ENTERTAINMENT

"Skeleton" gets lost in camp and irony

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Absolute horror! Unrelenting terror! Not since "Plan 9 From Outer Space" has there been a B-rate movie of such epic proportions as... "The Lost Skeleton of Cadavera"!

If your movie interests are anything like mine, then you're well educated in horrible '50s gems like "Manos: The Hands of Fate," "Bride of The Monster," "The Creeping Terror" and yes, "The Incredibly Strange Creatures Who Stopped Living and Became Mixed-Up Zombies." If you're a fan of "Mystery Science Theater 3000," if you know the names Roger Corman and Ed Wood and if you know what a Geiger counter is, then, my friend, you will absolutely love "Lost Skeleton."

Made in 2004 but set in 1961, the movie is entirely in black and white. It begins with Dr. Paul Armstrong (Larry Blamire), a scientist, and his drippy wife Betty (Fay Masterson) as they drive through the mountains to a cabin they've rented. But this is no happy vacation! Dr. Armstrong is searching for a meteor that fell in the nearby woods, suspected to contain the rare and powerful element atmosphereum. Meanwhile, in the same spooky woods, another scientist by the name of Dr. Roger Fleming (Brian Howe) is searching

for the legendary Cadavera Cave in the hopes of finding the Lost Skeleton.

In the evening, both the Armstrongs and Dr. Fleming observe in the

sky another falling meteor - or so they think! Moments later, a farmer (Robert Deveau) is horribly mutilated by a mysterious beast. The second meteor is, in reality, a pair

of aliens in a spaceship. Kro-Bar (Andrew Parks) and Lattis (Susan McConnell), who have become run out of the fuel that powers their

stranded on Earth because they have

ship - fuel that just happens to be atmosphereum. The ship's pet mutant (Darren Reed) escapes from its cage during the crash.

The next day, Dr. Roger Fleming

finds and enters Cadavra Cave, at last locates the illusive Lost Skeleton. The Skeleton commands Fleming to locate atmosphereum to return him to life. Meanwhile, Dr. Armstrong and Betty adventure into the woods, finally discovering the meteor just outside Cadavra Cave. Dr. Fleming overhears them, and begins to plot a sinister plan to steal the meteor. Kro-Bar and Lattis journey into the woods, locating the cabin containing the meteor. Using a device called the "transmutatron," they disguise themselves to look exactly like humans and clumsily manage to talk their way inside the cabin, being mistaken for the property owners. Not long after they arrive, Dr. Fleming discovers the aliens' transmutatron, left outside the cabin since it would ruin their disguise. He uses it to create an ally for himself, arguably

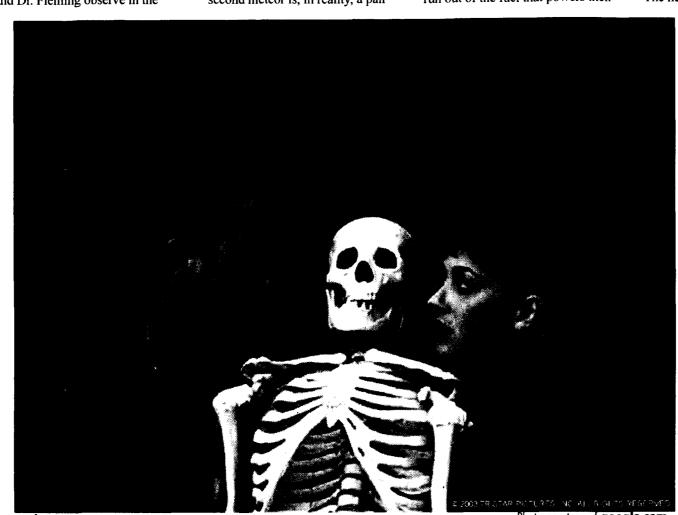
the most loveable character in the film, the alluring, cat-like Animala (Jennifer Blaire), created from four different forest animals. After briefly teaching Animala the basics of human interaction, he leads her to the cabin and convinces the Armstrongs to invite him inside.

Soon it becomes clear to Lattis and Kro-Bar that Fleming knows their secret. They soon ally to steal the meteor, after Betty is mentally attacked by the Skeleton and Dr. Armstrong is entranced by Animala's dancing. The evil scientist has tricked the pair, however, and the Skeleton uses his mind powers to freeze the aliens in place once Dr. Fleming has the meteor.

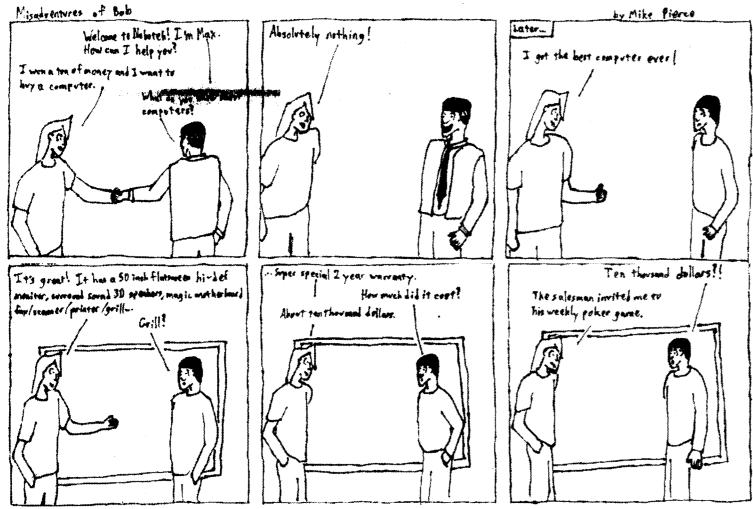
Dr. Fleming and Animala soon use the atmosphereum to resurrect the Skeleton, who arises and leads them on the path to world domination. Meanwhile, Betty encounters the Mutant, faints and is carried, as is inevitable with all female-monster interactions.

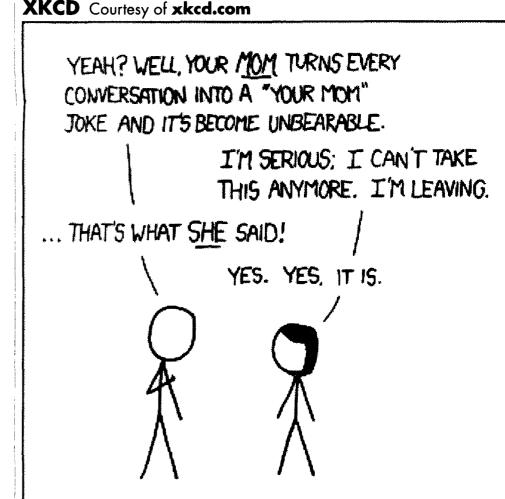
The movie ends up in a final dramatic battle between the Skeleton and the Mutant. Horror! Absolute

"The Lost Skeleton of Cadavera" is a '50s movie made 50 years after the '50s, and it has it all: science, aliens, mutants, the undead and radioactivity. The Skeleton commands you to see "The Lost Skeleton of Cadavera" - but only if you're brave enough!



Larry Blamire (left) and Faye Masterson in a frighening scene from the purposefully-B-movie "The Lost Skeleton of Cadaver". The film, written by Blamire, was produced on a budget of less than \$100,000.





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