

ELIXIR

Written by

LILLETH

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Studio Lilleth LLC

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**EXT. OUTER SPACE - NIGHT**

1

A loud drone drowns. Small clusters of stars blink against endless black space.

A spherical blue-green planet and a square-shaped grey planet share an orbital path around a massive source of light.

ALLUMINE (V.O.)

These are our two planets - Undan and Niser. We share an almost-identical orbit, and every 444 years, our orbits swap. It is said our planets will come so close, they can almost touch...

2

**EXT. PLANET UNDAN - DAWN**

2

Overhead shot of Luminaries enacting a ritual on green lands.

ALLUMINE (V.O.)

My people of Undan prepare for the Orbital Crossing for generations. We believe a great sacrifice will be made to rebalance our shared ecosystems.

Two CHILDREN in the foreground play with a rock and a mound of moss, emulating the swapping pathway of the planets.

3

**EXT. PLANET NISER - DAY**

3

Overhead of arid Niser. GENERALS walk in linear formations.

ALLUMINE (V.O.)

But Planet Niser plots to use the apex of the Crossing towards their violent ends.

4

**INT. PLANET NISER - MILITARY COMMAND**

4

**START**

LYLA (25), a stunning woman, who hides her excruciating pain under a severe facade, stares at a hologram of a square-shaped missile launching an anchor from Niser to Undan.

Fascist leader, NATHOS (57), whose oily hair shines despite the rot within him, stares out a square-shaped window.

NATHOS

Do you feel it Lyla?

She feels sick inside, but hides it expertly.

LYLA

Yes, Father.

Nathos turns around, and approaches his daughter with pride.

NATHOS

You will shoot the anchor on that  
day and Undan will become our moon -  
just as she's meant to be. Those  
animals, a shadow of a memory.

LYLA

Yes, father.

NATHOS

And the elixir will be yours.

He puts a strand of Lyla's hair behind her ear.

NATHOS (CONT'D)

My sweet Lyla, the only one who  
will never let me down, right?

LYLA

Yes, father.

**END**

13

**INT. NISER - ALLUMINE'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT**

13

Allumine opens her eyes to Lyla's face.

LYLA  
Get dressed.

ALLUMINE  
What is it?

LYLA  
One last swim, before its time...

Allumine smiles at her, and nods.

14

**EXT. NISER - A DARK SANDY SHORE - NIGHT**

14

Allumine runs after Lyla through the darkness onto a beach of black sand. They fall onto the sand together.

Lyla rolls on top of Allumine. They look at each other longingly, but Lyla's smile turns flat. She rolls off.

LYLA  
What if I don't want to do it Lumi?

ALLUMINE  
You don't have to...

Lyla lets out an exhale: "if only that were true"...

LYLA  
What will happen next?

ALLUMINE  
War.

LYLA  
"The dreams in which we dance."

ALLUMINE  
"But free to dream another."

LYLA  
What does that mean, Lumi?

ALLUMINE  
How it was for so long -

LYLA  
What way was that?

Allumine lets sand fall between her fingers.

ALLUMINE  
(A secret)  
Symbiosis with the sand.

LYLA  
You know it's too late.

ALLUMINE  
Only if you fire the anchor.

Lyla hardens again, confused and defensive...She stands up, undresses, and walks towards the water. Allumine opens her satchel to reveal the sphere and a flask. She opens the flask: reveal the glowing elixir. She shakes up the flask, undresses, and walks to the water.

**END**

15

**EXT. NISER - THE WATER - NIGHT**

15

Allumine wades towards Lyla. They splash each other, then hold each other. They kiss. Planet Undan encroaches.

Allumine hands Lyla the flask. Lyla drinks it.

LYLA  
I don't want to hurt anyone Lumi.

ALLUMINE  
Then don't.

LYLA  
You're so naïve.

ALLUMINE  
You lack imagination.

Lyla's hurt by this. Her eye lids start to soften.

LYLA  
I'm tired.

ALLUMINE  
Let's lay down. We have an hour.

Allumine and Lyla walk out of the water - the planet behind them much larger and closer, splitting the horizon line.

16

**EXT. NISER - A DARK SANDY SHORE - NIGHT**

16

Allumine bundles Lyla in blankets. Lyla lays her head in Allumine's lap. Lyla's eyelids heavy. She falls asleep.