

WHEN THE ALIENS ARRIVE, WILL THEY BRING WINE?

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SMALL HOUSE IN THE WOODS - DAY

EDGAR (25) stands outside his house looking at the sky. He is a rugged man, full beard, comfortable with the outdoors. As he looks, his neighbor, JASON (30) comes walking over. He is similar to Edgar, maybe a bit taller and leaner.

JASON

Think they're here yet?

EDGAR

Oh, I'm sure of it. I think they've been here for a long time.

JASON

That's not what I mean. I mean, do you think the ones for the big meeting are here. The leader-ones.

Edgar looks at his friend.

EDGAR

Probably.

JASON

We could go turn on the TV and see.

EDGAR

Not me. Don't care what those talking heads say about it. Don't trust them anyway.

Edgar goes over to a cooler.

EDGAR (CONT'D)

Want a beer?

JASON

Sure. Thanks.

The two are about to drink. Jason stops.

JASON (CONT'D)

Here's to hoping this isn't going to be bad.

They clink beer bottles.

EDGAR

It won't be.

JASON

Really? You feeling good about it?  
I thought you were pretty against  
this when the government first  
announced it.

EDGAR

Oh, I am. I think they've been here  
prepping for an invasion for who  
knows how long. No, they are up to  
no good. Mark my words.

JASON

But you're not worried?

EDGAR

Not as long as I got this.

He pulls up his shirt to show a gun in his waistband.

JASON

What good is that going to do? They  
came who knows how many millions of  
miles, probably have weapons we  
can't even imagine, and you think a  
gun would stop them?

EDGAR

One, no. But there'll be others.  
You can count on it. If they make a  
move, we'll be ready. I just think  
everyone is being so happy about  
this. Not me. I'm a realist.

JASON

I don't know. I think this could be  
a good thing. The first contact  
with aliens, right in the middle of  
downtown. This could change the  
world.

Edger takes a big drink.

EDGAR

Let me ask you something.

JASON

Go ahead.

EDGAR

Name some events that changed the  
world. Changed it in a big way. A  
single thing that afterwards, left  
a world that was forever different.

JASON

OK. Well, there was the fall of Rome.

EDGAR

OK. What else?

JASON

I guess Pearl Harbor. And all the stuff around World War two.

EDGAR

OK.

JASON

I don't know. I saw a show once on the Vikings. I guess that was kind of big. Why?

EDGAR

Think about it. Each of those things were about destruction. Changes only really happen after destruction. I agree wholeheartedly that these aliens are going to change the world. I just think I'm the only one that understands what that means.

Jason thinks about this. Then they both turn to look at the sky again.

JASON

You might be wiser than all of us Edgar.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

PETER (30) sits on a sofa in the doctor's office. He is a mild mannered man, unremarkable. Across from him is DOCTOR BILLINGS (40), an attractive professional woman, taking notes.

DOCTOR BILLINGS

So you find the Arrival depressing? Why is that?

PETER

I don't know. I know I should be excited. Everyone else is. It's just... I don't know.

DOCTOR BILLINGS

Well, do the alien's scare you?

PETER

No, not really

(beat)

Well, maybe a little. But I think a lot of people are scared. I really don't think it's that.

DOCTOR BILLINGS

Well, what might it be?

Peter thinks for a bit.

PETER

I think it's kind of like that first Christmas, you know, after you find out that Santa isn't real.

She stops taking notes.

DOCTOR BILLINGS

That's an interest parallel. How so?

PETER

Well, it's still Christmas after all. There's still a tree. Still all the presents. Still your annoying relatives from Denver. Nothing really has changed, but it has.

DOCTOR BILLINGS

Go on.

PETER

Christmas is duller with no Santa. The lights are a bit less bright. The paper is more lackluster.

(beat)

Christmas loses it's wonder.

DOCTOR BILLINGS

I see. And you think that the aliens are like Santa?

PETER

In a way, yes. Although this time the problem is that we know they are real, not like Santa when we learn that he's not.

DOCTOR BILLINGS  
I'm not sure I follow you.

PETER  
OK. Think of it this way. Right now, until that door opens and... whatever, walks out, we have a certain wonder in the world. Is there life on other planets? If so, what are they like? Is there a God? Is there an afterlife? Believe, don't believe. But there is wonder. There is the ability for us each to let our imaginations fill in the blanks. We look up at the stars, and we wonder. Tomorrow, at noon, there are no blanks anymore. We will know.

DOCTOR BILLINGS  
Isn't that a good thing?

PETER  
Maybe. I guess so. I just kinda dread a world without wonder. Do I want to be a part of it?

DOCTOR BILLINGS  
There certainly must be other things to wonder about. For example, you asked if there's a God. This won't answer that.

PETER  
Won't it? I think it will. Once we know what they know, what they have seen, what they believe, there may be no room for our little beliefs. What happens to a world when the those beliefs, which brings hope to billions, disappear?

Doctor Billings thinks for a moment.

DOCTOR BILLINGS  
You know, now I feel a little depressed. You've made me think about something I never thought about, and kind of wish I hadn't.

The two sit silently, neither looking very happy.

INT. WOMAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

CONNIE (18) holds outfits up to herself in front of a full length mirror. She tries one, then another. She is vapidly pretty, and her closet is stuffed full of clothes.

SANDY (18) comes around the corner and sees her.

SANDY

Looks like someone has a big date planned.

CONNIE

It's for the Arrival.

SANDY

You're worried about what to wear?

CONNIE

I want to look my best. They might be cute.

SANDY

Cute? They're aliens. I'll be happy if they don't have eight arms.

CONNIE

Oh, don't be mean. Inclusion, remember? Shouldn't judge and all that?

SANDY

Sure, makes sense when we are talking about a guy in a bar that may look like a serial killer but actually likes to read Russian Lit. We're talking about aliens here.

CONNIE

And they shouldn't be judged by outward appearances.

She holds one dress up.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

What'ya think?

SANDY

You want to wear that one? With the plunging neckline? Are you trying to pick one of these creatures up?

She smiles.

CONNIE

Maybe. They are going to want to get to know us Earthlings. Why not try to catch their attention. Who knows. This could be my big break.

SANDY

To what? Interspecies reproduction?

CONNIE

Don't be crude. No, to fame. Imagine being the escort of one of these space men. Take them around town. Show them the sites. I'd be famous. People would want to interview me. "What are they like?" "What do you talk about?". I would be all over the TV.

Sandy shakes her head.

SANDY

I knew you were strange, but this takes it to a whole new level.

CONNIE

Well, I can live with that. Now help me. Which one, the red or the black? I'm thinking red.

Sandy throws up her hands and leaves.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Hey! Where're you going?

She looks in the mirror.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Red. Definately red.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

BILLY (16) packs a backpack. His hair is unkempt, he has piercings. Trouble seems to emit from his very being.

THOMAS (40), his father, and ELLEN (40) are watching him.

THOMAS

Should we talk to him?

ELLEN

To what end? You can tell he's made his mind up. He wants to see the aliens.

THOMAS

Yeah, I know, but he's only sixteen.

ELLEN

A very headstrong sixteen. But try. At least see if he'll let us go with him.

Thomas slowly walks over.

THOMAS

So, you've made up your mind?

Billy doesn't answer, just keeps packing.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Your mom and I understand. Really we do. We were young once.

Billy snorts derisively.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

It's true. We were. All evidence to the contrary. And we wanted to see the world.

BILLY

And you didn't. You got married, you got a job, and your life ended.

THOMAS

Now, son, that's pretty harsh.

BILLY

Maybe. But true. I'm not going to live your life. Never wanted to. And now? Well, now I have my big chance.

Thomas puts his hands on his son's hands to stop the packing.

THOMAS

Let's just wait a second. OK? You can pack later. Let's talk.

Billy reluctantly stops and sits down.

BILLY

I've got to do this. You see that, don't you?

THOMAS

I do. I really do. But that doesn't mean we can't discuss this. Like adults.

BILLY

OK. What do you want to discuss?

THOMAS

Well, first off, you can't do this alone. Let me take you to the Arrival. They may be friendly as can be, but people right here on Earth aren't. You could get in trouble.

Billy takes a deep breath.

BILLY

OK. That's fair. But don't try to stop me.

THOMAS

I promise. But let me ask you this. Have you really thought this through? I mean, we don't know that they even want to take people back to where ever they come from. Maybe their ship can't support us. We know nothing about them.

Billy jumps up.

BILLY

There you go. You promised. But already you're trying to talk me out of this.

THOMAS

No, son, I'm just asking you to be reasonable. Think about this.

BILLY

I have thought about it! I haven't thought about anything else since they contacted us. I want to go with them. I want to see the universe. You must get that.

(MORE)

BILLY (CONT'D)

You, and mom, you wanted to see the world. This is so much more. God, why don't you understand?

Ellen walks over and puts her arms around Billy.

ELLEN

But we might never see you again.

BILLY

Mom, it's OK. Life is full of uncertainty. I get that. But you have to let me do this. This is a once in a lifetime... no, scratch that. It's a once in history chance. I got to try. I just have to.

He takes his pack and heads down the hall. Thomas and Ellen look at each other.

ELLEN

Thomas, I can't lose my baby.'

Thomas gives her a hug.

THOMAS

I think we already have, dear. And to be honest, I get it. I really do.

INT. BAR - DAY

GENE (60) sits at the bar. He is worn down by life, drinking a beer, and ignoring everyone around him. The bar is sparsely populated, dark. A female BARTENDER (25) walks over.

BARTENDER

Another beer?

GENE

Sure, why not?

She fills a glass and gives it to him.

BARTENDER

Big day, huh?

GENE

If you say so.

BARTENDER

You're not excited?

GENE

About the  
(mocking)  
Arrival? No, I'm not excited.

BARTENDER

But it's big news. What do you  
think they will be like?

GENE

I really don't care.

BARTENDER

Don't care? How can you not care?

GENE

Why should I care?

BARTENDER

Well, I don't know. Cause they're  
aliens, I guess.

GENE

And what good does that do me?

BARTENDER

What do you mean?

GENE

Is it going to help me get my job  
back? Are they going to pay my  
bills? Will the Arrival make my  
bitch of a wife come back to me?

BARTENDER

Hey, I'm sorry about all those  
things. I really am. But this is  
bigger than you. It's bigger than  
me. This is about the whole world.

GENE

The whole world. That's great. Lot  
of good the whole world does me. I  
don't have time for the whole  
world. I don't care about the whole  
world. I care about me. Only me.  
And right now, things aren't going  
so good for me.

BARTENDER

(under her breath)  
Can't figure out why she left.

GENE

What was that?

BARTENDER

Nothing. Nothing. I was just thinking that maybe you need to lift your eyes a bit. Look to the horizon you know. Maybe the world will be a bit brighter.

GENE

Screw that.

BARTENDER

Well, I would like to hear what's happening. Mind if I turn on the radio. TV's busted.

GENE

Do what you want. I don't care.

BARTENDER

(under her breath)

Doesn't seem like you care about much.

She turns on the radio.

REPORTER (ON RADIO)

A huge crowd is gathered here for the Arrival. A tall, shiny ship stands in the middle of this vast plaza. The military is here, of course, in force. Soldiers, tanks, all on the ready. The field is full of well wishers. Signs are everywhere. Some are welcoming the aliens, some threatening. A few are jokes, probably hoping to get on TV. It's one big party here.

Today is a red letter day in the history of the world. Undetected by scientists until they reached out, an alien race has landed on Earth and is about to make first contact. We don't know anything about them. Where they're from. What they call themselves, or even why they want to meet us. We just know that in a few seconds, nothing will ever be the same again.

BARTENDER

So exciting...

Gene shrugs.

GENE

Figure I'm going to have to pay for something, somehow. Always happens.

REPORTER

How will tomorrow be different than today? What will we know then that we don't know now? We are about to find out. We are about to be the first humans to accurately get an idea of our place in the universe. All we know for sure, is that this will unite all of Mankind in a way nothing before every could.

Suddenly there is a loud whistle. The bartender looks at Gene, scared.

GENE

See. Told you.

The whistle stops.

REPORTER

The ship emitted some sort of sound, but that has stopped now. The door is opening. It's happening. It's really happening. The age of the Aliens is about to begin...

FADE OUT.

THE END