

THE MONOLITH

Written by

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Based on the recent discovery of a monolith in Red Rock, Utah.

FADE IN:

EXT. - DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

Sunbeams bounce on hot clay. Desert mountains in the distance.

An old, shabby car JETS across a sparse highway.

I/E. - CAR - DAY

Two young men sit in the front seats. NOAH, 24, hasn't bathed in days and wears a crinkled shirt, and CALEB 28, relaxes in the driver's seat.

Noah FIDDLES with the knobs on the radio. A map draped over his legs with coordinates circled. The back seat is packed full of gear.

A muffled reporter speaks through the radio:

REPORTER

We're here with an update on the mysterious metal monolith, discovered in the Utah desert.

NOAH

(Turning up the volume)
This is it!

REPORTER

Workers with the state's department of public safety had been counting bighorn sheep when they happened upon the bizarre structure. They examined it, and hypothesized.

CALEB

Come on, that's the same exact story from yesterday.

Caleb moves to turn the station-

NOAH

Shh. Wait!

REPORTER

And we're here live with correspondent Mike Wilkonson who made it to the scene just minutes ago. Mike? What can you tell us about the Monolith?

MIKE

Well Trish, it looks to have a---

MWWOOOAAAAAA!

A strange, low-pitched noise CUTS through the broadcast. Noah JOLTS upright in his seat. And then...

REPORTER

Mike? He-hello? Mike? Well it looks as though we're having a few technical difficulties, but stay tuned and we'll have updates on today's story.

NOAH

That's the sound...that's the sound.

CALEB

Dude. Stop.

NOAH

I know that sound. That's the same sound I heard the night my parents left.

CALEB

That?!--ok, look, you know I love you and I'm here for you man, but this needs to stop. I promised I'd take you to this---thing, and look at it, and do whatever you want to do. Take pictures, make love to it, I don't care, but you need to calm down.

NOAH

I'm fine! I'm calm.

CALEB

No, you're not. You're acting insane.

NOAH

I've been talking about that EXACT sound ever since we met at the orphanage. Please, just trust me on this.

Noah brushes off the comment. An old gas station shimmers in the distance.

CALEB

I need to pee.

NOAH

What?! Dude we're so close.

CALEB

I need to pee man! What do you want from me?? I swear to God dude, if we don't stop to pee RIGHT NOW, I'm spraying it all over the car and you're going to smell it the whole time on the drive home.

NOAH

You can pee in 10 minutes when we get there!

CALEB

No. I'm pulling over. I'm peeing now. End of discussion.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

The car pulls into an empty, worn-down gas station. An OPEN sign is lit above the front entrance.

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

Caleb BARRELS through the front door of the gas station. Noah follows.

CALEB

(Sprinting to the
restroom)

Gahhhhhhh!

Noah looks around. The station is fully stocked with snacks, beer, and candy. An aged lottery advertisement sits in the corner. There's no one in sight.

NOAH

Hello?

No response.

NOAH

Hello??

A door CREAKS open and shut in the back. Noah approaches.

EXT. BACK OF GAS STATION - DAY

A lone car sits in the back parking lot. Noah approaches, slowly.

The driver's side door is WIDE open. Keys in the ignition.

ON THE GROUND by the open door: **a pile of clothes**, a belt, and shoes sit in a clump.

Noah kneels to observe. Caleb approaches.

CALEB

Dude. What. The fuck.

NOAH

The clothes...Just like that night...It's everything I talked about.

Noah looks up to the sky.

NOAH

They're back.

CALEB

WHAT?! Will you fucking get a grip! No. You know what? This whole thing is fucked. I'm done with this. I'm calling the cops.

NOAH

No! Just leave it. Come on, we need to get there before someone else does.

CALEB

Looks like someone already found them. Seriously this is the creepiest shit I've ever seen and you're not even a little freaked out?!

NOAH

We're just wasting time.

CALEB

No, you're wasting time. They're dead, Noah. They're dead. They're not out here. I'm sorry. I'm not letting you do this to yourself again. I'm taking you home.

NOAH
Fine. I'll walk.

Noah starts walking.

CALEB
Where the fuck are you going?

NOAH
Go home, Caleb. I'm going to go
find my parents.

Caleb watches Noah as he continues walking towards the highway.

CALEB
FUCK!

EXT. RED ROCK DESERT - AFTERNOON

Caleb's car rolls to a stop. They exit and pull equipment out of the trunk.

EXT. RED ROCK TRAILHEAD - AFTERNOON

Caleb and Noah walk over a steep red hillside.

NOAH
This is it. This is the trailhead
from the news report.

They walk a little further until:

They see another pair of shoes and empty jeans, a belt, and a t-shirt lying on the ground near the trailhead.

CALEB
God dammit man. God dammit.

Caleb pulls out his camera. He points it toward the clothing, shaking, barely able to focus.

CALEB
Wait. Hold on.

NOAH
What?

Caleb lowers the camera. The screen is blank.

CALEB
I could've sworn I charged it last night.

NOAH
Just use your phone.

Caleb pulls out his iPhone. The screen is also blank. He slaps the back of it with his hand.

CALEB
Dude....dude...it's dead.

NOAH
How on earth is it dead you were just charging it in the car?

CALEB
I don't know, it's dead, it's not turning on.

NOAH
Come on give it to me, let me see it.

CALEB
No-

MWWOOOAAAAAA!

The alien sound PIERCES through the air again.

CALEB
What. Was that?

NOAH
I don't know.

CALEB
I'm out. I'm leaving.

NOAH
What? Why?

CALEB
No way. There's no FUCKING way I'm doing this. Let's just go.

NOAH
We're THIS close. We're going to be fine. Look! My phone still works!

NOAH pulls his phone out of his pocket.

NOAH
See. It's fine! Still working.

CALEB
No. Absolutely not. No way-

MWOAAAAAAH!

CALEB
(losing it completely)
What. The fuck is that? Sounds like
the whale from Finding Nemo. What
are we doing? What am I doing?

NOAH
Oh come on. Grow a fucking pair
dude.

CALEB
I didn't come here to get fucking
vaporized and I AM NOT letting you
die out here in the middle of the
desert.

NOAH
Go hide in the fucking car then!

CALEB
I'm not leaving you here!

NOAH
Then stop being a bitch. I'm going.

CALEB
No!

Caleb TACKLES Noah. They wrestle on the ground for a minute.

NOAH
GET OFF.

MWOAAHHHHHH!

They pause. Caleb loosens his grip.

Noah GRABS Caleb's car keys and CHUCKS them over the hill.

CALEB
What the FUCK is wrong with you?!

NOAH
I'm GOING!

CALEB

FINE!

Caleb turns back quickly from the path toward his keys.

Noah presses onward.

EXT. RED ROCK DESERT - AFTERNOON

Caleb GRABS his keys and walks slowly on the path towards the car. He climbs a steep hill to the highway.

The car is MISSING. Only tracks remain.

He SPRINTS in the other direction towards the trail.

EXT. TRAIL - MOMENTS LATER

NOAH hikes down a spiraling trail as the sun begins to set in the distance.

The wind begins to howl, eerily, louder and louder like a faint whisper in his ear.

WIND (V.O.)

Noahhhhhhhh.

NOAH

Who's there?

WIND (V.O.)

Noahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh.

Noah jogs deeper on the cavernous trail...the wind continues to HOWL in his ears.

He picks up the pace, faster and faster into a clearing.

EXT. MONOLITH - LATE AFTERNOON

The monolith sits dead center in the clearing. Surrounded by sand and rocks.

Noah approaches it slowly, taking his time as he observes it in awe. He places his hand on the cool, silver steel.

He searches for clues. He paces around. The wind howls harder as he continues to search. He knocks on the metal three times. The sound is strange, unlike anything he's ever heard.

He pulls out his phone. It's completely dead.

Noah gives up, defeated. He turns back towards the trail...and then--

The sun dips beneath the mountains. The wind STOPS.

A faint **glow** emanates behind Noah. He turns back to look.

Strange alien writing begins to appear vertically along the monolith, glowing in a bright white color.

He approaches again, cautiously. His face is illuminated by the strange, glowing markings.

And then. Behind him.

Two figures stand.

He TURNS.

Noah's mother and father stand side by side on the opposite end of the clearing.

He RUNS to them.

NOAH

MOM. DAD.

He hugs them both. They don't move. They don't blink. Their faces transfixed on the monolith's glow.

NOAH

Mom, Dad. It's me. It's me, Noah.

He shakes them. They don't move.

MWOOOAAAAAAH!

A RUMBLE.

Noah TURNS and looks to the SKY.

EXT. TRAIL - EVENING

Caleb SPRINTS down the trailhead. A light glow AHEAD of him.

CALEB

NOAH! NOAH!

EXT. MONOLITH - EVENING

The rumbling stops. Noah turns. A beautiful bright light shines in front of him.

His parents snap out of their trance. They walk forward and hold Noah's hands.

ON THEIR FACES. Noah smiles and sheds a tear at the beautiful, glowing sight in front of him. They walk forward, hand in hand, reunited.

EXT. TRAIL - NIGHT

Caleb TURNS the final corner.

CALEB
NOAHHHH!

EXT. CLEARING - NIGHT

Caleb enters the clearing. The glowing light is gone. He follows a set of three footprints to a **pile of clothes**. He squats down for a look.

They're Noah's.

Caleb looks into the stars, but there's no sign of Noah. The night is still.

The Monolith is no more.

FADE OUT.