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Zombies Of The Stratosphere (Cheezy Flicks)

By: Paul Autry

167 minutes of old school science fiction from the 1950's. That's what we have here. In all honesty, it's pretty lame. But, some people, myself included, enjoy a bit of cheese from time to time and, if you happen to view this release knowing that's it's going to be bad in a "Plan 9 From OuterSpace" way, well, at least you'll get a little pleasure out of it. I almost made it through all 12 chapters in one sitting. It was too much of the same thing over and over again (which I'll get into in a moment) and I finally had to turn it off and take a break after chapter nine. I finished it off the next day. Chapter 10 was a re-cap episode and the final two, well, it was pretty much the same as the first nine chapters. The whole plot of this movie...well...serial as they were called back then...because it was shown one episode (chapter) at a time, which was a good way to make sure you kept goin' back to the movies. Anyway, you've got this dude from Mars (not actually a zombie) who has a plan to build a bomb to knock Earth out of orbit so that Mars can move on up closer to the Sun and blah, blah, blah. They get some help from a scientist and two other bad guys. Now, most of the chapters are pretty much the same...the dude from Mars is in need of some items to build his bomb, which the bad guys are supposed to get. Of course, the good guys always seem to put a stop to it. There's usually a shoot out, which doesn't amount to much because it seems like everyone is a really bad shot. They also punch each other out, which is kind of funny because they're throwin' some serious punches back and forth until, finally, someone (usually the good guy) gets knocked out....and...yeah...he gets knocked out right before something big is about to happen, which should lead to his death. However, he does manage to wake up before his date with death and, of course, he doesn't die. As a matter of fact, that's how each chapter ends...and when the next one begins...it starts off by showing you how he managed to make his escape. Our hero also has a rocket-man suit, which is a helmet and a pack on his back and a control panel on the front...with a button he can turn to go up and down...and he can turn it off and on. No kidding...I'm not making this up. Hey, it was the 1950's. You could get away with it back then. Long story short...Earth doesn't blow up and the dude with the rocket-man suit saves the day. In the final chapter, the good guy does call the dude from Mars a zombie, which explains the title. I guess I should also mention that this release also features Leonard Nimoy who, as you all know, would go on to play Mr. Spock in Star Trek. It's a small role though. He doesn't say or do too much. But, for some people, his name being in the credits is reason enough to purchase this DVD. If you need another reason...well...I really can't give you one. I will say this, if you have a copy of "Plan 9 From OuterSpace" on DVD and you actually enjoy watching it...you'll dig this release. Actually, this would be a step up. Same kind of cheese...it's just a little better...and a little longer...here.

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