Walnuts

A Movie or Series Synopsis
by
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Genre: Drama /Science Fiction/ Thriller

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Alien's stage a virtually bloodless invasion on Earth, and our greatest military and scientific minds prove powerless to stop them.

The main character should be acted by Michael Pena or one like him. Michael has played in movies such as the Shooter and Extinction. In both movies, he played the role of an honest person trying to convince people something was up. Michael portrays William Marquez. William is in his late 30s, a graduate of MIT near the top of his class, and is a father and husband. As a child, he was interested in science, in space exploration and in UFOs. He graduated MIT near the top of his class but looking at him people just don't see an MIT graduate. They see a mild-mannered nebbish. In some cases, people just doubt Latinos with technology. William was a nerd in high school where he met his wife. She was the prom queen, the head cheerleader, and everybody's dream blond. However, she was really lacking in smarts. He would write her papers and even take her tests. No one ever thought that she would marry somebody like William but after a late night tutoring session and beers, she gets pregnant. They wind up having three children and are always arguing. Their marriage is rocky. They live in a nice neighborhood and no one knows what he really does other than “he analyzes things for the Government”. William works for the government in a small department in Homeland Security. While it is not totally secret it keeps a very low profile. It is dedicated to analyzing events that seem to be outliers or have no immediate explanation or may not have been seen before. The department gets reports from other government agencies for analysis. For instance, they caught the original Ebola outbreak and also a similar outbreak that turned out to be terrorists experimenting with a new bioweapon so their findings are generally taken seriously. As other agencies get the credit for solving any problems William and his team only get larger budgets. The budget is the only thing his boss is interested in as it is easier to pad his expenses. As it handles outliers it gets UFO reports no one else wants to look at closely but must report and file. William is the only one who actually enjoys these reports so they are all dumped on him, which is one reason he is teased as “our Mulder”. William is preparing to leave for work like every day. His wife Catie (usually referred to as “Cat”) and the children show the usual lack of respect for William and his work. His jock neighbor, Bruno, always comes outside with no shirt on to give him a sarcastic salute as he leaves. This morning he glances at his wife who is waving and smiling at Bruno. He thinks something is going on between his wife and his neighbor but he's too mild-mannered to confront either. He gets to work at the same time every day. His boss, Scottie, is a Scott Pruitt type party hack who knows nothing of technology and thanks very little of William and his work or the work of the department. He got the job because of his connections and the salary was great. Scottie, being a spoiled child of privilege and thus insecure, goes out of his way

to belittle William in front of the other employees, including some who work for William. William has thoughts of socking his boss but never does. William converses with his assistant best friend, Eric King grew up in the inner city and also attended MIT. They enjoy having coffee every morning while they watch the sexy secretary, Valerie and Scottie shamelessly an openly flirt. Actually, William finds her attractive and dreams about her giving him attention for once. This day is special. He receives a message that some people in Montana reported seeing strange flying objects they were very small. William decides to investigate personally. His decision would change his life and the lives of all mankind. William started to get similar sightings of small objects on a weekly basis from around the world. Everyone describes them as very small objects that moved very fast and they would stop only inches from a person. With an overly large budget, he is allowed to travel the world documenting but never seeing a single sighting. His boss is happy to have him away. Of course, his reports fall on deaf ears. William is becoming frustrated and doubting until one day he receives a call from a man at the Grand Canyon. William is convinced enough to go on one more investigation, or one more “wild goose chase” according to his coworkers. He meets a survivalist, “Mr. Smith” who states he has seen swarms of “flying things” in the Grand Canyon and called William as word has started getting around about the “government agent” who has been investigating such phenonium. He is not talking about birds or bats but of wingless things about the size of walnuts. Mr. Smith has been using modified night vision goggles to see them. He also has videos but every time he starts filming they scatter and all that is seen are streaks. Just when William was about to leave he saw the swarms through those glasses. This is what he was waiting for, this chance to show he was not “as crazy as Mulder”. However he can never get a picture, they seem to vanish in thin air. Frustrated he has sophisticated government equipment flown out to him. Still, he can not capture a single quality picture. Back home his wife praises his dumb but buffed jock neighbor for taking care of things around the house during William’s multiple absences. The kids speak to him and mainly side with Mommy in disparaging William. They like Bruno as he, usually being unemployed or only partly employed, always has time for a game of football or basketball. She sarcastically tells Bruno that she thinks “dear hubby” is worthless and not even good in bed. Bruno immediately picks up on this and starts his seduction ploy. On William’s next trip, that being to the Grand Canyon, he succeeds and turns poor William into a cuckold. Meanwhile, at the office, all his boss cares about is even more expense padding and making out with the overpaid secretary Valerie. His assistant does everything he can do to support William during his absences. The sun was getting ready to set. William hadn't shaved in days or even washed and then it happened! An object came right to his face. He wanted to touch it but he was frozen, not with fear but something else. It felt like they were studying each other. Then it disappeared. Days later several of them made a visit and after that, every day more and more of them would visit him. Finally, they spoke. On that day they told him who they were and what they were going to do. They inform him that it was fruitless to oppose them and that we were primitive and self-destructive in every way and needed ”proper direction”. They tell him they will become Humanity’s God. When he asks how that will happen they just repeat that they will become “your gods”. William was in a daze but he was comprehending as best he could. Before he could ask more questions they were gone. However, they give him a visual of their numbers. While there were tens of thousands of them in the Grand Canyon they inform him that they are only a study group and others were coming to dismantle our military. William packs up all of his equipment and leaves for the airport, his mind filled with questions. He thinks about Noah's Ark and how he could warn in the world of the coming invasion, the invasion the likes of which no person or nation was prepared for. Since he does not know how, where or when, how can one prepare everyone else? He reached a gas station and wondered how would they fare with the loss of their freedom. He calls his wife and he spoke to his children they could tell something was wrong. The next day he made it to the airport again he watched people and started to cry. How and when should you start telling people about the impending invasion? When he gets home that evening he hugs his wife and his children as tears ran down his face. His wife showed unusual compassion and spoke nothing of Bruno, who was turning into even a bigger jerk. He took his wife into the bedroom and he told her what he heard and what he saw. She felt sorry for him she thought they need some time off and he needed some love. She thought he was near a nervous breakdown and she did not want to have the blame. He went to work in the morning, as usual, his neighbor waved at him and saluted but this time he looked the neighbor in the eye and saluted back. Even his neighbor felt something different. He goes straight to his office, unshowered or shaved. As usual, the team wants to have coffee and watch the boss flirt with the secretary but this time William wasn't thinking about coffee or an overpaid secretary or an incompetent boss he was thinking about all mankind. He meets with his team and explains the situation in detail they just stared at him not knowing what to say. It was time to brief his boss. Scottie listens and tells him to take some time off. He was more eager to go to lunch

with his personal secretary then deal with these “whacko” reports. Some team members decide it may be time to prepare, just in case. William takes some days off but not to rest. He starts preparing his house for The Siege. His wife the kids the neighbors started to think he was crazy. He bought food, water, guns, floodlights, alarm systems & More. He started telling people to get ready but it felt foolish. He was relating to how Noah must have felt. He was back at the office when the first jet fell out of the air. Reports intercepted of the Russians and the Chinese experiencing the same thing are sent to his department and he is thus the first to show that this is worldwide rather than just a “computer glitch or a cyber hack” as first surmised by persons who can not think outside of the box. The aliens had started their offensive, true to their word. William is called by The Joint Chiefs of Staff and then the president to explain his theories. Some laughed others stared in disbelief as William told them what was going to happen. He is escorted from the White House after calling all of them ass wholes including the president. He was told to keep his theories to himself. He goes back home and starts preparing at a frantic pace not knowing when the general population would feel the invasion or how much time he has. His family is thus one of the few really prepared for what follows. While William is the main character at the start of the movie, once the invasion starts and once he is confined to his home the interaction between his family and his neighbors is shown as part of how various persons and groups react to the invasion. His role diminishes as the first jet falls from the sky. Minor actors such as the President, military commanders, and leaders of other countries as well as plain people now take a more prominent role in the movie.

We open on a majestic US Navy aircraft carrier-led fleet in the Indian Ocean running routine flight tests. In the Baltic, a Russian carrier is doing the same. In the South China Sea, Chinese destroyers are conducting their own training exercises. One fighter jet executes a routine, perfect landing. A member of the flight crew reports finding nut-shaped “barnacles” on one of the engines; on a plane that has never touched the water. Another seaman orders the crew person to simply get rid of the substance while the others discuss the oddity of the occurrence. When the crew tries to remove the substance, the jet explodes. The explosion starts a chain reaction on deck. Some of the other aircraft explode mid-flight, with some pilots able to eject in time after they see what’s going on. In shock, the naval brass launch an investigation. The initial reactions are varied, some think mechanical malfunctions, human error or even sabotage. The fleet is ordered home for further inspections. Meanwhile, the Russian and Chinese forces have the same experience, planes exploding and total chaos. The chaos grows back in the states as well as the greatest minds combine to try and figure out what has happened and back channel accusations of undercover activities commence.
Was it a computer virus? A terrorist attack? The stock market reacts to news reports of the explosions, but most people shrug. The general population is unconcerned until commercial airliners start to blow up. Three weeks after the incident with the naval aircraft, one day, one after the other, jet engines explode on flights the world over – on landing, in mid-air, or on takeoff. Some pilots are able to save lives. Others aren’t so lucky. Panic sets in among some, especially where flight is a must. The governments are still agonizing over the cause. Airline manufacturers and carriers are up in arms. In the interest of safety, governments and private companies agree to ground all flights until they can find out what the hell is going on. With no solution apparent, the first ground vehicles start to explode. First, it’s the trucks. Soon, it’s personal vehicles. There’s no other connection than the barnacle-like substances found on some of the vehicles. Now, what was distant to the average person is striking close to home. There’s a real panic across the globe. No one drives or flies. Tractors sit unmoving on farms. Burnt out husks of cars line the highways as no one wants to enter a vehicle to tow them away. Offices and schools are near empty. People walk miles to the store for food and empty the shelves if they can when they arrive. Supplies are running short. The government urges calm and requires people to stay home. Curiously, emergency service vehicles are unharmed and do not explode. Still, fear grips the population of Earth, even the courageous, as the police and other emergency workers don’t want to drive for fear of riding in a death trap. The world’s population is growing restless and angry; it appears their leaders are doing nothing to solve the problem. In reality, their leaders are trying. For weeks, top minds are working on the problem, conducting forensic investigations of the wreckage they could collect. Top minds from all disciplines all over the world, from physics to mechanical engineering strive, working together to find a solution. Their commonality is the discovery of nut-shaped husks among the wreckage, some attached, some burned out. They become known as walnuts because of their appearance. From all they could discover, these objects appear to be “alive.” Those that were intact were also deadly as they exploded on examination. Investigators also take notice of reports of “flying walnuts.” Even though aircraft are grounded, people started to report seeing these things. Video evidence is dismissed as fake, yet government officials take the claims seriously in secret. Some started to hypothesize a connection. Further

examination reveals hypotheses about the aliens pieced together from eyewitness reports and forensic examinations. The aliens, whether vessels or beings are the size and shape of half a walnut. They have a flat bottom that can stick to anything, and is also able to absorb nutrition when attached to plants. It is a hive intelligence, where the more that congregate together the smarter it becomes. Individual walnuts, while they look the same, function differently, so some become small explosive devices. The main thing that sets them apart is the shell a form of antigravity engine, powered by sunlight converted to electricity. The ability to fly is what makes them powerful and very dangerous. The world is soon inundated with millions of flying semi-intelligent bombs. Nearly two months pass and the world's population is furious. Those who dare drive or fly suffer the consequences of an explosion. Most services have stopped; no one can buy food or water, no one can get to a hospital, babies are being born at home and others are dying from the inability to get proper care. As one might expect, those who live in flyover country fare better than the urban dwellers. Those with access to farms and farm animals, those whose lives don't depend on engines are fine at least for a while. The survivalist groups and self-styled militias thought they were ready for this apparent Armageddon. Even with their cache of weapons and stored supplies, they were not prepared for the complete lack of transportation. In deprivation there is desperation. In the areas most severely affected by the shortages – inner cities and metropolitan areas – the shortages lead to disruption. The people take to the streets, some take on each other as thousands battle over scraps. The police are unavailable to stop looting, doctors are unavailable to heal the injured. Everyone is on their own. While people try to survive and stay alive, the world leaders have discovered that the "walnuts" are not of this Earth. The exploded shells reveal that they are not a species, but a strange biomechanical object. Seven to nine weeks from the initial incident, the walnuts are more visible. They start to travel in swarms. It's obviously an intelligence of some kind. Are they pods or beings or ships? The world's populations begin to associate the presence of the walnuts with the explosions and the chaos. Finally, the aliens communicate with one ominous phrase, "Are you ready?" Humanity is ready – for a fight. Yet, there's no way to mount a resistance. The tools of war are disabled, and if anyone dared place a weapon of mass destruction on some means to launch, it would explode, causing massive destruction. There's no way to fight 'it' With the world's attention now focused on the aliens, they would make their demands known. They would spread their message to all corners of the world using all of our common means of visual communication, the Internet, television, cell phones, reaching everyone not hiding under a rock. The aliens' demands are simple. They want total submission to their rule. The aliens demand a cessation of all hostilities and the destruction of all tools of war right down to switch blades. They demand that people of the world rid themselves of any religious texts or practices. In exchange, they offer benevolent rule. They would feed us from a supply of pills that provided all necessary nutrition. The pills have an additional psychological effect. When one is angry, upset or feeling like being violent, the feeling is soon replaced by an overwhelming sensation of peace and calm. While that pill stopped violence among some, others feared its removal of choice, our free agency. How would we defend ourselves against someone who has not consumed the pill? The aliens also offer humanity new medical technologies that cure diseases and disabilities. Most accept the new gods. Others are not so willing to give up free will. The resistance – what there is of it – is limited to the pockets of survivalists and cultists living in the weeds. Some people join the movement of those who refuse to submit. Those who can farm and raise cattle without the assistance of mechanized vehicles survive alone. Those areas in the West become new population centers, albeit regressed to a pre-industrialized way of life. For some populations less reliant on technology and machines, life goes on as before. Desperate people seek out these populations as well. Will they, without having consumed the alien "food," engage in the same kind of violent aggression that brought us here? What will be the alien response? Other populations that refuse the alien assistance simply die out on their own and the aliens are willing to wait. Their plan is a success. Their plan was to dominate the world without using force, leaving much of the world's population alive. They targeted transportation, predicting the effect on the worldwide economy and the fear that deprivation would cause. An interconnected society reliant on technology and mechanical transportation is vulnerable to their plan. A military, based on mechanisms, would be vulnerable to the plan. The aliens knew that the people of Earth would be forced into a corner and would have no choice but to submit. Peace is the only response. In the end, the aliens have "control" of 97% of the world's population. The other 3% who insist on keeping their gods and guns are on the new reservations, out of sight, out of mind, and generally ignored. Decisions are made, stay in a greatly improved civilization or live with your beliefs with an early 20th Century standard of living. They killed fewer people and destroyed less of our infrastructure than the entirety of the Afghan War. There has never been more peace at this point than in the entirety of human history. The aliens hover over us, keeping watch, from New York to Los Angeles, from Tokyo to Beijing, from London to Paris. Some still gaze up at them, many

go about their lives as the aliens have reset our existence. We can drive again, we can fly again, our machines can now help us rebuild, but we cannot take up arms against one another. Hospitals are generally empty, except for maternity wards and accidents as the pills have greatly improved people's health and immune systems. Military bases are quiet places. Governments are talking to each other over matters of sticking together, not pulling apart. In places previously constantly under the thumb of violent acts, people are working together to tear down walls. Along the Gaza Strip and in Israel, the military is now primarily a construction force. There is virtually "nothing to kill or die for, no religion, no extreme political or economic beliefs." But, there are questions. Why did the aliens invade the Earth? What do they really want from us? Perhaps they came because that is their purpose. They end strife and suffering like all good parents, and we are their children. They are the new gods.

Walnuts, A Two Season+ Series

Season 1, The Conquest

Each season is 10 to 12 episodes. As a series it can develop multiple plot lines that are intertwined throughout the both season 1 and 2.

Protagonists

For the series The Bureaucrat (see below) instead of The Narrator (above) is probably the best fit as his role can be expanded way out to be prominently featured in every episode and is a subplot in and of itself.

The Governments

Various governments around the world, from national to local, react differently. This allows a worldwide audience to identify with their own people. As the series moves forward they are shown to be more and more powerless despite having massive militaries. Even local governments usually collapse.

The Amish

Business as usual until the starving masses descend.

The Bushmen

What invasion.

The Mormons

Tightly organized and expected to turn out as a group when when any disaster strikes. Also used to sharing and up to one year of food storage.

In metropolitan areas, can they help their neighbors survive?

A rural area with 2,000 horses, 20,000 people and 20 million Norbest turkeys, survival is possible, as is the resistance. A good area for one of the new reservations for those who do not or can not give up their guns and their God.

The Inner City

What happens when one lives in a food desert? This may be a surprize as inner city people tend to be more sociable with their neighbors and more used to cooperating during adversity.

The Suburbs

What good is lots of money and a gated community when one has to leave to get food? What about horses, dogs? What will a mother do to feed her children? Especially when her husband refuses the pill?

The Prison(s)

Do you release them, or let them starve?

The Super Rich

The narrator has been consulting with several of them on such questions as to how to ensure loyalty within one's survival bunker. They are utterly ruthless.

This part is based on reality. See:

The Guardian: How tech's richest plan to save themselves after the apocalypse (AKA “the Event”)
https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/jul/23/tech-industry-wealth-futurism-transhumanism-singularity

The Military

Ships and submarines may have months of food on board, but what about military bases? How do they scavenge food?

Various Countries

How does local culture and religion affect how locals survive. The series, as is the movie, is for international audiences.

Season 2, The Resistance

While about 3% of the world's population are living in the new reservations, another 3 to 5% are immune to the pills. While those who withdraw to reservations are tolerated as harmless, those who are still considered “wild” in urban areas have to be hunted down.

It is time for each group to organize for mutual benefit and protection.

This is especially so as about ¼ of those immune have a side effect of having more problems with anger management. Even worse about ½ of immunes become easily addicted to the pills so skipping them to play calm under stress is not an option. This ⅛ have to be found and taken care of as in “Invasion of the Body Snatchers”. Even the Reservations do not want these nut cases.

Of course there are the profiteers who have semi-legal trade with the reservations.