

SCRIPT TITLE

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THE MOON TRILOGY - Miniseries Show Bible

THEME: Love conquers hate.

LOGLINE: Julian wants to free dystopian America from alien invaders, but discovers he must first learn to love his enemy.

TAGLINE: If past is prologue, then the future can be changed.

In the 25th century, young Julian 20th lives in a parched wasteland and dreams of reclaiming the lush country that was taken from his people by the hated Kalkars, alien oppressors who for centuries have brought ruin upon what was once America. Julian's father has had strange visions about past lives, which he does not relate to his son until the son himself begins to have "dreams that are not dreams". When the Kalkars kill his father, 21-year old Julian must take up his father's cause and lead the Desert Yanks against the Kalkars in a final throw of the dice. In a massive battle, Julian is taken captive by the Kalkars. Awaiting a death sentence, he discovers that his fellow prisoner is a beautiful young woman who harbors a dark secret about her past as well as his own. He also discovers that his strange visions continue...what will Julian's "dreams that are not dreams" reveal about his other lives - and how will a dark truth about the young woman's past prove critical to their mutual future?

The goals for this 8-part miniseries were to combine the most intriguing elements of a century-old Edgar Rice Burroughs science fiction adventure trilogy - reincarnation, a future that begs to be changed for the better, and a protagonist on a path of learning how hate, revenge and love interact across the generations - into a compelling story, complete with hooks which introduce the opportunity for standalone prequel- or sequel series: how do Juana St. John and Nah-ee-lah survive the Kalkars? Does Julian 21st begin to build a new future Earth? Features of note are a dystopian, ruined America, alien space invaders from the Inner Moon, strange technologies, cannibalistic quadrupeds, flying wings, disintegration rays, past and future incarnations and a healthy disregard for space and time.

Character Profiles:

Main -

Julian 20th - (1,2,8): A young "Desert Yank" with a dual mission: to defeat a hated enemy once and for all in and around Los Angeles, and to discover what his "dreams that are not dreams" can tell him about his own past - and his future. He lives in the 25th century.

Julian 9th - (3,4): Crushed by alien Kalkars in the destroyed suburbs of Chicago, he begins the revolution to reclaim his country from the hated oppressors. He lives in the 22nd century.

Julian 5th - (1,5,6,7,8): Detoured to the surface of the Inner Moon while on a mission to Mars, he discovers love while feeling the full measure of hatred from an ever-present evil bent upon revenge. He lives in the 21st century.

Bethelda - (1,2,8): Eventual wife of Julian 20th and mother of his son, she hides the fact from him that she is descended from the evil Orthos until it's almost too late.

Juana St. John - (1, 3,4): The daughter of missionaries slain by the Kalkars, she becomes the wife of Julian 9th and survives his revolution.

Nah-ee-lah - (6,7,8): The "Moon Maid", a princess of the Inner Moon who loses her city but finds love with Julian 5th, and becomes the mother of his son. She survives Orthos' invasion of Earth.

Orthos - (1,5,6,8): Originally an Air Fleet officer and member of the USS Barsom crew, this technically brilliant yet insanely jealous individual is on a personal mission to ruin Julian in whichever incarnation he encounters him.

Secondary -

Julian 3rd (1,2,4,8): A key "storyteller" who recalls both past and future lives (though not all of them; he is unaware of Julian 20th) and relates these to writer "Mr. Burroughs" in 1969; Julian 20th becomes aware of this incrementally when he has visions in the 25th century which he calls "dreams that are not dreams", finally "knowing everything" when Julian 3rd relates his lives as Julian 5th and Julian 9th to Mr. Burroughs. In effect, with his "dreams that are not dreams," Julian 20th relives the past and future lives of Julian 3rd.

Edgar Rice Burroughs (1,2,4,8): See above; after a chance meeting with Julian 3rd in 1967, Burroughs becomes the recipient of Julian 3rd's past and future life stories in 1969. Julian 3rd hopes that Burroughs, as a writer, will put the stories down on paper for future generations in order to avert the coming catastrophe to Earth through invasion by the Kalkars, even though he knows an alteration of history might result in his own future non-existence.

Julian 20th's Mother (1,2): A blind mystic, possibly of native American origin, she aids her son Julian 20th in his mission to destroy the Kalkars following the death of his father.

The Wolf (1,2): Native American female leader of Desert Yank clans. She is resourceful, fiery, and clever.

The Vulture (1,2): African American male leader of Desert Yank clans. He is cautious, and dubious of risk taking.

The Rattlesnake (1,2): Latinx male leader of Desert Yank clans. He's a questioner, quick to dispute statements of others.

False Or-tis (1,2): Capturer of Julian 20th near Los Angeles and desirous of Bethelda. By allowing them to escape he pays with his life.

Saku (2): This little sallow-faced leader of the forest Nipons is a fierce hater of the Kalkars north of the Los Angeles area.

Raban (2): A giant Kalkar living north of the Los Angeles area with whom Julian 20th and Bethelda are destined to have a final reckoning.

Tav: (1,2): Kalkar pursuer of Julian 20th and Bethelda and ravager of the Nipons in the northern Los Angeles area, he meets a commensurate fate.

Jim Thompson and Mollie Sheehan (3,4): Loyal friends of Julian 8th and Elizabeth James, they join Julian 9th's ill-fated revolt in the Chicago suburbs against their Kalkar oppressors.

Elizabeth James (3,4): Wife of Julian 8th, mother of Julian 9th. A religious person oppressed by Or-tis and his Kalkars in the Chicago suburbs, she dies in defense of her daughter-in-law.

Moses Samuels (3,4): Master of religious ceremonies along with Orrin Colby in the Chicago suburbs, his death (among that of others) imparts the need for revenge in Julian 9th and helps ignite a revolution.

Orrin Colby (3,4): African American pastor, master of religious ceremonies with a great singing voice and a member of the revolutionary resistance of Chicago against the Kalkars.

Pav (3,4): Kalkar horse trader in Chicago suburbs, married to a Yank wife whom he oppresses. He ends up getting the "short end of the stick", however.

Pav's Wife (3,4): See above. Julian 9th saves her child and earns her eternal gratitude; she later joins his Chicago revolt.

Soor (3,4): Kalkar Guard leader and Or-tis protégé in Chicago, he spies on the family of Julian 8th and is a central figure in the death of Moses Samuels. He becomes an early casualty in Julian's revolt.

Or-tis (3,4): Kalkar Guard commander in Chicago, a descendant of the original Orthis and thoroughly as despicable. He covets Juana St. John and is responsible for the death of Elizabeth James; his first and final mistakes.

West (5,6,7,8): Young Lieutenant (eventually a Captain), part of the original crew of the USS Barsoom on its mission to Mars (detoured to the Inner Moon). An emulator of his hero Julian 5th, he Captain's the fleet's ill-fated flagship when Orthis seeks final revenge against Julian.

Jay (5,6,7,8): Young Asian American Lieutenant and member of USS Barsoom crew; a communications specialist who becomes a Commander and spots the Kalkar invasion fleet headed for Earth. Presumably dies when Washington HQ is disintegrated by Orthis' "secret weapon".

Norton (5,6,7,8): Young British Air Fleet Ensign and member of USS Barsoom crew, an admirer of Orthis' scientific expertise, Norton manages to not only repair the Barsoom after Orthis sabotages the engines, allowing the craft to return to Earth, but as a Lieutenant Commander also devises a special painted-on coating that (at least momentarily) protects Julian 5th's flagship. He presumably dies when Washington HQ is disintegrated by Orthis' "secret weapon".

Peace Fleet Admiral (5,8): Provider of "back story", overall commander on Earth for the USS Barsoom mission and Earth's Air Fleet defenses against the Kalkar invasion. He presumably dies when Washington HQ is disintegrated by Orthis' "secret weapon".

Moh-Goh (7,8): Jemadar (King's) Guard commander, City of Laythe, Va-nah (Inner Moon). He and Julian 5th meet as captives in a Kalkar city; he provides instrumental "back story" and they contrive to escape using flying wings. Back in Laythe, he is Julian 5th's mentor and commander in the guard. He defends his city with his life when Kalkars led by Orthis invade.

Ko-tah (7,8): Vice-Ruler of Laythe; an ambitious person who is willing to commit treason in order to gain sole power over the city.

Sagroth (7,8): Aging Jemadar (King) of Laythe and father of Princess Nah-ee-lah; he tells Julian 5th to escape with his daughter when the city is about to be destroyed.

Gapth (6,7): Kalkar who captures Julian 5th and who is later thrown into a lunar crater by him.

Mo-vah-na (6): A female Va-gas (Inner Moon quadruped) with the rare gift of empathy; she befriends Julian 5th, teaches him the language and aids in his escape with Princess Nah-ee-lah.

Ga-va-go (6): A male Va-gas (Inner Moon quadruped) and chief of the No-van tribe; an albino and particularly cruel example of a cruel species, he initially captures Julian 5th and Orthos but spares them when Orthos promises to lead his tribe to all the flesh they can eat (the Va-gas are cannibalistic, perpetually starving flesh eaters).

Julian 1st (1): The "original Julian" (i.e., the first life Julian 3rd recalls), a young officer who dies in 1918 in WWI. Owner of the original Old Glory flag handed down by generations of Julians all the way to Julian 20th. He appears only once, in a "dream that is not a dream" as experienced by Julian 20th in his initial experience with re-living a past life.

Julian 6th (8): The young 8-year old son of Julian 5th and Nah-ee-lah; he escapes the initial Kalkar invasion by fleeing with his mother to Oak Park, Illinois.

Julian 8th (3,4): Father of Julian 9th and a chief participant in the revolt led by his son against the Kalkars in Chicago.

Julian 19th (1): Father of Julian 20th and a fierce hater of the Kalkars; his fondest wish is to "drive them into the sea"; felled by a Kalkar crossbow bolt early in the story of Julian 20th.

Episode Synopses:

#1 - Pilot: the 25th century. With their enemies the Kalkars left only in possession of parts of California, "Desert Yank" Julian 20th and his father plan to drive them into the sea and achieve a long-awaited final victory the coming spring. Julian 20th begins to have "dreams that are not dreams"; his father tells him he has had these, as well, and will tell his son more when they return from their scouting mission, but Julian 19th is killed by Kalkars. Rallying the Desert Yanks around an ancient American flag simply called "The Flag" passed down by his father, spiritually aided by his blind mother and materially aided by diverse clan leaders like The Wolf, The Vulture and The Rattlesnake, Julian 20th leads the Desert Yanks in leaving the desert and crossing mountains to take the Kalkars by surprise. A monumental battle ensues, but just when victory seems assured Julian 20th is knocked senseless and taken captive; he finds himself in the destroyed Kalkar capital (Los Angeles) and hauled in front of False Or-tis, who demands his total surrender. Refusing, Julian is sentenced to death in the morning but when placed in an upper story room to await execution he meets an intrepid young woman named Bethelda who is also being held captive.

#2 - After assuring Julian she isn't a hated Kalkar, Bethelda helps Julian to escape from the building. They steal two horses and gallop away with Tav and his Kalkar henchmen in pursuit. Julian wants to return to the Desert Yanks, so Bethelda introduces him to Saku, who knows the trails and agrees to guide Julian eastward. Knowing she is growing fond of Julian, Bethelda tearfully admits to him that Orthhis, the original Kalkar leader, is her ancestor; this upsets him greatly because he is also starting to like her. Julian leaves Bethelda with Saku while he hunts a stag to feed Saku's hungry people; on returning he discovers Tav has raided Saku's camp and taken Bethelda captive. Saku tells Julian where to pursue Tav and his men but warns Julian about a giant Kalkar named Raban who lives nearby. Overnight Julian has another vision in which he sees the original Orthhis sabotaging his ancestor Julian 5th's spacecraft. Catching up to Tav, Julian kills him upon learning Raban has taken Bethelda prisoner. Julian tries to rescue Bethelda from Raban only to have the tables turned; he is about to be killed when Bethelda shoots Raban with a crossbow bolt, killing the giant. The Desert Yanks, who have been searching for Julian, show up and all celebrate their decisive victory over the Kalkars. Julian 20th and Bethelda marry, but she is still plagued by guilt and wants to tell him about a greater crime committed by her ancestor Orthhis. When she starts to tell Julian, he nods off to sleep and in a vision he relives the lives of his ancestors Julian 9th and Julian 5th, as related by Julian 3rd to Edgar Rice Burroughs. Episodes 3 through 8 cover those stories.

Note: it is recommended that the same actor portray Julian 3rd, Julian 5th, Julian 9th and Julian 20th. He will range in age from 21 to 45 years; Julian 3rd and 5th have tawny blonde hair while Julian 9th and 20th have dark hair. Of course, clothing and hair length vary wildly.

#3 - Chicago area, 22nd century: 20-year-old Julian 9th lives with his parents in a thatched roof cottage, tending goats which he takes to market, scratching out a bare existence as does every American under the heel of the Kalkar invaders. Julian's father reveals he's hiding an ancient American flag, banned by the Kalkars, but he is seen by Soor who reports it to local commander Or-tis, a descendant of the original Orthos. Julian 9th rescues Juana St. John from a pack of wild dogs, and the pair is attracted one another; Juana, whose parents were killed by Kalkars, moves in with neighbors Jim and Mollie. Julian 9th saves a little girl at the local market by hauling down a charging bull; this is witnessed by Soor and Or-tis, who offers Julian a posting to the Kalkar guard which he contemptuously refuses. Or-tis and Soor search the Julian house for the banned flag, but cannot locate it. While at the house Or-tis sees Juana and immediately desires her. Julian 9th proposes to Juana, who accepts. Moses Samuels and Orrin Colby officiate at a banned marriage ceremony for the couple in a hidden church. Intending to become a horse breeder, Julian 9th breaks a wild stallion by "whispering" it tame; en route homeward he discovers Moses Samuels has been killed by Kalkar Soor.

#4 - Julian 9th arrives home to find his father has been arrested by Or-tis and Soor. Knowing his father will be sentenced to death or life in the mines, he decides to free his father and start a revolution. At night, Julian 9th visits the compound where his father and Orrin Colby are being held. He decides to gather Jim and others and free his father when the prisoners are marched to the mines the next day. When Kalkar guards notice Julian 9th and fire at him, he kills a guard and leaps into the river, swimming away from danger. Leaving his mother and Juana at the site of the hidden church, Julian 9th, Jim and Mollie ambush the prisoner column, freeing Julian's father and Orrin Colby. Julian 9th kills Soor in revenge for Moses Samuels. The freed prisoners join the revolution and, led by Julian 9th waving The Flag, the Yank column heads for the market and Chicago beyond. When Julian 9th and his father detour to check on his mother and Juana, they find his mother dying and Juana taken captive by Or-tis. Rejoining the Yank column, they wreak their revenge on the Kalkars, making it into the heart of Chicago before Kalkar reinforcements from Washington stop them. Julian 9th kills Or-tis and frees Juana, who escapes the city on his stallion. In a final battle, all are killed except Julian 9th, who is taken prisoner. He is executed the next day.

Flash to Julian 3rd in 1969: he tells Mr. Burroughs he remembers nothing else of the life of Julian 9th, which has ended with his death. Mr. Burroughs reminds Julian 3rd that he mentioned remembering yet another life. Julian 3rd agrees, and begins to tell Mr. Burroughs the story of Julian 5th.

#5 - 2026: Mankind's first mission to Mars runs into serious problems when Commander Orthis, drinking heavily and insanely jealous of mission leader Captain Julian 5th, sabotages the engines and buoyancy tanks of the USS Barsoom, sending the spacecraft spiraling toward the surface of the Moon. Guiding the Barsoom into a deep lunar crater to avoid crashing, the crew is stunned to discover a world inside the Moon, complete with strange creatures, perpetual light and no means of returning home. Scouting outside the ship, Julian 5th and Orthis are attacked by savage, human-like quadrupeds and captured. The young crew of the Barsoom (West, Jay and Norton) set out in the spacecraft in search of the missing pair. A scientific wunderkind, Norton vows to repair the damage done to the Barsoom by Orthis.

#6 - 2026: Held captive by cannibalistic quadrupeds whose leader Ga-va-go appears to be curious about the pistol Julian 5th used to kill several of their number, Julian 5th and Orthis are taught the universal Inner Moon language by Mo-vah-na, a female quadruped with a rare streak of empathy who is a captive herself. When a young, beautiful human woman using artificial wings is also captured by the quadrupeds, both Julian and Orthis are attracted to Nah-ee-lah the "Moon Maid", who is a princess in her own city of Laythe. Orthis ingratiates himself with the quadruped chieftain, promising him weapons and an endless supply of flesh (presumably on Earth). As his power grows Orthis decides to take Nah-ee-lah for himself. During a severe storm and with the quadrupeds cowering in fear, Julian rescues Nah-ee-lah and strikes down Orthis; with the help of Mo-vah-na Julian 5th and Nah-ee-lah escape and head into the mountains toward her home city. Mo-vah-na takes her leave of the pair in search of her own tribe, and Julian and Nah-ee-lah form a bond during deep conversations and when he kills a strange creature intent on eating them both. Thinking she has discovered the entrance to her city nestled under the rim of a crater, Nah-ee-lah leads Julian 5th into a tunnel that turns out to be that of a Kalkar city. Upon being discovered, they attempt to flee. Close to capture, they vow deep affection for each other. Nah-ee-lah escapes, but Julian is captured by the Kalkars. Back on the USS Barsoom, young Norton discovers a means of replenishing the buoyancy tanks; the bad news is that it will possibly take years to restore full capacity.

#7 - 2026-2030: A captive in a Kalkar city, Julian 5th meets fellow prisoner Moh-goh, commander of the Jemadar's (King's) Guard in his native city of Laythe, also the home of Princess Nah-ee-lah. After providing important back story about how civilization rose in Va-nah (the Inner Moon) and eventually fell because of the power lust and laziness of the Kalkars, Moh-goh is convinced by Julian 5th that escape is a possibility if they can steal two sets of flying wings from the Kalkars. This they accomplish, and head for Laythe via the air. Reaching Laythe, Moh-goh appoints Julian 5th his co-commander in the Guard; Julian 5th also discovers Laythe is torn by factional strife and is not the "shining city on the hill" described by both Nah-ee-lah and Moh-goh. Julian also feels guilty because he thinks his crew is looking for him (they are) but he is becoming accustomed to his new life. When he finally meets Nah-ee-lah again Julian is stunned when she ignores him, acting as if they don't know one another. On the USS Barsoom, with the ship repaired the crew notes four years have passed; it's time to head home. They institute one final search for their Captain.

#8 - 2030-2045: On guard detail within the palace of Sagroth, Nah-ee-lah's father and ruler of Laythe, Julian 5th sees Sagroth's rival Ko-tah (who wants to wed the princess to solidify his power) talking secretly with Kalkars, who are Laythe's mortal enemies. Further spying allows Julian to ascertain that the Kalkars plan to attack the city, aided by an ambitious new ruler from another world who has armed them with dangerous new weapons: Orthis. To forestall this, Ko-tah plans to attack Sagroth first, becoming ruler himself. Julian reports this to Moh-goh, and the palace and city defenses are prepared. Ko-tah attacks from within at the same time the Kalkars, aided by hand-held self-detonating explosive devices, attack from outside. Defending the throne room and attacked by assassins, Sagroth tells Julian to escape with Nah-ee-lah using wings; then he dies. Nah-ee-lah apologizes to Julian, saying she was trying to protect him from Ko-tah. Moh-goh kills Ko-tah, then dies himself in an explosion. Finding only one pair of wings usable, Julian and Nah-ee-lah are preparing to die in Laythe when the USS Barsoom appears. Throwing a line down to the pair, Nah-ee-lah clings to Julian's neck while he climbs the rope to safety. Orthis appears, vowing revenge on Julian and promising to take Nah-ee-lah for himself. Laythe is destroyed by Orthis. The Barsoom returns to Earth, which Julian finds is completely unprepared for an attack. Within two years, he is forced into retirement. In 2045, Orthis invades Earth with an overwhelming force of Kalkars and a secret weapon: a ray which disintegrates different types of solid matter. Paris and London fall; Julian 5th only has six battle cruisers to defend Washington. Norton devises a special paint that will deflect Orthis' disintegrating ray. In a final aerial confrontation, Julian 5th frustrates Orthis once again when the ray fails to work; before his ship explodes Orthis presses a destruct button and both his and Julian's ships are consumed in the ensuing explosion.

Flash to Julian 3rd, who has concluded the retelling of his future lives to Mr. Burroughs. He begs the writer to tell the story in the hope that future generations will read it and act upon it to escape the coming catastrophic future of Earth. When Burroughs points out this might mean Julian himself will not exist in the future, Julian says he's "willing to take that chance".

Flash forward to Julian 20th, who is now wide awake and back on the 25th century beach with Bethelda. He has seen and now knows all, and he knows that even though Julian 3rd could not see as far ahead as the 25th century he, Julian 20th, has been able to look back into time. He knows he cannot change past events, but he also knows he loves Bethelda - and with that love the ages-old feud between Julian and Orthis is over. Bethelda tries to tell him the worst crime of Orthis - that Orthis brought the Kalkars to Earth - but Julian 20th shrugs it off. He simply asks that they ride together into a new future. And this they do.

