

Flying Donuts

by
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INT. CASINO - NIGHT.

We see a gray ALIEN, its black eyes gleaming. Twin streams of smoke curl from its slit-like nostrils. We pull back to reveal the alien working the lever of a slot machine and drinking a diet cola. As we move further back, BENNITO BENNEDETO, 50's, breezes into frame, a cell phone held to his ear. His buxom personal assistant, JAZ, 40ish, with the soft look of an ex-showgirl put out to pasture, trails at his elbow, as does a small army of sycophants.

BENNITO

No gambling in costume, sweet-cheeks!

He pinches the alien on the butt and she responds in a nasal Bronx.

ALIEN

Hey! Watch it.

BENNITO

We're on in five! You better get backstage.

ALIEN

Pig.

BENNITO

(into the phone)

Billy Jack! Talk to me!

He continues to blast through the casino at an impressive clip - making eye contact and gesturing to anyone worth his notice.

BENNITO (CONT'D)

(continuing)

What the hell do you mean?! I am about to kick this thing off and I need that damn ship! I've got the dancers, the press, TV. Hell, I've got Entertainment Tonight!

He covers the phone.

BENNITO (CONT'D)

(continuing; to Jaz)

Did they show?

JAZ

They're here.

BENNITO

I've got Entertainment Tonight! What the hell am I supposed to do?

CUT TO:

EXT. A ROAD SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE VEGAS - NIGHT.

BILLY JACK, a squat little man of indeterminate age, stands next to a "Papillon Towing" truck with the hood up and the flashers on.

BILLY JACK

I dunno.

BACK TO:

INT. CASINO - NIGHT.

BENNITO

That's not the answer I was looking for!
Now when are you gonna have that ship here?

EXT. A ROAD SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE VEGAS - NIGHT.

BILLY JACK

I dunno.

INT. CASINO - NIGHT.

BENNITO

Billy Jack, quit saying, "I don't know."

EXT. A ROAD SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE VEGAS - NIGHT.

BILLY JACK

Okay.

INT. CASINO - NIGHT.

BENNITO

Good. Now.
(pause, calmly)
When will my UFO arrive?

EXT. A ROAD SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE VEGAS - NIGHT.

BILLY JACK

I dunno.

INT. CASINO - NIGHT.

Bennito throws the phone onto the floor and stomps it into oblivion.

BENNITO

You goddamn pea-brained, shriveled gob of Neanderthal spunk...

EXT. A ROAD SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE VEGAS - NIGHT.

Billy Jack hangs up his cell phone and lights a cigarette as the truck smolders. PAN DOWN the side of the truck to reveal that the fake UFO on the back of his truck bears a striking resemblance to the working version which Bo has stolen.

INT. CASINO - NIGHT.

Bennito is in full tantrum - pulverizing the phone with relish. His expletives have degenerated into a series of grunts and little screeches. A bystander watches the spectacle, astonished.

JAZ

(to the onlooker)

Roaming charges.

As suddenly as it began, the tantrum stops. Bennito smooths his hair as Jaz hands him a fresh phone.

BENNITO

(to the STAGE MANAGER)

Let's hold the curtain for ten.

The stage manager nods and darts away, speaking into his headset.

BENNITO (CONT'D)

(continuing; to Jaz)

Shit! Now I'm all tense.

(gesturing with his eyebrows)

I need to, uh... meditate. Can we...?

JAZ
 Sure, Bee Bee.
 (calling after the stage
 manager)
 Make that twelve!

EXT. HIGH ABOVE THE STRIP - NIGHT.

Rudy's ship hovers high above Vegas.

INT. RUDY'S SHIP - NIGHT.

Bo peers out the window. From Bo's POV we can see a large crowd below. An open-air stage has been erected in the parking lot of a casino/hotel. Searchlights scan the sky. It looks a lot like a rock concert being staged between the conference center and the casino.

BO
 Must be some big shot in town. Perfect!
 Talk about coverage! We are gonna ride
 this wave all the way!

He plops back into the seat.

BO (CONT'D)
 (continuing; as he scans the
 controls)
 Now, if I can just figure out how to
 land.

CUT TO:

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT.

The stage manager and the alien dancer stand in front of a curtained area backstage. From behind the curtain it sounds as if Bennito's having another phone tantrum. This is joined by Jaz repeating, mantra-like:

JAZ
 Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh...

ALIEN DANCER
 So, we're holding ten?

STAGE MANAGER
 Twelve.

ALIEN DANCER
And, there's no UFO?

STAGE MANAGER
Nope.

ALIEN DANCER
And we are supposed to do... what?

STAGE MANAGER
Pretend it's there.

ALIEN DANCER
I have to climb up on it.

STAGE MANAGER
Pretend to climb up on it.

ALIEN DANCER
I'm a dancer, not a mime.

The stage manager shrugs. The alien dancer rolls her eyes. The sounds from behind the curtain crescendo and stop. A long beat. Bennito and Jaz emerge. The stage manager and alien dancer look the other way. Bennito smooths his hair. Jaz applies fresh lipstick.

STAGE MANAGER
(into his headset)
Ten minutes.

CUT TO:

EXT. INSTANT BLISS WEDDING CHAPEL - NIGHT.

The Instant Bliss sign: a wave of smoke billows in front of the winking green and gold neon. Reverend Fred, smoking a fat stogie, talks to a newly married pair of high-school juniors. Next to him stands PAOLI, the Reverend Fred's right-hand man.

REVEREND FRED
My joy at your eternal union is unbounded. I hope you will remember me to your grandchildren. God bless.

The couple departs.

PAOLI
Eighteen months.

REVEREND FRED

A year, tops.

PAOLI

No way.

REVEREND FRED

Way. She'll get drunk and hump his cousin in the bathroom of their newly purchased double-wide. He'll catch 'em and go berserk with a sawed-off shotgun before the authorities bring him down like a hunted animal.

PAOLI

You amaze me.

REVEREND FRED

It's a gift.

Becky and Rudy pull into frame and get out of their car.

REVEREND FRED (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Greetings, love-birds! You must be the Toonz's. Pleased to meet you.

(checking his watch)

Okay, you're running a little behind, but that's okay - we can make it up on the processional. Did you bring the check?

INT. BENNITO'S OFFICE - NIGHT.

BENNITO

It's a fucking animatronic. They're animatronics.

Ice and Slider are here; Vlad stands behind them.

JAZ

I don't know, Benny. They look pretty real to me.

SLIDER

(eyeing Jaz)

Those are looking pretty real to me too there, sweet thing.

BENNITO

Hey! Watch your mouth.

VLAD
Shut up! All of you.
(to Bennito)
Do we have a deal? You'll guarantee
television coverage?

The reality of the situation hits Iceman and Slider. They turn to each other, exchanging looks, then Ice wheels on Vlad.

ICEMAN
You suck, comrade.

SLIDER
Why are you doing this?!

VLAD
(with an evil grin)
I'm blowing your cover.

Vlad pulls a small device from his pocket and points the business end at Iceman. Ice is obviously afraid. Before he can say or do anything, Vlad fires - causing Ice to drop immediately to the floor. Slider kneels next to the fallen Iceman.

SLIDER
You bastards!

Vlad tosses the device to Bennito.

VLAD
If they fuck around, use this. Don't
worry, it wears off.

BENNITO
Okay, I'm sold.

Vlad starts to leave.

BENNITO (CONT'D)
Hey! Don't you want your money?

VLAD
Yah, sure, I guess.

CUT TO:

INT. INSTANT BLISS WEDDING CHAPEL - NIGHT.

Rudy and Becky talk to the Reverend.

REVEREND FRED

And finally, we have a pray or pay
policy. You do - you don't - the fee's
the same. Understood?

Rudy and Becky nod.

REVEREND FRED (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Great. Let's lock and load. You kids get
suited up...

RUDY

Oh! Yeah! I need to go pick up my tux.

REVEREND FRED

What?!

RUDY

I phoned and had a tux held -

REVEREND FRED

I'm not deaf. You mean you don't have it
here?

RUDY

Well, no, I don't -

BECKY

Rudy just got off duty, and -

RUDY

We're eloping!

BECKY

(to Rudy)

Oh my God! We're eloping!

They burst out laughing and fall into one another's arms,
kissing and holding each other.

REVEREND FRED

Whatever.

(to Paoli)

Prep for Calvinist abridged.

Paoli nods and leaves.

REVEREND FRED (CONT'D)
 (continuing; calling after
 Paoli)
 Skip the psalms!
 (to Rudy)
 You got ten minutes... GO!

Rudy starts off, stops, steps back, kisses Becky, and takes off again. Reverend Fred puts his arm around Becky.

REVEREND FRED (CONT'D)
 (continuing)
 I'm sorry, but matrimony waits for no man. It's a big responsibility. If we run behind, the whole strip comes to a grinding halt. If the strip stops, Vegas stops. And if Vegas stops... well...

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. ONSTAGE - NIGHT

In the blackness a TIMPANI begins, low at first.

ANNOUNCER
 For thousands of years mankind believed
 it was all alone in the universe.

A point of light appears, piercing the darkness.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
 (continuing)
 In our hubris, we believed ours was
 unique amongst billions of galaxies.
 God's singular plaything.

The light has grown into a spinning, spiraling galaxy.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
 (continuing)
 But now we have stepped out of the
 darkness and into the intergalactic
 light!!

The stage explodes in a fountain of lights, lasers and effects. Dancers swarm from behind the projection screen, dressed as every imaginable style of extraterrestrial creature. It looks like the bar scene from *Star Wars* as staged by Busby Berkeley.

The crowd goes nuts, screaming, yelling, lighting lighters – dressed as outlandishly as the dancers. There's nothing like ET geeks with a few beers in them.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Now we know the truth! The universe is
ONE BIG INTERGALACTIC PARTY!!

The crowd is eating this up.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

(continuing)

AND GOD IS THE DJ! Busting some funky
cosmic tunes!!

The dancers move through an interspecies love bump.

CUT TO:

INT. RUDY'S SHIP - NIGHT.

Bo ponders the controls. Finally, at a loss, he shrugs and pushes a button.

EXT. ONSTAGE - NIGHT.

An AERIAL SHOT shows us the action on the stage - a mesmerizing swirl of color and high kicks. The ship drops from the sky, rushing toward the stage at a gut-churning pace. One dancer, some sixth sense engaged, looks up and, terrified, drags her fellow hoofers out of harm's way. The Stage Manager's mouth hangs open as he follows the ship's descent. A TV CAMERAMAN in the audience can barely believe what he's seeing. The ship is in near free fall, but then, a mere six feet off the deck, a set of landing gear gracefully extends and the ship floats the remaining distance - landing with an almost delicate little shiver. The crowd goes ape shit and the dancers continue, more or less without missing a beat.

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT.

Bennito, primping in a mirror, stops and comes over to watch.

BENNITO

Oh, yes! Flawless! It doesn't get any better!

(to Jaz)

Send Billy Jack a bottle of scotch.

The stage manager is checking his notes and speaking into the headset, trying to figure out what the hell just happened.

STAGE MANAGER
That's not right...

Bennito motions to the stage manager.

BENNITO
Hit the sparks! The sparks!

The stage manager, still confused but rising to the occasion, hits a switch and the ship is engulfed in a wall of sparks. As the effect subsides the dancers mount the ship and begin a series of high-kicks.

CUT TO:

INT. "TUX YOU" TUXEDO RENTAL - NIGHT.

Rudy checks his watch. The proprietor of "Tux You", LUCAS, a yellowing, ancient man, is checking the fit on Rudy's tux.

LUCAS
Anyway, my point is - don't trust 'em.

RUDY
Who?

LUCAS
Women.

RUDY
Women? All women?

LUCAS
All women.

RUDY
What about my mother?

LUCAS
All right, fine. Wives. Don't trust wives. I did and look at what happened to me.

RUDY
What?

LUCAS

They drained the life out of me and left
me a husk.

(he finishes up)

There.

(and steps back)

Look at you. You look good.

EXT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT.

Vlad, device in hand, stands guard over Ice and Slider. A
DANCER walks by and coos over the pair.

DANCER

Ooh. Who's this pair of cuties?

ICEMAN & SLIDER

We're your daddy.

A SECOND DANCER approaches.

DANCER 2

Wow. They sure look real.

SLIDER

(ghetto)

Bend down here and I'll show you an inch
and half of real.

Ice and Slider high-five.

EXT. ONSTAGE - NIGHT.

Bennito steps to a podium on the side of the stage. A
spotlight snaps on and the crowd grows quiet.

BENNITO

Friends, Americans, Extraterrestrials!

(the crowd cheers)

We all know the truth. Everyone here
knows the truth! Our government knows the
truth - but they deny it!

The dancers watch quietly from upstage.

INT. RUDY'S SHIP - NIGHT.

Bo listens to Bennito's speech, his ear pressed to the
glass of the cockpit window.

BO

Son of a bitch. This guy's stealing my speech.

EXT. ONSTAGE - NIGHT.

BENNITO

What is it? What is it that they deny?
What do we know to be true?!

The crowd is now almost completely silent.

BENNITO (CONT'D)

(continuing)

UFOs exist! Extraterrestrial life exists!
WE ARE NOT ALONE!!!

The crowd screams.

INT. RUDY'S SHIP - NIGHT.

Bo hurriedly straightens his uniform. He's changed into his white Navy dress uniform and is preparing for his entrance. He pulls his hat, the last item, out of a zippered bag. At last, he can tell his story and prove he's not a nut. Outside the ship, the crowd's MUFFLED SCREAMS can be heard.

BO

I am *not* gonna be the B story.

EXT. ONSTAGE - NIGHT.

BENNITO

AND HERE TONIGHT IS PROOF!

He motions offstage.

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT.

Vlad motions the stunner at Ice and Slider.

VLAD

Go!

EXT. ONSTAGE - NIGHT.

The crowd loses it yet again, as Ice and Slider come through the curtains. They are uncertain at first, but once they see the audience, they hit the stage like diminutive conquering heroes. In their element, Ice and Slider high five, then bump chests.

ICEMAN

Yeah!

BENNITO

Proof that WE ARE NOT ALONE!

Another massive production number fills the stage - this time showing human/alien interaction. Iceman grabs the mic from Bennito.

ICEMAN

I'm here to kick ass and chew bubble gum!
AND I AM ALL OUT OF BUBBLEGUM!

Another humongous reaction from the crowd.

The hatch on top of Rudy's ship pops open and Bo appears.

EXT. THE STRIP - ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE STAGE - NIGHT

Rudy, dressed in his tux, drives by, watching the stage. From his POV we can see Bennito, Ice and Slider, the crowd, the ship and Bo coming out of the hatch.

RUDY

What the hell...

EXT. ONSTAGE - NIGHT.

Bennito pumps his fist in the air, as Ice and Slider do a bump and grind for the ladies in the front row. Bo jumps off the ship and onto the stage.

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT.

STAGE MANAGER

Who the hell is that?

EXT. ONSTAGE - NIGHT.

The dancers swirl around Bo, pulling him into the musical number.

BO
(shouting)
I need to talk! Let me talk!

He can't be heard over the music.

ALIEN DANCER
(to Bo)
Relax, honey! Go with it.

EXT. THE STRIP - ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE STAGE - NIGHT

Rudy is still watching the action. His mouth drops open - totally bewildered by what he sees.

RUDY
Jeeeesus Chri...

SLAM! Rudy drives right into a light pole on the side of the street.