

Whale Desert

di

Ugo Cavallo

When an old alien finds his ideal vacation destination
online, he faces an annoying pop-up that wants to ruin his
vacation.

Author's property

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1

EXT. DESERT - DAY

1

A blinding light illuminates an expanse of red dunes, Mars.

A camper (peeling paint, with dents on the side) lands at full SPEED.

The vehicle IMPACTS a dune causing it to EXPLODE into a red cloud.

ENGINE SKIPPING NOISE.

A BRUSH braking.

Silence.

The door opens with a DRY knock.

A ladder DIPANTS outwards.

SOMEONE goes down, looks around and lowers his glasses revealing two HUGE black eyes. FRANK (112 years old, in Hawaiian outfit) is an ALIEN.

The purplish black of his eyes is reminiscent of a space nebula ...

CUT TO

2

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

2

Interior of a minimal bedroom. An alarm clock RINGS in the dark.

The curtains open wide. A flashing light fills the room.

Frank (hunched over, with a little belly) lying down, has an apathetic expression. his face is marked by deep wrinkles.

Frank gets out of bed with the help of a walker ...

Frank lifts a finger and marks a day from the calendar which now looks at the box of tomorrow, a heart in which two alien hands intertwine: Anniversary party.

Frank looks at a gem set on a shelf.

On the gem appears the face of an ALIEN (his wife Dotty).

Frank sighs sadly.

MONTAGE

(CONTINUA)

In the bathroom, Frank is shaving. There is a BUZZ, Frank stares at something in the sink. The stream of water emits a deafening hum.

In the kitchen, a food processor coarsely SPITS the coffee into a cup and splashes it all over the place. Frank brings the cup to his mouth ... it burns.

In the living room, Frank unlocks the window clamps and slides an aseptic sheet of glass. DISTORTED NOISES come from outside.

Frank tries to shut the window in fright.

The cup FALLS from his hand ...

The cup of coffee is a puzzle of shards in a black patch on the ground...

... on which little dusting robots walk, spreading coffee on the tiles instead of cleaning it away.

On the shelf, between a black triangle, a blue cube, the gem ... you can see the reflection of Frank's face.

The image of a young Frank with beautiful hair slowly materializes in the gem ...

The image is transformed, we see Frank hugging a smiling ALIEN (Dotty).

HAWAIIAN SONG.

in the picture, around Frank and Dotty's fingers two wedding rings are shining, her teeth are as scary as a piranha's. In the image the two are holding mojitos during a star cruise on the Tenhauser ramparts and LAUGH like crazy.

Frank looks at the photo with shining eyes ...

then look off screen ...

The calendar on the wall, tomorrow's square, their anniversary.

CUT TO

3

INT. ROOM - DESK - DAY

3

Frank is sitting in front of a screen suspended in the air, his eyes moving the icons on the desktop ...

An alien search engine appears "Ebezzilla.

Frank TYPE some alien characters in the search bar.

The site of a line of space cruises opens.

The cursor moves to a holiday package icon.

Frank CLICKS.

An online purchase screen opens (date of birth, name, tax code, card number ...).

Frank type the information on the screen and CLICK the "BUY" button.

ERROR SOUND.

Frank CLICKS.

ERROR SOUND.

A piggy bank appears on the screen and opens, there is nothing inside ...

Frank looks down with a dejected air at the gem in his fingers.

POP sound!

The box with the image of a small and attractive blue sphere appears on the screen ...

Frank closes the pop up.

POP!

A box opens on the screen with an inviting button that says "-70%!" ...

Frank looks at their anniversary box on the calendar ...

Frank CLICKS the pop-up.

FLOOOSH!

The screenshot is a travel site. Frank looks at the destinations: Sethmeth, Megaldon_5, Venus.

(CONTINUA)

His eyes are drawn ...

... from a blue sphere: the EARTH.

Frank CLICK the information button. A reviews and comments tab opens.

It is written:

"Insect1_ Dangerous!"

"Cowvie_ humans are bloody"

"Grey1_ Too noise!"

Frank goes through the list of negative comments. Images flow in front of Frank ...

MONTAGE

War of Gulf, Amazon' forest on fire, animals trapped in oil, a crumbling glacier wall, the killing of fish and people fighting each other for the Black Friday Xbox.

Frank annoyedly moves the cursor to the "X" to exit the page ...

But the SONG OF A WHALE stops Frank ...

... looking at the screen with an air of surprise.

Before his eyes is a whale that twirls lightly like a ballerina.

SCRUB OF WATER..

Frank's shocked expression.

Frank jumps up and goes to the bathroom where he TURNS the faucet knob ...

DISTORTED HUM OF WATER.

Frank goes back to his device. In his alien eyes there is the reflection of the water with its SCROLL ...

Frank puts his fingers close to the screen as if to touch that planet of leaves, flowers and oceans.

POP!

The pop-up has a 180-second countdown.

Frank looks at the "BUY" button and moves the cursor over the button ...

The pop-up moves. 100 seconds.

Frank follows the pop-up with the cursor and ...

The Pop-up moves. 70 seconds ...

The pop-up giggles.

Frustrated, Frank moves the cursor. 30 seconds ...

The pop-up moves to the last and Frank CLICKS a pop-up that opens an infinite sequence of pages, among these ...

... the promotion of a sale of space RVs and kitten videos.

Frank tries to close the pages. 10 seconds left ...

HYSTERICAL laugh of pop-up

3...2...1...

Frank clicks.

Nothing happens.

Frank clicks.

Laugh follow by a LOOSING FANFARE.

The pop-up blows a raspberry and leaves.

Frank is alone in the silence of the living room.

Frank hides his head in his hands. He has a sad look on the floor, on the surface of the gem you can see Dotty's face ...

Frank moans.

A beat.

Frank notices something.

There is open page on the screen...

Frank grabs a box and fills it with his belongings.

CUT TO

4

EXT. CAR PARKING - FLEA MARKET - DAY

4

A stall set up in a parking lot.

Frank places a box full of junk on the ground and sits down next to a jar.

The void around Frank grows.

The jar fills up slowly ...

CAR HORN

A camper BRAKES abruptly in front of Frank's flea market.

The stairs unravel and MR.6 descends, an alien (glasses, big black eyes, 24 hours, wristwatch) who hands the keys of the camper to Frank.

Frank starts to take it but Mr. 6 waves his hand as if to want something ...

Frank hands him the jar full of cash and takes the key.

Mr.6 grabs the jar and examines it with steady eyes.

GROUNDS DISSATISFIED. Mr.6 wave his hand to ask for more ...

Frank shows his empty pockets.

Mr. 6 notices Frank's gem ...

Frank holds the gem ...

Mr.6 takes back the keys to the camper.

Frank looks at the RV, then looks down at his gem ...

HAWAIIAN MUSIC.

Frank hands the gem to Mr. 6 who in return hands him the keys.

Frank grabs them, but his gaze is sad.

CUT TO

5 **EXT. ROAD - DAY**

5

Mr. 6 walks down the street admiring the gem and holding the jar of cash ...

Behind him comes the full-throttle camper.

Mr. 6 moves off the street.

WROOOOOM!

From the window, Frank reaches out and snatches the gem from Mr. 6's hands.

Mr. 6 is stunned on the sidewalk ...

Frank esults.

The camper lifts up and disappears at the top.

CUT TO

6 **EXT. DESERT - PLANET MARS - DAY**

6

Red sand dunes as far as the eye can see.

Frank extends the deckchair, Frank crushes a lime and pours two mojitos, places a glass next to the gem (where you can see the reflection of Dotty, smiling) and the other places it next to him ...

Frank puts the headphones in his ears and lies down ...

WATER FLOWING sound.

Everything around Frank is desolation.

Above the reddish dunes you can hear the CRUSHING OF THE WAVES ...

Up there, the earth, a tiny bright blue dot, coincides with the SONG OF THE LAST WHALES ...

CREDITS

THE END