

"The Ambassador is Recalled"

By

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(A scene from a longer movie)

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Screen Story #7

FADE IN:

EXT. - NEVADA DESERT - DAY

In an aerial view, we are flying over the vast and desolate Nevada desert. The terrain is hilly scrub, barren washes and an occasional Joshua tree. The vista goes on forever, and there are no signs of human life. We are drifting through the air like a bird of prey, rising with the air currents, then dipping close to the ground as we pass over ridges. We are scanning for anything interesting.

Then, in the middle of the emptiness, we see the figure of a man, standing on a distant ridge. As we fly closer, we see that it is a naked man, standing with arms outstretched like Jesus. We approach him from the back, so we can't see his face, but his posture suggests he is waiting for something from the sky.

We hear the flutter of bird wings, and from ground level we see the VULTURE land on a Joshua tree near the man. He looks over at the man, anticipating dinner soon.

We see the naked man from the front now, from the torso up. He is AMBASSADOR MERLIN, a human male in his 30s. He is extremely thin, and his face is overgrown with a ragged beard and unkempt hair. He is dirty and sunburned and has clearly been in the desert for a long time.

The man's body doesn't move. His arms are still outstretched, and his face is turned up to the sky. His eyes are closed.

VULTURE

Cawww!

Still holding his Christ-like pose, AMBASSADOR MERLIN opens his eyes, as if waking from a trance. His eyeballs move sideways to look back at the VULTURE.

The sun is hot, and he can't hold that position forever. After showing some signs of fatigue, AMBASSADOR MERLIN drops his hand to his sides.

Whatever he was expecting, it hasn't happened yet, and he is getting discouraged.

He squats down and starts rummaging through a pile of clothes beside him. He pulls out a cheap wristwatch without any straps. He reads the time: 11:17 am.

Then he reaches for a gallon jug of water. It is a supermarket-style plastic container. He shakes it and sees there isn't much water left. He opens the jug and drinks the last of it, taking a few extra moments to drain the last drops. Then he slowly reseals the jug and drops it aside. We hear it fall, obviously empty.

Then he stands up again and resumes his Jesus posture.

AMBASSADOR MERLIN

Oh, Brothers, take me now!

Whoever the "Brothers" are, there is no reply.

The VULTURE looks over at the naked man. The bird almost seems to be laughing.

Finally, the Ambassador gives up. He puts down his hands, totally despondent, and he starts putting his clothes back on. It is unexpectedly formal attire for the circumstances: long dark pants, button-down shirt open at the neck with a dark vest over it.

The VULTURE seems to be watching all this with amusement.

After dressing, AMBASSADOR MERLIN puts on his wire-rimmed sunglasses. Lifting a small backpack, he turns to leave.

The VULTURE makes a bird-like laughing sound.

In frustration, AMBASSADOR MERLIN picks up a handful of gravel and throws it at the bird.

AMBASSADOR MERLIN

Away, foul beast!

The VULTURE merely flies away from one Joshua tree and lands on another, further away. He's not leaving.

AMBASSADOR MERLIN

Bastard!

CUT TO:

INT - LITTLE ALIEN BAR AND GRILL

Two Area 51 watchers are talking to someone off-screen.

UFO BELIEVER

And then the aliens took him. Or at least they took his soul. There was a LOT of UFO activity around the time he died. There were sightings everywhere.

PSYCHOSPY

Let's just say the Ambassador got recalled by his government.

CUT TO:

TELEVISION NEWS REPORT

NEWSCASTER

In news of the weird today, America's only registered alien lobbyist has been found dead in the Nevada desert.

A stock photo is shown on the screen of AMBASSADOR MERLIN, with hair and beard neatly trimmed and wearing dark wire-rim sunglasses. He is wearing the same outfit was last saw him in, but in much better condition.

NEWSCASTER (cont'd)

Ambassador Merlyn Merlin the Second, who claimed to come from the planet Draconis, was a well-known character in Carson City. During the past two legislative sessions, he was registered as

lobbyist for the Embassy of the Avalon Saucerians and lobbied to have Nevada Route 375 designated the Extraterrestrial Highway.

The mummified body of the Ambassador, whose Earth name was David Solomon, was found by hikers Thursday in a remote part of Lincoln County, not far from the border of Area 51. Sheriff's deputies estimated that he had been dead for more than a month.

CUT TO:

INT - LITTLE ALIEN BAR AND GRILL

UFO BELIEVER

They never found his car. This is a guy who lived in his car, who never went anywhere without it. Sure, he could have died from the heat, but all I want to know is, where's the car? If you find the car, you've solved the mystery, and if you never find the car, you got an even bigger mystery.

PSYCHOSPY

What people don't realize is that the desert's a dangerous place. If you run out of water in the heat of day, you could be dead in a few hours. Your body shuts down. Your brain shuts down. It can sneak up on you so quickly.

UFO BELIEVER

And here's something they don't tell you on the news. There was an autopsy report. We obtained a copy, but the news media won't talk about it. Yes his body was mummified, but things were missing from it: his

eyes and his genitals. They were cut out with surgical precision.

REPORTER

But how do you know it wasn't a scavenger, like a coyote, or maybe insects or birds?

We pull back to see the REPORTER and her film crew, interviewing the two watchers.

UFO BELIEVER

I mean, SURGICAL precision, like being cut out with a laser, without any bleeding. It's all in the autopsy report. No bird could possibly do that.

CUT TO:

EXT - NEVADA DESERT - DAY

AMBASSADOR MERLIN's half-naked body lies face-up in the desert. Flies are swirling around it.

The VULTURE swoops down and lands on the Ambassador's chest. Then he walks up to the face. The VULTURE looks down at the face, peaceful in its repose, then he starts vigorously pecking.

CUT TO:

TELEVISION NEWS REPORT

NEWSCASTER (cont'd)

Ambassador Merlin was regarded with amusement by many legislators and staff, and the highway bill he promoted was indeed passed. Unfortunately, the Ambassador was later banned from the capitol grounds after allegedly exposing himself to a female staff member.

6.

CUT TO:

EXT - NEVADA LEGISLATURE BUILDING, CARSON CITY

In a long shot, we see the Nevada State Legislature building. We see the front doors open, and two beefy security guards emerge, with AMBASSADOR MERLIN escorted between them. They march the Ambassador briskly toward the camera and deposit him on the sidewalk. Then they turn and abruptly leave him there.

CUT TO:

INT - LITTLE ALIEN BAR AND GRILL

PSYCHOSPY

He got 86'ed from a lot of places.
For an Ambassador, he just didn't
have the skills of diplomacy. I
heard that he also got ejected from
a number of our fine legal
brothels. He wanted to talk to the
girls about his home planet but
didn't want to pay for anything.

CUT TO:

EXT - KITTY KAT BROTHEL - NEVADA DESERT - EVENING

In a long shot, we see a classic Nevada legal brothel, the Kitty Kat. The compound consists of several trailers and one central bar. There is a colorful sign out front featuring a buxom, scantily dressed lady, making it clear what the business is.

A neon sign flashes: "Meow, Meow."

The front door of the bar opens, and two beefy bouncers come out, escorting AMBASSADOR MERLIN between them. They march him toward the door and deposit him beyond a chain link fence that surrounds the compound.

BOUNCER

Come back when you have some money.

CUT TO:

INT - LITTLE ALIEN BAR AND GRILL

PSYCHOSPY

You see, I'll take anyone at their word that they're an alien. In fact, I could be an alien, because I don't remember where I came from. Does any of us? What I do expect is that when aliens are here visiting this planet, they obey the local human rules. Ambassador Merlin didn't respect these rules. He was always intruding on people's space to try to get his message across. I think if you're going to be an ambassador, from any planet, you should do it well. You should respect the culture you're visiting, because it's not yours to change.

CUT TO:

EXT - NEVADA DESERT - DAY

AMBASSADOR MERLIN is sitting on a rock, hunched over. He is still alive, but just barely. His skin is pale, and his body is trembling. He has taken off his vest, and his shirt is unbuttoned, exposing his emaciated chest.

On another rock nearby, the VULTURE is perched, waiting for the Ambassador to die. The two of them seem to be having a conversation, even though the VULTURE doesn't say anything.

AMBASSADOR MERLIN

So this is how the mission ends?

The VULTURE cocks his head and seems to sympathize nonverbally.

AMBASSADOR MERLIN

I really thought they'd come. They
told me they'd come.

The VULTURE says nothing.

AMBASSADOR MERLIN

What's going to happen now?

VULTURE
(meaningfully)

Caaww!

CUT TO BLACK.