

GODZILLA

Treatment Written by Ted Elliott & Terry Rossio

OPENING TEASER - THE ARCTIC

Greenpeace ship, investigating nuclear core dumping. In the distance, a nuclear meltdown. A woman looks, sees "the snow is on fire." Ooze from a fissure spotted (Godzilla's womb). "The earth is bleeding."

Introduce DR. LLEWELLYN. He leaves in the middle of the night, kisses his wife JILL and daughter TINA goodbye. Travels to Arctic site.

Investigating the womb -- suddenly, GODZILLA COMES ALIVE. Eye opens, roar. Llewellyn and all scientists killed. Further south, an island is destroyed. Godzilla is like a hurricane. A native man survives, dubs the monster 'Gojira'.

10 YEARS LATER

JAPANESE INSANE ASYLUM

We meet AARON VAUGHT -- author/mythologist, wrote pop science novel 'The Waking Dragon.' Aaron (part Carl Sagan, part Eric Von Danekan) interviews native man from island, still crazy after all these years.

Aaron, and his assistant, JUNJI, show ancient references of a 'Godzilla'-like creature (dragon mythos, paintings, carvings). References imply a second monster, the Gryphon. Native man reveals similar drawings. Aaron wonders if Godzilla has appeared, where's the second monster?

ALIEN PROBE ARRIVES

Alien Von Neuman-type probe from space arrives, crashes into remote lake in Kentucky. Local tourist town (northern tip of Mammoth Cave system) experiences a RAIN OF FROGS. Very weird, mysterious. Meet locals: a farmer, hunters, a cave-diver, etc.

THE ST. GEORGE PROJECT

is headed by another Dr. Llewellyn -- this is Jill Llewellyn, wife of the killed scientist. St. George Project was commissioned to study the Godzilla creature, which hasn't been seen in over ten years. Program may be cut -- some think Godzilla is dead. See tape of oil drilling platform destroyed. Jill must convince Department of Defense to continue funding.

Jill is obsessed with the monster that killed her husband, is neglectful of her daughter. Tina is angry; the monster has left her without a father or mother.

WEIRD MYSTERIES

IN KENTUCKY -- The Alien probe has burrowed underground, into cave system. Material from the probe oozes its way into a bat cave. Absorbs dozens of bats.

IN THE ARCTIC -- Guards at the Godzilla womb site see a fantastic, impossible display of northern lights. They originate from Godzilla's womb chamber.

ARMY BASE - Aaron joins the St. George Project; Jill doesn't respect him, doesn't trust him on a classified project. They travel to the Arctic, just like her husband did.

ICE CAVERN -- Godzilla's womb is active. "Today should have been Godzilla's birthday." They surmise: if the site hadn't been disturbed, Godzilla would have emerged. But what triggered it? Relic of ancient civilization found -- biological, attaches itself to Aaron's assistant, Junji. Emergency medi-vac.

IN KENTUCKY -- Huge, man-sized mutated Probe-Bats emerge from the cave, kill animals, gathering genetic material -- for what? Farmer discovers cattle mutilations. Two hunters (one a cigarette smoker) hunted down, killed by flying bats.

GODZILLA ON THE MOVE

Satellite tracks GODZILLA, in the Pacific, moving toward the United States! (Huge dim image passes beneath oil tanker.) Department of Defense is convinced of threat. Military blockade; Godzilla wipes it out, continues on. Should they use nukes before he reaches West Coast?

GODZILLA CAPTURED

Jill put in charge; she and Aaron come up with strategy to 'suffocate' Godzilla. Start to enjoy working together, respect each other. Attempt to kill Godzilla as he enters San Francisco harbor. Godzilla climbs onto Golden Gate bridge, collapses full onto bridge -- the bridge holds, Godzilla sprawled across it.

Godzilla is not dead, but he's knocked out, defeated. Restraining device installed onto Godzilla. Debate: "Do we kill it?" Answer: "If we can." Godzilla airlifted east, to St. George Project army base.

FIND CAVE

Aaron wonders -- where was Godzilla headed? Figures out Godzilla's destination. His movement coincides with weird reports from Kentucky. Guide leads Aaron to remote lake; trees pushed over, water low, no frogs.

Cave entrance spotted.

TINA AND GODZILLA

Tina sneaks past guards, sees Godzilla. Huge scale difference helps her realize her father's death was an act of nature, like storm, volcano. Jill does not agree. Tina is sent to sister in New York.

INTRO GRYPHON

Aaron joins cave diver, explores cave system. Scared by huge-bats -- but they are dead, having completed their work. Aaron discovers second monster, the GRYPHON. Harrowing escape as Gryphon leaves the cave. It spreads its wings, starts rampage.

GODZILLA'S PURPOSE REVEALED

Biological relic attached to Junji turns out to be a communications device. As it consumes Junji, it speaks to Jill. Thing is not alive, it is a biological device -- like a message in a bottle across the ages.

We find out: ancient alien civilization (source of lost civilization myths, like Atlantis) created Godzilla. A different, evil alien race is spreading through the stars, using a Von Neuman-type probe. It lands, creates a beast out of the genetic material specific to the world. The beast is a tool of conquest; it wipes out the dominant life forms; later, the aliens show up.

The 'good' aliens engineered Godzilla from a dinosaur template. He was to awake when the alien probe arrived. The nuclear accident woke him up early.

Word of the Gryphon's destruction reaches Jill. Debate: should they release Godzilla? Godzilla breaks free anyway, bent on destroying this other monster.

PANIC IN NEW YORK

Godzilla stomps south; NEW YORK is at the intercept point of the two monsters. Massive panic, death as cities evacuated. Gryphon topples over the Statue of Liberty, stands on the base.

DESTRUCTION, FINAL BATTLE

Tina is now in path of destruction. Jill moves beyond her obsession with Godzilla. She leaves the project, tries to get to Tina in New York, moving against the flow of evacuation.

GODZILLA battles the GRYPHON.

Destructive and fun: Lincoln tunnel crushed, flooded; gas mains explode, etc. But Godzilla is losing. Aaron must remove restraining device on Godzilla in the midst of battle. He repels down Godzilla, removes device. Battle continues; Godzilla uses nuclear breath to make steam, etc.

GODZILLA KICKS ASS

Godzilla defeats the Gryphon, disappears into the ocean. Jill, Aaron, Tina survive; the family unit is restored.