

Knight Zone

A short film

Written by

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Logline: A Uni Professor is obsessed by an attractive student, but it's her intellect he's interested in.

1 INT. APARTMENT - SCHOLAR'S DEN - MIDNIGHT

LARRY, a haggard 40-year-old male Professor, is drinking heavily and pacing.

OPENING CREDITS BEGIN

Play Song: "There's this girl"

SONG

There's this girl...
Light doesn't know where refraction
occurs...
Wisdom of the ages and the pages
turn...
She's hiding from the cosmic
recur...
r-hah... r-hah... r-hah...

Larry looks at his mobile phone:

12:00AM

He decides to make a call, taps in a number.

END OPENING CREDITS

CUT TO:

2 EXT./INT. ITALIAN RIVIERA - COSTAL ROAD/SPORTS CAR - MIDDAY

A mobile phone is ringing.

BRITNEY, a teenager, is speeding along with the top down at 120 kilometres per hour on a winding coastal road.

Long blonde hair flickers below her silk head scarf. She dips her sunglasses, pouts her bright red lips.

Her phone screen shows:

CALLER ID: PROFESSOR LARRY CLINTON

FADE OUT SONG:

She pauses, considers, then answers, not even trying to disguise her disinterest.

BRITNEY

Hello.

LARRY V/O
(ON PHONE)
Hi-hi, yes, it's me.

BRITNEY
(patronising)
Yes, I know... I thought we agreed
not to contact each other.

LARRY V/O
(ON PHONE)
We need to talk.

BRITNEY
There's nothing to talk about.

LARRY V/O
(ON PHONE)
I can't stop thinking about what we
did.

BRITNEY
Get a grip, Larry! I moved to the
other side of the planet. Isn't
that enough?

LARRY V/O
(ON PHONE)
I didn't want you to go.

BRITNEY
If anyone found out what we did,
it'd be the end of your career! Is
that what you want?

3 INT. APARTMENT - SCHOLAR'S DEN - MIDNIGHT

LARRY, pacing, considers her response, talks into the phone.

LARRY
We can't ignore what happened. We
need to tell someone...

4 EXT./INT. ITALIAN RIVIERA - COSTAL ROAD/SPORTS CAR - MIDDAY

BRITNEY ends the call.

5 INT. APARTMENT - SCHOLAR'S DEN - MIDNIGHT

LARRY
Britney... Britney...?

CUT TO:

6 EXT. ITALIAN RIVIERA - DRIVEWAY - MEDITERRANEAN MANSION

The Sports Car speeds up a long driveway and comes to a halt in front of a Mediterranean Mansion.

BRITNEY slides out of the car.

A VALET approaches, she throws him the keys and struts inside.

CUT TO:

BLACK

SUPER ON SCREEN:

6 months earlier

CUT TO:

7 EXT. SPORTS FIELD/SCIENCE LAB - DAY

Led by Britney, a CHEERLEADING SQUAD go through their routine.

BRITNEY looks across the field to the building that houses the Science Lab.

She notices several louvres are pulled down in a window.

She flashes a mischievous grin.

8 INT. SCIENCE LAB - CONTINUOUS

From behind, we see LARRY in a white lab coat step away from the window. The louvres snap back into position.

Looking decidedly more professional, LARRY turns back to the project that takes up one end of the Lab.

Several pulsating laser beams are targeted at the centre of a doorway-sized holographic panel.

He checks calculations on a computer, then turns controls to increase voltage.

As the voltage intensifies a small VORTEX begins to materialise in the centre of the holographic panel.

Just then, Britney bursts into the room, sporting her pom-poms.

BRITNEY

Ta-da!

Larry quickly turns off the power.

She races over for a look-see.

BRITNEY (CONT'D)

(flirtatious)

What ya doin', Fess?

Larry appears uncomfortable, looks around.

LARRY

I asked you not to call me that.

Britney enjoys his pain.

BRITNEY

Aw, are you worried they'll find out about us?

Larry smiles, lightens up.

LARRY

Oh yes, terrified I won't win my Noble Prize.

Britney looks around the Lab. She considers.

BRITNEY

Come on, let me take you away from all this.

He concedes. He takes off his coat and carefully hangs it up like the perfectionist he is.

Turning back, he hesitates.

BRITNEY (CONT'D)

(reassuring)

It's fine, come on.

CUT TO:

9

EXT. SIDEWALK LOVE CAFÉ - LATER

The couple are sitting at a small table on the footpath.

Britney is destroying a large burger, Larry quietly sips a coffee shot.

LARRY
(pondering)
Why are you stalling?

Britney pauses, stops chewing, considering.

BRITNEY
I'm not ready.

LARRY
When will you be? I've waited long enough.

Britney is sarcastic, playful.

BRITNEY
Oh, now the Professor gets dominant.

LARRY
We're ready, I've done everything you told me to, exactly, precisely.
(frustrated) We're ready.

BRITNEY
You might be, but I'm not.

Larry sits back, impatient, throws his napkin onto the table.

LARRY
Fine. You know where you can find me.

He hops up to walk away. Britney considers.

BRITNEY
No, wait.

He pauses, turns around expectantly.

BRITNEY (CONT'D)
I'm having trouble working out the variables.

LARRY

There are none. We've been over this before. Your computations are correct. Perfect.

BRITNEY

Yes, I know. But when we do it, it'll change everything.

The Professor leans down, whispers into Britney's ear.

LARRY

Of course it will, that's why you chose me. You know I want to as much as you do.

Britney concedes.

BRITNEY

Alright.

10 INT. BATHROOM - SHOWER - LATER

Britney is in the shower shaving her legs.

She continues up her slender body removing all her body hair.

CUT TO:

11 INT. BATHROOM - BASIN MIRROR - LATER

Britney stands in front of the basin mirror with a towel tied around her head.

She is smearing hair-removal cream on her eyelashes.

12 INT. SCIENCE LAB - NIGHT

Britney enters, her head shaved. She's wearing a white full length dressing gown and pink-rimmed safety glasses.

Larry wears a white lab coat and standard safety glasses.

After a momentary pause Britney picks up a clipboard and nods to Larry.

He concurs, engaging the laser beams.

They intensify with every turn of the controls.

The small VORTEX slowly forms, steadily increasing until it consumes the entire doorway-sized holographic panel.

At the computer Britney finalises calculations, nods to Larry.

He smiles in agreement.

Britney steadies herself, puts down the clipboard, removes her safety glasses and steps out of her shoes.

She turns her back away from Larry and steps towards the VORTEX.

She disrobes, looks back over her shoulder at Larry.

LARRY

You'll go down in history as the
first person to explore a Parallel
Universe.

She nods.

A deep breath reasserts her confidence.

She slowly steps towards the VORTEX.

Fully naked, she slowly steps towards and into the extreme light of the VORTEX...

FAST DISSOLVE:

13 INT. SCIENCE LAB - NIGHT

Immediately from the VORTEX...

Britney returns.

Draped in a vibrant silk gown her blonde hair is long, resting on her shoulders and halfway down her back.

She is grasping a makeshift woven basket.

Larry is stunned.

SLOW MOTION - Britney tips the contents of the basket to the floor in a cascade of treasures. Gems of all shapes, colours and sizes sparkle and delight.

REAL TIME - Ecstatic, Larry and Britney gather up the bounty together and race out of the laboratory laughing and celebrating.

SLOW PAN back across the laboratory to the VORTEX.

Slowly from within the intense light DARK SHADOWS start to form...

FAST DISSOLVE:

14 INT. SCIENCE LAB - NIGHT

From the VORTEX...

A DARK GHOST-LIKE FIGURE steps out to enter our Universe from realms unknown.

CUT TO:

15 INT. APARTMENT - SCHOLAR'S DEN - MIDDAY

The haggard Professor, Larry, is still drinking heavily.

Pacing.

Once again, he looks at his mobile phone.

12:00PM

He decides to make a call, tapping in a number.

AUDIO: Ringing.

16 INT. MEDITERRANEAN MANSION - LUXURIOUS BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Britney is sleeping peacefully.

The bedroom is adorned with pink trimmings, High School photos and teen pop posters.

The phone rings.

Britney wakes, squints at the phone and time:

12:00am

She answers the call.

BRITNEY
(frustrated)
Hello.

INSERT

THE DARK GHOST-LIKE FIGURE dark passes across screen, obscuring BRITNEY for a moment.

BACK TO SCENE

Britney observes the figure after it passes, focuses back onto the call.

17 INT. APARTMENT - SCHOLAR'S DEN - CONTINUOUS

LARRY
We have to tell them.

18 INT. MEDITERRANEAN MANSION - LUXURIOUS BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Britney considers.

BRITNEY
Tell them what? That we
pillaged a parallel universe?
Who would believe you?

19 INT. APARTMENT - SCHOLAR'S DEN - CONTINUOUS

LARRY
I can't live like this. We did it
for science. Has the money brought
you happiness?

Britney scans around her sumptuous bedroom, caresses her silk sheets and smiles.

She refocuses, suddenly cold.

BRITNEY
You're not going to leave this
alone, are you?

20 INT. APARTMENT - SCHOLAR'S DEN - CONTINUOUS

Larry is distraught.

LARRY
No!

CUT TO:

21 INT. MEDITERRANEAN MANSION - LUXURIOUS BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Britney calmly ends the call.

She looks to the side and nods an affirmative.

AUDIO:

A DEEP UNEARTHLY HOWL.

BRITNEY smiles.

INSERT

The DARK GHOST-LIKE FIGURE flies out the bedroom window and up into...

22 EXT. ITALIAN RIVIERA NIGHTSCAPE - NIGHT

The night sky.

Below, we see the scope of Britney's massive private estate.

CUT TO:

23 INT. TV NEWSROOM - EVENING

A NEWSREADER readies herself.

NEWS READER

This just in... We are receiving reports disgraced Professor, Larry Clinton, has been found dead at his home. Authorities say they have no leads at this time, but suspect suicide as a likely cause.

THE END