

BORN TO THE STARS

by David CCS Erickson

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FADE IN:

"MINGFILM"

"L5 PARTNERS"

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

A cluttered corner of a bleak bureaucracy.

Jay Kapstan sits, feet up, doing the crossword. He is a jaded civil servant who only believes enough in his job to show up and punch the clock.

C.U. - Jay's security badge. "Homeland Security", etc...

PHONE RINGS. Jay picks up after two rings.

JAY

Station one forty six, Officer Kapstan ... right.

JAY (V.O.)

All my life I was haunted. By a feeling of being different. Separate. Alone.

JAY

Yeah, we're scanning from Redwing to up past the Washington bridge. Right. I'll keep an eye on the doppler. Sure thing.

Jay hangs up the phone, returns to his crossword. Glances at a screen.

INT. JAY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jay sleeps, fitfully changes position.

JAY (V.O.)

A feeling of not belonging in a world that no one seemed to belong in.

INT. JAY'S BATHROOM - DAY

Jay shaves, rubs his face.

JAY (V.O.)
I chalked it up to stress induced
angst. Existential neurosis.

Jay brushes his teeth

JAY (V.O.)
I decided long ago that the
inmates were running the asylum.
It was the only explanation that
jibed with the facts.

INT. JAY'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Jay screws a light bulb into a fixture.

JAY (V.O.)
But I decided, that didn't bother
me. After all, I figured if we
were all crazy, maybe that made
everything all right.

The light glows on. Jay contemplates it.

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

Jay scrawls on his crossword, checks his watch.

JAY (V.O.)
And I didn't want to rock the
boat. No point to it. Until I
started remembering.

EXT. STROLLER - DAY

Little Jay is sitting in a stroller, rolling happily along.

A flickering light flashes across Little Jay's face.

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

Jay is working a crossword.

INSERT - The crossword. Filling in the word "ALIEN".

MONTAGE -

1. The Stone Arch Bridge.

2. Little Jay

3. The space ship

INT. JAY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jay wakes up.

JAY
I'd never had dreams before. Ever.
I was scared.

INT. JAY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jay stands at the sink, listening to the phone.

VOICE (V.O.)
Mr. Kapstan, your tests show a
normal brain scan, although you
have unusually high cortical
activity. Is there a history of
epilepsy or other seizure
disorders in your family?

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

Jay works on his crossword, but he fidgets, seems restless.

JAY (V.O.)
Normal. In a way it was
disappointing. It left me with
phantoms, ghosts, shadows. At
least a brain tumor would have
been a problem I could understand.

PHONE RINGS. Jay picks up.

JAY
Station one forty s -- what? Which
scanner? Hold on, checking,
checking.

Jay fiddles with the computer.

INSERT - COMPUTER SCREEN: a red, flashing dot appears over a
map.

JAY

Are you sure it isn't birds? It's not moving fast enough for jet fighters. Right. I better go.

INT. JAY'S CAR - DAY

Jay speeds along.

JAY (V.O.)

I was responding to a bogie heading south towards the central downtown area. Usually these turned out to be weather ballons or large flocks of geese. But I had a feeling it was something else.

EXT. STONE ARCH BRIDGE - DAY

Jay exits his car. Approaches the bridge.

JAY (V.O.)

I knew the sound of it before I heard it. I knew the shape of it before I saw it come down from the sky. I felt its vibration the way a child feels the beat of its mother's heart while it's still in the womb.

The Space Ship descends, hovers.

JAY (V.O.)

And then, I remembered.

INT. LITTLE JAY'S CRIB - DAY

SLOW TRACK IN, C.U. on LITTLE JAY

ALIEN VOICE (O.S.)

You will ascend from your earthly cocoon and join your sisters and brothers aboard our star ship.

Little Jay HICCUPS.

ALIEN VOICE (O.S.)

You will travel the galaxy and visit strange worlds and see many wondrous things.

Little Jay HICCUPS.

ALIEN VOICE (O.S.)
And you will be loved.

EXT. STONE ARCH BRIDGE - DAY

INTERCUT - Jay watches the Ship.

EXT. STONE ARCH BRIDGE FLASHBACK - NIGHT

Scratchy, jumpy image. A memory.

JAY (V.O.)
I don't remember much about my
mother. They told me she died when
I was very young. They lied. They
didn't really know what happened
to her.

Babies ascend from the bridge.

A Space ship descends from above.

JAY (V.O.)
How could they know I was sired by
a being from another planet. And
my mother had joined them, to live
among the stars.

One baby can't seem to rise, stays on the ground.

JAY (V.O.)
I was left behind. I was left on
this lonely, out-lyer world, full
of chaos and confusion. A world
that was never mine to live in.

Little Jay lies on the bridge, the LIGHTS and SOUND fade.

EXT. STONE ARCH BRIDGE - DAY

Jay approaches the Space Ship.

JAY (V.O.)
But I was remembered.

Jay stands beneath the hovering craft, extends his arms.

JAY (V.O.)
It was time to go home.

Jay is pulled up into the Space Ship, which hovers longer, then flies off into the sky.

EXT. SPACE

The space ship hurtles into space.

JAY (V.O.)

And now I travel the galaxy. And I
leave you to your world, for I
have many more to explore. And out
there among the stars is the one
world I will call home.

OVERLAY TITLE: "BORN TO THE STARS"

FADE OUT.

Roll Credits.