

TERRAFORM

by: Jon Dunmore / Damon Pipitone © 2009.

Logline: It's your planet. Unless someone else wants it.

It's About: A civilization must terraform another planet to escape their global meltdown - but the mysterious "Minders in the Sky" have other ideas.

It's Like: INDEPENDENCE DAY meets AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH.

Synopsis:

Earth Time: 575,400 A.D.

They are The Minders. They have hovered in the skies since before anyone can remember; city-sized spaceships in the background of daily life. Neither friend nor foe, they are just... there.

In the far-flung future of TERRAFORM, a young scientist named Kavel discovers that the Minder ships are more than they appear – they are slowly destroying the atmosphere with their toxic emissions, pushing the planet towards environmental death.

Kavel advises the government that evacuation is the only survival option - find another planet to "terraform" (make it habitable for life), and construct massive biosphere spaceships to transport civilization to a new home.

However, not everyone is convinced the danger is real. The politics and bureaucracy of a planetwide exodus have the Terraforming Committee at odds, and saboteurs plan to ensure no one leaves the planet. The new Minder Cult is founded, believing the Minders to be beneficial to the planet. They are – but not in the way the cult thinks.

Time is running out. One day, for no discernible reason, the massive Minder ships move, and the fallout from their simple repositioning in the sky destroys half the planet. Atmospheric deterioration is making the water poisonous and the air unbreathable. Panic, chaos, the breakdown of government, the ascendance of religion, the treachery of politics.

Two stories intertwine: We see mysterious astronauts already in the process of terraforming, even as Kavel and his team of scientists discover a planet suitable to terraform, four light years away.

It is revealed our story takes place on a planet orbiting Alpha Centauri. And the planet Kavel discovers as the hope for civilization - is Earth. Abandoned by humans.

Where have Earth's humans gone? The answer lies with the mysterious astronauts in the skies of Kavel's planet, terraforming, tipping the environment in favor of their own race – humanity.

They are the Minders.

Commercial Viability:

Not only does TERRAFORM focus on an issue at the forefront of societal concern – mankind’s destruction of our environment – this speculative science-fiction mystery goes much further. What happens AFTER Earth’s environment has long passed the “tipping point” presaged by scientists like Carl Sagan, sociologists like R. Buckminster Fuller and politicians like Al Gore?

Within the dark cloud, the silver lining: TERRAFORM enters uncharted territory, speculating that the deadly Greenhouse Effect mankind unleashed in the 20th century might be exactly what an extraterrestrial race needs to survive.

Demographics

- Teen appeal
 - Action scenes involving spaceships and jets
 - A young hero and his girl
 - Blockbuster special effects

- Over-35 appeal
 - Plausible environmental science
 - Environmental message
 - Social issues, politics, religion, bureaucracy
 - An intelligent, controversial science mystery

- Appeals to fans of:
 - CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND
 - 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY
 - 2012
 - THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
 - SIGNS
 - MOON
 - INDEPENDENCE DAY
 - APOLLO 13
 - DISTRICT 9
 - PLANET 51
 - THE TWILIGHT ZONE