

"DAWN OF MAN"

Written by James Walsh

A PRE-HISTORIC LANDSCAPE - DAY

An ancient land. Lots of rocks. Mountains far off.

As we pan around we pass a BRONTOSAURUS chewing ferns. Then a flock of PTEROSAURS. Then a T-Rex trying to eat a coconut with his tiny arms - eventually giving up with a sad groan.

JOE (O.S.)

You hear about Keith and Margaret?

We land on JOE and LINDA - a RAPTOR COUPLE who, if they were human, would probably be in their 40s and living in Queens. We follow them as they walk happily along, claw-in-claw.

LINDA

I did. So happy for them.

JOE

I introduced them you know.

LINDA

You did not.

Without missing a beat in the conversation we match cut to:

PRE-HISTORIC VOLCANO - DAY

Joe and Linda stroll past a pool of bubbling lava.

JOE

Sure I did. At that place that does the egg platters you like.

They pass a TRICERATOPS toasting marshmallows on its horns.

LINDA

It was me, Joe. I introduced them.

JOE

What? Get outta here.

PRE-HISTORIC RAINFOREST - DAY

Joe and Linda stroll through a dense jungle.

LINDA
 Who do you think's the matchmaker out
 of the two us? You? You can't even
 match your socks.

They use a half-drowned stegosaurus as a stepping stone to
 get over a quicksand pool.

LINDA (cont'd)
 Whereas *yours truly* can find the
 right match for *anybody*.

PRE-HISTORIC CAVES - DAY

Joe and Linda stroll through some dark caves. Joe is now
 holding a FLAMING TORCH as well as Linda's hand.

LINDA
 I matched David and Janine. I set up
 Christian with that cute Ankylosaurus
 from the ravine. I even found a good
 man for your half-cousin Gertie and
 she's a jawless fish. All I'm saying
 is...I can find the right person for
anybody.

Suddenly they both see something ahead and stop dead.

We cut to the reverse to see A FEMALE NEANDERTHAL staring
 back at them - hunch-backed, draped in rags, with wild hair
 and buck teeth. There's a small boulder under her arm.

We cut back to Linda and Joe, who glance down...

...at the boulder, which has a SMILING FACE painted on it,
 and some grass stuck to its head in place of hair.

LINDA (cont'd)
 Anybody.

CUT TO:

THE CAVEWOMAN'S LAIR

The cavewoman's own corner of the cave is dark and dank.
 There's some big rocks. Some not so big rocks. Some crude
 art scrawled on the walls. Water <DRIPS> from the ceiling.

The Raptors take it in as Cavewoman stands there, sheepish.

LINDA
 (being polite)
 Nice place you have here.

CAVEWOMAN
 Ooga?

LINDA
 (to Joe)
 Joe, tell her what I said.

JOE
 Me?

LINDA
 Come on, you're good with languages.

Joe clears his throat. Looks around. Gestures aimlessly.

JOE
 (making it up)
 Ummm...ooga...ooga ooh?

Cavewoman glances up at her hair, confused. Then she reaches up, grabs a big clump of her hair and YANKS IT CLEAN OUT.

LINDA
 Oh my.

JOE
 I don't want nothin' to do with this.

LINDA
 Joe, this creature clearly needs to find somebody. She can't get married to a rock.

Joe looks over at the cavewoman's grinning rock friend.

LINDA (cont'd)
 (cavewoman)
 Why don't you tell us your name?

CAVEWOMAN
 RAAAARGH!

LINDA
 You know what? Let's call you Dawn.

DAWN (nee Cavewoman) nods and grunts (as if to say "okay").

LINDA (cont'd)
 Alright, what are we working with?

Cut to Linda pointing to Dawn's giant calf muscles.

LINDA (cont'd)
You're a strong woman.

Cut to Linda standing next to Dawn's violent cave paintings.

LINDA (cont'd)
You like art.

Cut to Linda lifting Dawn's lips to reveal her crooked grin.

LINDA (cont'd)
And you have all your own teeth! Not many folks can say that.

JOE
I think I saw a few teeth that ain't hers, too.

LINDA
What a catch! Honestly, honey, it's all there. We just need a bit less oog, and a bit more "oooh". Then you can say 'bye bye rock...hello man of my dreams'. Sound good?

Dawn glances over at her beloved rock. It smiles back at her. Joe turns the rock so it's facing the other way.

DAWN
(resigned)
Ooga boog. ["I guess"]

LINDA
Good!
(to Joe)
Joe, you go spread the word. We want *eligible bachelors* only. Me and Dawn, we're gonna stay here and have a little talk about posture.

JOE
I'm on it.

Joe lets out a high-pitched <SHRIEK>, then tucks in his arms and runs out of the cave like he's chasing down prey.

At the same time, some upbeat <MUSIC> fades in (dream track: "THE POWER OF LOVE - Huey & The News") and we cut to:

A CHEERFUL MAKEOVER MONTAGE

IN THE JUNGLE - a CAVEMAN sprints for his life through shot from left to right, with Joe hot on his tail.

AT A RIVER - a DIFFERENT CAVEMAN scoops water up to drink. As the ripples fade we see Joe in the reflection on the water, grinning over the man's shoulder. The man SCREAMS.

IN A JUNGLE CLEARING - Joe drags ANOTHER DIFFERENT CAVEMAN by his hair and throws him into a pit. We look down into the pit to see all the other cavemen in there. Joe smiles.

IN DAWN'S CAVE - Dawn and Linda do some spring cleaning. As Linda dusts the walls with her long tail, Dawn "adapts" the gruesome paintings on her walls into flowers and rainbows.

LINDA CLAWS on the wall (using the giant toe on her foot) as Dawn sits dutifully and watches. We cut to the wall to see a mantra: "I DESERVE LOVE". Dawn points to herself (ME?).

DAWN SQUATS DOWN LIKE AN APE, but Linda doesn't like it. We cut to her showing Dawn how to sit CROSS-LEGGED - Dawn has one leg folded in already, holding the other one. She looks confused, but Linda nods, so Dawn folds her leg over with a TERRIFYING SNAP. She roars in pain. Linda almost vomits.

DAWN POSES FOR A PORTRAIT with her leg in a makeshift splint made from branches and vines. Linda gets a good look at her and then starts CLAWING FEVERISHLY AT A PIECE OF SLATE.

IN THE JUNGLE - we see the same slate hanging from a tree with a terrifying scratched portrait of Dawn, and writing underneath that says "OOGA BOOGA" (in brackets underneath it there's a translation: "LOOKING FOR LOVE").

IN THE CAVE - Dawn looks at her reflection in the slime on one of the cave walls as Linda puts a flower in her hair.

Dawn smiles. It's not pretty, but it's authentic.

Joe and Linda are standing by, watching.

LINDA
She's ready.

We cut to DAWN'S FAVOURITE ROCK, still grinning (or is he smiling through the pain?). The <MONTAGE SONG> fades out...

JUNGLE CLEARING - EVENING

Dawn sits nervously at a makeshift table for two - a tree stump with a sabre-tooth tiger's hide draped over it (its tongue hanging out of its mouth). A candle in the middle.

LINDA (O.S.)
Did I not say 'eligible', Joe?

We cut to Linda and Joe in the trees, standing in front of Joe's captured cavemen, who are stood side by side, each one dumber and more hideous than the last.

JOE
I dunno...I mean this guy here, his head's sorta the right shape.

Linda gives him a withering look.

CUT TO:

Dawn standing across from the first cavemen suitor. His severely crossed eyes take it in turns to follow a FLY as it buzzes past his face. Then he grabs the fly in his mouth.

Dawn watches in disgust as the caveman swills the fly around, rolling his tongue this way and that, and then...he spits it back up and offers it to her as a gift.

Dawn, horrified, looks to Linda and Joe for help.

LINDA
Next!

CUT TO:

Dawn meets the next caveman (all the cavemen look identical apart from a few minor differences). He holds a bouquet of flowers, and Linda smiles, but then he shoves them in his mouth and chews them up, growling, before handing them over.

LINDA (cont'd)
Next!

CUT TO:

Suitor number three. Covered in blood.

LINDA (cont'd)
Next!

CUT TO:

Suitor number four. Nowhere to be seen...until we move down to find a young, spotty, teenage CAVEBOY.

LINDA (cont'd)

Next!

CUT TO:

Three quick suitors in a row...

One with a GIANT BOIL on his protruding tongue.

LINDA (cont'd)

Next!

One lying dead on the floor.

LINDA (cont'd)

Next!

And the last one, who takes a club out and WALLOPS Dawn over the head. She collapses to the floor, face first. The brute turns to Linda and Joe and gives them a thumbs up.

LINDA (cont'd)

Dawn!

Joe SHRIEKS at the caveman, who runs off in fright.

We angle down at the back of Dawn's head. Then we reverse to see Linda looking down at her. Joe arrives at Linda's side.

JOE

She'll be okay.

Linda walks away, despondent. Joe follows. They have a conversation with their backs to Dawn.

LINDA

I really thought I could help. I thought there was someone out there for everybody. But maybe not everyone gets to find love like we did. Maybe the world doesn't work that way.

Joe touches his head to Linda's affectionately.

JOE

There there Linda, honey.

As they share a quiet, loving moment, we see Dawn starting to move behind them. She comes to, groaning, rolling over limply, trying to work her floppy arms and legs.

Then we go close on Dawn as...a shadow moves over her.

GROGG (O.S.)
Ooga booga oog.

She looks up. Blinks. We cut to:

Her POV, as a blurry shape comes into focus to reveal GROGG - the world's handsomest caveman. The Zac Efron of cavemen.

GROGG
Booga ooga, booga oog.

He reaches out a hand. Helps Dawn up.

Dawn stares into his gorgeous emerald eyes. *Ooga boog.*

We cut to Linda and Joe looking on.

LINDA
Joe! Look! He's perf--

ROOOOOAAAAAARRRRRRRR - suddenly a VICIOUS TYRANNOSAUR bursts from the trees and attacks Dawn and Grogg. They dive out of the way as its huge jaws CHOMP down on the log, pulling it from the ground and then tossing it high over the trees.

The monster lets out another TERRIFYING ROAR as Grogg scrambles for cover behind a tree...but Dawn stands her ground. She looks the monster dead in the eyes.

Joe and Linda launch themselves into the clearing with a SHRIEK, joining the fight at Linda's side.

They all circle each other for a moment, then...

Linda and Joe attack together! They run at the T-Rex and pounce onto its back. The T-REX flails and gnashes, then it lunges at Dawn with the raptors still clinging to its back. Dawn rolls out of the way before she's impaled on a giant T-Rex fang. She slides into a crouch position, then spots a sharp shard of wood on the floor nearby. She grabs it, lets out a PRIMAL SCREAM and then RUNS AT THE T-REX.

We don't see anymore of the fight, but we do see the look in Grogg's eyes as he watches the action - and they say it all!

We hear the T-Rex <ROAR IN PAIN>, and then SMASH CUT TO:

DAWN'S CAVE

Linda and Joe (bloody and battered from an epic battle), give Dawn some space as she breaks up with Grogg.

DAWN
 (to Grogg, in a
 consiliatory tone)
 Oooga boog. Boog ooga, booga booga
 oog. Oooga boog?

Grogg wipes away a tear. But he understands.

As Grogg leaves, Dawn turns to Linda and Joe. She sighs.

LINDA
 You know what, honey? There's nothing
 wrong with being by yourself. You
 don't need a man to make you happy.

Then Joe sees something past the camera and has a thought.

JOE
 That's right. You *don't* need a man.

We cut to the ROCK WITH A FACE ON IT. Still smiling.

RIVERSIDE - DAY

Dawn and her Rock Boyfriend sit by the river. Dawn feeds her man (Rock) a strawberry - smushing into his face. Then she leans in to listen to something Rock has to say and then BURSTS OUT LAUGHING. They truly are a perfect couple.

We cut to Linda and Joe watching from a distance.

JOE
 Well, you know what they say. You can
 take a rock to water but you can't
 make it--

RRRROOOOOOOOAAAAAAAAARRRRRRR - another T-rex (probably the first one's brother, out for revenge) cuts Joe off as it bursts through the trees and goes for the raptors without breaking stride. In an instant, Joe and Linda leap into action, screeching and clawing in a frantic burst of action! And then, just as suddenly as it started, we:

SMASH TO BLACK.