

St Valentine and the Space Dragons

A screenplay by

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1. INT. MOONBASE EPSILON - CLASSROOM. DAY.

Teacher FATIMA (73) stands by the window staring unhappily up at the sky while her ethnically diverse 8 year-olds paint pictures of knights with heart-shaped shields fighting planet-eating dragons. Fatima turns to speak, her face alight. The Earth is visible behind her. Cold. Dead.

FATIMA

So why does St Valentine continue  
to fight for us?

The pupils wave their hands eagerly. Fatima points.

RENPA

Because her love is never ending.

FATIMA

Just so, Renpa! Never ending.

2. INT. MOONBASE EPSILON - CONTROL ROOM. DAY.

Commander PAPA DAN (64) and his uniformed colleagues watch the lesson on a screen. Impressed, he clicks the intercom.

PAPA DAN

Excellent, children! Your prayers  
will sharpen St Valentine's  
blade.

CHILDREN (AS ONE)(O.S.)

Thank you Papa Dan...

3. INT. MOONBASE EPSILON - DOCTOR'S SURGERY. DAY.

The DOCTOR sits grim-faced at his desk as Fatima studies the body scan, the mass of red dots populating her liver and lungs. She shakes her head, devastated.

4. INT. MOONBASE EPSILON - FATIMA'S ROOM. DAY.

Fatima sits hunched on the sofa wiping her damp, red eyes. Her son OSCAR (38), shocked and anxious, takes her hands.

OSCAR

Please don't do it.

FATIMA

I must. The kids have to know the  
truth.

OSCAR

But Papa Dan will cry treason.  
They'll kill you...Both of us.

Fatima studies her son's face before pulling him to her and embracing him fiercely.

5. INT. MOONBASE EPSILON - CLASSROOM. DAY.

Next day - The room is empty of furniture, curtains cover the window. The children, red hearts pinned to their chests, sit cross-legged on the floor.

FATIMA

It is time.

Her eyes ablaze, Fatima pulls back the curtains to reveal a black disc ringed by a halo of light: a total eclipse.

O.S. The sound of children's gasps, cries of 'Mother'.

FATIMA (SOOTHING)

Don't be afraid, there are no space dragons. There's no St Valentine either...

6. INT. MOONBASE EPSILON - CONTROL ROOM. DAY.

Papa Dan and the Control Room occupants are aghast.

FATIMA (O.S.)

...This is a perfectly natural occurrence caused by Mother passing in front of Big Bright...

O.S. The sound of the children whimpering and crying.

FATIMA (O.S.)

...We will never be returning to Mother Earth...

Papa Dan, outraged, leaps from his chair.

7. INT. MOONBASE EPSILON - AIR LOCK. DAY.

Fatima and OSCAR, dressed in orange jumpsuits, cling to one another. Fatima, ravaged by her disease, downcast by her failure, groans. OSCAR tries to console her.

OSCAR

The kids'll ask questions, Mama, they'll never be the same again. What you did was...

The lock clunks and the outer door slides open, slowly exposing the lunar landscape. Fatima smiles lovingly at her son and inhales deeply. OSCAR kisses her tenderly.

END