotline.

XAVIER (CONT'D)
Shut it down while I find out
what's going on!

GENERAL CONNORS
The failsafes are jammed, Mister
President.

There is a knock on Colonel Montgomery's door. He sets the
hotline phone down near the speaker phones and goes to
answer, finds Captain Valdez and lets him in.

While Colonel Montgomery is occupied with the door, the
speaker phone on the Colonel's desk which is connected to the
Security Force Office, broadcasts the voices of two Security
Force NCO's.

SECURITY FORCE NCO 1
Do we fire on it? Are we authorized
to fire on it?!

SECURITY FORCE NCO 2
I don't know! Where's the Captain?

SECURITY FORCE NCO 1
That thing's huge! Find the
Captain!

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL CENTER - CONTINUOUS

One missileer is pounding on his keyboard while the other frantically throws switches back and forth. The digital display continues counting down, thirty-five, thirty-four.

INT. COLONEL MONTGOMERY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Colonel Montgomery is back at his desk with Captain Valdez looking on. He places the hotline phone against his ear and barks into one of the speaker phones.

THE CALL INTERCUTS:

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
Try the failsafes again!

THIRD TECHNICIAN
They're jammed sir. Thirty seconds.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
(into hotline)
Thirty seconds Mr. President. We've lost control of the system.

XAVIER
Do you know if we're under attack?!

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
No sir. I don't know sir.

XAVIER
Can you shut everything down 'til we find out?!

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
We're trying. Not yet sir.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - PRESIDENTIAL MASTER SUITE - CONTINUOUS

The PRESIDENTIAL STAFF OFFICER barges into the bedroom, sets the case with the nuclear launch codes on the bed next to the president and opens it.

XAVIER
Do you know anything?

PRESIDENTIAL STAFF OFFICER
No sir. They're making calls.

The president goes through his routine to prepare the codes.

XAVIER
 (into the hotline)
 Where are we?

The colonel checks his watch.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
 Twelve seconds.

XAVIER
 Maintain your status!

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL CENTER - CONTINUOUS

The two missileers nervously try to avert the launch. One of them pounds the wall with the switches and lights. The digital display counts down seven, six, five and then stops abruptly on five seconds. All of the green lights go back to amber and the siren and flashing light stops.

EXT. AIR FORCE BASE GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

A giant silo's doorway slams shut.

EXT. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE - CONTINUOUS

With a crowd of airmen gazing upward, some poised with rifles at the ready, the triangular-shaped object suddenly elevates rapidly and disappears from sight. They give each other awestruck and dumbfounded looks.

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL CENTER - CONTINUOUS

The missileers assess their gauges and displays and then communicate to the Colonel.

THE CALLS INTERCUT:

SECOND MISSILEER
 Colonel. The countdown stopped! The systems are back to normal.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY
 (into the hotline)
 Mr. President! Our systems appear to be back to normal. The countdown has stopped.

XAVIER

What happened?! General Connors,
find out what happened!

GENERAL CONNORS (V.O.)

Yes Mr. President!

XAVIER

Shut everything down. I'll have
General McNeely contact you. I want
a full report. Today!

INT. WHITE HOUSE - PRESIDENTIAL MASTER SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Xavier hangs up the hotline. Brie is in shock.

XAVIER

(to presidential staff
officer)

Get McNeely on the phone. Tell him
I want a full report later today at
one PM.

The presidential staff officer secures the case and leaves
the bedroom.

BRIE

(frightened)

What was that? What happened?

XAVIER

I don't know. Yet.

EXT. NOONGAR VILLAGE - DAY

Jeremy, Yarran and one of their friends are seated with the
Noongar shaman in the courtyard outside his humble dwelling.

SHAMAN

Dreamspeak is not bound by distance
or time. If you think of your
friend in America, you are there
next to him in that very moment.
Your thoughts need no plane ticket.

He chuckles.

SHAMAN (CONT'D)

If you think of him at a distance,
he is far away. Thoughts are what
you make them to be.

JEREMY

I saw some faces, as I gazed at you. They looked like prophets or sages.

SHAMAN

(nods knowingly)

Yes, very auspicious. The council of elders. These are pure spirits. Without form. They assume forms for us to understand. You have been chosen to speak for them. Dreamspeak is communication, spirit to spirit. It takes place here on earth from person to person, but also person to spirit. It's the same thing.

JEREMY

What should I do?

SHAMAN

Empty your mind and listen. They are with you now, closer than your hands and feet. You can also return, if you need to, and we can have a session with them.

EXT. NOONGAR VILLAGE - LATER

Jeremy, YARRAN and their friend walk through the dusty village.

JEREMY

(to Yarran)

What did he mean by having a session?

YARRAN

They speak through him, directly, the elders. He channels them.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The president is seated at his desk, in a meeting with GENERAL MCNEELY (55), Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, SALVATORE (SAL) MARCONI (65), the Secretary of Defense, and the NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR (45).

SUPER: GENERAL MCNEELY, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs

GENERAL MCNEELY

It was all purely technical. These systems date back to the early days of the cold war. They haven't been upgraded for years.

XAVIER

Technical?! I thought this older technology was supposed to be safer. Did we get hacked?

GENERAL MCNEELY

Unlikely. The system is subterranean, sixty feet underground.

XAVIER

Sabotage?

GENERAL MCNEELY

We're looking into that possibility.

XAVIER

They didn't have launch codes. If those missiles had launched, where would they have landed?

GENERAL MCNEELY

I don't know sir.

Xavier takes a deep, frustrated breath.

XAVIER

I want Warren on lockdown until the entire system is checked out. Then I want all of our launch facilities checked out. Keep secretary Marconi updated. That's all General McNeely.

General McNeely nods politely, stands and leaves the Oval Office. Xavier thinks quietly for a moment.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

What really happened out there?

SUPER: SALVATORE (SAL) MARCONI ,Secretary of Defense

MARCONI

You don't buy it?

XAVIER

No. While I was on the line, I heard some airmen in the background asking if they should shoot at it, if they had authorization.

MARCONI

Shoot at what?

XAVIER

You don't need authorization to shoot at coyotes. This breach could have resulted in a catastrophe. Sal, call the Secretary of the Air Force, General Connors. I want the two of you on a jet out to Wyoming, tomorrow at the latest. Talk to Colonel Montgomery and talk to the rank and file who were on duty last night.

MARCONI

Yes sir, Mister President.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

Jeremy is seated in a window seat with his indigenous friend, Yarran, seated next to him on the aisle, sleeping. The train slows as it rolls into a station. Signage outside the window reads "Perth". Jeremy nudges Yarran.

JEREMY

Yarran. Hey, we're here. Perth.

The two men gather their things.

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

Jeremy and Yarran gather their things from the taxi and approach the front door of their small cottage.

INT. COTTAGE - DAY

Jeremy is seated at the kitchen table with his laptop open. Yarran enters.

YARRAN

I'm heading to the library. You want to come?

JEREMY

I've got emails to get out.

YARRAN

(pointing to his head)

I'll send you a message from campus. See if you pick it up.

Jeremy smiles and nods.

INT. WARREN AFB - COLONEL MONTGOMERY'S OFFICE - DAY

The colonel is meeting with Secretary of the Air Force, General Connors and Defense Secretary, Sal Marconi.

COLONEL MONTGOMERY

The incident in the launch control center is under wraps. I got a call from General McNeely who said everything is classified. The only ones who know about it are the missileers on duty down there and my Security Forces Commander.

MARCONI

Alright. We'll need to speak with them.

GENERAL CONNORS

You had something on radar?

COLONEL MONTGOMERY

Yes. I was in here, but the men reported something out there, some bright lights hovering over the base. No sound.

MARCONI

How many eye witnesses?

COLONEL MONTGOMERY

Around twenty I think.

GENERAL CONNORS

We'll need to interview them. Any chance these lights came from a satellite or balloon or maybe a laser from the mountains?

COLONEL MONTGOMERY

(shrugging)

I don't know. Maybe. I didn't see it.

INT. WARREN AFB - PRIVATE OFFICE - LATER

General Connors and Secretary Marconi are interviewing Captain Valdez.

VALDEZ

I already spoke to General McNeely about this.

MARCONI

What did he say?

VALDEZ

He said everything was classified. I wasn't to talk about it with anyone.

GENERAL CONNORS

I'm ordering you to speak to us about it.

VALDEZ

Yes sir.

MARCONI

This light, was it coming from an object?

VALDEZ

Yes sir, it appeared to come from a large triangular-shaped object. Three large lights, one at each tip and smaller lights. It had a reddish glow in the center.

MARCONI

Where was it?

VALDEZ

First, it appeared just outside the base and then it moved rapidly and hovered directly over the launch control center.

GENERAL CONNORS

How high?

VALDEZ

Maybe, two hundred feet.

GENERAL CONNORS

And no sound.

VALDEZ
No sir. No sound.

MARCONI
How long was it there?

VALDEZ
A minute or two. I ran over to the
Colonel's office to get orders to
fire on it. But it flew off.

MARCONI
What direction?

VALDEZ
According to the witnesses,
straight up.

General Connors writes down a number on a small pad.

GENERAL CONNORS
If you think of anything else
related to this, or any of the
other men, I want you to call this
number. Speak to Major Livingston.
Don't speak to anyone else outside
the base about this. You're
dismissed.

VALDEZ
Yes sir.

Valdez rises, salutes and leaves the office.

MARCONI
Is this what I think it is?

GENERAL CONNORS
(nodding)
Apparently so. I flew fighters and
bombers for fifteen years. Not my
first go-around with UAPs.

MARCONI
But here we're talking about nukes
and national security.

GENERAL CONNORS
Yeah. Yeah this is different. We've
known about their aeronautical
capabilities. But this...taking
control over a nuclear launch
facility?

He shakes his head in disbelief.

MARCONI

If they can disarm ICBMs, what else
can they do? Let's get those
missileers in here.

EXT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - SCHOOLYARD - DAY

Seventy school children (7-12), 75% white and 25% native indigenous, are playing on a two-acre playground. The area surrounding the school property is undeveloped.

SUPER: NORTHAM AUSTRALIA - ONE WEEK LATER

INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - MEETING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Twelve adults (24-45), TEACHERS and the school's PRINCIPAL, are meeting together with the window open, including the science teacher, ROGERS BELLAMY.

YOUNG TEACHER

I think the menu issue is
absolutely valid. I don't care how
it's been done in the past.
Children need natural healthy food,
not Vegemite and white bread, day
after day after day.

EXT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - SCHOOLYARD - CONTINUOUS

As the children go about their recess period, a large, shiny, elliptical-shaped object floats slowly and silently over their heads, about a hundred feet in the air. One by one, the children stop their activity to regard the mysterious object. A few of the younger girls scream and run off.

The object continues to float beyond the schoolyard perimeter and slowly descends to the ground. The children make a bit of commotion, and half of them walk and jog in the direction of the object.

INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - MEETING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The commotion outside garners the attention of the adults and they glance momentarily toward the window and listen.

EXT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - SCHOOLYARD - CONTINUOUS

Twenty-five of the children approach the object which is nestled in the vacant land adjacent to the school property.

A four-foot-tall gray alien, with a big head, large black eyes and spindly arms and legs, floats upward from inside of the object. Some of the younger children scream. The alien floats to the side and descends slowly to the ground. More children scream and a few of them run off.

Then a second gray alien ascends to a position above the shiny object and remains there for a moment. Then it too descends to the ground.

INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - MEETING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Now, the adults are alarmed.

PRINCIPAL
 (to Rogers Bellamy)
 Rogers, go and see what's going on
 out there. Thank you.

EXT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - SCHOOLYARD - CONTINUOUS

Rogers exits outside and walks toward the large group gathered at the end of the schoolyard. He sees two anxious GIRLS huddled together.

ROGERS BELLAMY
 What's going on over there?

GIRL
 (distracted)
 It's a spaceship.

With a bewildered, yet curious look, he continues walking toward the large group.

The group near the shiny object quietly regards the two exotic beings, standing only a few feet from them. The students seem mesmerized, yet apparently unafraid.

Rogers Bellamy walks briskly toward the schoolyard perimeter.

One of the aliens floats back atop the craft and disappears down inside. Then the second alien floats back atop the craft and disappears down inside.

The craft floats slowly up into the air.

Rogers Bellamy sees the craft. He stands in place, transfixed.

When the craft elevates to a hundred feet off the ground, it accelerates rapidly and quickly disappears.

Students gather around Bellamy.

MALE STUDENT

(to Bellamy)

You saw it. You saw it too.

FEMALE STUDENT

They spoke to us.

ROGERS BELLAMY

What do you mean they spoke to you?
They spoke in English?

FEMALE STUDENT

No, they spoke into our minds.

ROGERS BELLAMY

Alright, everyone inside. Everyone
into the gym. Come on, let's go.

The children follow Bellamy toward the school building.

INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY - LATER

The students are all huddled together in groups around the gym.

The adults are huddled together by the entry doors.

PRINCIPAL

But you saw this, you actually saw
it?

ROGERS BELLAMY

I did.

PRINCIPAL

And they say there were beings? But
you didn't see them.

ROGERS BELLAMY

That's right. I got there as it
lifted off the ground.

PRINCIPAL

No one is going to believe this.
I'm not sure I believe it.

YOUNG TEACHER

Let's give them all paper and pencil and have them draw what they saw, the object and the beings.

PRINCIPAL

Yes, yes, let's do that.

ROGERS BELLAMY

Spread them around into different rooms.

INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - MEETING ROOM - DAY - LATER

The teachers are back together in a meeting with the Principal. The students' drawings are all laid out on the table. Bellamy is comparing them.

ROGERS BELLAMY

They all drew the same thing. The big heads, big black eyes and long skinny arms.

YOUNG TEACHER

They said the aliens spoke to them. They said we're hurting our planet and our planet might die.

ROGERS BELLAMY

Maybe we should have all the parents in for a meeting.

PRINCIPAL

We need to report this to the authorities first.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The president is seated at his desk, in a meeting with Salvatore Marconi, General Connors and the National Security Advisor.

XAVIER

We've got Russian aggression in Eastern Europe, China with the largest military build-up since World War Two, and now I've got to deal with unknown forces, from God knows where, disabling our nuclear launch facilities.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
It would be nice if all we had to worry about was the economy, global warming and immigration.

XAVIER
Why did McNeely lie to me? The commander in chief.

MARCONI
It's been standard military policy since the nineteen forties to cover this up. Keep it from the public. Discredit eye witnesses.

XAVIER
To avoid panic?

MARCONI
I think that's part of it.

XAVIER
Well, it's out there now. Everybody knows about the tic tacs and saucers that defy the laws of physics. I don't see anyone panicking.

GENERAL CONNORS
If the public knew our ICBMs came under attack, you might see people panic.

XAVIER
Right. There are legitimate national security issues here. But why would McNeely want me out of the loop? The commander in chief of the armed forces. General Connors, for now, I want you to be my point man on this.

GENERAL CONNORS
Yes sir.

XAVIER
After the inauguration, I got, what I assume was the standard presidential UFO briefing. They're real, we know about them, they don't appear to pose any threat...

(MORE)

XAVIER (CONT'D)

and the Department of Defense now has a new agency...the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office to investigate sightings originating from military observers.

GENERAL CONNORS

AARO.

XAVIER

Right. All domain. I guess we needed a new term because now we know they operate in the oceans.

MARCONI

Exactly.

XAVIER

(to General Connors)

Who's heading up AARO?

GENERAL CONNORS

Admiral Stallings, former Under Secretary of the Navy.

XAVIER

Set up a meeting, here, the four of us.

GENERAL CONNORS

Yes sir.

XAVIER

You know, before I got elected, I was still a skeptic...UFOs and all the rest. I didn't want to believe it. I assumed it was all weather balloons and temperature inversions and drones. But with this incident in Wyoming...this is now top priority. What about public sightings? We have AARO, but that's just for military encounters.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

There are hundreds of private organizations that investigate UAP sightings. All over the world.

MARCONI

The military has had a long-standing policy to discredit civilian sightings and encounters.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
It's created a stigma. Most people
are reluctant to talk about it,
even with friends.

XAVIER
Well, that has to change. I want to
bring the public in on this,
prepare them for...who knows?
Create a new atmosphere of openness
- get rid of the stigma.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - ADMINISTRATION POOL - DAY

Xavier approaches JUANITA GARZA, one of his administrative
assistants, seated amidst a group of office workers outside
the Oval Office.

XAVIER
Juanita, see if you can track down
someone for me.

JUANITA
Name?

XAVIER
Simon Jeffries.

She begins typing into her computer.

XAVIER (CONT'D)
Old high school friend. I think he
has a book.

JUANITA
Simon Jeffries. Yes, actually two
books. "High Plains Mutilations"
and "UFO Private Eye".

Juanita keeps pounding at her keyboard.

XAVIER
See if you can come up with a phone
number.

He turns to walk away.

JUANITA
Mister President.

She punches numbers into her phone and hands it to Xavier.

JUANITA (CONT'D)
 (smiling)
 Here.

EXT. LAS VEGAS - GOLF COURSE - CONTINUOUS

SIMON JEFFRIES (60) has his driver and ball in hand, waiting his turn to tee off in his foursome. His phone rings. He checks the display.

SIMON
 Juanita?

He takes the call and drifts away from the other players.

SIMON (CONT'D)
 (quietly)
 Yes, hello.

THE CALL INTERCUTS:

XAVIER
 Simon, Xavier Lancaster.

SIMON
 Seriously? Long time.

XAVIER
 Yeah, tenth year reunion, if I'm not mistaken.

SIMON
 Don't tell me. You're calling to ask if I voted for you.

XAVIER
 No, actually that doesn't matter at this point. I got the job.

SIMON
 Just a sec.

He cups his phone and gets the attention of his fellow GOLFERS.

SIMON (CONT'D)
 Hey, you guys go ahead. Got the president on the line.

His friends are amused.

GOLFER
 Yeah, president of the rotary club.

SIMON
 (to Xavier)
 What can I do for you Mr.
 President?

XAVIER
 What are you doing these days?

SIMON
 Playing golf.

XAVIER
 No, I mean career-wise.

SIMON
 Playing golf.

They share a laugh.

XAVIER
 How'd you like to meet me this
 weekend at Camp David?

SIMON
 Sure!

XAVIER
 Okay, here's Juanita. She'll set
 everything up.
 (to Juanita)
 You should be in the FBI.

JUANITA
 Too butch. Besides, this pays
 better.

INT. COTTAGE - PERTH AUSTRALIA - DAY

Jeremy and Yarran are glued to the television, watching a
 NEWSCASTER while they munch on pizza.

INSERT: TELEVISION SCREEN

SUPER: WEST NORTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSCASTER
 The children claim that the object
 floated to the ground and two
 aliens came out and spoke with
 them. Most of them got scared and
 ran off, but it seems that a dozen
 or more got a good look at the
 beings from outer space.

(MORE)

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

(to BOY)

What did the aliens look like?

BOY

They were kind of short, with big black eyes. And their bodies were gray.

NEWSCASTER

How close were you?

BOY

About two meters. They stood on top of the space ship and then floated down to the ground.

NEWSCASTER

(into camera)

One of the teachers supposedly witnessed the incident, science teacher Rogers Bellamy. School officials tell us he's unavailable for comment at the moment.

Jeremy turns off the television and bolts to his feet.

JEREMY

Come on. Let's drive out there.

INT. JEEP RENEGADE - DAY

Jeremy and Yarran are driving on a dirt road in the circa 1980's Jeep.

YARRAN

Why are we doing this again? You have a feeling?

JEREMY

I want to find this teacher. Kids sometimes make things up. They said these aliens spoke to them. What, in English?

YARRAN

Oh, oh, right. Dreamspak. Yeah. That's interesting.

JEREMY

Google this teacher. See if you can find an address, or at least a phone number.

Yarran pulls out his phone.

INT/EXT. JEEP RENEGADE - LATER

Jeremy and Yarran roll along in the middle class Northam neighborhood with ranch-style homes, looking for an address.

YARRAN

Six thirty seven. There it is.

They pull up in front of a brick house with a white picket fence.

EXT. NORTHAM NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy and Yarran reach the porch and Jeremy knocks. He knocks a second time and Rogers Bellamy opens the door a few inches.

ROGERS BELLAMY

I have nothing to say to the press.

JEREMY

We're not the press.

ROGERS BELLAMY

You're an American. I have nothing to say to anybody.

JEREMY

We just want to ask you a couple of things. We're students.

YARRAN

UWA. Anthropology.

ROGERS BELLAMY

Anthropology?

JEREMY

Yes, we heard the aliens spoke to the kids. We want to ask you about that.

ROGERS BELLAMY

I didn't see any aliens. Look, I had some men out here earlier. One was American. They were very unpleasant.

Jeremy reaches for his passport, opens it and hands it to Bellamy.

JEREMY

My name is Jeremy Lancaster. My father is president of the United States.

He reaches into his wallet and hands a family photo to Bellamy.

INSERT: FAMILY PHOTO

Bellamy checks the photo, then looks up and down his street.

ROGERS BELLAMY

Alright, come in.

INT. BELLAMY HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bellamy is seated on his couch and Jeremy and Yarran are seated on chairs.

ROGERS BELLAMY

This conversation is in confidence. These men threatened to have me fired...supposedly for drinking at work.

JEREMY

I may speak to my father about this, but I assure you that no harm will come to you. You saw the craft?

ROGERS BELLAMY

I saw it lift off the ground and it shot straight up into the clouds. Shiny, roundish, oval-shaped. Maybe ten meters in diameter.

JEREMY

How did the aliens speak to the children?

ROGERS BELLAMY

Just with thoughts, I guess. They seemed to understand clearly.

YARRAN

What did they say?

ROGERS BELLAMY

It was like a warning about the earth and us, that we were heading toward some big problem or some cataclysm. The earth might die. Each child interpreted it somewhat differently, but that was the gist of it.

YARRAN

And they all experienced this communication?

ROGERS BELLAMY

Almost all, the ones that were near the aliens.

(reaches for drawings)

Here, we had the kids draw them. They're all pretty similar.

He lays a few of them out on his coffee table. Jeremy and Yarran regard the drawings and share a curious, dumbfounded look. Jeremy pulls out his phone and begins taking pictures of the drawings.

EXT. CAMP DAVID MARYLAND - DAY

Xavier and Simon are seated comfortably on a patio outside one of the retreat buildings, with Secret Service Agents milling about a hundred feet away. They sip on drinks and nibble on a light lunch.

XAVIER

I trust your judgement. That's why I invited you here. I remember you tutored me for the calculus final.

SIMON

And you got a better grade on the exam.

XAVIER

(chuckles)

I didn't remember that part. Your interest in UFOs got started with all the cattle mutilations?

SIMON

(nods)

There were over a hundred along the front range during a three-year span.

(MORE)

SIMON (CONT'D)

I wrote on mutilations for my Master's thesis at UC, and then it became a book. And the terminology has changed. It's UAP now - unidentified aerial phenomena. Too much negative connotation associated with UFO.

Xavier's retriever comes over with a tennis ball in his mouth and drops it at his feet. Throughout the rest of their conversation, Xavier plays fetch with his dog. Eventually the dog drops the ball at Simon's feet and he joins in the game.

XAVIER

And these mutilations were done by aliens, ETs?

SIMON

There's no other explanation for it.

XAVIER

Why do you say that?

SIMON

There have been over thirty thousand reported animal mutilations over the last fifty years. We call them 'mutes'. They happen all over the world and the pattern is the same. The animal's blood is harvested along with certain organs. The dead animals are dropped some distance away from where they were abducted. Laser-like cauterized incisions. No blood, no tracks. Three hundred thousand gallons of blood have been harvested since I began looking into this in 1975.

XAVIER

Why do ET's collect blood from cattle? What do they do with it?

SIMON

All we have are theories. Some investigators think it provides them with nutrients. Nobody knows for sure.

XAVIER

We recently had an incident, which is classified.

(MORE)

XAVIER (CONT'D)

I can't go into any detail, but it's forced me to take the matter of UFOs seriously.

SIMON

Involving nuclear weapons?

XAVIER

Why do you say that?

SIMON

Since the end of World War Two, after the development of atomic weapons, there have been over a hundred incidents involving UAP sightings around our atomic research facilities and nuclear test sites, especially in the late 1940s and 50's. In 1952, over a two-week period, a squadron of UAPs flew right over the U.S. Capital in Washington, several times. Reported by hundreds of eye witnesses and verified by radar operators at Washington National.

XAVIER

Why do you know about this and not me?

SIMON

(laughing)

Anomaly investigators know as much or more about these incidents than the government does. That is, except for secret black budget projects.

XAVIER

Secret projects.

SIMON

The military has artifacts. Downed crafts and alien bodies. Possibly living but most likely dead by now.

XAVIER

Our military? You mean from Roswell?

SIMON

Yes, but not just Roswell. There was another crash in 1996 in Varginha, Brazil.

(MORE)

SIMON (CONT'D)

Three alien bodies were recovered, one dead two alive. According to Brazilian eye witnesses, the aliens were loaded onto a U.S. Air Force jet along with debris from their craft and flown out of the country. We've also probably shot a few down over the years.

XAVIER

And you think we have them here, somewhere.

Simon nods. Xavier ponders.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

Now we have these tic tacs that fly around and disappear into the ocean and oval-shaped discs and... The Navy tells me they experience nearly one sighting per day. Why are they here? What do they want?

SIMON

They're definitely interested in us and our planet. I think we're some kind of zoological experiment.

XAVIER

(chuckles)

They appear to be relatively harmless, at least up to now.

SIMON

Well, they've harmed plenty of cattle and a good many humans have been traumatized through abductions.

XAVIER

So, you think these abduction stories are real?

SIMON

That raises an interesting question. Which is related to why I retired from my investigative work after thirty-five years. Yes, I believe there have been abductions. But the problem with abductions is that the majority of these reports are not valid.

(MORE)

SIMON (CONT'D)

They're fabricated by people who are seeking attention or who are mentally ill or just pranksters and hoaxsters. I finally got tired of poring through thousands of reports, trying to sort out the genuine encounters from the fraud and deceit. Games played at my expense. Anomaly investigators don't get paid for the work they do. They donate their time and have to invest their own money in equipment and travel expenses.

Xavier takes a moment to process.

XAVIER

The federal government isn't in the business of looking into civilian sightings and encounters, just military-related. But maybe we should get more involved in that aspect.

SIMON

I've always thought an online library should be established that catalogs all the anomalies that are believed to be legitimate, or at least ingenuous. A lot of this work has already been done. It just needs to be consolidated together into one database. Make it available to the public.

XAVIER

How would you like to help me do that? Could I coax you off the golf course?

SIMON

What do you have in mind?

XAVIER

Set up a civilian-run federal agency, a place where people can report sightings and encounters. And have a team of experienced investigators, like you, who analyze and check everything out.

SIMON

You're going to run into the same problem with false reports and hoaxes.

XAVIER

(thoughtfully)

Well, alright, we'll establish penalties for anyone who knowingly files a false or misleading report.

SIMON

Okay.

XAVIER

And then we'll collect all the historic reports, the ones that appear legitimate.

SIMON

Shouldn't be too difficult. It just has to be gathered from private organizations and audited.

XAVIER

Exactly.

SIMON

I like it. I've actually developed a smart phone app for reporting anomalies. It's ready to go.

XAVIER

Can I count on you?

SIMON

(salutes and smiles)

Yes sir, Mr. President!

EXT. JEREMY'S COTTAGE - PERTH - NIGHT

The cottage looks peaceful in the moonlight with only a faint light shining through the front window.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jeremy is asleep in bed, lying on his back with his head propped up with pillows.

DREAMTIME:

There is a bright flash of light accompanied by a thunderous blast.

Jeremy is riding on the back of a flying dolphin that is aloft above the earth. The landscape of the earth is lit up dimly but not by the sun or moon.

The dolphin flies above a field that is full of people and commotion. The dolphin descends and Jeremy can see that two large groups of people are squared off against each other, screaming and fighting violently and hitting each other with sticks, pushing each other and striking each other with their fists.

Now the two groups are discernible and Jeremy sees that one group are all females and the other group are all males. He has a horrified look on his face.

Jeremy hears loud dolphin sounds and rushing waters and his flying dolphin ascends back into the sky. Flying over a ridge of hills, the dolphin descends into another valley.

In a large field, he sees more commotion with four different groups fighting, pushing each other and hitting each other with sticks and fists. The four groups have indistinguishable facial features, but each group has a different pastel skin color; pink, blue, orange and green.

He hears dolphin sounds and the dolphin ascends again, crosses over another set of hills and descends into a third field.

In this field, numerous small groups of men are fighting each other violently with sticks and fists. Each group has one member holding a pole with a flag or pennant attached atop. The scene is chaotic. The flags are not recognizable as nations, but each flag is distinct and unique.

The dolphin ascends again, flies over an expanse of water and rotates its body, causing Jeremy to fall off. As Jeremy is about to hit the water, he awakens out of the dreamtime.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy gasps and his eyes open widely. He sits up in bed and stares ahead, apparently processing his vision.

EXT. JEREMY'S COTTAGE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy walks away from his cottage in the moonlight.

He finds a bench down the block and sits. He takes his phone out and dials.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Brie is watching White House workers set up chairs on the lawn for some kind of event. She answers her ringing phone.

INTERCUT:

BRIE

Jeremy. Hi sweetie. Why are you calling so late? I thought we were going to use the eight to twelve window.

JEREMY

I just had another one of these strange dreams, but not a dream really, I was awake.

BRIE

You mean like a daydream?

JEREMY

No. I just need to talk to you, to hear your voice. Everybody was fighting in this dream.

BRIE

You're having nightmares. Maybe you should fly back. You're not taking drugs or anything.

JEREMY

No no no. It's not anything like that. It's hard to explain. Is dad okay? Is everything okay with him?

BRIE

Well, he's the president. No, everything's not okay. It's one crisis after another. It comes with the job.

JEREMY

Right. Look, thanks for listening. I'll let you go. I feel better now.

BRIE

Love you.

Jeremy clicks the phone off and hangs his head.

EXT. NOONGAR VILLAGE - DAY

Jeremy and Yarran are seated with the Shaman outside his small dwelling.

SHAMAN

You are being shown things. They are revealed to you in a way that you can understand.

JEREMY

But that's just it. I don't understand what I'm seeing.

SHAMAN

You have a family, back in America?

Jeremy nods.

SHAMAN (CONT'D)

And your family, have you ever fought with your family, argued?

JEREMY

(chuckles)

Sure.

SHAMAN

(knowingly)

We are all members of the human family. And the human family fights with itself like any family. Man with woman, race against race, nation against nation. That is our stage of evolution.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Xavier is at his desk with the phone to his ear. Sal Marconi and the National Security advisor wait on the couches. A large television mounted on a cart is situated near the couches.

Juanita opens the door and ADMIRAL STALLINGS enters. Xavier puts the phone down and rises to greet the Admiral.

XAVIER

Admiral Stallings, welcome, join us.

Xavier and Stallings take seats on couches. The men share nonverbal greetings. Sal clicks on the television and an image of Vladimir Putin appears.

XAVIER (CONT'D)
(to Admiral Stallings)
Before we start, I wanted to get
your take on this Putin video.

The video starts. Putin is seated at a table speaking into the camera with subtitles below. Xavier picks a sheet of paper up off the coffee table.

XAVIER (CONT'D)
(to Sal)
Mute the sound.
(to Admiral Stallings)
Here's the transcript. He boasts
about their nukes, "even more
modern than the NATO ones". And to
protect their territorial integrity
and their people, quote - "we will
certainly use all the means
available to us. And I'm not
bluffing". Is he bluffing? Why is
he saying this?

ADMIRAL STALLINGS
He's bluffing and not bluffing. If
the hundred and first airborne
stormed across the Russian border,
he might potentially use them.
Since that's not going to happen,
it's a bluff.

MARCONI
It's right out of the Nixon
playbook.

XAVIER
What do you mean?

MARCONI
In 1968, Nixon said he had a secret
plan to end the war. His secret
plan was to make the Russians and
North Vietnamese think he was a mad
man and was going to use nuclear
weapons against the North. He even
had NORAD loading nukes onto
bombers, right out in broad
daylight so the Russians would see
it from their satellites. That's
why the Russians knew it was a
bluff.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
Nixon wanted the Russians to force
the North Vietnamese to the
bargaining table.

ADMIRAL STALLINGS
Putin wants the same thing. He
wants to bargain for peace now.
They're just going to keep losing
territory. Once the Russians hold
ground, they don't walk away. You
have to drive them out.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
Putin reminds me of a James Bond
villain.

XAVIER
Except this isn't the movies. Okay,
the main purpose of this meeting is
to discuss a new civilian agency
that we're forming so that the
public has a place to report UAP
sightings and encounters. All
military encounters will continue
to go through AARO. We have
legitimate national security issues
with some of those since they
involve the military. But I want
both agencies to cooperate and
share information, when possible.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - DAY - LATER

Xavier addresses reporters. Standing behind Xavier is Calvin
Lawrence, the president's political advisor.

XAVIER
The name of the agency will be the
'Public Anomaly Reporting Agency',
or PARA. The web address is para
dot gov, and I understand it will
be up by the end of the week. The
purpose of this agency is to create
a new atmosphere of openness
regarding unexplained anomalies. We
don't want anyone who has any
legitimate sighting or encounter
that is unexplained to feel like
they have to keep silent, to be
afraid of public ridicule.

(MORE)

XAVIER (CONT'D)

Everyone knows now that we have objects in our skies and oceans that we can't explain. We don't know what they are. So, the more we know, the more we can learn, the better.

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY - LATER

As Xavier makes his way back to the Oval Office, he gets a tap on his shoulder from CALVIN LAWRENCE.

CALVIN LAWRENCE

Do you have a minute?

XAVIER

(checks his watch)

Sure, come on.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Xavier and Calvin are sitting on couches alone.

CALVIN LAWRENCE

This is a bad idea, this agency.

XAVIER

Why is that?

CALVIN LAWRENCE

We have midterms coming up. We're already vulnerable to losing the House. Now you're the 'little green men' president and they're going to beat us over the head with this.

XAVIER

I don't think so. This involves everybody.

CALVIN LAWRENCE

If we lose the house, no new legislation for two years.

XAVIER

I need to bring the public in on this, prepare them, you know, in case...who knows?

CALVIN LAWRENCE

(skeptical)

Okay. Any ideas on talking points?

XAVIER

(thinks)

Well, here's one. The French government formed a team of scientists to study UFO sightings in the seventies. They published a report stating that the most likely explanation for the unexplained anomalies was visitations by extra terrestrials.

CALVIN LAWRENCE

(shaking his head)

The French can say whatever they want. Nobody takes them seriously.

Xavier's intercom buzzes with Juanita's voice.

JUANITA

General McNeely is here.

XAVIER

(to Juanita)

Send him in.

(to Calvin Lawrence)

I have a meeting.

Lawrence takes the hint and passes McNeely on his way out of the Oval Office. Xavier sits at his desk and points to a nearby chair for McNeely.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

Any reaction to the news conference?

GENERAL MCNEELY

You really think it's necessary?

XAVIER

Yes.

McNeely has a look of condescension.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

What's the Defense Department's black budget? The total amount?

GENERAL MCNEELY

(thinks)

Around twenty-five billion I think. Why?

XAVIER

Twenty-five billion dollars. And where does all of that go?

GENERAL MCNEELY

Well, that's the whole point of a black budget. Nobody knows.

XAVIER

Somebody knows. You're the chairman of the joint chiefs. I want you to find out how much money goes to projects associated with alien spacecrafts, extraterrestrial technologies, UAPs, all of that. And to whom.

GENERAL MCNEELY

You're serious?

XAVIER

Do I look serious? Is the United States in the possession of any extraterrestrial spacecrafts or alien beings?

McNeely laughs.

GENERAL MCNEELY

Sir, I believe somebody's been feeding you with conspiracy theories.

Xavier stares him down.

XAVIER

In one week, I want a full report on how much DOD black funding goes toward investigating unexplained, unidentified anomalies, what we have in the way of extraterrestrial artifacts, either technology-related or actual beings...living or deceased.

McNeely is visibly rattled. He settles himself.

GENERAL MCNEELY

Very well sir, I'll see what I can come up with. Security clearances on black projects are on a need-to-know basis.

XAVIER
I need to know.

EXT. WASHINGTON MALL - DAY

General McNeely is walking alongside the reflecting pool. He pulls his phone out and dials.

INT. UNDERGROUND TESTING FACILITY - DAY

A landline phone rings on a desk in a large, open industrial space. DOCTOR RENALDO, a man in a white jumpsuit, walks over and answers the call.

SUPER: AREA 54 UNDERGROUND FACILITY - NEVADA DESERT

INTERCUT:

DOCTOR RENALDO
Renaldo.

As they converse, Doctor Renaldo walks casually around the area near the desk with a long cord. In the background, two saucer-shaped crafts are seen, with a few engineers in white jumpsuits milling about. The two crafts are not identical.

GENERAL MCNEELY
This is McNeely.

DOCTOR RENALDO
Yes General. To what do I owe the pleasure?

GENERAL MCNEELY
I just received orders from Lancaster to put a report together on black budget DOD projects involving UAPs and ETs.

DOCTOR RENALDO
Hm. Why?

GENERAL MCNEELY
He's on a quest. Warren was visited a couple of weeks ago by a triangle and they took over the launch control center, put them into countdown.

DOCTOR RENALDO
Oh my god.

GENERAL MCNEELY

Yeah. He specifically asked for information pertaining to alien bodies and crash debris.

DOCTOR RENALDO

Right. Can we appease him with something? We can't bring him in. He's a politician, an actor. He'll be gone in a couple of years.

GENERAL MCNEELY

I'll go to AARO, put together a file on their classified sightings.

DOCTOR RENALDO

Yeah, do that. That'll give him something to chew on.

GENERAL MCNEELY

How's it going?

DOCTOR RENALDO

Day by day. Keep me posted on our soldier boy. Throw him a bone now and then.

GENERAL MCNEELY

(chuckling)

He's got plenty of other things to worry about.

EXT. JEREMY'S COTTAGE - PERTH - NIGHT

The cottage looks peaceful in the moonlight with only a faint light shining through the front window.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jeremy is asleep in bed, lying on his back with his head propped up with pillows.

DREAMTIME:

There is a bright flash of light accompanied by a thunderous blast.

Jeremy is riding on the back of a flying dolphin that is aloft over the northern polar icecap. The landscape below is a combination of icesheets with pockets of open water.

As the dolphin descends, it flies above an area of open water and hovers. Beneath the surface of the water is a sleeping bear with a red star on its forehead. The bear wakes up and open its eyes.

The dolphin flies a little further and hovers. Below the surface of the water is a sleeping red dragon. The dragon wakes up and opens its eyes.

The dolphin flies a little further and hovers. Below the surface of the water is a sleeping eagle. Around its shoulders, just below its white feathers, gold stars form a ring. The eagle wakes up and opens its eyes.

The dolphin ascends into the air where it is met with a swarm of buzzards who fly around it in a threatening manner. Each buzzard has a smooth, silvery, saucer-shaped body.

As the dolphin flies up and away from the buzzards, Jeremy sees that there are more swarms of buzzards in every direction. The dolphin descends toward the open water and just before it hits the water, Jeremy awakens from his dreamtime.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy gasps and his eyes open widely. He sits up in bed and stares ahead, apparently processing his vision.

EXT. JEREMY'S COTTAGE - DAY

Yarran emerges from his room, looking like he just woke up. When he reaches the living room, he finds Jeremy dressed with his suitcase packed.

JEREMY

Can you take me to the airport?

YARRAN

Wow, yeah sure. Where are you going?

JEREMY

The states, Washington D.C.

YARRAN

Yeah, okay, let me get ready.

EXT. REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT - ARRIVING - DAY

Jeremy exits the doors onto the sidewalk and heads for the nearest taxi. Signage on the building reads "Ronald Reagan National Airport".

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - SECRET SERVICE CHECKPOINT - DAY

Jeremy waits while the guard checks his ID.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST WING - DAY

Jeremy is seated in front of a fireplace in a living room setting. A painting of Teddy Roosevelt hangs above the mantle. Brie enters with a beaming smile. Jeremy stands, the two embrace and then sit.

BRIE

Jeremy dear. So, here you are, the prodigal son.

(laughs)

The prodigal scholar I should say. We didn't expect you for another couple of weeks.

JEREMY

I needed a break.

BRIE

So, you are going back?

JEREMY

Yeah. The classwork is done. I just have to finish my dissertation. There's no deadline for that.

BRIE

How long will you be here?

JEREMY

I'm not sure. I wanted to get with dad. What's his schedule like?

BRIE

Every minute is booked for the next three years.

They share a laugh. Xavier enters with a big smile.

XAVIER

Jeremy!

Jeremy stands and they share a bro hug.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

I just heard you were up here. We didn't know you were coming.

JEREMY

I wanted to spend some time with you. Lots of things to share.

XAVIER

I'm traveling for a few days.

(thinks)

Weekend after next, we'll go to Camp David. Only takes an hour from here by helicopter. I can work from there. You look great! You look older. Got to get back.

Xavier hustles off.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

SUPER: ONE WEEK LATER

Xavier is at his desk going over papers. Sal enters with a stack of files and a large envelope and sits across the desk from Xavier.

XAVIER

So, what do we have there? You look disappointed.

MARCONI

Not what you asked for, that's for sure. Some very intriguing material nonetheless, I must say.

XAVIER

Well, first what we have and then what we don't have.

MARCONI

A pretty significant collection of classified material on UAP's. Photos, videos, audio recordings of pilots. Over a hundred sightings in all. East Coast, West Coast, Hawaii, Guam. A lot of different kinds of objects, some large some small. Different shapes. Rapid acceleration, turning on a dime, some detected by radar, some not.

XAVIER

Jesus.

MARCONI

Yeah. You might be able to declassify some of this.

XAVIER

Okay. So, what's not in there.

MARCONI

Zero info on black budget. Zero on spacecraft debris or aliens or any of that.

XAVIER

He's stonewalling me?

MARCONI

Well, I don't know. He can dig into black budget programs, so he's stonewalling you on that. The rest of it, maybe it doesn't exist or he can't come up with anything. I don't know.

XAVIER

You think there's actually a possibility there's a deep state covert military industrial cabal that controls all of this ET, UAP artifacts and intelligence? Operating right here, under our noses?

MARCONI

It does sound like the stuff of conspiracy theories. If it does exist, I know where their funding comes from.

XAVIER

From taxpayers.

EXT. CAMP DAVID MARYLAND - TRAIL - DAY

Xavier, Jeremy and the retriever walk along casually with two secret service agents tagging along a hundred feet behind them.

XAVIER

Brie said you're doing research on telepathy?

JEREMY

The Noongar people have practiced remote communication for thousands of years. They call it dream speak. We discovered an amazing example of it, but not from the Noongars. There was a UFO alien encounter last month by some schoolchildren in a small town outside of Perth.

XAVIER

I heard about that. My chief of staff said it was some story the kids made up, according to news reports. Are you saying it did happen?

JEREMY

One of the science teachers witnessed the craft. He saw it lift off the ground and then shoot up into the clouds in a split second. He said some men came around afterward and threatened him to keep quiet. One was an American.

XAVIER

And you met this science teacher?

JEREMY

Yeah, we went out there. About fifteen kids witnessed the beings. They spoke to them, telepathically.

The two men walk along for six steps silently while Xavier processes the information. They come upon a wooden bench and the two men sit.

XAVIER

What did they say, the aliens?

JEREMY

That the earth is in danger. That it might die.

Xavier ponders for a moment.

XAVIER

I have a meeting scheduled for tomorrow. I want you to sit in on it. It's with Simon Jeffries. He's heading up PARA, the new civilian reporting agency for UAP anomalies.

(MORE)

XAVIER (CONT'D)

He's bringing a colleague, Danielle Preston, a physicist, top expert in the field.

INT. CAMP DAVID MARYLAND - LODGE HALL - DAY

Xavier and Jeremy, along with Simon Jeffries and his colleague, DR. DANIELLE PRESTON (50), sit comfortably in front of a big stone fireplace. Dr. Preston is dressed in a business suit and speaks confidently and authoritatively.

XAVIER

(to Dr. Preston)

Jeremy said the science teacher was visited by some men who threatened him. Told him not to speak out. One was an American. What is an American doing in Australia, intimidating an eye witness?

SUPER: DR. DANIELLE PRESTON, ANOMALY EXPERT

DR. PRESTON

This has been going on for eighty years. U.S. Intelligence Services have managed to hide the truth from the public by silencing witnesses of anything related to UFOs.

XAVIER

But why? Why is it so important to keep the public in the dark?

DR. PRESTON

Because military people, working in conjunction with private aerospace scientists, have in their possession alien crafts that utilize technologies that defy our current understanding of the laws of physics. Specifically related to their propulsion and anti-gravity systems. American scientists have been working secretly for decades to reverse engineer these technologies.

SIMON

The two things are related. Gravity and propulsion. To travel at the speeds they travel, you have to defeat gravity. Gravity is actually a weak force.

He lifts up a glass on a nearby table.

SIMON (CONT'D)

A little human energy can defeat it.

DR. PRESTON

On earth, yes. In a black hole, gravity is an immensely powerful force. The aliens can also overcome the limitations of four-dimensional spacetime with the vast distances they travel to get here. One theory is that they create an artificial gravitational field, which would make all of these abilities possible.

JEREMY

Imagine what this would mean for the military.

Jeremy and Xavier share a look.

DR. PRESTON

Exactly. That's why this work has remained underground for all this time, the tightest security imaginable. We learned an important lesson with the Manhattan Project. We can't let any of this technology fall into the hands of our enemies.

XAVIER

How far along is this reverse engineering? And how do you know about it?

DR. PRESTON

In 1990, a young physicist came out publicly and claimed to have worked at a secret underground base in Nevada. He's controversial. Some experts believe him, others don't. However, a number of other, much more credible scientists have confirmed that this work is being done, but they haven't elaborated beyond a simple confirmation.

XAVIER

So that explains all the secrecy.

JEREMY

This has enormous implications for the future of human civilization.

XAVIER

(nods)

Depending on how it's used.

INT. CAMP DAVID MARYLAND - OFFICE - DAY

President Lancaster is seated at his desk reading. The beautiful office is paneled with hardwood, with a bookcase behind the desk. It includes a couch and two chairs.

Jeremy enters.

XAVIER

Close the door please.

Xavier stands and sits in one of the chairs and Jeremy sits on the couch.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

Where are you with your thesis?

JEREMY

I'm working on it here.

XAVIER

I need you here in Washington, for now. I'll arrange for security clearances. And don't speak to your mother about any of this. I'll talk to her.

JEREMY

Aliens taking control of our nukes. That's a serious national security threat.

XAVIER

(nods)

But I'm worried about another potential threat. If there is a secret cabal covering all of this up, who are they? If they succeed in developing this technology, what are their intentions?

JEREMY

A shadow military.

XAVIER

And a shadow government. This isn't happening on my watch. I'm the President of the United States and by God, I'm going to get to the bottom of this!

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

A U.S. Naval Carrier Battle Group, consisting of an aircraft carrier, two cruisers, three destroyers, one auxiliary vessel and one nuclear attack submarine, is on a patrol mission off the coast of Catalina Island, California.

SUPER:

PACIFIC OCEAN - 210 MILES SOUTHWEST OF CATALINA ISLAND,
CALIFORNIA

INT. AIRCRAFT CARRIER - BRIDGE - DAY

The REAR ADMIRAL (50) is gazing out across the vast expanse of water. The skies are mostly clear and the sea is calm. The ship's CAPTAIN (40) and a few other officers go about their business. Behind the captain, two RADAR OPERATORS (30) are glued to their screens.

CAPTAIN

(to Admiral)

Great day for a cruise Admiral.

REAR ADMIRAL

I'd rather be on my yacht, all things considered.

CAPTAIN

We dock in San Diego in three days.

REAR ADMIRAL

And then down to Baja for some quality fishing.

CAPTAIN

Yellowtail?

REAR ADMIRAL

(nods)

And seabass.

The radar operators see an object on their screens.

RADAR OPERATOR
Sir, we have a large object, two
one two degrees. Moving in this
direction.

The Admiral and Captain move over to observe the screens.

CAPTAIN
Speed?

RADAR OPERATOR
Seventy knots.

REAR ADMIRAL
What in the name of...?
(to Captain)
Scramble a chopper.

The Captain goes to the control display and hits a button,
which initiates an intermittent siren. He grabs a microphone
and speaks into it.

CAPTAIN
Scramble a chopper. We have a bogie
at two one two degrees.

EXT. AIRCRAFT CARRIER DECK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A PILOT (25) jumps into the cockpit of his helicopter as he
fastens the strap on his helmet.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The pilot prepares his chopper for take-off. He flips
switches and lights illuminate on his instrument panel.

INT/EXT. AIRCRAFT CARRIER - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The radar operators are alarmed.

RADAR OPERATOR
Captain, it's accelerating. Two
hundred knots.

CAPTAIN
Two hundred knots?

The Captain and Admiral share puzzled looks. They peer into
the radar screens.

The Admiral grabs a pair of binoculars, walks out onto the adjacent bridge deck and gazes at the distant horizon. The Captain joins him.

INT/EXT. HELICOPTER - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The helicopter pilot turns a switch and the engine turns on. The rotor begins to turn slowly. Crewmen help him taxi the helicopter to the designated position.

INT/EXT. AIRCRAFT CARRIER - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The Captain and Admiral scan the horizon. The radar operators are even more alarmed.

RADAR OPERATOR

Four hundred knots! It's closing
in.

INT/EXT. HELICOPTER - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The helicopter engine shuts down and the rotor slows. All of the interior display lights turn off. The outside siren goes silent.

INT/EXT. AIRCRAFT CARRIER - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The radar screens and all of the display lights on the control panel go dark.

Outside the bridge window, the radar operators and auxiliary officers see five white tic tac crafts slowly ascend upward out of the water off of the port side of the fleet. They hover one hundred feet above the water.

Outside on the bridge deck, the Captain and Admiral observe the five white objects.

Suddenly from above and directly in front of the fleet, a large triangular craft descends and hovers above the lead ships. The craft hums with a throbbing sound. A blue neon glow outlines the craft's dark triangular shape.

EXT. AIRCRAFT CARRIER DECK - CONTINUOUS

A seaman pulls out his phone and records the six objects. Then the seaman standing next to him does the same.

A few seconds later, the tic tacs fly off in a straight line formation and disappear on the horizon.

The large triangular craft remains in place for a moment and then ascends upward rapidly and disappears. All of the power on the carrier returns.

The siren blares again.

EXT/INT. - AIRCRAFT CARRIER BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The Admiral and Captain reenter the bridge and find the radar screens and all of the control panel display lights lit up again. The Captain reaches for a switch and turns off the siren.

The auxiliary officers on the bridge appear stunned.

CAPTAIN
(to Admiral)
What the hell was that?

The Admiral gazes out the window, shaking his head.

REAR ADMIRAL
(to Captain)
Come with me.

INT. REAR ADMIRAL'S OFFICE - DAY - LATER

The Captain and Admiral sit at the Admiral's desk with a speakerphone nearby. The phone rings and the Admiral clicks it on speaker.

REAR ADMIRAL
Is everyone patched in?

A group of officer's voices answer.

OFFICERS (V.O.)
(on speaker)
Yes sir.

REAR ADMIRAL
The incident that happened today is classified top secret. Inform all personnel that they are not to speak about it to anyone. That includes friends, family and the press. They are also not to discuss it amongst themselves. This incident did not happen.

(MORE)

REAR ADMIRAL (CONT'D)
Is everyone clear about this
communication?

A chorus of voices replies.

OFFICERS (V.O.)
(on speaker)
Yes sir!

REAR ADMIRAL
That is all.

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - PARK - DAY

Jeremy is sitting on a bench with a bag of popcorn, throwing pieces at pigeons, apparently trying to intentionally hit them in the head. His phone rings and he answers.

JEREMY
Hey Yarran. What's going on? How's
everything down under?

YARRAN (V.O.)
There's an incredible video that
just dropped on YouTube. I just
sent it. Check it out.

JEREMY
Cool. I'll call you back.

Jeremy clicks on the video link.

VIDEO INSERT:

The screen on Jeremy's phone displays the video shot by one of the aircraft carrier seamen of the five white tic tacs and the triangular craft. The tic tacs fly off single-file and the triangular-shaped craft ascends upward rapidly.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Oh my god.

Jeremy switches off his phone and jogs off. The bag of popcorn drops to the ground and the pigeons swarm.