

# Down to Earth

Screenplay

By

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INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Time lapse of a toy spaceship being 3D printed. Once fully built, a woman removes the spaceship from the print bed.

TITLE - "DOWN TO EARTH"

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

MOLLY COMBS is a retired astronaut in her mid-30s. She is athletic in build and articulate in speech.

DON COMBS, married to Molly, is also a retired astronaut.

MOLLY

I just think that going back to the museum might help return some normalcy.

DON

Always a wishful thinker...

MOLLY

I've certainly missed our tradition.

DON

Your tradition...

MOLLY

Well then why did you always come with me?

DON

Because I wanted to back then.

MOLLY

Don't you want the same thing now?

DON

No. I just need respect.

MOLLY

That's absurd. You know *I* already respect you. The kids respect you. Who else do you need respect from?

DON

Maybe things have just changed too much.

MOLLY

Let's just try and enjoy the art  
today, ok?

INT. ART MUSEUM - DAY

The couple is staring at an abstract painting.

DON

Come on Molly, let's move to the  
next exhibit.

Each small sound Don makes echos throughout the building.  
Molly speaks at a much higher volume.

MOLLY

No. You're missing something  
here. This painting scares me.

DON

Why Molly?

MOLLY

Because its us.

A pause as Don reacts in disappointment.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

The division. The shreds of  
something unified in emotion still  
visible. But not tangible enough to  
be repurposed into anything  
resembling what used to--

DON

Quit the drama Molly this isn't a  
movie. Now let's move on.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Walking out of art museum

DON

Listen Molly. I can't deal with  
whatever you brought back from  
space with you, ok?

MOLLY

Don't tell me I "brought something  
back". I'm the same person I was  
before the trip. Just like how  
you're the same.

DON

You don't get it. You weren't just gone for a year. You left us. You left me and the boys here alone.

MOLLY

What, was I supposed to convince NASA to start a "Bring your Family to Space" day? I went because even if you had the chance, you wouldn't have the strength to go! Maybe if NASA hadn't rejected your application you would be able to see that!

The couple has stopped walking and is now standing in front of the museum.

DON

Who said I applied? And don't act like you gave a shit about me, the kids, or anyone but *yourself* when you made the decision to leave!

MOLLY

Don't lie to me. I know you applied. Either way I was only thinking of myself to help us as a family!

DON

No, you weren't...

Molly tries and fails to say something. Don turns and looks away.

DON (CONT.)

I'm done with this. We'll go about this the right way. I'll get in touch with a law-

Molly faints.

DON (CONT.)

Molly!

As Don picks up Molly, it is revealed that there is a massive skin wound stretching across Molly's forearm.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Molly wakes up in a hospital bed. A nurse walks in.

NURSE  
Mrs. Combs?

MOLLY  
What happened?

NURSE  
You fainted. You're very lucky the man found you and brought you here.

MOLLY  
What man? You mean my husband?  
Where is he? I need to talk to him.

NURSE  
He left after dropping you off.  
Honestly ma'am, we should deal with that later. What's most important now is that you help the doctor identify your skin condition.

MOLLY  
Who are you to tell me what is and isn't important? We were in the middle of a conversation that needs to be continued.

NURSE  
Mrs. Combs I need you to relax.

MOLLY  
Relax? How can I relax in this situation?

NURSE  
The more anxiety you experience, the more your skin condition seems to be exacerbated.

MOLLY  
What are you talking about? What skin condition?

Molly glances down at her arm. The skin is raw and disfigured, and now extends up past her elbow. A doctor enters the room.

MOLLY (CONT'D)  
Oh my God...

DOCTOR  
Yes, ma'am.

Molly is still staring at her arm. Unable to speak, she gives the doctor a horrified look. The doctor continues to speak with little sympathy.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
Have you been to any countries in  
the past month where any viruses  
have been present?

Molly shakes her head and begins to bawl. The doctor looks at the nurse.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
I know this is hard to understand  
Mrs.... um.

NURSE  
Combs.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
Combs. But the more information you  
give us, the more quickly and  
effectively we can treat you. Ok?

Molly nods.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
Good. Now. Have you left the United  
States any time in the past month?

MOLLY  
...I went to space.

The doctor turns over to the nurse and speaks in a soft voice.

DOCTOR  
Nurse is there any proof that she's  
actually been to space.

NURSE  
Not that I know of. She just woke  
up.

DOCTOR  
Any history of mental illness in  
Mrs.... Shoot.

NURSE  
Combs?

DOCTOR

Yes.

The nurse stares back at the doctor for far too long, waiting for him to finish his question.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Well?

NURSE

What?

DOCTOR

Is there any mental illness in the patient's family?

NURSE

Oh let me pull up her chart.

The doctor looks repulsed by the nurse's "stupidity" as she leaves to retrieve Molly's chart. The doctor attempts to play along to get information from Molly.

DOCTOR

OK Mrs.... um... ma'am. Did you notice your skin doing this while you were in space?

Molly doesn't respond, entrenched in thoughts.

INT. SPACE STATION - DAY

Molly is floating in zero gravity toward a monitor. The monitor turns on when Molly pushes a button. A map of the station appears.

MOLLY

Houston?

NASA AGENT

Combs we read you. Update?

MOLLY

No changes. Mission progress remains at 40%. Still have yet to notice any physical abnormalities.

NASA AGENT

Great to hear Combs. All your vitals appear normal as well. Any issues of concern?

MOLLY

Can't complain. Other than about how hot its beginning to get in here.

NASA AGENT

Well you can only expect for it to get hotter. Unfortunately you're closer to the sun than anyone has been before.

MOLLY

I should have brought my swimsuit. I could be getting a nice tan right now.

NASA AGENT

Happy to see your spirits are still relatively high. You're not getting bored up there yet?

MOLLY

Shouldn't you be able to answer that? You've got cameras on me constantly!

NASA AGENT

There's a lot we can't see. Hell, we're only on an audio call now.

MOLLY

You can't see me right now?

NASA AGENT

Nope. If I wanted to know what it was like up there so badly I would've applied for the spot myself.

MOLLY

Yeah and you wouldn't have had to leave behind a family. Speaking of which, have Don or the kids asked to speak to me lately?

NASA AGENT

Not that I'm aware of. Sorry. I'm just happy to hear you're enjoying life up there.

MOLLY

It's not Disney World but I've got enough to keep me entertained. I

(MORE)



MOLLY (cont'd)  
still have 146 days left up here to  
get bored though.

NASA AGENT  
We should have sent you with  
Monopoly. Maybe you could've gotten  
a whole game in by the--

A siren is heard on the NASA end of the call.

MOLLY  
Everything OK down there? That  
doesn't sound good.

NASA AGENT  
We're fine here, but there's an  
alert that there's a cracked  
observation deck window. Can you  
confirm?

Molly quickly puts on her helmet and suit and pushes herself  
through the space station.

NASA AGENT (CONT.)  
Combs can you confirm?

Molly enters the observation deck and examines each of the  
windows, only to find nothing damaged. She then makes her  
way back to the monitor and begins removing her suit.

NASA AGENT (CONT.)  
Combs I need you to confirm.

MOLLY  
Negative. Observation deck appears  
to be in good condition. Are you  
still seeing damage?

NASA AGENT  
Yes but if you are sure there is no  
damage I can override the system.

Molly presses something on the keyboard. A new map shows up  
displaying the observation deck flashing red. "Major Damage"  
appears over the screen and a window is now shown in red.

MOLLY  
Hold on!

Molly rushes back to the observation room to find a hole  
resulting from a large crack on one of the windows. She  
patches up the hole with an epoxy and returns once again to  
the monitor.

MOLLY

Did the alarm stop?

NASA AGENT

Yes. Did you find anything?

MOLLY

There was a crack in one of the windows. I don't know how I missed it the first time, but I taped it up.

NASA AGENT

Good. All of your vitals look good, as well as your oxygen level.

MOLLY

Alright. Well I think I've had enough thrills for one morning. I'll call if I need anything.

"Transmission Ended" appears on the screen. Molly scratches her forearm, and looks shocked as she realizes that her suit had been off while she was exposed to open space.