

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

Name of First Writer

Based on, If Any

Address
Phone Number

MOONSTONES

by

Michael L. Fawcett

1861 9th Street, Unit B
Los Osos CA 93402
mfawcett@calpoly.edu
(805) 534-1229

FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH PATH - LATE AFTERNOON

DR. WILLIAM SAYERS and his wife, DOTTIE, both 65, in beachcombing attire, walk briskly along a beach path.

DOTTIE
We got here kinda late.

BILL
There's time enough.

DOTTIE
Would you recognize a moonstone?

BILL
They opalesce.

DOTTIE
Frank Miller said the moonstones here aren't really moonstones.

BILL
The geologist at the club?

DOTTIE
They're quartz. Real moonstones are feldspar.

BILL
But the ocean's real. And, God, take in the salt air!

DOTTIE
Frank said he found jade here.

BILL
Like up at Big Sur?

DOTTIE
Not like at Big Sur. Just pebbles.

BILL
Watch your step.

They walk out onto a sand and shingle beach.

They take in the surroundings.

They see the horizon, rocks, swells, waves, birds, etc.

DOTTIE (O.S.)
Margaret comes here all the time.
Says it resets her humanity.

Bill strikes an oratory pose.

BILL
"Ye who live hard by the sea are
blest but ye who live inshore are
dispossessed."

DOTTIE
What is that?

BILL
Wrote it in my head driving up.

DOTTIE
While driving? That could prove
dangerous.

BILL
Let's find some moonstones, Dottie.

They begin to walk along the isolated beach.

Bill studies the beach gravel in front of them as they go.

DOTTIE
Moonstones were traditionally a
talisman of love.

BILL
Even our quartz knockoffs?

DOTTIE
You gotta believe in them, that's
all.

BILL
Gotta find 'em first.

DOTTIE
Greeks thought they contained
solidified moonlight.

BILL
Whoa!

Bill stops.

He kneels and picks up some small stones.

He examines them carefully.

BILL (CONT'D)
(announcer's voice)
We have moonlight.

CLOSE as he moves several smooth white stones about in his palm with a forefinger.

Dottie examines them.

DOTTIE
Pay dirt, Dr. Sayers.

Bill puts them in his shirt pocket.

BILL
I'll keep these in case our love
has a sudden drop in pressure.

They continue along the beach.

DOTTIE
Maybe we should --

A STRANGE WHIRRING SOUND comes from further up the beach.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)
What was that?

Bill puts a hand on Dottie's shoulder to stop her.

They listen.

BILL
We'll check it out.

They continue along the beach.

Dottie takes Bill's hand.

DOTTIE
Can't we get out of dinner with the
Dolans?

BILL
We already have.

DOTTIE
How?

BILL
Your sister's making another
unannounced visit.

WOMAN

You come. She stays.

Bill walks up to the woman. Looks down at her.

He sees confusion and fear in her eyes even as she regards him fiercely.

He lifts her chin and examines her face.

BILL

These cuts need cleaning and suturing.

The woman clutches her side.

Bill kneels before her.

He places a hand on the hand she has over her ribs.

He runs his other hand along her other side.

He sees that she's wearing a side arm.

BILL (CONT'D)

You have a fractured rib. Or two.

(beat)

You hurt elsewhere?

The woman shakes her head.

BILL (CONT'D)

What's your name? Where're you from?

DOTTIE

What happened?

The woman motions for him to step back, which he does.

WOMAN

My name is Zelphi. That is all I can tell you.

Dottie has come to her husband's side.

DOTTIE

We'll take you to an emergency room.

The woman looks at her and gives half a laugh.

ZELPHI
 (sarcastic)
 Take me to an emergency room?

BILL
 Those cuts'll become infected in a
 day or two.

ZELPHI
 Our situation is more dire than a
 broken rib and cuts.

BILL
 We'll do our best to help you.

DOTTIE
 I'm trying to identify your accent.

ZELPHI
 You won't.

BILL
 Your English is so perfect.

ZELPHI
 (sarcastic)
 I was always an A student.

DOTTIE
 Are you part of a military
 exercise?

The woman picks up on the question.

ZELPHI
 Uh... Yes. Part of a military
 exercise. But something went wrong.

BILL
 What went wrong?
 (beat)
 Are you a Navy Seal?

ZELPHI
 I can't discuss it. Security...

DOTTIE
 We understand. But you must see a
 doctor.

ZELPHI
 I just did.

DOTTIE
At a hospital.

ZELPHI
I won't jeopardize the mission.

BILL
Better a little jeopardy than
gangrene.

ZELPHI
I must go.

BILL
Not far you won't with that rib.

ZELPHI
I must ask both of you to leave.

There is blood in her mouth now.

DOTTIE
We won't leave you here. It's
getting dark and cold.

BILL
Zelphi. Your rib has punctured your
right lung.

Zelphi puts the back of her hand to her mouth and looks at
it.

She unsnaps her holster and takes her side arm in her hand.

She points it at Dottie.

ZELPHI
I will kill your wife, doctor, if
the two of you don't get off this
beach!

BILL
Hold off, Zelphi. We're leaving.

Bill takes his wife by the arm and hurries her back along the
beach.

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Bill and Dottie come to a stop. They are breathing hard.

DOTTIE
 (still frightened)
 Almost bushwhacked on the Moonstone
 Trail!

Bill takes out his cellphone and stabs some numbers.

BILL
 That woman's headed for the Great
 Divide unless she gets tended to.

He looks closely at his phone.

BILL (CONT'D)
 That's odd. There's no connection.

He takes Dottie by the arm.

BILL (CONT'D)
 We passed a highway patrol office a
 mile or so back.

They begin walking quickly to their car.

DOTTIE
 Who do you think she is?

BILL
 No idea.
 (pause)
 Call me crazy, she gave off this
 strong...

DOTTIE
 ... animal magnetism?

BILL
 What I mean...

DOTTIE
 Really, Bill.

BILL
 Be serious, Dottie. ... an aura of
 deep inner strength. Like a world-
 class athlete.

DOTTIE
 (shrugs)
 You're the doctor.

There's the STRANGE WHIRRING NOISE again.

They stop, turn, look back down the beach.

Bill looks around and above them.

BILL
That sound again.

DOTTIE
We go back? Risk a peek at Zelphi?

BILL
I think Zelphi's gone.

They stand staring down the beach for a long moment.

Dottie turns to her husband.

Her eyes are moist.

DOTTIE
Where to?

BILL
Back to where she was before.

DOTTIE
(frowns)
You're a big help.

BILL
Got a better idea?

They continue walking, more slowly now.

DOTTIE
Zelphi could be an interloper.

BILL
Taking a breather from a galactic
battle?

Dottie stops.

BILL (CONT'D)
What is it?

She puts a hand on her husband's shoulder.

DOTTIE
Do you have them?

BILL
Have what?

DOTTIE
The moonstones.

Bill smiles and pats his shirt pocket.

BILL

I do.

Dottie puts her arms around Bill and pulls him to her.

CUT TO BLACK.