

Bella and Theo: Detectives of Crime "THE BLACK HOLE"

Written by

Theodore Macdonald
&
Isabella Dampney

From an original concept by
Theodore Macdonald & Isabella Dampney

PRODUCTION DRAFT

EXT. AN INNER CITY PARK - NIGHT

It's late at night and Auckland City, home of the brave, is all but silent. NICK ROBINSON, blonde, scruffy, young, is walking home on his own through a suburban park. Nick is comfortable, confident. He walks with swagger. Maybe he's stoned. A concrete path cuts through the grass past the swing and the swimming pool. Nick pays it little attention. We all know that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. A RUSTLE comes from the darkness to Nick's left. He looks over lazily.

The RUSTLE comes again.

Nick quickens his pace a little, and starts to whistle an aimless melody. Another RUSTLE. Closer this time. Nick stops, stares into the darkness. His eyes narrow, as he tries to make something out through the shadows.

Light from a torch hits the side of Nick's face and he turns, shielding his eyes.

NICK
Hey! It's you! What you doing out
so late.

He steps back, unnerved.

NICK
What'r you up to man!

Nick is backing up frantically now.

NICK
GET THE HELL AWAY FROM ME!

Auckland City, home of the brave, sleeps, without a person to be seen, or a sound to be heard.

FADE TO WHITE

CREDITS SEQUENCE

INT. DARKNESS

Black fills the screen, pure, without a shred of light penetrative it. The only sound is the soft hum of a refrigerator. The dull, heavy blackness sits long enough to be taken notice of.

A TORCH-BEAM cuts across the screen. A SECOND BEAM follows and running can be heard. Whatever is carrying the torch moves quickly and the light bounces up and down as it rapidly approach the camera. The second beam follows the first, desperately trying to keep pace.

Both lights go out. A THUD is heard. HEAVY PANTING, which slowly is replaced by RHYTHMIC BREATHING.

(CONTINUED)

The screen remains black. Neither THEO nor BELLA can be seen.

THEO
Hello?

BELLA
Hello?

THEO
Bella! S'that you?

BELLA
Theo? Yeah, it's me.

THEO
Where'd YOU come from?

BELLA
Where are we?

THEO
I,uh - I don't know. I don't remember how I got here.

BELLA
I don't remember either. I don't remember anything...where was I? Were we going somewhere?

THEO
I can't remember what day it was...

BELLA
It's so dark. I'm going to stand up and see if there's a light switch.

SCRABBLING and SHUFFLING as Bella and Theo stand up and look around. Bella is moving from left to right.

BELLA
I've found walls.
One...Two...Three...Four...Five walls. But no door. And no light switch.

A SKITTER as Theo's foot bumps into something on the floor.

THEO
I think there's a torch on the ground.

Theo leans down and picks up the torch (the screen is still black). A light appears in the middle of the space, but cuts out after only three seconds.

THEO
I think it's broken.

BELLA
Wait, Theo, you broke the torch?

THEO
I think it was broken before I
kicked it.

BELLA
Give it to me. I'll see if I can
get her working again.

Theo walks towards Bella's voice.

BELLA
Ow.

THEO
Sorry...I can't see anything at
all.

BELLA
Don't worry 'bout it.

Bella tinkers with the torch. Theo lights a cigarette. His face is briefly illuminated with a click of the lighter. The red tip of the cigarette floats.

BELLA
Would you mind putting that out?

THEO
It's something to do.

BELLA
We don't know if there's any
ventilation in here. We might
have limited oxygen. If that's
the case, I don't want to waste
it.

THEO
True. Good point.

He stubs the cigarette out on a wall.

BELLA
Also, you've got a lighter, why
aren't you using it?

THEO
Hm.

He takes the lighter back out of his pocket and waves it around the room.

BELLA
Would you bring it over here?

The light, failing to illuminate much, moves from one side of the space to the other.

A breeze picks up. The light goes out.

BELLA
Oh?

THEO
That means I can smoke in here?

BELLA
Go for it.

Theo tries to light another cigarette, but the lighter fails to catch.

THEO
It's broken.

BELLA
No worries, I think I've fixed the torch. The batteries were upside down.

A CLICK and a taut beam of light shoots out from the torch. Bella points it at Theo's face, confirming that it is truly him. She points it around the room. The walls are unmarked, undecorated, unremarkable, grey. There are now only four of them.

The torch-beam flickers. When it returns the wall it was pointed at is gone, and the light shines over the edge of the frame.

Theo tries again with the lighter. This time it catches.

BELLA
There's a mystery at play here.

THEO
A question in need of detectives.

BELLA
And I think we're the ones to do it.

A SHUFFLE

BELLA
Ow. That was my thought.

THEO

Sorry.

BELLA

Where the ones to solve this
problem. Who else had the skills?

THEO

As far as I can see-

BELLA

Ha.

THEO

-we're the only ones here.

BELLA

So it's agreed.

The two search the space thoroughly however their progress
is stymied by the walls shifting around them, sometimes
present, often not, multiple but singular.

THEO

I've got an idea...have you
considered pointing the torch up?

Bella points the torch-beam up and both are surprised when
a set of palm trees are illuminated above them.

THEO

Down?

Bella points the torchlight down, and they gasp as it
reflects.

BELLA

Matching shoes!

THEO

Ow!

His lighter goes out.

BELLA

What happened!?

THEO

I burnt myself.

BELLA

Inside or out?

THEO

Both.

They continue looking through the unreliable walls.

(CONTINUED)

It has to be stressed that all that appears on the screen are two little lights moving tentatively within the dark.

A third light, blue and subtle, joins them, however Bella and Theo are oblivious.

BELLA
Hey! I think I found something!

Theo's lighter moves, bobbing.

BELLA
There's some writing on the wall.
I don't think it's in english
though. I can't read it.

THEO
Is it Spanish?

BELLA
I read Spanish.

THEO
Sumerian?

BELLA
I read some Sumerian.

THEO
Olmec?

BELLA
I'll admit I only know a little
Olmec, but I don't think that's
it...

THEO
Human?

BELLA
What are you suggesting?

THEO
I'm suggesting it's not human.

BELLA
I'm taking a photo.

Bella removes a phone from her pocket and points it towards the temporarily stable surface the writing is on.

With a CLICK, a FLASH, she takes the photo and returns the phone to her pocket.

BELLA
That's some good evidence. I
don't know if it's going to help
us get out of this predicament...

THEO
...we should conserve power.

With a SIGH, Bella turns off her torch. The small flame from Theo's lighter goes out.

They wait. Breathe. Wait. Breathe. Wait. BREATHE

The black lifts.

THE ONE DESERT IN AUCKLAND CITY - DAY

The darkness has lifted, and Bella and Theo, Detectives of Crime, are standing in the middle of The One Desert in Auckland City. They look at each other.

Theo SNAPS his fingers.

THEO
TUESDAY!

BELLA
It's a Tuesday!

THEO
The best day of the week!

CUT TO BLACK.