ELIXIR

Written by

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START

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.

END

4 INT. PLANET NISER - MILITARY COMMAND

4

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?

START 7.

13 INT. NISER - ALLUMINE'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

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

13

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 naive

LLUMINE

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.

Allumine reveals the sphere in her satchel. She opens it and drops four drops of Elixir onto Lyla's lips. Then four drops onto her own tongue. She closes her eyes.

START

17 EXT. DREAM SPACE - BLACK SAND VOID

17

Lyla and Allumine sit across from each other on the edge of a shallow Carter.

Allumine stares at Lyla.

LYLA

What is it, Lumi?

ALLUMINE

I'm sorry - you left me no choice.

Luminaries slowly emerge from the darkness of the void.

Lyla looks all around...

LYLA

What's happening, Lumi?

ALLUMINE

Your worth is not made by murder and destruction.

T,YT,A

Allumine, what's going on?

ALLUMINE

Feeding the machine of death will not make you live forever.

Lyla realizes Allumine is Undan.

LYLA

Are you -

ALLUMINE

I'm sorry, Lyla.

Lyla tries to process this great betrayal.

LYLA

How? ... How could you?

ALLUMINE

Do you know what will happen if you go through with it?

END