

ASTRID: MY ECO-WARRIOR

PILOT EPISODE

"ONE OF OUR OWN"

Written by

Diana T. Black

[diana@dianatblack.com](mailto:diana@dianatblack.com)

(310) 922 0839

**TEASER**

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. FOREST BOUNDARY (PLANET: BETA CENTAURI-6) - DAY**

SUPER: BETA CENTAURI-6. NEAR FUTURE.

A CLOAKED FIGURE strides out of the woodland forest onto the meadow...avoiding young PLANTS, breaking through the soil.

Following him and levitating just above the vegetation, is a "platoon" of beachball-sized, METALLIC SPHERES. They emit a low-frequency HUM. From small holes perforating its entire surface, radiates a soft, PINK LIGHT.

As the spheres pass above the young plants, they begin to grow at an accelerated rate.

The cloaked figure heads for a sleek SPACE CRUISER that hovers just above the ground. It's ramp lowers -- he steps lightly onboard.

One by one, the spheres dock into the open hatches along the sides and rear of the vessel.

**EXT. FOREST VALLEY & BEYOND - CONTINUOUS**

Back in the woodland forest -- an alien war zone.

Amongst broken TREES and mangled vegetation, CORPSES of "orc-like" creatures piled high, are consumed by colorful FUNGI.

Levitating above the vegetation is a much larger sphere than those that returned to the cruiser. It HUMS. A soft PINK LIGHT shines from the many holes in its metallic surface.

The forest regenerates at amazing speed.

This regenerative process is occurring planet-wide.

**EXT. MOUNTAIN SUMMIT (EARTH) - NIGHT**

SUPER: SENTINEL DOME -- YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, U.S.

An angelic-looking, blue-eyed human girl -- ASTRID (18), searches the starry sky. She shivers, her breath -- frosty.

ASTRID  
He should be home by now.

ALBIN (60), a tall, wiry CUSTODIAN -- a long-lived, humanoid species from the Planet Vardaran, who monitor our sector of the galaxy, drapes his cloak around her.

Albin is an explorer. He's also Astrid's doting Uncle.

ALBIN  
Ahh, the impatience of youth. Let's go inside, he could be hours.

Astrid continues to look up at the night sky...Albin shape-shifts into a huge BEAR and wraps his shaggy arms around her, hugging her to his chest. She snuggles in.

ASTRID  
I love you, Al.

Albin, as a bear, gently kisses her head.

**INT. CUSTODIAN COUNCIL CHAMBER - SAME TIME**

SUPER: PLANET VARDARAN, FIVE LIGHT-YEARS FROM EARTH.

Dressed in his formal uniform bearing a "Science" insignia on his coat lapel, THE CUSTODIAN known as ELEN (42) -- Senior Biologist and Leader of the "Earth Mission" turns to face the blank wall...his forehead slightly bowed.

Watching that blank space -- members of THE CUSTODIAN COUNCIL -- tall, silver-haired men, similarly dressed, bearing the "Councilor" Insignia on their coat lapels.

IMAGES from EARTH materialize on the wall...

- A MOUNTAIN -- strip-mined.
- Wild ELEPHANTS -- shot.
- An angelic, blue-eyed HUMAN CHILD -- looks up and smiles.
- Pristine RAINFOREST -- bulldozed -- ANIMALS fleeing.
- CITY SLUMS -- mountains of trash.
- WHALES -- butchered on a factory ship. Blood on the decks.

SURAN (50), Council leader and career politician, raises his hand.

SURAN  
Elen, stop!

The images fade. The Councilors -- visibly upset.

ELEN  
You did insist, Suran.

Standing before them -- the tall, handsome GALEN (32).

He's the cloaked figure we've already encountered and a highly celebrated CUSTODIAN ECO-WARRIOR.

GALEN

And you would defend those who've committed these crimes?!

ELEN

No, brother, but Earth is not Beta Centauri-6.

Galen whips around to the Councilors.

GALEN

The restoration of genetic diversity on Earth will take thousands of years, even with Custodian technology.

Councilor Suran studies Elen with an intense look.

SURAN

The blue-eyed creature? A human?

ELEN

Yes. Nobody of consequence, Suran.

GALEN

Humans must be eliminated. Each day we delay, more species go extinct, more land destroyed. Nothing is sacred to them.

SURAN

Elen, how long before total ecological collapse?

ELEN

(reluctant)

Within seventy-five Earth years.

Suran "telepathically connects" with the Councilors -- their foreheads slightly bowed in unison. He breaks the link and taps a METAL GONG on the table.

SURAN

We see no alternative. Galen, you may begin the eradication process.

ELEN

But I'm still to complete DNA profiling of non-Primate life. Please allow me to finish the mission, Suran. I must return.

## INT. GALEN'S SPACE CRUISER - NIGHT

Elen sits alone, deep in thought as the space cruiser travels at warp speed across the vastness of SPACE.

He takes a DEVICE from his pocket and activates it. A 3-D IMAGE of Astrid on a pedestal -- she smiles and waves.

His eyes tinged with sadness, look out at the tiny specks of light amid the blackness of space.

A fractal image of a BUDDHIST DHARMA CHAKRA - a spoked wheel, appears on a wall screen. SANKHARA is an ancient, fully-autonomous A.I. -- a sentient being of pure energy.

SANKHARA

How are you going to explain her?

Elen pockets his device.

ELEN

Galen's simply docking with the cloaked transport in orbit.

SANKHARA

It's clear he has the Council on side, especially Suran. I sense...

Galen strides onto the command deck, sits in the cockpit and keys in the docking sequence.

SANKHARA (CONT'D)

Greetings Galen, we've had no time. Vardaran seems busier than ever. On Beta Centauri-6 -- well done.

GALEN

Thank you. Their natural ecosystems are almost restored. So Elen, why convey a human's image to the Council? Why the delay?

ELEN

She's a reminder of the species you're about to annihilate. The mission's incomplete.

GALEN

They deserve it.  
(To Sankhara)  
When I return we'll have time.

ELEN

When?

GALEN

I can block your mind too, Brother.

**INT. CUSTODIAN COUNCIL - ARCHIVES (VARDARAN) - NIGHT**

SUPER: CUSTODIAN RECORDS OFFICE

A CUSTODIAN ASSISTANT (21) enters the vault, locks the door.

He heads down an aisle at the back of the room...

Removing a dusty cover off a COMMUNICATION CONSOLE, he activates the "voice only" mode.

CUSTODIAN ASSISTANT  
(into the console)  
It's time. Custodian Elen is returning and I expect updates of his movements. You would be wise not to try and remove the implants. We know your location.

**INT. GALEN'S SPACE CRUISER - ELEN'S QUARTERS - NIGHT**

Elen packs his things. Sankhara appears on a wall screen.

SANKHARA  
Now what are you going to do? You look exhausted and you can't lock him out forever. What if our alternative--

ELEN  
Watch me.

SANKHARA  
Fails?

Elen, grim-faced, continues to pack...

The "pale, blue dot" of EARTH looms closer in the window.

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

**EXT. MOUNTAIN SUMMIT - NIGHT**

SUPER: SENTINEL DOME -- YOSEMITE N.P., CA

Elen's cloaked transport touches down in the light snow...

Astrid runs to Elen's outstretched arms. She looks up at him.

ASTRID  
Father? What's wrong?

ELEN  
Nothing of consequence, dear one,  
but you should be inside.

ASTRID  
Albin kept me warm. I want to  
accompany you next time. See the  
Vardaran forests.

Albin shape shifts into his humanoid form and embraces Elen.

They telepathically connect -- foreheads bowed. Elen breaks  
the connection. Albin studies his face, looking worried.

ELEN  
Let's get in out of the cold.

**EXT. CUSTODIAN RELAY STATION (TITAN) - NIGHT**

SUPER: SATURN'S MOON -- TITAN

Partly buried in the ice on the far side of the moon is a  
camouflaged, prismatic DOME.

Galen braces against the ICY WIND and heads for the AIRLOCK.

**INT. CUSTODIAN RELAY STATION - CONTINUOUS**

THE CUSTODIAN -- ARNE (22), a lanky, silver-haired "wannabe"  
Eco-Warrior YAWNS loudly, his feet on the console, perusing  
the surveillance screens -- look bored.

Galen SLAMS the inner door. Arne leaps to attention.

ARNE  
Greetings, Galen. Honored to see  
you, sir. Congratulations on  
Centauri-6. I wish I could have  
been there to assist.

GALEN

Greetings. Can you monitor him?

ARNE

Who?

GALEN

Who do you think?! My brother.

ARNE

I'm only permitted to monitor  
medallion activity, sir.

GALEN

Keep me informed of anything  
unusual. The Council's eager to  
implement the eradication protocol.

ARNE

I've no love for humans either for  
what they're doing, but according  
to the Council isn't it you that's--

GALEN

Keep me informed if you wish to  
rise above this station.

**EXT. MOUNTAIN SUMMIT - DAY**

Amongst the trees, CRYSTALLINE DOMES disguised as GRANITE  
BOULDERS glint in the sunlight.

Entering one, we'd see CONDENSED SUNLIGHT internally reflect  
down the metallic LIGHT TUBE through tons of rock, deep into  
the mountain.

**INT. SECRET CUSTODIAN BASE - HYDROPOONICS - DAY**

FRUIT TREES and vertical hydroponic bays of VEGETABLES fill  
the room. They grow towards the LIGHT TUBES in the ceiling.

Astrid, gathering food, SINGS a traditional SWEDISH SONG.

**INT. SECRET CUSTODIAN BASE - ALPHA LAB - SAME TIME**

Elen, at a lab bench, listens to her VOICE and HUMS along.

Downing tools, he looks "distant" -- lost in a memory...

**FLASHBACK - EXT. FOREST - NIGHT**

SUPER: SAREK N.P., SWEDEN. 18 years ago...

Standing in the forest of snow-laden EVERGREENS, Elen gazes up the AURORA BOREALIS and the STARS with a look of pure joy.

He hears a BABY'S CRY. He heads for it...

Under a tree -- a HUMAN BABY, swaddled in blankets. He wraps the blankets tighter around it, then looks about.

ELEN  
(In Swedish, subtitled)  
Hello?! Hello there! Human mother  
respond please! Your baby will die!

SILENCE

He BREATHES on its face... blue lips and cheeks turn pink.

The Baby gazes up at him -- the LIGHT of the Aurora Borealis reflects in its big, blue eyes.

ELEN (CONT'D)  
Why would you be abandoned here?

He holds the Baby's forehead to his own, tucks the baby underneath his cloak and disappears into the forest.

SANKHARA (V.O.)  
Elen, what are you doing with that?

ELEN (V.O.)  
I found it -- abandoned.

SANKHARA (V.O.)  
Our mission is to gather data only,  
not adopt the local fauna, or is it  
for research?

ELEN (V.O.)  
It's a defenseless baby, I couldn't  
leave it to die.

#### INT. ALPHA LAB - (BACK TO PRESENT)

Elen resumes the DNA sampling, and listens...

SILENCE

#### INT. BETA LAB - CONTINUOUS

ALIEN TECH fills the lab. On screens -- LIVE CAMS and data readouts of Earth's ecosystems and oceans.

Astrid with a star-struck, dreamy expression on her face, sits in front of a computer, studying a personnel file...

CUSTODIAN ID: GALEN / Beta: 298754  
AGE: 275  
DESIGNATION: ECO-WARRIOR / FIELD RANK: ALPHA  
RECENT MISSION: Beta Centauri-6 STATUS: Successful completion  
FUTURE MISSION: Earth -- eradication of Primate Order  
CURRENT LOCATION: VARDARAN (on leave)

KIN: ELEN / Alpha: 298542  
AGE: 302  
DESIGNATION: SENIOR BIOLOGIST. FIELD RANK: ALPHA  
CURRENT MISSION: Earth STATUS: ongoing  
CURRENT LOCATION: EARTH (37.72N/119.58W)

Elen enters the lab.

Astrid closes the computer file and runs to hug him. Through sad, misty eyes he manages a smile.

ELEN  
And what do you plan for dinner on  
this, your special day?

Her blue eyes sparkle with love and happiness.

ASTRID  
Quiche and your favorite dessert.

ELEN  
Ahh, Peach cobbler.

ASTRID  
(laughing)  
No! Apple pie!

He studies the readouts displayed on a nearby monitor.

ELEN  
I see you've been busy.

ASTRID  
The false readings have re-routed  
the fleet. By the time they've  
recalibrated, the tuna will have  
long since gone.

ELEN  
You make a fine Custodian...and  
your computer assignments?

ASTRID  
My lessons are complete, but I was  
told to suspend work on "The Game."  
(off Elen's look)  
Why, Father? What's wrong?

ELEN  
Nothing of consequence.

ASTRID

Good, then I want to train as an Eco-Warrior.

Elen is momentarily stunned -- he quickly buries it.

ELEN

It's a hard life, Astrid. Forever vigilant, held in suspicion and feared by many for the violent means they use to fulfil their duties. You're free to choose, but is that the life you really want?

ASTRID

Yes.

Elen studies her face.

ELEN

Are you happy here?

ASTRID

Why would you ask? You're my family. I love you. All of you and this is my home. Though it would be nice to return to Sweden once in a while -- see the forests.

ELEN

I miss them too. Go now, go make us a fine Birthday feast.

**INT. ELEN'S QUARTERS - NIGHT**

Albin follows Elen into the room. Sankhara appears on the AV screen. The door is SEALED.

ELEN

I can't bear this. I can't. She's my beloved daughter.

ALBIN

Ours. There must be an alternative.

SANKHARA

None. If Galen finds her--

ELEN

He can't. The shielding around this mountain protects us, but you know that, even the Council doesn't know our exact location. So how--

SANKHARA

You intend on imprisoning her?

ELEN  
Of course not!

SANKHARA  
He will find us eventually and  
detecting her enhancements, he'll  
kill her. He must. That's his job.

ELEN  
She along with the entire Primate  
Order. Eighty-three million years  
of evolution, erased.

SANKHARA  
If the Council learns you've  
adopted and enhanced an alien it  
will erase your career! Banished.

ALBIN  
Enable SR-64 I'll go with her.  
(To Elen)  
You can't go, but in their eyes I'm  
just an old man who's out on one of  
his adventures.

SANKHARA  
Albin, this is no time for jest and  
you'd hardly pass as a human.

ALBIN  
Enable SR-64 and--

SANKHARA  
Enabling an enhancement she's not  
even aware of will come as a shock  
and she won't be in control of it.  
Not until neurological chemical  
balance is restored.

ALBIN  
She can't leave here defenseless!  
While she may be brilliant she's  
naïve in the ways of her kind.

SANKHARA  
Agreed. And revealing her life in  
here, out there will see us all in  
trouble. There's no way around it.  
Her memory engrams must be erased.

ELEN  
No! We cannot do that to her!