

“Twilight Zone”

Those of us of a certain age remember tuning in weekly to hear the mellifluous voice of Rod Serling introducing the “Twilight Zone”. All 156 episodes are available on Netflix. Here is a short Twilight Zone “starter kit”:

“Time Enough at Last” (Season 1, Episode 8) - This is a classic Twilight Zone featuring Burgess Meredith as a henpecked compulsive bookworm. He resents any intrusion on his reading time, especially by his employer and his wife. Then fate intervenes. He is the sole survivor of a nuclear holocaust. While walking through the ruins of his town he sees a sight that floods him with joy. He thinks he is in an earthly Eden. But he is in the Twilight Zone and things go very wrong.

“I Shot an Arrow Into the Air” (Season 1, Episode 15) - A crew of astronauts crash on a barren, waterless asteroid. Infighting destroys their camaraderie and soon it is everyone for themselves. The lone survivor takes pride in being the last man standing. But then he makes a startling discovery.

“Eye of the Beholder” (Season 2 , Episode 6) - At last her dream has come true. After being shunned because of her facial deformity she finally gets the cosmetic surgery she has prayed for. She cannot wait for the bandages to come off. She is in for a surprise.

“The Rip van Winkle Caper” (Season 2 Episode 24) - They had the perfect plan. They would steal a treasure trove of gold and then hide with it in a cave where their scientist cohort would put them in suspended animation. They would be awakened long after the heist was ancient history, divide up the gold and be rich as Croesus. As it turns out they would have been better off with minimum wage jobs.

“To Serve Man” Season 3, Episode 24) – Aliens land on earth. They have come to help humanity and, within a short time, their technology has banished, hunger, disease and war from the planet. But their language remains a mystery and a linguist is working to translate one of their books he found. The subject matter of the book is not what he expected.