

SPAGHETTI AND THE ALIEN

By Michael Deigh

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

A small town in middle America. A large pickup truck pulls up in front of the store. A bumper sticker on the back reads: I DON'T HAVE AN ATTITUDE PROBLEM, YOU'RE JUST AN ASSHOLE.

INT. GRACE'S PICKUP TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

A cell phone rings. It's face up on the seat and the screen shows JASON, a handsome man, as the person calling.

GRACE (mid-30s) stares down at her phone. After a moment she silences the phone and gets out of the car.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Grace slams the door. She's wearing ripped jeans, an old flannel shirt, and a cowboy hat. She has a cigarette dangling from her mouth and has an old pistol strapped to her waist.

As she approaches the store, a MAN runs out and bumps into her on his way past and the cigarette falls out of her mouth.

MAN

Oh God lord Jesus oh my dear God
please Jesus save me baby Jesus!

Grace watches the man run past and shakes her head.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Grace walks to the counter and puts down a box of cereal, a gallon of milk, and cans of cat food. She looks up at the CASHIER. He's an older man and he's staring up at the TV in horror.

Grace follows his gaze, realizing for the first time that the TV is on. A newscast plays: UFOs are hovering over major cities around the world. Text at the bottom of the screen reads: WHY ARE THEY HERE? WHAT DO THEY WANT?

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Grace drives down a long, dirt road. She passes huge tracts of farmland, miles between the houses.

EXT. GRACE'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Grace pulls into her dirt driveway. Her house sits beyond a fence displaying several NO TRESPASSING signs. One reads: TRESPASSERS WILL BE SHOT. SURVIVORS WILL BE SHOT AGAIN.

EXT. GRACE'S HOUSE - DAY

Grace gets out of her car, a new cigarette in her mouth. We see another bumper sticker, one that reads: STOP COMPLAINING, THIS SHIT IS YOUR FAULT!

She looks up at the sky. It's completely calm. She stomps out her cigarette and then walks to the back of the truck for her groceries.

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Grace walks into her kitchen and puts the groceries down.

GRACE

Hello! I'm home! Hello? Spaghetti?

Grace walks out into--

THE LIVING ROOM

GRACE (CONT'D)

Where the hell are you you dumb--

She looks up and freezes. Standing in her living room, holding her cat SPAGHETTI upside down by its haunches... is an ALIEN in a space suit.

Through the helmet she can see that its a creature with purple skin and orange eyes. Grace slowly takes her gun out, points it at the alien, and cocks the hammer.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Put down my fucking cat.

The alien lets go of the cat, who falls calmly and gracefully to the floor. Spaghetti walks to a place in the room where she can see both of them and sits down to stare.

Grace approaches the alien, gun still pointed right at it.

GRACE (CONT'D)

What are you doing in my house?
Huh? Answer me!

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

Look, I don't care where you're from, but in this country, what you're doin' right now is trespassing and I have every right to use this thing.

She reaches the alien and puts the gun up against its visor.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Gimme one good reason why I shouldn't just blow your ass back to Saturn you skinny purple freak. You understand English? Huh? You know what I'm saying?

They stare at each other for a long, silent moment. Finally--

GRACE (CONT'D)

Sit down.

Grace indicates with her gun that the alien should sit down. It immediately obeys, walking to the chair she pointed at and sitting down.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Understood that shit...

Grace sits down in a chair across from the alien. Spaghetti trots over and jumps into Grace's lap. Grace scratches the cat's head while the gun remains trained on the alien. She slowly cocks and un-cocks the hammer.

GRACE (CONT'D)

What do you think Spaghetti? If I kill him, they'll probably show up lookin' for their pal. Or maybe they don't even know he's here. Well, what's the story bub? What do your people want with us? Can you even understand a word I'm saying? Hello...? Damn it, why does this crap always happen to me? You know New York is a thousand miles from here right?

Spaghetti jumps out of Grace's lap and onto the alien's. They stare at each other silently until Grace gets up, takes her cat back, and sits down again.

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Grace and the alien are still in the exact same places. Grace is struggling to stay awake and keep the gun pointed at the alien, who continues to stare at her silently.

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Grace is asleep, her head tilted back, the gun resting on her lap. She's drooling a bit. The alien is still in its seat and has Spaghetti the cat in its hands, holding him up. The cat playfully paws at the alien's mask.

Suddenly, there's a knock at the door. Grace wakes up with a start and waves the gun around. She sees the alien with her cat and points the gun at it.

GRACE

Dude! Leave the goddamn cat alone.

The alien lowers Spaghetti to its lap. There's another knock at the door. Grace starts to leave the room, but she stops.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Don't move. You get me buddy?

She takes a few steps before stopping again.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Wait, what am I saying? Get the hell out of my house. Go home.

The knocking continues. She runs to the door. The alien immediately begins playing with Spaghetti again.

Grace starts talking with JASON, whom we can't see, but from the sound of his voice, seems to be about the same age.

GRACE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

JASON (O.S)

Are you ever planning on returning my calls?

GRACE (O.S.)

I told you I need some time.

JASON (O.S.)

You know men are supposed to be the ones afraid of commitment?

GRACE (O.S.)
Very funny.

EXT. GRACE'S HOUSE - PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Grace and Jason stare silently at each other for a long moment. We finally recognize him as the guy calling on her phone earlier.

JASON
So, uh, you been watching TV? They say there's aliens all over the place.

GRACE
Oh come on. You actually believe that shit?

JASON
Kinda. I don't know. What, you think it's all made up.

GRACE
Go home Jason.

JASON
When am I going to see you again?

GRACE
Honestly? I don't know. But this kinda shit sure ain't helping.

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Grace returns to the living room. The alien is still playing with Spaghetti, but Grace doesn't say anything about it. Instead, she collapses onto the couch.

GRACE
See, that shit is exactly why I don't return his calls. Because he's clingy and he wants to put labels on everything.

She continues talking. The alien puts Spaghetti onto its lap and listens attentively to Grace. Grace, seeing she has a captive audience, continues.

GRACE (CONT'D)
And I know, everyone says it's not good to be alone so much. But I like it.

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

And I'm not one of those people who just says they like being alone so people will feel bad. Don't ask me why but having someone around all the time just stresses me out...

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Grace walks into the kitchen wearing gym shorts and a t-shirt. She yawns and pours herself a bowl of cereal.

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Grace is on the couch watching TV and eating her bowl of cereal. She's watching a sitcom and then flips the channel to the news. We see the newscaster talking about the aliens with a picture of a UFO that says DAY 10.

Grace looks down at the floor. The alien is laying there playing with Spaghetti. She looks back at the TV and flips the channel to a cop show.

EXT. GRACE'S BACK PORCH - NIGHT

Grace and the alien are playing chess. The alien is petting Spaghetti who rests on the table next to the board. Grace is smoking a cigarette and is thinking long and hard.

She finally moves a piece and then the alien quickly makes its move: check mate. Grace looks up from the board.

EXT. GRACE'S BACK PORCH - NIGHT

Grace and the alien are now playing checkers. Grace makes her move and then the alien quickly jumps several of her pieces and makes it to the other end of the board.

EXT. GRACE'S BACK PORCH - NIGHT

Grace and the alien are playing Connect Four. Grace wins the game. She stands up and cheers, mocking the alien for losing. Then she realizes--

GRACE

Did you let me win? Did you? Fuck you. We're going again.

She starts setting the game up again.

INT. GRACE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Grace enters carrying groceries. She turns to lock the door.

GRACE

God, today was the worst. Lorna
just had to tell everyone--

When she turns back, the alien is standing next to her. She hands it the bag of groceries.

The alien takes the bag over to the counter and starts putting the groceries away. Grace takes off her jacket and hangs it up.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Thanks. Anyway, she had to talk all
about her stupid grandson again
during lunch. I had no time to
myself. So tonight I'm making my
world famous steak. Spaghetti loves
it. So does Jason. He always--

She pauses and watches the alien put the groceries away. After a moment, the alien notices the silence and turns to look at her.

GRACE (CONT'D)

You don't have to sit with me
anymore if you're not going to eat.
I don't care.

The alien turns back around, flips on the oven, and takes a pan out of a cabinet. It then resumes putting away the food.

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

An ALIEN EXPERT is being interviewed on TV. Grace and the alien are sitting on the couch watching.

Grace is drinking a beer and keeps pointing and laughing at things the expert says. The alien is petting Spaghetti.

The news program shows video of a UFO and a title that says:
MONTH TWO. WILL THEY EVER COMMUNICATE WITH US?

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Grace and the alien are standing at the kitchen table wearing party hats. Grace is singing Happy Birthday for Spaghetti, who also has a small party hat on. There's a tiny birthday cake in front of her.

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Grace is asleep on the couch, the TV is playing an old movie. The alien walks over and puts a blanket on her. It picks Spaghetti up, sits down in a chair, and they stare each other quietly. After a long moment, Spaghetti meows.

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Grace walks in wearing PJs and starts preparing a bowl of cereal. She notices Spaghetti sitting, staring up at her.

GRACE

What's going on bud? You hungry?

She calls to the alien.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Hey did you feed Spaghetti this morning? Hello? You know I'm not the one who's supposed to feed him on Mondays. Hellooo?

Spaghetti walks over to the front door and lays down right in front of it. Grace stares at him, then drops her cereal bowl. She runs out of the kitchen to frantically search the house.

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Grace is sitting on the couch drinking beer and watching TV. A newscast shows UFOs flying away from various cities. The text on the bottom reads: WHY ARE THEY LEAVING? WHAT DID THEY WANT?

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Grace and Spaghetti sit across from each other, Grace in her usual chair, Spaghetti in the alien's usual seat. They stare at each other in silence.

EXT. GRACE'S BACK PORCH - MORNING

Grace walks outside and looks up at the sky. Then she takes out her cell phone and calls Jason.

GRACE

Hey. Yea I- No I- Hey listen, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to- I know. I know. Look, can you come over? Spaghetti misses you.

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

Dude I know, but- Just come over. I miss you, okay? Yes, me, I miss you. Don't make me say it again or I'll knock you out. What? I know. Of course. I love you too.

Grace hangs up and takes one more look at the sky. After a long moment, she goes back inside.

FADE OUT.