

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

Written by Ryan Huelsman

Based on the screenplay by Edmund H. North
and

The short story "Farwell to the Master," by Harry Bates

Cast List: (who I want in specific roles(if I could get them))

Klaatu----- Christian Bale (*The Dark Knight*)

Helen Benson----- Kate Beckinsale (*Underworld*)

Howard Benson----- Edward Norton (*Fight Club*)

Andrew Benson----- Nicholas Gamble (*The Mist*)

Professor Samuel Barnhardt----- Gene Hackman(*French Connection*)

Sec. of Defense Jacob Patterson----- Adrian Pasdar (*TV's Heroes*)

President Alexander Reeves----- Colin Salmon (*Resident Evil*)

Vice President Melinda Harvard-----Patricia Heaton (*TV's Raymond*)

General George O'Neil----- Gary Oldman (*The Dark Knight*)

NASA Director Marcus Brown----- Josh Brolin (*W.*)

Sec. of Homeland Security Adam Marlowe----- Jack Coleman (*TV's
Heroes*)

(note: this is my own version of a modern day remake of the original TDTSS,
it is not related to the film version that came out last year.)

Fade from studio logos...

Blackness. Silence for a moment.

Studio credits appear on screen as the noise of computers clicking, telephones ringing and people chattering with each other begins to grow.

The names of the three lead actors appear on screen for a moment before it slowly fades to...

Int. NASA control center - communications room.

There are several long desks with the newest, high-tech computers placed on them. On the large wall in front of all the computer desks there are several large TV screens with 3D models of space on the screens. There are also a few dozen engineers and astronomers in the room.

Focus on one technician at a computer...

The TECHNICIAN types at the computer, a tired look on his face. Suddenly, a flashing white light illuminates his face, accompanied by a beeping sound.

The Technician's eyes widen as he sits up at the desk and types on the keyboard for a moment. After another moment, the Technician stands up out of his chair.

Technician:

Mr. Brown, I need you to take a look at this.

After a moment, **NASA Director Marcus Brown** (mid-40's) walks up to the Technician. Brown looks like the kind of guy who worked extremely hard to get to where he is today and he doesn't plan to quit anytime soon.

Brown:

Yes, what is it?

Technician:

Mr. Brown, several of our satellites that were taking pictures of Alpha Centauri saw this.

The Technician presses a button on the computer. On one of the large TV screens on the wall an image appears. The image shows a small, oval shaped, bright object. Brown, the Technician and

everyone else in the room looks up at the TV screen. They all seemed shocked and confused.

Brown:
Jesus...

Technician:
Apparently, that's not the only image.

Several more images appear on the screen. They all show the object, getting larger and larger in each picture.

Brown:
What is it?

Technician:
Unknown. From what I've read, all of these images were taken within the last half hour.

The Technician turns and looks back at the computer screen.

Brown:
Where is it headed?

The Technician sits down in the chair, continuing to type on the keyboard and reading over data on the screen.

After a moment, the Technician looks up at Brown.

Technician:
It's heading towards Earth.

Brown looks at the computer screen, then back up at the TV screens.

Brown:
How big is it?

Technician:
It's no bigger than a hundred sixty feet across. (pause) And by the looks of it, the object should enter our atmosphere...

The Technician's eyes widen in shock. Brown looks over at the Technician after a moment.

Brown:
When?

Technician: (shocked)
Within the next few hours.

Every other person in the room gasps after hearing the news.

After a moment, the Technician looks up at Brown.

Technician:
What are we gonna do, sir?

Brown:
Confirm this information as quickly as possible, then inform the
President about the situation. Let him decide what will happen
next.

Brown continues to look up at the image of the glowing object.
Focus on him for a moment, then cut to...

Title logo screen:

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

After a moment, cut to...

Ext. Suburban street - Dawn.

All the houses on the street look like they are upper-middle class. This tells us that this is a semi-rich neighborhood. The early morning rays of the sun cast some light onto the neighborhood. Morning birds can be heard chirping.

Focus on the quiet, suburban street for a moment.

Int. Benson house - living room - Dawn.

Inside the large living room, there is a large 42 inch flat screen TV set up on the wall. Two long couches are set up in front of the TV. A love seat is placed right in front of a window that looks out at the large, open backyard.

Sitting on one of the couches is **ANDREW BENSON** (10 years old). He is holding the remote in his hands and has his eyes fixed on the TV.

On TV: there is a news anchor sitting behind at his desk, with the headline **THAILAND BLACKOUT** on the bottom of the screen.

News Anchor:

We continue with our breaking news story we told you about at the top of the hour. For those of you just joining us, we have been getting reports of a complete communications blackout in the country of Thailand.

Focus on Andrew. He continues to watch the news report.

News Anchor: (cont'd/off screen)

The reports began to come in about an hour ago when several US intelligence groups tried to make contact with the country, but to no success. We have also learned that the President and several members of his cabinet...

The news story fades into the background as **HELEN** (40 years old) and **HOWARD BENSON** (43 years old) walk into the living room. Helen has her long black hair tied up into a ponytail and is putting her jacket over her long sleeve shirt. Howard is trying to tighten up his tie.

Howard:

... I don't know why they called me in.

Helen:

They didn't say anything?

Howard:

No. All they said is that I'll be filled in on what's happening when I get there.

They stop walking, turn and face each other. Andrew turns and looks up at his parents.

Howard:

I'll call you when I get a chance.

Helen:

I've got school.

Howard smiles.

Howard:

How are the students? They respect you?

Helen smiles back.

Helen:

Most of them. There are a few that don't listen and talk to each other when I'm giving notes. Nothing I can't handle.

Howard smiles, turns and looks at Andrew.

Howard:

Hey Andy.

Andrew:

Good morning, Dad.

Howard:

Why aren't you getting ready for school?

Andrew:

Some teacher-work day. I don't have to go.

Howard looks at Helen for confirmation, which she does so by nodding her head. Howard finishes working on his tie, then kisses Helen briefly on the lips.

Howard:

I love you.

Helen:

I love you too.

Howard turns and walks past Helen, but stops in the doorway connecting the living room to the front hallway. He turns and looks at Andrew.

Howard:

Have a good day, Andrew.

Andrew:

You too Dad.

Howard turns and continues to walk into the front hallway. Helen looks away from the doorway as the front door closes. She walks over to the TV and turns it off. Andrew looks up at her, upset.

Andrew:

Mom!

Helen:

Andrew, I want you to go upstairs and clean up your room. I walked by it this morning and saw that it was a mess.

Andrew:

I was gonna do it after I have lunch.

Helen:

I want you to do it now.

Andrew stands up, rolls his eyes and walks into the front hallway. Helen continues to look at the spot where Andrew was sitting. The look on her face says that she was hoping that it would have gone better.

Int. Benson house - 2nd floor hallway - Dawn.

The doorway to Andrew's bedroom is open and Andrew can be seen picking up t-shirts up off the floor and placing them into a clothes basket on his bed.

After a moment Helen appears and leans up against the doorway. She watches Andrew for a moment before he notices her and looks at his mother.

Helen:

I'm sorry, Andrew.

Andrew:

Its ok.

He turns and continues to pick up shirts and other items of clothing. Helen smiles and walks into his room.

Int. Benson House - Andrew's Bedroom - Dawn.

She walks over to his closet and opens it up. His bed is up against one of the walls, along with his dresser. Andrew briefly looks at her, a little confused, but turns to clean up again. Helen looks through his shirts in the closet for a few moments before closing the door and turning to look at Andrew.

Helen:

Has something been bothering you, lately?

Andrew:

No.

Helen:
Are you sure you'll be fine home alone today?

Andrew:
Yes, Mom.

Helen nods her head slowly before walking over to his bedroom door.

Helen:
I'm gonna get going, sweetheart.

Andrew:
Ok. Bye Mom.

Once she reaches the doorway, Helen turns and looks at her son. Andrew looks up at her.

Helen:
If you want, you can wait 'til after lunch.

Andrew:
Mom, I've already started. I might as well finish.

Helen smiles slightly. Andrew gives her a slight, loving smile before tossing another shirt into the basket. Helen turns and walks down the hallway. Andrew turns and looks at the basket.

He reaches up and wipes away a single tear from his eyes with his right arm.

Ext. High school - courtyard parking lot - Dawn.

About two dozen cars are parked in the high school's courtyard. After a moment a red Dodge Nitro drives into the courtyard and pulls into a spot close to one of the double doors.

The driver's side door opens and Helen steps out. She turns, reaches back in and pulls out leather briefcase. She closes the door and starts walking towards the double doors.

Suddenly, a man steps out from behind his car and rushes over to Helen. He is **ALAN BENNET** (mid 50's). He is wearing a black drench coat and has his own leather briefcase in his hand.

Helen looks over at him and smiles. He smiles back at her.

Helen:
Hey Alan.

Bennet:
Hello Helen.

Helen looks over at Bennet, who seems nervous about something. A look of concern appears on Helen's face.

Helen:
Are you alright, Alan?

Bennet:
You know that my daughter is vacationing with her fiancé in the Ukraine?

Helen:
Yeah, I remember you telling me about that.

Bennet:
Well... have you heard about what's happening?

Helen stops walking. Bennet takes a few more steps before noticing that Helen has stopped as well. He stops walking and looks at her.

Helen:
What's going on?

Bennet:
A total communications blackout struck the Ukraine.

Helen:
What?

Bennet:
The entire country is experiencing a blackout of some kind. I'm just... worried. And the other thing is that the Ukraine isn't the only country.

Helen:
Who else?

Bennet takes a deep breath, the nervous look on his face grows.

Bennet:
All of Asia and Europe.

Focus on the shocked look on Helen's face for a moment.

Ext. Aerial view of Pentagon - Dawn.

A helicopter shot of the Pentagon as the early morning sun shines its light onto the building. The streets and highways surrounding the Pentagon are not jam packed yet, but rush hour is starting.

Int. Pentagon - underground hallway.

In the dull, cement covered underground hallway, **Secretary of Defense JACOB PATTERSON** (mid 40's) stands close to a steel door. He looks down at the floor, deep in thought. Patterson is wearing a dark blue formal suit, completed with a red tie.

After a moment, the steel door opens and NASA director Brown, **General George O'NEIL** (late 60's) and **Vice President MELINDA HARVARD** (mid 40's) walk through the doorway. General O'Neil is holding a dark brown folder in his hand. VP Harvard is wearing a black shirt over a formal red skirt that goes down to her knees. Her hair is tied up behind her head.

Patterson looks over at Brown, General O'Neil and VP Harvard.

Patterson:
Madame Vice President.

VP Harvard:
Mr. Patterson. I guess you've been informed on what's heading towards Earth?

Patterson:
To a degree.

Patterson looks over at General O'Neil and Brown. General O'Neil reaches over and shakes Patterson's hand.

General O'Neil: (to Patterson)
Mr. Secretary, (motions to Brown) this is Marcus Brown. He is the director of NASA.

Patterson reaches over and shakes Brown's hand.

Brown:
Mr. Secretary, I'm sorry that we have to meet under these conditions.

All four of them start to walk down the hallway.

Patterson:
Alright, I want to be fully brought up to speed on what's going on? Is this object in anyway connected to the massive blackouts occurring all over Asia, Europe and Australia?

General O'Neil:
Well, considering that the object entered our atmosphere about an hour ago, we have...

Patterson: (cutting him off)
Wait, it's already entered the planet's atmosphere?

Brown:
Yes.

VP Harvard:
What the President and I want to know is where is it now and where is it heading?

General O'Neil:
We lost communications with British Prime Minister Brown five minutes ago.

They all stop walking. VP Harvard looks at General O'Neil, somewhat shocked.

VP Harvard:
What?

General O'Neil:
It's official, all of Europe is experiencing some kind of blackout.

Patterson:
Is it just a normal blackout, or is it something more?

General O'Neil:
From the small amount of information we have, its more like an EMP.

VP Harvard:

A what?

Brown:

It's an electromagnetic pulse. It shuts off all electrical equipment for a short amount of time. Cars, watches, cell phones, land lines, everything.

Patterson:

Well, that explains why no information what so ever is coming out of the entire eastern hemisphere.

VP Harvard: (slightly disturbed)
Jesus...

Brown, Patterson, General O'Neil and VP Harvard continue walking down the hallway.

General O'Neil:

We have reasons to believe that the object is heading towards the eastern sea coast.

Patterson:

What are our options?

VP Harvard:

We can't afford to have this... object or what ever it is, enter restricted United States airspace. This thing cannot be allowed to show air superiority over any major metropolitan area.

General O'Neil:

Madame Vice President, Mr. Secretary, this thing has already done that over half of this planet. We can't expect to see a different outcome when it enters American airspace.

They all walk up to another steel door. Patterson presses a few buttons on a keyboard on the wall next to the door. The door slides open and all four of them enter the room.

Int. Pentagon - Underground intelligence briefing room.

Inside the room is a semi-large oval shaped table. On the walls are flat screen TV's showing images of the glowing object in space. Sitting at the table are Howard Benson and **Secretary of Homeland Security ADAM MARLOWE** (mid 40's). Marlowe adjusts his

glasses as VP Harvard, General O'Neil, Patterson and Brown walk into the room.

Everyone sits down at the table and look at each other for a brief moment.

VP Harvard:

It's good to see you, Adam.

Marlowe:

Nice to see you again, Melinda. (to everyone else) This is Howard Benson. He is an expert on advanced communications. I felt that, with the possibility of this object being... extraterrestrial, it would be best to have Mr. Benson with us.

VP Harvard:

It's a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Benson.

Howard:

Mrs. Harvard, I'm honored to meet you as well.

VP Harvard:

Alright, if this thing is heading towards the eastern sea coast, we need to come up with some kind of plan to deal with it. Any ideas?

Patterson:

Well, first off, we need to get the First Family to a secure location until we can determine if this object is hostile in any way.

Marlowe:

We may not have time to transport the First Family.

VP Harvard:

President Reeves wants to receive constant updates concerning this situation. Everything we know, he wants to know as well. You all know how he hates being left out of the loop when it comes to matters of nation security.

General O'Neil:

Before this thing enters our airspace, we need to ready our missile defense system immediately. We need to stay on the side of caution.

Howard raises his hand slightly. Everyone looks at him for a moment, after which he lowers his hand.

Howard:
Can I say something?

Marlowe:
Go ahead, Mr. Benson.

Howard:
Well... if this thing is extraterrestrial in origin, I don't think we should greet an alien being with missiles and gun fire. We don't want to screw up our first impressions, do we?

General O'Neil smiles at the comment.

General O'Neil:
We can't go into this situation expecting any intelligent extraterrestrial life to be like ET or the friendly, big-headed aliens from Close Encounters.

Howard:
I didn't say we should completely let our guard down. All I'm suggesting is that we let them make the first move.

General O'Neil:
They already have. They've cut off communications with half of the world. They have shut down our missile defense capabilities in Europe and knocked out all communications to and from the Middle East. The entire eastern half of the world is in total darkness and we have no idea what is happening.

That shuts Howard up. He sits back in his chair and decides to let the big boys figure this out. General O'Neil turns and looks over at VP Harvard.

General O'Neil:
Madame Vice President, we need to get the President and his family to a secure location, then immediately ready all of our defense systems to prepare for a possible assault by this object.

Howard seems almost offended at what is being planned, but continues to sit back in his chair. Suddenly, a younger man in a formal suit enters the briefing room, walks over to Patterson and whispers into his ear for a moment.

Everyone turns and looks at Patterson. After a moment the younger man stands up straight and takes a few steps back behind Patterson.

Patterson:

Whatever we're gonna do, we need to do it fast.

Marlowe:

What happened?

Patterson:

All of Maine and parts of eastern Canada are experiencing the same thing that is happening in Europe and Asia. It's here and apparently, the object is heading this way.

Everyone in the room seems overwhelmed after hearing this information. Focus on them for a brief moment.

Int. High School - sociology classroom - Dawn.

Helen is standing at the front of the classroom, in front of the blackboard. In the classroom there are about 20 students sitting, most of them are facing Helen and writing in their notebooks. In the back row there are two guys and one girl (all of them are 14-15 years old) that are talking amongst each other.

Helen finishes up writing the word TOLERANCE on the blackboard. She turns and looks at her class.

Helen:

Alright, I know that this may seem like a stupid thing to ask, but does anyone know what tolerance means?

A **TEENAGE GIRL** raises her hand. Helen smiles, pointing at her.

Helen:

Yes, Katie.

Teenage girl:

To be respectful of other people's beliefs.

Helen:

That is correct. The textbook definition is to recognize and respect the opinions, practices and behaviors of others.

Helen smiles again as she turns around and writes down what the teenage girl said on the blackboard.

In the back row, focus on the three students talking amongst each other. They are **ERIN, David and MAX** (all three are 15 years old).

David:
So I called her up on the phone...

Max: (cutting him off)
Wait, that girl from 4Chan?

David:
Yeah. Somebody posted her number on the site.

Erin:
Did she answer when you called?

David:
Yeah. She was like (in a girly voice) "Hello?" and I said (in a deep voice) "Yo girl, this is James from school. You need to stop cheating on your boyfriend. He'll be pissed if he finds out that you've been sleeping with Scott for the past few months."

Erin and Max try not to laugh out loud, but they can't help it. Several of the other students turn around and look at them, along with Helen.

Helen: (semi-annoyed)
Mr. Jackson, Ms. Woods and Mr. Larkin.

Max, Erin and David turn and look at Helen.

Max:
Yes, Mrs. Benson?

Helen:
I know that sociology isn't the most exciting class, but it sure ain't the funniest.

Max:
I'm sorry Mrs. Benson.

Erin:
Yeah, Max and David are bad influences on me.

Max and David chuckle to themselves. Even Erin can't keep a straight face. Helen turns and looks at the blackboard again.

After a moment Max, David and Erin turn to face each other again. Now, they speak in lowered voice.

Max:

So, what did she say after that?

David reaches into his back pants pocket and pulls out his cell phone.

David:

I couldn't help myself. I recorded the whole conversation. This bitch flips the fuck out, I'm not kidding.

Erin and Max chuckle lightly. David presses a few buttons on his cell phone, but suddenly the cell phone shuts off. David, Max and Erin look at the phone in confusion. Suddenly, the lights in the room shut off as well. Even the computer screen goes black as well.

Everyone looks up at the ceiling, at the fluorescent lights. After a moment, Helen turns and looks at the clock.

Helen POV: the clock has stopped moving, even the thin red second hand has stopped moving. Focus on the clock for a moment.

Ext. City highway - Dawn.

Cars drive up and down the highway, which is right next to a major east coast city. Suddenly, all the lights in the city shut off and all the cars, trucks and buses driving on the highway came to a halt. Their headlights shut off as well.

Int. Office conference room - Dawn.

Several dozen people are sitting at an oval-shaped conference table. They are all wearing formal, black suits and dresses. They appear to talking about corporate profits or something of the like.

Suddenly, the overhead lights in the conference room shut off. Everyone in the room looks up at the lights. After a brief moment, they all start talking amongst themselves nervously.

Int. Benson house - living room - Dawn.

Andrew is laying on the living room couch, watching a music video on the MTV channel ("God is a DJ," by Pink).

Suddenly, the TV shuts off, along with all of the lights in the living room.

Andrew turns his head and looks around the living room, confused. After a brief moment he looks at the watch on his wrist.

Andrew POV: the watch on his wrist has stopped moving, stopped ticking. The long hand, the short hand, even the second hand has stopped moving. A finger appears and taps on the watch a few times, but to no success.

Int. Airport Terminal - Dawn.

Dozens and dozens of people are walking up and down the terminal, walking past the gates or walking towards them. There are also dozens of people sitting at their gates, waiting for their planes to arrive.

Suddenly, all the lights in the terminal shut off. People stop walking and they look up at the lights or at their watches, nervously.

Int. Car assembly factory - Dawn.

The assembly line holding car parts in place has stopped moving. For a moment, focus on the assembly workers trying to get the machines working. The assembly line workers talk to each other about the loss of power in their factory.

Ext. Small town main street - Dawn.

All the cars have stopped in the middle of the street. People are standing in the street, walking around, confused and partially scared.

Focus on a yellow Chevy Cavalier. The **CAVALIER DRIVER** (mid 30's) opens up the door and steps out of his car. He looks around at the others cars and people walking around, confused.

Cavalier Driver:
What the hell is happening?

Ext. Ariel view of New York City - Dawn.

Move over several streets in the city, showing that all cars, buses, and taxis are not moving. People are walking and running in the streets, not in a panic, though (but close to it).

Ext. Ariel view of a river port - Dawn.

Focus on the silent river port, with several cargo ships in the river not moving at all. They appear to be fixed to where they were before they lost power.

Ext. Ariel view of downtown Washington DC - Dawn.

Cars and buses plug up the streets of Washington, heading to work or whatever their destinations are. Hundreds of people on the sidewalks are doing the same as well.

Ext. Street in front of Capital building - Dawn.

Cars drive up and down the street. Behind them the Capital Building stands out, prestigious-looking in the morning sun.

After a moment several black vans drive up the street. They are moving in a hurry, almost zooming past the other cars.

Int. Black Van - Dawn.

The back of the van is set up to have the second and third row of seats facing each other. VP Harvard, Howard, Brown and Patterson are sitting in the van. Howard and Brown are sitting next to each other, VP Harvard and Patterson are sitting across from them.

VP Harvard:

I agree with you, Jacob. We need to get President Reeves to a secure location. If anything, the bunkers underneath the White House. The second we get a chance we need to go ahead with General O'Neil's plan.

Howard:

Not to sound like a civilian talking to a bunch of government higher ups, but we shouldn't greet an extraterrestrial being with an assault from our military.

Patterson:

Mr. Benson, please. Let the us make the defensive options and if these beings do try to make contact with us, we'll consult you for assistance.

Howard sits back in his seat, trying not to look pissed off at Patterson.

Suddenly, the car begins rapidly slowing down. VP Harvard, Patterson, Howard and Brown turn and look out the windows of the van, in shock at what is happening.

Ext. Street in front of Capital Building - Dawn.

All the cars on the street, including the small procession of black vans, come to a sudden halt. All the headlights on every car shut off, along with the lights that are on inside and outside the Capital Building.

Int. Black Van - Dawn.

VP Harvard looks over at Patterson, startled.

Patterson:

It's here.

Brown:

What are we gonna do?

VP Harvard:

We need to remain calm. We can't panic during a crisis situation.

Howard turns and looks out his window for a moment. Suddenly, his eyes widen and his mouth opens up slightly. Patterson looks over at Howard.

Patterson:

What is it?

Howard reaches over and opens up the door. Brown and VP Harvard turn and watch Howard step out of the van.

VP Harvard:

Where is he going?

Ext. Street in front of Capital Building - Dawn.

Howard is standing next to the black van. Dozens of people are standing in the streets and on the sidewalks, looking up in the direction of the capital building, but we don't know exactly what they are looking up at yet. We are facing away from the capital building.

After a moment Patterson steps out of the van, looking up into the sky as well. After a second his mouth opens up and he becomes struck with awe.

Patterson:
Good God...

Howard:
Its... beautiful.

Howard POV: An oval shaped object is moving over the dome of the Capital Building. The object is glowing (alternating blue and green) so brightly that the exact shape can't be made out.

Ext. Capital Building - Front steps - Dawn.

Dozens and dozens of politicians and civilians walk out of the Capital Building and onto the front steps. They all look up at the bright object flying over-head. Focus on them looking up for a moment.

Ext. Street in front of Capital Building - Dawn.

Howard and Patterson are still looking up at the glowing object. After a brief moment, VP Harvard steps out of the black van and looks up. A stunned look is on her face.

Howard, Patterson and VP Harvard stare up into the sky for a moment, in shock and awe. The light of the object begins to shine onto their faces, along with the entire area.

Ext. Front lawn of White House - Dawn.

Focus on the darkened White House and its front lawn for a moment. Suddenly, the bluish-green light of the object illuminates the White House.

Ext. Front of Lincoln Memorial - Dawn.

Focus on the front portion of the Lincoln memorial, with the large statue of Abraham Lincoln sitting on his chair placed behind the large columns.

After a moment, the blue-green light illuminates the memorial as well. The statue itself seems to almost faintly glow due to it's reflection of the light coming off of the large object.

Ext. Park surrounding Washington Monument - Dawn.

The blue-green light illuminates the entire park as well. Dozens of bystanders look up into the sky as the light grows brighter and brighter.

The people begin to cover their eyes with their arms as they turn and run away.

Int. High school - teacher's lounge - Dawn.

The lounge has a large circular table in it with two three-seat couches in the room as well. Helen, Bennet and several other teachers are in the lounge as well.

Helen is sitting on the couch, Bennet is sitting at the table and the three other teachers are pacing around the lounge.

After a moment, Helen looks over at the Bennet.

Helen:
It's soo hot.

Bennet nods his head. **MALE TEACHER 1** (mid forties) walks over to the window that looks out at the courtyard parking lot.

Male Teacher 1:
How long have we been without power?

Bennet:
I don't know.

MALE TEACHER 2 (late 30's) looks at his watch. He taps it for a moment with his finger, then sighs.

Male Teacher 2:
My guess is a half hour or so.

Helen places her hands over her face and wipes away the sweat that has built up.

Helen:
Jesus.

Helen looks over at the **FEMALE TEACHER** (early 40's), who appears to be looking at the floor, on the verge of crying.

Helen:
Meredith, how are you doing?

Female Teacher:
I can't stop thinking about Sidney. She's at that day care near the university.

The Female Teacher tries to say another word, but can't. She continues looking down at the floor. Helen continues looking at her for a moment before turning and looking at the windows.

Suddenly, there is brief clicking sound, followed by the overhead lights in the lounge turning on. Everyone looks up at the lights, with their mouths open.

Bennet:
Oh my God.

Male Teacher 2:
It's about time.

Helen reaches into her pocket and pulls out her cell phone. She flips it open and notices that the cell phone is on, like nothing had happened a while ago.

Helen looks up and watches the two Male Teachers walk out of the lounge. The Female Teacher wipes her eyes with her hand, stands up and walks towards the door, pulling out her cell phone as she walks out.

Helen looks over at Bennet, who is standing up from the lounge table.

Bennet:
What the hell happened?

Helen:
I don't know.

Helen looks down at her cell phone as she stands up.

Helen: (cont'd)
Alan, I'm gonna head home.

Bennet:
Helen, I think that we should...

Helen (cutting him off)
I'm heading home. I'm gonna go... and check to make sure that
Andrew is alright. I don't know if I'll come back.

Bennet looks at her for a moment, then nods his head.

Bennet:
If you find out what happened, tell us.

Helen nods her head slightly, then turns and walks towards the
lounge door as well.

Int. Helen's Red Dodge Nitro - Early Afternoon.

Helen has her hands on the wheel as she drives down what looks
like a highway. Outside of her windows there are hundreds of
cars off to the sides of the road, people trying to get cars
started up again.

Helen continues to focus on driving for a moment, then she turns
and reaches over for the radio station turner. There is nothing
but static. She turns the knob again; nothing but static.

Helen turns the knob again, and a voice comes through, but it
gets cut off by static every now and then:

Radio Voice: (o.s.)
We are still receiving reports of blackouts stretching all the
... (static)...are just joining us, we are just getting back on
the air ... (static)... electrical shortage of some kind and we
are ... (static)... has landed in a park in Washington DC.

Helen looks down at the radio, somewhat confused at what she has
just heard. She turns the knob again, but every channel she
turns to is filled with static.

Ext. Suburban street - Early Afternoon.

About a dozen cars are in the middle of the street, with people standing around them, trying to get them to start working. People stand in their front lawns, looking up and down the street, talking to their neighbors. Several cars go up and down the suburban street.

After a moment, Helen's red dodge nitro appears, drives towards her house and pulls into the driveway.

Ext. Benson house - front lawn & driveway - Early Afternoon.

Helen's red Nitro pulls into the driveway and before it comes to a complete halt, the driver's side door opens and she steps out and speed walks over to the front door. She reaches the door and knocks on it.

Helen:

Andrew? Are you there? Please open up.

She looks at the front door, nervous. She knocks on the door again after a moment, a little more anxiously.

Helen: (cont'd)

Andrew!

Suddenly, the front door opens and Andrew stands in the front hallway, looking up at Helen with a semi-scared look on his face.

Int. Benson House - Front Hallway - Early Afternoon.

Helen walks into the house, leaving the front door open as she walks in. She looks down at Andrew and after a moment, she leans down and places her hand on his cheek.

Andrew:

Mom?

Helen:

Are you ok, sweetie?

Andrew reaches up and wipes his nose with the sleeve of his shirt. His eyes are red, making it look like Andrew has been crying.

Helen: (cont'd)
Andrew, what happened?

Andrew takes a deep breath.

Andrew:
Are we all gonna die?

A slight smile appears on her face, but disappears after a brief moment.

Helen:
Why would you think that?

Andrew turns and walks away from Helen, walking into the living room. Helen stands up straight and follows her son.

Int. Benson home - Living room - Early Afternoon.

The TV in the living room is on, but what is being televised is unknown at the moment. Andrew walks into the living room, followed by Helen.

Andrew walks over to the couch and picks up the TV remote. Helen looks down at her son.

Andrew:
It's in Washington. I... I've been watching the TV since it came back on. Everyone on the news is scared, Mom.

Helen turns and looks at the TV and after a brief moment, her eyes widen and her mouth drops open.

Focus on TV: On the TV screen there is an aerial view of a large park surrounded by four streets and office buildings in downtown Washington DC. On the screen are the words BREAKING NEWS.

In the park there appears to be what looks like a large, silvery-metallic object, about 150 feet across, hovering just slightly above the ground. It looks almost like a giant, metallic tortoise shell. However, even though it is metallic in appearance, it also seems to be somewhat translucent, with small patches of pulsating light popping up randomly all over the object.

The voice of the News Anchor seems startled, but he is keeping his calm.

Voice of News Anchor:

You are currently looking at live images of what looks like a large object in the downtown Washington area. The object is approximately a hundred or so feet across. This breaking news story is... very scary indeed.

Helen sits down on the couch, her eyes still transfixed on the TV screen. After a moment Andrew turns and looks at his mother.

Andrew:

Mom, are we gonna die?

Helen:

I'm sure that they won't hurt us. They wouldn't have come all this way to hurt us.

Helen wraps her arm around Andrew's shoulder and pulls him closer to her. Both of them continue to watch the TV screen for a few moments.

Focus on TV: The large object continues to hover just slightly above the ground in the downtown Washington DC park.

Voice of News Anchor:

... has called for calm and patience as they deal with this situation. It is believed by several reports that we are receiving that the object is in fact extraterrestrial in nature and that the President has called for the National Guard and all local law enforcements to be on high alert.

Ext. Large open park - Early Afternoon.

A montage of shots:

-A long procession of military personnel carriers, humvees and police cruisers driving into the park and stopping about a hundred feet away from the ship.

-Dozens of soldiers jumping off of the personnel carriers and running to form a defensive line around the ship, raising their assault rifles and aiming them at the large ship.

-several police cruisers driving on the grass of the park, their sirens blaring and red/blue lights flashing.

-More shots of military vehicles driving on the grass, moving towards the large ship. Gunners on top of the humvees ready the machine guns that are mounted to the vehicles.

-A shot of a tank pulling up next to a humvee. It rocks back and forth slightly as it comes to a stop.

-several soldiers carrying shoulder mounted missile launchers, rushing towards the defensive line set up in front of the ship.

-Several black vans pulling up next to a park picnic table. The doors slide open and several scientists in hazmat suits step out of the vans.

End montage.

Ext. Ariel view of large open park - Early Afternoon.

A large, thick circle of military vehicles and police cruisers, along with (possibly) hundreds of soldiers surrounds the large, tortoise shell-shaped object. After a moment a TV news helicopter flies over the ship.

Ext. Large open park - Early Afternoon.

Focus on a group of soldiers, maybe six of them, slowly walking towards the ship. Walking along side the soldiers is one of the **scientists' in a hazmat suit**, looking up at the ship in awe (this would be my small cameo role).

The large object continues to glow with the small patches of light popping up all over the ship. The soldiers and the scientist in the hazmat suit continue to walk towards the front of the ship, slowly.

Scientist in hazmat suit:

I'm detecting small amounts of radiation coming off of the ship,
but it is no where near a lethal amount.

They continue approaching the ship.

Voice in radio: (o.s.)

At the sign of any form of aggression, turn back immediately.

Scientist in hazmat suit:

Affirmative. We are going to proceed towards the craft.

The soldiers and the scientist in the hazmat suit continue to walk towards the ship. Suddenly, the front part of the ship's underbelly begins to glow brightly. It is followed by a soft, buzzing noise.

The soldiers and the scientist in the hazmat suit raise their arms up to the eyes for a moment. The scientist in the hazmat suit lowers his arm and looks into the light and after a moment, his eyes widen and his mouth drops open.

Scientist in Hazmat suit POV: a figure literally materializes out of the bright light coming from the ship. It stands about 30 feet away from the scientist in the hazmat suit. It looks like it is wearing some sort of skin tight dark green colored suit, which appears to be covered in some kind of armor. The figure also looks like it is wearing some kind of helmet over its head, which has a thin black visor where it's eyes would be.

The soldiers with the scientist look at the figure in shock for a moment, then immediately raise their assault rifles and aim them at the figure, which appears to be standing six feet tall.

The scientist in the hazmat suit, overcome with awe, begins to walk slowly towards the figure. As he walks towards it, the voices over the radio seem to grow in intensity.

Voices over radio: (o.s.)

Stand back! Stand back!... What are our rules of engagement?...

Do not fire. Repeat, do not fire!... What is that thing?...

Everyone, hold your positions!... Do not let your guard down!

The scientist in the hazmat suit and the strange figure are now only standing ten feet apart from each other. The scientist in the hazmat suit slowly raises his hand towards the strange figure, in what looks like an attempt to shake hands with the strange figure (for those of you who don't know, the strange figure is **KLAATU** in a suit).

The figure (Klaatu) takes a few more steps towards the scientist and raises his arm as well. The dark green colored suit looks like it is actually sparkling in the light.

Voices over radio: (o.s.)

Step away!... Continue to aim at the target!... Everyone, do not

fire!... We have contact with the target... Do not show

hostility towards the target!

Suddenly, there is a deafening sound, almost like a gun shot. The scientist in hazmat suit flinches in response to the sound. He takes a step back before looking up at Klaatu.

Klaatu is clutching his left shoulder as he falls to his knees. The scientist in hazmat suit stares at Klaatu in shock for a moment. Klaatu looks down at the ground, then up at the scientist in hazmat suit before finally falling onto his side.

Voices over radio: (o.s.)
Everyone, hold your fire, now!... Call for a medic immediately!... Has the target been hit?... Clear out the nearest high level security medical facility!

The scientist in the hazmat suit rushes over to Klaatu, followed by several soldiers with their assault rifles aimed at the figure laying on the ground.

The scientist in hazmat suit kneels down on the ground and carefully turns Klaatu's head to face his own. A look of shock, sadness and guilt is all over the scientist's face.

Scientist in hazmat suit:
I'm sorry...

Suddenly, there is another loud sound, almost like that of a jet engine. Everyone reaches up to try and cover their ears.

Montage of shots...

-the soldiers in the humvees letting go over the mounted guns and covering their ears.

-police officers standing next to their police cars, their hands tightly pressed against their ears.

The scientist in the hazmat suit finally turns and looks towards the ship.

Standing in front of the ship, silhouetted against the bright light, is a much taller, darker figure. This one stands at least 17 or 18 feet tall. This figure is completely covered in black, which also seems to sparkle like glitter in the light, and it looks like it is built to resemble a pro-football quarterback in appearance, physically.

It is **GORT**. GORT takes a single step away from the ship and turns his completely blank head and face to turn and look around at everyone.

Suddenly, a large, but somewhat thin visor appears over GORT's face (it was completely covered in the black, sparkling material. No face what so ever) and begins to glow brightly red.

Suddenly, a thin red beam of light briefly shoots out of the red visor and strikes a humvee a hundred feet away. The military vehicle explodes into flames and smoke. Soldiers and police officers turn and run away.

A second beam of red light shoots out of the visor and strikes a second humvee. It rapidly travels over to a police cruiser and that vehicle explodes as well.

The beams of light disappear, but the visor over GORT's face continues to glow brightly. GORT suddenly walks over to where the scientist in the hazmat suit and Klaatu are. The scientist turns and looks up in shock at the giant robot.

GORT stops walking, turns and looks down at the scientist and Klaatu. The red light coming from the visor begins to glow brighter and brighter, accompanied by an electrical sizzling sound.

Suddenly, Klaatu's hands reach up, grab a hold of the helmet and rip it off, revealing the kind, human face of a man approximately in his mid to late thirties.

Klaatu:
Gort! Deklato prosko!

The scientist turns and looks down at Klaatu, then back up at GORT. GORT is standing upright, looking straight ahead. The red visor has disappeared from GORT's face and the giant robot seems to stand motionless, almost as if he is guarding the large ship.

Ext. Ariel view of large open park - early afternoon.

The news helicopter flies back over the large ship. The large robot is motionless and the soldiers, police officers and other scientists are standing still, staring up at GORT.

Focus on this shot for a moment.

Int. Benson House - kitchen - Early Afternoon.

Helen is standing in front of the kitchen sink, with her cell phone in her hand and held up to her ear.

Helen:

I know, I know, Dad... I'm gonna wait for him to call me. Do you think that Andrew and I could come over for the next few days or until this thing comes to an end?...Thank you Dad soo much... I don't know if Howard will be home by the time we leave. I think that he's involved somehow... Ok, I'll call you when we're on our way. I love you Dad. Bye.

Helen closes the phone and puts it in her pants pocket. She looks out at the backyard through the window. After a brief moment, the faint sound of a jet flying overhead is heard.

Helen turns and walks out of the kitchen and into the front hallway.

Int. Benson house - Andrew's bedroom - Early Afternoon.

Andrew is laying on his bed, staring up blankly at the ceiling. After a moment Helen walks in and looks down at her son.

Helen:

Andrew?

Andrew turns and looks at his mother.

Andrew:

Yeah, Mom?

Helen:

Pack up a couple days worth of shirts, pants and underwear. We're going to Grandpa's until this thing is dealt with.

Andrew:

You mean until the spaceship leaves?

Helen:

Yeah.

Andrew:

What about Dad?

Helen:

I don't know. I'm gonna wait as long as possible for him to call us. I doubt that he'll be home by the time we leave.

Andrew sits up, turns and sits on the edge of his bed. Helen walks over to his bed and sits down next to her son.

Helen: (cont'd)

Do you wanna talk about it? I know that you're scared. So am I. If you wanna talk, it's ok.

Andrew looks down at he bedroom floor, not saying a word. After a moment Helen turns and looks up at the dresser next to Andrew's bed. On the dresser there are a few pictures of Helen, Howard and Andrew.

Focus on pictures: Focus on a specific picture showing Helen sitting on a couch, looking up at the camera and smiling. Andrew is sitting next to Helen, also smiling up at the camera. He has his hand over her stomach. In the picture, Helen seems... maybe five or six months pregnant.

Helen turns and looks at Andrew. He is still staring at he ground. After a moment Helen stands up and walks over to Andrew's open closet. Andrew looks up at Helen.

After a moment Helen pulls out a small, blue suitcase. She carries it over to the bed and sets it down on the bed.

Helen:

I'm gonna go into our bedroom and pack a suitcase as well. Please be finished in a half hour, ok?

Andrew nods his head yes. Helen turns and walks out of the bedroom.

Int. Walter Reed facility - underground hallway.

In this hallway, instead of concrete it is made up of steel. There are three doors in the hallway (disregarding the one at the end of the hallway), one of the right side of the hallway, the other two on the opposite sides.

The door at the end of the hallway opens and VP Harvard, Patterson, General O'Neil and **PRESIDENT ALEXANDER REEVES (early 40's)** walk into the hallway. Pres. Reeves is wearing a black suit with a blue business tie.

Pres. Reeves:
Patterson, what's the latest that we know?

Patterson:
Mr. President, after the being left the space craft and the large automaton emerged and attacked our soldiers, it ceased its attack and for the past hour or so, it has not moved at all.

Pres. Reeves:
How's the EBE doing?

Patterson:
What, sir?

Pres. Reeves:
The extraterrestrial biological entity. How is the being doing?

VP Harvard:
It was sedated during the operation to remove the bullet.

Pres. Reeves:
Was the operation a success?

VP Harvard:
It couldn't have been better.

General O'Neil:
It's just up ahead, Mr. President.

They continue walking towards the door on the right. General O'Neil walks ahead of the President and opens up the door. Pres. Reeves, VP Harvard and Patterson walk into the room, followed by General O'Neil.

Int. Walter Reed facility - underground observation room.

As Pres. Reeves walks into the room, he turns and notices Marlowe and Howard standing, looking at another room on the other side of a large glass window. Marlowe and Howard turn and face Pres. Reeves. Behind the President, the other three enter the room and the door closes.

Pres. Reeves: (to Howard)
Who might you be?

Howard:
Mr. President, my name is Howard Benson.

Marlowe:
I felt that we could use his communications skills to help us
with this situation.

Pres. Reeves nods his head, then turns and walks over to the glass window. In the other room are several doctors examining Klaatu, who is strapped to a hospital bed with a raised head rest. He appears to be unconscious; his eyes are closed. He is wearing just a typical blue patient's gown.

Pres. Reeves:
That's him, isn't it?

Marlowe:
Yes, Mr. President.

Pres. Reeves:
But he looks like... one of us. Is his DNA human?

Howard:
No, it's not. That's what makes him soo interesting. He looks human, but his DNA is soo different from ours.

Everyone in the room looks at the glass window for a moment.

Pres. Reeves:
I want to talk to him, personally.

Int. Walter Reed Facility - underground examination room.

Focus on Klaatu's face. His eyes are still closed, but they moving underneath his eye lids. Suddenly, his eyes snap open.

Pres. Reeves, Marlowe, Howard, General O'Neil and several soldiers and Secret Service Guards are standing in the room, look at Klaatu.

Klaatu slowly turns and carefully looks at everyone. After a moment, Pres. Reeves takes a cautious step towards Klaatu.

Pres. Reeves:
Can you understand us?

Klaatu looks at Pres. Reeves and nods his head.

Klaatu:
Perfectly.

Everyone in the room seems slightly shocked that he speaks English, but it passes.

Pres. Reeves:
I see that you can speak our language.

Klaatu:
My people have been studying this planet for a long time. We know more than just how to speak in your tongues.

Pres. Reeves takes a quick deep breath, then breathes out.

Pres. Reeves:
My name is Alexander Reeves. I'm the President of the United States of America.

Klaatu smiles, warmly.

Klaatu:
I am honored to finally meet one of the many distinguished leaders this planet has to offer.

Pres. Reeves:
Do you have a name as well?

Klaatu:
Yes... Klaatu.

Everyone briefly looks at everyone else, then back at Klaatu.

Pres. Reeves:
I would like to personally express my deepest apology for what happened back in the park.

Klaatu:
I understand. It was expected.

Pres. Reeves:
What?

Klaatu:

We have studied this planet for quite some time and we knew that your species is... you use the words "trigger happy,". You position your fingers on the triggers before you even understand the situation you are dealing with.

Pres. Reeves seems a bit taken aback by the comment. After a moment General O'Neil steps forward.

General O'Neil:

Do you understand the impact on this planet that your arrival has caused?

Klaatu:

Fully. I've never seen so much panic before, but since this planet has never sat down with another civilization, we understood what would happen and the results of my arrival were... expected as well.

General O'Neil:

Where exactly do you come from?

Klaatu:

I come from a planet that orbits the star you call Alpha Centauri. I like to think of Earth as a new neighbor that we haven't welcomed to the neighborhood.

General O'Neil smiles.

General O'Neil:

Its rather difficult for us to think of a distant planet as a neighbor.

Klaatu:

I'm afraid in the present situation you will have to learn to think that way, rather quickly.

General O'Neil:

The present situation?

Klaatu:

I mean the reason why I came to this planet.

General O'Neil:

The United States Government and the US Military is very curious about that.

Klaatu:
I'd be glad to speak about it, but not here with just you
people.

General O'Neil takes another step towards Klaatu.

General O'Neil:
Why not?

Klaatu:
If our studies are correct, your people have a "United
Nations,". Is that organization still in operation?

Pres. Reeves:
Yes.

Klaatu:
I will discuss my purpose there.

Pres. Reeves gives Klaatu a brief smile.

Pres. Reeves:
I'm afraid that won't happen.

Klaatu:
Why not?

Pres. Reeves:
National Security issues. We can't just willing let an alien
being speak to the United Nations. Why can't you tell us your
purpose?

Klaatu:
The reason for me being on this planet is far too great to let
only the representatives of one nation know about it. I must
speak to representatives from all the nations of Earth.

Pres. Reeves:
The current struggles that our world is going through... it
would be impossible for representatives from every nation on
Earth to agree to lay down their weapons and listen to a alien
visitor.

Klaatu:
My mission concerns all life on this planet. Human, animal,
marine, plant life. Everything that lives on this planet is in
danger and is threatened by extinction.

Howard takes a few steps towards Klaatu. Klaatu turns and looks at Howard.

Howard:
Please tell us. If its that important...

Klaatu:
I'm sorry, but I will not speak to one nation alone. Either the whole world hears it, or no one does.

Everyone stares at Klaatu, slightly stunned about what Klaatu has said about the human race.

Pres. Reeves:
May you excuse us for a moment?

Klaatu nods his head.

Int. Walter Reed facility - underground observation room.

Pres. Reeves, Howard, General O'Neil, Marlowe, and Patterson are standing outside the examination room. Klaatu can be seen in the examination room in the background, looking around at everything curiously.

General O'Neil:
I agree with you that we shouldn't even consider using extreme measures to get him to talk, but we need to know what his intentions are.

Pres. Reeves:
I understand, General.

General O'Neil:
He shut off global communications, our defensive capabilities, entered the most sensitive airspace in the world and that large automaton attacked our troops and blew up several military vehicles. Technically, just the robot incident alone is an act of war.

Howard:
We're all jumping to conclusions. He shut off power all over the world so that he could arrive safely and the robot attacked in an attempt to defend him, apparently. It was violent, I know, but we fired the first shot, remember?

General O'Neil walks over to Pres. Reeves.

General O'Neil:

Mr. President, I know that you look at the goodness in people. That's what helped you get elected, but we are dealing with an alien representative who has technology that can shut off all electrical power all over the world and he has, in better terms, a weapon of mass destruction.

Pres. Reeves:

I understand, but I doubt that he will reveal his purpose on Earth if we use violent measures. We need to get him to trust us, not find ways to harm us.

Howard:

Harm us?

General O'Neil turns and looks at Howard, almost smirking.

General O'Neil:

I think we all understand, to some degree, his intentions on Earth. What he did before he arrived clearly showed that he wanted to demonstrate superiority, not just in the air, but with our power grids and defensive and military options.

After a moment Howard walks into the center of the room and turns to look at the President, a little aggravated.

Howard:

Let me talk to him.

Everyone turns and looks at Howard.

General O'Neil:

What?

Howard:

Let me talk to him. Give me a chance to talk to him. Maybe I can get him to trust us. Maybe I can get him to reveal his mission, since you won't let him speak to the United Nations, which I personally think would be the best option. Mr. President, I think it would be best if you let an ordinary person talk to him, someone who he can learn to trust. Please let me try. Give me one shot at it, please.

Howard continues to look over at Pres. Reeves, along with everyone else in the room.

Pres. Reeves:

Anything's worth a shot. You have my permission, Mr. Benson, to talk with Klaatu. Get him to trust you. Get him to reveal as much as possible.

Howard nods his head.

Int. Walter Reed facility - underground examination room.

Klaatu is still strapped to the hospital bed. It appears that Klaatu is now hooked up to a polygraph machine, a lie-detector. A small table with a computer screen showing a steady pulse is set up next to Klaatu's bed.

After a moment Howard enters the room and slowly walks over to Klaatu, holding a clipboard in his hands. Klaatu looks up at Howard, curiously. Just by how Howard is walking shows that he seems to be nervous in Klaatu's presence.

After a moment, Klaatu slightly smiles.

Klaatu:
You look nervous.

Howard:
A little.

Howard walks over to the metal table, sits down at it and places the clipboard down next to the computer screen. Howard takes a deep breath before looking up at Klaatu.

Howard:
I'm going to ask you a series of questions. Please answer them honestly and truthfully.

Klaatu:
I have been doing that the entire time, Mr. Benson.

Howard appears stunned to hear Klaatu say his name.

Howard:
How do you know my name?

Klaatu:
My people have been studying this planet, Mr. Benson. Remember that.

Int. Walter Reed facility - underground observation room.

Pres. Reeves, Patterson, General O'Neil, Marlowe and a doctor are standing at the window, watching what is going on in the examination room.

Marlowe:

Mr. President, we have been receiving calls from the United Kingdom, Japan and France, asking if they could send over some of their top scientists to examine Klaatu and his ship.

Pres. Reeves:

Not until we learn more about why he is here.

After a brief moment VP Harvard walks into the room. Everyone turns and looks at her. She appears to be a little stressed.

VP Harvard:

Alex, we need to hold a press conference. Soon.

Pres. Reeves:

I understand...

VP Harvard: (cutting him off)

According to what I've been watching on the TV, half the world is thinking that this is the end of days. The other half is demanding to learn more about this... guy. We need to say something to calm everyone down.

After a moment everyone turns and looks back into the examination room.

Pres. Reeves:

Once we learn more, we'll hold a press conference.

Int. Walter Reed Facility - underground examination room.

Howard is carefully looking back and forth at Klaatu, then at the computer screen set up on the desk.

Howard:

Are you in a seat of position on your planet's government?

Klaatu:

Yes.

Howard:
What is that position?

Klaatu:
I am a representative to other planets.

Howard quickly looks down at the clipboard, then up at Klaatu, who is staring back at Howard but not in a frightening way. He is looking at Howard with a slightly sympathetic look.

Klaatu:
There is something bothering you, Mr. Benson. I can tell by your facial expressions while you have been talking to me.

Howard stares at Klaatu for a moment, then stands up out of his chair.

Int. Walter Reed facility - underground observation room.

Everyone's eyes widen and General O'Neil takes a step towards the door that leads to the examination room.

Pres. Reeves:
Wait.

Int. Walter Reed Facility - underground examination room.

Howard looks down at Klaatu, trying to find the words that he wants to say. Klaatu looks up at him, with a patient look on his face.

Howard:
I'm gonna speak from my heart, ok?

Klaatu:
Why should I mind? All beings are their true selves when they speak from the heart.

Howard:
When you came... when I learned of what was happening... I thought the world was gonna come to an end today. I was so scared, not for me, but for my family, my wife, my son. My family has gone through a tragedy over the last year and today... we are not the only ones who are scared. The whole planet is.

Klaatu and Howard stare at each other for a moment.

Klaatu:

I understand that all people go through tragedies in their lives. The same goes for our world. I wish and... hoped that your people wouldn't have reacted with fear and aggression, but like I said before, my arrival on this planet is the first of its kind.

Howard looks at the glass window, then at Klaatu with a stern look on his face.

Howard:

Tell us... please. I just wanna know. Why have you come to our planet?

Klaatu stares at Howard for a moment, then sighs.

Klaatu:

I came here to offer mankind two choices.

Howard:

What choices?

Klaatu:

Salvation or extermination.

Int. Walter Reed facility - underground observation room.

Pres. Reeves, General O'Neil, VP Harvard, Patterson, Marlowe and the doctor stare at Klaatu in shock.

Marlowe:

Bingo.

General O'Neil:

We have our answer.

Int. Walter Reed facility - underground examination room.

Howard is starting to show a look of calm after hearing what Klaatu said.

Howard:

What do you mean?

Klaatu:

I have said more than what I wanted to say.

Howard:
Please?

Klaatu: (calmly)
No.

Silence. Howard and Klaatu continue to stare at each other for a moment.

Int. Walter Reed facility - underground communications room.

Inside the communications room there are about a dozen or so computers and several land line telephones attached to the wall. Howard is sitting in an office chair, holding a telephone up to his ear. He is looking down at the ground and as he speaks, we sense that he is scared.

Howard:
I don't know if I'll be back tonight.

Helen: (over the phone/o.s.)
Why can't you tell me what's going on?

Howard:
I'm sorry, sweetheart, but it's gonna be a while. Where are you and Andrew headed?

Int. Helen's red nitro - late afternoon.

Helen is sitting in the driver's seat, Andrew is in the passenger's seat, looking out through the windows.

They appear to be driving through a forest, possibly through a park. Helen is holding her cell phone up to her ear with her right hand and driving with her left.

Helen:
We're headed up to my father's. I called him and he said it would be alright if we stayed with him until the situation gets better or... something.

Howard: (over the phone/o.s.)
I don't know if that's gonna happen.

A look of panic appears on Helen's face. Andrew turns and looks up at her.

Helen:
Howard? Please tell me.

Howard: (over the phone/o.s.)
I will when I can. Just stay calm and try not to get Andrew upset as well. I'm sure everything will be alright in the end.

Int. Walter Reed facility - underground communications room.

Howard is looking straight ahead now, trying his hardest not to cry.

Helen: (over the phone/o.s.)
Ok. I will.

Howard:
Helen...

Helen: (over the phone/o.s.)
Yeah?

Howard:
I love you very much. I still love you the same way I loved you back when we first met. That has never changed, I swear.

Helen: (over the phone/o.s.)
I love you too, Howard. Please get to my father's as soon as you can.

Howard:
When I leave I'm gonna make a stop at home, ok?

Helen: (over the phone/o.s.)
Ok. Just... please leave soon.

Howard:
I'll try. I love you Helen.

Helen: (over the phone/o.s.)
I love you too. Bye.

Howard:
Goodbye.

After a brief moment there is a rapid beeping sound coming through the phone. Howard pulls the phone away and hangs it back up on the wall receiver.

He buries his face into his hands and stays like that for a moment. The sound of him sniffing can be faintly heard.

Int. Walter Reed Facility - underground communications room.

Howard, Marlowe, General O'Neil and several soldiers are looking up at a large flat screen TV hanging on the wall. On the TV Patterson is speaking to reporters about the situation via a news conference.

Marlowe:
This wasn't a good idea.

Howard:
Why not?

Marlowe:
We shouldn't be speaking about the entity so soon after his arrival. Besides, we don't fully know why he is here.

General O'Neil turns and looks at Marlowe and Howard.

General O'Neil:
He already revealed enough information. Either we accept his "salvation" or he will destroy us. You heard him yourself, Mr. Benson.

Howard:
We don't know what he meant exactly.

General O'Neil shakes his head, turns and looks back at the TV screen.

General O'Neil:
Mr. Benson, I know that you're scared. Do you really think that the rest of us are completely calm about this situation?

Howard:
I think we should let him speak to the UN.

General O'Neil:
If anyone remembers anything from history class, it is that first encounters between civilizations don't always go well.

Unfortunately, most of the time the lower civilization is wiped out due to a war, mass genocide or an intended viral outbreak. Think about Columbus and the Native Americans, British Colonists and the Tasmanians, Cortez and the Aztecs, the list goes on and on. This time, however,... humanity is the lower civilization.

Marlowe:

Mr. Benson, we can't leave anything to chance. We need him contained until we can confirm that he isn't here to harm us.

Howard sighs loudly. General O'Neil turns and looks at Howard.

Howard:

Are you guys blind? This is the biggest discovery in the history of the human race. Even if it was discovered that there is a bloodline related to Jesus still walking around today, it wouldn't reach the scale of the discovery that we are not alone.

Marlowe:

You're acting like this is breaking news. Trust us, its not. We've known that we are not alone in the universe for more than sixty years.

Howard:

Then why haven't you released this information to the public?

Marlowe points to the TV screen.

Marlowe:

We feared this would happen.

Howard turns and looks at the TV screen. On the TV screen a helicopter shot of Klaatu's ship appears on screen, with GORT still standing motion less in front of the ship.

After a moment the image changes to a shot of a **news reporter** standing some distance away from GORT. The news reporter is holding a microphone as she speaks.

News Reporter:

So far there has been no sign of movement coming from the large robot, however there has been an impressive showcase of military vehicles coming here to surround the large ship and the robot for the past hour or so.

After another moment the image on the screen changes to a helicopter shot of a highway jam packed, bumper to bumper with

hundreds of cars moving at a slow pace. The headline on the TV says **END OF THE WORLD?**

Marlowe turns and looks at Howard.

Marlowe:

People fear that our days are now numbered. Its like Orson Welles' War of the Worlds on a global scale, except this time the aliens are real.

Howard:

But now the world knows the truth.

General O'Neil:

There were plans being arranged to have Reeves become what some call a "disclosure president,". I just never would have guessed that the aliens would be the first to do it.

They turn and look back at the large TV screen. Howard looks down at his wrist watch.

Howard:

I need to get home.

General O'Neil turns to look at Howard.

General O'Neil:

Pardon me?

Howard:

I need to get home, to my family. They're scared, terrified, frightened by what's happening and I don't want to be away from them for long.

General O'Neil:

Mr. Benson, you cannot leave until you have been cleared to leave. I'm sorry.

Howard stares at General O'Neil, getting agitated at the general. Suddenly, someone's cell phone begins to ring. Marlowe reaches into his pocket, pulls out his phone and holds it up to his ear.

Marlowe:

Hello?... Yes...I understand...We will be there shortly.

Marlowe pulls the phone away and looks over at Howard and General O'Neil.

General O'Neil:
What's going on?

Marlowe:
Reeves wants Klaatu to be moved from here to a more secure location, so that he can be further questioned by officials. He's asking for us to wait for him at the Pentagon. Doctors are on their way now.

General O'Neil:
Then lets go.

Marlowe, Howard and General O'Neil turn and walk out of the communications room.

Int. Walter Reed Facility - underground examination room.

Klaatu is still strapped to the bed, but he is no longer hooked up to the polygraph machine. He is watching the door as it opens and Marcus Brown (the NASA director), two doctors and two Secret Service agents walk into the room.

Brown and Klaatu stare at each other for a brief moment.

Brown:
Mr. Klaatu... we are going to be transferring you to a more secure place so that you can be questioned by military and government officials. We will sedate you using the same non-lethal, temporary drugs that were used on you during the operation to remove the bullet from your shoulder.

Klaatu smiles slightly.

Klaatu:
Alright, but I would like to be released soon. I am being confined here when I have done no wrong.

Brown turns and whispers into one of the doctors' ears. Klaatu watches them, carefully.

Ext. Large open park - Late afternoon.

A circle of police cruisers and military vehicles still surrounds GORT and the large ship in the open park.

Focus on GORT, who is still standing motionless in front of the ship. After a moment a low ringing sound seems to be coming from GORT. The robot, however, still does not move.

Int. Walter Reed Facility - underground examination room.

Klaatu is still looking up at Brown as the two doctors walk over to a table on the other side of the room and begin to fill two syringes with a liquid of some kind.

Suddenly, the low ringing sound is heard again. Klaatu looks up at the ceiling, somewhat startled at the sound. The strange thing is, no one else in the room is reacting to it, almost as if they don't hear it.

After a moment the look on Klaatu's face changes from startled to... sadness. However, as the doctors walk over to Klaatu's bed, Klaatu looks at Brown with a stern, apologetic look on his face.

Klaatu:
Mr. Brown?

Brown:
Yes?

Klaatu:
I'm sorry.

Brown gives Klaatu a confused look, but suddenly a look of shock and pain spreads across Brown's face. He reaches up and tries to cover his eyes. He begins to scream as well before he collapses to the floor.

The doctors and the two secret service agents turn and look at Klaatu, who is looking back at them. After a brief moment they begin to scream in pain and they cover their eyes with their hands as well before they all fall to the floor as well..

The straps around Klaatu's arms, chest, waist and legs suddenly snap open and Klaatu sits up in the seat. He looks down at the

doctors, the service agents and Brown, who are withering in pain on the examination room floor.

Klaatu stands up off of the bed and walks over to the secret service agent laying next to the door. Klaatu looks down at the agent, then cocks his head to the side a bit.

Int. Walter Reed facility - underground hallway.

There are two soldiers standing on opposite sides of the door leading into the observation room. After a moment the door slides open.

Before the soldiers can turn their heads to look into the room, two hands emerge from the doorway and grab a hold of the soldiers' shoulders. Suddenly a look of pain appears on the faces of the soldiers and their skin begins to turn an icy white color.

The two soldiers collapse onto the ground and after a moment, Klaatu walks out of the room, now wearing the black suit, pants, work shoes and black tie belonging to the Secret Service agent that was laying on the ground.

Klaatu turns and begins to walk down the hallway.

Int. Pentagon - Press conference room.

There are more reporters, journalists and photographers than there are seats in the conference room. In the front of the room is the President's podium with the Pentagon seal hanging on the blue curtain in the background.

After a moment Pres. Reeves, VP Harvard and General O'Neil walk into the room and General O'Neil and VP Harvard stand on either side of the podium while Pres. Reeves stands at the podium.

The cameras continue to flash non-stop and there is a loud murmuring going on throughout the crowd. Pres. Reeves raises his hand for a moment, then lowers it. The commotion in the room calms down.

Pres. Reeves:

Ladies and gentlemen, I understand that there are many questions that you wanna ask, and I'll get to those in a moment. However, please let me explain all that we know about the current

situation. At approximately 9 o'clock this morning, a large ship of extraterrestrial origin landed...

Int. Pentagon - office conference room - Early evening.

Patterson, Marlowe, several Secret Service Agents and Howard are sitting at a small, oval shaped table. They are watching Pres. Reeves' speech on a large flat screen TV.

Patterson:

When Alexander comes back, we need to discuss what we are gonna do about the alien.

Howard:

What do you mean?

Patterson:

You know... we need to interrogate the being. We need to get him to tell us what his agenda is.

Howard sighs for a moment, then closes his eyes. A cell phone starts ringing and Howard looks over at Patterson, who has his phone up to his ear.

Patterson:

Hello?... WHAT?!?!...

Patterson's eyes widen. Everyone in the room turns and looks at Patterson.

Patterson: (cont'd)

... Well find him, immediately!... Alright, thank you.

Patterson closes his phone, then drops it on the table.

Marlowe:

What happened?

Patterson:

He's escaped. Five minutes ago. Practically walked right out of Walter Reed.

Everyone's mouths drop open.

Marlowe:

Are you kidding me?

Patterson:
I wish I was.

Howard takes a deep breath as he turns and looks out the window. Suddenly, another cell phone rings. Howard looks away from the window and reaches into his own pants pocket.

He pulls out his cell phone and looks at the screen. A look of confusion briefly appears on his face, but he then brings the phone up to his ear.

Howard:
Hello?

Unknown voice: (over the phone/o.s.)
Mr. Benson.

Howard:
Yes?

Unknown voice: (over the phone/o.s.)
This is Klaatu.

An expressionless look is on Howard's face. He then begins to appear stunned and shocked, but he looks around at everyone else in the room.

Howard:
What do you want?

Klaatu: (over the phone/o.s.)
My mission here on Earth has changed. I need your help.

Howard:
Hold on a second, please.

Howard stands up and begins walking towards the door. Patterson watches Howard walk away.

Patterson:
Where are you going?

Howard looks at Patterson.

Howard:
It's my wife. Something's bothering her. I'll be a minute.

Patterson nods his head, but he continues to watch Howard as he walks out of the conference room.

Int. Pentagon - office hallway - early evening.

Howard walks into the empty, silent hallway, closing the conference room door as well.

Howard:

How are you talking to me? How did you get this number?

Klaatu: (over the phone/o.s.)

Every phone number can be easily accessed with... well, I can access them easily. I'm using a phone booth located in a subway station underground.

Howard:

How did you get out of Walter Reed Hospital?

Klaatu: (over the phone/o.s.)

I had to do things to people that I am not proud of, that I would not have done in any other circumstance. I apologize for what I have done.

Howard:

Did you kill...

Klaatu: (over the phone/o.s.)

I didn't kill anyone, Mr. Benson. I just... I frightened them in a way that may or may not scar them for the rest of their lives, which may not last for much longer.

Howard:

Why not?

Klaatu: (over the phone/o.s.)

I will not state what has happened over the phone. Only in person, Mr. Benson.

Howard:

Where? If you don't already know, I'm still in the Pentagon.

Klaatu: (over the phone/o.s.)

You know where. When you get the opportunity, head home.

Howard:

Wait. Don't you...

Klaatu: (over the phone/o.s.)
Goodbye Mr. Benson. I'll see you soon.

Suddenly, there is a clicking sound. Howard pulls the phone away and looks at the screen. A small, panicked look is on his face. He closes the phone and puts it back into his pocket.

Suddenly, the door to the conference room opens and a **SECRET SERVICE AGENT** walks into the hallway. Howard turns and looks at the agent.

Secret Service Agent:
Mr. Benson, are you ready to come back in?

Silence for a moment.

Howard:
Yeah, I just... I wanna get a quick drink of water from the small kitchen.

Secret Service Agent:
Be back here in one minute.

Howard nods his head, turns and begins to walk down the hallway. The Secret Service Agent watches Howard disappear around a corner. Focus on the agent watching the hallway corner for a moment.

Int. Pentagon - underground parking garage.

Inside the underground garage there are about two dozen cars parked in their spaces. Howard speed walks over to a black colored Ford Mustang.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out the keys. An unlocking beeping sound is heard and the headlights on Howard's car turn on.

Howard walks over to the driver's side door, and opens it up.

Int. Howard's Mustang - underground parking lot.

Howard slides into the driver's seat and closes the door. He puts the keys into the ignition and turns the car's engine on.

Int. Pentagon - underground parking garage.

Howard's black Mustang pulls out of its parking space and begins to drive towards the exit ramp.

Int. Pentagon - office conference room - early evening.

Patterson, Marlowe and several other presidential advisors are still sitting at the conference table.

Suddenly, the door opens and the Secret Service Agent walks into the room and looks over at Patterson. The Defense Secretary turns and looks at the agent.

Secret Service Agent:

Mr. Secretary, Howard Benson can't be found anywhere.

Patterson:

What?

Secret Service Agent:

His Ford Mustang was seen leaving our underground parking garage.

Patterson slams his fist down hard onto the table, angry.

Patterson:

God damn it!

Ext. Bridge over river - Early evening.

Howard's Ford Mustang is driving rapidly across the bridge. The entire bridge is clear of all traffic except for Howard's car.

Watch Howard's car for a moment.

Ext. Suburban street - Early evening.

The entire neighborhood looks empty, vacant. Paper litters the street, sidewalks and front lawns of the houses.

Howard's car drives down the street for a moment before turning into the driveway of the Benson's house.

Int. Benson's House - Front Hallway - Early evening.

The front door opens and Howard stands in the doorway, slightly nervous to enter the house. After a brief moment he steps into his house and looks up and down the hallway.

Howard:
Hello?

Howard turns and walks towards the living room.

Int. Benson's house - living room - early evening.

Howard walks into the living room and immediately notices Klaatu sitting in the recliner chair next to the doorway leading to the kitchen.

Howard and Klaatu stare at each other for a brief moment, then Klaatu smiles and stands up out of the chair.

Klaatu:
Mr. Benson.

Howard:
Please call me Howard.

Klaatu extends his hand out in a friendly gesture. Howard nervously reaches over and shakes his hand. After a moment they both let go.

Howard:
What do you want?

Klaatu:
Something has changed concerning my mission here on Earth.

Howard:
What's changed?

Klaatu:
I need to get back to my ship immediately.

Howard:
What's changed? How can I help you if you don't tell me what's changed?

Klaatu walks over to the front window and looks out at the neighborhood suburban street.

Klaatu:

When I came, I was instructed to give your species two choices, either end all forms of violence and hatred against each other and your planet, or face extermination. However, my leaders have made the decision for you.

Howard:

What?

Klaatu:

At this moment, a fleet of our star ships are heading towards this planet and they are preparing to exterminate the human race.

Howard is so taken a back by this that he can't speak for a moment.

Howard:

You can't do this.

Klaatu:

My leaders feel that your civilization is unable to change its views towards each other and this planet's environment. Within the next twelve hours my people will arrive on this planet and... your civilization has seen its last day, Mr. Benson.

Howard:

You didn't even give us a chance.

Klaatu begins walking back towards Howard, a little firm is his tone as he speaks.

Klaatu:

We have waited for a very long time, to see if your planet would change. Unfortunately, it has not. Your people use lies and hatred to hurt, injure and kill others. The amount of discrimination we have seen geared towards other groups of individuals is... sickening. The way your people have almost complete disregard for the planet is frightening. You cut down entire forests and use little, if any, of the dead and destroyed tree products. Half of all of those products are burned anyway. You throw trash all over this Earth, not even caring of the repercussions it has on the environment. Your nations are always in a constant struggle to see who can be on top, economically,

politically and militarily. Sometimes your own leaders have disregard for its own people, they only push for their own, personal agendas.

Howard:

For your information, there are people who care. Not everyone hates or wants to hurt everyone else. There are programs set up to help those who have been victims of violence, whether it be because of their race, gender, age or background.

Klaatu:

We know and we honor those who do show sympathy and support for others in dark times. However, Howard... unfortunately a few good individuals are not enough to save the entire human race. My leaders have decided that your civilization will not change its ways and therefore, you have been deemed a hostile society in our galaxy and we cannot allow any of your Earth-based violence to threaten the security of the other planets.

Howard:

Give us a chance to change. You haven't even given us a fucking chance, Klaatu. Please.

Klaatu gives Howard a sympathetic look.

Klaatu:

I'm sorry, Mr. Benson, but there is nothing I can do.

Howard:

Are you sure?

Klaatu:

I'm sorry. (pause) I need to get back to my ship before the fleet arrives. I need your help because my ship is heavily guarded by your soldiers. I may be an "alien" to you, but I am still only mortal. I will not make it to my ship alone.

Klaatu turns and walks towards the front hallway. Howard watches Klaatu for a brief moment, then rushes over and grabs Klaatu on the shoulder.

Klaatu turns and looks at Howard.

Howard:

Is there any chance that I can get you to change your mind?

Klaatu:
How so?

Howard:
My father-in-law, my wife's father, he was a professor at Yale University for twenty years before he retired. Throughout his life, even today, he is a human rights advocate. He has spoken out, publicly, in support of civil rights for gays and Latinos and Middle Easterners. He is also an advocate for women's rights in Pakistan and the rights of the Tibetans. He only taught physics and advanced calculus at Yale, but he is still one of the most famous human rights supporters on this planet. Maybe he can get you to change your mind. Please listen to him. He'll be able to prove to you, I'm sure of it, that the human race is worth saving. Just listen.

Klaatu and Howard stare at each other for a moment.

Klaatu:
I will listen to what he has to say. But if I am to make any personal decisions, I will need to get back to my ship.

Howard nods his head, lets go of Klaatu's shoulder, turns and walks back into the living room. Klaatu turns around and looks at Howard.

Howard:
He lives about an hour or so away. Just let me... just let me grab a few things before we go.

Klaatu:
I suggest you hurry, Howard. There isn't much time to spare in these last few hours of the Earth.

Howard looks back at Klaatu for a moment, then walks into the kitchen. Klaatu turns and looks back out the front window, at the empty, silent neighborhood street.

Ext. Deserted forest road - night.

Through the forest tree branches the outline of a ford mustang can be seen driving at a fast speed (but not ridiculously fast speed) up the road.

Focus on the car for a moment.

Int. Howard's Mustang - Night.

Howard is sitting in the driver's seat, Klaatu in the passenger's seat.

After a moment Howard looks over at Klaatu, then looks back at the road.

Howard:
Can you tell me something?

Klaatu looks at Howard.

Klaatu:
Of course. What do you want to know?

Howard:
Um... what is that... thing that came out of the space ship
after you were shot?

Klaatu:
Gort?

Howard:
If that's what you call it... then yes, Gort.

Klaatu:
He is Gort, unit number 55760. He belongs to a system of robotic intelligences that accompanies representatives like me to other planets. In some circumstances, like the one that happened here on Earth, they can be used as defensive weapons.

Howard:
So I was right? He attacked our forces to defend you.

Klaatu:
Correct. That is, after all, their main purpose. Gort activates in the presence of violence. That's why I had to stop him back at the park before he could do more damage.

Howard nods his head as he continues to drive.

Klaatu: (cont'd)
Right now he is waiting to be re-activated, either by me, or by aggressive actions caused by your military and your government.

Howard quickly glances over at Klaatu, then focuses back on the road.

Howard:
Sounds wonderful.

Both Klaatu and Howard share a brief chuckle.

Klaatu:
I guess it does.

For a moment Klaatu seems to... study Howard carefully, by looking him up and down.

Klaatu: (cont'd)
You asked a question. Can I do the same to you?

Howard:
Sure.

Klaatu:
Back at the medical facility you said that your family had undergone a tragedy over the past solar year. What happened?

Howard's face becomes sadden and Klaatu notices.

Howard:
Um... my wife was pregnant a year ago and... there were complications while she was in labor and... the baby died before it came out.

Klaatu's mouth opens up slightly. Howard does his hardest to fight back tears.

Klaatu:
I am deeply sorry, Mr. Benson.

Howard:
Our son, who's ten right now... he was soo looking forward to becoming a big brother. Honestly, I personally think that he was the one who was hit the hardest with what happened. You have no idea what he went through after the stillbirth.

Klaatu:
No... I haven't. I have never felt a tragedy like the one you went through.

Howard looks over at Klaatu and stares at him for a moment before turning back to look at the road.

Howard:

You know... Andrew has felt that we don't care about what has happened. He actually thinks that my wife and I are trying to forget it.

Klaatu:

Are you?

Howard:

No! We think about it every day. Every time we tell Andrew to get ready for school we remember that we could have been doing this to two kids, not one. Every night before I go to sleep I think about how different our lives would have been if the baby was still alive. It's just... very difficult for us to deal with.

Klaatu looks down, slightly upset at the news. He then turns and looks forward, out of the front windshield.

Klaatu:

Every time an individual dies... it is a sad moment. But no one truly dies. After an individual moves on from his mortal life, he joins up with the Almighty Spirit in peace.

Howard, again, quickly glances over at Klaatu.

Howard:

You believe in God?

Klaatu:

We believe in an Almighty Spirit. He is the one who has mapped out the destinies of the stars, he is the one who rules in the kingdom of love and paradise. Your God is... similar to our Almighty Spirit. Who knows... maybe your God is our Almighty Spirit. Maybe one day, when we enter the Spirit's kingdom, we will see each other again and I can assure you, you and your family will see your lost child as well.

Howard slightly smiles.

Howard:

That's kinda weird. Believing in the same heavenly being that knows what lies in store for our civilization.

Klaatu:

Not so weird to me. After all, my civilization was just like yours at one point. We aren't completely different, Mr. Benson.

Howard nods his head slowly as he continues to drive the car up the road.

Ext. Barnhardt's house - Front lawn and driveway - Night.

About 50 feet from the main road is the house, which looks more like a summer villa than a normal house. Helen red nitro can be seen parked in the driveway as well.

After a moment the headlights of a car illuminate the mailbox, which has the words BARNHARDT labeled on it. Howard's black mustang drives up the driveway and comes to a halt behind Helen's red nitro.

Focus on front of house and driveway.

The driver's side door and the passenger door open and Howard and Klaatu stand up out of the car. They close the doors and Howard notices that Klaatu is looking at the American flag placed above Barnhardt's door.

Klaatu:

It's beautiful.

Howard smiles.

Howard:

Yeah... not many people think of it like that.

Klaatu:

It represents the bravery and courage of your nation.

Howard:

Uh huh.

Howard walks over towards the front door, with Klaatu following him.

Howard:

Now let me do most of the talking. They're almost getting ready to sit down for dinner, I think.

Klaatu:
Understood.

Howard walks up to the front door and knocks on it. Klaatu and Howard stand next to each other, staring at the door. Howard's eyes look over at Klaatu for a moment, then they return to the door.

The door opens and Andrew stands in the doorway.

Andrew:
Dad!

Howard:
Andrew.

He smiles immediately and runs into Howard's arms. They hug tightly. Klaatu watches them hug tightly. He looks up just in time to see Helen walking towards the door from what looks like the kitchen. She is looking at Klaatu and Howard.

Andrew:
I missed you Dad soo much.

Howard:
I know. I know. I love you soo much.

Andrew:
I love you too Dad. I'm scared.

Klaatu looks back down at Andrew. After a moment Howard lets go of his son and everyone walks into the house. Klaatu and Helen stare at each other's eyes as he walks into the house.

Int. Barnhardt's house - front hallway - night.

Howard and Helen embrace in a tight hug. Helen does her best not to cry, but a single tear escapes her eyes.

Helen:
I'm soo glad you're here.

Howard:
I'm just happy you and Andrew are ok, sweetheart.

They pull away and briefly kiss each other on the lips. After a moment Helen looks at Klaatu curiously. So does Andrew.

Helen:
Who's this?

Klaatu straightens up his posture as Howard looks over at Klaatu.

Howard:
He is an...his name is...

Klaatu extends his hand out towards Helen, with a warm smile on his face.

Klaatu:
My name is Mr. Carpenter.

Helen smiles back and shakes Klaatu's hand for a moment, then they pull away. Klaatu turns and look at Andrew.

Andrew:
Are you from the government?

Klaatu:
Not exactly.

Howard stares at Klaatu, then puts his hand on Andrew's shoulder.

Howard:
Why don't you go get ready for dinner. I can smell it already.

Andrew:
Ok Dad. Is Mr. Carpenter gonna eat with us?

Howard:
Yes. Now go help Grandpa, ok?

Andrew:
Ok.

Andrew walks down the front hallway and into the kitchen. Howard, Helen and Klaatu watch Andrew disappear into the kitchen.

Helen turns and looks at Klaatu and Howard, with a look on her face saying that she isn't buying this story.

Helen: (in a whisper)
Seriously, who is this?

Howard: (in a whisper)
Can this wait 'til after dinner?

Helen: (in a whisper)
No. (to Klaatu) Exactly who are you?

Klaatu:
My name is Carpenter.

Helen:
Bullshit.

Howard: (in a whisper)
Helen!

Helen:
I wanna know now.

Klaatu and Helen stare at each other for a moment.

Klaatu:
Do you really want to know?

Helen:
Yes.

Klaatu smiles slightly.

Klaatu:
I am Klaatu. I am the being that emerged out of the ship in
Washington DC.

Helen stares at Klaatu in shock. She takes a step backwards. She
looks over at Howard, then back at Klaatu.

Helen:
Are you serious?

Klaatu:
In these circumstances... yes, I am serious.

Helen:
Howard...

Howard walks over and grabs a hold of Helen's arm.

Howard:

Sweetheart, I want to explain everything later. Just... calm down and relax.

Helen:

I am relaxed... but you just brought an alien here, the one thing that is scaring Andrew and I.

Howard:

He's not here to harm us, ok? I brought him here so that he and your father could speak.

Klaatu nods his head.

Klaatu:

Mrs. Benson, I come here in peace. I've been invited here to speak with your father, Professor Barnhardt.

Howard lets go of Helen's arm. Helen continues to stare at Klaatu.

Helen:

Um... we are just getting dinner ready. Not much... just meatloaf. (pause) Do you eat?

Klaatu smiles brightly.

Klaatu:

I'm not *that* alien. All forms of life need to eat in order to survive. A simple fact of life. (pause) Please do not be afraid. I mean no harm to anyone.

Howard looks back at Klaatu, then back at his wife. Helen nods her head, turns and walks into the kitchen. Howard looks back over at Klaatu.

Howard:

That could have gone worse.

Klaatu:

Again... no human has ever had the chance to speak one on one with an alien. It would have been weirder if she was completely calm.

Howard starts to walk down the hallway.

Howard:
You coming?

Klaatu:
Of course.

Klaatu walks down the hallway as well. As he walks down the hallway, Klaatu looks at the pictures hanging up on the walls.

Int. Barnhardt's House - kitchen/dining room - Night.

The circular kitchen table is set up for four to sit. A plate with a medium sized meatloaf is sitting in the center of the table with bowls of potatoes and green beans set up around the table as well.

Andrew is sitting at the table, watching Helen move about the kitchen. Howard and Klaatu walk into the kitchen and look around. Helen walks towards the table with a glass of wine in one hand and in the other a can of Dr. Pepper.

Howard:
Where's your father?

Helen:
He's getting another chair for... for Mr. Carpenter.

Helen sits down next to Andrew and hands him the can of pop. Howard walks over to the chair on the other side of Andrew and sits down. Klaatu watches everyone.

Helen looks up at Klaatu for a moment, a look of worry in her eyes.

Suddenly, **PROFESSOR SAMUEL BARNHARDT (early to mid 70's)** walks into the kitchen, holding a wooden chair with both of his hands. Barnhardt is wearing a blue velvet lounge robe.

Howard stands up and takes the chair from Barnhardt.

Barnhardt:
Well then... I hope we have enough chairs.

As Howard sets the chair down next to the other empty seat, Barnhardt walks over to Klaatu and they shake hands.

Barnhardt:
You must be Mr. Carpenter.

Klaatu:
Yes I am. I've heard soo much about you and... it is an honor to finally met someone of your status.

Barnhardt:
Well... I take that as a compliment.

Barnhardt and Klaatu smile as they pulls their hands away. Howard sits back down next to Andrew while Klaatu and Barnhardt sit down next to each other.

Barnhardt:
Mr. Carpenter, I hope that you have an appetite for meatloaf.
(to Helen) I'm sorry for not making anything... fancier.

Helen:
Dad, it is fine. I understand.

Barnhardt:
I just... didn't want to try and go out, knowing that the stores were probably over crowded.

Barnhardt starts to chuckle as he looks around at Klaatu, Howard, Andrew and Helen.

Int. White House - oval office - Night.

Pres. Reeves is standing behind the desk, placing papers into a folder. Watch him for a moment.

After a moment VP Harvard walks into the oval office. Pres. Reeves looks up at VP Harvard, then back down at the folder.

VP Harvard:
Alex, George is working with Jacob to finalize the offensive plans.

Pres. Reeves:
Is my wife and children being transported to a safe location?

VP Harvard:
Yes, of course. They're waiting for you.

Pres. Reeves looks up at the vice president.

Pres. Reeves:
Melinda...

He tries to search for the words, but looks back down at he desk.

Pres. Reeves: (cont'd)
I think we should get everyone together and have a group prayer before I order to assault on the ship and the robot.

VP Harvard:
Ok. I'll ask around and see if anyone is interested.

Pres. Reeves nods his head. VP Harvard turns and walks out of the office. Pres. Reeves turns and looks out the big window, at the Washington memorial. The sound of several helicopters flying over head can be heard.

Pres. Reeves:
God help us all.

Int. Barnhardt's house - kitchen/dining room - Night.

Howard, Klaatu, Barnhardt, Helen and Andrew eat their slices of meatloaf. Klaatu cuts up a piece, puts it in his mouth and chews on it.

Helen looks over at Klaatu.

Helen:
What do you think, Mr. Carpenter?

Klaatu swallows and looks at Helen.

Klaatu:
Very delicious. Not like what I normally eat.

Andrew looks over at Klaatu.

Andrew:
What do you eat normally, Mr. Carpenter?

Howard looks at his son, then at Klaatu.

Klaatu:

Well... normally vegetables and fruits. I usually don't eat that much meat.

Andrew nods his head. Barnhardt looks up at Klaatu as well.

Barnhardt:

So, what do you do for a living, Mr. Carpenter?

Helen looks at her father, then at Klaatu. Klaatu turns and faces Barnhardt.

Klaatu:

Well... I don't want to reveal much, but...

Howard:

He's an agent assigned to me. He will keep me updated on what's going on with the spaceship.

Barnhardt:

Are you like Secret Service?

Klaatu:

No. I'm not Howard's bodyguard. I'm just... his assistant.

Barnhardt nods his head before he continues eating. Klaatu watches Barnhardt eat, then he turns and looks at Helen.

Klaatu:

Mrs. Benson, what is it that you do?

Helen:

I teach sociology at the high school close to our house.

Klaatu nods his head, then looks at Andrew.

Klaatu:

And what about you, Andrew?

Andrew:

What about me?

Klaatu:

What is it that you do?

Andrew:

I'm in the fifth grade.

Klaatu:
Oh... do the teachers give you lots of homework?

Andrew:
Yeah... especially math and reading.

Klaatu:
You should always listen to your teachers.

Andrew:
I do. Not a lot of kids do, but I do, when I'm not sleeping.

Helen:
Andrew!

Andrew:
Mom, there have been times where I've been up until midnight working on homework. They give me ridiculous amounts.

Klaatu looks at Helen, then stands up from the table. Howard, Helen, Andrew and Barnhardt look up at Klaatu.

Howard:
Is everything alright?

Klaatu:
Yes. I just need to use your restroom.

Barnhardt:
You can use the one upstairs. Second door on the right.

Klaatu:
Thank you.

Klaatu turns and walks out of the kitchen. Helen watches him walk away.

Barnhardt:
Very interesting man...

Helen looks at her father for a moment.

Int. Barnhardt's house - 2nd floor hallway - Night.

Helen walks up the stairs and enters the 2nd floor hallway. She walks down the hallway looking at the pictures that are on the walls as well.

Helen walks towards a room with a plaque labeled STUDY nailed to the door. The door is slightly open and it sounds like someone is in the room.

Helen gently pushes the door open and looks inside.

Int. Barnhardt's house - Barnhardt's study - Night.

Klaatu is standing in front of a large blackboard that is covered with some kind of heavily complex mathematical equation.

Helen watches Klaatu as he picks up the eraser and erases the entire bottom line of the equation. Helen walks further into the room.

Helen:
I wouldn't do that.

Klaatu turns and looks at her.

Helen: (cont'd)
My father has been working on this for about a month.

Klaatu:
And it would take him weeks, if not more, at this current rate to finish it. I just... wanna help.

Klaatu turns and, using a piece of chalk in his hands, he begins to write out more pieces of the equation on the blackboard. Helen watches him for a moment.

Helen:
Why are you here?

Klaatu doesn't look at Helen as he writes.

Klaatu:
What do you mean, Mrs. Benson?

Helen:
Why are you here on Earth?

Klaatu:

The fate of the human race depends on what happens over the next few hours.

Helen:

Why?

Klaatu puts down the chalk and looks at Helen.

Klaatu:

Unless I make it back to my ship and tell my leaders to call off their plans, the human race will be exterminated, soon.

Helen's eyes widen in shock.

Helen:

I thought you said you weren't here to harm us?

Klaatu:

I won't harm you, but I wasn't speaking for the fleet that is rapidly approaching this planet.

Suddenly, Helen and Klaatu turn to look at the doorway. Barnhardt is standing in the doorway, looking at Klaatu and the blackboard.

After a moment Barnhardt walks over and stands next to Klaatu. Helen watches the two of them. Howard walks into the study and stands next to his wife.

Helen:

Where's Andrew?

Howard:

In the kids room.

Barnhardt looks over the blackboard, then at Klaatu. Barnhardt then picks up the piece of chalk and writes down several more numbers and variables on the board.

Barnhardt takes a step backwards, looks at the board, then at Klaatu.

Barnhardt:

You did this?

Klaatu:
It was clumsy of me, I know.

Barnhardt:
No. No its not, Mr. Carpenter.

Klaatu points to a fraction on the board.

Klaatu:
All you have to do now is substitute this fraction...

Klaatu then points to the final line of the problem.

Klaatu: (cont'd)
... into this part of the equation. You should then have your
answer in no time.

Barnhardt:
I see. That will reproduce the first altered term, but what
about the effects of the other terms?

Klaatu:
Negligible. With several small variations... you had your answer
long ago.

Barnhardt studies the board carefully.

Barnhardt:
How can you be so sure?

Klaatu looks at Barnhardt, who turns to look at Klaatu after a
moment of looking at the board.

Klaatu:
I find that it works well enough to get me from one planet to
another.

Barnhardt stares at Klaatu, his face full of... awe and shock.
Barnhardt looks at Helen and Howard, then back at Klaatu.

Barnhardt:
Are you...

Klaatu smiles.

Klaatu:
Yes. My name is Klaatu.

Barnhardt lets out a small gasp as he continues to stare at Klaatu.

Barnhardt:
Helen... Howard...

Howard:
Its true, sir.

Helen:
Dad... he really is who he says he is.

Barnhardt walks over to a recliner chair, but he doesn't sit down.

Barnhardt:
Please... sit down, Mr. Klaatu.

Klaatu:
You sit. I'm quite alright.

Barnhardt slowly sits down, not taking his eyes off of Klaatu.

Barnhardt:
So... you really are... an alien?

Klaatu smiles.

Klaatu:
Yes, Professor Barnhardt.

Silence for a moment.

Barnhardt:
There are soo many questions that I have for you.

Klaatu:
I understand, Professor. But there is little time for small talk. I understand that you are more than just a physics professor, am I correct?

Barnhardt:
I don't teach anymore, but yes, I still do more than just... teach. I am a public advocate of human rights.

Klaatu:

I've been told that you speak out publicly for gay, black, Latino, women's rights.

Barnhardt:

Yes... not just here in America, but all of the world as well.

Klaatu:

I am very interested in your experiences.

Barnhardt looks over at Helen and Howard, then back at Klaatu.

Helen:

(to Klaatu) He loves to tell people these stories.

Barnhardt:

I feel that if I tell these stories, it'll wake people up to what is happening all over the world.

Klaatu nods his head. Barnhardt slightly smiles.

Barnhardt:

I am very interested in... well, my first question is... why have you come here?

Klaatu:

Up until several hours ago my mission was to speak to the representatives of every nation on Earth and offer the human race one of two paths to follow. Either put an immediate end to all violence and hatred... or face extinction.

Barnhardt takes a deep breath.

Barnhardt:

Why would an alien race be so interested in what goes on here on Earth?

Klaatu:

We feared that if you do not put an immediate end to your violence, you will soon threaten the other planets in our galactic community and... we cannot tolerate that. So... several hours ago I was informed by the transmitter placed inside of Gort that my leaders have made the decision for you.

Barnhardt:

What's going to happen?

Klaatu:

The extermination of the human race will commence in less than four hours.

Barnhardt's eyes widen at the news.

Barnhardt:

Why? Why not offer us these chances?

Klaatu:

Apparently my leaders feel that no matter what, your civilization has so much hatred towards each other that it would be impossible to reverse. The way you treat the planet... is very similar to the way you treat each other.

Barnhardt:

Yes, I understand, but you are making it seem as if everyone hates everyone else. I do not hate anyone. I speak out against hate. There are hundreds, thousands like me, advocates.

Klaatu:

I know that. But there are six billion people on this planet. Several thousand good people are not enough to save the species. Your civilization, unfortunately, lacks the will to change its ways, but you do have the ability.

Barnhardt:

Then help us change.

Klaatu:

This is entirely up to the human race.

Barnhardt leans forward in the recliner.

Barnhardt:

Every civilization reaches a crisis point at some period of time. It is here that we think back on how we treat each other and the environment.

Klaatu:

The same happened with our civilization. In fact, we were very much like your species at one point. We were on the verge of destroying our planet due to the endless wars we were waging against each other.

Barnhardt:

So we aren't so different.

Klaatu:

We realized how pointless it was that we were fighting because of the fact that we were different. Every individual is different. We realized that differences in opinions and ideas help make a civilization thrive.

Barnhardt:

Exactly, that's where we are at, at the current moment. Yes, I understand that not everyone will change and you have to understand that as well, but you said that we have the capacity to change, we just lack the will. You know what we need in order to change?

Helen walks over and stands behind her father's chair.

Helen:

A global crisis.

Klaatu looks up at Helen.

Helen:

When we are pushed to the edge, that's when we fight for change.

Barnhardt:

And you know what else? I personally feel that your very arrival on this planet has sparked that change. Millions of people all over the world are now laying down their weapons, letting their war prisoners go, embracing each other. Your arrival sparked this change. Maybe, in a way, that's all that you needed to do in order for us to put an end to violence.

Helen:

Exactly, I saw on the TV that Middle Eastern nations are now writing up peace deals with each other.

Howard:

You just need to give us some time. Please, that's all we ask. Just give us some time to change. Its already happening and now... you are threatening to wipe away all that has happened.

Klaatu looks at everyone for a moment, then turns and looks out the window.

Klaatu:

Maybe you are right. Maybe your civilization, as violent naturally as it is, all it needed to change was a spark. I'm that spark.

Barnhardt:

Yes, you are.

Helen looks at Klaatu with a sad look in her face.

Helen:

Please give us a chance. You know we can change, you just didn't give us time.

Klaatu turns and looks at Howard.

Klaatu:

I need to get back to my ship and call off what is coming. You are right, I see that you have the capacity and the desire to change.

Helen, Howard and Barnhardt smile.

Int. Barnhardt's house - living room - Night.

Andrew is laying down on the couch, watching the TV.

TV news anchor: (o.s.)

Pope Benedict and the Dali Llama are among the world's religious leaders calling for calm and understanding during these frightening times.

Focus on TV. A Female news anchor is sitting behind her desk.

TV News Anchor:

We are also getting confirmed reports, coming from unnamed White House sources, that there are plans in the works to begin an offensive against the spaceship and the large robot in the downtown Washington area.

Andrew sits up on the couch upon hearing the news.

TV news anchor: (o.s.)

We are learning that the Washington Police Department and Pentagon officials are asking all citizens living within a ten mile radius of the spaceship to immediately evacuate the area.

Int. Barnhardt's house - Barnhardt's study - Night.

Klaatu and Barnhardt are standing at the blackboard, talking about the equation. Howard and Helen are standing near the door.

Howard:
I know, ok. We'll tell him soon.

Helen:
He's just been soo upset all day and I think that he...

Andrew: (o.s.)
Dad!!!

At the sound of Andrew's voice, everyone turns and looks at the open doorway. Andrew comes running in and he looks at Howard.

Howard:
What is it? What's wrong?

Andrew:
I just heard that the military is gonna start bombing the spaceship and the robot.

Howard turns and looks at Klaatu, who appears to be taken aback by this.

Helen:
Howard...

Andrew:
Mom... what is it?

Howard looks at his watch, then at Helen.

Howard:
I gotta call the Pentagon. I'll be right back.

Howard walks past Andrew and out of the room. Andrew turns and looks at Helen.

Andrew:
Mom, what's going on?

Helen:
Nothing sweetie. Everything's ok.

Andrew reaches up and wipes a tear away from his face. Barnhardt walks towards the door.

Barnhardt:
I'll be right back.

Barnhardt walks out of the study, leaving Klaatu and Helen to look at Andrew.

Helen:
Are you ok, Andy?

Andrew:
No, I'm not.

Helen lowers herself to Andrew's level and wipes away a tear from his face.

Helen:
What's wrong, sweetheart?

Andrew:
You don't remember, do you?

Helen:
Remember what?

More tears begin to run down Andrew's face. Helen places her hand on his cheek. Suddenly, Andrew pushes Helen away. Klaatu takes a step towards Andrew and Helen.

Helen:
Andrew!?!?

Andrew:
You've forgotten, have you?

Helen:
Andrew, what are you talking about?

Andrew:
Today... do you know what today is, Mom?

Helen begins to have tears run down her face as well.

Helen:
Jesus...

Andrew:
One year ago. One year ago today, Mom.

Just as Andrew begins to fully cry, Helen wraps her arms around him and holds Andrew tightly against her body. Andrew buries his face into her shoulder and continues to cry. Helen fights back her own tears.

Helen:
I know it's not fair, baby.

Andrew:
Why?... Why did he have to die?

Helen:
I don't know... but please don't blame your father and I. We are as upset about it as you.

Andrew:
I don't blame you... I just... I miss him.

Helen:
I know.

Helen pulls away so she can look Andrew in the eyes.

Helen:
I don't want you to ever think that your father and I have forgotten. It's very hard for us to bear, especially me. We lost a second child and you lost a little brother, we know. We don't love you less because of this, alright. We love you soo much.

Helen and Andrew stare at each other for a moment, trying to end their streams of tears.

Andrew:
I love you Mom.

Helen:
I love you too.

Helen places her hand on his cheek and gently, lovingly rubs it. She does this for a moment.

Andrew:
I'm sorry.

Helen:
Its ok.

They once again hold each other tightly, not wanting to let go. Klaatu continues to watch them, a look of sympathy in his own eyes.

After a brief moment, Howard and Barnhardt enter the room and look down at Helen and Andrew. Klaatu takes a few more steps towards Helen and Andrew.

Klaatu:
Tragedies bring people together. It is at these moments that the true human spirit emerges from the heart.

Helen looks up at Klaatu.

Klaatu:
If we don't hurry soon, an even bigger tragedy will take place, one from which no one will survive.

Helen and Klaatu continue to look at each other.

Int. Underground bunker - operations room.

Inside this other underground bunker room is a long rectangular shaped table and several big flat screen TV hanging on the wall. Pres. Reeves, Patterson, General O'Neil and several Secret Service agents are sitting at the table, looking at the screens.

One of the screens shows a thermal image of GORT and the spaceship, both of which are glowing bright blue, another screen is showing another camera angle, normal view, of GORT and the third is showing nothing but static.

Pres. Reeves:
General, I want this operation to run smoothly and effectively. We may only have one shot at destroying the ship and the large automaton.

General O'Neil:
Yes, Mr. President. We are going to use the new F-22 Raptors, the Stealth Bomber and other pieces of high tech equipment, which are now being set up around the ship and robot. After this assault, it should rather easy to track down Klaatu and bring him back into custody.

Suddenly, the steel door opens and a **PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR** steps into the room. Everyone turns and looks at the advisor.

Presidential Advisor:

Mr. President, we've just received news from NASA.

Pres. Reeves:

What, exactly?

The Presidential Advisor walks over to the third flat screen and presses a button on its side.

Suddenly, a satellite image appears on screen, showing the curve of the Earth and what looks like dozens a brightly glowing, oval shaped objects entering the planet's atmosphere.

Pres. Reeves stares at the screen in confusion.

Pres. Reeves:

What are those?

Presidential Advisor:

NASA believes that they are more spaceships, just like the one that landed in Washington this morning.

General O'Neil turns and looks at Pres. Reeves.

General O'Neil:

Mr. President, that so called representative is responsible for this. Klaatu was nothing but the vanguard of an invading enemy force. (pause) He was preparing us for an invasion.

Pres. Reeves:

We need to begin operations immediately. Prepare our missile defense system in case more ships begin to head towards our capital.

General O'Neil:

Yes sir.

Focus on Pres. Reeves for a moment, as he watches the TV screens.

Focus on the image of the other ships beginning to enter the Earth's atmosphere. Maybe this is the end of the human race...

Int. Barnhardt's House - front hallway - Night.

Howard, Helen and Klaatu walk towards the front door. Howard is holding his phone to his ear.

Helen:
Any luck?

Howard:
No.

Howard pulls the phone away and puts it in his pocket.

Howard: (cont'd)
Damn it. The only other thing I could do is drive all the way back...

Helen:
Sweetie, if the TV is correct, then they're gonna be bombing the Washington area to destroy the ship.

Klaatu:
Gort cannot be allowed to activate.

Helen:
Why not?

Klaatu:
If he does activate, he will destroy everything he sees. Once activated, only I can stop him.

Howard opens up the front door and looks outside. The wind has begun to pick up a bit from before.

Howard:
Helen, you drive Klaatu back to his ship. I'll go back to the Pentagon and try to get a hold of somebody.

Helen:
Are you sure, sweetheart?

Howard:
Yes.

Howard turns and looks at Helen. They embrace in a tight hug and they kiss each other on the lips for a moment.

After they pull apart Howard turns and walks out the door.

Howard:
I'll call you if anything changes.

Helen:
Same here.

Helen turns and looks at Klaatu.

Helen:
Go outside and wait by my car. It's the red one.

Klaatu:
Understood.

Klaatu walks past Helen and out of the house. Barnhardt and Andrew come walking down the stairs, there are still tears in Andrew's eyes.

Andrew:
Mommy?

Helen:
You're gonna stay here with Grandpa, ok? We'll be back in a little while.

Andrew rushes over and wraps his arms around Helen's waist. Helen holds onto Andrew as well.

Helen:
Sweetie, I need you to be calm and patient, ok?

Andrew:
Ok.

Helen:
I love you.

Andrew:
I love you too.

Helen reaches down and kisses Andrew on the forehead. Helen lets go of Andrew and he lets go of her. She looks up and at her father.

Barnhardt:
Help him, no matter what.

Helen:
I know, Dad. Thank you soo much and I'm sorry.

Barnhardt:
For what? I got the chance to sit down and talk with an alien.
I'm far from upset.

Barnhardt and Helen smile at each other. Helen turns and walks out of the door, closing it behind her.

Ext. Barnhardt's house - Front lawn and driveway - Night.

Howard is already in his ford mustang, which is pulling out of the driveway. Helen walks over to the red nitro and opens up the driver's side door.

Int. Helen's Red Nitro - Night.

Klaatu is already buckled up in the passenger's seat, looking at Helen as she closes the door and puts on her seat belt.

Helen:
You ready?

Klaatu:
Are you?

Helen looks over at Klaatu, then she puts the keys into the ignition.

Helen:
Nope, but we don't have the time.

Klaatu nods his head slowly. Helen puts her hands on the wheel and begins to back out of the driveway.

Ext. Airspace above Washington DC - Night.

A formation of six F-22 Raptor fighter jets appear from off screen and fly towards the ship, which can be seen off in the distance.

Watch the Raptors fly towards their target for a moment.

Ext. Large open park - Night.

A large group of soldiers, both on the ground and in the humvees, continue to prepare for the assault. The spaceship continues to slightly glow. GORT continues to stand motionless in front of the ship.

The sound of the jets get louder.

Voices over radio: (o.s.)
They're on their way... Move! Move! Move!

The soldiers begin to run for cover behind the trees and the humvees and tanks begin to back up from their positions.

The soldiers aim their rifles at the ship and GORT. Soldiers with the shoulder mounted missile launchers do the same.

Ext. Airspace above Washington DC - Night.

The jets continue to move closer and closer towards GORT and the spaceship.

Voice coming from radio: (o.s.)
This is the Eagle Eye squadron. We have the targets in our sights.

Second voice coming from radio: (o.s.)
Fire when ready, Eagle Eye.

Ext. Large open park - Night.

A loud engine-like sound erupts from the ship. The ship suddenly begins to glow a bright red color. The soldiers stare in awe at the ship and GORT.

The thin red visor re-appears on GORT's face. He turns and looks up into the sky, in the direction of the fighter jets.

Voice over radio: (o.s.)
He's activating. Repeat, the automaton is activating.

One of the soldiers turns around, just in time to see the fighter jets flying in low, the lead jet firing a missile towards GORT.

A red laser beam fires out of the visor, at the missile. The missile explodes in mid-air.

The other jets fly over GORT and the ship. GORT turns around and watches the jets fly away. He fires another red laser beam at one of the jets. The jet explodes in mid air and flaming pieces fall out of the sky.

Voice over radio: (o.s.)
Fire! Fire at will!

Suddenly, every single humvee and tank begins to fire their rounds and shells at GORT and the ship. A non-stop roar of machine gun fire, coming from the humvees and the soldiers, combined with a constant rhythm of thuds coming from the tanks.

Smoke and fire erupts all around the ship and GORT. Trees catch fire and explosions erupt as well. Standing in the middle of the smoke, seemingly unscathed by the battle, GORT still stands strong.

GORT turns his head down and fires a red laser beam at a nearby tank, causing it to explode. The red laser beam slices across the park, causing humvees, police cruisers and tanks to explode into flames and smoke.

The roar of the battle continues. GORT turns around and fires the red laser beam again at another group of humvees, causing them to explode. Huge fireballs rise up high into the air. This is a huge, epic battle, for the survival of the human race.

Ext. Downtown Washington streets - Night.

The streets are deserted, barren. Pieces of paper and briefcases litter the streets and sidewalks. In the distance the flashing of lights and the sounds of machine gun fire and explosions can be heard.

Suddenly, Helen's red nitro zooms down the street, moving incredibly fast towards the battlefield.

Int. Helen's Red Nitro - Night.

Helen is focusing on the street in front of her, trying not to lose control of the car. Klaatu holds onto the grip on the door.

Klaatu:
It's begun.

Helen:
I know.

Klaatu leans forward and looks up through the windshield. He suddenly begins to breathe slightly harder and faster.

Klaatu:
Hurry.

Helen, still driving, leans forward and looks through the windshield.

Through windshield: the other space ships, glowing very brightly, begin to appear high in the sky above Washington DC. They may be several thousand feet above the ground. There must be at least of dozen of them.

Helen's mouth drops open as she sits back and continues to focus on driving.

Helen:
Oh my God. Is that them?

Klaatu:
Yes. You must hurry.

Helen:
I'm going as fast as I can.

Ext. Street leading towards large open park - Night.

The red nitro turns onto this other street, which leads straight towards the park, the spaceship, GORT and the battle. Explosions continue to erupt all around the park, which is at least five hundred feet away from the intersection.

The Nitro stops in the middle of the intersection. Focus on the car.

The wind has really begun to pick up, with paper and leaves blowing madly all over the street. The sounds of the battle are also much, much louder.

The driver's side door open and Helen steps out, staring in awe and shock at what is happening five hundred feet down the road. Klaatu steps out of the car as well and looks down the street.

Klaatu:
He's activated.

Suddenly, a jet flying low to the ground screeches overhead, firing a missile in the direction of the ship. A massive explosion ensues in the park. A red laser beam emerges from the smoke, strikes the jet and the Raptor erupts into flames and crashes into the office building halfway down the street.

Klaatu rushes around the front of the car, grabs Helen's hand and the two of them start running as fast as they possibly can towards the park.

Over head, three more jet fly in formation towards the park. After a moment, another massive fireball rises into the sky from the park. The red laser beam shoots into the sky and two of the jets explode in mid-air.

Klaatu and Helen continue running fiercely, the sounds of machine gun fire growing louder and louder, along with the sounds of explosions.

Several missiles fly over head and slam into the ground about 50 feet away from Klaatu and Helen. They both duck for cover behind an abandoned news van just as small pieces of asphalt rain down onto them.

They are now about 200 or so feet from the park. Klaatu peaks around the corner of the van and looks down towards the park.

Klaatu's POV: 200 feet away, a group of soldiers emerge out of the cloud of red smoke covering the large open park. They don't make it more than fifty feet, for the red laser beam shoots out of the cloud and strikes them all. All the soldiers explode into ash and dust.

Klaatu turns and looks at Helen, who is crouching down, with her hands behind her head. Klaatu reaches over and gently touches her face.

Helen looks up at Klaatu, with tears smeared across her face, which is also covered in dirt and dust.

Klaatu:

Mrs. Benson, your father is right. Only when we are on the brink do we change. All individuals have the capacity to do so. They only need someone or... something to give them a push, a spark.

Helen watches with her mouth open as Klaatu stands up and walks calmly and smoothly down the street. Helen stands up and watches Klaatu walk towards the thick cloud of smoke and flames that encircle the park.

Another jet flies over head and moments later a third massive fireball erupts and rises into the air. Klaatu looks up into the sky, at the small balls of light that are moving swiftly down from outer space towards the Earth. He continues on walking, he doesn't even seem to be affected by the winds whirling around the area.

Another shot of Helen watching Klaatu, a look of sadness and... hope on her face.

When Klaatu is approximately 60 feet away from the park's edge, he stops walking and looks at the cloud of smoke.

Klaatu:
Gort!!!

After a moment the outline of GORT appears in the smoke, his red visor still glowing brightly. After another moment he steps out of the smoke and walks towards Klaatu.

Klaatu looks up at GORT.

Klaatu:
Klaatu barada nikto!!!

GORT looks down at Klaatu, then he begins to reach down for his master. However, GORT doesn't pick up Klaatu, instead he holds his right hand out above Klaatu's head, with his hand completely outstretched.

Klaatu reaches up and with his hand, touches GORT's palm. Suddenly, both Klaatu and GORT begin to glow brightly. The intensity of the light gets brighter and brighter until they cannot be seen anymore.

Helen covers her face with her arm as the light gets brighter and brighter, but then it suddenly vanishes. Helen lowers her

arm and stares at where Klaatu and GORT were standing, but they are not there anymore.

Ext. Large open park - night.

Smoke and patches of fire are all over the large open park. However, the only thing that seems unaffected is the large ship, which is still hovering slightly above the ground.

It changes from glowing red to glowing a greenish-blue color.

Int. Underground bunker - operations room.

Pres. Reeves and General O'Neil stare at the three TV screens, which are now nothing but static.

Pres. Reeves:
What's happened?

General O'Neil:
It appears we lost the feed from the battle zone.

General O'Neil stands up and starts walking towards the door. Suddenly, the three TV screens begin to flicker on some sort of image.

The door opens and the Presidential Advisor from before steps into the room again.

Presidential Advisor:
Mr. President, we are getting reports that the other ships are now leaving the planet's atmosphere. They're leaving.

Pres. Reeves:
What?

Suddenly, an image of Klaatu appears on all three of the TV screens. Everyone stares at the screens in awe.

Klaatu: (on TV)
People of the Earth, I ask that you have no fear for what is going on. I felt that this was the best way for me to communicate with each and every one of you.

Int. Barnhardt's house - living room - Night.

Barnhardt and Andrew are watching the TV, which also has Klaatu on the screen.

Klaatu: (o.s.)

I apologize for seeming blunt, and rushed, but I must be leaving this planet very soon.

Suddenly, the entire theater screen goes to static. Then, not on the TV, but on the entire theater screen, Klaatu appears, looking back at us, at the movie audience, almost as if he is speaking directly to us.

Klaatu:

We have been studying this planet for many, many years. We were saddened by the way you treat each other. The way you act and feel towards people of different cultures, races, identities and beliefs is unthinkable on our planet. We love and embrace each other because we know that difference amongst our people is what makes our civilization thrive. Of course, we are not perfect, we are not trying to be because true perfection is impossible. Even we have had our own, deadly flaws. In our dark past we were approached with a catastrophic situation. Just like your scientists, we called this "the tipping point,". We realized that if we continued our own, violent and destructive ways against each other, and our planet, we would face extinction. We tried to undo as much of the damage as possible, but still, to this day, there are parts of our planet that are permanently destroyed and uninhabitable. We knew that we couldn't afford to face the same situation again and if left unchecked, we would have destroyed our planet. In order to keep peace on our planet, in an attempt to get rid of all weapons and all forms of violence and hatred, we created a race of robots, similar to the one that accompanied me on this journey. Their function is similar to that of your police forces. They activate in the presence of violence and automatically act against the aggressor. The penalty for provoking their action is too terrible to risk. The result is, now we live in peace, without arms or armies, secure in the knowledge that we are free from aggression, war, hate, free to pursue more profitable enterprises. I came here to give you these facts. If you threaten to extend your violence to outer space, this Earth of yours will be reduced to a burned out carcass of a once, populated planet. I come here to offer you a choice, a simple choice. Join us and live in peace, or continue to pursue your present ways and face extinction. We do not have to be the ones

to commit this horrific act, you are fully capable of destroying yourselves. We are not asking you to give up any of your liberties, or your rights. The choice is yours and soon... I will be returning to this planet and I await your decision.

Suddenly, cut to...

Int. Underground bunker - operations room.

The flat screen TVs go back to static. General O'Neil turns and looks at Pres. Reeves, who is carefully looking at the screens.

Presidential Advisor:
Mr. President...

Pres. Reeves:
He's right. He's giving us a second chance, a chance for us to right our wrongs. (pause) We can't afford to screw up again.

Everyone continues to stare at the static filled TV screens for a moment.

Ext. Large open park - early morning.

Helen walks towards the large ship, which is glowing very brightly. Helen raises her hand up to her face to shelter her eyes from the brightness of the light.

After a moment she watches as it lifts up off of the ground and rises, gracefully, beautifully into the early morning sky. The clouds give off a pink and orange glow.

As Helen watches, more tears stream down her face. She smiles as the ship continues to rise high and higher into the sky.

Int. Barnhardt's house - front hallway - early morning.

Whole scene is in slow motion...

The front doors open and Helen stands in the doorway, being greeted by Howard, Barnhardt and Andrew, who runs into his mother's arms and gives her a tight hug.

Helen's voice is heard, speaking or is she thinking...

Helen's voice: (o.s.)

Only when we are on the brink do we change. All individuals have
the capacity to do so.

Helen continues to hold onto Andrew tightly as Howard kneels
down next to them, kisses Helen on the forehead and joins into
the big family hug.

Ext. Ariel view of Washington DC - Early Morning.

A shot of the sun slowly rising up from the horizon into the
sky, with the nation's capital in the foreground.

Helen's Voice: (o.s./cont'd)

They only need someone or... something to give them a push, a
spark.

Focus on the sunrise for a moment.

Ext. View of Earth from space.

The Earth, our own, warm planet. The sun illuminates the entire
North American continent, giving us light, giving us hope for a
better tomorrow.

Focus on the image of the Earth for a moment, then fade to
black...

END OF THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL...

Suggestions for end credits songs...

"Gimme Shelter," by the Rolling Stones

"End of the World," by Armor For Sleep