

A DA & EV

Written by

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Logline: When Evan and Amanda are trapped in the time before man, they must put their scientific and religious differences aside to survive the hostile environment before it kills them.

INT. CONFERENCE HALL - BACKSTAGE - DAY

EVAN PIERSON (40s), an anthropologist, prepares to take the stage. He's excited for this moment but keeps it cool.

COWORKER #1 announces through the stage speakers.

COWORKER #1 (O.C.)
Here to talk about his latest
discovery...

Evan starts walking on stage.

INT. CONFERENCE HALL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

On stage, COWORKERS #1, #2, AND #3 sit at a panel, looking professional. Above them, a slide reads "Anthropology Gathering".

COWORKER #1 (CONT'D)
...Professor Evan Pierson.

Evan walks out on stage. He's greeted by applause and hidden laughter.

The place is packed with ANTHROPOLOGY ENTHUSIASTS from different walks of life: not a single seat is empty.

Evan takes a seat and leans close to the microphone.

EVAN
It's Pierson. I'm honored to
present my findings from my recent
expedition in Africa.

The slide changes to an image of two sets of modern human hands imprinted on a dry mud wall. Above the hand prints reads "A DA AND EV".

EVAN (CONT'D)
These modern human hand prints were
uncovered in a shelter-like
structure. The volcanic material in
the soil around these prints dates
this structure back to 200,000
years ago, making these prints the
earliest sign of Modern Humans.

Polite applause warms Evan's smile.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Thank you. You may ask your
questions?

Members from the audience approach the microphone at the end of the center aisle. A lot of people line up, exciting Evan.

INT. CONFERENCE HALL - LATER

Only a FEW PEOPLE remain in line at the microphone. In the front stands PARTICIPANT #1. Evan eagerly finishes answering their question.

EVAN

As an open-minded individual, I believe in the possibility of earlier signs of modern humans yet to be discovered. For example-

COWORKER #2

We don't need any more examples. Unfortunately, we only have time for one more question.

Participant #1 walks away from the microphone satisfied. AMANDA (40s), dressed in a pink pantsuit, approaches the microphone. She's like a bundle of joy the way she smiles. A little nervous at the microphone, Amanda fiddles with her cross-necklace.

AMANDA

Hello, I'm Amanda. Remember?

EVAN

I don't know. There were many missionaries dressed in bright pink and stranded on the Savannah.

Amanda chuckles.

AMANDA

It might be my lack of dehydration that's throwing you off. I also looked into the Cardiff giant hoax you recommended. It's crazy how foolish people can get.

EVAN

Right? It's all because some atheist had to prove a reverend wrong.

COWORKER #3

Excuse me, but some of us have a lunch break to get to.

Coworkers #1, #2, and #3 scowl at Evan. Evan uncomfortably shifts in his chair.

AMANDA

Sorry, I'll bother you about that during lunch, if you don't mind.

EVAN

It's a date- not a date! More of a meeting. Uh, did you have any questions related to my discovery?

AMANDA

(laughing)

I was wondering what implications the Ada and Ev above the hand prints could have. Is it possible they could refer to Adam and Eve, suggesting their existence 200,000 years ago?

Evan chuckles.

EVAN

I needed that. What's your real question?

AMANDA

That was my real question, but now I wonder if you understand the meaning of being open-minded.

Evan's Coworkers snicker and elbow him. Evan grows slightly aggravated.

EVAN

Given the lack of evidence supporting the Bible, you can understand my doubts.

AMANDA

Heinrich Schliemann used the Iliad to find Troy. The Bible has the same potential. Unless you have a time machine, you can not know for sure.

Evan simmers in his chair.

COWORKER #1

Well, thank you for all your questions. This concludes our panel.

Evan's Coworkers walk off stage, jokingly patting Evan on the way out.

Evan approaches Amanda as she holds the door open for everyone and greets them as they leave. Amanda notices Evan as the last one and waves for him to leave first. Evan smiles and Amanda follows him out.

INT. EVAN'S LABORATORY - DAY

SUPER: "YEARS LATER"

It's a normal lab with tools and a workbench. There's also a massive sheet covering something shaped like an apple.

Besides it, Evan stands as a filthy mess of a human being. He's so proud of himself with his smirk. Amanda, neatly dressed and with her cross-necklace, doesn't notice as her eyes are shut closed.

AMANDA

I remember that day as if it were yesterday.

EVAN

Wonderful! Happy Anniversary!

Evan pulls off the sheet to reveal the Apple, a flying time machine shaped like an apple.

Amanda opens her eyes and gasps. She admires the contraption from every angle.

AMANDA

This could solve many problems, but you chose to investigate my Adam and Eve theory with your shelter? That's so sweet.

Amanda cheerfully hugs Evan.

EVAN

Please, the pleasure is all mine.

Evan opens the hatch door, and waves Amanda to board first. Amanda skips aboard and takes a seat. Evan takes the captain's chair.

The hatch door closes and the metal Apple powers up; it hovers off the ground a little.

Evan sets the coordinates onscreen to "Africa 200,000 yrs ago".

Evan checks the fuel gauge, which reads "6 jumps remaining". With one hand on the steering wheel, Evan presses a button next to it labeled "time jump". The Apple and all aboard it disappear in a flash.

EXT. AFRICAN SAVANNAH - DAY

SUPER: "Africa 200,000 yrs ago, after 5 jumps".

The Apple, driven by Evan, appears in the sky. It descends towards the ground and circles around a dirt patch. Evan looks angrily disappointed. He checks the fuel gauge, which now reads "1 jump remaining".

Amanda looks a little down, but she's quick to bring it back up. She tries to comfort Evan.

AMANDA

So, Adam and Eve were not here or in the previous times we checked. However, your discovery still proves they existed.

EVAN

My discovery proves modern humans existed roughly 200,000 years ago: not fanfiction of a higher being.

Amanda hurtfully fiddles with the cross on her necklace.

AMANDA

We had a couple of amazing years together. Do you really want to end our anniversary like this?

EVAN

No.

Amanda changes the coordinates on the screen to "USA, 200,000 yrs ahead".

AMANDA

Take me home.

Evan scowls at the coordinates. Suddenly, he slams on the pedal. The Apple lunges forward, knocking Amanda back in her seat.

Evan presses another button. The screen displays data from the ground penetration radar: nothing unusual shows up.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Evan, stop this or we're done.

EVAN

The search has only been a few hours. We can't be done yet.

Amanda looks ahead through the windshield; something frightens her.

It's a massive rock, and the Apple is speeding towards it.

AMANDA

Evan, look!

Evan continues looking down at the screen.

EVAN

I get there's nothing, but-

The Apple is about to smash into the rock when Amanda grabs the wheel and avoids it. Evan yanks the wheel back from her. The Apple jerks in Evan's direction and crashes into the rock.

EXT. AFRICAN SAVANNAH - APPLE - DAY

The broken Apple rolls to a stop nearby.

Wisps of smoke flee out the gaping hole in the Apple. Darkness obscures the Apple's interior.

Amanda pulls Evan out of the hole. Cuts and bruises cover them.

Amanda checks Evan's pulse. Evan awakes, coughing.

Amanda prays.

AMANDA

Dear father in heaven, thank you for your protection.

EVAN

It was my defensive driving that saved us.

Evan crawls back inside the Apple and rummages around.

AMANDA

Why now, of all times, do you want to fight?

Evan hits his head and YELLS.

EVAN (O.C.)
God damn it!

AMANDA
Don't use their name in vain.

EVAN (O.C.)
Now, who's the one fighting?

Frustrated, Amanda grabs the cross on her necklace and holds it close. Then, she notices the mud by a watering hole. Amanda has an idea.

INT. AFRICAN SAVANNAH - APPLE - DAY

CLICK, the cabin lights turn on, revealing Evan on the ground and pressing a button on the dashboard.

EVAN
That's better.

Evan crawls under the dashboard and grabs a tool kit. Evan assesses the hole in the Apple from the inside.

Evan grabs a nearby broken panel off the ground. He pulls out a drill from his tool kit and drills new holes in the panel.

INT. AFRICAN SAVANNAH - APPLE - LATER - NIGHT

The dark Savannah rests outside the windshield. Evan finishes patching the hole in the Apple.

Ecstatic, Evan takes the captain's chair and presses the engine button. The engine does not start. Frustrated, he checks the fuel gauge; the meter reads "1 jump left".

Evan pulls off the dashboard to reveal the electrical components. The main wire smokes.

Evan turns off the engine and searches his toolbox to find nothing useful. He leaves the hatch.

EXT. AFRICAN SAVANNAH - APPLE - NIGHT

Evan scavenges the ground. He throws a useless rock behind him.

AMANDA (O.C.)
OW!

The rock flies back and hits Evan in the head. Evan looks in the direction the rock came and finds...

EXT. AFRICAN SAVANNAH - MUD SHELTER - NIGHT

Near a watering hole rests the beginnings of a muddy shelter. There's no ceiling since the walls are halfway done.

Evan rushes to the mud shelter and begins smashing it. Amanda jolts up from behind the shelter wall and pushes Evan away from it. Amanda, covered in mud, is furious.

AMANDA

I spent all day on that.

EVAN

That's nothing compared to the years I've spent peeling back layers of earth with nothing but brushes to find a shelter. It's the pinnacle of my research, and I can not have you ruin history by creating another shelter that predates actual modern humans!

AMANDA

I wasn't trying to undermine your work. I was-

EVAN

First, you claimed my shelter was made by Adam and Eve and then this!

Evan kicks the muddy remains of Amanda's shelter. The mud hits Amanda in the face. She stiffens up and fiddles with her necklace.

AMANDA

I'm giving you one last chance to say the right thing.

Evan notices the necklace glimmer in the moonlight; he grabs it while it's still around Amanda's neck.

EVAN

Is this real gold?

AMANDA

Unbelievable.

Amanda tries to walk away. Evan grabs a rock and pulls Amanda back by her necklace. He scratches it with the rock. He's excited by the golden scratch in the cross.

EVAN
This is our ticket out.

AMANDA
It's all I have left of my family.

EVAN
You have me.

Evan reaches to undo the chain. Amanda grabs his hand and glares at him.

AMANDA
No, I don't. I'm done waiting.

Evan regretfully pulls his hand back.

Amanda walks back "inside" her destroyed shelter. Evan waits outside.

EVAN
Amanda, I'm sorry. At least give me the necklace to bring you home.

AMANDA
You mean to bring yourself home so you can boast to your stuck-up friends about how you built a time machine to help your ex-girlfriend realize what a fool she's been.

Amanda sits in her destroyed shelter. She cries in her knees. Evan watches with guilt.

EVAN
Remember the story about the Cardiff Giant hoax?

AMANDA
An atheist wanted to prove to a reverend how ridiculous religion was. So he created an elaborate scheme to build a fake giant. Sound familiar?

EVAN
Maybe that atheist was someone who work hard everyday, but the reverend made him feel like a mere spec of insignificance. So, the atheist built the giant to prove that out of all the humans that came before him, he's one of the few that matters.

AMANDA
That's far-fetched.

EVAN
But it feels close to home.

Evan looks down on himself. Amanda notices.

Amanda grabs her necklace and sighs. She removes her cross-necklace and hands it to Evan.

Evan takes the cross-necklace and smiles.

AMANDA
Go.

EVAN
Thank you.

Evan readies to hurry back to the Apple, but notices Amanda is still sitting.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Are you coming with?

AMANDA
Just go.

Evan's smile fades away. He sorrowfully returns back to the Apple.

INT. AFRICAN SAVANNAH - APPLE - NIGHT

Evan crawls under the dashboard and replaces the fried wire with the necklace. He presses the on button, and the engine RUMBLES. The machine takes flight, but it doesn't make Evan happy. He sits there sad and alone.

EXT. AFRICAN SAVANNAH - DESTROYED MUD SHELTER - NIGHT

Amanda cries in the remains of her shelter. Suddenly, she hears a BRUSH in the tall grass behind her. She turns to find a sabretooth tiger stalking her. Amanda runs.

INTERCUT - INT./EXT. APPLE

Evan hears Amanda's SCREAM and glances down. He sees her being chased by the sabretooth tiger. Evan flies the Apple after them.

Evan tries to catch up to Amanda, but she falls into a pit. It's too narrow for Evan to follow in the Apple.

The sabretooth tiger looms over the pit's edge; it hungrily glares at Amanda.

Amanda looks for a way out but there isn't one.

Evan HONKS the Apple's horn but it doesn't distract the sabretooth tiger. Evan's eyes dart between Amanda and the time jump meter. The meter reads, "1 jump left". He can't decide.

The sabretooth tiger is ready to pounce. Amanda throws a rock at it. It makes the sabretooth angrier. The sabretooth suddenly lunges at Amanda. Amanda SCREAMS.

Evan rams the Apple into the Sabretooth tiger and crashes into the ground.

Amanda crawls out of the pit and rushes to the crash site.

END INTERCUT.

EXT. AFRICAN SAVANNAH - CRASH SITE - NIGHT

The Apple looks a million times worse than it did before. It's ripped to shreds, smoking, and covered in blood. Parts of the Apple squish the sabretooth's corpse.

Amanda rushes towards the crash and searches it. She finds Evan under a pile of debris and pulls him out. He's beaten badly but manages to hand something to Amanda. It's her necklace.

Amanda accepts the necklace.

AMANDA

Thank you.

EVAN

Sorry. You deserve more than that.

AMANDA

Like a boyfriend who won't let my religion or his work get in the way of them.

EVAN

And something greater.

Amanda questionably looks at Evan.

TIME LAPSE

-- From the ground up, Amanda and Evan build a shelter out of mud.

--Amanda and Evan mark their handprints in their finished shelter. They write "AMANDA AND EVAN" above the handprints.

--"AMANDA AND EVAN" withers into "A DA AND EV" as night and day flash by and a prehistoric modern human community forms around the shelter.

--The community withers away at the force of wind and erosion.

--Layers of dirt cover the remains of the shelter.

END TIME LAPSE

INT. MUSEUM - CAVE MAN EXHIBIT - DAY

It looks like a normal museum exhibit with recreations of prehistoric life for humans accompanied by plaques. In the middle of the room lies a special exhibit: a dry, muddy wall that reads "A DA and EV" above two sets of hand prints. A plaque below reads, "The earliest sign of modern humans discovered by Evan and Amanda Penison."