

ANGLE ON BOX

Dennis just took David's photo with an old Polaroid camera.

23

INT. SOUND STAGE - NIGHT

AN ALIEN WARRIOR LIES WOUNDED IN AN ALIEN LANDSCAPE -- rocks, a crashed spacecraft (The Moon Racer), black backdrop.

The wounded Alien-- The Earl of Draconis-- is surrounded by a half dozen warriors.

THE EARL OF DRACONIS
My wound is deep. We must be at Zeptar by the fall of night.

DRACONIAN WARRIOR
That's impossible, my Lord. We have to make repairs to the ship or we'll never make it to Zeptar.

THE EARL OF DRACONIS
"Never?" If I say we'll make Zocor by the fall of night, then by...

BRAD (O.S.)

Cut!!

A BELL RINGS. We are on the set of a movie.

BRAD the British director - and boy, is he the director - swoops into the scene on a crane but stays in the bucket seat hovering over the set.

THE EARL OF DRACONIS
What's the problem?

BRAD
It's Zeptar. You said Zocor.

THE EARL OF DRACONIS
"Zocor?" Did I? What's that?

CREW MEMBER
I think it's an allergy medication.

Two make-up ladies scurry on the set, touch up the actors.

Another crew member, a female, pipes up.

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CREW MEMBER #2
No, it's for cholesterol. Or high
blood pressure.

The cast ARGUES about which it is.

BRAD
All right. Reset people. We're
going to go again. If I can stand
it.

24 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

REVEAL - The set, lights, cables and FILM CREW members
abound. Clapboards and other signs tell us this is the film
version of *DRACONIS*, David's book, a best seller along the
line of *DUNE*.

ANGLE ON DAVID

He is watching from the sidelines with his agent, JEFF.

DAVID
Where is the pathos? The Earl of
Draconis is dying, for God's sake;
this is a man who has fought his way
- as the emperor's sword - from one
end of the galaxy to the other!!
(snorts)
This is a brainless action movie,
and not even a good one.

JEFF
Well, bad brainless action movies
make a lot of money.

DAVID
Look at the set. That planet is
supposed to be a blue dwarf that
became a red giant on its way to
being a white dwarf.

Jeff takes David aside and speaks quietly.

JEFF
Okay, David, lighten up. You're
scaring me.

DAVID
I know, I scare myself.