

ALIEN NEIGHBORS FROM OUTER SPACE

A feature film treatment

Written by Erik Schmudde

LOGLINE

A sci-fi/comedy in the vein of *The Artist* and *Ed Wood*, ALIEN NEIGHBORS FROM OUTER SPACE tells the story of two scientists who suspect alien influence when an unidentified object crashes in the desert near a small town.

STORY

SPECIAL NOTE: This treatment was written in 1953 (or that's how I approached it). The film stock, camera movements, lighting, set design, and special effects were envisioned with what was available during that era of filmmaking. The dialogue will be quick, poetic, and a tad cheesy but performed with seriousness.

MILKY WAY GALAXY. The vast sea of stars creates a flat backdrop. The title invades:

ALIEN NEIGHBORS FROM OUTER SPACE COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

Theremin playing. Credits crawl over outer space until a pale blue dot known as Planet Earth (or a globe) comes into view. We move closer:

North America. United States. Southern California.

Shadows from the outer edge of mountains blanket miles of rocky terrain at dusk. They inch closer toward a quaint town at the center of the valley.

TOM (V.O.)

This is Arnold, California. It was a quiet town hidden beneath a nameless ridge. Like a critter, sunning upon the desert rock. And at a time when the sun and moon share the sky it still has its foreseeable future.

TWO LIGHT BEAMS race across the dark terrain, weaving around the rock with fluidity and ease.

Otherworldly, perhaps?

ALIEN NEIGHBORS—ERIK SCHMUDDE

Not at all. The beams are headlights guiding a bullet-nosed Studebaker Commander along a desert highway. It rolls past a large wooden sign reading, *Welcome to Arnold. America's hometown.*

SUPER: FALL. 1953.

INSIDE HAUSEN SQUARE. The Townsfolk are having a blast. American-made cars cruise down Bradbury Lane showcasing their vibrant colors. Families pack the sidewalks and stores. Life is good in this postwar era, a generation on the cusp of rock and roll.

AT EMMA'S DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT. A neon sign buzzes. 'Legs the Carhop' flashes her tray of burgers and leads the Studebaker into the parking lot of a circular building at the north end of the street.

The car puttters into a vacant space. Lights reflect on the windshield as it pulls to a stop. The driver-side door opens and out steps a pair of dusted elevator shoes accompanied by a gray flannel suit.

TOM ELLOWBELL: A scientist in his 30s who believes only in scientifically proven principles. He's a geologist, specifically geochronology, which studies Earth's history through geologic events. He's a good-hearted yellow belly who speaks only the truth. A man who portrays the elegance (and looks) of Cary Grant with the bungling poise of Don Knotts.

A delicate hand with an engagement ring (maybe ¼ carat in good light) extends from the car and waits to be taken. It points, flutters, and snaps, but to no avail. The hand punches Tom, and he scrambles to help a young woman slide across the passenger seat and exit from the driver's side.

GRETA ADAMS: A fellow scientist in her 30s. She was the perfect blend of beauty, intelligence, and strength, much like the famous starlet she was named after. Where Tom falls short in life, Greta exceeds. But she loves him too much to let him know.

Greta is displeased with Tom's choice of dining venue, and this is not the ideal place to dine after an engagement. They bicker and laugh. Then through a witty maneuver, Greta leads Tom into believing *he* wants to take her to a place more suited for a celebration.

TOM

That's what I love about you, darling. You're always one step behind me.

GRETA

(A knowing smile)
As it should be, Tom.

Tom and Greta leave the car and stroll leisurely around Hausen Square.

AT THE MEAT MARKET. Tom and Greta exchange hellos with the BUTCHER, a cross-eyed portly man who often speaks through the side-of-his-mouth, as he carries packaged meat to the car for MRS. BOBOWSKI, an elderly polish woman.

AT BUTCH'S THEATER. Tom and Greta approach a group of townsfolk waiting to purchase movie tickets for *The War of the Worlds*, including the SMITHS, your All-American nuclear family. Mr. Smith offers Tom a position at his advertising agency. Tom declines.

Behind the Smiths, TWO HOUSEWIVES gossip about Greta, referring to her as a social outcast and commenting on her decision to get a college education instead of becoming June Cleaver.

Tom and Greta approach the side entrance where SWIFTY JOHNSON, a black man always seen with a harmonica in hand, stands with his wife ANNABELLE in their segregated line (even though they're the only black family in Arnold). While other white families pass quickly, Tom gives a friendly hello before kicking over the sidewalk's 'Colored Entrance Only' sign.

Swiftly nods. Then he starts playing a somber tune on his harmonica.

AT W.C.E. TELEVISION AND RADIO STORE. Tom and Greta come across a restless crowd blocking the sidewalk. People are pushing each other to get a clear view of the display window and the latest Zenith 21" Color TV/Radio inside.

Tom notices the SHERIFF, a tough, rugged, waddling stuffed sausage ready to burst at the seams, standing to the side. He approaches.

TOM

What's all the commotion, Sheriff?

SHERIFF

Soviets tested another bomb.

Hushes guide everyone to silence.

ON THE ZENITH TELEVISION. News anchor JOHN CAMERON SWAYZE begins his nightly broadcast of *Camel News Caravan with John Cameron Swayze*. He tells his viewers that earlier today, President Eisenhower confirmed to the American public that the Soviets had successfully tested a hydrogen bomb.

ALGER, a tall, scrawny man with a nasal voice, addresses the crowd passionately about the Cold War. Every word exhumes the negativity of the red-scare era. He's fueled by his friends, JULIUS, and KLAUS, two pale-faced men who resemble walking-dead beanpoles. All three preach how Communist spies live amongst them and how atomic warfare can strike homes and schools anytime. People start to believe Alger.

Tom and Greta leave. Greta shares her concern about atomic warfare. Tom believes Arnold is far from a threat and that television has changed the landscape of time and space. The immediate

danger was once distant but now hides on the other side of the mountain. That said, they cannot live in fear, and at this moment, all Tom cares about is having a romantic dinner with his new fiancé.

THAT NIGHT. Thunder rolls. Lightning flashes appear in the distance. The neon sign from Emma's Drive-in shuts off.

The town of Arnold is asleep.

AT TOM'S HOUSE LATER THAT NIGHT. Tom wakes in a cold sweat, a telepathic urge perhaps. Swirling light filters through the wooden blinds and illuminates the bedroom in flashes. Tom moves towards the window and into the horizontal shadows. He peeks between the blinds. His eyes grow wide.

AT THE SHERIFF'S STATION. Phone rings. The Sheriff answers and is greeted by a frantic Tom. The Sheriff gets annoyed by the conversation and hangs up. He moves to the window and looks out. His expression changes to fear. He runs to the thunderbolt siren (air-raid siren).

And a SERIES OF WAILING TONES alerts Arnold of immediate danger.

People jump awake, quickly concluding the Soviets have launched a nuclear attack. They run outdoors and look to the sky. A MYSTERIOUS SPIRAL ANOMALY—a blue beam with a gray spiral stemming from one end—is heading toward Arnold. They react. A few people run to their bomb shelters, while the less fortunate return indoors and get into the duck-and-cover position.

Tom runs through the chaos to Greta's house, which is isolated from the others. Greta calls him from her bedroom window, and Tom climbs inside and holds her dramatically in his arms. Strong winds swirl through the blinds, and they duck for cover.

The mysterious spiral anomaly takes out the telephone lines before crashing into the desert.

Smoke and fire fill the screen.

Then silence. Arnold is desolate. The ambient sound of a slow TICKING CLOCK is heard, indicating the passing of time. TICK... TOCK... TICK... TOCK...

AT GRETA'S HOUSE. Tom and Greta look through the blinds. Smoke rises from the desert. Tom concludes this couldn't have been a nuclear attack; the only logical explanation is a meteor. The opportunity of a lifetime. Greta adds her thoughts, but Tom chooses not to listen. We briefly look at the displeasing side of his character, who believes he's the most intelligent being in every room, regardless of the situation.

ON WELLS ROAD. Tom and Greta drive through the dark desert, but the rear window shows a speed (*Rear Projection*). The thunder gets louder and more frequent.

AT THE DESERT CRASH SITE. Tom and Greta drive into a reddish glow and stop. They exit wearing their precautionary radiation suits. There is no debris, only a sizable saucer-shaped crater filled with a dense fog that is an almost solid mass.

Greta moves to the crater's edge with Tom safely behind her.

Suddenly, the headlights turn on. The Sheriff steps out from behind the car beams. He reports the Geiger counter had a radiation level of 0 R/H, confirming Tom's belief this was not a nuclear attack (he enjoys these moments).

All three study the environment. Theories gather, but the inability to see beneath the fog is burdensome. In her lovely way, Greta suggests Tom had the idea to reach blindly into the mist to feel for anything that might provide a hypothesis. He's hesitant. Jitters, followed by concern.

TOM

How about instead, we have a drive to San Bernardino to that brother's joint—enjoy a burger or two. It's a romantic yet brilliant idea, and I'll drive.

Greta pulls Tom back. Gives a look.

Tom reaches into the fog. It's an unnatural substance and extremely thick. Shivers crawl up his arm. A cold sweat followed by a brief state of panic. He pulls his arm free and finds it covered in a glittery substance.

GRETA

There must be some sort of scientific explanation.

TOM

It came from outer space based on its size and appearance.

It starts raining. The Sheriff calls the night. He will send deputies out at first light to set up a perimeter and protect the area until they can find out exactly what happened. As they turn—

An ODD SOUND emerges...

The RAINDROPS STRIKE A HOLLOW METAL OBJECT...

Tom, Greta, and the Sheriff turn towards the crater. Something is down there.

TOM

I've never heard metal like that before.

FROM INSIDE THE CRATER. A WATERY ALIEN POV looks at the humans.

[DA-DA-DAAAAAA].

NEXT MORNING AT EMMA'S DRIVE-IN. The scene is surprisingly scarce. Tom attempts to solve the reasoning behind last night's events. He dismisses any thoughts Greta suggests, believing her intelligence is inferior to his brilliance. She patiently waits for him to finish by reading the latest issue of "*Mademoiselle Magazine*."

Tom's thoughts lead only in circles, and Greta leads him to their next steps. They must return to the crater, extensively evaluate the area, take proper measurements, collect samples, and analyze the materials.

TOM

Precisely. Yet again, one step behind me.

GRETA

As it should be.

The Sheriff enters and approaches, and he informs them the secret is out. A large group has already gathered at the crater demanding answers.

AT THE DESERT CRASH SITE. Daylight reveals a flight path across the desert. A group gathers around the crater, distraught by the unusual fog that refuses to evaporate. DEPUTY FRITZ and DEPUTY WERNER try to calm everyone but are unsuccessful.

Alger, Julius, and Klaus instigate the crowd with their radical beliefs, driving fear deeper into their minds. Small missile? Radiation cloud? Whatever this may be, they're sure this is a failed attempt by the Soviets.

Arnold is no longer safe.

Tom and Greta arrive with the Sheriff, who immediately tries to calm the situation. His blood pressure rises with each gasp of words.

SHERIFF

You have got to believe me. Everything is going to be all right.

ALGER

The Sheriff is lying to you. The Soviets are here. They will soon invade—burning our homes and schools. They will kill us men and take our women and children. World War III is upon us.

The crowd turns hostile.

Tom tries to help the Sheriff, but his eternal devotion to honesty reveals last night's discovery—an unidentified object sits beneath the fog.

Fear and paranoia replace logical thinking. The crowd turns into an angry mob and reacts, throwing anything and everything into the crater.

FROM INSIDE THE CRATER. The Watery Alien POV is hit with objects.

BACK OUTSIDE THE CRATER. The fog comes alive, oozes from the crater, and expands into a GIANT CLOUD. It starts moving towards them. People scatter, but the cloud is too swift and engulfs everyone.

INSIDE THE CLOUD. People blindly move about, calling and/or reaching for human contact. TERROR SCREAMS and CRIES come from every direction.

Then the cloud retracts, leaving the people silent and covered with a glittery substance. [It is not verbally communicated or noticed, but three people have gone missing.

But who?

LATER. SAME LOCATION. Deputies are constructing a barbed-wired fence around the crater. The Sheriff watches, working hard to do the least physical labor possible.

Tom studies the earth around the crater (dirt, rocks, etc.). He takes measurements and examines the foundation with an impressive array of instruments.

TOM
This dirt is lifeless.

Tom and Greta examine the samples but cannot find conclusive results regarding what caused this geological event. Tom is sure it's a meteor, and Greta is unsure and wants to run further tests. Animosity grows until Greta suggests they need the advice of their mentor, somebody with superior intelligence and experience.

ON HIGHWAY 47. The Studebaker leaves a dusted trail through the desert at dusk.

AT THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGICAL STUDY. The Studebaker is parked out front.

AT A LABORATORY. PROFESSOR EICUMAN enters and shuts the door behind him. He greets Tom and Greta with a European accent and his customary wild white hair. A soft-spoken, gentle genius.

Eicuman confirms that after reviewing the samples, whatever crashed in the desert last night was not man-made, it came from outer space and is most likely a meteor.

Tom gives Greta a pompous look.

Eicuman pulls the shades and plays a projector. He narrates an educational film about meteors and space. How do they form? Where they came from? How many have struck earth? And how another meteor touched down near Arnold 7500 years ago.

The film reel ends. Eicuman adds a final thought.

EICUMAN

However... the permanent fog that never vaporizes intrigues me greatly. There are numerous galaxies within our universe, which could be something never seen in our planet's history. My eyes are the only things I can believe, and even then, they have the power to deceive me.

Eicuman informs Tom and Greta he will accompany them back to Arnold.

Tom pulls a smiling Greta aside to complain, putting his arrogance on full display. Her smile fades as Tom strokes his ego. He's already solved the question of what lies in the desert, and the professor is inferior in his intelligence and useless in this situation.

Greta is not pleased with him.

THAT NIGHT. AT THE DESERT CRASH SITE. Deputies Fritz and Werner stand guard by the half-finished perimeter fence. They drink Coca-Cola and discard their empty bottles into the crater. But fail to notice the glass never breaks.

The fog comes alive. It oozes again from the crater but does not form into a giant cloud. It crawls across the desert rock toward the deputies, who are oblivious to the silent movement behind them.

INSIDE THE FOG. The Watery Alien POV inches closer. The deputies turn and TERROR SCREAM. They are blasted by a ray beam, which freezes their bodies to a solid mass.

The Watery Alien POV continues in the direction of Arnold. Its shadow transitions from the fog into the shape of a human being.

NEXT MORNING. AT THE DESERT CRASH SITE. The uproar continues, and the deputies add a rock wall over the barbed-wired fence for additional protection. A large crowd gathers where deputies Fritz and Werner stood last night.

The Studebaker pulls to a stop. Tom, Greta, and Eicuman move past Alger, Julius, and Klaus through the crowd. Within a clearing, they find the bodies of Fritz and Werner frozen with a terrified expressions. The Sheriff tells them nobody saw or heard anything, but they found footsteps coming from the crater, an indication that a man committed this crime.

But the frozen bodies are hard to explain.

Additionally, people reported personal items stolen from their homes. Add everything together, and Arnold has its first crime wave in over twenty years.

SHERIFF

I will do *anything* to keep the people of Arnold safe.

Eicuman analyzes the area around the crater. He rubs the glittery substance left behind between his fingers. He attempts to reach into the fog but is unable to penetrate. An idea forms, and Eicuman pushes Tom into the fog, but he never sinks below.

The fog has changed into a force field.

EICUMAN

Whatever did this to your deputies came from inside this crater,
and it came from another world. We can now conclude that this is
not, and never, a meteor.

Tom argues with Eicuman. He's rude, condescending, and refuses to believe anything that has not been documented or proven by scientific facts. Greta pulls Tom aside and, for the first time—perhaps ever—doesn't tiptoe around his emotions. He needs to stop thinking in black and white, open his mind, and take a point of view for the first time in his life. She wants him to believe and discover his own beliefs and not what others have told him to believe.

THAT EVENING. AT DISTRICT 51 SUBDIVISION. The Watery Alien POV peeks through a house window. The Smith Family (whom Tom and Greta saw earlier outside of Butch's Movie Palace) are watching the latest episode of "*I Love Lucy*."

The Watery Alien POV moves through the perfectly crafted lawn and heads to the back door. It's unlocked. The POV goes through the kitchen and into the family room.

The Smith's TERROR SCREAM...
The silhouette of human blasts them...
Freezing their bodies into a solid mass.

NEXT MORNING. AT HAUSEN SQUARE. Tom sits on a bench and watches the sunrise. He's alone, accompanied only by his thoughts and a stack of papers and books.

A GAVEL STRIKES THREE TIMES.

AT TOWN HALL. Every citizen of Arnold has gathered. They demand answers. Unusual events have occurred since that "thing" crashed into the desert. People have been frozen, and the animals and possessions have gone missing. People are forced to lock their doors at night.

The Sheriff pleads for the people to believe they're in control. They've brought in the most brilliant scientist in the western hemisphere to help answer the unknown questions.

EICUMAN

Whatever lies beneath that fog came from outer space with intent.

It is not the Soviets, and it is not a meteor, and it is an alien from
another world.

Uproar. Chaos. Eicuman's statement angers the Sheriff.

During the commotion, Tom's mind wanders. He recalls everything that happened in the past two days. He has only believed in proven principles written in books, but nothing can explain what is happening in Arnold. Then he remembers what Greta said and decides to take a point of view.

Aliens *could* be real.

Tom is looking at the crowd when something captures his eye...
He leans forward with a peculiar look...

Alger, Julius, and Klaus are sitting with the people—amongst the growing hysteria they helped create—but uncharacteristically calm, silent, and still.

GRETA

Tom, is everything okay?

FADE TO BLACK:

SUPER: INTERMISSION

VOICE-OVER

Let's enjoy an intermission. You'll find our snack bar chock full of good things. There's fresh crunchy popcorn, thirst-quenching soft drinks, and delicious candy. We shall inform you of the remaining intermission time for your convenience, three minutes before the show resumes.

SUPER: COUNTDOWN CLOCK: 3:00... 2:59... 2:58...

FADE IN:

AT THE SHERIFF'S STATION. The Sheriff screams at Eicuman about his announcement regarding aliens. Tom comes to Eicuman's defense and further explains how the evidence collected lends itself to such a claim.

TOM

By reviewing historical records dating back to 1947, starting with Washington, there is no doubt factual evidence exists that supports the existence of flying saucers. They're in our skies, and they've been there for quite some time.

Tom the Sheriff about the dramatic change within Alger, Julius, and Klaus and dives deeper into his theory. Not only does the evidence support aliens were on board the flying saucer that crashed in the desert, but they could have the power to transform into a human, which explains why they haven't been able to locate the person causing all the trouble in Arnold. They need to start looking for anything suspicious in one of their own citizens.

The Sheriff refuses to start arresting people for suspicious behavior. As a member of the G.O.C. (Ground Observer Corps), the Sheriff must send a letter to the United States Air Force for aid. Until they arrive, a town curfew has been ordered for every citizen.

AT HAUSEN SQUARE. Tom and Eicuman pass the crowd, now led by the Butcher. They study the actions of every human being—their mannerisms, speech, physical movement, and social interactions.

AT EMMA'S DRIVE-IN. Tom and Eicuman join Greta. All decide to ignore the Sheriff's orders and start their own investigation. The people of Arnold need help and cannot wait for the military's arrival, and the entire town will be overrun with violence by then.

Alger, Julius, and Klaus enter and sit across from Swifty and Annabelle in the black section of the restaurant. Everyone in the diner stops and stares. Alger, Julius, and Klaus sense this is wrong but do not understand why. That said, they moved to the other seating area.

Tom watches them. He covertly moves closer, but a blind bat can spot him. Alger, Julius, and Klaus continue to make inevitable mistakes that call attention to their odd behavior. Then Alger catches Tom spying on them.

Tom panics and rushes out of the diner.

AT HAUSEN SQUARE. The paranoia amongst the people has snowballed into a hostile environment. An angry mob has officially formed to protect the citizens of Arnold, armed with crosses, pitchforks, and protest signs.

Greta and Eicuman find Tom hiding. He's convinced aliens have taken over the bodies of Alger, Julius, and Klaus. But he needs proof.

Then, as if on cue, Alger, Julius, and Klaus exit the diner and enter Alger's truck.

TOM

Darling, this is a time when I shall insist you leave at once for the University with the professor and stay there until everything calms.

GRETA

But we both know perfectly well you'd only be saying that because it's what a real man should say.

TOM
Precisely. Therefore, I need your help – with a proposal relatively quickly.

GRETA
We must follow them.

Tom and Greta decide they must speak with the aliens together and find out why they're here. However, their dilemma lies with the angry mob and the aggressive atmosphere they're creating, which doesn't lend itself to a peaceful discussion.

But this is not the time and place.

Swiftly and Annabelle approach Tom, Greta, and Eicuman (startling Tom). They tell them how Tom and Greta are the only people they trust in Arnold. They speak of the uneasiness they have felt since the town hall meeting. From the moment the professor confirms aliens exist, everyone looks at them with a vengeful eye.

Alger, Julius, and Klaus drive off.

The angry mob notice Tom and Greta speaking with Swiftly and Annabelle. They march towards them, shouting how the latter are aliens simply because of their skin color, but Tom and Greta are also suspects due to their atypical lifestyle.

Eicuman creates a diversion, and the four individuals escape in the Studebaker.

The four individuals make their escape while Eicuman distracts them.

ON WELLS ROAD. Alger's truck drives past the desert crash site. Moments later, the Studebaker does the same.

GRETA
Where are they going?

AT THE NAMELESS MOUNTAIN. DUSK. Alger's truck disappears into the woods.

IN THE WOODS. Tom, Greta, Swiftly, and Annabelle walk across the rough terrain. A mist rises from the cooling ground. They come upon an archeological dig site on the other side of a brush.

AT THE SEVEN SACRED PONDS. Julius and Klaus are excavating an area around seven ponds, which are identical in size and shape. Julius removes unknown contents from the murky water and hands it to Klaus, who filters the collection. Their movements are robotic and steady, with a consistent rhythm that never alters.

Tom, Greta, Swifty, and Annabelle watch from above and conclude these two individuals are not the honest Julius and Klaus. They are aliens collecting something of importance, but what? As fast darkness fast approaches, they head back to the Studebaker.

But overlook Alger in the brush, watching them.

AT TOM'S HOUSE. Eicuman stands on the porch with the angry mob before him. Torches accompany the pitchforks and light up the night sky, and both parties are strangely silent. Then the front door opens, and the Butcher steps out.

BUTCHER
There's nobody here.

The angry mob leaves. Once cleared, Eicuman helps Tom, Greta, Swifty, and Annabelle sneak into the house, keeping all lights off to avoid detection.

Inside, the silhouette of an unknown figure awaits, and a match reveals their identity.

It's Alger. He confirms that, along with Julius and Klaus, they are aliens from another world. They came to Earth to retrieve an element they lost, vital to their planet's future existence. The seven sacred ponds resulted from a crashed alien transport ship from their world 7500 years ago.

EICUMAN
The Arnold meteor shower.

Alger says once the element is collected, they will leave quietly. They come in peace.

ALGER
But, if we are threatened before then, we will have no choice but to
destroy you before we are killed.

Alger excuses himself, but not before asking Eicuman if he'd accompany him home.

IN HAUSEN SQUARE. Julius and Klaus explore the area. Their peculiar actions draw attention from the roaming angry mob.

Alger and Eicuman discuss the details of Ivy King, the most massive pure fission nuclear bomb ever tested by the United States in 1952. Their peaceful conversation is interrupted by a nearby disturbance.

The angry mob has cornered Julius and Klaus. Eicuman intervenes to protect the aliens and maintain peace but gets lost in the chaos. A disintegrator weapon, known as a ray gun, blasts Eicuman and turns him into a skeleton.

TERROR SCREAMS holler into the night.

LATER. AT TOM'S HOUSE. There's a knock at the front door, but Tom refuses to answer.

SHERIFF (O.S.)

Nobody's here to hurt you, Tom, and we know you're not an alien.

The door opens.

SHERIFF

You better come with me.

AT HAUSEN SQUARE. The news spread quickly, and everybody disobeyed the curfew and gathered. The Sheriff leads Tom and Greta through the crowd, where they find a skeleton wearing a lab coat.

Greta TERROR SCREAMS.

The Sheriff says witnesses have identified Alger, Julius, and Klaus as responsible. They used a weapon more powerful than anything seen on earth.

SHERIFF

We can no longer wait for the Air Force. We must protect the people of Arnold. I'm initiating a manhunt effective immediately.

Find the aliens and kill them on site.

The crowd applauds. Every citizen of Arnold has joined the angry mob, and the Butcher leads his army out into the night.

Tom and Greta are left baffled by Alger's actions, who earlier proclaimed how the aliens come in peace. Their promising path toward peace has now taken an earth-shattering turn.

GRETA

If the aliens came to reclaim what they had lost, why continue to risk the attention? Why take over a human, or break into their homes and freeze their bodies? There is more to his story.

AT ALGER'S HOUSE. The angry mob patrols the surrounding area waiting for him to return. Alger, Julius, and Klaus hide in the shadows nearby with their ray guns aimed. They are about to pull the trigger when Tom and Greta stop them.

Then Swifty runs toward the angry mob.

SWIFTY

They're over here. Shoot them.

The angry mob hurries towards Swifty and away from the aliens. Gunfire erupts in the distance.

TOM
(to himself)
Excellent work, Swifty.

Inside Alger's house, Tom demands answers. As Julius and Klaus prepare for their journey home, Alger confirms vaporizing Eicuman was an accident. He explains how the crashed transport carried an element vital to their dying planet's existence. But that's not the primary reason for their arrival.

The aliens are part of a galactic reconnaissance sent here to gather information about earth and the other planets in the Milky Way galaxy. After completing their mission, they will return their intelligence to the head council. Shortly after, a decision will be made.

TOM
A decision about what?

ALGER
Which planet to invade.

The recent nuclear bombings have caused distress to the galaxy, and many believe earth is a threat to other planets. They have come to see if that is true.

TOM
And if we're deemed a threat?

ALGER
The attack on your people will be more deadly than you could
imagine.

Tom and Alger engage in a gentlemanly discussion, conversing about civilization on earth and its comparison to other planets in the galaxy. Tom speaks passionately about nuclear chemistry and its importance to the progression of science but disagrees with its use for world domination. Also, he talks about spirituality, kindness, generosity, humility, and honesty. And how even in the violent climate around them, there is hope for humanity.

TOM
We live in a world dominated by fear. Punishment by extinction is
unethical. What if we stopped you from going back?

ALGER
If we do not return to the council, an invasion of earth is
unavoidable.

TOM
But if we allow you to leave, you could deem us a threat and
invade anyway.

ALGER

Then the question remains. How much faith do you have in the actions of mankind?

Gunfire erupts outside once again.

NEXT MORNING. AT THE SHERIFF STATION. Tom and Greta tell the Sheriff about Alger, hoping he will call off the manhunt and let the aliens leave peacefully. They are unsuccessful and locked in a jail cell when they refuse to reveal the alien's location.

IN HAUSEN SQUARE. The Sheriff joins the angry mob in creating a blockade across Wells Road, stopping the aliens from getting to their flying saucer. Tumbleweeds skip across the ground as Alger, Julius, and Klaus—though grossly outnumbered—approach.

AT THE SHERIFF'S STATION. Swifty and Annabelle free Tom and Greta.

IN HAUSEN SQUARE. The angry mob draws their weapons, and the aliens do the same. On the rooftop of Emma's Drive-in, a deputy climbs to gain a position but slips. Wood creaks. Julius whips around and fires his ray gun, turning the deputy into a skeleton.

The battle for earth has begun.

Tom, Greta, Swifty, and Annabelle run out of the Sheriff's Station to find skeletons everywhere. Tom sees Alger lying wounded and pulls him to safety. He tells the others they must return him to the flying saucer, and he must return to the council.

Suddenly, the angry mob stops firing, raises their open jaws to the sky and stumbles backward. No longer bound by a human form, Julius and Klaus have transformed back into TWO ALIEN CREATURES, and the angry mob can do nothing to stop them.

Tom and Greta sneak Alger out behind the buildings and put him in the Studebaker. The sound of a cocked gun freezes them, and they turn to find the Sheriff with his shotgun aimed.

SHERIFF

If we allow him to leave, we will all be destroyed.

TOM

Maybe not. There is only one certainty. If Alger does not return, they most certainly will invade. We must play the percentages, even if neither is acceptable. There is hope.

After a cliffhanging standoff, the Sheriff lowers his weapon.

GRETA

That's what I love about you. You're always one step behind me.

TOM
As it should be, darling.

As the Studebaker races into the desert, the two aliens continue their attack. When all hope seems lost, FIGHTER JETS from the United States Air Force arrive fire missiles.

ON WELLS ROAD. Tom sees the explosions in the rearview mirror. He adjusts the mirror to see Alger, who knows his friends have perished.

AT THE DESERT CRASH SITE. The Studebaker stops. Alger pulls out a transmitter, and the dense fog/force field evaporates, revealing a flying saucer underneath.

TOM
What will you tell them?

Alger says nothing. He pats Tom's shoulder and crawls into the flying saucer with the last remaining bag of his planet's element.

The flying saucer powers up. Strong winds swirl desert dust. The aircraft takes off and flies out into the distance, growing smaller with each passing second until it becomes another spec upon the clear blue sky.

Tom holds Greta in his arms as they look towards the sky—watching, waiting, and wondering, when will they be back?

FADE TO BLACK...
SUPER: TO BE CONTINUED...
ROLL CREDITS...

FADE IN:

Tom and Greta enjoy their engagement dinner until a strong wind throws open the door. The dinnerware starts to shake, and they look to the sky.

FADE OUT.