



“Not So Alien After All”

(Prod. #013-039)

Script

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"NOT SO ALIEN AFTER ALL"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. SHELL LAND MOVIE THEATER - TIGHT ON SCREEN

A sweet little Yoka Star shell girl innocently picks kelp flowers on the seafloor when a shadow grows behind her. She doesn't see as a giant human in scuba gear and dark wetsuit looms up behind her. The MUSIC BUILDS DRAMATICALLY, then...

HERMAN (O.S.)

(shout)

BEHIND YOU!

ZOOM OUT to reveal Shelldon, Herman, Connie and Min (eating "pop-kelp") are seated in the front row a movie theater, wearing 3-D glasses, watching the previous action on the movie screen. Someone yells out "SHHH!"

SHELLDON

(sotto)

Relax, Herman! It's just a movie.

HERMAN

(sotto)

Uh...sorry...it looks so real in 3-D.

As they continue to watch, on the screen we see the scuba diver scoop up the little shell girl in his net.

SHELL GIRL

(screams)

HERMAN throws up his hands, showering the others with pop-kelp as he covers his eyes.

HERMAN

(sotto)

I can't look! That's just what they did to my father.

WIPE TO:

EXT. THEATER - DAY

Shelldon, Herman, Connie and Min exit the theater.

HERMAN

Aw, man! Remind me never to go to another alien invasion flick. They totally creep me out.

Herman flinches.

CONNIE

We reminded you not to go, Herman, but you wouldn't listen.

HERMAN

Well, remind me harder next time.

THE CAMERA FOLLOWS as the kids walk toward home.

HERMAN

I hate those awful aliens so much it makes my shell crawl. They're so evil and ruthless.

MIN

Just because they're different than us doesn't make them all bad.

HERMAN

Sure it does.

A moment later they gain on Crabby who is out walking his "dogfish".

CONNIE

Hi, Crabby. Wha'cha doing?

CRABBY

(crabby)

What does it look like I'm doing? I'm walking my dog fish.

The dog fish lets out a BUBBLY BARK.

SHELLDON

We just saw "Aliens from Above". It was really scary.

CRABBY

Those sci-fi movies don't scare me. Everyone knows the odds of being abducted by aliens in one in a trillion.

A shadow expands over the shot. Crabby looks up, then freaks out in wide-eyed panic.

CRABBY
AALLLLIIIIEEEEEEEEENNNNNNNNNNN!!

Suddenly a scuba diver descends into shot.

HERMAN
RUN!!

The kids run! But Crabby gets tangled in his dog fish's leash and trips. A moment later a big net comes down over him.

HERMAN AND THE OTHERS watch as the net rises up o.s. and Crabby is gone!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CHARMING CLAM INN - DAY

As we PUSH IN...

PAPA CLAM
Crabby was a beloved member of our
Shell Land family.

INT. CHARMING CLAM INN - MAIN ROOM - SAME

Shelldon, Herman, Connie, Min, Mama and Papa Clam, Janis, Mrs. Prim and Dr. Shell are all gathered around a circular table with a framed picture of Crabby in the center, surrounded by kelp flowers. Papa Clam leads the makeshift service.

PAPA CLAM
Oh, he was a bit crabby at times,
but beneath his hard shell beat a
soft heart.

Mrs. Prim steps up and looks at the photo of Crabby, wipes a tear away.

MRS. PRIM
(sniffling)
He gave me my first book on hair
styling. I offered him a free
haircut in return but he
generously refused. Of course, it
might have been because he didn't
have any hair...
(sobs)

Mrs. Prim steps aside. Janis steps up, places a flower with the others.

JANIS

What I remember most fondly about Crabby is the way he'd tell me that reading opened a person's mind to new ideas. Oh, and the way he yelled at me...

(crabby)

..."Are you going to read that or buy it?"

(sniffles tears)

I'm going to miss him.

CRABBY (O.S.)

Miss who?

All eyes turn to...

CRABBY standing in the doorway.

EVERYONE

(surprised gasps)

CRABBY?!?! / You're alive!

Everyone rushes around Crabby.

SHELLDON

We thought we'd never see you again.

HERMAN

Yeah, like my father.

JANIS

Did those nasty aliens hurt you?

CRABBY

Nah. But ever since they hauled me into their spaceship my ears have been ringing and my back itches something awful.

He turns around, revealing he's got a small flashing transponder glued to his back. SFX: SOFT BEEPING.

EVERYONE

(gasps!)

CRABBY

(worried)

What? What is it? What's wrong?

He tries to look at his back but keeps turning in circles like a dog chasing his tail.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DR. SHELLS LAB - DAY

Sheldon and his pals are there, watching curiously as Dr. Shell examines the beeping device glued to Crabby's back.

DR. SHELL

It appears to be some sort of alien tracking device.

HERMAN

Tracking our thoughts!

Herman pulls on his silver foil hat.

HERMAN

We've got to protect ourselves.

DR. SHELL

Not our thoughts, Herman. It's tracking Crabby's movements.

CONNIE

Why would the aliens want to know how we move?

Crabby does a comical dance move. Like an Irish jig.

CRABBY

Maybe they're running a dancing crab contest and think I should be dancing with the stars.

Crabby trips. Dr. Shell helps him up.

DR. SHELL

More likely they're just as curious to learn about us as we are about them.

HERMAN

Yeah, I want to learn all about them...

(anger)

...so I can get back at them for crab-napping my father.

MIN

The aliens who put that thing on Crabby's back didn't want to hurt him.

HERMAN

How do you know?

MIN

They let him go, didn't they?

Herman looks suspiciously at the flashing beeper on Crabby's back.

HERMAN

Maybe they did that so they could track him here and capture all of us.

DR. SHELL

I doubt that, Herman. They're probably just curious scientists, like me.

Dr. Shell pokes the beeper on Crabby's back with a little probe.

DR. SHELL

(to Crabby, re beeper)

It might take me a little while to get this off, Crabby.

CRABBY

Get it off?! Who said I want it off? I think it looks cool. And it'll be great advertising for my bookstore. I'll sell more alien books than ever.

Crabby puts his hat back on and exits.

HERMAN

That gizmo must be brainwashing Crabby. Those aliens just want to probe us and experiment with us just like they did in that movie we saw.

DR. SHELL

Some aliens, perhaps, but certainly not all of them.

SHELLDON

Dr. Shell is right, Herman. Those aliens didn't want to hurt Crabby. They probably just want to find out where he's going.

HERMAN

(realization)

Yeah! That makes sense. And if they have some kind of gizmo that can track Crabby, maybe it can track down my father!

Herman heads for the door.

SHELLDON

Where are you going?

HERMAN

To upper space...to get that tracking gizmo.

SHELLDON

Herman!

But he's already out the door.

DR. SHELL

(to Shelldon et al)

You'd better go with him. And if you make any scientific discoveries about the aliens be sure to let me know.

As Shelldon, Connie and Min hurry after Herman...

WIPE TO:

EXT. HERMAN'S TREE HOUSE - DAY

Herman is building a cool looking ship with two pontoons made from discarded human water bottles. Shelldon and the others are with him. Herman still wears his silver foil hat (and will throughout). He pulls a lever and a big pair of human sunglasses pop up before his ship.

HERMAN

Alien deflector shield. Check.

He holds up a human triple-A battery.

HERMAN

Phasers set to stun.

He touches the tip of the battery and get a CRACKLING shock.

HERMAN

Yah! ... Check. Okay, guys, we're ready to launch.

Herman moves to the back of the pontoons.

SHELLDON

Are you sure you want to do this, Herman? It could be risky.

HERMAN

To find my father I'd risk anything!

Herman sticks two tubes into the back of the pontoons, then climbs atop a partially deflated beach ball tangled under a mound of seaweed. He jumps up and down on the beach ball, pushing the last bit of air out of it and into the pontoon bottles. And as the air bubble inside them grows the pontoon craft begins to float.

MIN

Everybody, get it!

Herman and the others climb into the little pontoon craft as it floats away. Then cut to...

A QUICK MONTAGE

as Herman steers the little pontoon craft off the seafloor...

...up through the water...

...past curious fish, then finally to...

EXT. WATER'S SURFACE - DAY

The little pontoon craft pops up. Herman holds up a pair of binoculars made from two tiny conical shells with lenses in the ends.

CONNIE

See anything?

HERMAN

Just lots of water, and...

(stops)

Wait a minute! What's that?

HIS BINOCULAR POV: of two human scuba divers' in an inflatable (Zodiac) boat.

HERMAN (O.S.)

Aliens!

BACK IN THE PONTOON CRAFT

HERMAN

All hands to battle stations!

Shields up!

The sunglasses rise again. Herman holds up two human forks and starts to row them like oars.

HERMAN

May the forks be with you.

As the little pontoon crafts moves off, cut to...

THE ZODIAC BOAT

The pontoon craft moves to the back of the Zodiac. Herman starts to scale the back of the boat.

SHELLDON

(to Connie & Min)

Wait here and be ready to make a quick getaway.

Then Sheldon follows Herman up the side of the boat.

INSIDE THE ZODIAC BOAT

One of the two divers is readying a batch of transponders

while the other (FIRST DIVER) holds a small tracking device with flashing red LED blips, about the size of an iPhone (it should appear to be a waterproof model).

FIRST DIVER

The tracking device is working perfectly.

Behind him, Herman and Shelldon poke their heads up. ZOOM IN on Herman and Shelldon.

HERMAN

That must be the gizmo we're looking for. You distract the aliens. I'll grab it.

Herman sneaks aboard. Shelldon watches a beat, then moves off along the top of the inflated side of the boat.

ANGLE ON FIRST DIVER

He's still looking at his tracking device when Shelldon enters shot, walking along the top of the inflated side of the boat. The diver spots him.

FIRST DIVER

Hey there, little fella. How'd you get up here?

Shelldon stops beside a valve stem. He flashes the diver a big "innocent grin then opens the valve. Air starts to SWOOSH out.

FIRST DIVER

No!

He drops his tracking device and grabs the valve.

ON THE FLOOR OF THE BOAT

Herman dodges as the tracking device crashes into shot. He grabs it, tries to haul it off, but it's not easy because it's as big as he is.

THE FIRST DIVER

finally gets the valve stem closed, then turns and sees Shelldon on the opposite side of the boat. He smiles at the diver again, opens the other valve stem. HISSSS!

FIRST DIVER

Stop that!

He quickly leans over to grab the valve stem, rocking the boat, knocking the second diver off balance. He falls overboard, splashing right beside...

THE LITTLE PONTOON CRAFT

causing it (and Connie and Min) to dramatically bob in the water.

BACK ON THE ZODIAC

Herman drags the tracking gizmo toward the back of the boat as...

THE FIRST DIVER gets the valve stem closed, then spots Herman dragging the gizmo.

FIRST DIVER

Hey!

But as he moves toward Herman...

SHELLDON pushes a fish net handle which swings around, catching the diver's flipper.

THE DIVER trips, falls flat on the boat, his...

GIANT MASKED FACE crashing down inches from Herman. His impact on the bottom of the rubber boat causes Herman (still holding the gizmo) to bounce up and over...

THE SIDE OF THE BOAT, and into the pontoon craft before a surprised Connie and Min.

CONNIE

Where's Sheldon?

SHELLDON (O.S.)

Beaming down!

Sheldon drops into shot, landing by Herman. Suddenly the second diver's head pops out of the water beside them.

MIN

ALIEN!

HERMAN

Launching counter-measures!

Herman holds up a baby octopus and squeezes it, shooting out a stream of purple ink onto the diver's mask, blocking his view.

SHELLDON

DIVE!

Shelldon pushes a lever forward and the little pontoon craft dives...

UNDERWATER

...where bubbles come of the two plastic bottles, releasing the air and the buoyancy. The lower half of the big, human diver dog-paddles beside them as they continue downward, o.s.

BACK ON THE ZODIAC

The first diver looks at his partner (in the water) as he wipes the ink off.

FIRST DIVER

(laughing)

That was the craziest crustacean
I've ever seen.

UNDER THE WATER

we follow the little pontoon craft as it zooms along. Herman holds the tracking device. There are no more flashing blips on it.

HERMAN

There's no more blips.

MIN

Maybe it doesn't work underwater
like most alien stuff.

A faint flashing blip appears.

HERMAN

Wait a minute! I'm getting
something.

Min looks at the blip, then looks off into the distance.

MIN

I think it's that way.

Shelldon steers their little craft in that direction.

HERMAN

Hang on, dad, I'm coming!

WIPE TO:

UNDER THE SEA - DAY

As the little pontoon craft moves along, Herman watches the flashing blip on the tracking gizmo.

HERMAN

(focused anger)

Aw, man, I can't wait to see him again. It's been three long years since those rotten aliens took him.

MIN

Not all aliens are bad, Herman.

HERMAN

How do you know? They didn't take your dad.

CONNIE

Min's right. Those big aliens on the boat could have hurt you, but they didn't.

HERMAN

That's only because they didn't catch me.

The gizmo starts to BEEP LOUDER. The blip is near the center of the tracking screen.

HERMAN

There's a gizmo nearby.

Herman and the others look around. Min spots it.

MIN

Over there!

Herman sees a purple crab with a transponder on its back, facing away from him. He jumps overboard and runs along...

THE SEAFLOOR to the crab.

HERMAN

DAD!

The crab turns around, revealing it's a funny looking female with earrings and lipstick.

FEMALE CRAB

What can I do for you, sweetie?

HERMAN

Uh...nothin'. I thought you were somebody else.

WIPE TO:

UNDER THE SEA - SHORT WHILE LATER

The little pontoon craft is zipping along again. Herman watches the beeping gizmo.

HERMAN

The next gizmo is just ahead. I just hope the aliens don't get there first and turn my dad into some kind of mindless zombie.

SHELLDON

Why are you so sure the aliens are bad guys, Herman. They didn't hurt that crab you just met.

CONNIE

Yeah. And Gaga's an alien. And he's a nice kid.

HERMAN

That's because he's a baby alien. Once he grows up he'll be as big and bad as the others.

The gizmo starts to BEEP LOUDER. The blip is near the center of the tracking screen again.

HERMAN

(urgent)

He's right around here!

Herman and the others look around.

MIN

I don't see anything.

Suddenly a giant sea turtle looms up before them. They stop just before slamming into it. The turtle smiles at them.

SEA TURTLE

What're you guys in such a hurry about?

HERMAN

We're looking for my dad. Have you seen him? He's got a flashing doohickey on his back.

SEA TURTLE

Like this one?

The turtle turns around, showing Herman and the others the flashing transponder glued to his shell.

HERMAN

(despondent)

Yeah. Just like that one.

SEA TURTLE

Sorry. I haven't seen him. But good luck finding him.

The turtle swims off.

HERMAN

(down)

Thanks.

WIPE TO:

UNDER THE SEA - SHORT WHILE LATER

The little pontoon craft is zipping along again. Herman watches the beeping gizmo. It BEEPS LOUDER.

HERMAN

Stop!

They stop the pontoon craft. Herman looks around, spots something.

HERMAN

Over there!

Herman gets out. The others follow him to...

A PURPLE CRAB that looks just like him, facing the other way. There is a beeping transponder on its back.

HERMAN

Dad? Is that you?

The crab doesn't move.

HERMAN

(worried)

Dad?

Herman tentatively reaches out and grabs the crab's rear leg, gives it a turn. The crab, as if nearly weightless, spins around to reveal it's an empty shell.

HERMAN

(gasps)

Dad!

SHELLDON

Easy, Herman. It's just an empty shell.

CONNIE

Whoever lived in it must've molted and grown a new one.

HERMAN

(near tears)

Aw, what's the use? Because of those awful aliens I'll never see my dad again.

The tracking gizmo starts to GENTLY BEEP again. Shelldon sees another distant blip.

SHELLDON

There's another blip.

HERMAN

Who cares? Let's go home.

MIN

Don't give up, Herman. This one might be your dad.

HERMAN

Okay. But this is the last one.

WIPE TO:

EXT. SMALL TROPICAL ISLAND - DAY

A beat, then the little pontoon craft pops up out of the surf before the shore. The island is deserted and creepy. Framing the cove is a rocky outcropping that looks like a shark's head with open mouth.

HERMAN

S-S-Shark Island! Maybe this wasn't such a good idea.

SHELLDON

We came all this way. We might as well check it out.

CLOSER ON SANDY BEACH

Shellton and the others enter shot. Herman looks at the tracking device. The little blip flashes in the center.

HERMAN

Whatever's beeping isn't far away.

Suddenly a Chinese fiddler crab wearing a hideous, painted tiki mask with flashing red eyes races across the sand straight toward them!

EMPEROR ERHU

(frightening scream)

YA-YA-YA-YA-YA-YA-YA-YA-YAAAAA!!

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SANDY BEACH - SAME

As the masked "monster" skitters toward them, Shelldon and the gang move backwards toward the surf.

SHELLDON / HERMAN
Ahhh! / Monster!!

The monster stops abruptly, looks around in panic.

EMPEROR ERHU
Monster!?!? Where?! Where is
he!??

Shelldon and the others stop, look at the crazy crab.

SHELLDON
We thought you were the monster.

EMPEROR ERHU
Me? A monster?! Ha, ha, ha, ha!
That's the funniest thing I've
heard all year. Me, a monster.
Oh, no! I'm no monster. I am
Emperor Erhu, ruler of Shark
Island. And what brings you to my
once perfect paradise?

HERMAN
We're looking for my father. Have
you seen him? A crab. Like me,
only bigger. And I think he has a
flashing light on his back.

Erhu removes his hideous mask, revealing he's just an ordinary fiddler crab. There is a flashing transponder glued to his back (which is what made his eyes glow red).

EMPEROR ERHU
Like mine?

Herman sags, obviously upset that they've chased down another dead end.

MIN
Sorry, Herman.

HERMAN

I guess I wasted everyone's time.
C'mon, let's go home.

Herman turns to leave...

EMPEROR ERHU

Don't go! I need your help.

SHELLDON

Our help?

MIN

For what?

EMPEROR ERHU

Why, to chase away the real
monster, of course.

DISSOLVE TO:

INSIDE EMPEROR ERHU'S CAVE

Everyone is gathered around a small fire in a circle of rocks.
Erhu tells a ghostly story, walking about rapidly, swinging
his giant fiddle claw about, causing the others to duck so
they don't get hit.

EMPEROR ERHU

(like a ghost story)

He's a monster alright. A
horrible hideous creature. Huge!

Erhu picks up a piece of white rock, uses it like chalk to
draw a big, crude human on the rocky wall.

EMPEROR ERHU

With two long arms and even longer
legs. And his head is covered
with straggly...hair!

He draws wild spiky hair and beard.

CONNIE

Sounds like an alien.

EMPEROR ERHU

Yes, yes! He's an alien monster!
A hideous disgusting alien!

HERMAN

(growing angry)

Another alien! I'm sick of all these aliens messing up things. They're all monsters. I say we go after him.

Herman gets up. He picks up a broken piece of shell, holding it like a shield, then a straight stick, like a spear.

HERMAN

Who's with me?

EMPEROR ERHU

I am!

Herman starts to leave. Connie stops him.

CONNIE

Hold your sea horses, Herman!

(to Erhu)

Is this alien dangerous? I mean, did he hurt anyone?

EMPEROR ERHU

Well, not that I know of. But he's really big. He could hurt anyone he wanted.

HERMAN

Yeah! Let's get him!

Herman starts to leave again. Min blocks his path.

MIN

Could hurt anyone doesn't mean he would hurt anyone.

SHELLDON

(to Erhu)

How long has he been on the island?

HERMAN

Who cares? Let's get him!

Herman tries to move past Shelldon, but is stopped again.

SHELLDON

Don't you think it's important to know something about this alien before we go chasing after him?

HERMAN

All I need to know is he's an alien. They're all bad.

CONNIE

You don't know that.

(to Erhu)

What more can you tell us about him?

EMPEROR ERHU

He washed ashore months ago. Just laid on the beach for days. Then he started talking to himself.

CONNIE

What does he say?

EMPEROR ERHU

How should I know? I don't speak alien.

HERMAN

I don't have to speak alien to know what they're thinking.

Herman takes the white rock and draws a crude "flashlight" in the alien's hand.

HERMAN

They want to zap us with their stun rays...

He draws a crude fish net in the alien's other hand.

HERMAN

...abduct us with their futuristic gizmos...

(pulls down his foil hat)

...analyze our minds, discover our weaknesses...then INVADE! Only this time they won't invade us, we'll invade them.

EMPEROR ERHU

Yeah! Let's do it!

Erhu scurries out of the cave. Herman follows. Sheldon exchanges a worried look with Connie and Min. And as they go after them...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF ISLAND - DAY

A beautiful beach with overhanging palms. There are some artifacts that make it obvious there was a shipwreck many months before. Emperor Erhu pops his head up over an outcropping, followed by Herman and the others.

EMPEROR ERHU

(sotto)

This is where he lives.

SHELLDON

I don't see anyone.

CLOSER ON ALIEN'S CAMPSITE, as Erhu and the others enter. Herman looks around. Min spots a crude bamboo cage hanging from a tree.

MIN

(points)

Herman, look!

Herman spots a crab in the cage, with similar coloration to his own.

HERMAN

Dad?

The crab turns around, looks at Herman and the others.

HERMAN

(sad)

That's not my dad.

CAGED CRAB

(panic)

Ah! Monster! Monster!

SHELLDON

(re Erhu)

He's not a monster. He's just a fiddler crab.

CAGED CRAB

I wasn't talking about him. I was talking about HIM!

He points. Everyone looks off and sees...

A MAN coming up the beach toward them, wearing tattered and torn shorts like Tom Hanks in the film, *Castaway*. He spots Sheldon and the others.

MIN

Run!

But as they start to run...

THE MAN drops down to the sand and grabs a robe, pulls it hard, and...

A ROPE NET bursts up out of the sand around Sheldon and the others, trapping them. The man enters shot, his big, hairy face looking at his captives.

MAN

(Australian accent)

Well, well! What have we here? Company! Hello my little friends, and welcome to my humble home.

He picks the net up with everyone in it, exits. Then cut...

CLOSE ON MAN'S FACE

MAN

There ya go...

ZOOM OUT to reveal Sheldon and the others are now inside the cave with Erhu and the caged crab. The man shuts the cage and latches it.

MAN

Make yourselves at home.

The man exits. Erhu desperately tries to unlatch the lock.

EMPEROR ERHU

We've got to get out of here.

CAGED CRAB

Don't bother. It's impossible.

Herman looks o.s. in panic...

HERMAN

Oh, no!...

THE MAN puts a coffee can full of water onto a small fire.

HERMAN

He's going to turn us into steamed crabs.

CAGED CRAB

Naw. He's just making tea. Then he'll start talking. Squawk, squawk, squawk! He's worse than the island's parrots.

(backs up nervously)

Here he comes.

The crab puts his "fingers" in his ears. Then the man's huge face enters shot. He sips his tea in an old tuna can.

MAN

So tell me, how did you guys come to the island? Shipwreck, like me? I've been here for months. Don't expect I'll ever get home. Say! Do you guys play soccer? Maybe we could start a team?

CLOSER ON SHELLDON AND OTHERS

CAGED CRAB

See what I mean?

The crab runs his fingers around his ear as if to indicate the guy is crazy.

CONNIE

I wish I could understand what he's saying.

HERMAN

(angry)

I know exactly what he's saying. He's wondering if we taste best wrapped in kelp or smothered in mango sauce.

Herman rushes to the side of the cage and...

HERMAN

(screams at man)

WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY FATHER, YOU
SOFT-SHELLED BEAST?!

MAN

Aye! You're the chatty one.

Min pulls him back.

MIN

Don't jump to conclusions, Herman.
That's how you make mistakes.

HERMAN

It's no mistake. I just know it.

MAN

You sure are noisy little fellas.
I wish I could understand you.
Hey! Maybe you'd like to meet my
family.

The man holds up a water-stained photo of his wife and
daughter, looks at it sadly.

MAN

I wonder if I'll ever see them
again.

A tear comes to his eye.

CAGED CRAB

Careful! When he gets really
whacky water rains from his eyes.

HERMAN

Awww, man. I know what that rain
means. He's sad...like me.
That's his family, and he misses
them...

(sad, silent beat)

...just like I miss my Dad. I
know he's an alien, but I kinda
feel sorry for him.

EMPEROR ERHU

Don't! He's a monster!

Herman and the others watch as the man kisses the picture and
puts it in his pocket. Then he sits alone by the fire.

HERMAN

No, he's not. He's just a sad,
lonely alien. I guess they aren't
all bad. He's not gonna hurt us.

CONNIE

Well, I feel bad about that too,
Herman. But I don't want to stay
on this island with him. I want
to go home.

EMPEROR ERHU

We'll have to get out of this
cage, first.

CAGED CRAB

I told you. Opening that lock is
impossible.

SHELLDON

For us.

(indicates man)

But not for him. If he really
isn't a monster, and has feelings,
then he won't be happy if
something bad happens to us. All
we have to do is play dead.

ANGLE ON MAN hunched over fire, sipping tea.

SHELLDON (O.S.)

(pained shouting)

AHHHH!! AAAAHHHHH!!!

The man turns, looks o.s., reacts in alarm.

CLOSER ON CAGE where Shelldon and the others are all lying on
their backs, feet up in the air. The man's enormous face
enters, looks with alarm. Shelldon shivers, then goes still.

MAN

What happened? Did I hurt you?
I'm sorry. Here, let me help you.

He opens the cage, reaches in. Erhu grabs the man's finger in
his fiddle claw and squeezes.

MAN

Ow!

SHELLDON

Run!

Instantly Sheldon and the others scramble out the cage door, practically leaping into the surprised man's face. He can only react, shooing them off him. They land in...

THE SAND and skitter off toward the water. The man composes himself, spots the others, runs after them.

MAN

Wait! Don't go. I'm friendly, really.

As Sheldon and the others rush into the surf, the man stops.

MAN

(chuckles under breath)
But how would you know that?
(looks at himself)
To you I probably look like some big, disgusting alien.

DISSOLVE TO:

A SHORT WAYS OUT AT SEA - DAY

Sheldon and the others are in their little pontoon craft, headed away from shore.

SHELLDON

Alright, guys, let's get home.

As Sheldon rows, Herman looks back at the lonely man on the shore.

HERMAN

We can't just leave that guy stranded on the island.

MIN

But I thought you said he was just some nasty alien.

HERMAN

I did. But I was wrong. And I know how bad I feel wishing I could see my dad again. We've got to help him.

CONNIE

But how?

Herman hears a faint beeping, picks up the tracking gizmo, brightens with an idea.

HERMAN

With this!

WIPE TO:

UNDERWATER

The pontoon craft zooms into shot and stops beside the funny looking female crab with earrings and lipstick. Herman is holding the beeping tracking device.

HERMAN

You asked me what you could do for me. Well, I need a favor. It's really important that you go to Shark Island. Right now!

WIPE TO:

UNDERWATER

The pontoon craft hovers beside the big, sea turtle.

SEA TURTLE

Shark Island? Sure. I'd be happy to help.

HERMAN

Thanks. And if you see anyone else with a gizmo on their back ask them to come along.

WIPE TO:

THE WATER'S SURFACE - DAY

The Zodiac boat floats on the surface a short distance away, the two divers inside. The little pontoon crafts pops to the surface in the foreground. Herman spots the Zodiac.

HERMAN

There it is. Take us closer.

Shelldon rows and the little pontoon craft heads for the Zodiac.

AT THE SIDE OF THE ZODIAC, the pontoon craft stops.

HERMAN

(sotto)

Tie our boat to this one. I'll be right back.

Herman takes the tracking gizmo and climbs up the side of the boat.

CLOSER ON EDGE OF BOAT as Herman pops his head up, scouts the surroundings. WIDEN to reveal the two big scuba divers, their backs to Herman. He holds up the tracking gizmo. It BEEPS! The divers turn around, surprised to see Herman holding the gizmo.

FIRST DIVER

It's that crazy crab.

The diver reaches for Herman who nervously tosses the gizmo to the diver, then jumps backwards into the water.

FIRST DRIVER

(laughing)

Did he just give this back to me?
That's the strangest thing I've ever seen.

The diver reacts to a CACOPHONY OF BEEPING. He looks at...

THE TRACKING DEVICE SCREEN and sees a dozen flashing red blips, close together, moving in the same direction.

FIRST DIVER (O.S.)

On second thought, this is the strangest thing I've ever seen.

WIDER ANGLE as the diver looks off at Shark Island on the horizon.

FIRST DIVER

They're all headed for Shark Island.

The other diver starts the outboard engine. And as the Zodiac zips into the distance, cut...

CLOSER ON THE BACK OF THE ZODIAC to reveal it's towing the little pontoon craft which bounces around in the wake. Herman and the others hold on.

HERMAN
(comically bouncing)
H-o-o-o-o-ld on-n-n-n-n-n!

WIPE TO:

EXT. SHARK ISLAND - BEACH - DAY

The marooned man is seated at his makeshift campfire, sipping tea. He's staring at the photo of his wife and daughter when he hears the sound of o.s. BEEPING. Surprised, he looks up and sees...

A DOZEN CRABS AND A TURTLE crawling out of the surf onto the wet sand, all of them with flashing transponders on their backs.

BACK TO THE MAN as he rubs his beard.

MAN
What in the world...?

Then he hears an approaching OUTBOARD ENGINE, and sees...

THE ZODIAC coming through the surf.

THE MAN's eyes widen in shocked surprise. He bursts to his feet and runs across the sand, waving his arms.

MAN
(laughing & crying)
Hey! Hey! Ha, ha, ha, ha!

He runs through the surf to the Zodiac, hugs the first diver.

ANGLE ON PONTOON CRAFT

At the back of the Zodiac. Herman watches as the man hugs the diver.

MAN
Oh, man! Am I glad to see you!

Herman slaps a high-five with Sheldon and the others.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The Zodiac zips over the water. The man is now with the two divers.

THE LITTLE PONTOON CRAFT bounces along behind it, still in tow.

THE ZODIAC approaches a pier where a woman and young girl wait. As the Zodiac stops at the side of the pier...

IN THE LITTLE PONTOON CRAFT, Herman and the others watch as the man rushes across the pier to his wife and daughter, hugs them.

GIRL

Daddy!

FAVOR HERMAN as he wipes a tear away.

HERMAN

Aw, man. What a lucky kid.

SHELLDON

She's happy because of you,
Herman.

MIN

Maybe all the aliens aren't as bad
as you thought.

Herman takes his silver foil hat off, looks at it, then tosses it o.s.

HERMAN

Maybe not.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

EXT. CLOSE ON PIER RAILING - DAY

Dr. Shell pops his head up at the edge of the railing. He wears a silly helmet with a flashing transponder atop. He looks into camera, holds his finger to his lips.

DR. SHELL

Shhh. I'm tracking some aliens.

He looks off at...

THE MAN, WIFE AND DAUGHTER still hugging each other.

DR. SHELL (O.S.)

They may not look like aliens to you, but they do to Herman.

DR. SHELL climbs over the railing onto the pier. The man's giant bare foot is beside him.

DR. SHELL

But just because someone is different than us...

(looks straight up,
a bit nervous)

...or bigger! doesn't mean they're bad.

(back to camera)

Herman started his journey hating all aliens because they took his father.

Dr. Shell watches the man, wife and daughter walk off down the pier arm in arm.

DR. SHELL

But then he learned that he and the alien from the island had something in common. They both missed their loved ones.

CLOSER ON DR. SHELL

DR. SHELL

(into camera)

Who knows? Someday Herman may even find an alien he likes.

Suddenly the head of a monstrous sea serpent looms into shot over Dr. Shell. He steps back nervously.

DR. SHELL
(bit scared)
An alien!

Dr. Shell makes the Vulcan peace sign.

DR. SHELL
I come in peace.

The serpent "nods" at him. Dr. Shell looks into camera, smiles with relief.

DR. SHELL
Whew! He seems okay. And has a nice smile.
(to camera)
You should never jump to conclusions about people. Find out more about them and then decide if they should be your friend.

Dr. Shell grabs hold of the serpent's fin and starts to walk down the pier with him. WIDEN to reveal it's an inflatable beach toy that he's dragging along.

DR. SHELL
So tell me, where are you from?

Dr. Shell looks at the tag on the side of the serpent.

DR. SHELL
Oh. China!

And as they continue down the pier...

FADE OUT

THE END