

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

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MOONSTONES

by

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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.