

A REALLY CRAPPY EDUCATIONAL VIDEO -

The monotone narrator's voice reads over a poorly animated school video about the solar system.

VIDEO NARRATOR (V.O.)

Between Venus and Mars, the Earth is the third planet in the solar system. Orbiting approximately 90 million miles from the Sun, it has one natural satellite called the Moon. With an equatorial diameter of 7,654 miles, and an average density, 5.5 times that of water, the Earth is believed to have formed approximately 4.6 billion years ago. Three quarters covered by oceans, and an atmosphere of nitrogen and oxygen it is the only planet known to support life...

What appears to be a meteor, streaks across the night sky.

The video images begin to warp and distort as if being chewed up by the A/V playback machine.

DISSOLVE...

FADE IN:

EXT. SUB-DIVISION UNDER DEVELOPMENT - DAY

Black smoke belches from the exhaust stack of a large earth moving machine, as it pushes it's way through a mound of earth and gravel. Rocks and boulders tumble to the side, exposing what appears to be a shiny metallic piece of twisted metal. The machine comes to a halt.

INTO:

EXT. SAME - SOMETIME LATER - DAY

Two MALE FIGURES wearing PROTECTIVE HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SUITS, retrieve the twisted piece of unknown metal, from the unearthed ground.

They carefully place the shiny metal object into a reinforced container. The lid is locked tightly shut. The symbol on the container reads: CAUTION - RADIOACTIVE

The men load the container in the back of a black windowless van. The two men climb inside the vehicle and drive away.

Just beyond...

EXT. GROVER'S PASS - CONTINUOUS

A suburban community of identical houses, shopping mall, school, park, skateboard bowl and a church; a snap shot of sleepy middle class suburbia.

INT. FORRESTER HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Morning finds CAROL FORRESTER, late 30's, standing in front of the kitchen sink, wearing a tattered housecoat, looking rather bedraggled and hung over.

Her daughter DAWN, 12, readies for school. She goes to the counter where her brown bag lunch waits with her name written in bold marker: DON.

Carol stares blankly out the window, in the direction from where the mysterious black van had come.

Dawn glares at her bag lunch sitting on the edge of the counter.

DAWN

You spelled my name wrong again..!

Reaching for the bag, Dawn looks inside.

DAWN (CONT'D)

What do you want me to do with this?

Holding up a raw potato (peel and all).

Carol turns to Dawn.

CAROL

Just ask your teacher to microwave it for you.

Dawn glares back at her mother.

CAROL (CONT'D)

What? They don't have a microwave at your school..?!

Dawn shakes her head and stuffs the potato back into the brown bag.

CAROL (CONT'D)

You're not wearing that to school,
are you?

Dawn looks down at her 'rock band' logo sweatshirt she is wearing. She rolls her eyes, picks up her backpack, and begins to leave.

CAROL (CONT'D)

No kiss for your mother?

Reluctantly, Dawn returns and kisses her mother, turns and opens the back door.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Honey..?

Dawn looks back, but Carol says nothing.

DAWN

I love you too, Mom...

A smile trembles on Carol's lips, as she watches the kitchen door close behind an exiting Dawn.

Carol's eyes turn back to the window, in the direction from where the dark mysterious van had driven away.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - CONTINUOUS

A couple of houses down the block, Dawn meets up with her best friend MELISSA SULLIVAN, also age 12.

Melissa's mother, MANDY SULLIVAN, late 30s, waves out the window at the two girls, as they make their way off to school.

As they walk along, Melissa opens her lunch bag to see what her mother has packed for her.

DAWN

What did you get?

MELISSA

Tofu and salad... You..?

DAWN

Potato.

MELISSA

Chips?!

DAWN
No... Just a potato!

MELISSA
Oh...

Melissa stares unimpressed at the tofu and salad lying limp in the bottom of the bag.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
Trade you.

Dawn holds out her bag lunch to Melissa.

DAWN
It's yours...

They continue to walk along.

DAWN (CONT'D)
I don't think those are my real parents!

Mumbles aloud to herself.

MELISSA
Then who are they?

DAWN
Not who..! What..?

MELISSA
What do you mean, what?

DAWN
I think my parents are aliens.

MELISSA
Your parents are MEXICANS!?

DAWN
No, silly! Real aliens! The kind from outer space!

MELISSA
Oh. Cool!

DAWN
I'm serious.

MELISSA
Oooh, scary.

DAWN

Okay. Forget it..!

MELISSA

No. No. I'm sorry. Tell me.

Dawn looks around to see if anyone is in earshot.

DAWN

As if the potato wasn't enough... I don't know. It's like when my mom came to school last week wandering around the hallways talking to herself? Everyone thought she escaped from a mental institution.

MELISSA

That doesn't make her an alien. That just makes her embarrassing. And who, really, isn't embarrassed by their parents?

DAWN

My Dad doesn't even sleep! I have never seen my Dad sleep. He goes to work when I go to bed. And he's still at work when I get up.

MELISSA

Your Dad's a reporter for the local news, right?!

Dawn nods.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

My mom told me that 'the news never sleeps'...

DAWN

But what if it's just a cover?

MELISSA

You mean like a secret agent? An alien spy?

Mimicking the theme from the 'Twilight Zone'.

DAWN

Melissa... I'm serious. I don't know what I'm going to do. My parents are aliens. Full on planet hoppers, probably from Mars. And they're planning to take over the Earth..!

Walking past a large billboard: GROVER'S PASS ~ PHASE 2.

Beyond lies the development - under construction - the sound of heavy machinery rumbles in the distance.

MELISSA

So... Does that mean you're an alien, too?

Behind them...

The large billboard that once read: PHASE - 2 DEVELOPMENT;

DISSOLVE INTO:

TEN YEARS EARLIER

EXT. SUB-DIVISION UNDER DEVELOPMENT - EARLY EVENING

The sign now reads: FUTURE HOME OF GROVER'S PASS ~ PHASE 1

Surveyor stakes mark off what appear to be sections of designated lots. Parked next to one of the empty lots is an older style (era specific) pick-up truck. The name on the door reads: CHASE SULLIVAN CONSTRUCTION. Next to the truck - in the middle of an empty lot - sit CHASE and MANDY SULLIVAN, in two of four lawn chairs, set in a row. A large metal ice chest (era specific) sits between them.

MANDY

What time did they say they'd be here?

Looking up at the sky.

CHASE

They should be here any minute.

Chase smiles at Mandy, taking hold of her hand.

CHASE (CONT'D)

This will be our future home. Our best friends, will live right down the street. Over there is where our children will play. And just beyond those patch of trees... a school.

MANDY

I so desperately want that to happen, Chase. But what if it doesn't? We've been trying for so long. What if it never happens?

CHASE

Mandy, listen to me, don't think that way. It will happen. I promise.

MANDY

But what if I never get pregnant? What if Carol gets pregnant and I never do?

CHASE

This isn't a race with Dan and Carol. They haven't been lucky either. Carol adores you. You're like sisters. And if it turns out we can't have children, we can always adopt. But once we settle into our new home, it will all be different. You'll see.

Giving his wife a kiss.

Dan and Carol pull up in an (era specific) older model sedan.

Carol opens the door and climbs out.

CAROL

What a beautiful night. Not a cloud in the sky. And I don't think I could even count the number of stars.

Her eyes pan the vastness of the new development. She looks to Chase and Mandy.

CAROL (CONT'D)

And you both have done so much.

Embracing Mandy in a hug.

Dan climbs out from behind the steering wheel and joins his wife, taking in the evening air.

DAN

Is that where our house will be?

CHASE

Sure is. They'll be pouring the foundation for the future home of the Forresters, tomorrow!

CAROL

Honey, I can't wait.

Gazing into the eye's of her husband Dan.

Mandy points up at the sky.

MANDY

Look... they're here..!

What looks like a meteorite streaks across the evening sky - followed by another... then another... and another...

INTO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY - PRESENT

Dawn and Melissa's CLASS are all seated in a darkened classroom watching a 'really crappy educational video' about the 'Leonid Meteor Shower'.

VIDEO NARRATOR (V.O.)

(continuing)

Occurring every November as the Earth passes through its stream, the 'Leonid Meteor Shower' gets its name from the constellation Leo, a point in the sky from which they appear. Associated with the comet Tempel-Tuttle, the meteoroids are particles ejected by the comet as frozen gases and appear as shooting stars or fireballs, sometimes impacting the Earth as meteorites...

JUMP BACK TO:

EXT. GROVER'S PASS (PHASE ONE DEVELOPMENT) - IN FLASHBACK - CONTINUING

The Forresters and Sullivans stare up at a trail of meteorites streaking across the night sky, becoming more and more intense.

SUDDENLY:

A meteorite careens out of control, taking the form of a shiny metallic sphere. It passes directly over their heads, WHOOOSH! Crashing just beyond the edge of the new housing development, with a blinding FLASH!

BACK TO:

CLOSE ON - MELISSA - PRESENT - CONTINUING

Darkened classroom, over video, the sound of an explosion, reverberates in the background...

MELISSA
(mutters loudly)
Oh... crap..!

The sound of the exploding crash lingers and fades into the distance.

DISSOLVE:

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - LATER

English teacher: MR. CAMPBELL, waves at Melissa to come over. He stands talking with two other KIDS.

MELISSA
(to Dawn)
I forgot, Mr. Campbell told me to talk to him first thing this morning about my English project. And of course I didn't finish it. Ugh. Wait here for me, k?

DAWN
Okay, hurry!

Melissa walks off.

Dawn sits on a bench, biting her thumbnail. JARED JENSEN, a tall, athletic teenage boy with great hair, jogs and sits next to Dawn on the bench, huffing a bit. Dawn's eyes get big.

JARED
Can I sit here for a minute?

DAWN
U-uh huh.

Jared notices Dawn's 'rock band' sweatshirt.

JARED
Hey, that's an awesome shirt! I'm totally into 30 Seconds to Mars!

Dawn looks down at the Red Gryphon on the white T-shirt, as if just noticing that she is wearing it.

DAWN

I don't...

JARED

A Beautiful Lie.

DAWN

No, I just...

JARED

That's my favorite song of theirs.

DAWN

Mm.

Jared drums on his chest.

JARED

(sings)

It's a beautiful lie.

It's the perfect denial.

Looks into Dawn's eyes.

JARED (CONT'D)

That's your favorite, too?

DAWN

W - W - I - Okay.

JARED

Dawn, right?!

Startled by the fact the he even knew her name.

JARED (CONT'D)

Awesome! I can tell we'll totally get along! Okay, well, I better keep jogging 'til the bell rings or Coach Mason will bench me for sure! See you around!

Jared jogs off.

Melissa returns. Dawn jumps from the bench beaming. They start walking.

MELISSA

I hate this school! I hate these people! I hate this place..!

DAWN

What's wrong? What happened?