

Hotel Kali Phor Nia

When Pearl and Mike give up their life on earth, they end up making a real exhibition of themselves.

TEASER

Close on a touch screen display that shows earth from space, centred on North America. An alien hand taps the screen near Arizona and it expands to show a map of the state. The alien hand taps again near Nevada.

COMPUTER

Destination set. Arrival in 4
luminels.

ACT ONE

EXT. A DINER - NIGHT

There are a few beat up cars and pick-up trucks in the car park. The inside is illuminated and a few patrons can be seen through the window. The camera finds PEARL and MIKE, a middle aged white couple sat in a booth having an earnest conversation. They are stereo-typically 'trailer trash'.

INT. A DINER - NIGHT

PEARL is talking expressively; MIKE has faded out.

PEARL

But the brochure, Mike. You saw
the brochure!

MIKE

(Grunts)

PEARL

Mike! Are you even listening to me?
This is the most important decision
of our lives. We finally caught a
break, Mike!

MIKE

Yeah, well. I ain't sure that we
did.

PEARL

What do you mean?

MIKE

You remember my cousin, Arty?

PEARL

Oh for goodness sake, Mike, this isn't like that.

MIKE

How do you know that?

PEARL

I just know. Everyone knows your cousin Arty is a bit cockadoodledoo.

MIKE

(Grunts)

You'd be cockadoodledoo if you'd Been pro-

PEARL

The brochure, Mike! The brochure! When do folks like us get a chance to go to a place like that?

MIKE

Exactly.

PEARL

What?

MIKE

It's too good to be true. Ain't no such thing as a free lunch, Pearl. You know that.

PEARL

Michael Peter Samson, don't you dare ruin this for me! Our whole life we've been waiting for a break and we finally get one. No more hard work. We'll be Vee Eye Pees, you heard the man.

MIKE

(Snorts)

PEARL
Don't you be like that Mike.
That's prejudiced.

MIKE
Prejudiced!

PEARL
You can't assume he's lying just
because he's...different.

MIKE
Different!

PEARL
Different. Mike, I want this. I
want us to live that kinda life.
Imagine, never having to work,
never having to cook or clean.
We'd be living like royalty, Mike!
No more working the line, no more
scrubbing dishes, no more
hamburger helper and Mac and
Cheese.

MIKE
But we'd be leaving everyone
behind, Pearl. And I like Mac and
Cheese.

PEARL
Leaving who, Mike? Our families
are all gone, and we ain't got no
kids.

MIKE
(Grunts)

PEARL
Who're you gonna miss so bad you'd
pass up a chance like this?
Dwayne?

MIKE
(Grunts, amused)

PEARL

Please Mike? Let's just go out there and tell him that we want this, like we agreed.

MIKE
You agreed.

PEARL
Mike!

MIKE
Alright, alright. We'll say yes. I just don't know how we're gonna get back if we change our minds.

PEARL
Why would we change our minds, Mike? The brochure!

MIKE
I said alright.

PEARL
(Squealing, she embraces Mike)

Leaving money on the table, PEARL and MIKE walk out.

EXT. A DINER - NIGHT

PEARL AND MIKE walk through the car park and approach a MAN who stands in a clear space with his back to them. He is wearing a long overcoat, a hat and gloves.

PEARL
Excuse me, Sir?

The MAN turns, but his face remains in shadow.

MAN
You've decided?

PEARL
Yes, Sir, we have. We'd like to
take you up on your kind offer.
(beat) Thank you.

MAN
I will signal our transport.

The MAN pulls a remote control from his pocket and presses
some illuminated buttons

PEARL
So what happens next? How do we g-

There is a roar of noise and a column of light targets
them. Wind is swirling around them, picking up debris. The
light intensifies and they are gone, leaving silence and
swirling trash and dead leaves.

FLASH CUT:

INT - A LUXURY HOTEL SUITE

MIKE is sat on the couch in a bath robe, watching TV. There
is a large bowl of Cheetos on the nearby table and some
empty beer cans. There are several doors off, all but one
closed. PEARL can be heard singing over a shower from one
of them. MIKE reaches for the remote control and turns it
up, it's an old episode of Dukes of Hazzard; the General
Lee horn sounds.

PEARL enters, hair tied up in a towel, wearing a bath robe.
She is not the Pearl from the diner, she is putting on airs
and trying to sound educated and refined.

PEARL
Oh Mike! Not Dukes of Hazzard
again.

MIKE

What's wrong with it?

PEARL

You can watch anything you want in
the whole world and you watch
that?

MIKE

What's wrong with it?

PEARL

I just thought we'd get away from
our old selves. You could watch
anything. Don't you want to
improve yourself?

MIKE

What needs improving?

PEARL

Don't get me started!

PEARL sits on a comfortable chair, she watches for a moment
then reaches for the remote and turns the TV off.

MIKE

What did you do that for?

PEARL

Oh Mike! You can watch that any
time. Don't make a fuss.

MIKE

(Grunts)

PEARL

How can you want to watch that
when you can enjoy the view!

PEARL gestures towards the outside wall. Pan to show
that wall is all glass. Outside is an obviously alien
landscape; a desert with purple sand, the sky is green
and there are multiple moons.

MIKE

(Grunts)

PEARL

Aren't you still just amazed
though, Mike? It's been weeks but
it still takes my breath away
every time.

The opposite door opens and THE MAID enters. She is a
'grey' alien, but she is wearing a maid's costume from
earth.

THE MAID

Excuse me Madame, Sir, but there
is a solar event in five minutes
and I need to shield your windows.

PEARL

(Sighs)

Alright. Once you've done that,
the shower needs cleaning, we need
fresh towels and the bed hasn't
been made yet.

THE MAID

I'll see to that, Madame.

THE MAID moves to the external wall and uses a control
panel; the outside view disappears as it turns black.

MIKE

Can I watch Dukes of Hazzard now?

PEARL

Oh for heaven's sake!

MIKE

Hey, darlin'?

PEARL

What?

MIKE

Not you. Her!

PEARL

You don't call 'the help' darlin'

MIKE

(mutters)

Since when do you call anyone 'the help'

PEARL

What?

MIKE

Nothin'. Excuse me, Miss?

THE MAID

Yes, Sir?

MIKE

Could I get a burger, fries and a coke?

THE MAID

Of course Sir. Would you like your usual side of onion rings?

MIKE

You never forget! Yes, please, darlin'

PEARL

(tuts)

THE MAID

Can I get anything for you, Madame?

PEARL

Yes. Today I would like to try...uh...(hand wave)...Linguine with white truffle.

THE MAID

Of course. I'll be right back with that.

THE MAID leaves, PEARL sits and watches MIKE with frustration as he puts Dukes of Hazzard back on and sips his beer. Just a few seconds pass before THE MAID returns, pushing a room service trolley with meals under silver domes. She serves PEARL first, PEARL doesn't react. THE MAID then serves MIKE.

MIKE

Thank you, Darlin'

THE MAID

You're very welcome, Sir.

PEARL chews her food with obvious distaste. MIKE chows down with pleasure on his burger. He pauses, catching sight of PEARL, swallows and grins.

MIKE

You enjoyin' your fancy food there, Pearly?

PEARL

I'd say it's an acquired taste.

MIKE

That mean you don't like it?

PEARL pointedly says nothing.

MIKE (CONT'D)

That means she don't like it.
(He winks at THE MAID) How'd you get it ready so fast anyway?

THE MAID

(Vaguely) The kitchen is very efficient. Will that be all?

PEARL

No. Can you get me a glass of Champagne?

THE MAID

Of course Madame.

THE MAID walks to the door.

MIKE
(Pointedly)
Thank you, darlin'.

The MAID turns and bows towards MIKE, who goes back to his burger.

PEARL
It doesn't pay to be too friendly
with the help, Mike.

MIKE
Saying thank you ain't 'too
friendly', Pearl. It's just
manners. Sometimes I think you
left 'em back on earth.

The MAID returns and delivers the champagne to PEARL.

PEARL
Why, thank you dear. What an
absolute *angel* you are!

THE MAID
Thank you, Madame.

THE MAID leaves.

MIKE
Better, Pearl. Better.

INT - CORRIDOR

THE MAID closes the door behind her and sighs. There are several other Grey aliens outside, all wearing costumes from different earth cultures.

GREY #1
Pearl acting up again?

THE MAID
Yes. Thank Zeespir for Mike. At
least he's still drinking beer and
eating burgers like he's supposed
to. If she carries on acting out
of type they'll talk about

replacing them. It's not like
trailer trash is a rare species...

The other Greys nod and laugh, then move off down the
corridor, chatting.

EXT - SPACE HOTEL

The space hotel is a glass dome, set in a desert planet
with purple sand, green sky etc. There are brightly lit
signs over segments; Indian, Chinese, Nomad. Focus on
Trailer Trash, the view from outside Mike and Pearl's room.
They can be seen inside, watching TV. Pan up to the top of
the dome where a very large, illuminated sign says
'EARTHILING ZOO'.

FADE OUT