

CHILD OF THE SUN

An original screenplay

By

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INT. CABLE NEWS STUDIO - DAY

A peppy morning news set.

Bright graphics.

The kind of story normally reserved for the end of a broadcast.

The anchor smiles.

All teeth.

Shuffling papers.

ANCHOR

And finally this morning, a
story that's left authorities,
and frankly just about everyone
else, scratching their heads.

A photo appears over her shoulder.

A small girl, perhaps eight years old, wrapped in a thermal blanket.

Wet hair.

Wide, calm eyes.

Behind her, a carefully carpentered house raft is moored to the dock.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

A little girl was discovered floating down the Chicago Riverwalk yesterday afternoon on what officials are described as a homemade raft.

The image changes to cellphone footage.

Police boats surround the strange craft.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

The child was first spotted by ninety six year old veteran Ronald Ferry who was out fishing with his son and grandson.

The three men reported seeing what appeared to be a small house raft drifting in the current before realizing there was a child inside.

Footage rolls.

The structure rocks gently on the water.

A voice from a cellphone video:

VETERAN'S SON (V.O.)

Oh my God, there's a little
girl on there! Is she alone?

Back to the anchor.

ANCHOR

Authorities say the girl
appeared healthy, calm, and
showed no signs of distress.

A photograph appears on screen.

The girl sits on the dock, drinking hot chocolate.

She doesn't look frightened.

She looks curious.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

There is some confusion as to what kind of
necklace she's wearing. Some see a crucifix.

Some see the Star of David.

Some see an Ankh. Some see a Taweez.

Some see Buddha. The mystery deepened when officers attempted to identify her.

The following is alleged by uncorroborated witnesses. We have as yet no proof.

When she speaks ... get ready for this ... people *hear her* in their *native* tongue.

A clip from an impromptu police press conference.

REPORTER

Do we know where she's from?

POLICE SPOKESMAN

At this time, no missing persons report appears to match the child's description.

Back to the anchor.

ANCHOR

According to officers present at the scene, when asked her name, the girl did not respond.

When asked where she lived...

The anchor smiles awkwardly.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

... she reportedly pointed *upwards*.

A photograph fills the screen.

The little girl, standing on the dock.

One finger pointing at the sun.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

And when officers clarified the
question and asked where she
came from...

She pointed directly at the sun.

A brief pause.

The anchor smiles as her co-anchor chuckles softly.

CO-ANCHOR

I guess she wants to "phone home" ?

The image remains on screen.

The little girl staring directly into the camera.

Not smiling.

Not afraid.

Looking through the lens.

ANCHOR

Anyone with information
regarding the child's identity
is encouraged to contact
Chicago PD or your local FBI
branch.

She glances down at her notes.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

And yes, social media has
already given her a nickname.

A graphic appears:

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

STAR CHILD?

The anchor smiles at her co-anchor, who laughs.

ANCHOR

We'll leave *that one* to the
internet.

The broadcast moves on.

But the image of the girl lingers for a moment too long
before fading away.

MUSIC: "I AM THE BLACK HOLE OF THE SUN" BY NUYORICAN SOUL
FEAT. 4-HERO

START-IMMIGRATION MONTAGE

NEWS CLIP

STATE DEPARTMENT
SPOKESPERSON

We understand the public's
fascination with this child.
We share the concern for her
welfare. But at this time, we
have no verified identity,
no documentation, and no
established country of origin.

She has been heard to speak Spanish ...
Portuguese ... amongst other languages.
So for now ... she is an illegal alien
... but she is also a child at risk
... and we need time to decide which takes
precedence and what is the correct way
to proceed. For now, she will remain in the
custody of the FBI until further notice.
There will be no questions at this time.
Thank you.

CABLE NEWS

HOST

So... officially, what is she?

FORMER DHS OFFICIAL

Officially?
She's an undocumented minor
until proven otherwise.

NEWS CLIP

PRESS SECRETARY

The fact that millions of people
think she's adorable on social
media doesn't change the legal
questions that have to be
answered.

TALK SHOW

COMMENTATOR

She may be America's sweetheart
this week...

But as of this morning, she's
still an undocumented immigrant.

END-IMMIGRATION MONTAGE

MUSIC: "OLD MAN" BY NEIL YOUNG

EXT.HOSPITAL PARK - DAY

Theo sits on a bench eating a sandwich he has in a brown
paper bag.

The world goes by. He watches.

We switch to his POV.

He is looking at a young homeless man opposite him on another bench, organizing some things into bags.

He does not look with concern, he just looks. And eats.

Theo watches the different kinds of people.

People on their phones, not really aware of their surroundings.

The chaos of families.

Lovers.

People in groups who are clearly newly arrived immigrants.

The homeless guy.

THEO (V.O.)

That week ... that time ... was both the greatest and worst of my life.

I seen some things in my time.

Things I couldn't explain ... or frame right, you see?

Things I couldn't explain to no one that didn't see it with they own eyes.

Things that didn't add up right, y'know?

But that young lady takes the biscuit.

Yessir. The world shifted that summer.

It moved from Pisces into Aquarius.

For a while - it seemed - people all over the world ... came together.

Though maybe not quite the way they thought they would have ...

START-IMMIGRATION MONTAGE

PHONE VIDEO

A woman filming outside the hospital.

WOMAN

She's just a little girl!
Leave her alone!

PODCAST

HOST

The government doesn't know who
she is.

Science doesn't know what she
is.

The internet thinks she's the
return of ... whoever.

NEWS CLIP

REPORTER

Officials continue to stress
that until her identity can be
established, the child remains
in federal protective custody.

END-IMMIGRATION MONTAGE

THEO (V.O.)

It came back to me that they assigned a female

agent, some young up-and-comer ... to look after her.

But she called for me by name ... *by name*.

I didn't tell them my heart wouldn't hold out long.

Never told no one I couldn't...

Ain't startin' now no-how.

Any road... she just a child...

I thought my job, was to bring *her* home.

Theo finishes his sandwich, drinks his milk, packs up his things and heads off.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

A door between two rooms opens.

We see it from Theodore's seated POV.

Starchild is seated on the other side. Her medical checkup is over.

They are seated directly opposite one another.

Theodore cocks his head.

He looks suspiciously at the little girl.

THEO (V.O.)

I don't know who she was ... or what she was ...

I only know what she meant to me.

What she meant to everybody.

The girl looking back at him breaks out into a big smile.

INT. MATERIAL SCIENCES LABORATORY - DAY

Two technicians are setting up a spectroscopic analysis of Starchild's necklace.

One is monitoring the computer.

One is placing the necklace inside the spectroscope and locking it down.

FIRST TECHNICIAN

(looking up)

It's in?

SECOND TECHNICIAN

Yes ... it's in.

You. Just. Watched. Me. Put.

The. Crucifix. In.

FIRST TECHNICIAN

No. I didn't ...

(looks back at his monitor)

And that's a "Star of David" you schmuck.

(shakes head)

Crucifix ...

(stares)

Beat.

FIRST TECHNICIAN (CONT'D)

There's nothing on my screen.

SECOND TECHNICIAN

What?

Beat.

FIRST TECHNICIAN

Open it.

The second technician looks stunned for a minute then shakes his head realizing his superior is tricking him.

He ambles over to his bosses station instead of going towards the machine like he was told to go.

His face drops when he sees the monitor.

CUT TO:

The first technician's monitor shows the machine's scanning chamber to be empty.

The second technician is in more shock than the first.

He *knows* it's not empty.

Beat.

Something dawns on the junior tech.

He looks quizzically at his boss - who is transfixed on his screen.

SECOND TECHNICIAN

Have they tested *her* yet?

MONTAGE OF INTERNET REACTIONS

Every instrument reports either noise or empty space.

Yet everyone can see it.

Everyone can photograph it.

Everyone can touch it.

One physicist eventually describes it on a news program:

PHYSICIST

"The object appears to interact with the human
visual system, but not with any instrument we use
to characterize matter."

Now you've got something that spreads across social media
like wildfire.

THEO (V.O.)

What with the media these days ...
... she was everywhere ... quick.
She belonged to everybody ...
All of a sudden ...
... like they *owned* her.

REDDIT POST

So you're telling me the necklace is invisible to science
but visible to people? And it changes depending on who is
looking at it?

TIKTOK CREATOR

Guys, this is literally impossible.

PHYSICS CHANNEL

If the reports are accurate, the object reflects visible light, observer-related and dependent ... yet produces no measurable spectroscopic signature whatsoever.

That should not be possible.

CONSPIRACY PODCAST

It's classified technology. It's a Pysop. They're testing us. Gauging our reaction ...

RELIGIOUS COMMENTATOR

Or perhaps not everything was made for microscopes.

Perhaps not everything is here to be explained.

She is clear proof of the deeper mysteries of the universe.

END-MONTAGE OF INTERNET REACTIONS

EXT.HOSPITAL - DAY

THEO and STARCHILD are sitting in the car.

She is wearing a halloween mask.

STARCHILD looks at THEO as he speaks.

THEO

I been in one o' these things
before.

Ain't gonna lie ... it's not much
fun.

But you're gonna be okay ...

I know that ...

... because I'm gonna be there
with you.

Every step of the way.

THEO and STARCHILD knock fists.

THEO (CONT'D)

Ai'ight then.

INT. RADIOLOGY CENTER - NIGHT

Theo tries not to be alarmed by the commotion which erupts
in the lab after Starchild is loaded into the MRI machine.

" ... *impossible* ..."

"Is it *broken*?"

"Can we get a Raman spectrometer down here stat?"

"Right ... let's prove it's broken first ..."

News spreads quickly. Whispers.

Something is wrong.

Theo needs to get to Starchild who is still in the MRI
machine while people are losing their minds.

THEO

I need to get in there.

TECHNICIAN

I'm sorry, Sir ... We ...

THEO

Son, I'm only going to ask you
the once.

INT. NEWS STUDIO - NIGHT

A panel discussion.

A graphic behind them:

"STAR CHILD - The Girl Who isn't There"

ANCHOR

Tonight, *Digileaks* ... is breaking the Internet.

We believe the images are real ... or at least
look similar to scans taken with this type of
machine.

The problem? *There's nothing in them.*

Doctors at Mount Sinai Hospital are tonight
remaining close-lipped about what is being
described as an unprecedented anomaly.

The screen changes.

It displays an MRI image.

Or rather, it displays a blank image.

The outline of a body.

Nothing inside the faint outline.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

Three separate scans performed
over the last forty-eight hours
appear to show no internal
structures whatsoever.

No skeleton.

No organs.

No detectable tissue.

Yet the child remains healthy.

The image changes.

Another scan.

Another blank.

Cut to TikTok clips.

A hundred creators.

A thousand opinions.

INFLUENCER #1

It's fake?

The machine malfunctioned?

They're trolling us, mate! It
was empty all along!

INFLUENCER #2

All the scans malfunctioned?

In two different hospitals?

Child please.

Can you spell PSY - OP?

PODCAST HOST

Let's assume it's real.

Let's just assume for a second ...
it's real.

Then what exactly are we looking
at?

PODCAST HOST

Nothing?

PHYSICIST

The laws of physics do not
permit a human being to exist
without any measurable internal
structure.

She is ... erroneous.

THEOLOGIAN

The laws of physics do not
permit many things.

The universe has not always
consulted our expectations.

As Dr DeGrasse-Tyson reminds us:

"The universe is not under any
obligation to make sense to us."

INFLUENCER #1

Please? What?

FAKE NEWS!

No. No, sorry.

The Lord ain't sendin' no

Goldilocks or Elsa as the Second
Coming.

Come on now!

Jesus is black,
... and that is all, she wrote.

The internet explodes.

Memes.

Conspiracy threads.

Government cover-up theories.

Religious interpretations.

Scientific rebuttals.

Millions of views.

Then somebody posts the question that changes everything:

*"If she has no detectable organs... what exactly is
she?"*

CUT TO:

-----TV
SHOW DEBATE

HOST

You've looked at a lot of these strange cases.

People talk about Starchild's necklace... or how different people hear her speaking in their own language.

A French witness hears French, a Japanese witness hears Japanese.

What do you make of that?

DOCTOR ANGELUS

This is the main core of Jacques Vallée's work on the phenomena.

Think of it like a thermostat in your house.

The thermostat doesn't care about the weather outside.

It just senses the temperature inside and adjusts - turning the heat up or down - keeping it within a certain range.

The idea of Jacques Vallée's control system model is that these events work the same way with our minds and our beliefs.

It senses the cultural and linguistic state of the observer and delivers a stimulus tailored to that state.

The same underlying event can present as a necklace with "impossible" properties, or as speech that resolves into the listener's native language.

The form is adaptive. The content is secondary.

What matters is the effect: it makes us question the rules we thought were fixed-language, reality, what is real.

THEO (V.O.)

Well, she was *something* ... to
everyone ...

Soon as you like ... we had to
trot her out every day into a
press room

... like a prize pony.

Show she was okay.

At least that was the idea.

They asked their questions.

She never answered but one.

She asked *her own* questions.

Three questions.

Always holding a mirror up to
humanity.

Always trying to shepherd us
back to the garden ...

INT. FBI PRESS ROOM - DAY

Media with credentials are allowed into the press room -
which is heavily policed.

There is a small podium set up with microphones for
Starchild.

She walks out with grace.

Theo is never too far from Starchild but he is not
prominent.

He watches the room.

He watches every single person.

PRESS #1

How are you Starchild?

PRESS #2

What is that around your neck?

PRESS #3

Are you an extra-terrestrial?

Starchild pays no attention to the questions.

She looks at everyone.

STARCHILD

Why do you hurt each other?

Why don't you love one another?

Why do you choose fear over
love?

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS OUTLETS - MEDIA REACTION MONTAGE

The world reacts.

NEWS ANCHORS.

PODCASTS.

YOUTUBE.

TIKTOK.

X.

Millions of opinions.

BBC NEWS

ANCHOR

An extraordinary first press
conference from the child

the internet has dubbed
'Starchild.'

After refusing to answer
questions about her identity ...

... she asked humanity three
questions of her own.

CUT TO:

STARCHILD

Why do you hurt each other?

Why don't you love one another?

Why do you choose fear over
love?

Silence.

Then--

The explosion.

CLIPS

CONSERVATIVE HOST

It's emotional manipulation.

She didn't answer a single
question.

CUT TO:

LIBERAL COMMENTATOR

Maybe because we've spent the
last three weeks asking

CUT TO:

SCIENCE CHANNEL

Interesting...

She ignored every factual
question.

CUT TO:

PODCAST HOST

Or maybe...

...those were the only answers
that mattered.

CUT TO:

CABLE TV SHOW

RELIGIOUS COMMENTATOR

Whether she knows it or not...

... those are profoundly Biblical questions.

YOUNG MAN

No.

They're profoundly *human* questions.

CUT TO:

PODCAST

PSYCHOLOGIST

Children often redirect difficult questions.

The difference here is

... she redirected *the entire species*.

CUT TO:

TIKTOK

MAN ON TIKTOK

Nah ... she's creepy, man.

CUT TO:

TWITCH

WOMAN STREAMER

I cried.

I don't even know why.

I just know she's ... *good*.

CUT TO:

HEADLINES.

WHY DOES STARCHILD REFUSE TO ANSWER?

THE THREE QUESTIONS SHAKING THE WORLD

MESSIAH... OR MASTER MANIPULATOR?

ALIEN CHILD ASKS HUMANITY:

"WHY DO YOU HURT EACH OTHER?"

CUT TO:

A church congregation.

People kneel.

CUT TO:

A university lecture hall.

A professor circles the questions on a whiteboard.

CUT TO:

LATE NIGHT SHOW.

HOST

Well...

At least she didn't ask where
the Epstein files were.

<Bada-tish!>

Audience laughter.

CUT TO:

PHONE FOOTAGE

A little girl watches the press conference replay on her
mother's phone.

LITTLE GIRL

Mom...

Why do people hurt each other?

Her mother opens her mouth.

Nothing comes out.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. FBI PRESS ROOM - DAY

Starchild comes out the next day for her visit with the
media.

PRESS #1

How are you Starchild?

PRESS #2

Can you confirm that you ARE Jewish?

PRESS #3

Can you hold up your hands, Starchild?

Beat.

STARCHILD

Where does your oxygen come from?

Why do you poison the oceans and tear down
the trees that make it?

Why did you build a world of plastic?

This time is different.

Email inboxes around the world's media outlets begin
receiving pamphlets relating numbers to what Starchild is
talking about.

Journalists suddenly begin checking their phones.

THEO (V.O.)

People really started paying
attention then ...

INT. NEWS OUTLETS - MEDIA REACTION MONTAGE

HEADLINES.

STARCHILD ASKS:

"WHERE DOES YOUR OXYGEN COME FROM?"

"WHY DO YOU POISON THE OCEANS?"

"WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS CHILD IGNITES ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATE"

CNN NEWS

ANCHOR

Starchild has once again refused to answer questions about her identity...

Instead asking three questions that have now ignited a global conversation about humanity's impact on the planet.

Asking the question ... *is it too late?*

CUT TO:

FOX NEWS.

HOST

She's eight years old.

Or appears to be.

Who exactly is feeding her this climate agenda?

CUT TO:

MSNBC.

COMMENTATOR

Perhaps we're asking the wrong question.

Maybe we should be asking whether she's right.

CUT TO:

BBC NEWS.

ANCHOR

Minutes after today's press conference...
News organizations around the world began
receiving anonymous emails containing
scientific data directly relating to each
of Starchild's questions.

CUT TO:

TV NEWS SHOW

REPORTER

I've spoken with three editors.
Every newsroom received the same files...
At precisely the same time of her welfare
press conference.

CUT TO:

A PODCAST.

HOST

Okay...
Forget Starchild for a second.
Who sent the emails?

CUT TO:

NEWS INTERVIEW.

EXPERT

All packets came from behind a Reticulum
node.

No originating server.

No routing history.

No metadata.

No clues.

CUT TO:

TIKTOK.

INFLUENCER

Guys...

This is insane.

She asks about oxygen...

Thirty seconds later...

Every reporter on Earth gets scientific papers
about the Amazon rainforest.

CUT TO:

YOUTUBE.

SCIENCE CHANNEL HOST

We've checked the references.

They're real.

Every statistic checks out.

Nothing is fabricated.

CUT TO:

LATE NIGHT TV.

HOST

So...

Either God just discovered email...

...or Greenpeace hired the greatest hacker in
history.

Audience laughter.

CUT TO:

NEWS PANEL.

COMMENTATOR #1

This is coordinated activism.

COMMENTATOR #2

By who?

COMMENTATOR #1

By whom, Brother!

COMMENTATOR #2

Exactly.

CUT TO:

SOCIAL MEDIA.

#WHOISSENDINGTHEEMAILS

#STARCHILD

#FOLLOWTHEQUESTIONS

#LOOKATTHEDATA

Millions of posts.

Millions of views.

CUT TO:

INT. FBI PRESS ROOM - DAY

Starchild comes out in a lovely sunflower dress donated by a fashion designer.

The room is now standing room only.

International media.

Every major network.

Cameras click as STARCHILD enters.

She smiles politely.

Sits.

Looks around the room.

A forest of raised hands.

FBI MODERATOR

One question each.

PRESS #1

Starchild...

People around the world are asking the same question.

Who are you?

PRESS #2

Do you believe you're here to save humanity?

PRESS #3

Can you tell us which country you belong to?

PRESS #4

Are you an alien...

...or something divine?

Starchild looks from face to face.

She seems disappointed.

Then—

STARCHILD

Why do you kill one another?

The room falls silent.

STARCHILD (CONT'D)

Why do you have wars?

Nobody speaks.

STARCHILD (CONT'D)

Why did you stop wanting world peace?

She lowers her head.

The cameras continue clicking.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS OUTLETS - MEDIA REACTION MONTAGE

NEWS THEME MUSIC.

HEADLINES.

STARCHILD ASKS:

"WHY DO YOU HAVE WARS?"

CNN NEWS

ANCHOR

For the third consecutive day...

Starchild ignored every question asked of her...

Instead posing three questions to humanity.

FOX NEWS

HOST

She's asking children's questions.

She's making adult accusations.

There's a difference.

BBC NEWS

ANCHOR

The phrase "World Peace" has become the most searched term on Earth in the last six hours.

AL JAZEERA

ANCHOR

Religious leaders...

Scientists...

Political figures...

All continue debating the meaning of Starchild's remarks.

PODCAST

HOST

Think about it...

She didn't ask-

"Why is there war?"

She asked...

"Why do you HAVE wars?"

Like...

War is something we chose to keep.

TIKTOK

A teenage girl.

Tears in her eyes.

GIRL

I... never thought about it.

Why DID they stop talking about world peace?

I never heard *anyone* talking about world
peace before.

LATE NIGHT HOST

HOST

She's eight years old...

And somehow she has a better foreign policy than the United
States.

Audience laughs.

UNIVERSITY LECTURE

A professor writes on the board.

WORLD PEACE

He stops.

Looks at the words.

Slowly underlines them.

CABLE NEWS

VETERAN

I fought in two wars.

I've never been asked that question.

Not once.

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

"She didn't answer a single question."

"She answered all of them."

"She's manipulating people."

"She's exposing us."

"#WhyDoWeHaveWars"

"#WorldPeace"

"#Starchild"

The hashtags explode.

INT. NEWSROOM - NIGHT

A young producer watches the replay.

STARCHILD (ON SCREEN)

Why did you stop wanting world peace?

The producer turns to the senior editor.

PRODUCER

Did...

Did we stop?

The editor doesn't answer.

For the first time all day...

The newsroom is quiet.

INT. "HOME" / FBI FACILITY - NIGHT

Theo sits watching Starchild.

Silently.

Starchild looks deep into Theo's eyes.

STARCHILD

Why do you keep me caged up in here?

Beat.

Theo continues just watching Starchild.

No reaction.

She opens a bag and appears to like what she finds inside.

She pulls out a muffin and begins eating it eagerly.

Theo breaks into a smile.

CUT TO:

INT. "HOME" / FBI FACILITY - DAY

Theo enters the room holding a bag and sits down across from Starchild.

He places the bag on the table ... and pulls out a Bear-Head costume and places it on the table.

He removes the bag.

He is grinning.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Theo is walking with Starchild in tow, who is wearing a Bear's head as a disguise.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Theo and Starchild stand looking at a shelf containing flour products.

Theo is scanning.

THEO

(impatiently)

Muffin mix ... muffin mix ...

Theo looks around, exasperated.

THEO

They're out of muffin mix!

I can't believe it.

Theo continues to look around, as if trying to locate an assistant.

STARCHILD

What *is* muffin mix?

THEO

(looks briefly down
at Starchild)

What?!

STARCHILD

What's muffin mix?

THEO

(looking down at
starchild in disbelief)

Child ... are you in need of
oxygen?

... it's *mix* for making *muffins*

... how is that not ...

STARCHILD

What's *IN* muffin mix?

Beat.

Theo looks stumped.

His mind races for an answer that's not coming.

THEO

(gestures)

It's got ... ummm ...

STARCHILD

What's actually *in it*?

THEO
Yeah, ummm ... it's got flour in
there ...

And umm ...

... a little raising agent

... and um ...

Starchild simply stands there in her Bear-head looking at
Theo.

Beat.

Theo snatches a bag of flour off the shelf which holds
nothing *but* flour.

He strides off-screen, Starchild slowly tagging along
behind wearing her Bear head.

STARCHILD

Did you forget the eggs?

Quick as a hiccup, Theo turns on his heel and starts
striding back down the aisle the other way, passing
Starchild, who slowly turns and lolls along behind him.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Theo is walking with Starchild, wearing her Bear-head
disguise, holding hands.

A homeless man asks for change.

It is the homeless man he was looking at before.

Theo looks around evaluating threats.

They keep walking.

After a few seconds:

STARCHILD

Did you see that man?

THEO

Yep.

A beat.

STARCHILD

Then why did you keep walking?

No accusation. Just curiosity.

THEO

I see it every day.

STARCHILD

Why don't you help him then?

THEO

You can't help everyone.

STARCHILD

Then why don't you help *just him*?

He looks at her.

Theo has no answer.

Beat.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Theo and Starchild (wearing her Bear head) see the same homeless man in the exact same spot the very next day.

Starchild decides to stop and observe from afar.

Curious.

Theo knows there is no point in trying to hurry her.

STARCHILD

Is he invisible?

THEO

Nope.

STARCHILD

Why don't people *look* at him?

Can't they see *he's right there*?

THEO

Yup.

STARCHILD

And they don't care?

Theo doesn't answer her.

STARCHILD (CONT'D)

Does he belong to someone?

THEO

No.

STARCHILD

Did he *used* to belong to someone?

The question hits Theo.

Beat.

THEO

Maybe. Yeah, I guess so.

STARCHILD

Then who looks after him *now*?

Doesn't he need *help*?

THEO

He wants money, not help.

She watches dozens of people pass.

STARCHILD

How many people have seen him *today*?

THEO

I don't know.

STARCHILD

How many people have helped him *today* ?

THEO

(Shakes head)

You just can't help everyone. STARCHILD

How many people did *you* help today?

Theo makes a face.

THEO

What do you mean?

STARCHILD

Aren't you going to help him today?

Beat.

STARCHILD (CONT'D)

Don't you have any money?

Beat.

Theodore gives in to Starchild and gives him some money.

She watches.

Theo walks back to Starchild and gestures as if to say,
"Okay?"

STARCHILD

Does he have enough?

THEO

I gave him *twenty* bucks!

Starchild looks back over at the homeless guy.

STARCHILD

Is that enough?

THEO

YES!

STARCHILD

Are you sure?

She turns around to watch the man as they leave.

STARCHILD (CONT'D)

Will he still be there tomorrow?

THEO

Probably.

Starchild waves at the man as they walk off-screen.

He waves back. Smiling.

EXT. MULTIPLE LOCATIONS - DAY

MUSIC : "NOBOY KNOWS" BY PASTOR T.L. BARRET AND THE YOUTH FOR CHRIST CHOIR.

MONTAGE

- Starchild (wearing bear head) watches from a safe distance as Theo hands a bag of food to the man they saw before. Theo gives him money as well.
- Starchild and Theo walk out of a convenience store holding bags.
- Starchild watches as Theo hands the bags to a homeless lady who lives between a tree and a refuse skip.
- Starchild watches as Theo hands bags of food to a young homeless mother and child who lives under a bridge.
- Starchild remonstrates with Theo. She is holding bags of food and drink. Theo is shaking his head and urges her to walk on. In the background are the walking dead. Zombies.
- Starchild and Theo are outside the Zoo. Starchild watches as Theo hands care packages to an older woman with a young baby. A grandmother and a baby.

END-MONTAGE

EXT. ZOO - DAY

Theo is walking a disguised Starchild through the zoo.

Starchild is wearing a Big Bear head.

She stops at the gorilla enclosure and stares at the sad gorilla before her.

Theo stares at the gorilla too.

STARCHILD

Why did they take her away from her family?

Beat.

STARCHILD (CONT'D)

Why do they want her to be sad?

Theo looks at Starchild.

THEO

(nodding)

This is gonna be a *long* day.

CUT TO:

INT. "HOME" / FBI FACILITY - NIGHT

Theo sits across from Starchild, who takes a sip from a juice box.

She makes a face as if it's quite tart, and looks at the juice box.

THEO

Young lady ... you are costing me a *lot* of money.

Starchild looks up at Theo.

STARCHILD

(Smiling)

How much money do you *have*?

INT. FBI PRESS ROOM - DAY

The room has become familiar.

The same podium.

The same lights.

Only more cameras.

More security.

More expectation.

Starchild sits.

She looks no older than eight.

The questions begin immediately.

PRESS #1

Starchild...

Do you know why you're here?

PRESS #2

Have you spoken to God?

PRESS #3

Can you explain why medical scans can't identify
the object around your neck?

PRESS #4

Do you understand why people are so fascinated by
you?

She studies each reporter.

Then quietly--

STARCHILD

Why do you hurt the ones you love?

No one moves.

STARCHILD (CONT'D)

Why do you choose fear over love?

The room is utterly silent.

STARCHILD (CONT'D)

Why can't you just choose love?

A long beat.

No follow-up.

She simply folds her hands in her lap.

FLASHES continue.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS OUTLETS - MEDIA REACTION MONTAGE

NEWS MUSIC.

HEADLINES.

"WHY CAN'T YOU JUST CHOOSE LOVE?"

CNN NEWS

ANCHOR

For the fourth day in a row...

Starchild refused to answer questions about herself...

Instead asking three more questions directed at humanity.

FOX NEWS

HOST

Love doesn't stop terrorism.

Love doesn't stop dictators.

The world isn't a fairy tale.

MSNBC

COMMENTATOR

Maybe she's asking why we always assume fear is
the more practical choice.

BBC NEWS

ANCHOR

The phrase "Choose Love" has become the number
one trending topic in more than sixty countries.

PODCAST

HOST

Think about the first question...

Not why do you *hurt* people...

Why do you hurt the ones you *love*?

That's... different.

CABLE TV

THERAPIST

Most emotional pain doesn't come from strangers.

It comes from family...

Friends...

Partners...

People we love.

LATE NIGHT SHOW

HOST

"All you need is love" says Starchild ...

And a team of hackers ...

... and the Chinese deep state ...

Audience laughter.

SOCIAL MEDIA

A montage.

Parents hugging children.

Couples reconciling.

Soldiers embracing loved ones.

Teenagers posting:

"I called my dad."

"I forgave my sister."

"I finally told my mom I love her."

#ChooseLove

#Starchild

#WhyDoWeHurtTheOnesWeLove

Millions...

Then tens of millions...

of posts.

CABLE NEWS PANEL

COMMENTATOR #1

She's asking impossible questions.

COMMENTATOR #2

No.

She's asking *simple* questions.

That's why they're impossible.

INT. NEWSROOM - NIGHT

A producer removes today's headline.

He replaces it with one word.

LOVE.

He stares at it.

Not convinced.

Not dismissive.

Just...

Thinking.

He adds "ALL YOU NEED IS ..."

FADE OUT.

EXT. JUNGLE TERRAIN/ LAOS - NIGHT (MEMORY)

Dense triple-canopy jungle.

AK fire cracks through the trees.

A man lies motionless.

Theo's unit of Montagnards are being held down under enemy fire.

The RADIO OPERATOR snatches the PRC-25 and hands THEO the receiver.

THEO

Covey... Covey... This is Spike One-One.

Prairie Fire. Break. One-Zero is down.

Repeat... One-Zero is down.

Grid XD 286734.

Taking heavy automatic weapons fire.

Estimate platoon plus.

Request immediate emergency extraction.

LZ hot. Repeat LZ is hot. Over.

Static.

Then—

COVEY (RADIO)

Spike One-One...

Covey copies.

Authenticate.

The RADIO OPERATOR flips open his SOI booklet.

He answers.

Beat.

COVEY (RADIO)

Authentication correct.

Air assets launching.

Keep transmissions short.

Can you move?

THEO

Negative. Pinned down by enemy fire.

Need immediate gunships.

Danger close.

Over.

AK rounds smash branches overhead.

A team member screams.

COVEY

Roger. Fast movers unavailable.

Gunships inbound. Twenty mikes.

Can you mark?

THEO

Affirmative. Yellow smoke on your call only.

Repeat... On your call only.

Over.

COVEY

Roger. Stay alive.

I'm coming.

Theo hands back the receiver and covers up as the area around them gets cut up with AK rounds.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILL TOP / LAOS - NIGHT (MEMORY)

Theo scrambles up into the UH-1 Huey helicopter.

He immediately throws down webbing for the men behind him.

They are taking heavy gunfire.

The last man is in his grip, but the enemy is closing up the hill behind them.

Getting closer.

THEO

GO! GO! GO!

He struggles to hold on to the last man as the bird takes off.

Theo strains with all his might.

They have cleared away from the hill top and crossed over a river.

The last fighter slips from his grip and falls into the river.

Beat.

He looks back at where the fighter dropped into the water.

He looks at his pilot.

THEO

Turn around.

The pilot keeps his eyes forward.

PILOT

Negative.

THEO

He's alive.

PILOT

Not for long.

THEO

Not if we don't go back there right now and pick him up...

Beat.

The pilot doesn't flinch.

PILOT

We're too heavy. The LZ's gone.

THEO

God damn it, he's still down there!

PILOT

And if I go back...we'll all be down there.

Theo grabs the back of the pilot's seat.

THEO

That's my team leader for the yards.

The pilot finally turns to Theo.

PILOT

I've got twelve souls on this aircraft.

I'm bringing twelve home.

Not none.

Theo doesn't let go.

His voice becomes lower.

More restrained.

THEO

Turn this bird around, Lieutenant.

That's a direct order.

Beat.

The pilot peels off his route home.

The Huey gets smaller and smaller as it returns from whence it came.

INT. FBI PRESS ROOM - DAY

The atmosphere is different.

Metal detectors.

Armed agents.

Twice as many cameras.

Starchild enters.

The room erupts.

She sits quietly.

PRESS #1

Starchild, can you tell the American people whether you intend to stay in the United States?

PRESS #2

Several governments have requested to meet with you.

Will you?

PRESS #3

Do you believe politicians are afraid of you?

PRESS #4

Yesterday you spoke about war.

What message do you have for world leaders?

Beat.

She looks around the room.

Almost as if searching for someone.

Instead...

She speaks to everyone.

STARCHILD

Why do your leaders lie to your people?

Silence.

STARCHILD (CONT'D)

Why do your leaders hide your history?

The room freezes.

Nobody asks another question.

STARCHILD (CONT'D)

Why do you follow leaders who abuse you?

Pandemonium.

PRESS #5

Starchild!
Who are you talking about?

PRESS #6

Can you *name* those leaders?

PRESS #7

What history?

PRESS #8

What history is being hidden, Starchild??

PRESS #9

Are you accusing the United States
Government?

Journalists all check their phones.

Another data dump.

FBI MODERATOR

That's enough!

The agents move.

Starchild remains perfectly calm.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS OUTLETS - MEDIA REACTION MONTAGE

IMAGES:

JFK evidence. Previously with-held documents.

Proof of the Gulf of Tonkin incident.

Evidence that the State department knew in advance of the 9/11 attacks. Evidence of a coverup.

Footage of a cruise missile hitting the Pentagon.

NSA/CIA classified documents on Megalithic sites around the world.

Scans of a spaceship beneath the Sphinx at Giza.

Scans of complex labyrinths of great interconnected spaces beneath the giza plateau.

Scans of similar complex labyrinths beneath the great pyramid of the sun in Mexico.

NEWS THEMES.

BREAKING NEWS.

HEADLINES.

"STARCHILD QUESTIONS WORLD LEADERS"

"GLOBAL CONTROVERSY"

"WHAT HISTORY?"

CNN NEWS

ANCHOR

The White House declined to
comment on Starchild's remarks

Calling them "the opinions of a
child."

The documents are fake.

FOX NEWS

HOST

This crossed a line.

She's no longer asking
philosophical questions.

She's making political
accusations.

Releasing fake documents ...

... this has to stop.

BBC NEWS

ANCHOR

Governments around the world are responding to today's
remarks...

Although none has addressed Starchild's questions directly.

The sheer volume of documents received is slowing down responses from State sources.

The U.S. State office has said that they are indeed fake and will not comment further.

SKY NEWS

COMMENTATOR

Notice something?

Everyone is talking about *her*...

Nobody is *answering* her.

PODCAST

PODCAST HOST

Forget whether she's *right*.

Answer the question.

Why do leaders lie?

Why do we *allow it*?

Is Sadhguru, right?

Is it government *for* the people...

... *by* the people

... and the people are just ... retards?

SOCIAL MEDIA

#WhatHistory

#AnswerHer
#Starchild
#WhoAreTheyLyingTo

The hashtags explode.

YOUTUBE

A history professor.

PROFESSOR

History is constantly revised as new evidence emerges...

But "hidden history" means something very different.

That's an extraordinary claim.

We are not trying to disclose some previous civilizations ... it's nonsense.

The Egyptians built the pyramids and that's that' Get over it.

YOUTUBE HOST

But they didn't even have roads ...

PROFESSOR

Some methods have been lost to time perhaps ...

YOUTUBE HOST

Why were the most recently built pyramids the worst?

I mean they completely fell apart, didn't they?

The Black Pyramid of Dahshur ?

Beat.

The Professor dithers, saying nothing.

CUT TO:

CONSPIRACY CHANNEL

HOST

I TOLD YOU! THEY'RE PANICKING!

LATE NIGHT

HOST

Politicians everywhere are furious...

The Vice President calling her

" ... *A little demon*"

Shouldn't that ... y'know ...

Make her ... *part of the family*...?

I just ... I ...

I don't know ..

Fit right in there ...

Little Nikki ...

Audience laughter.

CABLE NEWS

PANEL COMMENTATOR #1

She's destabilizing public trust.

COMMENTATOR #2

Or showing exactly why there isn't any.

INT. FBI / HOME FACILITY

Theo checks on Starchild.

She is soundly asleep.

He closes the door gently and moves to take up position opposite her door with his back to the corner of the room.

Behind him and out of focus ... two shadowy figures appear to glide past the window.

He appears to sense them and turns.

No one is there.

He relaxes and sits down.

When he looks up again, suddenly there are two men standing outside the window looking in at him.

They are wearing sunglasses and black suits.

Motionless.

Intimidating.

THEO

(mumbling under his breath)

Cocksuckers ... I know who you are.

Anytime ... bring it on ...

Bring it on ... I will fuck you up MFer.

He takes out his firearm and checks it.

He chambers his weapon and holds it on his thigh.

THEO (CONT'D)

Come on now ...

Theo holds up his weapon and points at the magazine.

Grinning, he mouths the words "HOLLOW POINT".

As one ... the men in black glide away.

THEO (CONT'D)

Yeah, that's what I thought ...

Theo's blood is up.

When he is sure they are gone ... he takes out a prescription bottle and swallows a pill from it.

He racks his weapon.

He looks inside.

Suddenly he is back in Vietnam.

INT. HOSPITAL. VIETNAM 1972 - DAY (MEMORY)

Theo wakes up.

He is CONFUSED, But quickly remembers.

A nurse tends to him.

THEO

My men ...

Where are my men?

The nurse tries to settle him.

NURSE

You need to rest ...

There's a bullet lodged near your mesenteric artery.

We can't remove it.

THEO

I can't rest until I know where my men are at.

She hesitates. Staring at Theo.

NURSE

I'm sorry, Sergeant Walsh

You were the only survivor.

Theo lies back and stares at the ceiling.

The nurse waits for a moment to see if he wants anything more, before leaving him to his thoughts.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT (MEMORY)

Theo's wife parties with friends.

Time lapse of party stages.

When the party winds down, Theo's wife sits down to rest and falls asleep.

When she's asleep a male friend puts his arm around her.

Time lapse.

FADE INTO:

Theo returns home from Vietnam.

He enters the house at night.

Evidence of a party.

Revellers sleeping. Hippies.

His wife, in the arms of another.

He sits for a while, watching.

A K-Bar killing knife is visible in his boot as he sits.

Beat.

He gets up and leaves, careful not to wake anyone.

Leaving no sign he was there.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS STATION - NIGHT (MEMORY)

Theo is at the ticket window.

All he has is his duffel bag.

THEO

Miami, please.

One way.

TICKETER

That'll be forty two fitty.

Theo pays the lady.

Hitches up his duffel bag over his shoulder and heads off.

EXT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

An older guy wearing shades and a lumberjack jacket passes an emo-looking KID, about 17 or 18.

Looks askance at him as he passes by.

He stops and smiles.

LUMBERJACK GUY

HEY!

He gestures like he knows him.

Sticks out his hand towards the KID.

LUMBERJACK GUY (CONT'D)

What a nice surprise!

The kid stops, trying to place him, ready to hit this guy in the chops with the bag slung over his shoulder.

He sees an outstretched hand and reluctantly does what he was raised to do.

But then his face suddenly changes as the guy's tone changes ...

LUMBERJACK GUY (CONT'D)

... what a starry eyed surprise ...

The kid freezes.

Like a switch was flipped.

Paralyzed.

Holding the kid's hand, he pulls him closer without drawing attention, cradling him.

The guy whispers at length into the kid's ear.

The only thing we hear him say is the last thing.
He says to the kid: "That's an order."

Then the kid just walks off as if nothing had happened.

INT. FBI PRESS ROOM - DAY

The room is packed to the rafters. A lottery had to be taken.

Expectation is at fever pitch.

PRESS #1

What are you wearing Starchild?

PRESS #2

Are you the Messiah?

PRESS #3

Do you identify as male or female, Starchild?

Starchild looks around.

STARCHILD

Why did you stop going to the moon?

Murmurs.

STARCHILD (CONT'D)

Why did you go to Moon a hundred and fifty times??

Whispering.

STARCHILD (CONT'D)

Why do your leaders hide from you what they have found?

Notifications on everyone's phones.

Everyone checks their phones.

Another data dump on the world's media outlets.

Gasps of disbelief and shock.

People begin pouring out of the room.

THEO (V.O.)

Then she showed us what was on
the moon ...

what Apollo filmed ...

... and then all hell broke loose.

INT. NEWS OUTLETS - MEDIA REACTION MONTAGE

No music.

Only overlapping broadcasts.

Chaos.

CNN NEWS

ANCHOR

We need to emphasize...

The authenticity of these images has not been
verified.

CUT TO:

VIDEO IMAGES:

Apollo 15 footage showing a flying saucer shaped craft on
the side of a crater. Astronauts Dave Scott and James Irwin
are talking.

Images of grainy video of an alien-looking city encased in
a glass dome. An indistinguishable Apollo astronaut is
bouncing around in the foreground.

Indistinct astronaut posing in front of a large derelict spacecraft.

FOX NEWS

HOST

If these files are genuine...

...this is the biggest government cover-up
in human history.

If they're fake...

It's the most sophisticated disinformation
attack ever carried out.

BBC NEWS

ANCHOR (V.O)

Broadcasters around the world have
interrupted regular programming following
what appears to be another coordinated
release of classified material.

Shockwaves that will reverberate for a very
long time.

VIDEO IMAGES:

Apollo 17 astronaut being filmed at the foot of a massive
tower in the Taurus Littrow valley.

Apollo 16 footage on Descartes highlands - looking down
over a massive sprawling city of structures connecting by
what looks like large pipes or tunnels.

AL JAZZEERA

ANCHOR

Governments worldwide have declined immediate
comment.

Stock markets are facing total collapse.
But ... streaming services are experiencing
unprecedented demand ... and sci-fi is trending.

NEWSROOM.

Editors.

Producers.

Phones ringing nonstop.

PRODUCER

Get NASA.

EDITOR

They're not answering.

PODCAST.

HOST

Forget Starchild.

Who uploaded this?

YOUTUBE LIVE.

Millions watching.

The footage freezes.

Zooms.

Enhances.

HOST

...Is that...

No...

Is that a *city*?

UNIVERSITY.

Planetary geologists.

Image analysts.

Former astronauts.

All staring silently at the same screen.

SOCIAL MEDIA

#TheMoon

#Apollo15

#ReleaseEverything

#Starchild

#Disclosure

The numbers climb too fast to read.

LATE NIGHT NEWS

ANCHOR

We're receiving reports that NASA's public
website has become unavailable.

Unsubstantiated rumors on the internet claim
hackers are "scraping information off NASA
servers..."

CABLE NEWS

COMMENTATOR

If these are fabricated...

Someone has declared war on objective
reality.

ANOTHER PANEL

COMMENTATOR

If they're authentic...

Nothing matters more.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM

The Press Secretary enters.

The room erupts.

Reporters shout over one another.

REPORTER

Has the President seen the footage?

REPORTER #2

Can the administration deny these images are genuine?

REPORTER #3

Did Apollo astronauts encounter non-human technology?

INT. NASA MISSION CONTROL

Televisions.

Frozen.

Nobody speaks.

SOCIAL MEDIA.

The world arguing in real time.

"They lied."

"It's AI."

"This changes everything."

"Fake."

"Real."

"We're not alone."

"I don't know what to believe."

NEWS ALERT

WORLD LEADERS TO ADDRESS NATIONS.

INT. FBI PRESS ROOM - DAY

Now empty.

Abandoned chairs.

Discarded press badges.

A single microphone lies on the floor.

Silence.

INT. "HOME" / FBI FACILITY - NIGHT

MUSIC: "HANDS OF TIME" BY GROOVE ARMADA FEAT. RITCHIE
HAVENS

Theo and Starchild are in their 'kitchen' baking muffins.

There is a mess.

Flour everywhere.

Baking implements etc.

THEO

There you go ... good.

Now mix it all up.

Good girl ... just like that.

STARCHILD

Who taught you how to bake?

THEO

My nana.

STARCHILD

Not your mom?

THEO

No.

STARCHILD

Why not?

THEO

Well ... she didn't have a lot of time for me.

STARCHILD

Your dad?

THEO

Him neither.

STARCHILD

Why not?

THEO

He was in the army.

He was away a lot.

Seemed like he was *always* away.

THEO

What about *your* mom ... *your* dad?

Starchild doesn't bite.

STARCHILD

What was your nana like?

Theo smiles.

THEO

Oh she *loved* me ... they *loved* me.

My nana and grandpa ... they were artists.

Yeah ... they loved me a lot.

I was their only grandchild.

STARCHILD

Did your other grandparents love you too?

THEO

(looks glum)

Actually ... no.

I don't remember my father's father.

He died before I was born.

Police sergeant. The town sergeant.

Big man. Quiet. Didn't say much.

But my father's mother ... whoa ...

She was a hard woman. A *hard* woman

STARCHILD

Why didn't she love you ?

Theo thinks about the question.

THEO

She didn't like my father very much.

So that pretty much meant she didn't like me I guess.

I had cousins. She liked them well enough.

I don't think she ever smiled at me though.

All I can remember is her coal house.

I'm not sure ...

I think she used to put me in there ...

STARCHILD

WHY?

THEO

(smiling)

She blamed my father for leading his little brother down the wrong path.

Smoking. Drinking. Gambling. Stuff like that.

But I loved being at the other house.

They lived close to the sea.

Grandpa had a work shed in the back garden.

(shaking head)

It was a magical shed to me.

The things he made in there ...

(stops to imagine)

Spanish Galleons. Perfect replicas.

The most beautiful chess board and metal pieces I ever saw.

A little sail boat for me to float on the pond.

There was a little pond in a beautiful big rose garden near their house.

Every kind of rose ...

He had a little vice in there ... a place for everything and everything in its place ... incredible craftsman.

And man he could *draw*.

He was a genius with a pencil.

My grandmother ... she painted with oils.

(one memory catches him)

She used to sing to me ...

FADE INTO:

Theo and Starchild are sitting down at a table.

Theo is shuffling and splicing

The evidence of muffins eaten.

THEO

Can you play Poker?

Starchild stares at him.

THEO

Let's see how smart you really are.

CUT TO:

Theo is showing Starchild the hands of poker.

What beats what.

THEO

Aces. Bullets.

They beat *cowboys*, they beat all other pairs,
okay?

But we don't slow play them in Texas.

We don't let slimeballs slither in on the river,
mmkay?

Make 'em pay.

This is two pair now ... fours and fives ...

That beats any pair.

Or ... the highest number beats another two pair,
okay?

Now here's three tiny twos ...

But they beat any old two pair ...

Starchild watches in silence.

FADE INTO:

STARCHILD

Do you have any money

Beat.

THEO

(looking at Starchild)

Mmm ... *some* ... no thanks to *you*.

I will LEND you some money.

CUT TO:

Theo and Starchild are playing poker.

Theo has just lost another hand.

He is trying to see what Starchild had.

THEO

Quite a string of luck there ..

STARCHILD

Am I smart?

Pokes at discarded cards.

THEO (CONT'D)

What do we have here ..

SAY WHAT?!

You've got ...

(whispers)

You've got jack shit is what you've got!

STARCHILD

Why don't we have a swear jar?

Aren't you supposed to *pay* to see my cards?

Isn't that *cheating*?

Theo looks stunned. Hurt.

THEO

I am a man of ... of high integrity.

Beat.

I have a Medal of Honor ...

Handed to me by the President
of the United States.

Do YOU have a Medal of Honor?

No, I didn't think you did.

He stares intently at his hand, wishing it to be better.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY PUBLIC PARK - DAY

"IT'S ALRIGHT(I FEEL IT!)" BY NUYORICAN SOUL FEAT. JOCELYN BROWN

A massive crowd in the park.

Banners everywhere supporting Starchild.

A school band is playing.

Cheerleaders are cheering.

People of all ages have come to see Starchild, an inspiration to many.

The stage is set for her.

THEO (V.O.)

Then all of a sudden ...

... after all the behind-the-scenes fury ...

... there was no opposition whatsoever to giving the public what they wanted.

A celebration.

They put her center stage.

And there wasn't a damn thing I could do about it.

Theo is escorting her.

He looks about. Concerned.

Where is all the security?

She is not the POTUS ... but *where is all the security?*

He says nothing, scanning the rooftops, careful not to alarm her.

Starchild looks like a queen ... meeting her subjects.

The backstage staff all try to get a close look at her.

EXT. ROOFTOP OVERLOOKING PARK - DAY

The KID is setting up shop on the rooftop, overlooking the stage area.

He has a basic kit.

An AR-15 and a scope, with his satchel for a tripod.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM OVERLOOKING PARK - DAY

A shadow agent in his late thirties is also setting up shop in a room overlooking the stage from roughly the same direction.

His rifle is *not* basic, and he slowly screws on a suppressor to its barrel.

Carefully, he doesn't tighten it at the end.

He looks to the stage as the crescendo peaks.

Starchild takes the stage.

The world is on tenterhooks.

EXT. ROOFTOP OVERLOOKING PARK - DAY

The KID is all set up.

Lying prone and looking through the scope.

His rifle is propped up on his satchel.

CUT TO SCOPE P.O.V.

The KID is aiming at the sky over the stage.

He is not aiming at Starchild, who is now standing on stage with a microphone being stuck in her face.

He is waiting.

Waiting for a certain sound.

Starchild says something into the microphone.

A shot rings out across the park.

Screaming.

The KID discharges his weapon, once, aiming at blue sky.

Pandemonium breaks out.

Chaos erupts in the park.

He packs up his things into his satchel and moves off.

Not running. Calm.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM OVERLOOKING PARK - DAY

The shooter first picks up the empty shell on the floor and places it in his pocket.

No second shot required. Mission success.

He calmly unscrews his suppressor and dismantles his weapon.

When he is finished, he wipes down anything he's touched.

looks around one last time for anything that shouldn't be there.

Satisfied, he leaves.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Outside, the mob has noticed a figure shuffling off a rooftop.

THEO (V.O.)

I spent eighteen long months in Kontum.

You might leave the jungle ...

But the jungle never leaves you.

For me ... it's the sound of gunfire.

The rat - tat - tat of seven six
two thirty nine mill in the
distance

The crack - crack - crack of the
twenty five.

She was back in heaven before I
heard the shot that took her.

The high register of a
Winchester three oh eight ... or a
NATO round.

It was followed by something
like an AR-15 in the distance ...

... What they found on the kid.

I never got to her ...

I couldn't hold her ...

They wouldn't let me hold her.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Long shot.

The shooter leaves, disappearing into a crowd all looking the other way.

In the distance, out of focus, we can see people on the stage trying to help Starchild, but it is too late.

The shooter calmly walks down the street toward the camera.

A car pulls out from a parking spot on the street and rolls up to the shooter.

It stops and he gets in.

The car rolls off into the distance.

MONTAGE - MEDIA REACTION TO STARCHILD ASSASSINATION

- Bill Maher angle:

"Well, look ... I'm sorry ... but if you're going to say those kinds of things ... don't be surprised if somebody shoots at you ... that's all I'm sayin'..."

(slugs a gin tonic)

Guest on Maher (looking bemused) : "She was like ... what ... *eight*?"

- The View angle:

"The conspiracy nuts are already out in force saying it was the CIA ... MOSSAD ..."

(ladies shaking their heads)

"Oh please ... like those nine eleven *truthers* ... ohmygod ..."

- The TMZ angle:

"Was the shooter a pedophile?
Authorities find disturbing imagery on his
home computer ..."

- The BBC angle: [Supportive of lone shooter KID theory]
"more information coming in all the time on
our shooter, Declan Timothy Ryan, an
Evanston native. Only seventeen years of age
... but already a crack shot ... seen here with
his AR-15 in a very belligerent pose."
-

- Russell Brand Angle:

"So where did Home Alone get sorted out wiv
depleted uranium rounds then, eh?
Down the old MOSSAD military supply shop?

Allo mate, Can you sort me out with some
futuristic nuclearised military grade ammunition
please?

And 'urry up ...

(laughing)

... I've got P.E. next!"

- Megyn Kelly show Angle:

"This was an eight year old child ... shot..."

(breaks down crying)

YOUTUBE

YOUTUBER

"The left will never learn ..."

END MONTAGE - MEDIA REACTION TO STARCHILD ASSASSINATION

CUT TO BLACK:

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY (FUTURE)

An elderly man, THEODORE PAYTON WALSH sits on a park bench, staring into the distance.

Caught in a memory.

MUSIC: OPENING CHORDS OF "WOODSTOCK" BY JONI MITCHELL

... intercut with Joni's yodelling of dissonant jazz chords from the coda.

The Woodstock motif runs over the director's cut, a montage of life in the park.

People.

Relationships.

Animals.

People with animals.

An elderly lady approaches.

LADY

Excuse me, but are you Theodore Walsh?

THEODORE

Yes ma'am.

The lady suddenly becomes overcome with emotion.

Theo helps her steady herself as she sits down.

He takes her hand in his.

LADY

I'm so sorry ...

I'm so sorry ...

She meant ...

(sobbing)

For *so many people* she was ...

Theo helps the lady to compose herself.

THEO

(nodding)

I know. I know.

There now. It's okay.

LADY

Oh thank you.

Beat.

A dawning on the lady's face.

LADY (CONT'D)

You don't look a day older ...

Theodore looks down.

LADY (CONT'D)

(looking serious)

I wasn't yet turned thirty that summer.

I turn 65 this July.

THEO

(smiling at the lady)

Congratulations!

Ride the CTA for free!

LADY

(looking askance at Theodore)

There ain't no CTA no more ...

Theo looks away.

Thinking.

LADY (CONT'D)

Wait now ... YES!

She said something to you ...

She whispered something in your ear ...

All those years and you never told anyone.

Beat.

THEO

(looks off into the distance again)

Well ... that's the thing of it ...

(nodding slowly)

That's just the thing of it.

Beat.

LADY

What *was* she?

THEO

(Looks into the distance, thinking)

She was a child of the sun.

(nodding)

Just like she said she was.

LADY

What *did* she say to you?

Beat.

THEO

(still looking into the distance)

Things she couldn't have known.

The lady's expression doesn't change.

THEO

I was supposed to retire ... the
very next day.

(nodding)

She *knew*.

That was the thing.

CUT TO:

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY (PAST)

Starchild is about to take the stage.

She turns to Theo and he leans down to hear her.

We see her whispering in his ear and slipping something into his pocket.

STARCHILD

(whispering)

She was always faithful.

She never stopped loving you.

And those men all wanted you to go back. Every one of them.

That's the way it goes.

Theo looks stunned.

Starchild runs off ... out of focus.

CUT TO:

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY (FUTURE)

Theo shakes the ladies hand and places his hat on his head.

He says something indistinguishable.

He gets up and starts walking away.

A closeup of Theo thumbing the back of his crucifix.
Starchild's necklace.

THEO (V.O.)

The lady had it right though.

I never *did* age a day more in all those years.

Feel like a teenager.

Our POV is now seeing what Theo is seeing.

Theo is walking towards a huge STATUE OF STARCHILD in the park.

Families of all creeds and colors PICNIC AND PARTY around it.

Singing and dancing.

THEO (V.O.)

I don't know who she was ... or what she was ...

I only know what she meant to me.

What she meant to everybody.

FADE TO BLACK:

STARCHILD (V.O.)

(whispering)

Love the least of you ...

Together as one ...

... but many in kind.

END.

MUSIC: "WOODSTOCK" BY JONI MITCHELL

MUSIC: "BLACK GOLD OF THE SUN" BY ROTARY CONNECTION / 4HERO
MIX