

BORN TO THE STARS

by David CCS Erickson

SECOND DRAFT

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david@superok.com
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FADE IN:

1.

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

1a.

INSERT - Computer screen with map. A RED DOT blips onto the screen.

JAY (V.O.)

I spent thirty years in government service, dealing with intelligence, surveillance, covert operations.

BACK TO SCENE

JAY sits legs up at his small, cluttered desk, doing a crossword. Jay is a wiry, government-issue junior bureaucrat.

JAY (V.O.)

If a KGB mole sneezed in his coffee, I knew about it. If some lonely geek hacked into the NSA mainframe grid, I made the phone call to his mother.

BEEP. Jay checks out a screen, picks up the phone.

JAY

Yeah, I see it. Probably another flock of geese. Well don't scramble a jet, call the Park Service.

Jay hangs up, shaking his head.

JAY (V.O.)

After that many years of paranoia and constant vigilance, you get a little cynical, you get kinda burned out.

Jay scrawls on his crossword. His pencil breaks.

JAY (V.O.)
You get sloppy.

Jay examines the broken lead.

JAY (V.O.)
And that's dangerous.

2.

EXT. STONE ARCH BRIDGE FRONTAGE ROAD - NIGHT

CLARA bounces along, a Walmart clerk off the clock. She's on her cell phone.

CLARA
Come on, dammit, pick up.

3.

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

Jay finally picks up the phone.

INTERCUT

JAY
Clara, don't call me at the office. I told you, it's a security --

CLARA
Look, Jay, I missed my bus, okay? Now walking the bridge is gonna make me late for my programs.

JAY
Yeah?

CLARA
So why don't you skip out for ten minutes and give me a ride home?

JAY
It takes more than ten minutes.

CLARA
What?

JAY

It takes more than -- you know. I can't just leave my post.

CLARA

Jesus, you work downtown. Ten minutes, you won't take ten minutes to help me out?

JAY

I could lose my job.

CLARA

They're never gonna fire you, you were practically born there. They love you.

JAY

Clara --

CLARA

Just forget it, okay. Forget it!

Jay hangs up the phone, goes back to his crossword.

3a.

INSERT - A red blip appears on the screen.

Jay's phone rings. Jay covers one ear as he works on his crossword.

4.

EXT. STONE ARCH BRIDGE - NIGHT

Clara heads out onto the STONE ARCH BRIDGE.

JAY (V.O.)

I couldn't say that the government of the United States loved me. But it was a good job. And Clara and I had only been seeing each other for a few weeks.

Clara hurries along the bridge.

JAY (V.O.)

Of course she was my first steady girl since the ninth grade. But I had a job to do.

A BRIGHT LIGHT descends on Clara, SOUND F/X.

A SCREAM.

5.

INT. JAY'S CAR - DAY

Jay drives, Clara sits across from him, staring out the window.

JAY
So what did the doctor say?

CLARA
Nothing.

JAY
What? What do you --

CLARA
Nothing. They didn't find anything.

JAY
Well ... maybe nothing happened.

CLARA
You don't believe me either.

JAY
I'm sorry, but -- inseminated by aliens?

CLARA
I know it happened! I know it happened!

JAY
But there's no evidence --

CLARA
What do you want, a souvenir? An ashtray? A refrigerator magnet that says I got screwed by aliens? For chrissake, Jay, they had their way with me. Pull over.

JAY
What?

CLARA
Pull over, I'm walking.

Jay pulls over.

JAY
Clara --

CLARA
All you had to do was pick me up
and drive me home. If you hadn't
made me walk across that goddamn
bridge --

JAY
Nobody held a gun to your head.

CLARA
No, they held a death ray to my
head. And threatened to incinerate
the warehouse district and parts
of Uptown if I didn't give in. I
gave up my Alien virginity --

JAY
Alien virginity?

CLARA
-- so that others could live.

JAY
What the hell is Alien virginity?

CLARA
Jay.

JAY
I mean, how many kinds of
virginity are there?

6.

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

Jay works on his crossword.

OVERLAY: "48 hours later"

JAY (V.O.)

She told quite a story, did my Clara. But she believed every word. There was no denying it, she believed it happened. I racked my brains for an explanation. Hallucinogenic drugs, a sharp blow to the head, too much diet soda. Nothing added up to insemination by aliens. I tried to concentrate on my work.

PHONE RINGS.

JAY

Station five seven one, Agent Miller speaking.

VOICE (V.O. FILTER)

Jay.

JAY

Yes, this is Agent Jay Miller

VOICE (V.O. FILTER)

Is Clara there?

JAY

What?

VOICE (V.O. FILTER)

We miss her.

JAY

Who is this?

VOICE (V.O. FILTER)

Is Clara there?

JAY

Look, this is an office of the Federal Government, and capricious dialing of an unlisted Homeland Security phone number is a Federal Offense ... now can I help you?

VOICE (V.O. FILTER)

... is Clara there?

JAY
No, Clara is not here. This is an
unlisted --

VOICE (V.O. FILTER)
Can you tell me --

JAY
Yes?

VOICE (V.O. FILTER)
Is she --

JAY
Yes?

VOICE (V.O. FILTER)
Is she seeing anyone?

Jay hangs up, shakes his head.

JAY
(to himself)
Some people have no respect for
the hard working employees of
Uncle Sam ... three letter word
for heel or ingrate.

PHONE RINGS

Jay picks up.

JAY
Now look here, I thought --

CLARA (V.O. FILTER)
Jay you have to drive me to the
hospital, you have to come over
here and drive me to the hospital.

JAY
Clara, what's wrong?

CLARA (V.O. FILTER)
I'm in labor, that's what's wrong.

JAY
Clara, you just think you --

CLARA (V.O. FILTER)
AAAARGH -- Jay, I'm having
contractions.

JAY
Hang up and call an ambulance.

CLARA (V.O. FILTER)
I'm not taking an ambulance. You
are gonna drive me to the hospital
and you are gonna stand there with
your forty-five semi-automatic
sidearm and you are gonna arrest
whatever the hell comes out of me.

7.

INT. JAY'S CAR - DAY

Clara is in the back seat, legs up on the front seats.

CLARA
Can't you drive any faster?

JAY
Clara, we should've called an
ambulance.

CLARA
If you had picked me up from work
this never would have --

JAY
I know, I know, you've made me
more than sufficiently aware of --

CLARA
Arrrrr! I think it's coming out.

JAY
Clara, it's only been two days.

CLARA
Maybe that's all it takes, maybe
Alien babies mature faster than
human babies.

JAY
This is insane, my girlfriend's
giving birth to a baby alien in
the back of my --

CLARA
AAAAAhhhhhh! It's coming out! It's
coming out!

BABY NOISES, strangely different from the usual.

JAY
What's going on back there, should
I pull over?

CLARA
Go to the bridge.

JAY
What? Are you insane. I should
call my boss, this is way over my
--

CLARA
We have to go to the bridge, right
now!

JAY
Alright, alright.

The baby WAILS grow louder.

8.

EXT. STONE ARCH BRIDGE - NIGHT

Clara runs along the bridge, baby in arms.

An eerie glow descends from the sky.

Clara stops and looks up. She lifts up the baby and it
ascends towards the glow.

Jay joins her at the bridge.

JAY
You're giving it to them?

CLARA
They promised me he'd get a good
education and job skills mentoring
when he's older.

JAY
What about us?

Clara turns to Jay.

CLARA

There is no us, Jay.

She touches his face tenderly.

CLARA

I'm sorry. Goodbye.

Clara starts to ascend.

JAY

Wait! We can work this out. I think you're making a hasty decision. An ill-advised decision. A decision you might regret for --

VOICE (O.S. LOUDSPEAKER)

Jay.

JAY

What?

VOICE (O.S. LOUDSPEAKER)

You've been a real mensch about this, don't screw it up by getting all macho. It's just not worth it. It's time to move on. There's just no chemistry. You two have grown apart. You need time to yourself --

Jay claps his hand over his ears.

JAY

No more cliches! Stop the cliches!

VOICE (O.S. LOUDSPEAKER)

The thrill is gone, the shine is off the apple, that was then, this is now, She's finding herself, she's striking out on her own --

Jay staggers away.

VOICE (O.S. LOUDSPEAKER)

-- it's not you it's her, it's not her, it's you, there's no spark, there's no magic, it was fun while it lasted, the party's over, you were just two ships passing in the night...

9.

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

Jay, as usual, a little more haggard and disheveled. He scribbles on his crossword disinterestedly.

JAY (V.O.)

We put up walls, we build fences.
We launch our missiles and deploy
our troops. It's easy to defend
against an enemy armed for combat.
It's much harder to defend against
an attack on the human heart.
Don't take your loved ones for
granted, don't forget to tell your
sweetheart how you feel everyday.
Or one day she'll find love in
some new and exciting place.

10.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

An alien spaceship flies away among the stars.

JAY (V.O.)

A place you can never go.

FADE OUT.