

## ▣ ABOUT THE MOVIE ▣ (subtitled version)

<b>TITLE</b>	Contact
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Robert Zemeckis
<b>YEAR AND COUNTRY</b>	1997 U.S.A.
<b>GENRE</b>	Science fiction
<b>ACTORS</b>	Dr. Eleanor "Ellie" Arroway (Jodie Foster), Palmer Joss (Matthew McConaughey), National Security Advisor Michael Kitz (James Woods), Dr. David Drumlin (Tom Skerritt), S. R. Hadden (John Hurt)



### PLOT

Ellie Arroway's mother died at birth; her father dies when she is 9 years old. She becomes a brilliant scientist in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI). However, she is ridiculed by Dr. David Drumlin, her former teacher, now chief of the National Science Foundation and the President's science advisor. Drumlin ultimately shuts down her research as a waste of time. Ellie refuses to abandon her chosen path and eventually finds financing from a reclusive billionaire industrialist. At the last moment, Ellie detects a message from the star Vega. Hadden then helps Ellie by giving her crucial information to solve the puzzling encryption of the message: it appears to be a form of transport and is duly built with funding from various countries. Theologian Palmer Joss appears as Ellie's love interest during her days in Puerto Rico. Later, Palmer becomes a religious advisor to the President, and rejects Ellie's candidature as an astronaut basically because he wants her for himself. Dr. Drumlin is chosen. A religious fanatic then destroys the machine (along with Dr. Drumlin) in a suicide bombing. It turns out that Haddon has had a second machine built and Ellie goes off into space. There she meets what appears to be an alien life form who takes the shape of her father and practically sends her straight home again, telling her, as in her infancy, "little steps". Ironically, nothing has recorded except static, and no time has passed on earth, although her research grant is renewed when a full 18 hours of static are found.

### LANGUAGE

Standard American, with no very noticeable accents. However, there is an enormous amount of technical jargon, and so the film can be difficult to follow at certain points (even for a native speaker).

### VOCABULARY

To stall: to put off, gain time	To clobber: to smash, to beat definitively
Glitch: a non-regular problem in a machine or system (from the Yiddish)	A rash of: an unusual occurrence of many similar events very close to each other
Pain in the arse/ass: a 'ball-breaker' (person or situation): the neologism introduced by a certain Italian mayor of New York	To bail someone out: to get them out of trouble
Cracker Jack: fine, great, awesome – also a brand of cereal	To send someone to kingdom come: to send them to heaven, blast them to eternity
That's fringe!: it's just on the edge of acceptable; really alternative	To mollify: to pacify someone who is angry or upset and get them to react favorably
Pie in the sky: your daydreams, what you would like and will probably never have	Is this kosher?: Is it proper/legitimate? Alternatively: is it genuine?
A man of the cloth: someone who has taken religious vows (a monk, vicar, religious minister etc.)	To grandstand: to perform ostentatiously in order to impress the audience, trying to get praise or applause
To be hooked: to be addicted	We're go: everything and everyone is ready for the required action
A dive: a spot to spend you free time in, especially at night. It is cheap and sometimes disreputable	Roger: I heard you. OK.
Hang out and sleep in: do what you want and sleep for as long as you want	To peg s.o. as something: to feel almost sure that this person is what you think, to see s.o. as being
Screw him!: damn him (it's stronger, though); he can get stuffed	Across the board: affecting or including all people, categories or elements
Nutty/nuts: crazy	A wormhole: a short cut in space