

TWO WEEKS IN ROSWELL

FADE IN:

EXT. W.M. KECK OBSERVATORY - MAUNA KEA - HAWAII - NIGHT -
ESTABLISHING SHOT

Beautiful, clear evening. No distracting lights, a slice of
tranquil heaven on Earth.

INT. W.M. KECK OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

World's largest telescope probes the universe. At first, it
views the deep darkness of space. Nada.

Then it focuses and WE SEE galaxies, planets, stars, meteors.
We see how vast and endless the Universe is -- and how busy.

The telescope continues its probe. Suddenly it ZEROES IN on:

A DISTANT PLANET

The scope continues to focus. Gets closer, closer, closer.

EXT. FUTURISTIC BUILDING - PLANET EARTHNOT - DAY

Establishing shot. The kind of building Frank Gehry would
have designed after taking peyote.

INT. EMPLOYEE CAFETERIA - PLANET EARTHNOT - DAY

ARTHUR FOGG, 40s, a nerdy but good looking alien, sits and
eats lunch alone, reviewing documents. Dressed in a lab
coat, he has a smooth head, smallish features, and slightly
pointed ears. Otherwise, he looks very human.

MICHAEL, a fellow lab-coated scientist, sits down with his
food tray. He's a taller or shorter, thinner or fatter
version of Arthur.

MICHAEL
How's the family?

Arthur thinks for a second.

ARTHUR
Good question.

Arthur returns his attention to the document.

Michael sticks out his hand and a condiment from the far end of the table slides to him. No big deal.

INT. LEVITATION LAB - PLANET EARTHNOT - DAY

Lunch over, Arthur and Michael enter the Levitation Lab where all sorts of objects hover or float by.

INT. FOGG FAMILY HOUSE - PLANET EARTHNOT - NIGHT

Arthur enters. The place sleek and ultra-clean, IKEA meets the Jetsons. A small, hairless dog patters in to greet him.

ARTHUR

Hello. I'm home. Anyone here?

No answer. He picks up the dog and enters the kitchen.

INT. FOGG FAMILY HOUSE - KITCHEN

A POST-IT NOTE HOLOGRAM appears in front of Arthur.

FEMALE HOLOGRAM VOICE

Hologram for Arthur Fogg from
Doris.

The Post-it transforms into a hologram image of Arthur's wife, DORIS, 35, an alien with very attractive features.

DORIS

Hello, Dear, I'm at the school
weekly committee meeting. The rest
of us had an early dinner. Just
heat up the leftovers and I'll be
home soon. Love you.

The hologram disappears and he gets another message.

FEMALE HOLOGRAM VOICE

Hologram for Arthur Fogg from Sara.

His daughter, SARA, 15, destined to break many hearts.

SARA

Hi Dad. I'm studying late at the
library. You and Mom don't wait up.
Love ya.

Hologram of Sara disappears.

ARTHUR
Studying. That's my girl.

INT. STUDENT HANGOUT - PLANET EARTHNOT - NIGHT

Sara parties with friends.

INT. FOGG FAMILY HOUSE - KITCHEN

Another Post-it Hologram appears.

FEMALE HOLOGRAM VOICE
Hologram for Arthur Fogg from
Danny.

DANNY, 12, his son, and all attitude.

DANNY
Mom said I could sleep over at
Ray's. See you tomorrow.

The hologram disappears.

ARTHUR
A sleep over? On a school night?

INT. DIFFERENT HOUSE - BEDROOM - PLANET EARTHNOT - NIGHT

Danny and his friend RAY sneak out of the bedroom window.

INT. EMPLOYEE CAFETERIA - PLANET EARTHNOT - DAY

Arthur sits across from Michael during lunch. Both men read documents and eat. Arthur looks up and stares at Michael.

ARTHUR
You ever worry you might be losing
touch with your family?

Michael sets aside his document.

MICHAEL
You go home early and there's no
family there. Right?

ARTHUR
Precisely.

MICHAEL
You need a family bonding
experience.

ARTHUR
A what?

MICHAEL
A vacation.

ARTHUR
We take a vacation every year.

MICHAEL
Let me guess. You stay on planet.
Go to the southern district. Visit
the same sites, eat at the same
restaurants. Blah, blah, blah.
Sound familiar?

ARTHUR
There's something to be said for
consistency.

MICHAEL
Yes and it's called boring.
(beat)
Have you ever heard of a travel
company called "Small Universe?"

Michael opens his briefcase, pulls out a travel brochure from
"Small Universe" and gives it to Arthur, who reads it.

ARTHUR
(reads aloud)
"The family that vacations together
stays together." Sounds too corny
and too expensive.

Arthur pushes the brochure back to Michael.

MICHAEL
A lot cheaper than you think. They
make it up at the other end, so
they keep the customer cost down.

ARTHUR
No thanks.

Michael pushes the brochure back.

MICHAEL
You get to visit another planet.

ARTHUR

This one's just fine.

Arthur pushes the brochure back.

MICHAEL

Since when do you lack scientific curiosity?

Michael pushes the brochure back.

ARTHUR

It's the money I'm lacking.

Arthur pushes the brochure back.

MICHAEL

They're running a fifty percent off special.

Michael pushes the brochure back for the last time.

ARTHUR

Fifty percent off?

INT. FOGG FAMILY HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The family sits at the table. Doris appears attentive, supportive, but Sara's mind wanders and Danny pouts.

An excited Arthur reads from the brochure.

ARTHUR

(reads aloud)

"Primitive Days and Nights".
Roswell, New Mexico. Planet Earth.
What do you think?

Doris looks over at Sara and Danny, both totally uninterested.

DORIS

I think we need to know more.

ARTHUR

(reads aloud)

Begin your trip at Earth Boot Camp,
where you will master the customs
of this exotic locale. Then join
your tour for the ultimate
experience in primitive human
celebrations.

DANNY
Primitive?

ARTHUR
(reads aloud)
Eat beans by the campfire.

SARA
Beans?

ARTHUR
Listen to this.
(reads aloud)
Optional side trip to the Grand
Canyon.

DORIS
"Grand," now that sounds nice,
dear. What is it?

ARTHUR
It's one of Earth's most
interesting ecological wonders. A
tall chain of mountains eroded over
time to create a level plain with
deep gorges. It's a must-see.

DANNY
We're going to some other planet to
see a hole in the ground?

Arthur ignores Danny's remark.

ARTHUR
(reads aloud)
Excellent image-capturing
opportunities.

Danny grabs the brochure from his father.

DANNY
(reads aloud)
Book now and save fifty percent.

Arthur grabs the brochure back.

ARTHUR
We're always talking about getting
back to basics. You can't get more
basic than Earth.

DORIS
How basic?

EXT. FOREST - OREGON - EARTH - DAY

It's lush, green, thick... and a hot summer day.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S POV

An image of BIGFOOT appears in the cross-hairs of a camera. The PHOTOGRAPHER CLICKS photo after photo.

The creature looks menacing, then suddenly it stumbles and falls. It's a HUGE PRATFALL and hardly what one would expect from a legend of the forest.

EXT. OREGON FOREST - LATER

LONNIE, 40s, a cheesy freelance photographer for tabloids, checks his equipment and reloads film.

CHET, 20s, not the brightest bulb in the camera bag, has removed the head from his Bigfoot costume and sits on a log. He guzzles cheap beer.

CHET

That's it. I'm done.

LONNIE

Not. We need more footage, Chet.

CHET

You ain't the one in the hot costume.

LONNIE

If you want to come back to B.F.E. Oregon next month instead of hang out at a beach full of skimpy bikinis, it's okay with me, bro.

CHET

Can I walk where it's not so thick? I'm tired of falling.

Lonnie points.

LONNIE

Try over there, in the grassy area.

EXT. OREGON GRASSY AREA - CONTINUOUS

Chet positions himself and waves to Lonnie. Chet hears a RUSTLE and turns. It's a skunk!

Chet removes the headgear. Stares bug-eyed.

CHET
LONNIE!!!

PHEW! Lonnie gets SPRAYED big time.

EXT. HIGHWAY - OREGON - DAY

A white Dodge Mini Ram van, circa 1980s, with FOTOMAGIK as its vanity plate speeds down the highway.

Bigfoot outfit on the roof, Lonnie drives but keeps his head out the window. Chet's head is out the other window.

INT. EMPLOYEE CAFETERIA - PLANET EARTHNOT - DAY

Lunch. Arthur sits, eats, reads. Michael joins him.

MICHAEL
Hey, Short-timer.

ARTHUR
Next stop, Roswell, New Mexico.
Planet Earth.

MICHAEL
I bet the family's excited.

ARTHUR
Beyond belief.

INT. FOGG FAMILY HOUSE - KITCHEN - PLANET EARTHNOT - NIGHT

Danny sits and watches his mother work in the kitchen.

DANNY
I can't believe Dad's making us go there. Why can't we go someplace fun and exciting instead of cheap and boring?

DORIS
Your Dad thinks it will be fun.

DANNY
He's not a fun guy. Can't I stay with Grandma? Ray says I can stay with them. I could stay home and take care of the house.

DORIS
Home alone? I don't think so.

DANNY
Why do I have to go?

DORIS
Because we're a family and we're
all going and that's final.

INT. FOGG FAMILY HOUSE - SARA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sara wears a headset, talks to a friend, puts on makeup.

SARA
I don't know. Some dumb rock called
Earth. Look, I don't want to be
seen on this planet with my family
why would I want to go to another
planet with them?

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT - LOS ANGELES - DAY

It's another glorious day in the City of Angels.

INT. AUTO REPAIR SHOP WAITING ROOM - DAY

Lonnie waits in a customer service center lobby and helps
himself to two cups of coffee.

He caps both coffees. He sees that he's alone. Throws a few
donuts in his jacket, grabs some newspapers, and scoots.

EXT. OLD NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Lonnie walks down a street of bungalows.

EXT. LONNIE'S HOUSE - DAY

It's a small house with a detached garage. The white van sits
in the driveway. Lonnie walks up the steps and enters.

INT. LONNIE'S HOUSE - DAY

A crummy bachelor pad. Furniture below K-Mart standards.
Walls decorated with cheesy headlines and photos from
tabloids in cheap frames.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DAY

Lonnie sets the coffee, donuts, and papers down. An article in one of the papers catches his eye.

INSERT HEADLINE:

"Roswell Offers \$100,000 Reward for Photo Proof of Aliens"

appears above a photo of a Roswell Chamber of Commerce member and someone dressed as a cartoonish alien.

BACK TO SHOT

LONNIE

Chet?

CHET (O.S.)

In the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lonnie nudges open the bathroom door and spots Chet in a tub full of red liquid. Lonnie sees several large open cans of tomato juice on the counter.

LONNIE

I know you didn't slash your wrists. I couldn't be so lucky.

CHET

Someone told me tomato juice would get rid of the skunk. How do I smell?

Lonnie takes a couple of SNIFFS.

LONNIE

Like a friggin' Bloody Mary.

Lonnie SNIFFS again.

LONNIE

No, wait. Now you smell like Pepé Le Pew.

Lonnie SNIFFS a third time.

LONNIE

You smell like a Bloody Mary again. Who cares what you smell like?

(MORE)

LONNIE (cont'd)
 Hurry up and get out of there, we
 got business to discuss.

INT. LONNIE'S GARAGE - PROP ROOM - DAY

Masks, wigs, fake backdrops, mannequins of Elvis, Nixon,
 Marilyn Monroe, Bill Clinton, George Bush (both of them).
 Small models of the Loch Ness Monster, etc.

Lonnie grabs an alien mask and outfit. The mask, one of those
 bald numbers with a high forehead, looks like Arthur and the
 real aliens.

INT. FOGG FAMILY HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

In bed, Arthur stares at the ceiling. Doris packs.

DORIS
 I don't know what to wear on the
 flight tomorrow.

ARTHUR
 Uh-huh.

Doris holds out three single-piece alien outfits.

DORIS
 I can't decide between chrome
 reflector, abyss black or sea mist
 green.

ARTHUR
 Uh-huh.

DORIS
 So you think I should wear the uh-
 huh outfit?

ARTHUR
 Uh-huh.

Doris walks over to the bed and sits.

DORIS
 All right, something's bugging you.
 What is it?

Arthur stares at her. Beat.

ARTHUR
 I'm wondering if this vacation is
 such a good idea.
 (MORE)

ARTHUR (cont'd)

We've always stayed close to home.
Never off planet. I'm Mr. Careful.
It's going to be safe, isn't it?

DORIS

Of course it'll be safe. It's a
guided tour of a small part of a
small planet. What could happen?

ARTHUR

A million things out of my control.

DORIS

Don't exaggerate. You're a
scientist, it's unbecoming.

ARTHUR

I should be better prepared.

DORIS

Don't be so paranoid. They run
these tours all the time.

ARTHUR

I must be tense about tomorrow.

Doris climbs next to her husband and strokes his face.

DORIS

I know what will relax you. What do
you say we have some fun tonight?
One for the road. For good luck.

ARTHUR

Not tonight, dear. I have paranoia.

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT - ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO - DAY

Welcome to Roswell, the Dairy Capital of the Southwest and
home to alien-lore.

INT. SPACEPORT - ROSWELL - DAY

As their alien selves, the Foggs arrive and disembark on a
people mover. They join aliens from all over the universe.
Some are human-like, others look like creatures out of a
1950's sci-fi magazine.