

EXT. MILO'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

MILO SALVA, late 30s, is an amateur star gazer. He believes in aliens and wants to find the truth more than anything. Currently his search involves watching a meteor shower through his telescope in the backyard.

As he enjoys the peak of the shower, one meteorite in particular catches his attention. It is the brightest falling star, by far, and it stopped falling...

As he watches, a smaller meteorite flies toward it and collides. The larger falling star starts dropping again like a rock from the sky.

Milo looks from behind his telescope just in time to see the mysterious object disappear behind the tree line.

A smaller piece of the object breaks off and falls toward Milo without his noticing and bonks him right on the head.

Milo collapses in surprise. When he looks around he notices a small, silver object a few feet from him. He crawls toward the object and picks it up.

It resembles like a lumpy antennae. It clearly broke off of a larger structure. Milo looks from the lump in his hand to the sky. A smile slowly spreads across his face.

INT. MILO'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Milo gazes at the lump of metal. He makes up his mind and picks up the phone.

He dials a familiar number and waits for an answer.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Hello. Dr. O'Peira, astronomy.

Milo sits up straighter.

MILO

Hi, Dr. O'Peira. It's Milo. I found something last night that I think you would be interested in.

A loud sigh comes through the ear piece.

DR. O'PEIRA

How many times have you said that?

Milo fidgets.

MILO

Well, this time I'm sure it's from space. It fell out of the sky during the meteor shower...

DR. O'PEIRA

Just like the lantern you found during the eclipse, or the piece of landing gear you found during the new moon, or any of the other pieces of junk you've brought to me since Asteroid B-611.

Milo tries to pick up this old thread.

MILO

Asteroid B-611 had never been observed..

DR. O'PEIRA

That was two years ago. It helped answer my question about that gravitational wobble, but I've moved on, and so should you.

Milo is crestfallen.

MILO

But this time...

DR. O'PEIRA

Milo. They can't all be previously unobserved asteroids. I know you mean well, and I know how... enthusiastic you are, but I have real things to deal with. I'm sorry. Goodbye.

There is click on the phone.

MILO

Hello?

No answer.

MILO

Ok. Bye.

Milo hangs up the phone.

EXT. HOUSE NEXT DOOR - MORNING

The house next door is empty. There is a sign out front that reads, "FOR RENT - FULLY FURNISHED".

An old truck pulls up with a trailer hauling something big that is completely covered in tarps.

A middle-aged man, ALTON, and a middle-aged woman, BETHA, are in the cab.

Betha hops out and directs Alton as he backs the trailer up the driveway.

EXT. MILO'S MAILBOX - CONTINUOUS

Milo watches the new neighbors as he checks his mail.

Across the way, Betha pulls one small metal box from the cab and Alton pulls up the "FOR RENT" sign.

The couple notices Milo watching. He waves, trying to be friendly.

The strangers stare a moment before hurrying into the garage.

EXT. MILO'S BACKYARD - DAY

Milo is doing some yard work.

A loud metallic banging starts in the garage next door.

He can hear a muffled voice cursing. Or he thinks the voice is cursing. It doesn't really sound like English, or any language he knows of. Maybe Polish? Or Zulu?

INT. MILO'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Milo is preparing dinner. The window above his sink faces the kitchen of the house next door. He glances up and Betha catches his eye.

She is feeding what looks like raw hamburger and whole pineapple into a food processor.

Alton steps into the kitchen, wiping grease from his hands, and takes the glass of "juice" Betha offers him.

Milo gags a little and turns away.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Milo has the phone in one hand and his mystery object in the other. He is pacing the kitchen as he fervently tries to convince Dr. O'Peira of his findings.

MILO

...I really think you need to see this. First this *thing* almost brains me, now these strange people next door. Did I tell you about the raw meat and pineapple shake?

DR. O'PEIRA

Milo, you are starting to sound paranoid. I'm not going to take your calls anymore, especially if you keep stalking your neighbors.

Milo throws his hands up and almost tosses his treasure.

MILO

Who is stalking? I'm just noticing what I can't help but notice.

As he talks, Milo notices Alton rush out of the garage. He is clutching his hand. Something dark drips from his palm.

DR. O'PEIRA

Regardless, I don't think you should call any...

MILO

Oh my god!

DR. O'PEIRA

What? What happened?

Milo starts for his back door then remembers he is still holding the phone and the lump. He hangs up for the phone and drops both on the counter before hurrying out the back door.

INT. DR. O'PEIRA'S OFFICE - DAY

DR. CASSIE O'PEIRA, 30s, looks at the phone in her hand for a moment, then holds it back up to her ear.

DR. O'PEIRA

Hello?

No answer.

DR. O'PEIRA

Ok. Bye.

She carefully hangs up the phone. That wasn't like Milo.

She tries to focus her attention on a paper she was proof reading, but it doesn't work.

She sets the paper aside and looks back to the phone.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S BACKYARD - DAY

Milo hurries up to Alton.

Alton sees him and takes a hesitant step back.

MILO

Hey! Are you OK?

Alton looks a little relieved.

ALTON

Yes. I am fine.

MILO

I was in my kitchen and I saw you cut yourself.

Now that Milo is close enough, he can see that Alton doesn't look completely normal. He has blue eyes, but there is a hint of lavender, his fingernails are a few shades brighter pink than they should be, and is his blood maroon?

Alton fidgets a little. Milo's staring is making him uncomfortable again.

ALTON

It is fine. It is just a small flesh wound.

Milo suddenly remembers himself.

MILO

Well, come on. We better get that cleaned up.

Milo places a hand on Alton's shoulder and gently guides him toward the house.

MILO

I'm Milo, by the way.

Alton relaxes at Milo's friendly demeanor.

ALTON

My name is Alton. It is nice to meet you.

Milo gets the door and steps aside for Alton to go inside.

INT. NEIGHBOR'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Milo follows Alton into the kitchen.

Betha is at the sink cleaning the food processor. She turns to Milo and Alton as they enter.

Her eyes go first to Milo. She looks nervous.

When she turns to Alton for an explanation she sees his hand and immediately her fear is replaced with concern.

BETHA

What has happened to your hand? I said to stop before you hurt yourself.

Alton blushes as he walks to the sink to wash his hand off.

ALTON

You know I cannot. This is Milo. He lives next door.

Betha smiles politely at Milo as she tends to Alton's hand. She has the same eyes and fingernails as Alton.

BETHA

Hello, Milo. I am Betha. Would you aid me in retrieving bandages from the medicine cupboard. It is right around the corner.

MILO

Of course.

He hurries off.

INT. NEIGHBOR'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Milo opens the medicine cupboard. It only contains a few first aid items. No toothpaste, or aspirin, or razors.

Milo grabs the bandages and heads back to the kitchen.

INT. NEIGHBOR'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Milo is about to step into the kitchen, but he hears Betha and Alton arguing quietly.

BETHA

You should not have brought him  
inside the house.

ALTON

It is alright. He is just trying to  
help. I do not think he means any  
harm.

Milo feels guilty about worrying them. He steps around the corner sheepishly.

MILO

Here are the bandages.

Betha and Alton straighten up from the hushed conversation. Betha accepts the bandages and sets to work on Alton's hand.

Milo tries to seem non-threatening.

MILO

Do you think you'll stay here long?  
It's a nice neighborhood. There's a  
block party on the fourth.

ALTON

We did not mean to stay at all. We  
were travelling through the area on  
holiday, but we got.... stuck.

Betha gives him a "stop talking" look. Alton ignores it.

ALTON

We merely want to travel home to  
our family.

At the word "family" Betha softens.

BETHA

I hope they do not worry very much.

She finishes with Alton's hand and turns to Milo.

Milo avoids her eyes.

MILO

I'm sure it's hard being far away  
from home.

(MORE)

MILO (CONT'D)

Well, I just wanted to make sure you were OK, Alton. Sorry to have barged in on you. Night.

Milo heads for the door.

BETHA

It was not a bother.

Milo turns at the door to look at the couple. They give him a warm smile that he tries to return before hurrying outside.

INT. MILO'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Milo is staring at the piece of metal. He looks over his shoulder to the neighbor's house.

He lets out a long sigh. He knows what he has to do.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S FRONT DOOR - EVENING

Milo sneaks up to the front door. He drops the piece on the welcome mat. He takes a breath and rings the doorbell.

As soon as the bell sounds he runs back to his house like a child playing a prank.

INT. MILO'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Milo watches through the window as Alton answers the door. He looks around for someone, then looks down to find something.

He picks up the piece and leans against the door in relief.

He glances toward Milo's house for a moment, but Milo hides.

When he peeks again Alton has already gone inside.

Milo sees him in another window. Alton calls for Betha. He shows her the piece and she is overjoyed. They hug.

Milo sinks down to the floor, pleased with himself.

INT. MILO'S KITCHEN - LATER

Milo is doing some dishes in the sink. A movement in the neighbors kitchen catches his eye and he glances up.

In the facing window is a short, hand written note. All it says is "10:30" with an arrow pointing up.



EXT. MILO'S BACKYARD - LATER

The sun has set and Milo is pacing in his back yard. Every few seconds he looks to the neighbors garage.

EXT. MILO'S FRONTYARD - CONTINUOUS

A car pulls up in front of Milo's house. Dr. O'Peira steps out. She looks worried as she approaches the dark porch.

She knocks on the door, but there is no answer.

EXT. MILO'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Milo is getting antsy. He checks his watch. A sound catches his attention, but it isn't a spaceship.

DR. O'PEIRA (O.S.)  
Hello? Milo?

MILO  
Who is it?

Dr. O'Peira steps into the back yard.

DR. O'PEIRA  
Oh, thank heavens. I was worried something happened to you.

MILO  
Dr. O'Peira?

She starts to answer, but there is a mechanical whooshing sound from next door. Milo and Dr. O'Peira look on in wonder.

From behind the house a large, metal vessel rises. It drifts toward Milo's yard. A friendly blue light winks at them before it rushes up into the sky and away from Earth.

Milo grins from ear to ear as he waves goodbye.

Dr. O'Peira staggers as she processes what she has just seen.

DR. O'PEIRA  
Was... Was that...?

MILO  
Just my friends saying goodbye.

Milo looks at Dr. O'Peira. She is shaken more than a martini.

MILO  
Dr. O'Peira?

DR. O'PEIRA  
Cassie.

MILO  
Cassie. Are you OK? Can I make you  
a cup of tea?

Dr. O'Peira blinks hard and focuses on Milo's face.

DR. O'PEIRA  
That would be nice.

Milo smiles and leads her into his kitchen.

FADE TO BLACK.