

XENO-BITES

screenplay by

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EXT. STARFIELD.

Like tuning the dial on a radio, spooky COSMIC NOISES reach out to us from the furthest reaches of space. The celestial vibrations are underscored by GURGLING and RUMBLING EMPTY STOMACHS.

An indistinct RADIO SIGNAL stands out from naturally occurring universe sounds. The Earth signal triggers a FLOATING HOLOGRAPHIC NAVIGATIONAL DISPLAY (H.N.D.) OVER THE FIELD OF STARS. The early twentieth century broadcast is isolated and amplified, while ambient noises are suppressed.

ALIEN COMPUTER SOUNDS

The H.N.D. zeros in on the solar system -- a faint speck of light amongst an ocean of stars. The quickest course to Earth is plotted, and the jump to SUBWARP SPEED is initiated.

ASCENDING EARTH RADIO SIGNALS: 1940's, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, 2000's, 2010's, 2020's.

Our Earthward trajectory takes us through, around, under, over and past:

...an unstable VOLCANIC PLANET.

...a breathtaking SUPERNOVA REMNANT.

...DEBRIS FIELD from a moon planet collision.

...MOLTEN IRON PLANET too close to a RED GIANT.

...COMET punching a hole in a GAS GIANT'S RINGS.

...GEYSERS on a FROZEN PLANET erupting into space.

...a NEUTRON STAR gobbling a SMALL PLANET.

Our momentum decreases, as we maneuver through JOVIAN SPACE, the scarcely populated ASTEROID BELT, and swing past MARS. We reach our final destination -

EARTH

as the SUN crests over the dark curvature of the fragile blue planet.

AUDIBLE pangs of hunger increase tenfold.

EXT. COTTAGE. MORNING.

## BIRDSONG

A quaint Nantucket cottage, complete with white picket fence and a tastefully arranged garden, sits at the end of a cul-de-sac surrounded by autumn woods.

INT. FELIX BEDROOM. COTTAGE.

Something passes in front of the sun, briefly transforming MORNING into TWILIGHT and then NIGHT.

This mysterious solar event rouses Kai.

KAI -- a Siberian husky with mismatched eyes -- reacts to the shifting light pattern. He becomes alert, observant.

The unsettling feeling passes. Kai tries to go back to sleep. Wait, there it is again! He perks up.

## NEIGHBORHOOD DOGS PANIC BARKING

Kai moves swiftly to an upright position and listens. He glances over at a sleeping child.

The child is FELIX, a Norman Rockwellian 8-year-old with Down Syndrome.

Kai exits. Moments later...

Felix is jolted from sleep by a MILD TREMOR.

## CAR ALARMS and LOUDER DOG BARKING

Felix, clenching his blanket, wants Kai; however, his canine friend is not in his usual spot on the toy cluttered floor.

## CAR ALARMS CEASE

Felix's unease subsides.

INT. LIVING ROOM. COTTAGE.

Kai stares intently out the window.

Felix, in his PAJAMAS, shuffles in. He plops down on the sofa and turns on the television. He SURFS CHANNELS until he finds CARTOONS.

(CONTINUED)

Kai wanders over to Felix who gives him a friendly scratch behind the ears. Kai jumps on the sofa for a cuddle and visit but remains vigilant.

An ANIMATED COMMERCIAL for WIZ-O's breakfast cereal, featuring an WIZARD and a hungry GIRL and BOY, pops onto the television screen.

Felix watches the commercial for a few seconds then mutes the television. He gets off the sofa and crosses purposefully to the kitchen.

INT. WILLOW BEDROOM. COTTAGE.

Felix's MOTHER is dead to the world. Her disheveled hair covers her face preventing close identification.

INT. KITCHEN. COTTAGE.

Felix discovers an empty box of Wiz-O's in the cupboard. He searches the pantry for an additional box.

CUTAWAY - LIVING ROOM.

As Kai scampers to the window, a MUTED EMERGENCY ALERT MESSAGE appears on the television.

Kai softly vocalizes his growing concern.

RETURN TO SCENE.

No more Wiz-O's. Felix's disappointment turns into inspiration.

INT. FELIX BEDROOM. COTTAGE.

Felix cracks open his piggy bank. He may have just enough money to purchase a box of Wiz-O's. Joy!

EXT. COTTAGE.

Felix, warmly dressed with bicycle in tow, crosses from the side to front yard.

Kai, at living room window, tries urgently to get his master's attention. Felix is oblivious, because at the moment he only cares about Wiz-O's.

CUTAWAY - LIVING ROOM.

Kai, WHINING, is helpless to prevent Felix from heading into danger. Felix exits through the gate.

RETURN TO SCENE.

Felix climbs on his bike and peddles away.

We are left with the indelible and heartbreaking IMAGE of Kai being left behind.

EXT. RUNNINGBROOK. MORNING.

Runningbrook is a small rural community. A place where being neighborly is fashionable and good manners have not gone out of style.

Felix, arriving from the west, rides like the wind past RUNNINGBROOK LIBRARY and through a small MUNICIPAL PARK.

CLOUDS coalesce to the east.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL ALLEYWAY. MORNING.

Felix slams on the breaks. He squints, cocks head quizzically.

In the distance, beyond the telephone wires and rooftops, a disk shaped MOTHERSHIP dominates the sky. Its massive dark hull hides behind storm clouds. The rapidly deteriorating weather is a direct result of the alien technology's impact on the environment.

Felix is being brought up in a sheltered environment; therefore, danger and malevolence are alien to him. He is amused by the spacecraft rather than fearful of it.

His noble quest continues.

EXT. MOM & POP'S. MORNING.

A steady stream of LOOTERS exit and enter the store through the shattered glass doors.

Felix cautiously approaches.

MINI - a HELPER MONKEY - drags a bag brimming with sugary treats to Arnold.

(CONTINUED)

ARNOLD is a morbidly obese schlub who uses a MOBILITY SCOOTER to navigate life.

Meanwhile...

Felix secures his bike to the entrance adjacent rack.

Arnold tosses an empty cloth bag at Mini. It unceremoniously lands on her head. She looks at the looming MOTHERSHIP, Arnold, the store, and then again the MOTHERSHIP.

ARNOLD  
Just do it.

Mini begrudgingly complies.

ARNOLD  
And be quick about it!

Arnold inspects and samples the booty. He doesn't notice the middle finger Mini hurls his direction, as she re-enters the store.

Mini effortlessly weaves her way through a maze of fast moving legs, dodges a falling box, and avoids being mowed down by an industrial size can of Chili con Carne.

INT. MOM & POP'S.

ENTRANCE

Felix, entering, is nearly knocked over by a looter exiting with toilet paper.

SOUND OF FIGHTER JETS SCREECHING OVERHEAD

Felix calmly makes his way to the cereal aisle.

POLICE RADIO CROSS CHATTER

Two POLICE OFFICERS rush into the store. Rather than round up looters, the officers steal cases of water.

CEREAL AISLE

Felix expresses pure joy, when he finds a single box of Wiz-O's.

CUTAWAY - MOTHERSHIP.

The undercarriage unfolds like a deadly blossom.

RETURN TO SCENE.

## CHECKOUT

Felix approaches the AUTOMATED CHECKOUT STAND. He scans the Wiz-O's barcode, completes the sales transaction, and then lovingly places the cereal box in his BACKPACK.

SUDDENLY, in the distance, HUNDREDS OF ALIEN WARRIORS ISSUE A WAR CRY that RATTLES WINDOWS AND SHELVES.

The looters are petrified. Time is up!

## AIR RAID SIREN ACTIVATES

Looters stampede from the store. Felix, to avoid being trampled, shelters on an empty bottom shelf next to the checkout stand. There, he encounters Mini.

FELIX  
(smiling)  
Hello.

Arnold abandons Mini. Her SCREAMS for him to come back are drowned out by the deafening SOUND of people panicking.

EXT. MOM & POP'S.

## AIR RAID SIREN CONTINUOUS

Looters flee on foot and in AUTOMOBILES. One looter tries to take Felix's bike but is unable to break the U-Lock.

The Police Officers scramble back to their CRUISER with the cases of water, while Felix makes his way to his bike.

Felix fidgets with the key that doesn't seem to fit.

Police Officers stow the water in the trunk, retrieve their AR-15 RIFLES, and then depart with SIRENS BLARING.

Felix finally disconnects the U-lock. Mini makes a HELP ME NOISE. Felix turns and looks at her.

## AIR RAID SIREN STOPS

He hops on his bike.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

Come on.

Mini hops on Felix's back and holds on for dear life.

FELIX

I'm Felix.

MONKEY NOISE: WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, GO! GO! GO!

FELIX

Hang on!

Felix and Mini speed away.

INT. COTTAGE. MORNING.

FOYER

Kai whines and paws frenziedly at the door sill. He stops, listens, runs to the -

LIVING ROOM WINDOW

Felix is home, and he has someone with him!

EXT. COTTAGE. CONTINUOUS.

The neighborhood is eerily still. No cheery singing birds.

Kai at window. He gently paws the glass.

FELIX

We're home.

Mini is relaxed.

FELIX

I hope you like Wiz-O's.

They enter through the gate.

FELIX

I don't know what monkeys normally eat.

They cross to the side yard.

FELIX

I don't think we have bananas.

MONKEY NOISE: BANANAS!!

INT. COTTAGE.

Kai races THROUGH THE COTTAGE to the -  
BACKDOOR

spinning and snorting elatedly.

Door yawns. Felix and Mini enter. Kai dances and spins, happy his young master is safe.

Mini clings tightly to Felix. She is naturally concerned about the large energetic dog underfoot.

FELIX

Miss me? We have a guest, so I  
expect you be a gracious host.

Mini leaps onto a hat shelf out of Kai's reach. Felix places the backpack on the mudroom floor, while he hangs his coat on an available peg.

FELIX

Who wants breakfast?!

KAI BARKS

INT. WILLOW BEDROOM. COTTAGE.

ALL AT ONCE, Willow's sanctuary is upended by SOUNDS OF WAR. Human and extraterrestrial weapons clash. The windows FLICKER and GLOW in no discernible pattern: green, magenta, white, yellow. This is the war to end all wars.

WILLOW - 30ish, petite, undeniably Felix's mother.

Willow leaps out of bed, runs to the window, and sweeps the drapes aside.

LIGHT SNOWFALL

An ALIEN TROOP CARRIER is parked on the cul-de-sac. The luminous battle raging on the horizon.

Armed Xeno-bites search for a way into a neighbor's home.

XENO-BITES are driven by their insatiable need to eat. These undernourished spacefaring beings are: humanoid, tall, and pale complected. The Xeno-bite anatomy includes: slits for ears, eight cranberry-red eyes, two gill-like nostrils, and a mouth filled with jagged, decaying, teeth.

(CONTINUED)



INT. KITCHEN. COTTAGE.

Willow SCREAMS.

At the table, two heaping bowls of Wiz-O's and milk sit upon it, a Xeno-bite unapologetically sinks its teeth into Mini while she SCREAMS and kicks. The ferocious bite severs her at the rib cage...

CRACKING BONES

SPRAYING BLOOD AND ENTRAILS

Kai is determined to protect Felix and home at all cost. He maintains a defensive posture between the Xeno-bite and his family.

Willow grabs her son's hand. As they make their way out of the kitchen, they come upon Scar. The front door is open. SNOW RUSHES IN. Kai snarls at Scar.

Willow and Felix turn to head the opposite direction, but the kitchen Xeno-bite blocks their escape route.

Scar's mouth stretches. He releases a DREADFUL VOCALIZATION. His subordinate follows suit. Willow holds her child tight. There will be no escape. Before they meet their terrible fate, our attention is quickly diverted to the LIVING ROOM -

TELEVISION SCREEN

KAI BARKING, WHINING

The EMERGENCY ALERT MESSAGE, sound is muted, abruptly ceases. Static snow fills the screen.

KAI GOES SILENT

EXT. RUNNINGBROOK. TWILIGHT.

Runningbrook is in ruins, and there are no survivors.

The final haunting IMAGE is the hulking MOTHERSHIP ascending through the heavy FALLING SNOW that blankets the devastation.