

The Aliens

Written By

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1. EXT. MEXICAN VILLAGE - DAY

Late afternoon. A Mexican **village**, locked in time, somewhere south of the **California/Mexico** border.

A group of five **Mexicans**, **young men** and **women**, sit underneath a huge **shade tree**. They all have **hats** and **backpacks**. Waiting. For **someone**.

PACO, 20's, Hispanic, pulls out a **water bottle** and takes a sip. He offers a sip to **ARTURO**, 20's, Hispanic, who smiles and waves him off. **Arturo**, then pulls out a **bottle** of **tequila**, takes a sip and offers it to **Paco** who smiles and accepts.

DIEGO, 80's, Hispanic, stumbles up to the group. He is drunk. He smiles and looks at everyone in the face but is ignored. **Paco** and Arturo exchange glances and smile. They make eye contact with **Diego**.

THIS SCENE IS IN SPANISH AND IS SUBTITLED.

DIEGO

Are you walking across the desert?

PACO

Sure. You want to join us old man?

DIEGO

I have been across the desert many times. I go when I want.

ARTURO

Well, we go when we want. And tonight, we are going across the desert.

Diego spies the **bottle** of **tequila** and motions for it. **Arturo** grins and hands it over.

DIEGO

You must respect the desert. It can take you like that.

Diego snaps his fingers. He takes a sip of the **tequila**. It makes him happy.

PACO

We know who you are old timer.

ARTURO

We have heard stories about you.

This stops **Diego** in his tracks. He suddenly gets defensive.

DIEGO

What? What do you know about me?

ARTURO

That you like the drink. And that
you are crazy.

Diego's face tightens. His breathing becomes labored. His eyes narrow. **Paco** and **Arturo** now fear the crazy **man**. But suddenly **Diego** breaks into a **laugh**.

DIEGO

You are right. I like the drink.
But I am not crazy. I have seen it
with my own eyes.

PACO

What is it that you have seen?

DIEGO

You think the danger is around you.
A rattlesnake, a hole in the
ground, the heat of the midday sun?
The danger is at night. It comes
from above.

ARTURO

Like a plane or a helicopter. Or
maybe a drone.

DIEGO

No. There are others that are out
there. Out of nowhere they will
snatch you, take you away, like you
never existed. And you will be of
this earth no more.

Diego takes a swig of **tequila**. He works himself up into a frenzy.

DIEGO

The great light will appear. It
will be beautiful. It will beckon
you, like a lover. You cannot
resist. You must be with the
light. If you are lucky, they will
take you up into the skies, never
to be of this earth again. But if
you are unlucky, you are left here,
only with memories. Things you
will never forget. THINGS THAT I
CANNOT FORGET. I HAVE SEEN THIS.
IT IS THE TRUTH. I BEAR WITNESS.

Arturo and **Paco** are transfixed by **Diego's** story. A **man** wearing a **cowboy hat**, **SANCHEZ**, 50's, Hispanic, approaches.

SANCHEZ

Telling tales again, Diego?

Sanchez pulls out a roll of **bills**, peels off a couple and hands them to **Diego**.

SANCHEZ

Find a bar. Make a friend. Tell him your stories. Away.

Diego takes the money and smiles. He smiles at **Paco** and **Arturo**.

DIEGO

Safe travels my friends. May you be spared what I have lived.

Diego finishes off the **tequila** and stumbles away. Sanchez turns to the group. He makes eye contact with a **young woman**. She averts her eyes. Sanchez smiles at her and **chuckles**.

SANCHEZ

You have heard stories about me, yes? Don't believe everything you have heard.

There is fear and respect in the faces of the **people** around Sanchez.

SANCHEZ

Some of you will not make it. You may disappear in the desert, as if the earth has swallowed you up. Banditos may shoot you in the back. You could be arrested, thrown in jail, returned back here with nothing. But those of you who keep your head down and work hard, you will succeed. You will have a better life. Remember the hope you have in your heart right now. That will sustain you. Keep you going. Through the tough times. May God smile upon you all.

MIGUEL, 20's, Hispanic, walks up besides Sanchez.

SANCHEZ

This is Miguel. He will start you
(MORE)

SANCHEZ (CONT'D)

on your journey north. Obey him.
Everything he says. And you will
be safe in your travels. Stray and
you will die. Or end up like the
old man.

The group gets up.

MIGUEL

Fill up your canteens. Leave
anything that is not necessary. We
leave at sundown. We will travel
by night.

Paco and Arturo exchange glances. **Diego's** tale has given
them doubt. Sanchez sees this.

SANCHEZ

There are a hundred other things
that can kill you in the desert
besides the great light.

Sanchez laughs and walks off.

PACO

What kind of idiot believes in
UFO's?

2. INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

Behind the **wheel** of a 1960 Blue Ford Fairlane is JACOB,
40's, Chinese **American**. He's driving across an unpaved **road**
in the high **desert** of **California**.

3. EXT. GIANT ROCK - DAY

The high **desert** of **California** is still in the late
afternoon.

Giant Rock, a large seven story split granite boulder,
watches over the desolate **landscape**.

The Fairlane drives across the dirt **roads** and past Giant
Rock, a **plume** of **dust** kicked up in its wake.

4. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Near a pile of rocks, the car stops. After a moment, Jacob
emerges. He stretches after the long drive.

Jacob goes over to the pile of rocks. He lifts the top one
to make sure something is still there. It is. He replaces
the rock and heads over to pop the trunk. Inside is camping
gear and a cooler.

5. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Several halogen **lamps** illuminate the small **campsite**. Jacob sits in **lawn chair**, bundled up, staring at the sky.

Jacob opens the cooler which has a few **beers** in it, a **sandwich**, **ice** and dry **ice**. He digs in and accidentally touches some of the dry **ice** which causes him to withdraw his hand quickly because of the coldness.

He reaches down for a two liter **bottle** of Diet Coke which he accidentally drops. He opens it and it immediately fizzes over. Jacob quickly cleans up the mess. He stares skyward again.

The stars sparkle. Especially Orion's **belt**.

A small electronic receiving **device** with **knobs** and **buttons** with one blinking **red light** lies nearby, a **dish** like **antenna** pointed skyward.

6. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

The Fairlane drives back across the **desert**, the **campsite** deserted as if no one was ever there.

7. INT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Jacob's FATHER, 80's, Chinese **American**, eyes closed, lies in his **bed**. Jacob kisses him on the forehead.

JACOB

Hi, Dad.

The **Father** opens his eyes and smiles. Jacob takes a familiar seat next to him and opens up his **laptop** to work. Jacob starts to type but stops. He takes a look at his **father**. There is sadness and regret in Jacob's eyes but also a sense of duty. After a moment, he begins typing again.

8. INT. NURSING HOME - NIGHT

Both Jacob and his **Father** are napping. ANNIE, 50's, the nurse comes in to check on the **Father**. Jacob awakes and looks at his **watch**.

ANNIE

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to wake you.

JACOB

No. That's okay. I need to be somewhere. How's he doing?

ANNIE
He's comfortable.

It's code. Jacob reads between the lines. He nods his head.

ANNIE
But he always perks up when he knows you're coming.

He kisses his **father** on the forehead. The **father** does not wake. Jacob leaves.

9. INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jacob, collared **shirt** and **jacket** sits across from **SAMANTHA**, 30's, vivacious and outgoing, wearing a stylish **dress**. **Entrees** are gone from the **dinner plates**, **Samantha** has a nearly empty glass of **wine** in front of her. Jacob still has half a **bottle** of **beer** in front him.

SAMANTHA
. . . and I said, "Hey, Buddy, my eyes are up here. Stop staring at my breasts." And he says, "No, I haven't." And I said, "Yes, you have, pervert." And he said, "No, you don't understand, I'm blind."

They both **laugh**.

JACOB
Wow.

SAMANTHA
I know. We went out a few times after that. Turns out he was a pervert.

Jacob laughs. **Samantha** not so much. The **WAITER** approaches.

WAITER
Can I interest you in dessert?

Samantha gives Jacob a sly look.

SAMANTHA
Bring us a couple of whatevers.

Samantha throws back the last of her **wine**.

SAMANTHA
So enough about me. What about you?

JACOB

What about me?

SAMANTHA

Ron said you were a very nice guy
and you didn't have a girlfriend.

JACOB

Well, I am and I don't.

SAMANTHA

This is has been such a good blind
date that I'm immediately
suspicious. Usually, I can suss
this stuff out but with you . . .

JACOB

What?

SAMANTHA

What is it that I'm missing? Who
are you?

JACOB

I'm Jacob.

SAMANTHA

And I'm Samantha. You ever been
married?

JACOB

No.

SAMANTHA

Engaged?

JACOB

No.

SAMANTHA

What's the matter? Don't you
believe in marriage?

JACOB

It's not that. Far from it. I
would love to be married. But not
because my family or friends
pressure me or demand it. People
that are right for each other will
find each other. Eventually.

Samantha is momentarily taken aback.

SAMANTHA

Good answer.

She returns on the attack.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

What do you do? In your spare time?

JACOB

I go out to the desert.

SAMANTHA

Why?

JACOB

I'm carrying on my father's work. He's in a nursing home. He had a stroke.

SAMANTHA

I'm so sorry.

JACOB

No, it's okay. He's comfortable.

SAMANTHA

So what kind of work?

JACOB

My father was a scientist, an engineer for NASA. But he went out on his own. He had developed a theory, a belief system, so every Saturday night I go out to a specific place in the desert and I wait . . .

SAMANTHA

For what?

JACOB

For the aliens to come.

Samantha takes this in for a second. Then she bursts out in **laughter**.

SAMANTHA

What? Really? Go on.

Jacob pauses for a moment, then goes on.

JACOB

We're called UFOlogists. That's
(MORE)

JACOB (CONT'D)

actually a very broad term. Now, I don't believe in UFO's exactly. That means they are actually here. They're not. My father believes, based on scientific and empirical evidence that at a specific spot near Landers, CA, a vortex of magnetic and geothermal energy along with fault lines make it the most attractive place for extra terrestrial life to land.

The smile from **Samantha's** face starts to slowly fade as she realizes he's serious. But for Jacob, his confidence grows as he thinks he's found **someone** that doesn't think he's crazy.

JACOB

The energy spikes every seventh day, on a Saturday, so that's why we need to be there to greet them. I used to do that with my father but he became too sick so now it's just me. I need to meet them because if they were to meet someone crazy . . .

SAMANTHA

Crazy? Are you kidding me? I thought you were putting me on, that you were playing a little joke on me with Ron. But you're serious.

JACOB

I am serious.

SAMANTHA

You know I can suss these things out. I am not an idiot. I can put up with a lying, infidelity, sexual peccadilloes. But the one thing I will not put up with is CRAZY.

Samantha storms off. After a beat, the **Waiter** shows up with two **cheesecakes**.

10. EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

Jacob sits behind a small table on the Venice **boardwalk**. A **sign** saying "UFO INFO" is taped to the front. On the table are some **pamphlets** but most prominent is a **book** "First Contact by Dr. **Randolph Lee**".

On the busy **boardwalk**, he is ignored.

11. EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

Jacob walks up to a picnic table carrying his **stuff** from **Venice Beach**. Already having **lunch** are RON, 30's, and JERRY, 30's. Jacob takes a seat and takes out a brown bag **lunch**.

JERRY

Make any money?

JACOB

Not much. Thanks a lot for setting me up with Samantha.

RON

You're welcome. It was win-win for me. She's very annoying. But I was under a lot of pressure to set her up. So either you get lucky and get laid or I don't every have to deal with her again. Mission accomplished.

JERRY

You really shouldn't talk about UFOlogy until later. Much later.

RON

You see, your problem is that you bring up too early.

JACOB

When exactly should I bring it up?

RON

Definitely not on the first date.

JERRY

I'm with Ron on this.

RON

If you want to run them off, then sure, it's your trump card. But if you want to get them into the sack or better yet, if you get them into the sack and you want to keep them around then you have ease into it.

JERRY

First, you have to test the waters so see if she'll watch some sci-fi

(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)

or fantasy movies with you.

RON

That way you can see if she's open to it. Willing to experiment. A little curious, if you will.

JERRY

Right. Then one night, you start poking around Netflix and you put on Starman.

JACOB

Starman?

RON

Absolutely. It's my go to. You know Starman, right?

JERRY

Jeff Bridges? Karen Allen?

RON

He's an alien that comes back to life as her dead husband, he needs to get to the Meteor Crater in Arizona.

JERRY

They do it in a boxcar.

RON

Hobo sex. Very hot.

JERRY

That's when you come out to her.

RON

If she goes for that, then it completely opens up. Then you can go to Roswell, Project Blue Book, Rendlesham Forest.

JERRY

At that point, you can do anything. Anything.

Jacob is not convinced. He picks at his **food**.

JACOB

Can we talk about something normal? Any close encounters anywhere? Jerry?

JERRY

There's been some chatter about
weird lights in the Ukraine.

RON

A listening post in Brazil picked
up some strange signals from space.

Jacob is disappointed. Ron and Jerry exchange glances.

RON

Can I ask you a hypothetical? What
if they're already here?

JERRY

There's so much technology that we
have that had to have been given to
us.

JACOB

Listen, you guys believe what you
want to believe. My father's
theory is very well thought out and
he has the documentation and data
to back it up.

RON

But suppose, just suppose, that
there's something that doesn't pan
out? Shouldn't you hedge your
bets?

JERRY

It wouldn't hurt to live a little.
And by live a little, I mean
getting laid on a regular basis.

RON

There are some hot UFOlogists out
there.

Jacob gives them a look.

JERRY

They're out there. There's a few.
A couple. One or two.

RON

All I'm saying is that sometimes
you depress us.

JERRY

We'd rather all of us be happy than
(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)

just two of us.

RON

Sometimes you have to take one for the team.

Jacob figures it out.

JACOB

You've met some women and there's an odd one out.

RON

It's just one Saturday night.

JERRY

Just one. The aliens haven't come yet, they won't come this Saturday.

JACOB

I can't. You know I can't.

Jacob picks at his **food**. Ron and Jerry exchange glances. They tried.

RON

Hey did you hear about McKitchen? Turns out he was a fraud.

JERRY

A total hoaxster.

JACOB

What happened?

RON

All that stuff he's been putting out? The videos, newsletters, lectures? Fabricated everything. He was a fake. A con man.

JERRY

That guy made so much money.

JACOB

You've got to be careful in what you believe in.

JERRY

Oh, you know what also works? City of the Edge of Forever.

RON

Captain Kirk wanting to nail Joan

(MORE)

RON (CONT'D)

Collins? Yeah, I should try that sometime.

Jacob shakes his head.

12. EXT. HIGHWAY 247 - DAY

The Fairlane is parked by the side of the **road**. Jacob sits behind the "UFO INFO" table. Cars **whiz** by on the **highway**. The passing wind flutters the **books** on his table.

13. EXT. HIGHWAY 247 - DAY

A black **SUV** pulls over to Jacob's **spot**. DANIEL, 30's, very friendly and RICHARD, 30's, very cynical **exit** the **SUV**. They take a look around before approaching Jacob.

RICHARD

You're the UFO guy. Jacob.

JACOB

I guess you can call me that.

DANIEL

I'm Daniel. That's Richard. We read about you on the web.

RICHARD

So you believe in little green men?

JACOB

No. Not at all.

DANIEL

You'll have to forgive my friend. He's a skeptic.

JACOB

What about you?

DANIEL

I can't say that I'm a believer. Yet. But I have an open mind.

RICHARD

So what is it that you believe, exactly?

14. EXT. HIGHWAY 247 - DAY

Daniel sips a **water** leaning against his **car**. **Richard** is busy leafing through First Contact. He sips a **beer** every so often. Jacob sips a Diet Coke as he talks to them.

DANIEL

So how far is the vortex?

JACOB

It's a few miles that way. That's where everything intersects and the energy is strongest.

DANIEL

Like a homing beacon.

RICHARD

You're here every weekend?

JACOB

Every Saturday night, yes. I need to be there when they come.

DANIEL

Why?

Jacob pauses for a moment.

JACOB

A stranger should always find a friendly face.

RICHARD

But what if that stranger has twelve eyes and a ray gun?

Daniel shoots **Richard** a look.

DANIEL

If they do come, I'd rather you be there to meet them than my friend here.

RICHARD

Fine by me. Some alien son of a bitch comes up to me, it's shoot first and ask questions later.

DANIEL

What can you tell us about the area?

JACOB

It's beautiful. But you have to be careful. There's poisonous snakes, abandoned mines, coyotes, although they steer clear of humans.

Daniel has bought several **books**, t-shirts, and **memorabilia**. It's a good sale for Jacob. He shakes their hands and they drive off.

16. INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

As he drives towards his **campsite**, Jacob has a small smile on his face, thinking about a new **friend** he may have made.

But the smile fades as Jacob sees something and brings his **car** to a halt.

17. EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY

Jacob exits his **car**. He looks around very cautiously.

On the **ground** is a half opened **brick** of white powder, probably **cocaine**. Most of it has blown away in the desert wind. There's other random **debris** around. Jacob sighs.

He opens the trunk and removes three small **flags**, the type that police use at crime scenes. Jacob gingerly walks around the **site** and places the three **flags** into the **ground** as **markers**. He pulls out his **cellphone** and checks the GPS location. He writes down the numbers.

18. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

The **sun** is beginning to set. Jacob arrives at his **campsite** and checks the rocks before unpacking.

19. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Jacob has fallen asleep in the **lawn chair**. From behind, there is movement. Something streaks by. Jacob awakes. He is unsure of what is happening. He grabs a **flashlight** and twirls around but sees nothing.

JACOB

Hello?

No answer.

20. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Jacob is wide awake, standing in the middle of his **campsite**, a pair of **binoculars** glued to his face. Many empty **bottles** of two liter Diet Coke lie around him.

A distant **coyote** screams at the **moon**. Jacob quickly twirls in that direction. The wind rustles through some **sagebrush** in the opposite direction and Jacob twirls there. A **sound** from another direction causes Jacob to move that way where he stubs his toe on a rock. It causes him to drop

everything and he hops around on one foot in pain.

21. INT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Jacob holds his **father's** hand. They look each other in the eyes.

JACOB
I was not alone.

The **father's** eyes widen a little bit more. The moment is abruptly broken when **Annie** comes in.

ANNIE
And how are we doing today?

JACOB
Good. I think we're doing good.

Annie looks at the chart.

ANNIE
Looks like we had to adjust some of the meds. But we seem to be doing fine.

Into the **room**, barges **JULIE**, 30's, Chinese **American**, Jacob's self centered **sister**. She quickly gives the **Father** a kiss on the forehead. **Julie talks** very quickly and does not pause.

JULIE
I can't stay too long. Hi Annie.
Dad, I talked to your neurologist.
He says your brain is fine, you just can't talk anymore. But if your brain is fine, you probably already understand that.
Everything's going to be fine.
Jacob, can I talk to you for a sec?

22. INT. NURSING HOME HALLWAY - DAY

Julie **checks** her iPhone all while talking to Jacob.

JULIE
I just filed the do not resuscitate order. Dad wants it that way. For someone in his age and state, he has three months, maybe six months left to live. I just want you to be prepared. Don't have to worry about anything, I've made all the arrangements, you know, the living
(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)

trust so we can avoid probate. The legal stuff. Alright. I'm late. I gotta go. We'll get some lunch sometime. Love you. Bye.

Julie rushes off leaving Jacob alone in the **hallway**. **Annie** comes out of the **room**.

ANNIE

Your sister is some piece of work.

Jacob shakes his head.

JACOB

You have no idea.

23.

EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

Ron and Jerry have just listened to Jacob's story about the **desert**. They look at each other and look back to Jacob.

JACOB

I was not alone.

RON

You're sure?

JERRY

You weren't hallucinating? You didn't accidentally eat a mushroom or anything?

JACOB

There was something out there with me.

RON

Well, it's not a close encounter because you didn't actually see anything.

JERRY

Doesn't fall into the Hynek classification system. Maybe you were abducted and put right back down.

RON

You should always check your orifices after stuff like this. You never know.

Jacob is annoyed by the lack of support.

JERRY

Get any good data?

JACOB

Yeah. I think. Can't seem to make too much sense of it.

RON

Hey, if you need another set of eyes on it, we'd be happy to take a look.

Jacob shrugs, reaches into his **pocket** and produces a flash drive.

JACOB

Oh, by the way, how did your Saturday night go?

Ron and Jerry look at each other. They they start laughing. They keep laughing. It was that fucking good. Jacob drops his head. He picks at his **lunch**.

24. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob is building his **campsite**. A county **sheriff's car** approaches. Driving is **SHERIFF DANIELS** (60's) and DEPUTY JOHANSSON (30's). They get out and approach Jacob.

SHERIFF

Jacob.

JACOB

Sheriff Daniels. Did you have any trouble finding it? The drugs?

The Sheriff hands Jacob back the three evidence **flags**.

SHERIFF

GPS coordinates were perfect. It had been there for quite awhile. Not much left. Another deal gone bad. How's your father?

JACOB

Same since the stroke.

Jacob reaches into the cooler and grabs a couple of Diet Cokes and hands them to the Sheriff and Deputy.

SHERIFF

Give him my best. This is a new Deputy, Johansson. Better give him a water, he doesn't drink caffeine.

Jacob doesn't understand.

DEPUTY

I'm a Mormon. Latter Day Saints.

SHERIFF

Nice to have a deputy who doesn't drink, for once. How are things going on out here?

Jacob exchanges the diet coke for a **water**.

JACOB

Same.

SHERIFF

Jacob knows this desert better than anyone. You've been coming out here every week for what, nearly forty years?

JACOB

Something like that.

DEPUTY

So you believe that aliens will come here.

JACOB

Yes, I do.

The **deputy** snickers.

JACOB

But Mormons believe that you will get your own planet?

That shuts the **deputy** up. The **sheriff** smiles.

SHERIFF

You haven't seen anything out here unusual, have you?

Jacob considers what happened last week.

JACOB

No. Why?

DEPUTY

What you found was some smuggling coming across the desert.

SHERIFF

South of here, bodies are showing
(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

up in the desert. Could be
illegals lost, could be something
worse.

JACOB

I understand.

SHERIFF

Johansson will be helping me cover
this area. I'd really appreciate
it if you two would work together.

DEPUTY

Yes, sir.

Jacob nods his head. Jacob grabs a **book** and hands it to the
deputy.

JACOB

This will help explain my belief
system.

The **deputy** leafs through the **book**.

JACOB

I know the Book of Mormon. I know
what you believe.

The Sheriff has to stifle his **laughter**.

SHERIFF

Thank you, Jacob, we'll see you
soon.

The Sheriff looks at the Deputy.

SHERIFF

Your own planet?

The Deputy doesn't answer. They get into their **car**.

25. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Jacob is wide awake. He takes a small sip from a two liter
Diet Coke **bottle**. He thinks he hears something to his right
and he snaps his head and turns on his **flashlight** but he
sees nothing.

26. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Jacob has passed out from exhaustion. A tipped over two
liter **bottle** has spilled its contents onto the **ground**. Once
again there is movement about him.

Jacob awakes, confused. Then realizes where he is. Jacob takes deep breaths, trying to calm himself down. The movement is closer. He can hear something coming towards him. Jacob **grabs** his **flashlight** and fumbles with turning it on. He finally succeeds in turning it on and frantically shines it about. But he sees nothing.

From behind, he hears something. Slowly, Jacob turns. This is it. This is the moment his whole life has been **building** up to. He flashes his **light** and sees . . .

. . . a young Hispanic **woman**, MARIA, 20's, one foot up, hurt, her arms draped around two Hispanic **men**. Maria carries a small **backpack**.

MARIA

Por favor, Senor, can you help me?

Maria has badly sprained her ankle. Behind her are a group of six **men** and **women**, wearing **backpacks**, dirty and tired, all Hispanic.

27. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Maria sits in the **lawn chair** while Jacob gently removes her **shoe** and examines her swollen ankle. A medicine **kit** sits nearby, open.

MARIA

The ground collapsed. I nearly fell into a hole.

JACOB

Probably an old mine. They're all over.

Jacob gently removes her **sock**.

JACOB

Are you lost?

MARIA

We are making our way across the desert. I am their guide.

JACOB

Oh.

Jacob gently moves her ankle. Maria winces. On Maria's other ankle, Jacob notices a **gun** in a **holster**. Maria quickly covers it up. Jacob gently feels all around her ankle.

JACOB
It's not broken. Probably a
sprain. You should go to an
emergency room.

MARIA
No. No hospitals.

Jacob begins to tape her ankle.

MARIA
This is a strange place to camp.

JACOB
I'm waiting.

MARIA
For who?

JACOB
Aliens.

A YOUNG MAN, 20's, in the group leans over to another.

YOUNG MAN
Loco.

Maria hears the comment and glares at the **young man**.

JACOB
Are you guys thirsty?

Jacob goes into the cooler and starts handing out **drinks**. A **woman** takes a sip of the Diet Coke and makes a funny face. The **young man** gets a can of Bud and takes a sip. It's not Mexican **beer** but he manages a smile.

YOUNG MAN
Gracias.

MARIA
We appreciate your hospitality.
But we must go. We have many miles
to cover before sunrise.

Maria gets up but can't put weight onto her foot and
collapses back into the **chair**.

JACOB
Someone should look at that.

Maria is helped back up by a couple of **young men**. There is
a hushed **conversation** amongst them.

MARIA

Can you give me a ride?

Jacob nods his head.

JACOB

I leave at sunrise.

Maria nods her head. Maria picks up her **backpack** and **fishes** out a portable GPS **device** and hands it and to the **Young Man**. After several hugs, the group disappears into the night. Jacob puts some **ice** into a **plastic bag** and hands it to Maria. She puts it on her ankle.

MARIA

Gracias.

28. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Maria is bundled up in a blanket, asleep. Jacob is wide awake and is staring at her. Maria stirs awake and Jacob quickly looks up into the sky. Maria studies Jacob for a moment. She closes her eyes and shifts to be more comfortable. Jacob steals another look at her.

29. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

The **campsite** has broken and Jacob helps Maria into his **car**. He closes the **door** and looks over to the pile of rocks before he gets in.

30. INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

JACOB

Where are we going?

MARIA

Santee Alley. I know people there.
You know where that is?

JACOB

No.

MARIA

It's near downtown.

JACOB

Will your friends be okay?

MARIA

They only had a few miles to go
until they met their next guide.

JACOB

Oh.

A beat. Maria has to ask.

MARIA

So, you believe in UFO's?

Jacob swallows as he tries to explain himself.

JACOB

No. Those are unidentified flying objects. That means they are already here. I believe we will be visited by beings from another planet. But they are not here yet.

MARIA

They will come to where you camp?

JACOB

One day.

MARIA

What if they don't?

Jacob shrugs. Maria looks around the **car**.

MARIA (CONT'D)

This is a very nice car.

JACOB

Thanks. It's a 1960 Ford Fairlane. It's my father's . . . actually it's my car, now. He's not well.

MARIA

I'm so sorry.

JACOB

It's okay. We spent a lot of time in this car. Practically my whole life driving out to the desert to . . .

Jacob stops himself. Maria picks up on this.

MARIA

To wait. For friends. That you have not yet met.

31. INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

Maria stares out the **car window**. Jacob glances at the gun **holster** on her ankle.

JACOB

You help people get somewhere.

MARIA

Yes.

JACOB

You don't get caught?

MARIA

We change our routes. We know where the Border Patrol is. The Sheriff doesn't want to find us. We have to avoid . . . banditos.

JACOB

Banditos?

MARIA

Bandits. Robbers. You won't tell, will you?

JACOB

No.

32. INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

Jacob is trying to piece together all the information so far.

JACOB

Coming from the south is twenty miles of open desert.

MARIA

At least. How long have you been waiting out there?

JACOB

Almost forty years. Every Saturday night.

MARIA

What does your wife think?

Jacob smiles and shakes his head. Maria flirts a bit.

MARIA

Girlfriend?

Jacob is a little embarrassed.

MARIA

Sorry. I don't mean to pry.

JACOB

It's okay. Everyone's interested in my personal life.

MARIA

Maybe they want what's best for you.

JACOB

Sure. Someday.

Maria studies Jacob for a moment. She smiles.

MARIA

Thank you. For helping a stranger.

JACOB

I try to believe in the best of people.

MARIA

That can be very dangerous.

Maria glances out the **window**. Jacob steals a look at her.

33. EXT. SANTEE ALLEY - DAY

Jacob pulls up to an **entrance** of Santee **Alley**. It is bustling, full of life.

MARIA

Thank you again. For your kindness.

JACOB

You'll be okay?

MARIA

Yes. I know many people here.

JACOB

Okay. Good luck to you.

MARIA

And to you.

Maria **grabs** her **backpack** and gets out of the **car**. She takes one step away and then turns back to Jacob.

MARIA

Maria.

She extends her hand. He shakes it.

JACOB

Jacob.

Jacob **watches** as she disappears into Santee **Alley**. In the **crowd**, Jacob sees a **cowboy hat** on **someone's** head. It's Sanchez.

34.

EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

Ron and Jerry have just heard Jacob's story.

RON

She could have been an alien.

JERRY

She was. An illegal alien, you moron.

RON

Some of them are really drug smugglers.

JACOB

I doubt I'll ever see her again.

JERRY

Hey, maybe she knows about that Mexican village in the 50's that disappeared.

RON

Yeah, Durango. This small village was there. A flash of light. Then gone. A major coverup.

JERRY

I bet she was good looking, right? Yeah, nothing like gettin' a little desert action.

RON

That way you could tell if she was an alien or not.

JACOB

Let's drop it. Find anything in the data?

JERRY

We need more.

RON
It's incomplete. Do you have your
father's original readings?

JACOB
I'm sure I can find it. What?

JERRY
I'm sure it's nothing.

Jacob picks at his **salad**. Jerry and Ron exchange glances.

35. INT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Jacob sits near his **father**, working on his **laptop**. The **father** opens his eyes, sees Jacob and smiles. Jacob looks up.

JACOB
Hey. This weekend . . .

Jacob pauses for a second.

JACOB
. . . Nothing unusual to report.

36. EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Jacob is loading his **car** up with his **provisions** for the weekend, **water**, diet coke, and **beer**. He wraps some dry ice in a blanket and puts it in the bottom of the cooler. As he finishes loading the **car**, he turns and sees a **sign** in the convenience **store window** "We Sell Mexican Coke". Intrigued, Jacob goes back into the **store**.

37. EXT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

Jacob loads a couple of six packs of Mexican Coke into his van along with a six of Pacifico and a six of Dos Equis, as well as an additional case of **water**. He also loads in **tortillas**, **chips** and **salsa**.

38. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob unloads his **gear** as before and **checks** under the rocks. He sets out his **lawn chair**. Then he goes back into the **car** and puts out several more **lawn chairs**. He takes a seat back down in his **lawn chair**.

39. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Jacob sits in his **lawn chair** staring up into the sky. From out of the **darkness** steps Maria and a new group of **travellers**. Once again, she carries a small **backpack**.

MARIA

Hello.

JACOB

Hi. How's your ankle?

MARIA

Better.

JACOB

Thirsty?

Jacob begins to hand out **water** and Pacificos. He picks up a **bottle** of Mexican Coke and shows it to Maria.

JACOB

This is Mexican Coke. It has real sugar in it. Didn't know it existed. American Coke has sweetener in it or something. Oh. Here are some tortillas.

Maria smiles at this attempt to be inviting.

MARIA

That's very thoughtful of you.

She whispers something to her group. They smile and help themselves with "Gracias" and "Gracias, senor". A couple of the **travellers** sit down on the **ice** cooler. Jacob sees this.

JACOB

Oh, hey. There's dry ice in there. If the lid is shut then the dry ice will go from solid to gas and because it's enclosed then pressure will build up and they could get blown off the cooler.

MARIA

(Subtitled. In Spanish, to the two)
He says not to sit on that.

The two move on and Jacob opens the cooler slightly. Maria and Jacob sit down in the **lawn chairs**. She takes a sip of **water**. She glances upwards.

MARIA

Anything?

JACOB

No.

MARIA

How sad. But you believe they are coming?

JACOB

They will come. Someday. Maybe after I'm gone.

MARIA

How will they know you've been here waiting?

JACOB

I have left a box. A message. Like Voyager.

Maria doesn't understand.

JACOB

Voyager was a space probe. My father worked on it. It has a gold record, a disc with information about earth. Whomever finds it will know we are here.

Maria still doesn't understand.

JACOB

When they come here and I'm not here, they will find this box and they will know what we're all about.

MARIA

But if you are here, then all they'll have to do is talk to you, like me. And they'll understand.

Jacob looks over and sees Maria looking right at him. He catches himself and looks away. She smiles.

MARIA

Well we must be going. We have several hours ahead of us. Thank you for your hospitality.

JACOB

'Til we meet again.

MARIA

'Til we meet again.

She gathers her **people** and they disappear into the **desert**.

40. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob breaks **camp**. He double checks under the rocks for the **box**. He gently wipes away some **dust** before placing the rock back on top.

41. EXT. HIGHWAY 247 - DAY

The Sheriff and Deputy are conducting a **checkpoint**. Jacob pulls up.

SHERIFF

Hello, Jacob. We've been asked to look for stuff. Trouble may be headed our way.

JACOB

Trouble? How bad?

SHERIFF

Bad enough. Be safe out there.

42. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

From a distance, Maria, alone, sees Jacob waved on through the **checkpoint**.

43. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Maria makes her way across the **desert**. She stops and takes a **drink** from her **canteen**. In the distance, she sees **buzzards** circling overhead. She knows what that means.

44. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Maria approaches the area where the **buzzards** are circling. She approaches two bodies, hands tied behind their backs, blindfolds, dried blood from their heads pooling onto the **sand**.

Maria shows no emotion. She takes out her cell **phone** and takes a **picture**. She walks past the bodies and continues walking across the **desert**.

45. INT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Jacob sits by his **father**. After a moment, he puts down his **laptop**.

JACOB

Dad? Dad?

The **father** is still asleep.

JACOB

I met someone. In the desert.
She's a traveller. Like the
aliens. She's helping people. It
was nice.

Jacob smiles. His **father** starts to awake. Jacob is
panicked for a moment. He doesn't know if his **father**
actually heard him.

46. EXT. PATIO RESTAURANT - DAY

Jacob picks at his **lunch** while his sister **Julie** devours a
salad. She constantly is fiddling with her iPhone.

JULIE

So I've already written an obituary
notice.

JACOB

Julie.

JULIE

And I've got e-mail, Facebook, and
Twitter ready to go. It's best to
be prepared ahead of time. So much
will happen when he passes that
you're bound to miss something.
I've also set up a phone tree so
all we have to do is call a couple
of people and everyone will know
within a few hours.

For once, **Julie** takes a breath.

JULIE

You still going out there?

JACOB

I made a promise.

JULIE

It's probably what keeps him going.
You'll need to find something to do
afterwards. You know any women?

JACOB

What?

JULIE

It's been forever. Dad will be
gone soon. You'll need to get on
with your life. The reason I'm

(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)

asking is that there's a guy at work, his sister, her name is Cindy, just got out of a bad relationship. She's kind of weird like you, whatever. She's not bad looking. I figure you two should go out, right? What have you got to lose?

Jacob stares down at his **food**. **Julie** slips him a small **piece** of **paper**. A phone number is written on it.

47. EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

Jacob has **lunch** with his **friends**. He is reflective and disengaged from Ron and Jerry. A **bottle** of Mexican Coke is in front of him. Ron reaches over to take a sip but spits it out onto the **grass**. Jacob wipes off the top and takes a sip. He savors it. Jacob slides across a table a CD labeled, "ORIGINAL DATA. **RANDOLPH LEE**". Ron takes it.

48. EXT. MEXICAN VILLAGE - DAY

Maria shows Sanchez the **picture** of her cell **phone**. Sanchez nods. It has no effect on him.

THIS SCENE IS IN SPANISH. SUBTITLED.

SANCHEZ

The cost of doing business.

MARIA

He was your nephew.

SANCHEZ

He knew the risk. Demand is high. We need to keep the supply up. I'm thinking your new friend could help us out.

Maria looks at Sanchez.

SANCHEZ

Those people are so polite. Well mannered. I'm sure he would jump at the chance to help out a girl like you.

Maria glances down.

SANCHEZ

Something to consider.

Another group of Mexicans sit beneath the large **shade tree**.
A young man, JUAN, 20's, and a **young woman**, YOLANDA, 20's,
chat idly.

JUAN

What have you heard?

YOLANDA

It's difficult. There is a friend
out there. A Chinaman.

JUAN

I heard that, too, the loco one.
He is waiting for flying saucers.

Diego has been lying drunk against a nearby **wall** hears this.
He gets up and approaches.

DIEGO

There is one out there who waits
for the great light? Where?
Where?

Sanchez and Maria appear. Sanchez pulls out some **bills** and
hands them to **Diego**.

SANCHEZ

Leave. Find your drink elsewhere.

Diego turns to Maria.

DIEGO

Tell me. Where is he?

MARIA

By the giant rock. The broken one.

SANCHEZ

Away.
(To Maria)
Don't humor him.

Diego backs away. He continues to stare at Maria until she
gives him a look back. Sanchez addresses the group.

SANCHEZ

We have some unwanted company out
there. The risk is higher.
Therefore the cost of passage is
higher. Ten thousand more.

The group shares looks with each other.

SANCHEZ

For those that cannot pay, I will
offer you work there at fare wages.
My terms are very reasonable.
Leave now and owe nothing.

Maria glances at Sanchez. No one moves.

SANCHEZ

Consider the choices that you make.
What is in your heart. Your wants.
Desires. Let that determine what
your future holds.

MARIA

Fill you canteens with water.
Leave unnecessary things behind.
We leave at dusk.

The group starts to move. Maria looks over at **Diego** who **watches** from afar. As Maria leads the group away, Sanchez **watches** her very closely. He smiles.

49. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob arrives in the **desert** and unpacks. He takes off his **sweatshirt** and puts on a nice **shirt**. He is hopeful, upbeat.

50. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Jacob paces around his **campsite**, hands in **pocket**, waiting for Maria to appear.

51. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - NIGHT

Maria approaches with the group of **travellers**. She halts the group. She observes Jacob for a moment and smiles. She takes a step towards him but stops. She then directs the group in a different direction.

52. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob awakes in his **lawn chair**, alone. He kicks the **ground** a bit and then packs his **gear**. He changes out of his nice **shirt** and back into a **t-shirt**.

53. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

A solitary figure stands over the two dead bodies that Maria had discovered earlier. It's **Diego**. He starts placing rocks on the bodies to bury them.

54. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

The bodies are covered and two crude crosses serve as **headstones**. **Diego** walks away.

55. EXT. SANTEE ALLEY - DAY

Jacob wanders around Santee **Alley**, hoping to get a glimpse of Maria. He looks into the faces of the bustling **crowd** about him.

56. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Jacob, dressed in a nice **shirt** and **jacket**, sits alone in his **lawn chair**. His hands jammed in his **pockets**, he stares at the horizon to no avail. He opens a **bottle** of Mexican Coke and takes a sip but doesn't like the taste. He pours it out onto the desert **floor**.

Jacob **sticks** his hands in his **pocket** and then slowly pulls out a **piece** of **paper**. It's **Cindy's** number.

57. INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jacob is on a first date with CINDY, 30's. She is very personable. Too much.

CINDY

. . . and he's says, "You're weird." And I say, "Of course, I'm weird. It's just that I wear my weirdness on the outside and everyone keeps the weirdness on the inside." Which makes them even weirder.

Jacob is listening intently, trying to figure out how to get a word edgewise.

CINDY

And because everyone thinks I'm weird, they think they can tell me all the crazy stuff they want to do. Just because I'm weird doesn't mean I'm a pervert or a freak or that I'll do anything. And believe me, I've been asked to do everything. Everything.

Cindy pauses and takes a sip from her **drink**.

JACOB

Your brother works with my sister?

CINDY

I guess. I don't think I've met

(MORE)

CINDY (CONT'D)

your sister.

JACOB

You'd remember. She's blunt.

CINDY

What did she say about me?

JACOB

You're weird.

Cindy laughs. Jacob breaks into a smile.

JACOB

What did they say about me?

CINDY

You go out into the desert every weekend to wait for aliens to appear.

Jacob nods his head. He desperately wants to open.

JACOB

The ancient Greeks looked into the sky. They created a mythology to explain things. My father looked into the sky. But he couldn't explain what he saw. He created his own mythology. No one believed him. Except me.

CINDY

And that's why you go out there?
For your father?

Jacob nods.

CINDY

That's okay. People believe a lot of crazy things.

Jacob is stung a little. **Cindy** realizes what she just said.

CINDY

I'm sorry, I didn't mean that. I'm not saying that you or your father are crazy.

JACOB

No, it's okay, I've heard it before.

CINDY

What I mean is that you start out believing everything your parents say, like Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny or the Tooth Fairy. And you want to believe in those things so you get presents or colored eggs or a quarter under your pillow. But you get older and someone says those things don't exist. But they do exist. Because you believed in them. I believe that Christmas means a fat guy in a red suit is going to leave me stuff and that Jesus was crucified so that a rabbit can leave chicken eggs on my lawn. People need to believe even if there's no evidence that it's true.

JACOB

Some people still believe Elvis is still alive.

CINDY

(In all seriousness)
He is.

Cindy keeps a straight face for as long as she can, then breaks into a **laugh**. Jacob smiles and laughs, too.

CINDY

No. Really. He is.

Jacob is unsure if she is kidding or not.

58. EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER - NIGHT

Jacob and **Cindy** walk along the **pier**. They share some **cotton candy**.

CINDY

I was told that you are too trusting.

JACOB

There are worse things to be called. I give everyone the benefit of the doubt. Sometimes it works out, sometimes not.

CINDY

How sad.

JACOB

I'm not living in fantasy world.

Cindy gives him a look. She glances towards the sky. He catches it and smiles.

JACOB

Except waiting for the aliens. But if I'm right, then you better know who your friends are.

CINDY

I'll be sure to stay on your good side. I will always tell you the truth. I will never lie.

They walk along for a moment.

CINDY

Did you know that Elvis lives?

59. INT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Jacob is sitting by his **father**, looking at his **laptop**. He's going through the data on the flash drive. **Julie** is pacing around looking at her **father's** chart.

JULIE

I heard it went well with Cindy. You should call her for a second date.

Jacob shakes his head.

JULIE

Dad, I set Jacob up with a very nice girl. Okay, she's a little weird. But they have a lot in common. Or enough. He needs a girlfriend.

The **father** rolls his eyes.

JULIE

You're still losing weight. Dad, you need to eat more otherwise we'll have to put a tube down your throat.

As **Julie** gets preoccupied with the chart, the **father** manages to straighten out his middle finger at her. Jacob sees this and smiles. He leans over to his **father**.

JACOB

The data doesn't make sense. I'm going to try a different radio frequency this weekend.

The **father** gives his approval with his eyes.

60. EXT. MEXICAN VILLAGE - DAY

Maria is preparing to leave across the **desert** with another group of **travellers**. Sanchez holds up a big backpack, one that is almost too big for Maria.

IN SPANISH, SUBTITLED.

SANCHEZ

Consider it a business decision.
It will shorten your contract.

Maria reluctantly hands Sanchez her smaller **backpack** and takes the larger one.

61. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Jacob is back to his normal routine. He is checking his **equipment** when he hears a familiar **voice** from behind.

MARIA

Hello.

Maria is with another group of **travellers**. Jacob tries to contain his joy of seeing her again.

JACOB

I didn't know if I'd ever see you again.

Jacob pulls out a big cooler filled with **water, beer,** and Mexican Coke. The **travellers** eagerly help themselves.

MARIA

Yet, you were prepared.

Maria struggles with the big **backpack**. Jacob helps her. They sit in some **lawn chairs**.

MARIA

What will happen when they come?

JACOB

We will learn so much from each other.

MARIA

And you will have been right.

JACOB

Maybe.

Jacob takes a small step towards opening up towards Maria.

JACOB

I've been thinking about you. What you do is dangerous.

MARIA

I can take care of myself.

JACOB

I got a visit from the Sheriff. He says drug smugglers are in the area. To be careful.

MARIA

Thanks for the warning. I'll be okay.

JACOB

They've found bodies in the desert.

Maria nods. It's uncomfortable for her. She gets up.

MARIA

Well, I must get my people to the next guide. Thank you again for being so kind.

JACOB

Good luck to you.

Maria struggles to put the **backpack** on.

JACOB

Are you okay with that?

MARIA

It's crazy that I have to carry this all the way to the next guide and then back. I really just need to get this to LA.

JACOB

I'd be happy to bring it back.

MARIA

I don't want to be a bother.

JACOB

No, really.

Maria smiles. She takes the **backpack** off and writes a phone number on a **piece** of **paper**.

MARIA

If you could, drop this off in Santee Alley. Call this number and someone will take it off your hands.

Jacob looks at the number. Maria gives him a quick peck on the cheek.

MARIA

Thank you.

Jacob stares as Maria starts to leave the **campsite** with her party.

JACOB

Wait.

Maria turns around.

JACOB

Um, head a little that way. There's an abandoned mine right there. I'd hate to see you disappear into the ground.

She smiles and turns away. Maria and group disappear into the **desert**. Jacob longingly looks after her.

62. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Maria watches from afar as Jacob breaks camp. Jacob struggles with the big backpack. Jacob looks in her direction and she quickly ducks down. Jacob isn't sure if he saw something. Jacob turns away.

A **zipper** on the **backpack** is undone halfway. Jacob is tempted for a moment to look inside, but he zips it back up all the way.

63. EXT. SANTEE ALLEY - DAY

Jacob pulls up to Santee **Alley**. He dials the number.

JACOB

Hello?

Immediately a **man** with a **bandana** shows up at his **window**.

BANDANA MAN
I'm Maria's friend.

Jacob nods. Immediately, two other **men** show up and take the **backpack**. They wave at him and disappear into Santee **Alley**. Sanchez peeks his head from around the corner. He smiles.

64. EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

The group has their weekly **lunch**.

RON
Smuggling people over the border is
a tough business.

JERRY
Big money in that.

RON
And big trouble if you get caught.

JACOB
She has a gun.

JERRY
A girl has to protect herself.

RON
Get her number. You should ask her
out.

JERRY
A girl packing heat is hot.

RON
That's a huge turn on.

Jacob attempts to to change the subject.

JACOB
Any close encounters?

RON
Nope.

JERRY
Nothing.

RON
Nada.

JERRY
Frankly we find your sex life more
interesting. We hope you get one.

Jacob puts his head down and picks at his **food**. Jerry looks at Ron and makes a motion with his head to ask Jerry something.

RON

Oh, yeah. Uhmm, we took a look at the data. What you gave us is accurate? You're Father's original work?

JACOB

Yeah. What's wrong?

JERRY

We're still looking at it.

65. EXT. HIGHWAY 247 - DAY

Jacob sits behind his table of UFO **wares**. The black **SUV** with Daniel and Richard drive up.

JACOB

Hello again.

RICHARD

I read the book.

Jacob nods his head.

RICHARD

It's not complete BS. It could be plausible. But I still don't believe.

DANIEL

My friend here is an eternal skeptic. But you have planted a seed of doubt. I'm impressed.

JACOB

Listen, it's okay that you have doubt. I have doubt sometimes.

RICHARD

What if you're wrong?

JACOB

Then it's only my life that I've wasted.

DANIEL

What do you mean?

JACOB

I'm alone. It's not like I'm asking a wife or a family to join me in this.

RICHARD

Hey, I'm married with kids and quite frankly spending Saturday nights alone in the desert is very appealing to me.

Jacob smiles.

JACOB

What brings you back out here?

DANIEL

We really love the area. We're going to do some photography and hiking.

RICHARD

We picked up a map and was wondering if you could point a few things out.

The **men** pull out a USGS topological **map** of the area.

JACOB

A USGS map. Don't see these anymore.

DANIEL

That's a shame, isn't it? People should really know and respect their environment.

As Jacob points things out on the **map**, Richard **circles** them.

JACOB

Here's where I camp. Abandoned mine here. And here. The old cattle trail. The only way to get across the desert.

Daniel and Richard glance at each other. They take it all in.

66. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob arrives at his **campsite**. He sees a **backpack** lying there. Cautiously, he gets out and takes a look. There's a note, "Sorry I missed you. Can you take this to my **friends** in Santee **Alley**? Maria"

Jacob glances around and puts the **backpack** in his **car**.

67. EXT. SANTEE ALLEY - DAY

Jacob pulls up and immediately the Bandana **Man** shows up.

68. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob pulls up. Another **backpack**. The note says, "Thanks again. See you soon? Maria" Jacob is disappointed that he missed her. But he thinks of her and smiles.

69. EXT. SANTEE ALLEY - DAY

Same as before, Jacob pulls up and the Bandana **Man** is there.

70. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob pulls up but there's no **backpack** there. He gets out and looks around and then unpacks his **gear**.

71. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob pulls a **sports coat** out of a **garment bag**. He changes from **tennis shoes** into dress **shoes** he pulls out of a **shoebox**. He contemplates for a moment, and pulls out a **tie**. After many unsuccessful attempts, he finally succeeds in getting a clumsy **Windsor Knot** tied.

72. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Jacob stands tall, hands jammed in his **pockets**, waiting for Maria to appear.

73. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

From afar, Maria sees Jacob standing there dressed up. She's alone. She smiles. She takes a few **steps** towards him, but then thinks for a moment and **steps** back. She lugs her big **backpack** in the other direction.

74. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob still standing tall, finally resigns himself to the fact that Maria isn't coming. He loosens his **tie**.

75. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

As Jacob packs up, he leaves some dried flowers and a note attached to it. He anchors it down and protects it with rocks so that it is conspicuous.

76. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY/NIGHT

Montage. The **desert** in time lapse. The **sun** rises and sets six times.

77. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob drives up to the **campsite**. The dried flowers and note are as before. Disappointed, he picks up the flowers, takes them apart, and drops them on the desert **floor**. He puts the **envelope** in his **pocket** and proceeds to set up **camp**.

78. EXT. HIGHWAY 247 - DAY

The Sheriff has pulled his **car** off to the side of the **road** by Jacob's. They lean against his **car** sipping Diet Cokes.

SHERIFF

I love the desert. This used be a safe place. A good place. When your father started coming out here, the worst thing used to be teenagers getting drunk and driving into boulders. Now it's different. People are dying out here. Getting killed. Illegals. Drug smugglers. It makes me so God damn angry. I feel like I'm a dinosaur. They'll dig my bones up and won't know what the hell I was all about.

The Sheriff finishes his **drink**.

SHERIFF

There were some bodies found. Fifteen miles south. It's moving towards us. Thanks for the soda.

79. INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jacob stares at **Cindy**'s number. He finally summons up the courage to call.

80. EXT. THIRD STREET PROMINADE - NIGHT

Jacob and **Cindy** are out on a second date.

JACOB

I'm sorry I didn't call sooner. I've been busy.

CINDY

No need to explain. I'm used to it. But I'm glad you called.

They walk along in silence for a bit.

CINDY

So you spend every Saturday night
of your life in the desert, looking
at the sky?

JACOB

Pretty much.

CINDY

I go to Graceland every year for
Elvis' birthday. It's what I do.

Jacob takes this all in.

CINDY

Listen, I know Elvis isn't
physically alive. That would make
me completely crazy. But his
spirit is alive. His being, his
essence, his love is all about.

Jacob nods. He thinks for a moment before he reveals.

JACOB

When we would drive out to the
desert, my father would turn up the
radio whenever Elvis came on.
Sometimes we would sing along.

They walk silently for a beat.

CINDY

Well?

Jacob shrugs, "What?".

CINDY

What would you sing?

They stop. Jacob smiles for a moment. He sings softly.

JACOB

"As the snow flies
On a cold and gray Chicago mornin'
A poor little baby child is born
In the ghetto"

Cindy smiles. They continue walking.

CINDY

"And his mama cries
Cause if there's one thing that she
don't need

(MORE)

CINDY (CONT'D)

It's another hungry mouth to feed
In the ghetto"

JACOB

"People don't you understand
The child needs a helping hand
Or he'll grow up to be an angry
young man some day
Take a look at you and me,
Are we too blind to see,
Do we simply turn our heads"

CINDY AND JACOB TOGETHER

"And look the other way
Well the world turns
And a hungry little boy with a
runny nose
Plays in the street as the cold
when blows
In the ghetto"

CINDY

Not bad.

They walk silently for a few **steps**.

81. EXT. PARK BENCH - NIGHT

Jacob and **Cindy** sit on the bench, **people** watching.

JACOB

My mother couldn't take it. About
the aliens. We'd drive out to the
desert, I could see my father was a
little lost. But when he would
sing, he would open up a bit. So I
would sing along with him. No one
else believed in him. I had to.

CINDY

That's the funny thing about
belief, isn't it? So many people
want something rational, something
concrete, but it doesn't have to be
that way. It's the faith we put in
each other that's important.

JACOB

I guess.

CINDY

Do you really believe that aliens
(MORE)

CINDY (CONT'D)

will come?

Jacob pauses for a moment.

JACOB

"Then one night in desperation
A young man breaks away
He buys a gun, steals a car,
Tries to run, but he doesn't get
far"

CINDY

"And his mama cries.
As a crowd gathers 'round an angry
young man
Face down on the street with a gun
in his hand."

CINDY AND JACOB TOGETHER

"In the ghetto"

JACOB

Mac Davis wrote that.

CINDY

I know.

They get up and walk down the promenade. She grabs his arm.

82. EXT. CINDY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jacob walks **Cindy** to her **apartment**.

CINDY

I had a really nice time.

JACOB

Me too.

An awkward moment. Jacob doesn't lean in. Suddenly, **Cindy** aggressively moves in with a kiss. After a moment, they pull apart.

CINDY

Sometimes it's not okay to be
lonely.

There's an unspoken invitation to come in.

JACOB

Good night.

He flees.

83. EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

The group sits around having **lunch**. Jacob is silent.

JERRY

You run into desert girl again?

Jacob shakes his head.

JACOB

Not in a long time. I doubt I'll see her again.

RON

She could be dead.

Jacob glares at Ron.

RON

She's not a girl scout.

JERRY

Maybe she didn't really exist.
Maybe you had an imaginary girlfriend.

Jacob gets up and leaves.

84. EXT. SANTEE ALLEY - DAY

Jacob sits at a table, sipping a Mexican Coke. There are so many people around him. Yet he is alone.

85. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob goes through his routine setting up camp. He stops and stares across the desert, looking for her.

86. INT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Jacob sits with his **father** going over the data.

JACOB

I can't figure it out. Am I missing something?

Jacob holds the **report** so that his **father** can read it.

Julie sweeps into the **room**.

JULIE

Dad, good news. Jacob went on a second date. He kissed her but he didn't spend the night.

JACOB

Jesus.

JULIE

I think it's good that they weren't impulsive but are taking things slow. That leads to more long term, stable relationships, don't you think? On the other hand, I don't think he should be too picky at his age. I mean, Jacob could do a lot worse. On the other hand, I wonder how desperate she must be if she likes him.

JACOB

Dad doesn't want to hear about this.

JULIE

I'm worried about Jacob after you're gone. I won't be able to look after him. Frankly, he needs a woman. Any woman at this point.

Jacob has had enough, he leaves the **room**. He pulls out his **cell** and **dials**.

87. INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Jacob and **Cindy** sit having a **cup** of **coffee**. They have been talking for awhile.

JACOB

I haven't always been alone. I was with someone once. It was nice. But what I do, what I believe, will always be more important than the one I'm with. And that isn't fair. To anyone.

CINDY

Maybe it's not just your choice. People are meant to be with each other. Sometimes just a few nights, maybe a lifetime. Your friends up there may never come. I hope they come. I really do. But that doesn't mean you can't be happy 'til they get here.

Cindy stands.

CINDY

If you get it all figured out, give me a call.

88. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Jacob is on his way to his **spot**. He sees the black **SUV** in the middle of the **desert**, apparently lost. He drives towards the **SUV** and pulls up besides. Out pop Daniel and **Richard**. They are very friendly.

JACOB

You guys okay? You lost?

DANIEL

Not at all. We're enjoying the desert.

RICHARD

Listen, I apologize for being kind of a dick before. My Dad used to tell me all sorts of crap. But your father's book. There's some truth in there.

JACOB

Thank you.

DANIEL

You've performed a minor miracle, my friend. You've taken a cynical SOB and turned him into a dreamer.

RICHARD

Shut up. Look, you're doing what you believe in. There are very few people in this world that have that type of commitment.

Richard extends his hand and Jacob shakes it.

JACOB

All I ask is that you keep an open mind. The truth will reveal itself to you.

DANIEL

How's it going at the campsite? Any signals from above?

JACOB

There's some data that I can't explain. But I don't see a

(MORE)

JACOB (CONT'D)

pattern. So I wait.

RICHARD

Well, I'm pulling for you.

A beat of silence. For Jacob, it is a moment between new found **friends**. But **Richard** and Daniel are waiting for Jacob to leave. After a moment, Jacob reaches in the back of his van and grabs some **water**.

JACOB

Here's some water. You should always carry plenty with you. If you head East, the terrain can be deceiving. You might end up in a ravine. Just head West from here and you'll hit the highway.

DANIEL

We've got the map.

RICHARD

Well, good luck to you.

Jacob rolls up his **window**. Then he rolls it back down. He reaches into the back to grab another **copy** of the **book**.

JACOB

Listen, before my father had his stroke, he used to sign copies of the book to give to people that wanted to believe. I don't have many left. But I want to give one to you.

Jacob hands **Richard** the **book**. **Richard** opens it up and sees an inscription, "Believe. **Randolph Lee**". For a moment, **Richard** is touched. Daniel sees this and smiles. **Richard** catches this and he returns to a gruff demeanor.

RICHARD

Get out of here.

JACOB

Thank you for at least considering it. It's always nice to make new friends.

DANIEL

Likewise. Godspeed.

Jacob drives off. Daniel waves. **Richard** and Daniel get back into the **SUV**.

89. INT. BLACK SUV - DAY

They sip their **water**. Their friendly demeanor suddenly changes.

DANIEL
Fucking boy scout.

RICHARD
Can't dump them here. Guess we
head East and find a ravine.

Daniel pulls a **gun** out and uncocks it. Two bloodied bodies are in the back of the **SUV**. One of them is **Miguel**, barely alive.

DANIEL
What do you say, Amigos? Tell us
what we want to know and we'll end
your suffering. Otherwise the
vultures will eat you alive.

RICHARD
Either way, when your friends find
you, they will get the message.

DANIEL
We control the desert.

RICHARD
You have failed to pay any
commissions.

Daniel quickly pistol whips **Miguel**. He winces in pain.

RICHARD
What do you want to do about the
weirdo?

DANIEL
He's a crazy kook in the middle of
the desert waiting for UFO's. But
he's known in the area. We'll have
to steer clear.

RICHARD
If we can.

Richard tosses the autographed **book** into the back. It hits **Miguel**. Blood smears across the **cover**. The **SUV** roars off.

90. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - NIGHT

Maria walks across the desert alone. She sees Jacob's

campsite in the distance. This time she walks towards him.

91. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Jacob is in his routine. He hears **footsteps** in the **darkness** and turns. Maria appears by herself. She has a small amount of **makeup** on. She has a very small **backpack**.

MARIA

Hello.

JACOB

Hi.

Jacob lights up. He looks around.

JACOB

You're alone.

MARIA

I took my group on a different route. I'm on my way back.

JACOB

No big backpack?

MARIA

I can handle this just fine.

JACOB

Water?

MARIA

How about a beer?

Jacob fishes out a couple of Pacificos. They plop down in the **lawn chairs**.

MARIA

You like the desert?

JACOB

I hardly notice it anymore. I'm always looking at the sky.

MARIA

I know the sky. My father, he had a telescope. He would show me the moon, the planets, the stars. Now as I go through the desert, I keep my eye on Polaris so I know where I'm going.

JACOB

Orion was the first constellation
my father taught me. He was
obsessed with Alnitak, the star on
the right of the belt.

MARIA

Orion's belt, we call it Tres
Marias. That's how they named me.
So is that where you are looking?

JACOB

My father thinks it may actually
come from near Scorpio.

MARIA

But you. What do you believe?

JACOB

We all have to believe in
something. I believe in the skies.

Jacob and Maria take a sip of **beer**.

JACOB

Can I show you something?

Jacob gets up and leads Maria to the **box** buried in the rock
pile. He opens it up and shows her the contents.

JACOB

This is what I've left.

Jacob shows her many letters in a **plastic bag** and several
books: a **dictionary**, a **bible**, and **Darwin's** Origin of the
Species. There's a **map** of the world, money, and a small
Yoda figure. Maria picks up the Yoda and waves it in
Jacob's face.

JACOB

Why not?

Jacob finds a **picture** of his **Dad** and himself, when he was a
child.

JACOB

That's me and my father.

She smiles looking at the **photo**.

MARIA

Very handsome.

She looks at the letters in the plastic baggie.

MARIA

Why so many?

JACOB

I write one every year. See,
here's the first one I wrote when I
was five. And here's the one I
wrote last year.

MARIA

What do they say?

JACOB

Whatever's going on in my life.
That I've been waiting for them to
come.

92. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Jacob is showing Maria constellations in the **telescope**.

JACOB

That's Scorpio.

MARIA

So that's where they are coming
from? I'll have to watch out.

JACOB

And here's Orion.

MARIA

The hunter.

JACOB

And the belt, the Three Marias.
That's Alnitak.

MARIA

That's me.

She smiles as she looks at the **star**.

JACOB

Can I see you sometime? Outside of
here?

The smile disappears from Maria's face.

JACOB

I'm sorry.

MARIA

No, it's okay. My life. It's
(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

complicated.

Jacob reaches out and grabs Maria's hand. She looks at their hands and then into Jacob's eyes. Jacob wants to move in for a kiss but can't.

In the distance, blue and red flashing **lights** appear. Maria jumps into the **tent** and **hides** herself. The patrol car drives up and Deputy Johansson gets out.

JACOB

Deputy.

DEPUTY

Jacob. Wanted to know if you've seen anything.

JACOB

No. Nothing unusual.

DEPUTY

Dangerous things happen out here. Law enforcement won't be able to help you. You got a gun?

JACOB

No. I can take care of myself.

DEPUTY

You haven't seen anyone out here?

JACOB

My friends. They drive a black SUV. Richard and Jacob. They're tourists.

Maria hears this and peeks up. But Johansson is shining his **flashlight** all over the **campsite**. As it flashes towards the **tent**, she ducks back down.

DEPUTY

Uh-huh.

The **deputy** sees the two **beer bottles**.

DEPUTY

You alone?

JACOB

Yes, sir.

DEPUTY

Two fisting your beers?

The **deputy** stares down Jacob. The **deputy** puts his hand on his **gun** as a precaution. He then looks past him at the **tent**. His eyes get big. Jacob sees this and turns. He does a double take.

Maria is standing in front of **tent**, topless. She slowly pulls up a blanket to cover herself. The Deputy and Jacob are speechless. She smiles.

MARIA

Hello.

The Deputy turns away, embarrassed. Jacob grabs a **bottle** of **water** and hands it to the Deputy.

DEPUTY

Just don't leave any used . . .
protection laying around.

JACOB

Wouldn't think of it.

DEPUTY

We found some bodies ten miles
south. It's getting close. Let us
know if you see anything unusual.
Have a good night.

The Deputy drives off. Jacob **watches** him and turns back. Maria is dressed again, sitting in the **lawn chair** sipping her **beer**. Without a word, Jacob sits down and chugs his **beer**. Maria smiles. The **patrol car** disappears in the distance.

MARIA

Well I must be going. Perhaps we
will see each other again, si?

She kisses him on the top of his head and disappears into the night.

JACOB

Bye.

93. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob packs up. He has a smile on his face. He sees something in the distance. He picks up a pair of **binoculars** where he sees some **buzzards** circling in the distance.

94. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Jacob drives across the **desert**. He closes in on the circling **buzzards**. He sees two figures on the **road**. One is definitely injured, being helped by the other. He closes in. It is Maria helping **Miguel**. Jacob speeds up and gets to them quickly.

JACOB
What happened?

MARIA
Banditos. They left my friend for dead.

Maria helps **Miguel** into the **car**. He's hurt badly.

95. INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

Jacob looks at Maria in his **rearview mirror**. She's improvising with Jacob's **gear** and efficiently and calmly field dressing **Miguel's** wounds.

JACOB
Hospital.

MARIA
No. No hospital.

MARIA
(In Spanish. Subtitled.)
Who were they?

MIGUEL
(In Spanish, Subtitled.)
Our friends in the black SUV. They are upset. They are sending a message.

Miguel coughs up some blood.

MARIA
Shhhhhhhh.

Maria peels back some **paper** that is covering **Miguel's** wounds. It is the **book title page** of Dr. **Lee's** **book** with the inscription "**Believe. Randolph Lee.**" **Miguel** sees this.

MIGUEL
(In Spanish. Subtitled.)
My backpack. Hidden. Near meeting spot. Black rock.

MARIA
(In Spanish. Subtitled.)
I understand.

(To Jacob in English)
My friend hid his backpack. We
must get it. It's important.

JACOB
Are you sure?

MARIA
Head East towards those twin peaks.
I know where.

Miguel grabs the bloodied **title page** and hands it to Maria.

MIGUEL
(In Spanish. Subtitled.)
Keep this.

Maria is confused but takes the **page** and puts it in her
pocket.

96. EXT. MEETING SPOT MOJAVE - DAY

Jacob stops near a unique rock formation. Maria jumps out
and looks around and sees an out of place black rock. She
lifts it up and buried beneath is a **duffel bag**. She unzips
it and glances inside. It contains a couple of **guns**, some
wads of **cash**, and a considerable amount of **cocaine** in
plastic wrapped **bricks**. She zips it back up and gets back
in the **car**.

97. INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

Jacob looks nervously in the **rearview mirror**. Maria is
searching for something in one of the **compartments** of the
duffel bag.

JACOB
Is he going to be okay?

MARIA
I don't know.

Maria finds a SIM chip. She takes out her **phone** and removes
her SIM chip and puts in the one she just found.

MIGUEL
(In Spanish. Subtitled.)
He likes you. The crazy Chinaman.

Jacob only recognizes the word **Chinaman** and throws a look
over his shoulder.

MARIA
Shhhhh.

Maria begins texting furiously. She hits send and waits.

JACOB
Where are we going?

MARIA
I'm not sure, yet.

MIGUEL
(In Spanish. Subtitled.)
It's only going to get worse.

MARIA
(In Spanish. Subtitled.)
I can't stop now. My debt is
almost paid off.

Maria gets a text response on the cell **phone**.

MARIA
East LA. We have friends there.

Jacob sees the hovering **buzzards** to his left.

MARIA
(To Miguel)
Pablo?

Miguel shakes his head no.

98. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

As Jacob drives past the circling **buzzards**, underneath is the body of the other **man** with **Miguel** in the back of the **SUV**. Bloody **pages** of "First Contact by **Randolph Lee**" litter the **desert** and are carried away by the wind.

A solitary figure appears out of nowhere and stands over the body. He makes the **sign** of the **cross**. It is **Diego**, the crazy **old man**. He begins to cover the body with rocks.

99. EXT. PARKING LOT EAST LA - DAY

Jacob pulls into a **parking lot**. A dark van pulls up nearby. Several Mexican **men** get out, one of them is Sanchez. Maria jumps out goes directly to him and slaps him. The other **men** move to Jacob's **car** and help **Miguel** out. One of them grabs **Miguel's duffel bag**. Sanchez calms Maria down. The **men** get into their van and leave. Maria returns to Jacob's **car**.

100. INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

JACOB
Santee Alley?

MARIA

No. I don't want to go there now.
I need to think.

Adrenaline gone, Maria is weakened.

JACOB

You need food.

101.

INT. DINER - DAY

Jacob has **lunch**. Maria stirs her **coffee** and stares into it.

MARIA

When I was growing up, I used to play in the desert all the time. My brothers and cousins would always be running and playing all hours of the night. One day some men came to our house. My father sent all of us out and told us to hide. We heard arguing and loud noises. But I was not scared. I knew that the desert would protect me. The next morning, we found my father. He was beaten very badly.

JACOB

What did they want?

MARIA

Does it matter? What do men want when they fight? Money, power, women? Years later, I found out the man who had my father beaten. I lured him out into the desert. I had my revenge.

JACOB

You killed him?

MARIA

There was no blood on my hands. The desert took him. I simply helped. It was no longer safe for my family to stay. So we decided we would make a new life in America.

JACOB

And now you're a coyote.

MARIA

Call it what you will. I've done what I've done so that my family can be here. I'm sorry to have involved you in all this.

Jacob glances at his **watch**.

JACOB

I need to see my father. Would you like to come?

MARIA

That would be nice.

102. INT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Annie is in the **father's room** attending to him. Jacob enters with Maria.

ANNIE

You just missed your sister. Lucky you.

JACOB

Annie, this is Maria.

ANNIE

Nice to meet you.

Annie leaves. Jacob approaches his **father**. The **father** looks at Jacob and smiles.

MARIA

Nice to meet you, sir.

103. INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

MARIA

I can tell in your father's eyes how proud he is of you.

JACOB

He's probably confused because I brought you.

MARIA

Maybe he thinks I'm your girlfriend.

Jacob is a bit embarrassed. Maria smiles.

JACOB

Do you have some place to go?

MARIA

You've already done so much for me.

JACOB

Do you have some place to go?

MARIA

No.

JACOB

My apartment isn't much but you'll be comfortable there.

MARIA

Thank you. It'll give me time to think.

104. INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jacob and Maria enter. The bachelor **pad** could certainly use a **woman's** touch. Jacob disappears into the **bedroom** and **returns** with some **clothes**.

JACOB

I lived with someone once. She left some clothes.

Amongst the pile is a **dress**. Maria looks through **clothes**.

MARIA

Thank you. I'm sure there's something in here that I can wear.

105. INT. JACOB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jacob lies awake staring at the **ceiling**.

106. INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Maria is wearing some **pajamas**. She lies on the **couch** under some blankets reading Dr. **Lee's book**. She is very interested.

107. INT. JACOB'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jacob is awoken by the smell of fresh **coffee**. Maria sits on the **bed** and gives him a **cup**.

MARIA

Good morning.

JACOB

What time is it?

MARIA

Almost eleven. You must have been tired.

JACOB

I have to meet my friends. Would you like to come?

MARIA

I'd love to.

108. EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

Ron and Jerry are in a discussion when Jacob and Maria walk up. They stopped. They're stunned.

JACOB

Jerry, Ron, this is Maria.

MARIA

Hello.

They make **room** for her and Jacob. They are very impressed.

MARIA

Who's the one who thinks I'm imaginary?

Ron points at Jerry. He sheepishly raises his hand.

109. EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

Ron and Jerry are on their best behavior. Maria is smiling, happy. Jacob feels normal. For once.

110. EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

RON

So we need to get going. It was nice to meet you.

MARIA

It was very nice to meet both of you.

JERRY

You got a sister? Cousin? Friend?

MARIA

No one that's here, yet.

JERRY

Have them give me a call when they show up.

Jerry slips her his number.

JACOB

Smooth.

RON

We gotta roll.

JERRY

Do you know anything about this Mexican village in the 50's that disappeared after a UFO sighting?

MARIA

Excuse me?

RON

This entire village in Durango. Gone.

MARIA

Sorry.

Ron looks at Jacob.

RON

Can I talk to you for a sec?

JACOB

Sure.

111. EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

Ron slips Jacob a flash drive.

RON

Jerry and I took a good, long look at this.

JACOB

And?

RON

There's some problems. With the original source material. Your father's work.

JACOB

What are you talking about?

RON

Just take a look.

112. INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jacob is on his **laptop** studying the contents of the flash drive. Maria sits nearby on the **couch** looking at Dr. **Lee's book**. She casually sips from a glass of **wine**.

MARIA

Your friends, they are nice.

JACOB

They're my only friends.

MARIA

But they believe like you, yes?

JACOB

They believe. But what we believe causes us to not have . . . many friends.

He stares into his **laptop**. Maria moves over to him. Very close.

MARIA

You shouldn't be alone.

JACOB

It's okay. I'm just doing what's right. I like helping you.

MARIA

I'm not the person you think I am.

JACOB

You help people. People that want better lives. That want to be with their families. That's something. That's more than something.

MARIA

There are things you don't know about me.

JACOB

I don't care. All my life people have judged me. You haven't. It's nice to feel . . . normal.

Maria stares into the side of Jacob's face. After a moment, Jacob senses this and steals a glance at Maria. He stares into his **monitor**, not sure what to do. Maria gently puts her chin onto his shoulder. Jacob is paralyzed.

She gently kisses Jacob on the cheek. He turns to her. He looks into her eyes and they kiss.

113. INT. JACOB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Maria is asleep. Jacob silently slides out of **bed** and puts on some **clothes**. He slips into his **living room**.

114. INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jacob sits on his **sofa**. He glances at Maria through the bedroom **doorway**. He allows himself a little smile. He glances down at the table and sees the flash drive. He picks it up and twirls it in his hand. He puts it into his **laptop**.

115. INT. JACOB'S BEDROOM - DAY

Maria awakes. She is happy. She hears something in the living **room**. She covers herself up and goes to the **door**. She sees Jacob, happy, working on his **laptop**. But then she realizes she has made a mistake.

116. INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - DAY

MARIA

Morning.

She kisses him on the head but she is distant.

JACOB

Morning. I made coffee.

MARIA

I can smell.

She pours herself a **cup**.

MARIA

How long have you been up?

JACOB

All night. I couldn't sleep. I've been looking through my data.

MARIA

What are you looking for?

JACOB

Many years ago, my father theorized that before first contact was made, we would receive signals. Across the world, there are listening posts looking for these signals.

MARIA

And these signals mean they are
(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

coming.

JACOB

I don't know. Ron and Jerry took a look at this and . . .

Suddenly, Jacob sees something in the data.

JACOB

Wait.

Jacob begins scrolling through the data. He begins to manipulate the data. Maria looks at the **screen**.

MARIA

What is it?

Jacob shuts his **laptop** and **grabs** his **coat**.

JACOB

I need to see my father, right now. Will you be okay?

MARIA

Sure.

Jacob sprints out the **door**.

117. INT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Jacob goes through the data with his **father**.

JACOB

This is the corrected data set. Monitoring stations in the Amazon, Siberia and Kenya showed these signals at these times. I thought these were random until I plotted these against time. I went back and looked my own readings. I thought they were random, too. But they weren't. There's a pattern.

The **father** looks at the data then looks at Jacob.

JACOB

So I had my friends look at the pattern. They looked at the original data. Your data. That said they would come to where we've been waiting.

The **father** is alarmed.

JACOB

It's garbage. It's fake. It's not real.

The **father** shakes his head No.

JACOB

I can't do this anymore. I can't.

The **father** tears up.

JACOB

I don't want to be alone anymore.
One more Saturday night. That's it.

118. INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - DAY

Maria sits on the **couch**, texting on her **cell**. She has on one of Jacob's **dress shirts**. The **doorbell** rings.

Maria is unsure of what to do. She answers the **door**. It's **Cindy**, carrying a small gift **bag**. She's confused.

CINDY

Hi. I don't know if I have the right place. Is Jacob here?

MARIA

No. He had to leave.

Cindy is furiously trying to process everything. Maria is also trying to piece everything together.

CINDY

I see. I just wanted to stop by and give him a present but I see that . . .

Cindy begins to tear up.

MARIA

I'll make sure that he gets it.
Can I tell him whom?

CINDY

I'm Cindy.

But suddenly . . .

CINDY

Wait a minute. Oh, I get it. I understand. Whew. I am so silly.
When you answered the door I

(MORE)

CINDY (CONT'D)

thought, Oh My God, here's this great guy that I like and it turns out that he's already . . . I mean that's what I thought when I saw you but then I realized you're the maid.

Maria catches on and starts cleaning up.

MARIA

Yes. I'm the maid. My mother usually cleans here. She's ill.

Maria sees the half full glass of **wine** and **wine bottle and tries to nonchalantly get it out of view.** Cindy walks in and starts poking around.

CINDY

Actually, I've never been here. I got his address from his sister because I wanted to drop by a little gift. A mix tape. Well, no one makes mix tapes anymore but a CD with all my favorite Elvis songs.

Maria tries to busy herself.

MARIA

Uh-huh.

CINDY

I didn't like they way we left things the last time we saw each other. Because you know how it is when you meet someone that you kind of click with? You don't want to push too hard and act needy but on the other hand you don't want to play hard to get because you may never get it.

MARIA

You have to trust your instincts.

CINDY

Anyway, can you leave this is a place where he'll find it.

MARIA

Absolutely.

Cindy heads out. Maria starts to shut the **door** but **Cindy** turns around.

CINDY

He's a nice guy, right?

MARIA

I don't know him very well, but he would be a good catch for anyone.

CINDY

I mean I know what he does and it's a little strange but people think I'm a little kooky so maybe we're meant to be together.

MARIA

I think the right people end up finding each other.

Cindy takes comfort in this. But she looks past Maria and sees something puzzling. Maria sees her look.

MARIA

I'll tell him you stopped by.

She closes the **door** as **Cindy** continues staring. Maria turns around to see what it is. The bedroom **door** is partially opened. **Cindy** saw an unmade **bed** with a **bra** and **panties** on top. Maria closes her eyes and grimaces.

Suddenly her **phone** rings. She looks at it and recognizes the number. She takes a moment and composes herself and answers it.

MARIA

Yes.

119. INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jacob enters.

JACOB

Maria?

He stops cold. Seated at the **kitchen table** is Sanchez. He is accompanied by two huge **bodyguards**. Sanchez sips **coffee** while looking through the **book**.

SANCHEZ

So you believe in little green men?

JACOB

Who are you? Where's Maria?

Jacob **steps** in and instinctively the two **bodyguards** move forward. Sanchez raises his hands to stop them.

SANCHEZ

I am Sanchez. I am Maria's boss.
She had to go back to work.
Please, sit.

The two **bodyguards** step forward and intimidate Jacob into taking a seat opposite Sanchez. Sanchez continues to leaf through the **book**. After a moment, Sanchez puts the **book** down and addresses Jacob.

SANCHEZ

I want to be friends. With you.

Jacob looks at the **bodyguards** and then back at Sanchez.

SANCHEZ

We have mutual interests, you and me. You know what I do?

JACOB

You smuggle people into this country. You're a coyote.

SANCHEZ

I am a businessman. Import/export. You are a man who believes. You want to be left alone in the desert until the little green men come. We both want to be left alone to do our work.

Sanchez gets up. He takes what's left of the **coffee** and pours it in the **sink**. He washes the **cup** and puts it in the **dish rack**.

SANCHEZ

You have helped my employee and for that I am grateful. The business that I'm in, it is very rough. Very dirty. But I am a man of principle. I take care of my people. My competition is not so ethical. They are corrupt.

JACOB

I don't understand.

Sanchez peaks into the **refrigerator**. He pulls out a **bottle** of Mexican Coke.

SANCHEZ

You actually like this? The taste is too sugary for me.

He puts it back in and takes out a two liter Diet Coke. It slips out of his hand and drops to the **floor**. One of the guards hands it Sanchez. Sanchez begins to open it.

JACOB

Careful. It's going to foam over.

Sanchez smiles. He goes over to the **sink**, finds a **towel** and opens it there. It does fizz over.

SANCHEZ

My grandchildren do it all the time. I tell them that the bubbles, they want to come out, but they don't care. They simply want a drink.

Sanchez pours himself some Diet Coke and takes a delicious sip. Sanchez sits back down. He smiles.

SANCHEZ

The men in the black SUV. We have seen you with them.

JACOB

They are my friends.

SANCHEZ

You need to choose better friends. They have killed my people. Stolen from me.

JACOB

What do you want from me?

SANCHEZ

Help us find them. Let us know where they are.

Jacob doesn't answer.

SANCHEZ (CONT'D)

Without your help, there will be so much unneeded bloodshed. Maybe people you know. You like.

Jacob is still confused. Then he gets it.

JACOB

Maria.

SANCHEZ

You like her, yes? Best guide I've ever had. Very beautiful, too. You have noticed. Maybe more than noticed. It would be a shame if something were to happen to her.

Sanchez picks up the **book**.

SANCHEZ

This is very interesting. I would like to purchase this.

Sanchez pulls out ten hundred **dollar bills** and leaves them on the table. He also places a cell **phone** on the table.

SANCHEZ

So nice to make new friends. Please call when you see something.

He pats Jacob on the shoulder. Sanchez and his **men** leave. Jacob notices a pile of **women's clothes**. The **dress** is on top. Jacob sees the edge of a note underneath the **dress**. He takes it out. It says "Santee **Alley**. 2pm."

120. EXT. SANTEE ALLEY - DAY

Jacob wanders through the **crowd**, looking for Maria. She appears out of nowhere, wearing **sunglasses** and a **hat**. She grabs his hand as if they are a couple.

MARIA

I need to talk to you.

121. INT. MEXICAN RESTAURANT - DAY

Maria has taken Jacob to a little out of the way, greasy spoon Mexican restaurant.

MARIA

What I do is very dangerous.

JACOB

That's okay.

MARIA

I do more than just take people across the desert.

Jacob doesn't understand.

MARIA

I carry drugs. Money. Guns. Across the desert. You have

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

helped.

Jacob slowly starts to piece everything together.

JACOB

Your backpack.

Maria nods.

MARIA

Our rivals want what we carry. If you help us, then you become involved. If you become involved, you will become a target. You will no longer be able to wait in the desert.

JACOB

I can handle myself.

Maria pulls out the bloody **title page** and unfolds it in front of Jacob. He is very confused.

MARIA

Do you know who the men are in the black SUV?

JACOB

They are my friends.

MARIA

You gave them this book. Signed by your father. One man was already dead in their car. Miguel, almost. They beat him to within an inch of his life and left him to die.

Maria hands him some bloody **pages**. One has his **father's** autograph on it. Jacob is reeling.

JACOB

They are my friends.

MARIA

They are not.

JACOB

I want to be with you.

MARIA

We can't.

Jacob doesn't understand.

MARIA

I will no longer be in the desert.
You will no longer see me. If you
help us, they will come after you.
It will never be safe for you.

Jacob absorbs this. Maria gets up.

MARIA

I don't want to see anything happen
to you. Don't help us.

Jacob sits there. He can't figure out what to do.

122.

EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

Jacob is the last to arrive for **lunch**. Ron and Jerry in a
jovial mood. Jacob is on edge, close to tears.

RON

Hey, lover boy.

JERRY

Didn't think you had it in you.

RON

You didn't use Starman did you?

JERRY

Maybe I should spend some time in
the desert.

Jacob explodes.

JACOB

What is it with you? You're crazy!
You're nuts! UFO's? Aliens? You
think I don't know that none of
this makes sense? That it's all
bullshit?

Jacob leaves. Ron and Jerry are stunned then hurt.

123.

INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

Jacob is in tears. He is angry. He pounds the steering
wheel.

124.

EXT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Jacob pulls up. He sees **Julie** in tears, hysterical. She is
being held by **Annie**. Jacob walks by her and into the
nursing home.

125. INT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Jacob's **father** is covered by a **sheet**. After a moment, Jacob goes to the night **stand** pulls out a **piece** of **paper**, an **envelope** and a **pen**. He begins writing.

JACOB (V.O.)

When I was a child, my father would tell me these wonderful stories about what would happen when you came. And I believed. When I got older, I would still come out here with my father. And I still believed. My father got sick and he couldn't come out here. But I still came. But I changed. I don't believe anymore. My father is no longer with me. So I don't have to do this for him. I don't know if you exist. And frankly, I don't care.

Jacob folds the letter and **seals** it in the **envelope**.

126. EXT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Jacob leaves a **funeral home** carrying an **urn**. He carefully places it in the trunk of the **car**.

127. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Jacob is behind some rocks on a **ridge**. With his **binoculars**, he sees the Black **SUV** hidden amongst some rocks. He pulls out the cell **phone** that was given to him. He gives pause and thinks about the **friends** he thought he had.

JACOB

Mr Sanchez?

128. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Jacob watches through some **binoculars**. He sees the Black **SUV**. He looks to the right where he sees some **men** with **shotguns** moving towards it. He puts his **binoculars** away. As he walks away, he hears many gunshots.

129. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Jacob leans against his **car**. Sanchez drives up, his **SUV** full of big burly **men**.

SANCHEZ

Your help has been appreciated. A token of my appreciation. Adios.

Sanchez tosses out a small **bag** which **lands** at Jacob's feet. The SUV drives off. Jacob sees the **bag** is full of money. Jacob walks away from the money and gets in his **car**.

130. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Jacob tucks the last letter into the metal **box**. Beside it, he places the **urn**. He puts the rock back on top of it.

Jacob has not set up his **campsite**. He is going to leave this **place** forever. Out of the **dark** steps **Diego**. Jacob is startled for a moment. From behind him is Maria. Jacob quickly pulls out a **lawn chair** and gets a **bottle of water** for him. He sits down and begins speaking in Spanish. Jacob pulls out a couple more **lawn chairs**. Maria translates for him.

MARIA (TRANSLATING)

I am Diego. I have travelled many miles to meet you. I know who you are. You are the one that waits in the desert. When I was five years old, I was out playing alone in the desert at night. A bright light appeared out of nowhere. But I was not scared. I felt warmth and love and peace. I floated above the earth. I saw my family, my house, my village. It only lasted for a moment but it seemed like forever. It was glorious. Then it was over. Darkness. But our village had disappeared. My family, my neighbors, my friends. All gone. I have wandered the desert ever since. Looking for my home. My family. I have given up all hope. But then I hear about you. Another crazy man in the desert. Waiting for them to come. And I know I have a brother. I come to you to let you know that you are right. That they will come. And to let you know that you are not alone.

Diego gets up and walks back in the direction from where he came.

JACOB

Where is he going?

MARIA

Back home. He wanted to talk to you before you left. I've known him since I was a little girl. We all thought he was crazy.

JACOB

Do you think I'm crazy?

MARIA

No.

JACOB

I had to help you. I wanted to make sure you'll be okay.

MARIA

My debt has been paid. I will never walk through here again.

JACOB

Tonight is my last night.

MARIA

Why?

JACOB

My father died.

She reaches out to him.

MARIA

I'm so sorry.

JACOB

No. It's okay. It's time I started living my life.

Beat.

JACOB

Stay with me a little while longer.

Jacob extends his hand. Maria takes it.

MARIA

Okay.

131. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Sun breaks over the **desert**. Maria is asleep. Jacob has her arm around her. They are lying on top of the **hood** of the **car**, backs against the **windshield**.

JACOB
They didn't come.

MARIA
Excuse me?

JACOB
They never were coming. It was
made up. A big joke. On me.

They slide off the **car**.

MARIA
But Diego. What he said.

JACOB
He was a crazy old man. My father
was a crazy old man.

Jacob throws the **lawn chairs** in the **car**.

JACOB
Good bye. Have a good life.

Jacob jumps in the **car** and drives off. Maria just stands
there.

132. INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

Jacob is in tears. He regrets what he just did. As he
turns around, his tire blows.

133. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Jacob gets out. He stares back towards his **campsite**. He
starts walking back towards his **campsite**. He can't leave it
like this.

134. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Maria sits on the pile of rocks on top of the metal **box**.
She is crying. Sanchez's **car** returns. He gets out of his
car. He's alone. He's holding a **bottle** of **tequila**. He
takes a swig. He approaches Maria.

SANCHEZ
The crazy Chinaman is gone?

Maria doesn't answer.

SANCHEZ
No matter. He served his purpose.
I actually wanted to talk to you.
Alone. I want to make a business
(MORE)

SANCHEZ (CONT'D)

proposal to you. To extended your contract.

MARIA

I'm done. My debt is paid. I no longer work for you.

SANCHEZ

You are much too valuable to just walk away. In a business like this, there are always considerations.

Sanchez grabs Maria and kisses her hard. She resists. Maria gets a hand free and hits Sanchez across the face. Sanchez returns the blow. She crumples down in a heap. Sanchez takes another swig of **tequila**. Maria starts to crawl away.

SANCHEZ (CONT'D)

You once lured a man into the desert to let him die.

He kicks her hard. She screams.

SANCHEZ (CONT'D)

That man was my father. I don't dispute he was bad. In fact, he was a piece of shit. I'm glad you killed him. You did me a huge favor. So this isn't a revenge thing.

Maria reaches for the **gun** on her leg but Sanchez takes it away from her. He hurls it far away. He takes another swig from the **bottle**. He kicks her again.

SANCHEZ (CONT'D)

The exit strategy is so difficult in this business. So many trade secrets. No way of knowing when they will be revealed.

Maria attempts to crawl away. Sanchez flips her over and straddles her. She can't fight him off. He starts to unbutton her **shirt**.

SANCHEZ (CONT'D)

When others have left my employment, I would be upset and act accordingly. But you intrigue me. I am very attracted to you.

He attempts to kiss her. She tries to resist but is so weakened she can't fight him off.

SANCHEZ

You have gotten into my head like no other woman. The crazy Chinaman gave everything up for you. Everything. You must be remarkable. I must find out for myself. Before I terminate your employment.

135. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Jacob gets to the crest and sees what's happening. He instinctively takes a step forward but stops. He has nothing with which to fight Sanchez. He turns around and sprints towards his **car**.

136. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Jacob reaches his **car**. He frantically searches through it for some type of **weapon** but there's nothing. Then he stops. He picks up a **sharpie** and an empty two liter coke **bottle**. He opens the cooler. He takes a **screwdriver** and starts jabbing at the dry ice.

137. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Sanchez has beaten Maria badly. She can't defend herself. Her **clothes** are torn. He is on top of her.

SANCHEZ

When you came into my employment, you were incredible. The best guide I ever had. So strong. Confident. I find that very sexy in a woman.

He begins to undo his **belt**.

SANCHEZ

Such a hard worker. Paying off your obligation so that your loved ones could join you here. I find that dedication very sexy. I need something to remember you by.

Sanchez has pinned her down. She has no more strength to struggle.

Suddenly, a two liter **bottle** lands right next to Sanchez. He is startled. He gets off of Maria. He picks up the **bottle**. On it, scribbled on white **tape** it says "Sanchez". The **bottle** has **water** and dry ice in it. Sanchez shakes it a bit and is confused. As he holds the **bottle**, Sanchez **steps** away from Maria and takes a few **steps** from where the **bottle** was thrown.

SANCHEZ

Who? Who is there? Show yourself.

Jacob stands up from behind some rocks. Sanchez laughs.

SANCHEZ

Oh. It is only you. You want to watch what I do to your girl?

Jacob suddenly drops down behind the rocks. Sanchez is confused. He looks at the two liter **bottle** he is holding.

The **bottle**, a dry ice **bomb**, explodes in Sanchez' hand. He is thrown to the **ground**.

Jacob runs towards the bloody Sanchez and **grabs** his car **keys**. Sanchez is knocked out cold.

Jacob runs towards Maria. She is badly beaten. She can't walk. He carries her. They head towards Sanchez's **car**. They pass by Maria's **gun**.

Jacob gets Maria into the **car**. As he runs around to get into the **driver**'s side, a bullet hits near his feet.

SANCHEZ

Stop. I may let you live.

Jacob turns and sees Sanchez approaching. He raises his hands.

SANCHEZ

It will be bad for my business to kill you. Your death would bring so much unwanted attention.

Maria sees Sanchez approaching. She can't do anything.

SANCHEZ

But this one. This is personal. This is between me and her.

Sanchez keeps approaching. Jacob looks at the **ground** in front of Sanchez.

JACOB

Stop. Don't take another step.

Sanchez stops for a moment. Then he smiles.

SANCHEZ

Don't tell me what to do. This is the desert. I do what I want.

Sanchez raises his **gun** towards Jacob. He turns and points the **gun** towards Maria and takes another step.

Sanchez **steps** on a dusty **piece** of **plywood** which collapses and he falls into an abandoned **mine**. He disappears into the **earth**. His **gun** lands nearby.

JACOB

That's an abandoned mine.

A beaten up weathered **sign** lays broken by the **hole**. It says, "Danger. Abandoned **Mine**." He kicks the **sign** into the **hole**. The **sound** of the **sign** echoes as it falls and falls. Then there is silence.

138. INT. SANCHEZ'S CAR - DAY

Jacob speeds across the **desert**.

MARIA

No hospital.

JACOB

What?

Maria digs her cell **phone** out and **dials**. She hands the **phone** to Jacob.

JACOB

Hello? Who is this?

139. INT. SANCHEZ'S CAR - DAY

Maria coughs up blood. Jacob **grabs** her hand and squeezes it.

JACOB

Stay with me.

MARIA

What would you have said?

JACOB

What?

MARIA

The aliens. When you met them.

JACOB

That I am your friend.

Maria coughs. She's slipping. He squeezes her hand.

MARIA

What else?

JACOB

That I've been waiting my entire life for you. I knew you would come. It wasn't easy believing in something that everyone said wasn't real. But all the doubt, the sacrifices, the lonely times, it was worth it. Even though we are so imperfect, we can hate and kill and betray, we are also capable of kindness and compassion and life. And what we can also do is love. We can love. I can love. I can .
. .

Maria's hand has gone limp in Jacob's.

JACOB

Maria. MARIA.

140. EXT. PARKING LOT EAST LA - DAY

Jacob pulls into the **parking lot** where **Miguel** and a group of **people** await. They pull the lifeless body of Maria out and **put** her into a van which quickly speeds away. Everyone quickly disperses. Just as quickly, Jacob is alone.

141. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Jacob drives Sanchez's **car** back to the **mine**. He places some red evidence **flags** into the **ground**. He takes a **rag**, stuffs it into the **gas tank**, and **lights** it. Jacob walks away.

142. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Jacob has finished changing the **flat** on his **car**. As he gets in and drives off, an **explosion** is heard in the distance.

143. EXT. HIGHWAY 247 - DAY

Jacob is at the **spot** where he sells **books**. The Sheriff and Deputy drive up. Jacob points towards the **desert** where the black smoke is. They thank him and drive off.

144. EXT. HIGHWAY 247 - DAY

The Sheriff returns. He gets out of his **car** and approaches Jacob. He hands him some red evidence **flags**.

SHERIFF

It's bad. It's not safe anymore.
Too risky for you to be out here.

JACOB

I'm through. My father passed
away. It's over.

SHERIFF

I'm so sorry. He was a good man.
A very good man.

The Sheriff pats him on the shoulder.

145. EXT. PARKING LOT EAST LA - DAY

Jacob drives by the **parking lot** where he left Maria. It is normal. He dials the number he was given for the bandana **men**. It is out of service.

146. EXT. SANTEE ALLEY - DAY

Jacob walks through Santee **Alley**. He stops and asks **people** at random about Maria but he is ignored.

147. EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

Jacob drives by and sees Ron and Jerry having **lunch**. He doesn't stop. He drives on.

148. INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jacob sits alone. He stares at his cell **phone**. Finally, he dials.

149. INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

There's a **knock** at the **door**. Jacob opens it and it's **Cindy**. He has tears in his eyes. She hugs him.

150. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Sand blows over the metal **box** which is still exposed to the elements.

151. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

The **father's urn** lays on its side, half covered with **sand**.

152. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - NIGHT

The **desert** lies still under a full moon.

153. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - DAY

The **father's urn** is almost completely buried.

154. EXT. SANTEE ALLEY - DAY

Jacob's appearance has completely changed. He is wearing **khakis**, a collared **shirt**, and a **jacket**. His hair is combed back. As he waits outside a **store**, **Cindy** comes out carrying a **bag**.

They take a few **steps** and stop in front of a **shoe store**.

CINDY
Ooooooh. Shoes.

Jacob's **phone** rings. He looks at the **caller ID** but it says "Unknown".

JACOB
I'll be right here.

Cindy kisses him on the cheek and goes into the **store**. He answers.

JACOB
Hello? Hello?

He looks at the **phone** and the call has ended. A small Mexican boy MARIO, 4, tugs at his **pants**.

JACOB
Hello, buddy. Where's your parents?

Jacob looks up and Maria approaches, turning off her **phone**. She's wearing a pretty **dress**.

MARIA
This is Mario. Mario this is your Uncle Jacob.

Mario hugs Jacob's leg tightly. A **man** appears aside Maria.

MARIA
And this is my husband, Emilio.

EMILIO, 20's, shakes Jacob's hand.

EMILIO
Thank you. For everything you've done.

JACOB
It was nothing.

EMILIO
Please.

He clasps Jacob's hand with both of his hands.

EMILIO
Come on, Mario, I'll buy you a toy.

Emilio takes Mario away. Jacob and Maria are left alone for a moment. There's so much he wants to say. But he holds it in.

JACOB
Married with a son?

MARIA
The debt I had to repay. To bring them all here. My family is finally together. Thanks to you.

JACOB
How are you?

MARIA
I'm on top of the world. You?

JACOB
I'm good.

MARIA
Have you gone back to the desert?

JACOB
No. I've given that up.

MARIA
How sad.

JACOB
Not at all. I am living my life.

MARIA
As I am.

A beat. They share one last moment.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Well, I must be going.

JACOB
Can I find you here sometime?

MARIA

No. We are leaving LA. Getting far away from here.

JACOB

Well, okay then.

She turns to leave him one last time. She turns back.

MARIA

When my son sees Orion, he will know it is you protecting us. Goodbye.

JACOB

Adios.

Maria finds her **husband** and **son** and they disappear into the **crowd**. Jacob **watches** as they disappear. After a moment, **Cindy** appears with a **bag**.

CINDY

Sorry. Couldn't resist.

She shows him some **shoes**. They kiss.

CINDY

Where to now?

Jacob looks after Maria. He points the other **way**.

JACOB

This way.

They turn and walk away. From down the **alley**, Maria looks over her shoulder sees them. She smiles and walks away.

CINDY

Huh.

JACOB

What?

CINDY

I could have sworn I saw your maid.

155. EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Maria, **Emilio**, and Mario drive across the **Mojave Desert**..

MARIA (V.O.)

My friend Jacob wanted to be here when you came. He wanted you to know how humans really are. If you

(MORE)

MARIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

have been watching then you might
have seen us at our worse.

They approach the old **campsite**. Maria gets out and finds the **box**. She opens the lid and places a letter inside. She replaces the rock on top.

MARIA (V.O.)

But Jacob wanted you to know how
fundamentally kind we are. Not
only to those we know but many
times to total strangers who just
need a helping hand.

Mario sees a small **bag** and runs to it. Mario gives it to Maria. She opens it up. It's full of **cash**, the **bag** Jacob left behind. **Emilio** and Maria look at each other.

156. EXT. PALISADES PARK - DAY

Ron and Jerry have their **lunch**. A geeky looking man approaches. The group welcomes him to sit down and they quickly embrace him into their clan.

MARIA (V.O.)

Jacob couldn't wait for you. He
had to go on and live his life. I
don't know if you exist, but if you
do I wanted you to know the good
that exists. In people like Jacob.

Jerry's **phone** rings. He answers.

JERRY

Hello?

157. EXT. MEXICAN VILLAGE - DAY

Ron and Jerry get off of a public **bus**. They look around and see **Diego**, the Old Mexican **Man**, sitting at a picnic **table**. He is wearing a red **bandana**. They cautiously approach.

RON

Are you Diego?

Ron and Jerry sit and **Diego** begins to tell his story.

158. EXT. THE SKIES - NIGHT

Orion twinkles in the sky.

159. EXT. JACOB'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

The pile of rocks sits undisturbed. The **desert** is quiet. It is silent. After a few moments, a bright **light** appears from above spotlighting the rocks.

The source of the **light** appears to be an alien craft.

The metal **box** levitates and moves towards the alien craft.

Nearby, **Diego** awakes. His face is lit with illumination. He smiles broadly.

After a moment, the **light** disappears.

BLACKOUT.

THE END.