

An Astronomical Deal

by

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MONTAGE - VARIOUS

We cut between different locations, showing different global disasters and where the earth has been in 'ruin.' We see tsunamis, landfill sites, melting ice caps as well as dried up plains and over-populated cities.

EXT. PLANETARY LOANS DEPARTMENT. DAY

We are outside a modern looking building as we see a forty-year old in a suit begin to walk in to frame. He heads towards a podium with a microphone. He reaches it and begins making a speech.

The frame is made to look like a news channel, with a watermark in the corner and a banner at the base with scrolling headlines about natural disasters that have occurred in the rest of the world.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O)

In fifteen minutes time, William Tarsis Jr., will go in to the Earth-2 Negotiations.

TARSIS removes a small black box from his jacket pocket and holds it up in the air, he speaks in to it

TARSIS

This is mankind's saviour speaking, do you receive?

We cut back to the news reporter, they have their finger in their ear. We see that this transmission is now played over the news channel

NEWS ANCHOR

We can hear you Mr. Tarsis.

JUMP CUT TO:

TARSIS

(To the audience)

I thank you for your trust in my ability to acquire mankind's new planetary home. It is an honor to be remembered as the one who acquired Earth 2. Thank You!

Tarsis leaves the podium, and begins walking towards the court in the background. We can hear sounds of people cheering for him. He is walking slowly, relishing in the support from the crowd.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O)

And the negotiations are about to begin, the entire planet is now looking at Tarsis to complete this deal, mankind's last hope.

FADE IN:

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

(No longer in the news chanel shooting style) The waiting room is a blank white space, except for a sofa (which Tarsis is sitting on) and a coffee table holding a crystal orb. Tarsis is browsing through a catalogue with different planets inside. As he is flicking through, we see a red light flicker from the table followed by a robotic secretary voice calling him through

SECRETARY (O.S)

Mr. Tarsis, The Judge will see you now for the negotiations. Please make your way to the transporter..

As Tarsis gets up, he knocks over the orb from the table, smashing it. He looks momentarily panicked, but quickly regains focus for the job in hand. He walks over to the transporter, which looks like a regular door. As he opens it a blast of air is shot in to his face and he struggles to walk through.

INT. COURTROOM. DAY

Tarsis stumbles through a second door to enter the court room. The room is again blank, and minimalistically furnished, with two podiums and a walkway between them. It is filled with smoke and softly lit with a gold glow. THE JUDGE, a 60 year old wearing gold and red robes, is sitting high up, waiting, almost towering over Tarsis.

As Tarsis enters he is given a gesture to stand behind a podium. Tarsis places the transmitter on the podium and turns it on - a green light starts to flicker. There is an awkward moment of silence between the two, as they stare at each other for a moment. Tarsis looks intimidated as he is looked down upon.

THE JUDGE

Mr Tarsis, I have been looking through your application, and you seem to be in want of a new world from my planetary collection...

EXT. PLANETARY LOANS DEPARTMENT. DAY

We see the news anchor with their finger in their ear waiting to receive the broadcast, they briefly look excited

NEWS ANCHOR

We are receiving Tarsis' transmission now...

We begin to hear the negotiations over the transmission

TARSIS (O.S)

Yes. I have been elected by the people of earth and would like to
(MORE)

TARSIS (O.S) (cont'd)
 acquire a new habitable planet as a
 substitute.

INT. COURTROOM. DAY

THE JUDGE

So why should I so easily give up
 one of my precious planets for your
 species?

TARSIS

(Delivered as an overly
 rehearsed speech)

Earth is on it's last legs, its
 dying breath. What we used to call
 home is now a ruin, killing
 humanity off slowly.

We see the judge looking unimpressed, he is leaning back in
 his chair, uninterested. He reaches forward to a filing
 cabinet hidden behind his podium, he ruffles through to find
 a large folder titled "Earth." He begins flicking through
 before finding the right page and stopping.

THE JUDGE

What's wrong with Mars? It says
 here that it within your solar
 system

(Beat)

Tarsis is baffled by this suggestion

TARSIS

Mars is uninhabitable, without a
 new planet that will sustain life,
 humanity will die out for sure

THE JUDGE

What happened all those other
 planets you personally bought and
 sold?

TARSIS

Colonised

THE JUDGE

I see... So if humanity destroyed
 it's own planet and it's in such a
 state, how can I trust that you
 wont do the same to a new one?

Tarsis is startled, unsure on how to reply.

Both are suddenly dissappear in a bright flash, they have
 transported out of the court. We see that the transmitter
 has remained in the courtroom, it's green light keeps
 flashing.

EXT. PLANETARY LOANS DEPARTMENT. DAY

The transmission suddenly begins playing white noise. The news anchor suddenly becomes panicked. He looks off screen to get a technical response. He notices that he is still on camera.

NEWS ANCHOR

We seem to be having some problems with the transmission we are working out how to fix this issue now.

EXT JUNKYARD - DUSK

They both re-materialise in to the surroundings of a junkyard, they are slightly transparent. Tarsis looks startled.

THE JUDGE

Look around, this is what has become of mankinds legacy

The background slowly dissolves in to a forest around them

EXT. FOREST - DUSK

THE JUDGE

Prior to the birth of mankind, the ecosystems of Earth thrived. Do you want to forever be known as the species of planet killers?

TARSIS

If we dont get Earth 2 there will be no more species..

THE JUDGE

Man has protected itself from off world threats, yet ended up being self-destructive. It is not the lack of a second planet that will kill you. You simply see "Earth 2" as an easy outcome.

They disintergrate once again.

EXT. EMPTY STREET - NIGHT

They rematerialise in to the centre of an empty street. They are near shops and it looks murky around them. There is a neon pink/blue glow surrounding them.

TARSIS

If we dont get this planet, you will be the killer of man, not us.

The Judge stays silent, remaining unimpressed. There is a pause.

TARSIS (CONT'D)

Look. I can give you three
quintillion credi-

THE JUDGE

(Interrupting)

Is this money for the orb that you
broke? You know it's a one of a
kind item.

TARSIS

What...?

The two teleport back to the court, as they disappear, a
shop sign falls to the floor. We hear a loud clunk.

INT. COURTROOM. DAY

TARSIS

Stop teleporting around! are you
going to consider this or not?

THE JUDGE

No

Tarsis stares at hm in horror. We briefly cut back to the
transmitter.

THE JUDGE (CONT'D.)

Earth was sufficient, maybe I'll
reconsider if you try to restore
it. Goodbye.

The Judge points at the door. Tarsis, flustered, heads back
towards the it, he goes through. The transmitter remains in
the court green light keeps flashing.

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Tarsis goes back in to the waiting room and collapses on to
the sofa. He drops his head in to his hands for a few
moments. He looks up to see that a second orb has been
positioned back into it's original space. Tarsis looks
surprised, he overcomes his shock and gets up to face the
press outside

EXT. PLANETARY LOANS DEPARTMENT. DAY

We return to the news-channel framing. We see Tarsis leave
the building as he pseudo-confidently strolls, towards the
news reporters as if the deal went well. He is pale and
sweating We hear an indistiguishablke flurry of voices
calling for Tarsis' attention. He reaches the reporter

TARSIS

I did it!

CUT TO BLACK.