



WHY NOW?

Individuality is at the center of what it means to be an American. The right to be who we wish to be, to make our own choices and determine for ourselves what our lives will be. These are the freedoms that define our existence. In a word, Autonomy.

But we are living in a time when that identity is being threatened. Our autonomy is under attack. Not by tyrannical despots and authoritarian dictators who rule with an iron first, but by snake-tongued politicians who use our values against us. The rhetoric of control has become so polished, the machine so gargantuan and perfect, that our individuality is being eroded from within. Ideals of freedom are being invisibly supplanted with proud fealty. This is the war being waged for the soul of America, and it's happening right now.

Our film is the story of a man and woman, ripped from their docile existence by an act of violence that forcibly tears down the curtain of their perceptions, painfully exposing the vile, hidden truths in their everyday lives, and tasking them with fighting back.



THE WORLD

SACCOVENS live amongst us. They are our teachers, our doctors and our lawyers. Our politicians and our celebrities. An alien race whose emissary came to earth over 2,000 years ago and saved humanity from imminent self-destruction.

We repay the Saccovens by HOSTING. Adult Saccovens implant their fertilized egg sacs into human bodies. The sacs grow until they rupture and a Saccoven baby is born. The host families raise the Saccoven children until their teen years, when they leave and return to the Saccoven homeland. Hosting is an honor, and only a select few humans are chosen.

Our story takes place in a rural town in Indiana. About fifteen miles from Indianapolis, where an orbital elevator rises up above the clouds, allowing the Saccovens easy access to off-world transportation. The elevators looms over the town, a spire that extends beyond the clouds, a constant reminder of their superiority.

TANNER KEITH

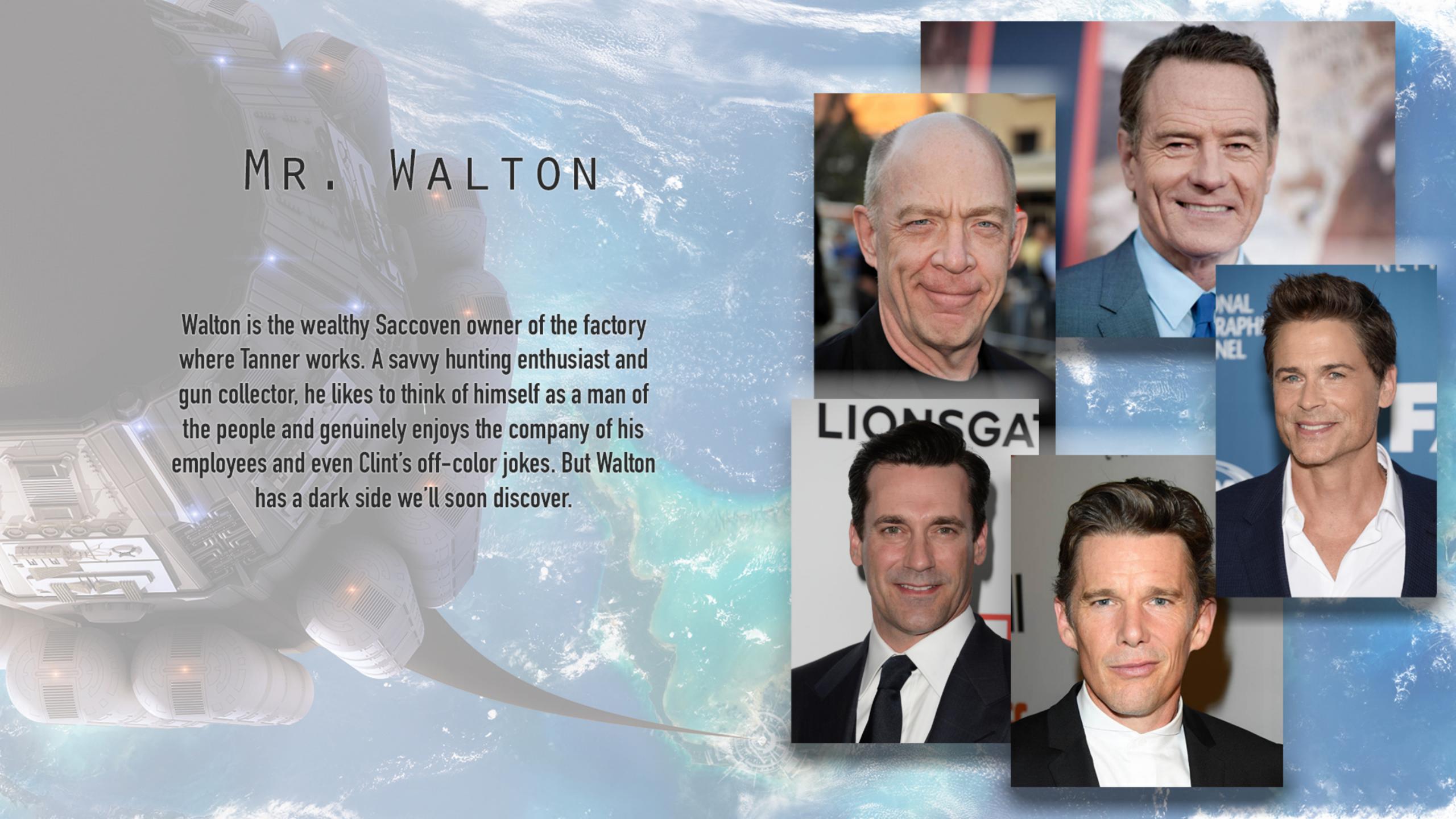
Tanner is a charming blue-collar guy. He was raised by a single dad in a trailer on the outskirts of town. He works in a factory making fuel cells for the alien ships, and his menial job is all that stands between him and his greatest desire — to become a host for a Saccoven child. He is madly in love with his wife Ava, and desperate to prove to her middle-class family that he's worthy of their daughter. Becoming a host will demonstrate his worthiness in the eyes of the church, the Saccoven Lord, and most importantly, to his in-laws.





AVA KEITH

Ava was raised middle class with a white picket fence, and her parents were hosts, meaning she grew up with a Saccoven sister who she remembers fondly. She has a brilliant mind and a good job as a nurse, and believes if she just works hard enough she'll get ahead but she's often frustrated by the ceiling on her success. In this world, humans rarely rise above her current station, and she wishes she could to do more at work. Ava loves Tanner because his rebellious, carefree attitude balances her conformity, but she sometimes fears they will never qualify to host a Saccoven child and have a perfect family like the one she grew up in.



SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

CLINT BAKER

Clint is a crude, self-described redneck. Tanner's friend since childhood and coworker at the factory. Clint goes to church, but he doesn't care much what society thinks of him, so he's baffled about why Tanner wants to be a host. He doesn't know why a man wants more than booze money, free time to hunt and fish, and a girlfriend who comes around every now and then. He already has all that, so what does he need a Saccoven baby for?

DARRYL NOLAN

Darryl is Tanner's manager at the factory, married fifteen years and blessed to be chosen as a host for his now 8-year old Saccoven son. He also has two human children, and has developed that middle-aged paunch that comes with a desk job. Darryl is what Tanner's future will look like if he gets everything he wants.

DOCTOR ANDREWS

Dr. Andrews is Ava's boss at the clinic, a friendly and jovial Saccoven who encourages Ava to learn and grow. He gives Ava the opportunity to assist him in surgery, and is delighted and impressed by her ability to pick up skills he would have thought only a Saccoven could master.

DOCTOR BARNES

Dr. Barnes is another doctor at Ava's clinic, who isn't shy about expressing his views that humans need to know their place and stay in it. He frowns upon the freedom that Dr. Andrews gives Ava, and is much stricter with his own surgical assistant, Bonnie.

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

MASON KEITH

Mason is Tanner's dad. He was always batshit crazy even when Tanner was a kid in the trailer park, but that was before Mason really lost his mind. Now he lives in the dementia home, but he swears he doesn't belong there. He spouts paranoid theories about the Saccovens, claiming they are lying about when they arrived and have only been on Earth for a decade. Tanner never got along great with his dad, and he avoids visiting Mason now. But after the attack, his dad is the only person Tanner can really confide in.

LORENE EWELL

Lorene is an outcast in the community, ever since her husband attempted an illegal extraction and died in the process. She still attends church, but nobody talks to her — the shame of her husband's choice follows her like a cloud.

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JoJo is what they call the woman who runs the illicit extraction clinic that operates out of a trailer outside of town. She lives off the grid, and sports the wild hair and wardrobe to prove it. But after performing dozens of illegal extractions, she has begun to uncover a secret about the Saccovens, but she needs medical records to prove it. So when she discovers Tanner's wife works at a clinic, she forces him to help her steal medical records that she claims will prove that Saccovens have been augmenting human memories.

FRANKLIN & BEVERLY
WILLIAMS

Franklin & Beverly are Ava's middle-class parents. They love the church and the Saccovens, and wish their daughter had chosen a partner more qualified to be a host, because hosting brought them so much happiness. When a rift opens between Ava and Tanner, Beverly and Frank don't encourage Ava to stand by her man. They want the best for her, and they don't believe Tanner is the best.

ACT I

Ava supervises an ordinary implantation at the clinic, jealously watching a happy couple become hosts. Tanner has a rough day at the factory when Walton drops by for a surprise check. After work, Tanner and Ava meet for an appointment — they are applying to become host parents. On their way, we see human families happily raising Saccoven children, and Saccovens living harmoniously among humans, under the shadow of the orbital elevator.

But Tanner and Ava's application to become hosts is denied — and the evaluator cites Tanner's job as the reason. They are devastated, and watching all the host parents being celebrated at Sunday's church service only rubs it in.

But then Walton invites Tanner on a hunting trip. He and Ava are overjoyed — Walton must be considering him for a promotion at the factory. But deep in the woods, Walton attacks Tanner and forcibly implants his parasitic offspring in Tanner's neck. Traumatized, Tanner returns home and hides the painful sac from Ava.

ACTII

Tanner's painful secret begins to wear on his marriage as he keeps the growing sac secret from Ava. When Tanner gets a promotion, Ava wants to celebrate and notices the sac — mystified why he wouldn't have told her. Tanner is celebrated as at church as an expecting dad, and fakes a smile through it all. But when Tanner loses it while shopping for a crib, Ava begins to suspect he wasn't implanted the usual way. When Tanner admits to her that Walton attacks him, Ava can't believe a Saccoven would do that.

Darryl brings his eight-year-old Saccoven son to work, and Tanner recognizes Walton's smile in the boy's face, triggering a flashback. He decides right then to remove the parasite. Ava tries to talk him out of it, but Tanner seeks out the whisper network that leads him to Jojo and her illicit extraction clinic.

Jojo asks Tanner to help her steal medical records from Ava's clinic — records that will prove Jojo's theory that the Saccovens are manipulating human memories. So Tanner swipes Ava's pass and breaks into the clinic to get the medical records for Jojo. Meanwhile, Ava tells her parents that she is concerned about what Tanner will do — and they report him to the authorities.

ACTIII

Tanner brings Jojo the medical records, and she puts him on the makeshift operating table to begin the extraction. Suddenly — A SWAT team RAIDS the extraction clinic, killing Jojo and her workers. Tanner escapes, grabbing the records as he leaves. At home, Tanner attempts to complete the extraction, but the pain overcomes him and he collapses.

Ava finds Tanner unconscious and bleeding out on the kitchen floor. She helps him finish the surgery, carefully cutting the parasite from his body without hurting him. But just then -- Walton shows up the house, threatening to re-implant Tanner with another parasite. Defending Tanner, Ava attacks Walton, bashing his head in with a baseball bat. Now outlaws with nowhere to turn, Ava and Tanner flee into the night.

One year later, Tanner and Ava are living in hiding, operating a road-side garden shop in rural Texas, when a man comes into the shop and pulls a gun. They think they've been caught, but the stranger reveals a sac on his neck, and pleads for help. They lead him to a back room, revealing a makeshift extraction clinic of their own — where they tell him what the medical records revealed — that the Saccovens manipulated human memories to make us believe they have been here for thousands of years and are a superior race, when really they arrived only fifteen years ago.

