

Zaltha

by

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FADE IN:

Newspaper clippings from the small town show the P.I., Dennis, at various stages of his career. One of them reads: local man finds missing boy. Another one reads: P.I. Finds stolen car. Another reads: "He's done it again" as a cop leads away a man in handcuffs.

(Lettering on the screen)

Sometime in the future a rogue pilot has stolen plans to make the ultimate weapon: a planet made solely for war...

EXT. SPACE STATION - NIGHT

There is a huge shadowy space station near Earth bustling with activity. There is a large circular middle section, as well as different hubs that stretch out from the middle section.

INT. ROGUE PILOT SHIP - NIGHT

ROGUE PILOT, 20s, looks at a small hologram of a planet as he waits in a line of fighter ships ready to take off from the launch catapult. He snaps it shut as a loud BUZZING ALARM warns him that it's his turn to launch.

He takes off into space.

BEAT.

A 3d map on his screen appears that shows a nav point pathway to Earth. He pushes a few buttons on his console.

BEAT.

Many red enemy signatures suddenly flash all over his screen.

ROGUE PILOT

Shit!

Six ships start to chase him at top speed. He speeds away. They fire on him and barely miss as he flies way down with his ship.

BEAT. They continue firing on him but then he launches a deterrent out of the back of his ship that their missiles explode into. He keeps flying away but they keep up with him easily.

They fire on him and he's hit and loses control of his ship and crashes down onto the earth's surface, he lands on top of a farm field and plows through 15 feet of wheat field before coming to a stop. He's slumped over, and the inside of his ship is totaled.

INT. DENNIS'S OFFICE - DAY

The roomy office has a nice view of a forest from big open windows. Diplomas from various colleges hang on the walls.

DENNIS, 30, tall, types away at his desk.

There is a KNOCK on the door.

DENNIS

Come in.

KATHLEEN, 20s, pretty, walks over to him.

KATHLEEN

Are you busy?

DENNIS

No, what's up?

KATHLEEN

I have some new cases for you.

Dennis nods. Kathleen puts in a holodisc in a computer. It lights up and projects an image in front of them of a middle-aged man running from a bank carrying banks of money.

There is another KNOCK on the door, and without waiting for an answer, LEWIS, 20s, short, average height, enters the room and almost trips over a file cabinet. He smiles as he gets up, walks over to Dennis, and extends his hand.

LEWIS

I'm here for the job. It's my first day!

Dennis shakes his head as he smokes.

DENNIS

Sit down.

The image is cut out as another one is projected with CURLY, short and skinny, a local trouble maker, with an evil glint in his eye, has broken out of jail again.

DENNIS

That's the one.

He jerks up out of his chair, walks through the doorway, and slams the door behind him.

Lewis jerks to his feet.

LEWIS

Wait, I'll go with you!

He looks at Kathleen.

LEWIS

When do I get a gun?

Kathleen shakes her head.

INT. DENNIS'S CAR - NIGHT

Dennis's car is fancy and has switches all over the interior. A screen sits in the middle of the dash.

He drives on a narrow road that has thick trees on either side of it like the beginning of manic mansion.

The movie screen changes to a view of Curly at a distance. Curly is standing in an open field with a few trees around him.

Kathleen's face lights up on the dash screen.

KATHLEEN

Dennis, don't do this, he might not be alone.

DENNIS

I have to, I don't want him to hurt anyone. He's after blood money and he doesn't care who gets in his way.

KATHLEEN

You can't face him by yourself.

DENNIS

I'm not afraid of him.

Dennis pushes a switch and a google earth map that looks real appears. He steps on the accelerator. He ZOOMS away.

EXT. AURORA CITY - NIGHT

Aurora is small, about two blocks. A couple of run-down office buildings and an old bank form a pathway to a factory. Dennis looks around a large rock and sees Curly and KIM, 25, attractive, in cover. A bomb EXPLODES, and the door vanishes, spraying shards of metal everywhere. Smoke fills the air all around them. Dennis runs over and hops in his car.

INT. DENNIS'S CAR - NIGHT

Curly, clad in a dark suit, looks back and sees Dennis speeding towards them.

CURLY

Run!

Curly grabs Kim's arm and they run towards the bank.

Dennis pushes a button and a targeting system starts to track Curly through the smoke. It has trouble locking on as Curly is running at full speed.

It finally locks on with a loud beep and Dennis fires.

A small missile streaks out, making a screeching noise, and causes an explosion but just misses curly.

Curly reaches under his jacket and pulls out a gun and FIRES three times but the bullets bounce harmlessly off the car. He reaches the bank door and he and Kim dash inside.

BEAT.

Dennis roars his car to a stop and runs inside.

INT. BANK - NIGHT

The long hallway is quiet and there are a few doors on each end of the hall. Dennis keeps to the shadows. He opens the door and looks to a large winding staircase leading down. He pads down the stairway and sees a giant vault door at the end of a long hallway. Curly struggles to open the door and Kim watches behind him.

Dennis creeps up to them and tries to subdue him with a sleeper hold, Curly struggles to break free as Kim comes up behind him and Dennis kicks her in the face knocking her down and then knocks Curly out with a strong punch.

He pulls them to their feet and handcuffs them.

EXT. SERVICE STATION - DAY

ANDY, 40, hooded and dressed in black velvet robes, slowly flies his sleek-looking personal size ship to land next to an old building in the middle of nowhere. He walks down the ramp.

BILLY, 60s, wearing a full-length gas station uniform looks scared as Andy walks over to him.

ANDY

I'm looking for a ship that landed near here. Did you see it?

Billy shakes his head.

BILLY

No, I didn't see no ship.

Andy gets real close to him.

ANDY

Are you sure?

His eyes start to glow red. BEAT.

Billy holds his head and starts to moan.

BILLY

Ok, ok, stop it man, stop it! I saw a light or something in the sky and it crashed in the forest near here.

Andy's eyes stop glowing. Billy slumps over gasping for breath.

ANDY

Don't tell anyone I was here.

Andy flips up his wrist communicator.

ANDY

Guards, get down here, now.

EXT. CORN FIELD - NIGHT

The wreck of the rogue pilot's spaceship is on the ground in a farm field.

Andy walks up with his guards to the ship.

Guard #1 WHISTLES.

GUARD #1

What happened?

ANDY

He fucking crashed, that's what happened.

Andy reaches down and opens the cockpit. He takes the helmet off the pilot and sees his lifeless face.

ANDY

Shit.

BEAT.

ANDY

His death won't be in vain. He died to give us this.

He goes through the pilot's body and pulls out a small device and opens it to reveal the small holographic planet. Andy and his guards look intently at it.

ANDY

This is the key to the universe.

BEAT.

ANDY

We better take this back to base.

They board his ship and it takes off high into the sky.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Dennis and Lewis are sitting in bar stools at the bar. There is only one other patron sitting by herself in the whole place. Some sad music plays on the jukebox.

The 3d Projector shows Andy overpowering many people at once with a psychic blast and his guards dragging them away into a gap in a forest.

Analysis on screen: No one seems to know who he is or where he came from.

LEWIS
Are you going to take the case?

DENNIS
No.

Lewis takes a sip of his drink.

LEWIS
Dennis, at least think about it, I heard that there's a big reward.

LEWIS
Please. Let's get him. Let's get the bad guy.

DENNIS
I can't. He's too dangerous.

BEAT.

DENNIS
I'm sorry.

Lewis stands up.

LEWIS
Unbelievable.

He leaves briskly, slamming the door shut behind him.

EXT. SECRET SMALL TOWN - EVENING

Kathleen, taking matters into her own hands to look for the missing people, walks briskly on the sidewalk. There is no one around.

BEAT.

Andy and a guard step out of the shadows and start to follow her.

BEAT.

Kathleen turns around and sees them behind her, she starts to run.

Andy and his guard run after her and catch her.

She hits them with her purse repeatedly. Her blows don't hurt them. As she pulls mace from her purse, Andy hits it out of her hand. He hooks his leg around behind her and

hits her in the chest with a palm strike. She falls back and hits her head on the concrete and is knocked out.

Andy pushes a button and his ship flies in, Andy's guard picks up Kathleen and they board it.

The ship flies far away into the distance. BEAT.

INT. DENNIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

(A couple days later)

Dennis is pacing around his living room. He has his cell-phone to his ear.

The phone RINGS.

DENNIS

Hi Kathleen, can you please answer...please-

The phone PICKS UP.

ANDY (OS)

Hello Dennis.

DENNIS

You! Where's Kathleen?

ANDY (OS)

She's right here.

INT. ANDY'S BASE - NIGHT

Kathleen is bruised and bloody, she's tied up against the wall in Andy's base. She looks defeated.

DENNIS

If you touch her-

ANDY

You'll do WHAT?

Andy and his guards LAUGH.

ANDY

Take me to jail? If you want her back, you know where I am.

The phone HANGS UP and then DIALTONE.

EXT. PIER - DAY

The pier is gloomy and foggy with a few boats docked. Dennis is walking by himself. He picks up his Iphone.

DENNIS

It's me.

LEWIS
Hey buddy, what's going on?

DENNIS
Kathleen's been kidnapped
by Andy

BEAT.

DENNIS
I have to get her back, she means a
lot to me.

LEWIS
I don't know man, that doesn't seem
like a good idea. I've been
thinking about it and you're right,
this Andy is way too dangerous.

DENNIS
But we have to, we can start at
stable, where she was last seen.

LEWIS
This isn't a good idea man.

DENNIS
We'll find her.

EXT. STABLE - DUSK

Dennis and Lewis walk into a small town controlled by Andy.
It is crowded, people walk up and down the sidewalk. BEAT.

A man wearing Andy's symbol grabs a woman's bag and runs
down the sidewalk to a waiting car.

LADY
Help! Thief! Help!

The man jumps into the car and it ZOOMS off.

A few people glance over at the lady, but there is no
reaction from the crowd, they just keep walking around
minding their own business.

DENNIS
What the hell?

LEWIS
Let's get him!

They run over to Dennis's fancy car and follow the speeding
car quickly out of town. It disappears over a small hill
ahead of them.

They follow it into a big open field, there isn't much on
either side of the road. The other car is getting away.

Dennis triggers his supercharger and the whole interior of the car lights up and he speeds up and manages to force the other car to the side of the road. The driver of the other car is out cold.

Dennis grabs the henchman out of the car and takes a mind-reading device out. He holds it up to the henchman.

The henchman looks scared.

DENNIS

Let's see where you're from.

The man starts shaking.

HENCHMAN

I'll never tell you!

DENNIS

I think you will.

BEAT.

The henchman's eyes widen with fear.

A blurry vision vision onscreen of a memory of a forest with a portal at the end of it.

Dennis turns the device off. The henchman collapses.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF FORBIDDEN FOREST - NIGHT

The forest is pitch dark. There is a path that looks old that leads into the forest.

Dennis and Lewis walk on the path into the forest.

EXT. FORBIDDEN FOREST - NIGHT

Tall trees surround them. Something big can be heard nearby. As they continue walking there is a RUSTLING behind them, they turn around but don't see anything.

LEWIS

What was that?

DENNIS

I don't know.

They keep walking. BEAT.

They reach a sign at a fork in the path that leads either right or left. The sign is illegible.

DENNIS

Shit.

They walk on the right path and the forest gets thicker.

LEWIS

Aren't we supposed to be out of
here by now?

A shadowy figure camouflaged to look like he's part of a hill
appears and changes into an alien with an indistinguishable
face.

DENNIS

Quiet!

A red dot appears on Lewis's head.

Dennis pushes Lewis down as a missile blows up the tree
where he just was.

DENNIS

Run!

Dennis and Lewis CRASH through the forest. They keep
running and they can see the edge of the forest, 100 yards
ahead of them, where there is an opening and light from the
rising sun trickles in.

The alien's missile launcher loads and he fires another
rocket at them. It just wizzes over their heads. (the alien
is young}

Dennis fires back BANG BANG BANG BANG but misses.

Everyone keeps running.

Dennis pushes a hidden button as he and Lewis burst through
the opening, the alien freezes into place.

A portal made of swirling darkness contrasts with the light
of the dawn sky.

DENNIS

This is it!

They step into the portal.

EXT. ZALTHA - DUSK

The town is very old. There are crumbled buildings
scattered all over in the immediate vicinity. The landscape
is grass. There is a motionless body by the road. A
stunning tower that looks suspiciously like the tower of
Dubai is a long way in front of them.

Dennis kneels to check the pulse of the first body and
shakes his head at Lewis. Dennis gets up and he and Lewis
keep walking down the path.

BEAT

A couple people walk towards them down the path with vacant expressions.

LEWIS
Are you guys ok?

POSSESSED PERSON
Fuck off.

The possessed people keep walking.

LEWIS
That wasn't very nice.

EXT. ZALTHA - NIGHT

A large army waits below them as they look up from behind a rock where they are hiding. There are a couple towers with roaming searchlights that cover every inch of space.

A guard patrols ahead of them. They brace against a wall as he walks by. A searchlight almost lands on Lewis but Dennis pulls him back.

They almost make it to the entrance of the tower but then a guard spots them on a bridge they're crossing to get to the tower and shines his flashlight on them.

The guard's gun is raised.

GUARD #1
You guys are dead.

Andy watches from a staircase above.

ANDY
Impossible.

Andy triggers an alarm WOMP WOMP WOMP

ANDY
Shoot them! Don't let them get away!

Andy disappears as chaos ensues.

Waves of soldiers start to run towards them.

Dennis does a force push and the guard holding the gun falls off the edge into the deep abyss below.

Dennis and Lewis run towards the tower.

INT. TOWER - NIGHT

Dennis and Lewis pound up the stairs to the top of the tower.

A door cuts off Lewis.

Another door slams shut behind Dennis.

INT. ANDY'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

The room is pitch black.

Andy appears illuminated high above Dennis in a circular pedestal in the middle of the room.

Dennis lowers his weapon and walks up the stairs to him.

Andy swings his laser sword and Dennis blocks it.

They duel for a bit then Andy steps down onto a ramp and disappears. Dennis looks for him.

EXT. TOP OF THE TOWER - NIGHT

The view is awesome as there are mountains in the background. The city can be seen below them.

The kidnapped people are in breathing chambers around the room. They are all unconscious, Kathleen is there as well and is unconscious in a breathing chamber. Lewis lies on the floor unconscious.

A massive flagship is there waiting to take the kidnapped people to the new planet.

DENNIS

Kathleen?

He walks up to her and puts his hand on the glass. He looks at her.

Andy jumps Dennis out of nowhere.

They skirmish.

Dennis eventually counters a move and knocks Andy to the ground, knocking his helmet off.

Andy gets up and reveals his face. His face is twisted and evil.

DENNIS

Andy? What happened to you? You were my best friend when we were kids but now you've turned to darkness.

ANDY

My master gave me all this. He showed me what true power is.

Andy raises his hand and points and a huge fireball rushes towards Dennis. Dennis dives out of the way as it explodes.

The room catches on fire.

They then skirmish with greater vigor and guards swarm in and charge towards Dennis.

All looks lost.

Just before the guards reach him Dennis destroys the source of power that's been controlling Andy and all the possessed people.

They turn back to normal. Everyone is ok.

The breathing chambers open up. Kathleen runs over and hugs Dennis.

BEAT.

LEWIS (V.O.)

There's always good in the world,
no matter how bad things look.

FADE OUT