

"Save"

by
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FADE IN.

INT. MIDDLE-AMERICAN HOME - DAY

It is incredibly bright out. Golden sunlight beams through the window right next to the front door of what is obviously a typical, upper-middle class home. The door opens allowing a handsome MAN to enter. He wears a conservative, brown suit and carries a brief case. He looks like Ward Cleaver only younger, in his early 30s. He sports a big, happy smile. All is well with him - especially since he is now home.

MAN

Honey, I'm home!

A golden retriever bounds up to him. He places his brief case on the floor, crouches down and scratches the dog's ears as a BEAUTIFUL WOMAN enters. She is blonde and wears a bright sundress. The Man rises to greet her. She smiles as they embrace and kiss.

WOMAN

I'm so glad you're home! How was your day?

Just then, a YOUNG BOY approaches and smiles. He is about ten.

MAN

Oh - honey - it was fantastic.
(To the boy)
Hiya doin' sport!

The Child smiles and hugs his father.

BOY

Pretty good, Dad!

WOMAN

(To the Man)
What did you do?

MAN

I saved the human race today!

The Woman is immensely supportive (as a good wife is). She smiles and hugs him.

WOMAN

Oh, darling, that's wonderful! I'm so proud!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THREE SHOT ON THE MAN AND THE WOMAN AS THEY ALL EMBRACE AGAIN. They are truly happy as we...

CUT TO:

INT. DESTROYED BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

The same MAN, only now dressed in olive drab military fatigues, snaps awake. He doesn't leap up as he has a small diary (the kind that has a lock on it) open, facedown on his chest and a few snapshots on his lap and lower torso. His face is dirtier now and a severe case of 5 o'clock shadow (that gets worse as the movie progresses) now make him almost unrecognizable as the man in the suit. He rubs his chin and looks around. The semi-destroyed bits of a young-girl's life litter the area. A ballerina's costume, some plastic horses that are now crushed as well as other things you'd find in a girl's bedroom are visible. Only these were all in some state of destruction.

The Man looked out the window. It was still light. He lifted the small diary and began to read it.

CLOSE IN ON THE HAND-WRITTEN WORDS ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THE DIARY AS WE HEAR A YOUNG GIRL'S VOICE BEGIN TO READ THEM.

GIRL (VO)

Today has been horrible. Daddy
came home early from work.

LAP DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MIDDAY

As the voice over continues we watch as another man, the girl's FATHER enters quickly through the front door of a home not unlike the one in the previous scene. Only this scene is lit more realistically. The Father is very worried.

GIRL (VO)

He threw the door open and told us
to come outside.

A little GIRL (about 9 years old) and her MOTHER sit on a couch. They are dressed as you might expect them to be, in jeans and T-shirts. They are a typical middle-class family of present day. They smile nervously as the Father motions them to join him in the doorway of the house.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON THE FAMILY OF THREE AS THE STARE UP AT THE SKY.

GIRL (VO)

There was something up in the sky.

REVERSE ANGLE ON THE BRIGHT, BLUE SKY AS AN EVEN BRIGHTER BLUE BALL OF LIGHT HEADS STRAIGHT FOR US.

GIRL

I don't know what it was.

INSERT SHOT ON THE TV. A soap opera is replaced by a news bulletin but instead of an anchorperson there is simply the image of the blue sphere with a graphic underneath it.

GRAPHIC: LIVE NASA FOOTAGE

ANCHOR

...strange blue sphere, commenting that they were working on it and as of yet, there is no cause for alarm.

EXT. ANGLE ON THE SPHERE - CONTINUOUS

The Girl's house and its immediate surroundings are in the foreground as the blue sphere moves ever closer.

GIRL (VO)

Daddy didn't know what it was and neither did the news.

The blue sphere disappears beneath the horizon. After a short moment a thin blue wave of energy passes through every object in the frame effecting it like wind. Nearby streetlights explode as do the headlights of cars.

INT. LIVING ROOM - ANGLE ON THE FAMILY - CONTINUOUS

They spin around as the wave passes through their house. Lamps on end tables, ceiling lights and even the television explode.

The Father leaves them both at the door and follows the wave into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The Father watches as sparks fly from appliances.

INT. GIRL'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Crying, she shoves personal things into a small bag. She slings the bag over her shoulder and grabs her teddy bear.

GIRL (VO)

Then Dad and Mom got really upset. They told me to pack everything I could and that we were leaving. I was so upset because I had to leave my ballerina costume. I guess my dancing isn't that important to Mom and Dad.

EXT. ON THE FAMILY CAR - LATER

The Mother and Father sit in the front seat of the car while the Girl sits in the back seat, still clutching her teddy bear. The Father struggles with the keys. The car won't start.

GIRL (VO)

For some reason the car wouldn't start.

The two parents are distracted from their car as they look up into the sky once again. After a moment so does their daughter.

GIRL (VO) (CONT'D)

But that didn't matter.

REVERSE ANGLE ON THE SKY AS A MASSIVE ALIEN CRAFT MOVES ALONG THE HORIZON.

MASSIVE BEAMS of energy lance down at buildings in the suburban town, destroying them.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

GIRL (VO)

Daddy said shit and then yelled at us to get out of the car.

The Father opens the car door.

FATHER

Come on! We'll hide in the basement!

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Father grabs the Girl and his wife and begins to drag them into the house.

MOTHER

What if the house comes down on top of us? Our only hope is to get to the mountains!

They turn and rush toward a road that leads from the street their house was on, toward the mountains now visible in the BG.

They race down the street. The Mother now carries the Girl in her arms while, in the BG, other neighbors are in various states of awareness about what is happening.

Other yuppie-types stand in their doorways looking up at the sky in awe. One man is frozen in terror - literally - as his wife begs him to move.

Another family fights with their car to get in running. The Father of our family waves at them.

FATHER

Don't bother!

INSERT SHOT ON AN OLD WOMAN IN A WINDOW. She watches cynically uncertain if she should do anything as the neighborhood panics.

EXPLOSIONS ARE HEARD BUT ARE NOT SEEN.

Plumes of smoke are seen rising above the horizon as one of the houses on the block is demolished by an ENERGY BEAM.

The Family reaches the small, four-lane highway. Traffic has stopped and a 747 has smashed into the roadway a few hundred yards away. People are panicking, running into the woods on the other side of the highway and into the residential area the Family had just come from.

The Father takes the Girl from the Mother and they begin to climb over the cars, moving toward the woods. The Father and Mother both reach the center divider at the same time, but the Mother reaches the pavement on the other side first.

WIDE SHOT ON THE FATHER AS HE STRADDLES THE CENTER DIVIDER WITH THE GIRL STILL IN HIS ARMS. In the BG two ALIEN CRAFTS appear taking pot shots at the cars.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

One blast hits nearby causing the Father to lose his balance and fall to the ground, landing on his back.

FATHER
HERE! TAKE HER! I'LL BE RIGHT
BEHIND YOU!

The Mother snatches the Girl up and darts across the remaining two lanes, into the trees.

The Father stands and tries to walk. The craft are bearing down on him. He winces, grabs at his ribs and looks up at one of the alien craft as it is right above him. A beam lances down and strikes a car twenty feet from him.

A piece of debris flies right towards his head, but only grazes it. He ducks with the pain, but doesn't go all the way to the ground.

He stands up watching as the craft pass him by. Astounded at his luck he touches his head where it was cut by the debris. He smiles and glances at his own blood on his fingers. Just then, SEVERAL RAPID BURSTS OF ENERGY TEAR INTO HIM, SENDING HIM TO THE GROUND IN PIECES.

ANGLE ON THE SHOCK TROOPERS. They are 9-foot tall, gray aliens with big, black eyes and white, but quite minimal armor. They carry large white energy rifles that they hold with one hand.

CU ON THE GIRL BEING HELD BY HER MOTHER. Tears stream down her face.

GIRL (VO)
Mommy keeps telling me to write
about what I saw, but I don't think
I can go on.

INT. DESTROYED BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

The Man's face shows off an expression of fear that is almost child-like. It's almost as though for those few moments as he read the diary, he could truly and totally understand how she felt.

The Man looks out the window once again. The sun is setting over the partially demolished buildings of a big city. He closes the diary and shoves it into a shoulder bag. He gathers up the photos and shoves them in, next to the Girl's diary and other journals and diaries.

He rises to a crouching position and tightens the shoulder bag's strap so that it hugs him tightly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He checks the sun again and grabs a white, alien hand-rifle from a pile of debris and slings it over his shoulder.

The man climbs out the window.

EXT. BIG CITY APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

The Man is bathed in golden sunlight - the kind you only see during sunset. He creeps down the gutter, five stories to the ground. In the BG we can see some piles of rubble.

He hits the ground and stands fully erect. He looks around as WE PULL OUT TO AN EXTREME WIDE SHOT OF THE CITY.

It is decimated. There are a few skyscrapers that crawl toward the oncoming stars, but none are complete. There is one structure that is foreign. It is a dark obelisk in the setting sun. What look like fly's buzz around its peak. Which is so high above the city it falls just short of the clouds.