

## **“BIGFOOT MEETS THE MARTIANS!” –Treatment by Mike Sherlock**

One stormy evening, forest ranger WILL's truck breaks down near the mountain hamlet of Big Bluff. Garage owner WALLY happens by and tows Will into the mostly-deserted town while exuding an ominous vibe, and BEN, at the hardware store, also seems vaguely threatening. However MARLENE, the woman working at the bar, is friendly and immediately catches Will's eye. She tells him Big Bluff was once a thriving fishing mecca until some highway construction diverted the river and ruined the economy. To survive, the townspeople began exploiting some local Bigfoot sightings, erected a statue of Bigfoot, changed the town's name to Bigfootville, and staged a yearly Bigfoot Festival. Bigfoot was spotted regularly and the town prospered until ten years before, when the sightings stopped. Without them the tourism waned, and now the town is in dire straits.

Will informs VICTOR, the Native-American man who owns the bar, that the old Indian cave just outside of town has been designated a National Monument, and a famous U.S. senator is passing through the next day to officiate at a brief ceremony and TV photo-op. Victor's delight is cut short by the news that his elderly father, THE CHIEF, has to sign a piece of paper to permit it. Victor drives Will up to the Chief's cabin and then pressures the Chief to sign the paper, and the old man reluctantly complies - despite his fears of repercussions from "spirits" that he believes are in the cave. Victor drives back to town as the Chief shows Will the cave - and BIGFOOT watches unnoticed from the shadows.

Victor sends Marlene to pick up Will, then begins rounding up town council members in a scheme to fake Bigfoot as a tourist draw. As Will and Marlene talk, he becomes more enamored, but is taken aback when she gets angry at his insensitivity toward the Chief's concerns. Will replies he doesn't believe in ghosts and is simply looking for job security. She softens, he charms her, and they share a tentative kiss - which is interrupted when he sees a UFO. But she doesn't see it, and Will soon begins to question his own sanity.

A short while later, left alone outside the cave, Will sees the UFO again - just as it gets hit by a bolt of lightning and goes down in the woods. He dives into the bushes then comes across a little flying saucer, sitting in a moonlit clearing. Excited, he runs back to the cave and drags Marlene back with him to the clearing - but now the flying saucer has disappeared. She's skeptical, in spite of the fact that suddenly Victor's car won't start. Back in town, Will meets Marlene's father, HARRY, the owner of a diner and motel, and a rabid UFO fanatic. A widower, he got interested in UFO's when his brother vanished years before, and spends his evenings watching the sky as part of a group dedicated to exposing the UFO cover-up. Will and Harry figure out that all the phones in town are dead, the Internet's out, and the clocks all stopped at the moment lightning hit the UFO.

Meanwhile, two local teenagers, known to us only as ROMEO and JULIET, also saw the UFO go down while at Makeout Point. But because she's from the New Age camp, and he's forbidden to have anything to do with "hippie scum", they can't tell anyone. They agree to meet the next day at their secret spot - the cave - then he discovers his dad's truck won't start. So Romeo drops her off and runs to get help from DAVE, a boy his age who ostensibly works for big dumb Wally, but actually calls the shots. Dave and Romeo get in the tow truck to fetch Romeo's dad's truck, but find it also mysteriously won't start.

Resigned to his father's wrath - for fraternizing with a Camp girl and stranding the truck - Romeo gets home to find that his dad - who we discover is Ben - and his mother EILEEN are too preoccupied preparing for the senator's arrival to do anything more than ground Romeo. Meanwhile, at the motel, Harry warns Will about the Men in Black, who since the Will Smith movies no longer wear black but still threaten UFO witnesses. Will retires to his motel room as two MEN IN BLACK, in sunglasses and loud Hawaiian shirts, cruise past in a dark car. The car goes down the street and passes the only light on in town, in the curtained back room of the bar, where secretive activity continues late into the night.

The next morning, Will and Marlene learn from Dave that the engines in both Will's truck and the garage tow truck are mysteriously magnetized. Will then tells ANDY & JUNIOR, the volunteer Fire Dept. Chief and his son, that he saw a UFO get struck by lightning. They don't take him seriously, but Dave overhears. After borrowing a tandem bike from GEORGE & BAMBI, who run the Girl's camp, Will and Marlene head off to take another look at the clearing where he saw the saucer. After they go, Dave tells Romeo what he heard the ranger say, and Romeo admits that he also saw the UFO get hit by lightning.

When Will and Marlene reach the clearing, Will is gratified to find marks on the ground left by the saucer. Marlene wants to call someone, but Will insists that it doesn't matter if anyone else believes them as long as they know both know it was real. Back in town, Andy visits NIGEL, a professional Bigfoot hunter, and asks for his help faking Bigfoot. Andy takes Nigel to the back room of the bar where the town council members have sewn Wally into a crude Bigfoot suit. Nigel is offended and refuses to help. Meanwhile, Dave has convinced Romeo that the town council's secretive activities have something to do with the UFO. The boys wile their way into the bar's back room, only to find that the town council knows nothing about the UFO, and is instead readying a fake Bigfoot for the senator's TV cameras. Dave and Romeo leave to try to stop Juliet before she goes to the cave, and an upset Nigel stalks out after them to go check his forest Bigfoot traps.

At the cave entrance, Will sets up a podium as Marlene wanders inside. When Bigfoot appears and grabs her, she screams. Will hears and runs in as her screams disappear down one of several tunnels. Will picks a likely tunnel and plunges down it after her. Deep in the mountain, the tunnel opens into a cavern in which Will finds, not Bigfoot, but the flying saucer! Will discovers a curtain of vines separates this cave from the clearing, and realizes that the little saucer was dragged inside, apparently to hide it. With no one around, he assumes the craft's occupants have taken Marlene, and runs off to get help.

Arriving at the bar, Will tells Harry that ET's have captured his daughter in the cave, and Harry hurries out, followed by The Chief, who's followed by the Chief's pal, THE DRUNK. Will pounds on the back room door, causing fake-Bigfoot Wally to jump out the window, then the others let him in and he tells them about the UFO. Victor, Ben and Andy start back to the cave with Will, and George and Bambi jump on their tandem bike and head for the main highway to get help. Junior reluctantly stays behind to "keep the lid on the town". Meanwhile, Bigfoot has Marlene trapped in a small cavern where she's resisting his amorous advances, and Harry arrives in the saucer cave and hysterically confronts the silent disc. At the camp, Dave and Romeo discover Juliet's already left and tell her cabin-mates, ANNIE and LORI, about the UFO in the cave. As soon as the boys leave to go find Juliet, Annie and Lori decide to sneak out and go see the UFO themselves.

At Romeo's house, Eileen is persuaded by Andy's God-fearing wife JENNY that UFOs are "Satan's work", and that they have to do something. In the town square, a crowd grows around the anxious Junior, including a HISPANIC MAN, his PREGNANT WIFE, a BALD MAN, a GREY-HAIRED LADY, and a SCOUTMASTER and two BOYSCOUTS. Up in the saucer cave, Will, Victor, Ben and Andy join the stunned Harry. Frustrated in their attempts to get inside the still-silent disc, they decide to bring down the vine curtain opening with dynamite, trapping the saucer. Victor, Ben and Andy head back to town and leave the nervous Will and Harry to watch the alien spacecraft. At the camp, TWO COUNSEORS discover that Juliet, Annie and Lori are gone, then head out to find them.

Meanwhile, Wally stumbles through the woods in the fake Bigfoot suit, when he's spotted by Juliet, who screams. They run in opposite directions, and Wally is spotted by Nigel, who is now completely fooled by the bad Bigfoot suit. Nigel begins excitedly stalking Wally with a shotgun, only to step into one of his own Bigfoot traps and be jerked off his feet. Andy arrives in town and helps Junior calm the crowd, as Ben and Victor come out of the hardware store with dynamite. At the cave entrance, Romeo goes in looking for Juliet, as Dave spots Wally in the woods and starts after him. In the saucer cave, the UFO comes to life and a robot eye emerges and displays a you-are-here map of the route to Bigfoot's cave, where Bigfoot has Marlene. Will and Harry run out to rescue her.

Then Romeo, who has mistakenly gone down a new tunnel, emerges directly under the once-again silent saucer just as Dave, having lost Wally, ends up in the saucer clearing. The boys discover the vine curtain simultaneously and then dive into some bushes as Ben and Victor arrive back at the saucer cave and begin setting the dynamite over the vines. In the woods, Juliet finds Annie and Lori and tells them she just saw Bigfoot. A short distance away, Nigel struggles vainly to free himself from the snare. Meanwhile, Will and Harry reach Bigfoot's home cavern just as he corners Marlene. Bigfoot forgets her instantly, and begins wiping up the cave with Will and Harry. Meanwhile, the Chief begins performing a magical ceremony in the main cave, and then sends out a mental whammy that makes Bigfoot drop Will and Harry and go off down the tunnel in a trance.

In the saucer cave, Ben and Victor light the dynamite fuse as the disc hums to life, then take cover outside in the bushes. Suddenly Dave pops up and distracts them while Romeo slips through the vines, and then starts climbing up toward the burning fuse. Meanwhile, the entranced Bigfoot passes the entranced Chief and heads down the saucer cave tunnel, Will, Marlene and Harry on his heels. The Drunk, oblivious until now, spots Bigfoot and stumbles off after him. Romeo almost reaches the burning fuse when the saucer rises up into the air and floats toward the vines. Then Bigfoot enters and grabs the disc's leg. Romeo considers this, then abandons the burning fuse. The Drunk enters, takes in the scene, sobers instantly, and then heads back out with a new resolve. Outside, in the bushes beside the clearing, Dave continues stalling Ben and Victor as Romeo bursts out through the vines. Then Will, Marlene and Harry enter the cave just as the dynamite explodes, trapping the saucer and knocking Bigfoot out cold.

In the woods, Wally is startled by the explosion and tumbles into a ravine. In town, the Pregnant Wife suddenly goes into labor, and the townspeople carry her into the bar. In the woods, the Counselors run into Juliet, Annie and Lori, then spot the unconscious Wally, instantly take him for the real thing, and decide to tie him up before he awakes.

In the bar, the Pregnant Wife's labor pains suddenly stop again, as outside an RV pulls into town with BOB, BETTY and LIL BOB inside. The townspeople panic at the sight of the operating vehicle, and Jenny grabs Andy's gun and leads a charge on the tourists. Meanwhile, the Drunk is in his room, shocked sober, showering and packing his bags, and senator BOND, his AIDE and PILOT are in a helicopter winging ever closer to town.

In the clearing, Victor agrees to help Dave find Wally, while Ben and a dejected Romeo head back to town. In the cave, the UFO's robot eye studies Will, Marlene and Harry as the Chief enters and joins them. Then the saucer opens, and three MARTIANS appear. Their CAPTAIN, an Indian-type ET, uses sign language that only the Chief can translate as the aliens examine the unconscious Bigfoot, then invite the humans inside their craft. In the woods, fake-Bigfoot Wally awakens as Annie, Lori and the two Counselors finish tying him up. He immediately breaks free, and the women panic as he flees. Nearby, Nigel finally frees himself from the trap-noose and runs half-crazed after Wally. The real Bigfoot regains consciousness in the cave just as Victor and Dave arrive looking for Wally. Bigfoot immediately chases them under the flying saucer, where he can't follow, as inside the disc, the Martians smoke an alien peace pipe with the three other humans.

Back in town, Eileen somehow gets Junior's gun, then stands by as Jenny calls off the mob's siege of the RV, and orders Bob, Betty and Lil Bob to come out. In the woods, Nigel spots Wally and moves in for the kill. Inside the flying saucer, Will, Marlene, Harry and the Chief learn that the Martians came to rescue Bigfoot and return him to his home planet. The lightning damaged the ship, but it could still fly if a big rock pinning it could be moved. Outside, Bigfoot repeatedly chases Dave and Victor back under the saucer.

In town, Bob pulls a fast one and somehow now has both guns away from Jenny and Eileen. Then the Pregnant Wife falls into labor again, so the crowd carries her back into the bar. Ben and Romeo see this from afar, and think Bob shot her. Inside the bar, the frantic mob is trying to help the woman when Ben and Romeo run in, Ben tackles Bob, and the guns go flying. Then Annie, Lori and The Counselors burst in screaming they saw Bigfoot, Romeo and Juliet slip off together unnoticed, the Hispanic Man announces his Wife had another false labor, and Andy comes up with both guns and takes charge.

George and Bambi, pedaling their bike to the main highway, suddenly find the Men In Black's car trying to run them off the road. But at the last minute they round a curve and crash head-on into a police car with officers TOM and JERRY inside. The Men in Black mysteriously disappear, George and Bambi tell their breathless story to the officers, and then Tom and Jerry speed off toward town with George and Bambi in their patrol car.

Back in the saucer cave, Bigfoot has apparently fallen asleep and Victor and Dave take the opportunity to tiptoe past him. But it's a trick, and Bigfoot springs up and chases them toward a ledge alongside a treacherous crevasse, just as Nigel catches up with fake-Bigfoot Wally, who slips and ends up hanging over the crevasse. Nigel is about to shoot when he realizes that it's Wally, just before Dave and Victor run in, an enraged Bigfoot at their heels. And when Bigfoot sees Wally, it's love at first sight. Bigfoot tries to kiss Wally as Dave, Victor and Nigel urge Wally to shoot the creature with the gun that Nigel dropped. But then the love-struck Bigfoot realizes Wally's deceit and, enraged, ties Nigel's gun in a knot, and chases Wally, Nigel, Victor and Dave off down the cave tunnel.

Emerging from the UFO, Will, Marlene, Harry and the Chief, feeling giddy from smoking the alien peace pipe, decide to help the Martians, but then discover that Bigfoot is gone. Back in town, it's decided that those adults who want to go up to the cave and see the flying saucer should get into Bob's RV. Andy gives Junior back his gun and orders him to stay in town with the kids and the old folks until the senator arrives. On the road to the main highway, the patrol car containing Tom, Jerry, George and Bambi speeds past the Drunk, who is now dressed smartly and striding steadily up the road toward the highway.

Senator Bond's helicopter approaches, only minutes away. In town, the Bald Man and Gray-Haired Lady grab Junior's gun and demand the right to go to the cave too. Andy calls their bluff and dares them to shoot Junior. They seem about to do it when the patrol car screeches into the square. The Bald Man sheepishly gives up the gun, and everyone starts trying to talk at once to Tom and Jerry. Meanwhile back in the cave, Bigfoot chases Arthur, Dave and Wally down one tunnel, while Victor runs down another. In the cave with the flying saucer, Will, Marlene and Harry convince the Chief to try and call back the missing Bigfoot with his mental telepathy. The Chief starts chanting again.

In town, the mob stops shouting and looks up dumbly as Senator Bond's helicopter roars in overhead and lands in the street. Immediately, a panel truck appears, out of which jump three TV CAMERAMEN and three REPORTERS. They take their positions as Bond steps out of the helicopter, starts to go into his speech, and then hesitates. The ruffled crowd stares back at him in shock. He asks what the hell's going on, and they all start trying to tell him at once. Back in the cave, Victor, now lost down some tunnel, is startled when the Men in Black appear beside him, wanting to ask a few questions. In another part of the cave, Bigfoot corners Dave, Wally and Nigel, just before the Chief's mental whammy strikes the beast, and he turns away in a trance. Nigel vents his frustration at dim-witted Wally, and innocently provokes one of the big man's periodic over-the-top rages. Before Dave can voice the magic words that are the only thing that can defuse Wally's fury, Wally goes off, charging blindly after the now-terrified Nigel.

Back in town, the CNN and MSNBC crews excitedly report that Bond is going to fly up to the cave to investigate the UFO himself. The Fox News team corners the senator and promises him prime-time coverage if they can ride with him in his helicopter. The copter takes off with them inside, quickly followed by the motor home, panel truck and patrol car, all packed with townspeople heading for the main cave entrance. In the saucer cave, Bigfoot appears, drawn back by the Chief's mental call, then snaps out of his trance. Bigfoot sees the Chief and greets him like a brother. Will introduces himself to Bigfoot, then introduces the others, and then finally invites Bigfoot to meet the Martians.

In another part of the cave, the Men in Black flash Victor some impressive badges as the senator's helicopter lands outside. The motor home, panel truck and patrol car pull up and everyone tumbles out. The crowd starts for the cave when Victor appears and leads Bond inside, where the senator has a menacing conversation with the Men in Black. Meanwhile, in another part of the cave, the Martians examine the rocks trapping the saucer, then ask the Chief to get Bigfoot to move the largest one. The Chief agrees - if he can also go with them. In still another part of the cave, a rage-blinded Wally charges repeatedly after a terrified Nigel. And in yet another part of the cave, a frantic Dave looks for Wally while repeatedly yelling the only phrase that can defuse his big friend.

The crowd outside the cave quiets down as Bond reemerges with the news that he's just conferred with some "authorities", who have informed him that a natural toxic gas inside the cave is causing hallucinations. He announces the dedication is postponed, and abruptly heads for his helicopter to go home. Everyone numbly starts piling back into the vehicles, but the Fox News Reporter catches up with Bond and convinces him that he should really take a look at the clearing. So the Fox News Reporter and Cameraman pile into the helicopter and head off around the mountain. When everyone realizes that it's not over yet, they scramble back into the vehicles and race off madly for the clearing.

Meanwhile, in the saucer cave, Bigfoot successfully finishes pushing the big boulder off of the ship, and then boards the Martian craft along with the Chief. As the saucer lifts up, Will, Marlene and Harry start out, but are suddenly blocked by the Men in Black who order Will not to tell anyone what happened "for security reasons". Will declares "Screw security!", knocks them aside, then leads Marlene and Harry out the vine opening to the clearing past the flying saucer pushing through the rubble. Just as it clears the opening, the panel truck, patrol car and motor home arrive on the scene, slamming into each other as the drivers all spot the saucer. The townspeople gape as the Pregnant Wife goes into labor again, and the CNN & MSNBC Cameramen and Reporters start taping the saucer.

As Bond's helicopter comes around the mountain, Bond, the Aide, the Pilot and the Fox News Reporter and Cameraman all stare in shock, but before the Fox News crew can get a shot of it, the flying saucer abruptly zooms straight up, just missing the copter, and then vanishes into the clouds. The Pilot fights to control the aircraft, the cameraman lurches and smashes Bond in the face, and the helicopter makes a near-crash landing. Around at the main cave entrance, Wally has Nigel in a throttle-hold just as Dave comes out of the cave and breathlessly croaks out the magic words: "Violence never solved anything!". Wally instantly snaps out of his rage and grins sheepishly, then Nigel faints.

In the clearing, the Pregnant Wife has just given birth to a healthy baby boy, as Harry spots Bob and recognizes him as his long-lost brother who vanished in the Bermuda Triangle years before. Will approaches the bloody-nosed senator climbing from the wrecked helicopter and introduces himself as the person sent to make sure that all goes smoothly. Bob, who hit his head in the vehicle crash, seems not to recognize his wife Betty or Lil Bob, but when Harry comes up he remembers he's Harry's long-lost brother.

Where the road to town meets the main highway, the Men in Black's car drives away as the Drunk arrives on foot and sets down his suitcase beside the highway. He sticks out his thumb, and right away a BEAUTIFUL WOMAN in a convertible breaks to a stop. He smiles, she smiles, a heavenly choir sings, and the film's CLOSING CREDITS begin.

In a MONTAGE, a news video of the flying saucer narrowly missing Bond's helicopter is playing on the TV over the crowded bar, tourists are filling the town, and all the various townspeople are happily catering to them. We SEE each of the characters prospering in funny vignettes, and then reveal that Will has gotten the job he wanted at the new National Monument cave, and Marlene has gotten Will. Finally, inside the flying saucer, the Martians, Bigfoot, and Chief share the peace pipe. The SHOT pulls out the UFO's window to the night sky, and then tilts down to find Romeo and Juliet, parked again at Makeout Point, looking up at the stars and making plans to spend another day together.