

Land of The Sunken Garden

Screenplay By

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Fade into, then out of, a quote written in fantasy storybook lettering centered against a background of matching sketches on an off-white canvas showing pictures of various mythical creatures and fantastical places as they're being drawn:

"Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions."

-Albert Einstein

Fade Out.

EXT. - DAYTIME - #20 WILLIAM STREET, MT. VERNON, NY

After the opening title sequence, a caption appears at the bottom of the screen during a shot of a large, brick and stone, five-story apartment building in a city just north of The Bronx. The caption reads, "Friday, September 13, 1985," and is followed by the opening scene of a thirty-something mother, Carol Patterson, and her two children, an adolescent boy named David and his nine-year-old sister, Rosalinda, heading up the elevator to the third floor through the side entrance of the building, each of them carrying arms-full of various items from their car. Moments later, they're seen bringing the items into their new apartment. As they do so, Rosie dramatically makes sure everyone knows how spent she is as she drops the items she's carrying onto the dining room table with a gasp.

ROSALINDA

(Leaning forward on the table
and apparently trying catch
her breath after carrying in
such a supposedly heavy load)

Wow! I can't believe I managed to
carry all that stuff in.

DAVID

(Not at all sympathetic as he
puts his things down as well)

I can't believe it, either. That's
the most you've carried since we
moved in here.

ROSALINDA

(Annoyed)

Hey! I've done more than that!

DAVID

Not that I've seen.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

(After having placed her items
on the table as well)

Okay guys, don't fight. You've
both helped. And besides, what's
most important is that we're
finally all moved-in now.

DAVID

Finally is right. When did we
start?

CAROL

(Heading into the kitchen to
start dinner)

Come on David, you knew this would
be a slow move between you guys
with school and your Dad and I
working.

DAVID

Yeah, I know. That's why I thought
we should've gone with a moving
company.

CAROL

(With a chuckle)

All that money just to move three
blocks away?

DAVID

Would've been quicker.

CAROL

Quicker, but unnecessarily
expensive. Besides, why should we
have gone with a moving company
when we had friends who were
willing to help us with the
majority of it in exchange for
pizza last Saturday?

ROSALINDA

Yeah, David. And I know you
weren't complaining then. How many
slices did you have?

DAVID

(Irritated by his sister's
teasing - especially because
he knows she's right)

Shut up, Rosie.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

Okay guys, no fighting. Go ahead and finish getting your room set up.

DAVID

(Glaring at Rosie as they start toward their shared bedroom)

Okay, Mom. Call us when dinner's ready.

CAROL

Don't worry. I will.

Moments later, David and Rosie arrive in their room and Rosie falls on her bed, grabbing a pencil and piece of paper that she left lying on the bed earlier, and begins drawing.

DAVID

(Also sitting on his bed, but getting more into setting things up like Carol had told them to do)

Mom told us to finish setting up the room.

ROSALINDA

I will, but I need to do something first.

DAVID

What, more of your drawings? Why don't you save that for later? You know, after we've gotten the room straightened up? There are only a few boxes left and I'd like to get them unpacked because I'm tired of seeing them here.

ROSALINDA

(As she focuses on her drawing)

David, try not to forget that you're still only twelve.

DAVID

I know how old I am.

ROSALINDA

Yeah, but you don't always act like it. And to answer your question, I'm doing this right now instead of
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROSALINDA (cont'd)
waiting 'till later because the
picture is fresh in my mind. I
don't want to forget it. I can't
forget it.

DAVID
What are you drawing,
anyway? what's so important?

ROSALINDA
Just...stuff.

DAVID
Stuff?

ROSALINDA
Yeah. Stuff.

DAVID
Seems like more than just stuff to
me.

ROSALINDA
You wouldn't understand, David.

DAVID
(Annoyed by Rosie's comment)
Oh, I wouldn't?

Immediately, David gets up, goes over and snatches the paper away from Rosie.

ROSALINDA
(Quickly getting up and trying
to get the paper back from
David)
Hey! Give that back, David!

DAVID
(Trying to look at it while
trying to keep Rosie from
getting it back from him at
the same time)
No, I want to see what it is you
find so important.

ROSIE
It's just characters, okay?

DAVID
(Sarcastically)
What, more of your little cartoon
character friends?

ROSALINDA

(Still trying to get it back)

No David, it's other stuff now give
it back!

Just then, David gets a good look at it and his whole countenance changes.

DAVID

Rosie, where did you get these
ideas?

ROSALINDA

(Still trying to get the paper
back as David continues to
look at it)

They're just ideas, now give it to
me.

DAVID

(Pulling it out of her reach)

Just ideas? Really?

ROSALINDA

(Frustrated, as she finally
reaches up and grabs the paper
away from David, then goes
back to the bed to continue
drawing)

Yes, just ideas. You ever have any
of those? I know you're a good
writer but it seems like you just
always write about things you
see. Why don't you try using a
little imagination for once?

DAVID

(Quiet for a second, after
looking at Rosie's drawings)

Yeah...well, you use too much
imagination in your drawings.

ROSALINDA

(Looking up at David for a
moment with frustration)

What? (She looks back down at her
drawing and continues working on it
after a moment) You don't
know what you're talking about.

DAVID

(Getting even more frustrated)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)

Yes I do. Your drawings aren't of real things. They're just...they're just make-believe.

ROSALINDA

(Not even looking at him this time - just continuing her work)

Whatever, David.

DAVID

(As he turns around to face the other side of the room)

Yeah, whatever.

David goes over to his bed and starts separating the things he has to put away while Rosie continues her drawings.

CUT.

INT. - NIGHTTIME - DAVID AND ROSIE'S BEDROOM

Later on that night, as everyone in the Patterson household sleeps, David suddenly wakes up. Getting out of bed, he looks out the window at the light of the full moon as it shines mystically into the room. Turning and generally looking around, David notices that the moon seems to be shining almost specifically on Rosie's character drawings. Walking over to look at them, he really can't help but notice how good they really are - especially considering how young his sister is. As he stands admiring them, Rosie wakes up softly and looks at him.

ROSALINDA

What are you doing?

DAVID

Just looking at your drawings.

ROSALINDA

(Sitting up)

What time is it?

DAVID

(Still looking at the drawings)

I don't know. Late.

ROSALINDA

Why are you so interested in my drawings all of a sudden?

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

(Picking one of them up and
looking at it closer, then
looking at her)

Where did you get these ideas,
Rosie?

ROSALINDA

Why?

DAVID

I'm curious.

ROSALINDA

Why, so you can tell me that
they're make-believe again?

DAVID

I'm sorry about how I was
before. I've just...had a lot on
my mind. Some things have been
bothering me.

ROSALINDA

(Starting to show slight
concern)

Like what?

DAVID

Just...I don't know. Questions
I've been asking myself about what
I believe.

ROSALINDA

(Confused)

What you believe?

DAVID

Yeah.

ROSALINDA

What are you taking about?

DAVID

Where did you get these ideas,
Rosie?

ROSALINDA

You'd think I was crazy if I told
you.

DAVID

No, I don't think I would.

ROSALINDA

(Starting to put two and two together)

Wait a minute...you said you've been asking yourself questions about what you believe.

DAVID

Yeah, but I don't know what to think.

ROSALINDA

(Getting excited)

You've seen them too, haven't you?!

DAVID

(Trying to keep her from waking their parents)

Shh. What are you talking about?

ROSALINDA

Don't you give me that, David. You know what I'm talking about!

DAVID

(Unsure; thinking about what's going on)

Do I?

ROSALINDA

Yes David, you know exactly what I mean! (She grabs her drawings from him) These! You've seen them, too!

DAVID

(Getting frustrated and confused at the same time)

I don't know! I don't know what I've seen!

ROSALINDA

(Getting annoyed as she gets up out of bed and follows David, who is starting to walk to the other side of the room as he's unable to make what's really happening)

David, you always try to be so grown up! Why don't you just admit it?! You have seen them!

DAVID
(Finally letting go of his apprehension)
Yes, okay?! I've seen...something!

ROSALINDA
Out of the corner of your eye! You've seen them there, but when you turn to look at them, there's nothing! Right?!

DAVID
Yes! But...

ROSALINDA
It's okay to say it, David! I've been seeing them, too! How long ago did it first start? I mean, for you?! How long ago?!

DAVID
I don't know, Rosie...a few days. a week, maybe? I don't know. All I do know is that I don't know what to believe.

ROSALINDA
What to believe?! What is there not to believe, David?! I've seen them, too! What, you think we're both going crazy?!

DAVID
Rosie, all I know is that I've been seeing things recently that I've always believed were just...pretend. Things we heard about in stories and saw in movies and stuff.

ROSALINDA
Yeah, but David, this isn't a story or a movie. This is real. And we've been seeing them. So they must be real.

DAVID
But even if they are, why us? I mean, why have we been seeing them?

ROSALINDA

I don't know. They want us to for
some reason.

DAVID

Well, yeah. But what's the reason?

Suddenly, their conversation is interrupted by something unusual.

ROSALINDA

Wait...you feel that?

DAVID

(Stopping for a moment)

Yeah. What is that?

ROSALINDA

That's a breeze. But where's it
coming from?

DAVID

(Looking around)

I don't know. All the windows are
closed.

ROSALINDA

It's really nice, actually. Warm.

DAVID

And sweet. You smell that?

ROSALINDA

(Stopping to smell it as well)

Yeah. It's really sweet. What is
that?

DAVID

I have no idea. (He chuckles a
little) Where's it coming from?

ROSALINDA

(looking around)

I don't know, but feels like it's
actually blowing toward the window.

DAVID

No, not the window...the wall.

ROSALINDA

The wall?

DAVID

(Trying to find where the
breeze is blowing toward
specifically)

Yeah. It feels like it's heading
toward the wall.

Just then, the two of them notice that the breeze is blowing into a slightly loose panel on the wall underneath one of their windows.

DAVID

(Glancing at Rosie as the two
of them just stand there
looking at the loose panel)

I don't remember that being loose,
do you?

Carefully, the two of them approach the panel. A moment later, David reaches out and pulls it off, revealing the entrance to what appears to be a celestial tunnel in the wall that's illuminated by a soft, blue light.

DAVID

Where did this come from?

ROSALINDA

(Surprised but intrigued)

I don't know. But I would like to
know where it goes.

DAVID

(Thinking more cautiously;
shocked at Rosie's comment)

You, WHAT? Rosie, we're on the
third floor - this shouldn't
even be here! I mean, do you
realize what you just said?!

ROSALINDA

Yeah. (She starts walking into the
tunnel) Come on!

DAVID

(Following, if for no
other reason, to keep his
sister safe)

Rosie, wait! Rosie! I don't
believe this...Rosie, where are you
going?!

ROSALINDA

(Ahead of David as the two of them begin venturing through the tunnel, which seems to be transparent, with what seems to be outer space completely surrounding it)

I don't know...isn't this cool?!

DAVID

(Continuing to follow behind her)

Cool?! Are you kidding?!

ROSALINDA

(Stopping for a moment)

Hold on...you feel that?

DAVID

(Also stopping)

What? I just feel that breeze. (He thinks for a moment) Actually, it's starting to feel more like a-

ROSALINDA

...A wind, right? Not like, a breeze anymore, but a wind! Like it's getting stronger! (She smells the wind for a second) It smells even sweeter than it did before, doesn't it?

DAVID

(Also smelling the wind)

Yeah, actually. And it's warmer than it was just before we came in here.

ROSALINDA

Yeah...this is really cool. It's almost like somebody's baking something.

DAVID

Great. So, what, are we gonna find a candy house at the end of this tunnel?

ROSALINDA

Maybe. (She looks at him and smiles sarcastically) Did you remember to leave the bread crumbs?

(CONTINUED)

DAVID
You're not funny.

ROSALINDA
(As she turns and continues
with a chuckle)
Come on.

DAVID
(Continuing to follow)
I can't believe we're doing
this. You're braver than I am,
little sister.

ROSALINDA
I know. You're a wimp.

DAVID
Watch it, Rosie. I'll leave you
here.

ROSALINDA
(Laughing confidently)
Go ahead. I'm the one who came in
here first, remember? You just
followed.

DAVID
Yeah, to protect you.

ROSALINDA
(Laughing out loud)
Yeah. Okay.

Suddenly however, the both of them stop again.

ROSALINDA
You hear something?

DAVID
Yeah...up ahead, right?

ROSALINDA
Yeah. Coming from around that
corner up ahead.

DAVID
(As Rosie starts moving
forward again)
It sounds like...

ROSALINDA

(Rounding the corner and stopping with a gasp at what she sees in front of her, as David follows her around the corner just a moment later)

...A waterfall!

To their absolute astonishment, the end of the tunnel dissolves into what appears to be the panoramic view of a nighttime countryside, covered with rolling meadows, green grass, crystal-clear rivers, a majestic waterfall and trees that seem to be blowing in the wind that led them through the tunnel. Looking into the sky, David and Rosie can see that not only is the night full of the brightest stars they've ever seen, but also that there's no moon - only an object that looks more like a sun, but is giving off the dazzling blue light that fills the tunnel.

ROSALINDA

(Stunned, almost whispering with amazement)

David...

DAVID

(Equally as stunned as Rosie takes his hand)

I'm here, little sister.

ROSALINDA

Is this a dream?

DAVID

I don't know, Rosie.

ROSALINDA

(As the both of them notice that the end of the tunnel and the beginning of the countryside seem to be slowly moving over them)

But, I mean, if it is, then we'd be having the same dream, right?

DAVID

Probably.

ROSALINDA

But...people don't have the same dreams, do they?

DAVID
(Looking over at Rosie)
No Rosie - they don't.

Suddenly, a bright light flashes in front of them, with the image of a what looks like a person, appearing in the wind and looking at Rosie, beckoning her to come.

ROSALINDA
(As the wind suddenly grows
overwhelmingly strong)
David! Help me!

DAVID
(Desperately trying to hold
onto his sister as the wind
drags her toward the end of
the tunnel)
I've got you! Hold on!

ROSALINDA
I can't! David! It's pulling me
in!

As the wind grows stronger while lightning flashes and thunder claps fill the inside of the tunnel, David notices that even though Rosie is being pulled further in by the wind, for some reason, he's not being pulled at all.

DAVID
(Trying to use the fact that
he's not being pulled to his
advantage, pulling Rosie
toward him with both hands)
Come on, Rosie, fight it! I'm not
gonna let you go!

ROSALINDA
I can't fight it, David! It's too
strong!

DAVID
(Wrapping his arms around
Rosie)
Come on, sister! Don't let go!

Immediately, the sides of the tunnel begin to break away, getting sucked in by the wind as Rosie loses her footing and is only being held by she and David's grip onto each other.

ROSALINDA
David! I can't hold on!

DAVID
You have to!

ROSALINDA
I can't! I'm slipping!

DAVID
(Feeling Rosie slipping from
his grip)
Rosie!

ROSALINDA
(As she finally loses her grip
and gets sucked into the end
of the tunnel)
DAVID!

DAVID
(As he gets blown back to
entrance of the tunnel while
Rosie disappears, screaming,
as the end of the tunnel
disappears as well)
ROSIE! NO! ROSIE!

CUT.

EXT - DAYTIME - THE OFFICE OF THOMAS PUBLISHING, NEW YORK CITY

As a caption appears at the bottom of the screen that says, "Thirty Years Later," a man who looks to be around late thirties or early forties enters the building. Making his way up to the tenth floor, he greets a receptionist in passing and heads down a corridor, passing a number of offices until he gets to what appears to be the main one at the end of the hall. Walking in, there's a man sitting behind a desk who also appears to be around forty or so. His name is Peter Thomas, the head of the publishing house. The man who enters his office is David. Immediately, they greet each other.

PETER
David, there you are.

DAVID
(Casually sitting down,
indicating an obviously
friendly relationship between
the two men)
Hey Peter. How's your day been?

(CONTINUED)

PETER

My day has, in fact, been very good.

DAVID

Really? Well, that's always good news.

PETER

It is indeed.

DAVID

What's so good about it.

PETER

(Pulling out a manuscript and placing it on his desk)

Success, David.

DAVID

Success is good.

PETER

Success is very good, David. And in this case, the success pertains to you. I didn't think you could do it, David. I really didn't.

DAVID

Didn't think I could do what?

PETER

I didn't think you could outdo yourself.

DAVID

(Humbly but appreciative)

Well, thank you

PETER

No David, thank you. I think this one is gonna be your biggest seller.

DAVID

(Honestly surprised)

Seriously?

PETER

Oh, without a doubt. It seems like this series just gets better and better with each new book. And believe me, I've worked with a lot

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PETER (cont'd)
of very talented authors. But man,
"Rosalinda's Adventures" is
probably the best contemporary
series I've read so far.

DAVID
Again, thank you. I'm honored that
you feel that way.

PETER
Everything about these stories is
incredible. The details, the
pacing, the characters...Rosalinda,
the Princess Sandrin...I mean, you
just seem to hit it out of the park
every time. I still don't get how
you come up with this stuff.

DAVID
(Thinking for a moment)
I have some pretty strong
inspiration.

PETER
(Realizing what David's
talking about)
I know, Rosalinda was your
sister. Actually, isn't today...

DAVID
...The anniversary of her
disappearance. Good memory.

PETER
And how long has it been
now? Thirty years?

DAVID
Thirty-two years. September 13,
1985.

PETER
(Sitting back in his chair and
thinking)
Wow. That's a long time.

DAVID
Yeah, too long.

PETER
And in all that time, there have
never been any leads? No clues,
nothing?

DAVID

No, nothing. Nothing that could be considered useful, anyway.

PETER

Wow. It's almost like she just...disappeared from existence.

DAVID

Yeah, pretty much.

PETER

I hope you don't mind me asking you questions about it. I mean, I know it's a sensitive subject for you and all, which, I'm assuming, is why you've never really talked much about it. Not to me, at least.

DAVID

No, I don't mind. I mean, it was her disappearance specifically that ended up inspiring me to write the series to begin with.

PETER

Well, it must've really affected you. Because like I said, these books...

DAVID

It did affect me. I mean, I remember it vividly. The only thing was, when I told everybody what happened, none of them believed me. The police concluded that a stranger must've come into our apartment somehow and took her, even though we lived on the third floor and everything was locked because it was overnight when it happened. Our parents sent me to a shrink who decided that whatever happened was so traumatic that I came up with the story I gave them as a way to cope with the emotional effects of the situation.

PETER

Would you mind telling me what you told them? Or would it be better if you just kept it to yourself? I hope you don't think I'm trying to pry or anything.

DAVID

No Peter, you've been a good friend and a good business associate for years. I don't mind telling you. Actually, you'd probably be one of the only people I wouldn't mind telling, you know? Only thing is, the story sounds so outlandish, you might have trouble believing it.

PETER

David, you know I'd never call you a liar.

DAVID

Yeah, I know that. But I mean, this isn't even a matter of you calling me a liar. I just don't want you think I'm crazy.

PETER

(With a chuckle)

For as long as we've known each other, if I was gonna think you were crazy, I'd be there already.

David laughs, then thinks for another moment.

DAVID

That week, Rosie and I kept from each other that we both had been seeing things - the same things, actually.

PETER

What kind of things?

DAVID

Weird things. Things that...well, that most people don't realistically believe in.

PETER

Like?

DAVID

Well, fairy-tale things; like elves, things like that. Appearing out of the corners of our eyes, wherever we went for a few days; but then, we'd turn to look, and there wouldn't be anything there.

(CONTINUED)

PETER
(Shocked)

Wow.

DAVID
I told you. Crazy, right?

PETER
No, man. I told you, I don't think you're crazy. I mean, this is definitely not something you hear every day. But...I mean, you said you guys kept this from each other? And you're sure it wasn't just...um, you know, kids being kids? Seeing crazy things, using your imaginations?

DAVID
No, these were real. But we did keep it from each other because we didn't think they could be real. At least, I didn't. Rosie was always a lot more willing to believe in unbelievable things than I was, and she knew it, too. (He smiles, remembering) She was this incredible artist and even though I was starting to write pretty regularly at that time, my stuff was just about regular things. But she knew there was more to life than that, and that's the kind of stuff she drew. She was younger than me, but her creativity was already so much more advanced. I still had a lot of developing to do in that area.

PETER
Okay. So...what happened? How did Rosalinda go missing?

DAVID
Well, this one night, in our family's apartment, we noticed this weird breeze flowing across our bedroom and into a space behind a loose panel in the wall. So I pulled the panel off and we found a tunnel behind it.

PETER

A what?!

DAVID

A tunnel.

PETER

And what floor was your apartment on?

DAVID

The third.

PETER

The third floor.

DAVID

That's right. Believe me, I had the same reaction then as you're having now.

PETER

This really, seriously happened?!

DAVID

Man, I am telling you the absolute truth. Honestly. You wouldn't have believed it. And the craziest part is...it gets stranger.

PETER

Okay...

DAVID

...So anyway, with me being the more irritatingly logical one, Rosie decides to venture into the tunnel. Well, I knew that wasn't the best idea, but I think I was also slightly curious. After a few minutes of walking through this tunnel, which was surrounded by stars, like it was somehow in space or something, we came to what I can only describe as a portal. The end of the tunnel just sort of, dissolved into...well, into what looked like another world.

PETER

What, you mean like, another planet?

DAVID

I don't know. I honestly don't know what it was. I mean, I don't know if this tunnel was like, a wormhole or what. But all we could see was pretty much the place that I write about now in the books. So I don't know if this was another planet or something else. But whatever it was, it wasn't like any place I'd ever seen.

PETER

So what happened after you found this place?

DAVID

Rosie and I were looking at it, trying to believe that what we were seeing was real, and the same wind that had led us in there suddenly picked up and, after quite a struggle, pulled Rosie away from me and into this land. Then it closed up and no one has seen her since.

PETER

Wow, man. That is some story.

DAVID

It's the undeniable truth. I know it sounds crazy but I promise you, it really happened exactly as I just described it.

PETER

And you told your parents about it?

DAVID

Yes. And the police.

PETER

Well, although I honestly do believe you, I can also see how so many other people didn't.

DAVID

So can I. That's why I've pretty much channeled the trauma I experienced that night into my creativity.

PETER

...Which is where the Rosalinda Series comes from. They're pretty much stories of the adventures that I imagine Rosie would be having in a place like that.

DAVID

Exactly.

PETER

So, I know that this would probably had considering where your sister disappeared to but, have you ever thought about pursuing your own search? You know, like hiring an investigator or even looking for her yourself?

DAVID

I doubt any investigator would take my case and honestly, where would I even begin to look?

PETER

Maybe right where it happened? Do you think the people living there now might let you at least look for any clues?

DAVID

I'm sure of it. They're my parents.

PETER

Oh, they still live there?

DAVID

Yeah. After Rosie disappeared, they just couldn't bring themselves to leave there. They've even kept her side of our old bedroom the same as it was at that time, and the door is always closed now. They felt they'd be abandoning any hope that she'd be found if they did leave. I've always felt the same way, actually. That's why, when I grew up and got my own place, I moved into an apartment exactly two floors above them.

(CONTINUED)

PETER

Okay, so there you go. There's
your opportunity.

DAVID

(Smiles ironically)

Way ahead of you. I've been
looking since she disappeared. And
every time, I get the same result -
nothing.

PETER

Okay. Just figured I'd ask.

DAVID

(Curious, noticing that
something seems to be on
Peter's mind)

Everything okay?

PETER

Yeah. I don't know...I just felt
like I should bring that up to you.

DAVID

Bring what up?

PETER

You know...suggesting that you look
for her.

DAVID

Oh. Okay.

PETER

(After a momentary pause, as
the two of them wrap up the
conversation)

Well, I know it's been over thirty
years, but I really hope something
good happens there. I can't even
imagine losing someone close to you
like that. Especially the way your
sister disappeared. I mean, I know
there are all kinds of things in
the universe that we don't
understand. But this...just,
wow. Unbelievable.

DAVID

(As he stands up. and shakes
Peter's hand, preparing to
leave the office)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)

Thanks, Peter. I appreciate the fact that you listened.

PETER

We're friends, David. It wouldn't be right of me not to listen.

DAVID

I know. But it means even more that you believe me.

PETER

I wouldn't be a friend if I didn't.

DAVID

Well, thanks again.

PETER

Not a problem. Oh, and before you leave, I'm gonna be getting on your latest and greatest here first thing Monday morning. If your readers feel the same way about as I do right now, this is gonna be a wild ride.

DAVID

(Just about to leave the room)
Sounds good. I can't wait.

CUT.

EXT - DAYTIME - 42ND STREET, NEW YORK CITY

As David walks down the street, heading toward Grand Central Station where he plans to catch the train back home, his phone rings.

DAVID

(Answering the phone as he walks, with Carol being the caller)

Hey Mom.

CAROL

Hi David. You busy?

DAVID

Not really, just coming back from Tom's office. What's up?

(CONTINUED)

CAROL
Tom's office. So you're in the
City.

DAVID
Well, on my way out. But yeah.

CAROL
Okay. I was out earlier but I just
got back and your father hasn't
been home since he left before I
did this morning. Have you been
here at all?

DAVID
What, at your place?

CAROL
Yeah.

DAVID
No, I haven't. Why?

CAROL
Because the door to your old
bedroom is open.

DAVID
(Very surprised)
What?

CAROL
Yeah. I was pretty surprised as
well.

DAVID
Well, did Dad go in there maybe and
just forgot to close it?

CAROL
No, he was the first person I
called. He wasn't in there at all.

DAVID
(Perplexed)
Wow. That's really weird. And
you're sure you didn't leave it
open?

CAROL
I'm positive.

DAVID

Hmm. Well, there's got to be some reason why it was open. Maybe the latch is wearing away. I can come and check it out before I go up to my place if you want.

CAROL

Sure. I have some things to do around the house and your Dad's not gonna be home until later so if you could take a look at it, that'll be a help. I don't want to have to call the manager just for an issue that might turn out to be something simple we can just do ourselves.

DAVID

Okay, sounds good. I'll be over in a little while.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - #20 WILLIAM STREET, MT. VERNON, NY

A short time later, around early evening, David arrives at the building he and his family have been living in for the past 32 years. Walking up the stairs to the main entrance, David pulls out his key and unlocks the door. Opening the door and walking through it, David expects to hear it shut behind him but as he does, he also hears something else that he does not expect. He hears what sounds like a small voice saying his name.

DAVID

(Stopping and looking around the lobby of the building, where he stands alone)

Hello? (Listens but hears no response) Is anybody there?

After a moment, David continues walking, down the hall and into the elevator, up to his parents' apartment. Opening the door, David is greeted by his mother, who's sitting at the dining room table on her laptop, just a few steps in from the front door.

DAVID

(Walking in and greeting his mother)

Hi Mom.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

(Looking up from her laptop)

Hey David. How was your ride back?

DAVID

Short but relaxing. It's always so much better than driving in and dealing with city traffic.

CAROL

(Looking back at her laptop as they talk)

Oh, I know. Your father and I never drive in unless we have to. Nine times out of ten, when we have to go to the City for something, we take the train and either walk or use mass transit when we're there. It's just so much easier.

DAVID

That it is. (He looks down the hallway toward he and Rosie's old bedroom) So, I'm gonna go check out the door.

CAROL

(Still on her laptop)

Great, thanks David. Like I said before, I have a lot to do here. Stuff for work that I want to get done before the end of the day, otherwise I'd look at it myself. either that or just have your father look at it when he comes come.

DAVID

(Heading down the hallway)

No, it's fine, Mom. I don't mind doing it at all. You just keep doing your work thing there. (He comes to the bedroom and sees that the door is indeed open. Kneeling down to look for any wear in the door frame that might be keeping the latch from holding, David continues the conversation with his mother between rooms.) You know Mom, you wouldn't have to be sitting there doing that if you'd retire like Dad. I mean, it's not

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)
like you need the money with what I
give you and all.

CAROL
Yes, and as I've told you before, I
don't want to retire. I love my
job. You know I don't do it for
the money.

DAVID
(Still trying to figure out
what's going on with the door)
I know that.

CAROL
Besides, it keeps me busy. Helps
take my mind off things I could be
thinking too much
about. Especially today, you
know?

DAVID
(Standing up and testing the
door, closing it and opening
it again as he can see that
there really doesn't seem to
be a problem)
Yeah. I know. (He looks at the
door for a second) Well,
everything seems to be okay with
this door, Mom.

CAROL
Really?

DAVID
Yeah.

CAROL
(Perplexed about the door but
still focusing on her work)
That's weird. I wonder why it was
open then.

DAVID
(Remembering what Peter said
earlier about searching for
Rosie himself as he steps into
the room and looks around for
a moment; not unlike what he's
done so many times before)
I don't know. I mean, it could be
just one of those things.

CAROL

One of what things?

DAVID

You know. Maybe you thought you shut it all the way last time you were in here, but you actually didn't close the door hard enough for it to catch.

CAROL

Maybe. But I haven't been in there in a couple of days. If I didn't shut it all the way, wouldn't it have opened before now?

DAVID

(Slightly distracted as he kneels down and inspects the panel on the wall where he and Rosie found the tunnel the night she disappeared)

Probably. I don't know. It might have. Did you see it closed today at all?

CAROL

Yeah. Just this morning, I was getting something out of the linen closet just outside the room there and the door was shut.

DAVID

(Still looking around the panel, not noticing that the bedroom door is slowly but steadily closing by itself)

It was?

CAROL

Yeah. Well, at least, it seemed to be.

DAVID

I don't know then. (Suddenly, David is startled by the bedroom door closing all the way and locking itself. Confused, David stands up and starts to walk toward the door) Mom, you there?

CAROL

(Still sitting at her laptop
in the dining room)

Yeah, I'm here.

DAVID

(From inside the room,
approaching the door)

Did you just shut the door?

CAROL

(Confused by David's question)

No, I didn't. Why, did it close?

DAVID

(Trying unsuccessfully to
unlock the knob)

Yeah. And it locked. Actually, I
can't unlock it.

CAROL

(Very surprised and getting up
from the table, heading to the
door of the bedroom)

David, the only way you can lock or
unlock it is from the inside.

DAVID

(Trying harder and harder to
get it open but still not
being able to)

I know. I remember. But it's not
unlocking.

CAROL

(Standing on the other side of
the door)

Okay, this is weird. Maybe I
should get the manager.

DAVID

(Still trying to get the door
unlocked)

Yeah, that might be a good idea.

Suddenly, David sees something move out of the corner of his eye. Quickly turning to look, he sees what appears to be an elvish creature pulling the old loose panel off the wall and rapidly disappearing behind it as the celestial tunnel that he and Rosie found as kids appears there again, with the same sweet wind that pulled Rosie in before suddenly blowing into the tunnel from across the room just as it did before - this time however, David can feel it pulling him into the tunnel.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

(Hearing the commotion in the bedroom from the other side of the door)

David? David, you okay?

DAVID

(As the wind gets stronger and stronger, pulling him ever harder toward the tunnel as he looks for things to grab onto)

Mom!

CAROL

(Trying to get the door open as she hears David call her)

David! What's the matter?! David!

DAVID

Mom! It's happening again! Mom!

CAROL

(Trying harder and harder to get the door open)

David! What's wrong?!

DAVID

(As the wind continues to grow, pulling him even harder at the same time)

The tunnel!

CAROL

(Starting to break the door open)

David, I'm coming!

DAVID

(Feeling himself slipping from a bed frame he's trying to hold onto)

I can't hold on!

Finally, Carol breaks the door open with her shoulder, only to see the incredibly shocking sight of David being pulled toward a tunnel in the wall across the room by an incredibly strong wind, as what seems like lightning flashes and thunder claps from the tunnel. Immediately, she grabs onto his waist and tries to pull him back, though not feeling pulled by the wind herself.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL
I've got you!

DAVID
(Still feeling himself
slipping)
I'm slipping!

CAROL
(Trying to hold on as tightly
as possible)
You're not gonna slip, David! I've
got you!

DAVID
(Feeling the force of the wind
pulling his fingers off the
bed frame)

Mom!

CAROL
(Feeling David slipping off
the bed frame)
David!

Suddenly, David loses his grip and slips out of Carol's, flying across the room and into the tunnel, then down its' corridor and toward the same opening that Rosie was pulled into years earlier. Quickly passing through the end of the tunnel as the rest of it closes behind him, David suddenly finds himself slowing down as the wind gently lowers him to his feet in a meadow in the same countryside that he saw Rosie disappear into. Stumbling to regain his footing, David stands for a moment to catch his breath as he feels the wind calm to a gentle breeze again. Looking up, he sees a celestial body in the star-lit sky that glows blue - but it's not a moon as it appears to give off its' own light. Just then, the same figure that appeared in the wind when Rosie was taken appears slightly above David and lowers until it stands in front of him. Seeing it better now, David can see that it looks like a man - almost like a strong, bearded, medieval warrior. The figure is known as the Nightwind of the land.

DAVID
(Looking around, absolutely
shocked and completely unsure
of what to think)
What...wha...where...where am
I? (He looks at the figure) Who
are you?

NIGHTWIND

(In a powerful, majestic voice
- as the wind itself blows
stronger whenever the figure
speaks)

Welcome, David Patterson. I am the
Nightwind of the south. On Earth,
you would call my people,
"Sylph." We are the bringers of
tidings and travelers.

DAVID

(Still very unsure of
everything)

The Nightwind...(He suddenly
remembers the contents of his
"Rosalinda" books) Wait a
minute...(He looks up again, then
back at the Nightwind)...the
Nighttime Sun...this place...

NIGHTWIND

You are in the kingdom of
Arshaka. I was charged to bring
you here by Her Majesty, the
Crowned Princess.

DAVID

(In virtual disbelief)
Arshaka...you mean...Princess
Sandrin?

NIGHTWIND

Her Majesty has been expecting you.

DAVID

(Still trying to understand
what's going on)

Expecting me?

NIGHTWIND

Yes.

DAVID

(Trying to make sense of
everything)

Wait a minute...okay. Let me get
this straight. I'm in the Kingdom
of Arshaka?

NIGHTWIND

You are.

DAVID

But...I just made all this up. You mean, it's real? Wait - how can it be real? I mean, I've been writing about it since Rosie-(He pauses) Rosie...Rosalinda! My sister!

NIGHTWIND

(As more elvish creatures appear and open up another celestial tunnel before David)

You are at the threshold of the kingdom. But the clarity you seek will soon be provided to you.

At that moment, the Nightwind blows David through the next tunnel and to the other end, where he comes out to see an enormous room, like a throne room, filled with all manner of both, human-looking and fantastical creatures - all of them standing and watching as David emerges from the tunnel, which disappears behind him as quickly as it opened. moments later, a dark-haired woman, looking perhaps in her mid-to-late thirties and dressed in some kind of multicolored armor that's decorated with what seem to be a variation of paint streaks, walks up to David. As David is about to learn, the woman is his long-lost sister.

ROSALINDA

David?

DAVID

(After a momentary and almost disbelieving pause)

Rosie?

Immediately, Rosie wraps her arms around her brother, as he does the same, with the two of them savoring the tenderness of the moment that they've both waited for over the past three decades.

ROSALINDA

(Looking at David)

You have no idea how long I've waited to do that.

DAVID

(laughing)

Oh, I think I do.

ROSALINDA

How are you, brother?

DAVID

Little sister, I am better at this moment than I have been since...

ROSALINDA

Yeah, I know what you mean.

DAVID

(Looking around)

So, what exactly is going on here?

ROSALINDA

Well, you already know most of the general details.

DAVID

I do?

ROSALINDA

Yes, you do. You've been writing about them for how long now?

DAVID

Wait; how do you know about that?

Suddenly, Princess Sandrin approaches and joins their conversation.

SANDRIN

Everyone here knows, David. It's a story we've shared with you for a long time.

DAVID

(Momentarily shocked to be meeting Princess Sandrin as a real person - not to mention clearly affected by her striking beauty)

Princess...Sandrin

He then bows before her as she places her hand on his shoulder with appreciation.

SANDRIN

Arise, my friend. This day has been greatly anticipated. Welcome to Arshaka. Please accept my apology for the hasty nature of your arrival, but we are in a time of haste and utmost importance. In any case however, it is a great pleasure to finally have you here.

DAVID

(Standing straight again)

Thank you, Your Majesty. (He looks around) If I may ask, why have I been brought here? And why was my sister brought here so long before I was?

SANDRIN

There are many things that need to be done now that you're here, David. One of them is to provide the answers to your questions as we knew you'd be curious as to what this is all about. But my throne room is not the best place for such answers, so if you would be so kind as to follow your sister and I, you'll soon understand everything.

With that, David, Princess Sandrin, Rosie and the princess' entourage leave the throne room and head out into the main corridor of the palace.

CUT.

INT. - NIGHTTIME - THE MAIN CORRIDOR OF PRINCESS SANDRIN'S PALACE

As David, Rosie, the princess and her people walk through the corridor, they engage in a conversation as David is filled in on the situation at hand.

SANDRIN

First off David, I must apologize once more.

DAVID

For what, Your Majesty?

SANDRIN

For taking your sister away from you for so long. I know it's been very difficult for you and your family. But believe me when I say that not only was her presence here extremely necessary, but Rosalinda also came to understand that almost immediately, which was why she chose to stay here and help us.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

(Turning to Rosie, surprised)

You chose to stay here, Rosie?

ROSALINDA

Yes. Believe me David, when I was first brought here, I was both, curious and scared. But when I found out why I had been brought here and that whether or not I stayed was entirely up to me, I knew this was what I was supposed to be doing.

DAVID

Well, I've been writing about a variety of adventures - at least, adventures I thought I was imagining - that you've had here since you disappeared.

ROSALINDA

Yes, and much of that is true. But the main reason the Arshakans had for bringing me here was actually much more important than anything you can imagine.

SANDRIN

You see David, the books you've been writing have been the results of selective messages you've been receiving through abilities I have which allow me to do things with my mind that are what you might consider beyond reason.

DAVID

What, like Telepathy?

SANDRIN

Yes. One of the differences between your people and ours is that as opposed to the way you only use ten percent of your brain, we use the full hundred percent of ours, which gives us a variety of abilities. Although there are some that we share - like the instant ability to speak our collective language to people who are not from here; like you and your sister; in ways that you understand, which is

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN (cont'd)

why you hear English - there are other abilities that we develop individually. Telepathy is one of mine, and through that ability, I was able to send those messages to help prepare you - and especially, your writing ability - for the time when I would finally have you brought here by those with the ability to open doors between worlds.

DAVID

I'm guessing you mean the creatures Rosie and I would see through the corners of our eyes just before a door was opened between Earth and here.

SANDRIN

That's right. In your language, you generally refer to them as "elves." But here, they call themselves, "Tahuki." None of them have individual names, but they do have individual personalities so if you address one of them using the collective name, they will know who you're talking to. They serve mostly as guides between and across our worlds because of their naturally impeccable sense of direction. It's something they're all born with.

DAVID

(Amazed at what Sandrin has just explained)

Wow; that's really something. I don't remember writing about them, though.

SANDRIN

(Continuing)

That's because I didn't send you knowledge of the Tahuki or their abilities for security reasons that we'll be discussing shortly. But as you do know from your writings, our kingdom is made up of elements too small for the naked eye to see. Just like your Earth.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

Yes.

SANDRIN

And as you know, the fact that our elements are perfectly-spaced by the Creator to be positioned near one another, just on slightly different planes of existence, is how our worlds are able to coexist so closely without interfering with each other's presence. We basically sit in the same spot, just in parallel universes.

DAVID

Yes, of course.

SANDRIN

Well, there is a mysterious energy that's separate from us but sits about as close as Earth does, just on a slightly higher dimensional plane and seems to be very old. Other than that, we don't know much about it - except for the fact that it's currently posing a threat to our existence that we've been holding off since before your sister was brought here, but it's getting stronger. That's why we need your help.

DAVID

What kind of threat?

SANDRIN

A dire threat. So dire, in fact, that it actually has the ability to break down the elemental structure of everything around us. We don't know if it's a weapon or a living entity with a power of its' own, but we do know that so far, it has overrun entire sections of our world coming in from the east to the west. We call it, the "Firecloud."

DAVID

Overrun? You mean like, destroyed?

SANDRIN

We don't really know. But we do know that those sections are left in some kind of limbo once the Firecloud passes through and we can't get back into them.

DAVID

So you don't know the fate of anyone whose' area has been overrun then?

SANDRIN

No.

DAVID

Wow. (Thinking for a moment) Why don't I remember writing about anything like that, either?

SANDRIN

Because, for the security reasons I mentioned earlier, you haven't written anything about it. We didn't want you to even know about it until you left Earth and came here because the very knowledge of the Firecloud is a danger to whatever world in which the knowledge exists.

DAVID

Wow. Okay, so, how can Rosie and I help?

ROSALINDA

(To Sandrin)

Your Majesty, if I may...

SANDRIN

By all means...

ROSALINDA

David, when they brought me here, they did so because of the level that my artistic ability was already at.

DAVID

Okay.

ROSALINDA

When they realized the Firecloud was getting stronger, they had been holding it off for a long time but were never able to defeat it with armies and conventional weapons. So they started looking for unconventional ways to beat it. That's when they found us and decided to bring me here first. In this world, a unique physical trait that has existed at every level in the development of my artistic ability - a trait that also exists in the development of your writing ability - enables me to manifest colors that actually create an elemental force which resists the molecular structure of the Firecloud. But even with me here, the Arshakans knew they wouldn't be able to hold off the Firecloud's growing strength forever. That's where you come in.

DAVID

Okay...

ROSALINDA

The scientists and historians here, through intensive research, have found what they think is the general location of an ancient place called, "The Sunken Garden."

DAVID

The Sunken Garden...

ROSALINDA

Yes.

Just then, the group reaches a large room on the other side of the corridor. Upon entering it, David is shocked to see that it's the military planning room of Princess Sandrin's army - a spectacular room with an array of strategic methods on display such as holograms, telekinetic model construction and selectively precognitive strategy outcome possibilities, as they're used by various enabled creatures from around the kingdom, including some Tahuki, that are working together as the military defense force of Arshaka. Despite the almost incomprehensible nature of the room however, David recognizes it immediately.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

The Planning Chamber. I've written about this room a number of times. (He turns to Sandrin) You've made me very familiar with this place.

SANDRIN

I have - and for good reason.

She turns to Rosie, who continues her explanation

ROSALINDA

This room is being used to figure out the best strategy, using whatever means necessary through the various resources located around the kingdom, to specifically locate and discover the Sunken Garden.

DAVID

(To Rosie, as he looks in awe at the scene before him)

So, what exactly is the Sunken Garden?

ROSALINDA

(Bringing up a detailed, three-dimensional image of what the Arshakans believe the Sunken Garden looks like)

The Sunken Garden is the Arshakan version of the Garden of Eden. Its existence was believed but never proven until just over three decades ago, when Arshakan scholars were searching for unexplored means of defeating the Firecloud and ended up finding a collection of hieroglyphic descriptions referring to what they believe is the Sunken Garden.

SANDRIN

Not only is the Sunken Garden the original region of our world, it's also the single biggest source of creative energy that Arshaka has ever known, simply because that's where the rest of this world came from. According to history, its' very existence emulates creative

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN (cont'd)
energy at the purest and most basic
levels. And that's what we need
your help with.

ROSALINDA

Arshakan linguists have determined
that these hieroglyphics not only
reveal the exact location of the
Sunken Garden, but also, the way to
access its' creative power. And
that is the weapon we believe will
ultimately defeat the Firecloud.

DAVID

How?

ROSALINDA

There is apparently some kind of
symbolic description that, when
translated into something verbally
spoken, is supposedly the command
spoken by the Creator that brought
Arshaka into existence.

DAVID

Kinda like, "Let there be light."

ROSALINDA

Yes, exactly. But the difference
here is that, when the symbolic
description is translated to the
literal phrase and quoted by you at
the same time as my artistic force
is being used against the
Firecloud, the combined physical
traits that exist within our
creative development will allow a
force that is the complete opposite
of the Firecloud's destructive
energy and will de-stabilize the
elemental structure of the
Firecloud, finally destroying it.

DAVID

(After a stunned pause)

Wow.

ROSALINDA

Quite a lot to take in, I know.

DAVID

Yeah. But...at the same time...

ROSALINDA

...You really feel like this is your only choice, right? Like this is exactly what you're supposed to be doing.

DAVID

(Thinking about it for a moment)

Yea, actually. That's exactly what I'm feeling.

ROSALINDA

I know. That's exactly how I felt when they brought me here and explained all this to. Even at nine years old, I knew what it was I was supposed to be doing once I was actually faced with it.

DAVID

Okay. So, what's next?

SANDRIN

Now that you're here, we're going to actually try and find the Sunken Garden. Our best estimates suggest that it's actually somewhere close to the geographic center of Arshaka. We leave first thing in the morning. (She motions toward Rosie) Rosalinda will show you to your chamber.

DAVID

(Surprised)

My chamber?

ROSALINDA

Well, yeah. What'd you think we were gonna do? Make you stay outside the palace?

DAVID

(Sarcastically)

You probably would.

ROSALINDA

(Laughing)

Oh, in a second. But Princess Sandrin wouldn't let me. She
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROSALINDA (cont'd)
insists on being cordial and all
that. I don't know.

SANDRIN
(Also laughing)
It's good to see that the two of
you are still so comfortable with
one another that you can still act
like brother and sister after not
seeing each other for so long.

DAVID
(With a tender smile and
momentary thought)
Yeah, well, to me, the last time we
saw each other was just like
yesterday. I've missed you,
Rosie. We all have. Mom, Dad and
I. It's like you've always been
there with us, even though we
couldn't see you.

ROSALINDA
I know David, and I am sorry. But
I had to be here. These people are
in trouble.

DAVID
I know, Rosie - and I do
understand. After being here now
and learning about all of this, I
do understand.

ROSALINDA
Good. That does make me feel
better. (After a pause) So, I'll
take you to your room.

As the two of them exchange bows with the princess and
pleasant nods with everyone else there, Rosie escorts David
back out to the main corridor.

CUT.

INT. - NIGHTTIME - THE MAIN CORRIDOR OF PRINCESS SANDRIN'S
PALACE

As David and Rosie walk together down the corridor to
David's chamber, they engage in a discussion regarding where
they are and what's going on.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

Wow, I have to say Rosie, this is all just incredible. And to see you again in the middle of it...it's almost beyond words.

ROSALINDA

I agree. It's definitely great to see you again, especially with the fact that we're doing something like this together, even after not seeing each other at all for so many years.

DAVID

For sure. (He looks around the magnificent hall for a moment, then continues the conversation) So, the name, "Arshaka..."

ROSALINDA

Yes...

DAVID

I used it in my writings because it just came to me - of course, now I know why. But I'm actually surprised to find it applied to a place like this. You know, being a whole different universe and all. Isn't it a Persian name or something?

ROSALINDA

Sort of. The people from here have been secretly and selectively interacting with people in all different parts of our world for centuries. That's where so many fairy stories come from. Even some of the the names of people here, you'll find, are human names. So it's quite possible that the name of this place was mentioned by some of the people from here who, at some point, may have visited the Persian areas of Asia.

DAVID

(Thinking about Rosie's suggestion for a moment)

Hmm. That does make sense. (He thinks for another moment then

(MORE)

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DAVID (cont'd)
continues their discussion) So, on the subject of this place, we've discussed your reasons for coming here, but after all this time, I'd like to know how your life has been - if you don't mind telling me.

ROSALINDA
Well, that's kind of an interesting question, especially considering the kind of place this is and all. I mean, what do you want to know?

DAVID
Anything. Um, well, what kind of education do you have? Remember, you were only nine when you came here.

ROSALINDA
Yes, I was - and that's actually a good question. (Pauses for a moment to think) Okay, well, you know how the people here use 100% of their brains, right?

DAVID
Yeah.

ROSALINDA
Okay. Do you feel any different since you've been here?

DAVID
Yes, actually. I thought it was just because of all the wondrous things I've been seeing.

ROSALINDA
Well, part of it is that, obviously. But also, you've been using 100% of your brain as well.

DAVID
(Very surprised)
I have?!

ROSALINDA
Yes. So have I. From the moment I got here. It's environmental. Another elemental
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROSALINDA (cont'd)
thing. The molecular structure of
this world automatically gives us
that ability.

DAVID
Seriously?!

ROSALINDA
Yeah. No kidding. As you continue
being here, you'll find that your
intelligence level is rapidly
increasing. You might even find
that you have certain abilities of
your own.

DAVID
Like what?

ROSALINDA
I don't know, anything. You'll
just have to wait and see. But
that's how I got my education
growing up here. And what's
amazing is that their educational
methods are, of course, structured
to match up with the learning
capabilities of the students. So
needless to say, my schoolwork here
was a lot more exciting than it was
back home.

DAVID
That's pretty cool. So, did you
have teachers or anything? Or did
you just like, learn from osmosis
or something?

ROSALINDA
No, I had teachers. That's
actually one of the coolest parts
of the educational system here.

DAVID
Why? What's so cool about it?

ROSALINDA
They're fairies.

DAVID
(Shocked)
They're WHAT?!

ROSALINDA

(Laughing at David's reaction)

You heard me
right. Fairies. Although here,
they're referred to as the,
"Tonadaria."

DAVID

(Astonished)

Wow! That's
just...incredible! But, as small
as they are, wouldn't it be hard
for them to work with you on
anything you might have needed a
little more individual help with?

ROSALINDA

All the lessons are
individual. There's a whole
method, it's really cool. You'll
probably experience some of it
after we head out on our
quest. You know, just to get you
caught up on a few things more
relative to this world.

DAVID

(Already looking forward to
it)

That'll be cool.

ROSALINDA

Yeah, it will. And you don't have
to worry about the fairies' height,
either. They have ways of making
themselves relative to whoever
they're teaching. Oh, and speaking
of fairies...you know the whole
thing about how, "When the first
baby..."

DAVID

(Saying it with Rosie)

"...laughed for the first time, the
laugh broke into a thousand pieces
and they all went skipping
about..." Yeah, I remember.

ROSALINDA

(Laughing more with amazement
than humor)

Well, that really was the beginning
of fairies.

DAVID
(Shocked)
No way! For real?

ROSALINDA
For real. That is the absolute, honest truth.

DAVID
Let me guess...another elemental thing, right?

ROSALINDA
Yeah, more or less. Even though this seems like a "magical" land, as so many humans who've somehow come into contact with it over the years have perceived it to be, there are actually scientific explanations for pretty much everything here that bring a whole lot more realism to the concept of its' existence. (She laughs) They're just really amazing scientific explanations.

DAVID
(Amazed and inspired by the truths he's learning about Arshaka)
Well, I can definitely say, now that I'm here, that I completely get what you're saying. I mean, why not, you know? Why couldn't all our stories about elves and fairies and all those other incredible things...why couldn't they be real? Why do they HAVE to be make-believe? What, just because we can't see them, interact with them and understand them at OUR convenience, does that mean they don't have the right to be just as real as we are, just on another level of existence that's, perhaps, above our own?

ROSALINDA
Exactly. And you know what?

DAVID
What?

ROSALINDA

(Stopping outside the enormous door to David's chamber)

The sooner people start thinking more along those lines, the sooner they'll be ready to learn about, and understand, the existence of this place and everything in it.

DAVID

(Looking at the door, as well as around the surroundings within the corridor)

Yeah. But maybe they'll have to get used to thinking that way for a while because this place is almost hard to comprehend.

ROSALINDA

(Also looking around)

Oh, I know. That's why it was almost easier for me to understand it as a kid when I first came here. Because kids are usually more open to ideas like this, you know? The existence of "mythical" lands and characters.

DAVID

(Thinking back for a moment)

Yeah, you were definitely more open to things like this than I was. And I was still a kid. But your imagination...it was just at full throttle. That was easy to see just in looking at your pictures, you know? All your drawings and everything. You were so much more creatively advanced than I was. That's why you were right when you told me I needed to use my imagination more. You remember that? It was the night you came here.

ROSALINDA

(Also thinking back)

Yeah, I remember that. (She looks at him, grown up and successful - and most importantly, developed enough in his creativity to finally be there, helping the Arshakans as she's been doing for so many

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROSALINDA (cont'd)
years) You know, even though I did choose to stay here, I have really missed you. All of you, you know? Mom, Dad...everyone. That part has been very hard.

DAVID

I know. It was a sacrifice for all of us. But with me being here now, I can see it was a necessary sacrifice we all had to make, whether we knew it before or not.

ROSALINDA

Yeah, it was. Which is why it's so great that you're here now. I honestly couldn't wait for this day.

DAVID

Did you ever have any doubts?

ROSALINDA

About what?

DAVID

Me coming here. I mean, getting to the point in my creative development to where I'd be ready. Did you ever think that maybe it wouldn't happen and you'd have to handle this yourself?

ROSALINDA

Not at all. First off, I couldn't handle it myself because just like me with my abilities, you're the only one who can do what you can do. That's why the both of us being here is so important. But regarding you and whether or not you were able to get to this point of development, no. I never had a doubt. (She smiles) I always knew you could do it, big brother.

DAVID

(Returning her smile with one of his own)

Well, I really appreciate the confidence you've had in me all these years - even if I am just finding out about it now.

(CONTINUED)

At that moment, Rosie walks up and gives David another hug, endlessly glad to finally see him again.

ROSIE
(Motioning toward the door)
So, here you go. Your place for
the night.

DAVID
(Looking up at the enormous
door)
Wow. Judging by this door, it
looks like it could be a lot of
people's place for the night - all
together.

ROSIE
(Opening the door and
motioning for him to enter the
room)
Wait till you see the inside.

As David enters, he is astonished to see that not only is the room grand, luxurious and expansive, but the walls are decorated by a series of ever-changing nighttime views showing the most beautiful places in Arshaka.

ROSIE
These views are all
real-time. They're not recordings
or anything. What you're seeing is
happening right now.

DAVID
How is this possible? I mean, do
they have like, cameras here or
anything?

ROSIE
No. The tunnels we came through to
get here - the way they're utilized
- is actually used for a lot of
different purposes in
Arshaka. This is one of
them. You're able to see these
parts of the kingdom through the
manipulation of space. It's
actually a pretty simple process
here.

DAVID
(Still looking at the views
with astonishment)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)

Wow. (He pauses to watch for a moment more, then asks another question) So, as I remember from my books, it's only nighttime across half of Arshaka, right? Just like on Earth.

ROSALINDA

Yeah, that's right. But the difference here, as you know, is that there's no moon, but there are two suns.

DAVID

Right, the daytime sun and the nighttime sun.

ROSALINDA

Yes. And whereas the daytime sun provides certain benefits and nutrients to the life here in Arshaka just as it is in our world, the nighttime sun here also provides unique nutrients necessary for the inhabitants of this world to use their brains at the level they do.

DAVID

(Marveling at the incredible facts about Arshaka)

Wow, you know....I was always amazed by the idea of this place when I was writing about it. But now that I'm here...

ROSALINDA

...It's even better.

DAVID

More than better. This place is a natural work of art. I mean, we have many incredible places on Earth as I'm sure you remember. But this is on a whole different level. I'm glad the princess sent me those messages selectively because honestly Rosie, I don't know if I could've handled all this without wondering if I was slipping from reality.

(CONTINUED)

ROSALINDA

Yeah, it's definitely different. The only way I was able to understand it all was because I was brought here as an imaginative and impressionable child. So that's another reason why it was good that my creative development was at the level it was when I was only nine. Because if they had to wait until I was an adult in order to bring me here like they did with you, I would've had to learn about this place in a similar manner as you did. But by then, the Firecloud probably would've destroyed everything and it would've been too late for either of us to help, you know?

DAVID

Yeah, I know what you mean. (He thinks for another moment) So just out of curiosity, why do they call this thing we're fighting, the "Firecloud?"

ROSALINDA

Because of the devastating effects it has on pretty much everything it touches. You know how the downside of fire is that it pretty much consumes just about anything in its' path?

DAVID

Yeah.

ROSALINDA

Well that's how it is with the Firecloud. Nobody knows exactly what it is, but we do know that it looks like a giant shadow made of heat coming off a hot surface, and when it spreads, nothing seems to be able to stop it. I mean, you know what I can do. But all I do is hold it off. Slow it down. As Princess Sandrin explained, the hope is that we'll find the Sunken Garden and our combined abilities, yours and mine, will be able to stop the Firecloud that

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROSALINDA (cont'd)
way. Because otherwise David...I
don't know what else we'd be able
to do.

DAVID

(After thinking for a moment)
Are we really the only people the
Arshakans were able to find with
these unique features in our
creative development?

ROSALINDA

The only ones, David. Nobody else
on Earth or in Arshaka can do what
we do.

DAVID

Wow. And thinking about it, you
know what's amazing about all this?

ROSALINDA

What?

DAVID

(Watching the nighttime views
and pondering the situation)
The fact that on Earth, yeah, we're
creative, but relatively speaking,
that's it. You can draw, I can
write. And don't get me wrong -
there's nothing meaningless or
insignificant about any gift, any
talent, that anyone is ever born
with. But here, what you and I can
do is a whole different story than
it is on Earth. Here, we're the
only ones who can, hopefully, save
an entire world full of
people. (He turns and looks at
her) It's like this, specifically,
is our destiny.

ROSALINDA

(She turns and looks at the
nighttime seen as the two of
them stand next to each other)
Yeah David, it does seems that
way. Which means that we need to
make sure we do whatever it takes
to fulfill it.

With that, the two of them stand, no longer speaking but
instead, just enjoying the view together as they know that

(CONTINUED)

in the morning, the journey toward their shared destiny will truly and finally begin.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - THE OUTSIDE OF PRINCESS SANDRIN'S CASTLE

The following morning, as David meets his sister and the princess outside the castle, he's shocked to see that gathered with them is an army of horsemen, chariots and sleek, armored, horse-drawn carriages, all displaying divisional colors and flags, and all being utilized by soldiers, linguists, scientists, historians, strategists and a variety of other people and creatures, all there to fulfill a purpose that will hopefully result in the defeat of the Firecloud - before it's too late.

DAVID

(Walking up to Rosie and Princess Sandrin as they go over what seems to be another three-dimensional map of Arshaka that's projected in front of them)

Wow, this is quite a scene.

SANDRIN

David, how are you? Did you sleep all right?

DAVID

Yes Your Majesty, thank you. And thank you for that breakfast you had brought to my chamber this morning. Honestly, that was one of the best meals I've ever had.

SANDRIN

I'm glad you enjoyed it.

Just then, Sandrin comments on the armor David is wearing, which is similar to what Rosie's wearing - like what she was wearing the night before - but David's looks more like the brown coloring of ancient scroll paper with what seem to be sharp, thin streaks of black ink complimenting it.

SANDRIN

(Taken by the way David looks in his armor)

Your armor, David. It looks...perfect on you.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

(As he and Sandrin share a moment that Rosie notices and smiles at, finding their attraction favorable yet almost amusing)

Thank you, yeah; actually, you know what?

SANDRIN

What?

DAVID

It actually feels perfect on me. I mean, seriously. It's like it fits me exactly as I need it to.

SANDRIN

(Smiling, appreciating David's amazement at his suit of armor)

That's because it does fit you as you need it to.

DAVID

(Surprised)

Really?

SANDRIN

Yes. It's a special material called, "Sogarthian" armor. It's made by a civilization of what you call "sprites;" although here, they're called, "Sogarthic." The Sogarthic live in cliffs that are made of a strong but flexible, metallic rock which is comprised of elements that the Sogarthic can manipulate very easily. Because of this, they're the only ones in Arshaka who can make the armor.

DAVID

(Examining it)

Wow. That's really amazing.

Just then, Rosie looks up in the air just above and in front of them,

ROSALINDA

Speaking of amazing...

Suddenly, a pair of what look like golden, flying cats, similar to cheetahs, descend from the air and land gently,

(CONTINUED)

one on each side of Princess Sandrin. As David looks on in amazement, the cats change form, becoming elegantly-dressed women, one younger than the other, bowing before the princess upon their transformation.

SANDRIN

(Turning toward David after bowing to the two ladies in response)

David, I'm sure you recognize-

DAVID

(Interrupting)

-Audrey and Grace. Your ladies-in-waiting. (He realizes his interruption) Forgive me, Princess. (Sandrin smiles) I didn't mean to be rude. I was just surprised to see them in person. (He looks at them) Ladies. It's a pleasure to meet you.

AUDREY

The pleasure is ours, David. Welcome to Arshaka.

DAVID

Thank you.

SANDRIN

As you know David, Audrey and Grace are "Malkatai." They've just returned from their home in the Traveling Mountains where they spent the past few days gathering information on the activity of the Firecloud from the elders of their people. No one in Arshaka can match the observational powers of the Malkatai.

DAVID

(Still amazed at the fact that he's even in Arshaka)

It's incredible. This is all so...surreal.

SANDRIN

That's good. It means your familiarity with our kingdom is strong. (She turns to the nearest guard and nods as he proceeds to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN (cont'd)
direct the princess, Rosie, David, Audrey and Grace onto the Royal War Carriage - an armored, horse-drawn carriage that looks and functions like the others, but is mostly white and flies the Arshakan flag on both sides. After a few moments of mounting and positioning, the army begins to move out.

DAVID
(Looking out the window as they all start to move away from the castle)
So Princess, how far from here do your people figure the Sunken Garden might be?

SANDRIN
By your Earth distance, about fifty thousand miles.

DAVID
(Shocked)
Fifty th...are you serious? (He suddenly remembers who he's talking to) Um...Your Majesty?

SANDRIN
(As she, Rosie, Audrey and Grace laugh at David's reaction)
Yes, I'm serious.

DAVID
Begging your pardon but...I'm assuming we're gonna be using one of your celestial tunnels at some point of this journey?

SANDRIN
(Still amused by David's reaction)
Of course, David. I'm sure you wouldn't think that we'd travel that far simply by horse and carriage.

DAVID
(Trying to act like the thought never crossed his mind)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)
No, Your Majesty. Of course not.

SANDRIN
Good. However, the tunnel we need to use must, of course, be slightly bigger than the ones you've used so far. So big, in fact, that we need to open it in the sky.

DAVID
(Again, surprised)
In the sky, Your Majesty?

SANDRIN
Yes.

DAVID
(Looking up ahead at the size of the army, then at the sky above of them, then back at the princess)
So, um, if I may ask...how do we enter it?

As Sandrin just looks at him and smiles, the horses all start to pick up speed. As they move faster and faster, David looks out the window and sees a group of Tahuki manifest and open a large celestial tunnel in the air above and in front of them. Just then, David notices something peculiar about the horses - their coloring seems to be fading the faster they go and as it fades, it's replaced by rapidly firing electrical currents and what appears to be a growing cloud cover that spreads out across the area. Suddenly, the entire line of horses hits top speed and rises into the air, continuing to create the cloud cover as the electrical currents generate a lightning field and provide a path for the horses to run on. Immediately, David turns to Princess Sandrin.

DAVID
Your Majesty?!

SANDRIN
Yes, David?

DAVID
How is this possible?!

SANDRIN
These horses are Lightning Striders.

DAVID
Lighting Striders?!

SANDRIN
Yes. From the Plains of Tonnara Ley. They're the only horses of their kind in the world.

DAVID
I don't remember you telling me about these, either.

SANDRIN
Of course not. The Firecloud hasn't gotten to their part of Arshaka yet, which is good because if it did and something happened to the Lightning Striders, this quest and the hope of the world that goes with it would be completely lost.

DAVID
(Thinking about as he sits back, still looking out the window)
Good point.

For the next minute or so, David sits and looks out the window as the army tears through the sky and enters the tunnel.

SANDRIN
(Interrupting David's train of thought)
So David, when you were writing about this place, did you ever think that one day, you'd actually be here?

DAVID
Honestly, Princess...I wished I could be.

SANDRIN
Because your sister was here?

DAVID
Yes.

SANDRIN
That must be why you because so successful through your writings.

DAVID

That's what I've always thought. I mean, I'm not gonna lie - I did always wonder why Rosie was brought here and not me. But that burning question seemed to come out in the books. So with every story, Arshaka became more and more real to me.

SANDRIN

Well, just so you understand the scope of your sacrifice, the fact that you went through that didn't just develop your writing abilities and get you used to the idea of Arshaka. It also helped you get to know us without even realizing it.

DAVID

(Turning and looking at
Princess Sandrin)

And that has, in turn, strengthened me to do what it is I'm here to do.

SANDRIN

Exactly.

After another moment, David notices that everything around him is starting to look strange - almost like he's beginning to dream.

DAVID

What's...what's going on? Why does everything look so weird all of a sudden?

SANDRIN

(As David begins to lose
consciousness)

Don't worry, David. This is normal.

DAVID

How is it normal? what's happening?

SANDRIN

You're entering the Realm of The Scholars.

DAVID
The...the what?

Just then, he falls into a semi-dream state, not quite asleep, but not quite awake, either. Simply below the normal level of consciousness. Looking around in this state, David notices that he seems to be floating in the sky high above the kingdom. Suddenly, he hears a voice speaking his name. The voice he's hearing is that of Kee-Lo the Tonadaria.

KEE-LO
David...

DAVID
(Looking around)
Who is that? Who's there?

KEE-LO
(As she manifests in the air
in front of him and descends
to where he is. It's at that
moment that he can see she is
mesmerizing and beautiful -
standing at about his height
but looking the way a fairy is
expected to look, complete
with shimmering wings and
gently piercing eyes.)
Hello, David. I am Kee-Lo.

DAVID
(Still confused as to what's
going on, but amazed to just
be talking to a real fairy at
the same time)
Kee-Lo...hello. It's...uh...nice
to meet you.

KEE-LO
It's nice to meet you as well,
David. Do you know why you're
here?

DAVID
(Looking around)
To be honest, I don't exactly know
where here is.

KEE-LO
You are on the edge of The Waiting
Place.

DAVID
What is The Waiting Place?

KEE-LO

(As what seems to be an invisible realm gently becomes visible, forming a circle around the sky as millions of softly glowing figures can be seen within it, looking down on the kingdom below)

The Waiting Place, though you can't see it in full consciousness, nor can you enter it without the Creator's touch, is the place where the unborn children of all civilizations wait to join us in this life. They watch us until each of their time comes.

DAVID

(Surprised at the concept)

Wow. Is that actually real?

KEE-LO

It is. So real, that it sits above your world as well.

DAVID

It does?

KEE-LO

Yes. It always has. As I said - all civilizations.

DAVID

That's...incredible.

KEE-LO

The Creator is magnificent. His mysteries are beyond our comprehension.

DAVID

(After a momentary pause)

So why have I been brought to the edge of the Waiting Place?

KEE-LO

Because this is your time to gain a general understanding of Arshaka.

DAVID

You mean, beyond everything
Princess Sandrin has taught me?

KEE-LO

Yes, to some extent. (She begins educating him through a series of interactive visuals while accompanying them with an explanation) Thousands of years ago, the Creator built our world through a series of constructive actions that brought everything together in the same way that one might put together a large puzzle.

DAVID

...And the Creator is...

KEE-LO

...In your world, He is called
"God."

DAVID

That's what I thought.

KEE-LO

I sense an air of doubt.

DAVID

Not doubt. Just...uncertainty. I was raised to believe in Him, but after Rosie was brought here, and given what I went through with the fact that pretty much no one believed my story about how she was taken, I guess I became frustrated.

KEE-LO

Well through this teaching, your faith will be restored.

DAVID

How do you know?

KEE-LO

Because your mind will be opened in ways you never thought possible.

DAVID

(After thinking for a moment)
You know, I believe you.

KEE-LO

(With a tone and an expression
of satisfaction)

Good. Then we'll continue. (The
visuals continue with Kee-Lo's
explanation) After the world was
brought together, like in your
Garden of Eden, life in Arshaka
sprouted from what is now the
Sunken Garden.

DAVID

So did you guys have the issue with
sin and the spiritual fall of your
civilization as we did?

KEE-LO

No, because we don't have a free
will the way you do.

DAVID

(Shocked)

You...what?

KEE-LO

It's true.

DAVID

But...the interactions we all have
with each other...even the fact
that many of you, like the
princess, seem almost...human...

KEE-LO

We seem like we have a free will
because we use 100% of our brains
so our level of intelligence is
very high, but we make our
decisions and live our lives purely
by instinct. Even the way we serve
the Creator...it's very similar to
the way He is served by those you
call, "Angels." We serve the
Creator in fullness because it's
embedded in our spiritual and
psychological structure. We just
also have our own cultures as well
because unlike with the angels, the
Creator gave us our own separate
world to live in. So we develop.

DAVID

But, aren't you being forced to serve God then?

KEE-LO

Not at all. The understanding that He is to be served comes from our instinctual knowledge of who He is and why serving Him is the best thing to do. Because of this understanding, we do not possess the capability to serve any other master. And it's that lack of a free will that distinguishes the people of Arshaka from the humans of Earth the most. The fact that you can choose to follow the Creator, or you can choose not to. But when you choose to, that gives you a relationship with Him that we can never know. Not on the emotional level that you have it. His Son entered your world to save it from the sins you committed by the free will He gave you, but in doing that, He also gave you a unique opportunity to know Him through that very same free will in a way that we don't. So as I said, we seem like we have a free will but in actuality, we're doing everything we do, even the way we express our emotions, all by instinct.

DAVID

(Amazed at what he's just learned)

That's incredible.

KEE-LO

As I said, your mind will be opened with this teaching.

DAVID

It is. Tell me more.

KEE-LO

As life expanded out of the Garden, Arshaka became very similar to the Garden itself. The only difference was, as you know already, the power of creativity, no matter how active

(MORE)

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KEE-LO (cont'd)
it was across our world, all came
from the Garden. It's the same way
now, on this very day.

DAVID

So, with this quest we're on...is
there any way you can...trace that
power of creativity back to the
exact location of the Garden?

KEE-LO

No, because the power is so pure
that we cannot manipulate it. Even
what you're here to do does not
require you to manipulate it but
rather, to allow it to manipulate
you.

DAVID

Manipulate me?

KEE-LO

Yes.

DAVID

How, exactly? Am I not supposed to
translate a series of hieroglyphics
into a creative weapon or
something?

KEE-LO

It's more than that, David.

DAVID

How much more?

KEE-LO

You are the weapon. Just like your
sister and the way she uses her
ability here. You are the weapon.

DAVID

(Again, shocked at what he's
learning)

I'M the weapon? How?

KEE-LO

By speaking the verbal translation
of the hieroglyphics you're out to
find, you will be opening yourself
up to the full power of the Sunken
Garden. The creative nature of
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KEE-LO (cont'd)
that power will use you as a vessel
to destroy the Firecloud.

DAVID
(Overwhelmed but also,
slightly concerned)
Will that, um, be-

KEE-LO
Safe?

DAVID
Yeah.

KEE-LO
So safe in fact, that it will
enhance all of yours and your
sister's creative abilities to
levels that you've never even
dreamed. Trust me, it's very safe.

DAVID
This is all just...incredible. (He
thinks for a moment) So, how did
your society develop? I mean, did
you evolve or anything like that?

KEE-LO
Socially, yes. But because of our
intelligence and instinctual
levels, it hasn't taken us very
long.

DAVID
I wouldn't imagine it would have.

KEE-LO
We learned that we had the ability
to utilize our environment within
the first generation of our
existence.

DAVID
Wow. How long did the first
generation go on for?

KEE-LO
Each generation lasts five hundred
years.

DAVID

Okay. And judging by what I've seen so far, it seems that your years last as long as ours. Earth years, I mean.

KEE-LO

Yes, about that.

DAVID

So during these years, you've developed your society?

KEE-LO

Yes, we have. With each generation, there are new powers, new abilities, bestowed upon our children with their creation. This, coupled with our instinct and social understandings, has allowed us to build Arshaka as it is.

DAVID

This is all very fascinating. (He changes the subject slightly) So, do you have wars? I mean, besides this battle against the Firecloud.

KEE-LO

Yes, but not with each other.

DAVID

Not with each other?

KEE-LO

No.

DAVID

With who then?

KEE-LO

There are other worlds that exist around us as we exist around you. All of them are very different, though not all of them are home to peaceful civilizations.

DAVID

So you've fought wars in self-defense then.

KEE-LO

Yes, unfortunately. As we've had to.

DAVID

Have you lost any?

KEE-LO

No, thank the Creator. But then, we haven't fought many, either.

DAVID

What have your enemies been like?

KEE-LO

Territorial mostly. Some of the wars occasionally spilled over into your world, which explains some of the times when your people have seen what you refer to as goblins, trolls and monsters, things like that. Those are a few examples of what our enemies have been like.

DAVID

Wow. I just have to say how amazing it is that so many of these fantastical things are real, and the kinds of legitimate explanations there are to their existence.

KEE-LO

That's why faith is so important. It goes hand-in-hand with scientific fact simply because, you never know what lies beyond comprehension. Beings in our world that you refer to as gnomes, brownies, will o' the wisps - even leprechauns...countless types of "mythical creatures" known to you mostly through legend exist here the way humans exist on Earth. (She smiles) Just because you may not understand them yet, doesn't mean they're not real.

DAVID

Believe me, I'm learning that with each passing moment I spend in this world.

(CONTINUED)

KEE-LO

That's good. Because you need to learn that in order to understand the existence of Arshaka.

DAVID

So do you have money here? Like, any kind of monetary system?

KEE-LO

No. Everyone does what they've been created to do based on their specific abilities. In doing those things, they naturally contribute to the daily existence of our world.

DAVID

So does that include necessities like food and shelter? Clothing, things like that?

KEE-LO

It does. We get our food through hunting, fishing and farming. We have different types of water that possess different benefits, so we use them to make a variety of beverages, all of which are advantageous to the upkeep of good health. And although we share food and water, like you do, and we also trade certain goods, our clothing and shelter are created by each individual culture in ways relative to cultural need and identification.

DAVID

(Amazed)

This is really something. A lot of the way you do things is different from us, but a lot is also the same.

KEE-LO

Well, despite the fact that we are what your world considers to be "fantastical," we are, as you know, situated very close to you. So because of this, we have many shared aspects of our cultures - although most of the time, your people are unaware of this.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

Yes, I know. (He thinks for a moment) It is a shame though. (He looks around at the mystical beauty that is Arshaka) The people of my world would be awe-struck at this place. (He looks at Kee-Lo.) Even me. I could spend all day just looking around from this very spot.

Suddenly, everything around David and Kee-Lo jolts.

KEE-LO

(Turning to David as everything stabilizes)

Are you injured?!

DAVID

(Very surprised and looking around, trying to figure out what's going on)

No, I'm okay...but what was that?!

Just then, it happens again as Kee-Lo returns to her natural size and David returns to his original level of consciousness and looks over at Princess Sandrin and Rosie while Audrey and Grace transform to their animal state and fly out the window of the Royal War Carriage to help guard against any possible advancements the Firecloud's forces could make toward Princess Sandrin.

DAVID

What is this?! What's going on?!

SANDRIN

We're under attack!

DAVID

What?! (Suddenly, the carriage jolts again) By who?!

SANDRIN

(As the carriage settles again)

The Firecloud!

DAVID

The Firecloud?! (Immediately, David looks out the window and sees, as the army exits the celestial tunnel they were traveling through, an enormous battle going on between Arshakan

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)
forces and what seem to be horsemen
that are made of the same shadowy
substance as the Firecloud, which
is moving forward behind its'
forces and stretches across that
part of Arshaka for what seems to
be miles high, far and deep. Just
then, David turns back to Princess
and Rosie) So how do we stop
it?! We haven't even found the
Sunken Garden yet!

SANDRIN
That's right, so we can't stop
it! But we can slow it down!

ROSALINDA
Exactly - and that's where I come
in!

Immediately, Rosie jumps out the door and onto the horse of
one of the soldiers, holding onto the rider tight as he
turns and heads toward the main side of the
Firecloud. David suddenly turns to Princess Sandrin.

DAVID
What is she doing?!

SANDRIN
Using her ability to fight the
Firecloud - the same thing she's
been doing for years. The same
thing you were brought here to do.

DAVID
(After looking out the window,
then turning Back to Princess
Sandrin)
But she's heading right toward it!

SANDRIN
That's right - it is dangerous but
the closer she gets to it, the
stronger her ability will be
against it. And we can't give up
one piece of territory - not even
the smallest one.

Just then, David notices that the Firecloud's forces are
being partially redirected specifically toward his sister,
indicating that the Firecloud has come to recognize her and
is actually preparing to ambush her before she can get back

to the carriage. Turning and looking out his window, David sees one of the Arshakan soldiers near the carriage going down in a barrage that's coming from the side of the Firecloud that Rosie is heading toward. Immediately, David takes action.

DAVID

(To Princess Sandrin)

Well, whatever she's doing, she's not doing it without my help! I'm not gonna just sit back and lose her again!

SANDRIN

(As David jumps out the door and onto the strider of the fallen soldier just before it pulls away)

David, NO!

Riding away just the same, David takes off after his sister, who is coming under more and more resistance by the Firecloud's defensive forces the closer she gets. Noticing this, David rides faster and faster as the guards who are rushing to Rosie's aid encounter an increasing amount of resistance from the Firecloud, going down one after the other as quickly as they get there. As he also gets closer, David notices that the overall resistance of the Firecloud is reching even him as he struggles to hold control of the strider. Suddenly, a voice echoes through his mind as clear as everything that's going on around him.

SANDRIN

David! I'm going to help you!

DAVID

(Answering her aloud)

Princess?! Where are you?! Are you still in the carriage?!

SANDRIN

Yes, but I can sense the resistance you're getting there!

DAVID

Yeah, it's crazy out here! What do you propose?!

SANDRIN

Your sister is going to use her ability, but I don't know if she has time to do it and get out of there safely - and even at the

(MORE)

SANDRIN (cont'd)
speed you're moving, you might not
get to her in time!

DAVID
Okay...so what should I do?!

SANDRIN
Hold on!

Just then, Sandrin uses her telekinetic ability to send out a force that propels David and his lightning strider at such speed, David can feel the electrical currents from the strider generating static along the outside of his whole body. Looking ahead, he can see a wave of creative energy fire off from across Rosie's body that generates an enormous charge which reflects multiple colors seems to almost short out the power of the Firecloud's advance. Unfortunately however, that doesn't stop the defensive forces of the Firecloud that are rapidly closing in on her.

DAVID
(As he and his strider are
continuously propelled at top
speed toward Rosie, who is
quickly coming under threat by
the Firecloud's forces)
Rosie! Rosie, I'm coming!

ROSALINDA
(Turning and seeing David as
he and his strider rush toward
her)
David?! What are you doing?!

DAVID
(Reaching for his sister as he
and the strider catch up to
her)
Saving your life - get on!

ROSALINDA
(As she reaches out toward
David, who grabs her and pulls
her off her own strider onto
his, as the one she was riding
takes off in the other
direction, away from the
Firecloud)
You're crazy, do you know that?!

DAVID

Maybe, but I could also see the danger you were in as soon as you headed in this direction!

Suddenly, David turns and sees that he and Rosie are quickly being surrounded and descended upon by the Firecloud's forces. Without any kind of sword or any other type of armament, David tries to appear as fierce as possible, hoping that Rosie's presence there will help ward off the Firecloud's threat.

DAVID

(Rearing his lightning strider back as it discharges more currents)

Get back!

The Firecloud's forces slow down momentarily but then continue advancing again seconds later.

ROSALINDA

Well that didn't seem to work.

Immediately, David decides to try again.

DAVID

(Rearing his lightning strider back again and more aggressively this time as the strider discharges even more currents)

I said get back!

This time however, as David shouts at the beings, his voice seems to possess a strength that even he can't explain as the sound waves carrying his words create a power that reinforces the wave that Rosie created and completely jolts the Firecloud, causing its' forces to disappear and temporarily de-stabilizing the Firecloud itself, giving the Arshakans a chance to escape to the south while the Firecloud tries to regain its' advance.

ROSALINDA

(As she and David quickly turn and begin riding his strider back to the Royal War Carriage, with both of them obviously confused over what just happened)

What was that, David?!

DAVID

I don't know, Rosie.

ROSALINDA

You don't...what? Are you serious?

DAVID

I'm serious, Rosie. I have no idea what that was. I was honestly just telling them to get back...I mean, I was being stern but, I have no idea how that all happened the way it did.

ROSALINDA

That wasn't like, part of your ability or something?

DAVID

Part of my ability?! I didn't even know I had any ability beyond just creative writing until I came here.

ROSALINDA

Well, I can honestly say that for as long as I've known what the Arshakans needed you for, I've never heard that you might be able to do something like that.

Just then, Princess Sandrin telepathically interrupts their conversation as her voice echoes through both of their minds.

SANDRIN

Are you two all right?!

DAVID

Yes Princess, we're fine! Amazingly, we're okay!

SANDRIN

What happened there?!

ROSALINDA

We were just discussing that...we have no idea what that was!

DAVID

What, Princess, you mean you don't know, either?

SANDRIN

I think I'm just as surprised as
you are!

DAVID

Okay, now I'm really confused...

SANDRIN

I think I might know how to find
out though. Or at least, figure it
out.

ROSALINDA

How?

SANDRIN

We'll discuss it when you get back
to the carriage. So please,
hurry. That development gave us a
big advantage and we don't want to
waste any time in finding out
whether or not we can use it again.

With that, David and Rosie ride the strider at top speed
back toward the Royal War Carriage.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE ROYAL WAR CARRIAGE

A short time later, as the Arshakan army heads south in
search of the Sunken Garden, David, Rosie and Princess
Sandrin, along with Audrey and Grace, are sitting in the
carriage discussing the recent development.

SANDRIN

So tell me...what exactly happened
out there?

ROSALINDA

Well, it's hard to describe without
sounding completely crazy, to be
honest.

DAVID

Yeah, she's right. I mean, I had
gotten to Rosie and all her guards
had fallen so it was just her and
she was using her ability against
the Firecloud. So, I got her
attention and grabbed her, then
pulled her away from the Firecloud

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)
because even though she was able to
use her ability, it seemed like the
Firecloud was waiting for her.

AUDREY
Waiting for her?!

DAVID
Yeah. Like it knew she would be
there and was prepared. I don't
know. It's almost like it was
allowing her to use her ability
against it because it was luring
her into some kind of trap or
something.

SANDRIN
(Very surprised)
A trap?!

DAVID
Yeah. It looked like it.

GRACE
That's never happened before.

SANDRIN
No, it hasn't. And it's not so
much that it's surprising how the
Firecloud expected her to be there
because as we all know, she's been
using her ability against it for
years. What's surprising is that
it knew enough about exactly where
she was going to be before she was
there to be able to actually
prepare itself and its' forces to
trap her.

ROSALINDA
It's getting smarter.

DAVID
Is that unexpected?

SANDRIN
It's not unexpected for the
Firecloud to get smarter. But it
is unexpected that it seemed to
have an almost precognitive
response to the possibility of her
being there this time.

ROSALINDA

Which means it's getting smarter in that it's figuring out more ways of how to pick up on our responses before they happen.

DAVID

Well, Princess, you said before that the existence of any knowledge can be dangerous in the same world that the Firecloud is in, right?

SANDRIN

Yes.

DAVID

Maybe that's because it's able to develop a detection of patterns?

ROSALINDA

What kind of patterns?

DAVID

Any kind of patterns. Thought patterns, attack patterns, response patterns...understand what I'm saying?

SANDRIN

Yes. And it makes a lot of sense, actually. Especially considering the way it took us by surprise as we were coming out of the tunnel despite the Malkatai's close observation of its' movements.

AUDREY

So then, what do we do about it?

SANDRIN

Become unpredictable.

DAVID

Yes, exactly. That's how we were able to escape the trap it had set for Rosie. Even we didn't know I could do that, whatever it was. If it was even me. It was completely unexpected.

SANDRIN

Which is why it's so important that we figure out what that was you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN (cont'd)
did, David - and how to further use
it to our advantage.

ROSALINDA
Yeah David. I mean, I understand
that you don't know what it was
but, can you at least explain how
it came about? Like, how it
happened?

DAVID
(Trying to describe it)
Honestly Rosie, it felt...it felt
like an explosion of...um...well,
you know how you get that
fight-or-flight response in a tense
situation?

ROSALINDA
Yes.

DAVID
Well, it was kinda like the fight
end of that but so strong that it
was almost numbing.

GRACE
Wow. That must have been
incredible.

DAVID
It was. And the thing about it was
that it was so powerful, you
know? So intense, that I nearly
lost my balance and fell off the
strider.

AUDREY
Do you have any idea where it might
have come from though? I mean
like, originally. Could you feel,
inside you, where it originated?

DAVID
No. Other than the type of feeling
it was as I just explained.

SANDRIN
(Thinking for a moment)
I think I might have an idea on how
we can find out what it was.

DAVID

How?

SANDRIN

The part of the kingdom that my people are originally from is called, "Moneria" and it's not very far from here. The Monerians are the most powerful beings in Arshaka. And as I'm sure you can expect, our strongest ability is what we can do with our minds.

DAVID

Of course.

SANDRIN

There is a family there - the central clan of our people. Within that family, there are two sets of siblings - twins - Benjamin and Ashley, Luke and Taylor. And because of the fact that they're twins, there's a connection of pure power between them that is stronger than it is between anyone else in the clan. I'm hoping that with the combined power of the twins and myself, we can look into the various levels of your ability and figure out exactly what it was you did back there and how you did it.

DAVID

Okay then. Well, I wanna know how I did that more than probably anyone so you don't have to tell me twice. Let's go meet them.

Wasting no time, Princess Sandrin directs the army of Arshaka to head in the direction of Moneria.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - THE HOME OF KIDRIA, LUKE AND TAYLOR TSINARIS, MONERIA, ARSHAKA

On what seems to be a typical day in the household of Kidria Tsinaris and her fifteen-year-old twins, Luke and Taylor, Luke is out collecting food from the garden while Taylor is working in the kitchen of their beautiful but relatively modest farmhouse and Kidria is upstairs

(CONTINUED)

momentarily. Suddenly, Taylor feels a welcome presence in her mind that she hasn't felt in some time.

TAYLOR
(Speaking aloud)
Sandrin?

SANDRIN
(Telepathically)
Hello, Taylor. How are you?

TAYLOR
I'm well, Princess. It's wonderful to hear your voice. How have you been?

SANDRIN
Also well, but very busy. I'm actually heading back to Moneria as we speak.

TAYLOR
(Overjoyed at hearing the news of Sandrin's return)
You are?! When do you arrive?

SANDRIN
Before the daytime sun sets.

TAYLOR
(Surprised)
Before
the...really? That's...that's very soon.

SANDRIN
I know. I would have contacted you earlier but we just decided to go there not long ago.

TAYLOR
Does mother know?

SANDRIN
Not yet; I wanted to tell you first.

TAYLOR
I'm honored. But why me?

SANDRIN
Because I'm coming especially to see you. You and Luke,
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN (cont'd)
actually. Benjamin and Ashley as well. I'll be asking them to meet us at your home after you and I are finished speaking.

TAYLOR

I'm looking forward to it. But if I may ask, why are you coming specifically to see us? Is everything all right?

SANDRIN

As right as it can be with the fight against the Firecloud going on. But Rosalinda's brother David is here now and as we were in battle against the Firecloud not long ago, something happened regarding David that I'm going to need your help with.

TAYLOR

(Surprised)

MY help?

SANDRIN

Yes. You and Luke, as well as Benjamin and Ashley.

TAYLOR

This must be quite a situation, Princess. You've never come to us with a request like this before.

SANDRIN

I assure you, it's unlike anything we've ever experienced.

TAYLOR

It seems that way.

SANDRIN

But if we can figure this out Taylor...it could make a big difference in our fight against the Firecloud.

Just then, Kidria comes back downstairs.

KIDRIA

(Having overheard Taylor speaking moments earlier)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIDRIA (cont'd)
Hey. Who are you talking to?

Suddenly, Sandrin addresses her.

SANDRIN
It's me, Kidria.

KIDRIA
(Also speaking aloud, like
Taylor)
Princess?

SANDRIN
Yes.

KIDRIA
Hello. This is a pleasant
surprise. We haven't spoken in
some time.

SANDRIN
I know. But we'll be seeing each
other soon.

KIDRIA
(Surprised)
We will?

TAYLOR
Sandrin is on her way here right
now, Mother.

KIDRIA
(Very happy at the news)
That's great to hear. But why?

TAYLOR
They need our help. Luke,
Benjamin, Ashley and I.

KIDRIA
Really? That's unexpected. Is
everything all right, Princess?

SANDRIN
I'll explain when we arrive,
Kidria. We're just about
there. Benjamin and Ashley will be
there shortly as well. I apologize
for coming to you with such short
notice. But this is very
important.

KIDRIA

You know you're always welcome here, Sandrin. Is there anything you'll be needing?

SANDRIN

Just for everyone to be there and ready. This is something that's going to require a combination of the twins' abilities along with my own - which hopefully will be strong enough.

KIDRIA

Of course, Princess. We'll be ready.

SANDRIN

Thank you, Kidria. We'll see you soon.

As the conversation ends, Kidria and Taylor start preparing the house for Sandrin's arrival.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - THE ROAD OUTSIDE THE TSINARIS HOME

Not too long after Princess Sandrin's conversation with Taylor and Kidria, the section of Moneria that the Tsinaris' live in is alive with excitement as the Arshakan army arrives with the Royal War Carriage at the center of it. As Kidria, Taylor and Luke, along with Taylor and Luke's seventeen-year-old cousins, Benjamin and Ashley, and their parents, Simon and Fanadrine, all stand outside the Tsinaris home, Princess Sandrin, David, Rosie, Grace and Audrey step out of the carriage. As they all walk up to meet the Tsinaris family, it quickly and clearly becomes evident how happy Sandrin and the Tsinaris' are to see each other.

SANDRIN

(As Taylor embraces her warmly)

This is indeed a moment worthy of our kingdom's existence.

TAYLOR

(Returning the embrace)

Truly. My cup overflows.

A moment later, Luke and the others also greet Princess Sandrin with equally warm embrace. Sandrin then turns to

(CONTINUED)

David, who's walking up behind her with Rosie as she greets everyone as well, obviously having gotten to know them all through Princess Sandrin over the years.

DAVID

(As everyone also turns to him)

Hello.

SANDRIN

Everyone, this is David. I am honored to introduce you to him.

KIDRIA

(Stepping forward to greet David)

And we are honored to meet you, David. This is a moment we've all waited many years for.

DAVID

Thank you. Yes, from what I've been told, my arrival here has been anticipated.

TAYLOR

More than you know, David.

SANDRIN

David, this is Kidria, her twins Taylor and Luke, and also Simon and Fanadrine with their twins, Benjamin and Ashley.

DAVID

It's a pleasure to meet you all.

SANDRIN

They are my family.

DAVID

(Turning to Sandrin with surprise)

YOUR family?

SANDRIN

Yes. My extended family. When my direct ancestors were chosen by the Creator to lead the kingdom, that made them the Royal Family. Since then, the first-born of each Royal Family has taken the throne with each new generation of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN (cont'd)
leadership. But our clan, here in our homeland of Moneria, is the Tsinaris clan. Kidria and her husband Jaxis are actually next in line for the throne of Arshaka behind us. Jaxis is the first of my father's younger brothers. Simon is the second.

DAVID

Wow. Well then, I have to say, it's an honor being here among such nobility.

KIDRIA

(Humbly appreciative but almost amused by David's comment)

Thank you, David. But it's really just our position here, bestowed by the Grace of the Creator, that makes us noble. Otherwise, we're nothing more than ordinary citizens of this world, like everyone else.

ROSALINDA

Exactly, Kidria - and I would imagine that humble attitude is what the Creator saw in you when He decided to appoint your family the first among your society.

KIDRIA

Thank you, Rosalinda. Your kind words are more than appreciated.

SANDRIN

(Smiling)

All right. Well before we embarrass my family any further, we should probably head into the house and discuss our reason or coming here.

DAVID

Good idea.

With that, everyone proceeds into Kidria, Taylor and Luke's house while Princess Sandrin's royal guards surround the house and the rest of the army takes this time to regroup and reorganize.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE HOME OF KIDRIA, LUKE AND TAYLOR
TSINARIS, MONERIA, ARSHAKA

A short time later, everyone is gathered in Kidria, Luke and Taylor's living room as they discuss the specific reason for Princess Sandrin, David and Rosalinda's visit.

SANDRIN

So, Kidria, thank you very much for opening your home to us this afternoon.

KIDRIA

The pleasure is mine, Princess.

SANDRIN

And thank you to everyone, equally as much, for being here. I know you all have busy lives and I would not have interrupted them if this wasn't very important.

BENJAMIN

We always have time for you, Princess. What is it you need?

SANDRIN

I'm not sure if you've heard, but the army of Arshaka is on a quest right now to find the Sunken Garden - seemingly the only way to defeat the Firecloud.

ASHLEY

Yes, we have heard about that. Our prayers and best wishes go with you on your quest.

SANDRIN

Thank you, Ashley. And we need those prayers and best wishes because the Firecloud has already proven to be a formidable opponent. That's actually why we've come here. (She looks and David and Rosie, then back at her family) After coming through the celestial tunnel that we took to arrive in this part of the kingdom, we were ambushed by the Firecloud.

(CONTINUED)

SIMON
(Showing immediate concern)
Ambushed?!

SANDRIN
Yes. Just as we emerged from the tunnel.

FANADRINE
Was it...an unintentional meeting?

SANDRIN
I'm afraid not. The Firecloud is learning our strategies and coming to understand how to know where we're going to be and when.

TAYLOR
That's alarming.

SANDRIN
It is indeed. Which is why we have to do everything possible to stay ahead of what it thinks we're going to do. As I was discussing with everyone in the War Carriage before, we need to become unpredictable -and that actually brings me specifically to why we came here. (After a momentary pause) During the battle, Rosalinda was on the way to using her ability against the Firecloud as she has one several times before. However, this time, it was ready for her.

KIDRIA
With the same understanding that allowed it to ambush you, I'm sure.

SANDRIN
Yes, that's right. And Rosalinda was in trouble as a result. Most of her guards had gone down and she was in danger of being surrounded by the Firecloud's forces. (She looks over at David, then back at everyone as she continues to explain) Seeing the danger that was bearing down on his sister, David left the Carriage and mounted a strider that had lost its' rider
(MORE)

SANDRIN (cont'd)
in the battle and quickly made his way in Rosalinda's direction. As he got to her, he pulled her up onto the back of the strider with him and reared back warning the Firecloud's surrounding force to back off, but they kept advancing. So he warned them again - only this time, his warning was fierce and more aggressive. So aggressive in fact, that it generated a force which strengthened his sister's blockade, caused the Firecloud's forces to dissipate and shook the very foundation of the Firecloud itself.

LUKE

(Turning to David with a look of complete shock on his face)
You did that simply with your voice, David?!

DAVID

I don't know how I did it. I just...did it.

SANDRIN

...which is why we're here. We need to figure out where that came from and see if we can use it again.

ASHLEY

How do we do that?

SANDRIN

We use the combined powers of you, Ben, Luke, Taylor and myself to see if we can figure it out telepathically.

LUKE

Why do we need to combine our powers like that?

SANDRIN

Because the amount of power that David omitted against the Firecloud could only have come from deep within the foundations of his ability.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

Okay so, if you guys are going to do this, I mean, is there like, any chance of me being damaged in any way? I don't mean to insinuate that I don't trust your abilities or anything. But it sounds like this isn't something you do very often.

SANDRIN

Your concern is understandable, David. But while you're right that we don't do this very often, you won't be harmed in any way.

DAVID

You're sure?

SANDRIN

Yes. We're using our powers to observe, nothing more.

DAVID

How far into my, um, abilities, are you going to be looking?

SANDRIN

We're going to be looking to trace the path of the power that allowed you to do what you did before. That will require us to see all the way into your DNA.

DAVID

(Astonished)

Wow. (He looks at Rosie then back at Princess Sandrin) You can really do that?

SANDRIN

Yes. Even though it takes a certain amount of a certain type of power to do it, it's something that no other person in Arshaka can do. Only Monerians.

DAVID

(Genuinely astonished)

That's incredible.

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN
(Looking at her cousins)
So, shall we?

At that moment, Sandrin directs David to stand in the middle of the room, with her cousins surrounding him. Then Sandrin walks up and stands in front of him.

SANDRIN
All right David, now I would like
you to close your eyes.

As David closes his eyes, everyone in the room besides Princess Sandrin and the twins get up and move back.

DAVID
(With his eyes closed)
You're not gonna like, hypnotize me
during this and make me do weird
things, are you?

SANDRIN
(Smiling)
Weird things? Like what?

DAVID
I don't know. Bark like a dog or
something.

SANDRIN
(Laughing)
I wasn't planning on it but, I
don't know...that might be
entertaining to watch.

DAVID
(Also laughing)
Yeah, maybe for you.

ROSALINDA
(From the other side of the
room)
Oh, Princess, please...I will be
your servant for life if you do
that!

SANDRIN
(Still laughing as everyone in
the room does the same)
I don't know, David. That seems to
be a popular idea.

DAVID

(Sarcastically)

Yeah, okay. Go ahead - pick on the new guy.

SANDRIN

(As she she finishes laughing)

All right, let's not waste any more time.

At that moment, the twins all stand with their hands at their sides while Princess Sandrin stands in front of David and closes her eyes. Seconds later the house shakes slightly and a breeze starts to blow through every room as Princess Sandrin and the twins all start to glow. Subconsciously, they all begin to share one viewpoint as their abilities venture deep into David's genetic code. Looking around, they're shocked to see what they can only figure is a stream of creative energy that's actually coming in from an external source and is being directed into specific parts of his mind by certain aspects of his genetic code. As the five of them are able to communicate telepathically while in this state, Princess Sandrin immediately speaks up.

SANDRIN

(Shocked at what they've found)

Is everyone here seeing this?!

TAYLOR

I know I am.

BENJAMIN

So am I.

LUKE

I think we all are.

ASHLEY

Yes, but what I'd like to know is, has anyone ever seen anything like this before? Because I know I haven't.

TAYLOR

No, I haven't either.

SANDRIN

It seems like this seperate wave of energy is coming from...I can only assume the Sunken Garden.

BENJAMIN

Almost like David was designed by the Creator specifically to conduct this energy, the same way metal conducts electricial energy.

TAYLOR

Yes - then his gentic code sends the energy to various points of his mind for him to use whenever necessary.

SANDRIN

Which explains why David's very words became weapons against the Firecloud earlier today.

LUKE

...And it only stands to reason that if David is a natural conductor of energy from the Sunken Garden, then we should be able to follow that energy and find out exactly where the Garden itself is located.

SANDRIN

Exactly. Which shouldn't be difficult to do now that we know what to look for.

ASHLEY

But if this is a detectable stream of energy, won't the Firecloud be able to see it just as we do?

SANDRIN

Yes, which means that we're going to need all the resources of the Malkatai to make sure they know every move the Firecloud makes because if it gets to the Sunken Garden before we do, that could be the end for us.

With that, everyone comes out of the search and back to full consciousness in the room.

CUT.

INT. - NIGHTTIME - THE HOME OF KIDRIA, LUKE AND TAYLOR
TSINARIS, MONERIA, ARSHAKA

A short time later, everyone is sitting in the living room of Kidria, Taylor and Luke's house, discussing the findings of the search that Princess Sandrin led the kids on.

ROSALINDA

...Well, I have to say, as much as I've known over the years about what my brother was gonna be brought here to do, still...I never saw this coming.

DAVID

You think YOU'RE surprised?

SANDRIN

It was, no doubt, a surprise to everyone I think.

DAVID

So, is this also because I use 100% of my brain here? Like you all do?

SANDRIN

More than likely, yes.

DAVID

And you're sure the Firecloud is aware of the fact that this is going on? I mean, that my body, or whatever, can do this?

SANDRIN

Well, we think it's a very strong possibility.

DAVID

So what are we going to do then?

SANDRIN

We're going to proceed in the direction that your ability is receiving this energy from - as securely as possible. (She glances at the window) We want to keep our surroundings as clear as possible so we'll leave at first light. I'll have the army set up a temporary camp along the line.

(CONTINUED)

KIDRIA

Where are you planning on staying,
Princess?

SANDRIN

In the carriage.

KIDRIA

(To everyone in the room)

Actually, the children and I would
be honored if you all would stay in
here with us. (She looks at
Princess Sandrin) It would
probably be more secure anyway,
don't you think, Princess?

SANDRIN

Perhaps. If everyone else agrees.

AUDREY

Grace and I will stay wherever you
are, Your Majesty. As always.

DAVID

I'm fine with staying in here.

ROSALINDA

Me too.

SIMON

(After glancing at Fanadrine)
We have no objections.

SANDRIN

All right then. So then it's
settled.

KIDRIA

(Clearly happy)

Wonderful. So, I hope you're all
hungry.

CUT.

INT. - NIGHTTIME - THE HOME OF KIDRIA, LUKE AND TAYLOR
TSINARIS, MONERIA, ARSHAKA

Later on, everyone is sitting around Kidria's table enjoying a farm-fresh, family-style meal. As everyone sits, eating and discussing various subjects of the moment. David turns to Princess Sandrin, who is sitting next to him at the end of the table as Kidria sits opposite her at the head.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

So Princess, I really don't mind saying, you have a very nice family.

SANDRIN

Thank you, David.

DAVID

You're welcome.

SANDRIN

They seem to like you.

DAVID

Yes, they do. I appreciate that.

Sandrin smiles during a friendly pause between the two of them.

DAVID

(Respectfully)

I was wondering however...

SANDRIN

Yes?

DAVID

...Kidria's husband. Luke and Taylor's father. Jaxis...is that his name?

SANDRIN

Yes, Jaxis.

DAVID

He's your uncle, right? You said he's your father's younger brother, I think.

SANDRIN

That's right. The first of two, Simon being the second.

DAVID

Yes. Well, I was curious...if you don't mind me asking...where is he? I mean, I'm not trying to be disrespectful and I don't mean to pry but, I don't remember meeting your parents since I've been here, and it doesn't seem that Jaxis is here, either. Are they away at war or something?

SANDRIN

In a manner of speaking, yes. But not exactly.

DAVID

Okay...

SANDRIN

Back when the Firecloud first attacked our world, my father, King Aylward, led an army to fight it. But we didn't fully realize how it worked and not only was the army overwhelmed, but my father disappeared.

DAVID

(Surprised)

Disappeared?!

SANDRIN

Unfortunately, yes.

DAVID

Do you have any idea at all what might have happened to him?

SANDRIN

The only possibility we could think of is that he was somehow captured by the Firecloud. There was an extensive search for any of his remains in the case of him having fallen in battle, but none were found.

DAVID

I'm sorry to hear that.

SANDRIN

(Appreciative)

Thank you for your sympathies, David.

DAVID

Please, no thanks are necessary. But if I may ask, what about your mother?

SANDRIN

She and my uncle Jaxis decided to lead another mission to try and find my father. Knowing the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN (cont'd)
risks of what could happen though,
she made me the ruler of Arshaka
until they returned.

DAVID
But they never did return, did
they?

SANDRIN
No.

DAVID
So that's why you're the Crowned
Princess.

SANDRIN
Yes.

DAVID
Wow. I'm sorry, Princess. I
imagine it must be very difficult
for you to deal with that and still
have the responsibility of ruling
the kingdom on your shoulders.

SANDRIN
It is difficult. Believe me, I
love my people and my kingdom, and
I love being able to lead
them. But at the same time, I'd
give up my throne forever if it
meant getting my parents and my
uncle back.

DAVID
I believe you. (At that moment, he
looks over at Kidria and her
children, then turns back to
Princess Sandrin) What about
Kidria, Taylor and Luke? How have
they been dealing with the
disappearance of their father?

SANDRIN
Surprisingly well. The
disappearances of my parents and
Uncle Jaxis have been very
difficult on the whole family, but
we've also needed to be on guard.

DAVID

On guard?

SANDRIN

Yes. We've needed to be strong and vigilant because the Firecloud has tried to use the disappearances of my parents against us.

DAVID

How, if you don't mind me asking?

SANDRIN

I don't mind. The Firecloud has the capability to disguise certain aspects of its' forces. In being able to do this, it has sent attackers against us in the form of my parents.

DAVID

Seriously?!

SANDRIN

Unfortunately so. We called them, the "Imposters."

DAVID

How did you reveal them?

SANDRIN

We were able to recognize subtle differences at first, but our victories came at the price of many good soldiers - and the compromising of our kingdom's security. So Kidria used special technical characteristics of her ability to work with the Sogarthic in creating a machine out of their metal called, the "Wipik." It's similar to what you might call a "robot," but also with certain functional differences and unique abilities. Its' main function is to identify and eliminate Imposters.

DAVID

Wow. That's...incredible. How many times has she had to use it?

SANDRIN

None, thankfully. It seems that because we were able to successfully fight off the Imposters when they first started coming around, the Firecloud abandoned that strategy.

DAVID

Well that's good.

SANDRIN

It is, but now that the Firecloud is advancing in its' strategic abilities, and especially now that we've discovered the reason why you're able to do what you did earlier today, I fear that the Firecloud will start holding back less in the different methods it uses to advance on us - which may includes possibly using the Imposters again.

DAVID

Well, hopefully not. But if that does happen, you have the use of the Wipik, right?

SANDRIN

Yes.

DAVID

So it sounds like you should be fine in a situation like that. How many Wipiks are there? I mean, did Kidria and the Sogarthic make just that one?

SANDRIN

At first, yes. But then our armies manufactured an entire garrison of them and spread them out all over the kingdom. You've actually seen them. You just didn't know it.

DAVID

(Surprised)

I didn't?

SANDRIN

No. They're disguised.

DAVID

Wow. That is really cool. So basically, they're your version of Imposters.

SANDRIN

In a manner of speaking, yes.

DAVID

Wow.

SANDRIN

(After the two of them stop to think for a moment)

I don't know why I felt led to go into such detail with you about the and the Imposters and the Wipiks. That hasn't happened in quite a while but I really feel that, for some reason, the Creator wanted you to be made aware of them.

DAVID

Maybe that was like...I don't know, like a warning. You know, that something along those lines might be coming in the future. I mean, your power is concentrated more on what you can do with your mind, right? Maybe that was a message you were given or something.

SANDRIN

Perhaps. I hope not. But perhaps. (She thinks again for another moment) One concern I have though, is that as the Firecloud becomes more advanced, I'm afraid the Imposters will advance as well, being one of the weapons of the Firecloud. Because of this, even the Wipiks might not be able to identify them as easily.

DAVID

(Thinking about Sandrin's point)

That is a valid concern.

SANDRIN

It's definitely not something I hope we'll have to face. But

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN (cont'd)
unfortunately, I feel it may be a
distinct possibility nonetheless.

DAVID
Well, just in case it does happen,
we'll just have to be extra
vigilant. You know, making sure
that we don't only rely on the
Wipiks but also use our own
discretion as well. Almost like an
added line of defense.

SANDRIN
Yes, for sure.

DAVID

At the same time though, we'll also have to make sure our
vigilance doesn't get in the way of us trusting each
other. Because that could allow us to play right into the
Firecloud's hands.

SANDRIN
I agree.

Just then, Rosie notices the length of the conversation
goingon between David and Princess Sandrin.

ROSALINDA
So what are you two
discussing? Anything
interesting? It must be. Your
conversation has been going on for
quite a while now.

SANDRIN
(Laughing)
I didn't know we were being timed.

DAVID
We've been discussing important
matters of state and strategy.

ROSALINDA
(Also laughing)
Oh, are you now?

DAVID
(Smiling confidently)
Yes.

ROSALINDA

So you're adapting to your place
here in Arshaka pretty well then?

DAVID

(Briefly glancing over at
Princess Sandrin with a subtle
but still noticeable look of
affection)

Yes I am. (He smiles
awkwardly) Well, I hope so,
anyway.

SANDRIN

(Smiling, charmed by David's
combination of confidence and
awkwardness)

He's doing fine. (She thinks for a
moment) In fact, I think this is a
perfect opportunity.

DAVID

Opportunity for what, if you don't
mind me asking?

SANDRIN

David, do you know what your
sister's position is?

DAVID

Her position?

SANDRIN

Yes.

DAVID

What, like, officially?

SANDRIN

Yes. Within my court.

DAVID

Um, no, as matter of fact, I
don't. To tell you the truth, I
didn't even realize she had one.

ROSALINDA

(Laughing at David's comment)

Thanks, brother.

DAVID

(Also laughing)

No, I know what you've been doing
here. I just didn't realize you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)
actually had a designated position
that pertained to it.

ROSALINDA
Well I do. I am Princess Sandrin's
Royal Artistic Weapons Commander.

DAVID
Really?

ROSALINDA
(Obviously proud of her title,
but still trying to be humble)
Yes.

DAVID
Very cool, sister. I'm proud of
you.

ROSALINDA
Thank you.

DAVID
You're very welcome.

SANDRIN
...And she's very good at her
position, David - as you've seen
already.

DAVID
Yes, I agree.

SANDRIN
Well, as you know, you were brought
here to fill a similar position - a
position that you've already proven
you're good at as well.

DAVID
Thank you, Princess.

SANDRIN
You're welcome. Now, the reason
why I've brought this up to you is
because I feel it's necessary and
appropriate for you to be given an
official position as well.

DAVID
(Visibly excited)
Thank you, Princess. I don't know
what to say.

ROSALINDA

Wow, Princess. You've finally figured out a way to render my brother speechless. You really do have special abilities.

At that moment, Rosie's comment generates laughter from the others at the table.

DAVID

(With a bit of playful sarcasm)

Obviously, my sister's abilities don't include comedy. But I do thank you for your willingness to give me an official position, Princess. Any ideas what it might be?

SANDRIN

Yes, the same as your sister - only regarding literature instead of the fine arts. You will be my Royal Literary Weapons Commander.

DAVID

(Thinking about it for a brief second)

That actually makes a lot of sense, considering what my ability is and what you brought me here to do. Thank you, Princess. I won't let you down.

SANDRIN

(Smiling sweetly but confidently)

I know you won't.

With that, everyone starts to help clearing the table, in preparation for an early night because of an early day to follow.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - OUTSIDE THE HOME OF KIDRIA, LUKE AND TAYLOR TSINARIS, MONERIA, ARSHAKA

The following morning, Princess Sandrin, her family, David, Rosie, Audrey, Grace and everyone in the army line that camped outside the previous night are preparing to move out.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID
(To Rosie)
Okay sis. You all ready to go?

ROSALINDA
Of course. What about you,
"Commander?"

DAVID
(Laughing with a slight tone
of disbelief)
I still can't believe I'm
fulfilling that kind of a
role. Actually, I can't believe
either of us are even here.

ROSALINDA
Yeah, it is pretty amazing. I've
been here for over thirty years and
sometimes I can't even believe it.

DAVID
(Thinking for a moment)
You know, we're doing this to help
the Arshakans and all. But I
wonder if we're helping Earth as
well. Like, I wonder if there's a
chance of the Firecloud making its'
way to our world.

ROSALINDA
I don't know. Hopefully, we'll
never have to find out.

DAVID
I certainly hope not. The
Firecloud is bad enough
here. Imagine it on Earth?

ROSALINDA
I don't even want to.

Just then, Princess Sandrin walks over to David and Rosie.

SANDRIN
Well, here we go. I definitely
feel that coming here was a good
idea.

DAVID
So do I. Now I know exactly how I
can be a real help to you.

Princess Sandrin smiles while Rosie nods in agreement, then turns to look and see if the line is just about ready. Suddenly however, she notices that there's a commotion coming from the back of the line. As more people turn to see what's going on, a small group of soldiers breaks through the crowd and appears to be helping a clearly injured man. As they stop near the Royal War Carriage and lower the man to the ground, Kidria recognizes him immediately.

KIDRIA

(Shocked at the man's
identity)

Jaxis!

DAVID

(As Kidria runs over to Jaxis)

What?!

SANDRIN

Uncle Jaxis?!

TAYLOR

(As she and Luke run over to Jaxis as well, just behind their mother as she reaches and embraces him. A moment later, Talor and Luke do the same)

Dad!

SANDRIN

(After looking around and not seeing any activity from the Wipiks)

Uncle Jaxis...I don't understand;
how are you here?!

JAXIS

(Exhausted)

The Firecloud had a temporary weakening in power yesterday; it lost its' hold on me so I took the opportunity to escape.

SANDRIN

Yes; we know about the weakening. But thank the Creator you were able to get away! What about my parents? Have you seen them?

JAXIS

I don't know if the Firecloud lost its' grip on them as well or not. everything happened so fast that I didn't see much of anything except the chance to escape that was right in front of me.

SANDRIN

Well, if you were alive and able to get away, I'm sure my parents have the same chance. (She looks at the guards who brought him over) Good work, all of you. Thank you for this. Please, if you would, bring him to the medical division of the line and see that he's examined and treated. (She looks at Kidria and the kids as the guards help Jaxis) We need to start moving, but you can all ride with him. We'll talk more about this soon.

As Kidria and kids follow the guards and Jaxis in the direction of the medical division, Princess Sandrin turns and looks at David, Rosie and everyone else standing there.

ROSIE

I can't believe that just happened!

SANDRIN

Neither can I; it definieiy stirs hope in me.

DAVID

For sure. Although, it seems like one major coincidence.

SANDRIN

What do you mean?

DAVID

With everything we discussed last night. Then suddenly, this happens.

SANDRIN

That's true but, the Wipiks. They haven't activated.

DAVID

I know. Judging by what you told me about them, I'd expect them to activate if something was wrong.

SANDRIN

That's right. So...could this be the real thing then?

DAVID

(Thinking)

It could...but like I said; it's just too much of a coincidence. (He steps away to think for a moment, trying to figure out exactly why this bothers him so much. Suddenly he happens to notice that medical division is at the center of the line - the most effective point for an attack against Arshakan forces.

Immediately, he turns and faces the medical division and unleashes his ability with one word aimed directly at Jaxis) NO!

SANDRIN

(As David fires)

David! What are you-

Suddenly Jaxis throws Kidria and the kids, as well as the guards assisting him, in every direction as he reveals that he's an Imposter by firing off a psychological attack against everyone on the line - and is briefly effective, but only until David's weapon reaches him almost instantly, sending him flying into one of the transport carriages, causing him to lose footing in his attack and let down his disguise, exposing his true appearance which is similar to the forces of the Firecloud but even more frightening - almost like a dark, smokey figure with no actual identity to its' form. Just then, the Wipiks activate, revealing their own identities as houses, trees and hillsides, strategically positioned across the area. Immediately firing on the Imposter and supported by Arshakan forces as everyone else scatters in all directions, the Wipiks march forward against their target. Near the War Carriage, David's helping Rosie and Princess Sandrin off the ground as they were among those briefly affected by the Imposter's weapon.

DAVID

(As Benjamin, Ashley, their parents and Grace and Audrey also rush in to help)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)

Well Princess, I think we know why the Creator led you to tell me about the Wipiks and the Imposters last night. Are you guys okay?

SANDRIN

I think so. Yes, it seems that was the reason. But how did you actually figure out that was an Imposter?

DAVID

Like I told you, it seemed like too much of a coincidence. And when I remembered that the Firecloud is growing in power, I realized that and Imposter would probably disguise itself as much as possible - even to the point of mimicking your people's abilities which I figured was how it was even able to fool the Wipiks. Then when I saw that it was being brought to the medical division - the center point of the line-

ROSIE

(Glancing over to see that Kidria and the kids are being safely rushed away from the battle between the advancing Wipiks and the Imposter)

Wow, David. The fact that you figured that out-

DAVID

(As they all quickly move away from the area)

Thanks, but I think the most important thing is that we get to safety.

SANDRIN

Good idea...

Just then, Rosie notices that everyone in the safe areas are looking at the sky and reacting. Looking up as well, David, Princess Sandrin and everyone else all notice that the sunny morning sky seems to be opening up.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

What is that?

ROSALINDA

I'm not sure...

SANDRIN

I am. (They turn and look at
her) It's the Firecloud!

DAVID

What?!

SANDRIN

(To the nearest commanding
officer)

All forces, prepare for battle!

With that, all military forces that aren't assisting the Wipiks, who are finishing off the Imposter, get into battle positions while the civilians in the area run for cover. Looking up again, David sees the Firecloud manifest into its' familiar form, with its' forces charging down toward the Arshakans.

ROSALINDA

(As she prepares to fire off
her defensive weapon)

Princess, make sure everyone gets
to safety! I'm gonna hold it back!

SANDRIN

(As Princess Sandrin works
with some of the defensive
forces on getting all the
civilians out of the area)

I'm doing it! Be careful!

DAVID

(As he suddenly faces the
Firecloud's forces, builds up
his strength and yells with
all ferocity as Rosie fires
off her weapon) GET BACK!

Moments after the combination of David and Rosie's weapons are unleashed, the entire area is shaken by a jolt in the air as the Firecloud and its' forces are hit by the force of David and Rosie's defense that completely dismantles the Firecloud and its' forces one the closest side. With the Firecloud temporarily and partially disabled Ashakan forces take the opportunity to quickly advance on the Firecloud, battling its' forces and weakening it further as the rest of

the line picks up thousands of local evacuees and heads away from the danger. Finally, as the last of the line is on the move, Princess Sandrin turns to David and Rosie before entering the War Carriage.

SANDRIN

David! Rosalinda! Come quickly, we're heading out!

Just as David and Rosie turn to head back to the War Carriage however, a swarm of the Firecloud's forces charge at them from the opposite side.

SANDRIN

LOOK OUT!

As David and Rosie turn to run, they're surrounded by the Firecloud's forces - until Arshakan troops attack the Firecloud's forces and the two sides engage in a battle that David and Rosie are caught in the middle of, but unable to use their powers because of the close proximity of enemy forces and the potential danger to the Arshakans - as well as each other. Finally, the two of them are able to get to safety just as the Arshakans drive the Firecloud's forces back. Immediately, David and Rosie enter the War Carriage as the Firecloud seems to withdraw to a fallback position.

ROSIE

(Looking out the window at the Firecloud as the line begins to move)

Thank the Creator, it's retreating.

SANDRIN

(Also looking out the window at the Firecloud)

This is good. Hopefully our resistance was too much for it and it had to re-strengthen.

ROSIE

I hope so.

DAVID

(Also looking out the window)

Whatever it was, the Firecloud's heading away now. So that should give us a significant chance of getting out of here and heading toward wherever the Sunken Garden might be.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - THE NORTHERN SHORE OF THE GREAT OCEAN

As the Arshakan military line arrives at the shore of the Great Ocean, the most heavily-armed horsemen lead the descent, making sure that the Firecloud doesn't have any more unpleasant surprises waiting for them. As soon as it's determined that everything's clear, Princess Sandrin and her party step out of the Royal War Carriage.

SANDRIN

(To David, as they head onto the beach)

This is the Great Ocean.

DAVID

Yes, I remember from my writings. It's also known as the Sea Of A Thousand Passages.

SANDRIN

That's right. There are sections of the kingdom that can only be reached by sea. Which is actually why we're here.

DAVID

We're taking one of the passages?

SANDRIN

Yes. One that's actually been studied and heavily-guarded for years.

DAVID

What's so important about it?

SANDRIN

It's one of the oldest but newly-discovered passages in the kingdom. One that we think might lead us to the Sunken Garden.

DAVID

That's great - but with us potentially being this close to finding it, what if the Firecloud sends in more Imposters? Now that they have the power to possibly fool the Wipiks again, how are we gonna tell who they are?

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN

There is an element in the passages that's said to act as an indicator, specifically pointing out the direction of the Sunken Garden to anyone who gets close enough. It's also said to be able to detect and reveal any possible danger to the Sunken Garden. It's called the "Diamond Eyes."

DAVID

(Looking out over the ocean)
The "Diamond Eyes." Wow. That actually sounds really amazing.

SANDRIN

(Also looking over the ocean)
That it is. Arshaka is full of wonders and mysteries.

DAVID

So, how exactly do we reach this particular passage? Another celestial tunnel?

SANDRIN

No. We're directed by guides.

Just then, no sooner does Princess Sandrin complete her sentence when hundreds of mermaids and mermen appear at the surface of the water, their tails turning to legs as they walk onto the shore and come to meet the line on the beach. As Princess Sandrin and her party step forward, one of the mermaids, a beautiful creature named Jordania, walks up and addresses them.

JORDANIA

Greetings, travelers. We've been expecting you.

SANDRIN

It's good to see you, Jordania.

JORDANIA

(As she and Sandrin embrace as old friends)

It's good to see you as well, Princess. I hear you've been busy.

SANDRIN

We all have. Each passing day is another day closer to when we finally defeat the Firecloud.

(CONTINUED)

JORDANIA

Indeed it is. (She turns and looks at Rosie) Hello, Rosalinda.

ROSALINDA

Good to see you, Jordania. How are you?

JORDANIA

Very well. I hear your brother has arrived.

ROSALINDA

(Motioning for David to step forward)

Wow. News travels fast.

JORDANIA

Even the depths of the ocean hear of news this good. (She looks at David) Hello David. It's a pleasure to finally meet you.

DAVID

(As they shake hands)

The pleasure is mine. I must admit, I'm overwhelmed by surrealism at this point. Since coming here, I've met the likes of fairies, elves and now even mermaids.

JORDANIA

Arshaka is filled with many civilizations; all of us unique in our own ways.

DAVID

Yes, I've come to understand that. So, the Princess told me that we'll be directed through the next phase of our journey by guides. Am I to assume that you and your people will be providing this guidance?

JORDANIA

That's right. The next phase will be a voyage that will bring us to an underground cavern so large, it's like a world unto itself. And according to our research, the cavern may lead us to the location of the Sunken Garden.

DAVID

(Looking between Jordania,
Rosie and Princess Sandrin)

So, how do we get to this cavern?

SANDRIN

(As she motions for everyone
that it's time to go)

We enter the ocean.

DAVID

(Slightly confused but
following his party as they
get back into the War Carriage
while everyone else in the
line prepares as the mermaids
and mermen begin to lead them
into the ocean)

Enter the...okay. This ought to be
interesting.

As everyone in the line takes their positions, David sits in
the war carriage and turns to Rosie.

DAVID

Hey, uh, Rosie?

ROSALINDA

Yes, brother?

DAVID

How exactly are we gonna do this?

ROSALINDA

What, voyage to the cavern?

DAVID

Yes. When I wrote about this
ocean, whoever sailed it obviously
did it in boats. You know, ships
and all.

ROSALINDA

That's right.

DAVID

So...is this cavern in a cave on an
island or something?

ROSALINDA

No. From what I know, it's under
the water.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

Okay. That's what I was wondering about. How are we gonna do this without like, SCUBA gear or anything?

ROSALINDA

You'll see.

DAVID

Oh, okay. You're full of surprises now. great.

As Rosie laughs at David's response, the line begins to enter the ocean with the guidance of the mermaids and mermen whose' legs seamlessly turn back into tails as they begin to swim. Looking ahead, David can see that everyone on the line, horsemen, other carriages, seems to be disappearing into the waves without any resistance from the force of the ocean. Finally, when it comes time for the Royal War Carriage to do the same, David is amazed to see that the Carriage, like everyone else in the line, is surrounded by what seems to be a giant air bubble as it fully submerges, immediately being guided through the water by the mermaids and mermen as the line ventures deeper into the sea.

DAVID

(Looking around as the line as the mermaids and mermen use the air bubble to steer them across the deep water)

This is...beyond comprehension.

SANDRIN

Our friends who are guiding us through the water, though you know them as "mermaids" and "mermen," are an aquatic civilization called, "Vashirians." They know more about the waters of Arshaka than any other civilization; how to utilize them, to live within them - even how to control them.

DAVID

You know Princess, the more I learn about this kingdom, the more I can see why the people of Earth refer to stories about Arshaka as "fairy tales." Compared to the reality that we know on Earth, all this is almost beyond imagination. I'm sure you see it differently

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)
because, of course, this is your
reality. But to someone like
me...this is just...magnificent.

SANDRIN
Thank you, David. I speak for all
Arshakans when I say that
compliment is much appreciated.

DAVID
You're more than welcome.

SANDRIN
So what about your Earth? As you
know, Arshakans have been there on
a regular basis, mostly in
secret. But if, say, I were to
visit there for a considerable
period of time; if I were to live
among your people and gain a more
personal understanding of humans
and how you all live, do you think
I would be as amazed as you are by
this place?

DAVID
(Almost with a laugh, but
keeping his emotion out of
respect)
With all due respect,
Princess...Earth is nothing like
Arshaka.

SANDRIN
Are we really that different?

DAVID
In probably the majority of ways,
yes. I mean, humans can be cruel,
greedy, selfish, hateful...there is
just, an enormous amount of
ugliness on Earth that would easily
repulse you.

SANDRIN
I'm not sure I agree with that. Of
course, the types of things you
just described do repulse me. But
there was something you said in
that statement that actually makes
all the difference.

DAVID

What was that?

SANDRIN

You said that humans "can be" all those things. Which to me, insinuates that humans are not always like that.

DAVID

(Thinking about her observation for a moment)

I can see what you're saying. And you're right. People aren't always like that. But many times, they still are. Even in the Christian Bible, it says that humans are inherently sinful. It's in our spiritual nature to do the bad things that we tend to do. We're naturally imperfect.

SANDRIN

Perhaps, but whatever you do, good or bad, you choose to do. Isn't that right?

DAVID

That's right.

SANDRIN

And that's because, unlike us, you have a free will. I believe you discussed that with Kee-lo.

DAVID

Yes.

SANDRIN

So you see, that's one of the beautiful things about humanity. Arshakans may not have the problems with sin that you have, but that's because we have no choice but to do good, instinctively. When humans do good, it's because they choose to. And how much beauty is there in your world because of that?

DAVID

That's an interesting point.

SANDRIN

So because of this, I imagine there would be much I'd love about your world.

DAVID

Because you look at it that way, I think you're probably right. (He thinks for a moment) Have you ever been there? I mean at all, for any reason.

SANDRIN

I was once.

DAVID

Really? Where?

SANDRIN

(Laughing)

Everywhere.

DAVID

(Surprised at her response)

Everywhere?

SANDRIN

Yes.

DAVID

What do you mean?

SANDRIN

To get to know your world a bit better and in the process, hope to find new ways of defeating the Firecloud, I took a journey across Earth in the year 1985.

DAVID

Wow. That's great. (He thinks for a second) That's actually the year Rosie came here.

SANDRIN

That's right. We visited the New York area while we were there and that's actually how I detected the two of you and the abilities you have.

DAVID

(Smiling as he takes another moment to think)

Wow. If she and I had any idea at that time. (He changes the subject) So, you should know a bit about humans though your experiences then.

SANDRIN

Only to a point. Other than looking for new ways to fight the Firecloud, I was mostly there to experience a taste of your cultures more than actually study them. And it was definitely an enjoyable experience. But it wasn't as much of a living experience as I would need to really gain a hands-on understanding of humanity. I never stayed in one place long enough to do that.

DAVID

I get that. It takes more than just visiting someplace for a short time to really understand the locals. I'm here trying to help defend your world but as much as I know about it through a combination of what you taught me through my writings over the years and what I've experienced being here so far, I still feel that I've barely scratched the surface of what Arshaka really is. It's definitely nothing short of incredible as I was saying before. But I barely know anything about this place. In detailed variety, anyway.

SANDRIN

(Smiles)

So, it seems like both of us could use a real education in the ways of each other's worlds.

DAVID

(Returns the smile)

It would seem that way. (He thinks for a moment) So, if I may ask, besides visiting New York, what else did you do when you came to Earth?

SANDRIN

Many interesting things. We started in...Germany, I believe it was?

DAVID

Okay...

SANDRIN

That's where we came through. In a forest. It was nice. We made our way to the nearest town and stayed there for a few hours to eat. Very good food.

DAVID

Yeah, I've always enjoyed German cuisine.

SANDRIN

From there, we ventured across central Europe - beautiful Mountains, the Alps.

DAVID

Wow. I've never even been to the Alps. Not yet, anyway. I saw them from a distance when I was in Europe on a book tour, but I haven't seen them close up.

SANDRIN

You should.

DAVID

So where else did you go?

SANDRIN

(Thinking)

Um...well, I actually visited many places. Oh, have you ever been to a concert?

DAVID

Yeah. A few of them. Why, did you go to one while you were on Earth?

SANDRIN

Yes. While visiting England, we saw this very large concert. There were many wonderful performers but my favorite was the band, "Queen."

DAVID

(Delighted and surprised to
hear about Princess Sandrin's
experience seeing Queen)

Well, if this was a very large
concert with a lot of performers in
England in 1985, it sounds like you
might have been at Live
Aid. Wow. And you saw Queen?

SANDRIN

(Smiling at his response)

Yes. I really enjoyed it.

DAVID

That is so cool. That performance
you saw is actually considered by
many people to be one of the
greatest concert performances of
all time. (He thinks for a
moment) I love Queen. That's one
band I never got to see
live. They've been going for years
but after Freddie passed, it just
didn't feel like it would be the
same to me.

SANDRIN

Freddie...isn't he the main singer?

DAVID

Yes. He actually died in 1991.

SANDRIN

(Obviously disappointed)

That's too bad. He was an amazing
performer. If we weren't trying to
keep such a balance of secrecy
between Earth and Arshaka, I might
have asked Queen to perform here.

DAVID

That would've been something to
see. Queen performing live in a
world of, well, mythical creatures,
as it were. Do you have a favorite
song by them?

SANDRIN

Well, I really enjoyed being in the
crowd when they performed, 'Radio
Ga Ga..."

DAVID

Yeah, that was an incredible performance...

SANDRIN

...But I did listen to their music for quite a while after that. I still do, actually. And one of my favorites is "Seven Seas Of Rhye."

DAVID

Definitely a great choice.

SANDRIN

What about you? What's your favorite song by Queen?

DAVID

Wow...that's a good question. Honestly, there are so many...

SANDRIN

(Smiles)

Al right. Name some.

DAVID

Are you kidding? "Bohemian Rhapsody," "I'm In Love With My Car," "The Show Must Go On," "Keep Yourself Alive," "Somebody To Love..." (He laughs) I wouldn't really know which one to choose. There are just too many.

SANDRIN

I don't blame you. They're definitely great musicians.

DAVID

(Thinking)

I could only imagine the people's faces at Live Aid if they found out who you were.

SANDRIN

What do you mean?

DAVID

(With a smile)

If they had any idea that the princess of a mythical land was standing there rocking out with them.

Sandrin gives a sweet smile in acknowledgment of David's comment. Suddenly however, the levity of their conversation is interrupted by a commotion outside the line. Looking out the windows, everyone in the Carriage can see Vashirians and Arshakan soldiers scrambling into what seem to be battle positions. Immediately, Jordania enters the air bubble and rushes up to the left side window of the Carriage.

SANDRIN

(Meeting Jordania at the window)

What's the problem?!

JORDANIA

The Firecloud seems to be growing even stronger! It's forming a shadow across the surface of the ocean above us that seems to be splitting the water apart!

SANDRIN

What do you mean, "Splitting the water apart?!"

JORDANIA

It's manipulating the elemental structure of the water and almost literally tearing a hole in the sea!

Rushing to the window to look up, everyone in the Carriage can see that the Firecloud is indeed tearing a hole in the sea as Jordania just described. As all manner of sea life rush to get out of the area, ships that were sailing across that part of the water's surface drop into the hole and hit the ocean floor with a series of thundering crashes.

SANDRIN

(Looking at everyone around her)

We have to do something...but I don't know what! I've never seen the Firecloud attack with this level of strength before!

DAVID

(As he and Rosie look out the window at the immediate resistance Arshakan forces are bringing against the Firecloud by roaring toward the surface in their air bubbles with the guidance of the Vashirians,

then exploding out of the water and fighting the forces of the Firecloud in the air above the ocean)
Rosie, you ready for this?!

ROSALINDA
Never been more ready!

With that, the two of them rush out of the Carriage and hitch rides on the striders of two Arshakan soldiers that are heading toward the surface. Moments later, they blast through the surface of the ocean and immediately begin their assault on the Firecloud.

ROSALINDA
(As she fires off her ability that turns into a resistant force against the Firecloud)
David, be ready to muster as much strength as you can! I'm not gonna be able to get as close to the Firecloud as I have been!

DAVID
I don't blame you - too dangerous! And you can't be effective if you're-

Suddenly, the Firecloud emulates a wave of resistance made out of the same material it uses to create its' forces that actually destroys Rosie's force and jolts David, Rosie and the soldiers they're riding with off the striders and into the ocean as the striders run away from the Firecloud. A few seconds later, as David, Rosie and the two soldiers rise to the surface again, they all look at the Firecloud, then at each other in complete disbelief.

DAVID
What was that?!

ROSIE
I have no idea!

DAVID
It was almost like, the Firecloud broke through your barrier!

SOLDIER #1
Begging your pardon, Commanders but, that's not supposed to happen, is it?

ROSALINDA

No, it's not. (She looks back at the Firecloud) I don't see how that's possible!

DAVID

Well, didn't Princess Sandrin say that the Firecloud seems to be getting stronger?!

SOLDIER #2

She's right, Commanders. It is! The kind of attacks we've been getting from its' forces have been more ferocious with every encounter!

DAVID

Well then we're gonna have to do more to match it!

ROSALINDA

How?!

DAVID

The same way we were planning on hitting it a few minutes ago - but not as directly!

ROSALINDA

But...won't that separate our power and make us less effective against it?

DAVID

(Reaching out and grabbing onto another riderless strider as it goes roaring by just above the surface of the water)

Not if we take it by surprise!

Immediately, David pulls himself onto the strider and charges toward the Firecloud. Seeing this, Rosie grabs onto one of three striders that the two soldiers manage to call to their position. Taking off with the guard of the soldiers beside her, Rosie turns and looks to see David continuing to charge at the Firecloud, with David opening his mouth and letting out a roar so powerful, it splits into two waves and takes the sound of a double-voice. In response to this, the Firecloud clearly shifts its' power in David's direction to stop him from unleashing an effective attack against it. Taking the opportunity, Rosie unleashes

(CONTINUED)

her wave that cuts down the Firecloud's forces from the other direction and causes its' position to buckle, falling back and losing strength as Rosie's wave forms a barrier that completely pushes the Firecloud back and causes it to let go of the ocean, giving the line and its' Vashirian escorts the opportunity to get deeper into the ocean, down toward a section known as "The Trench Colonies," where the Vashirians have a permanent entrance set up that leads to the various caverns and passages that run beneath the ocean floor.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE ROYAL WAR CARRIAGE

A short time later, everyone is in the War Carriage, descending further toward the bottom of the ocean and discussing the most recent turn of events regarding the fight against the Firecloud.

SANDRIN

(To David and Rosalinda)

So what exactly happened back there?

DAVID

I have no idea, Princess. Somehow, the Firecloud was able to actually break through Rosie's barrier.

SANDRIN

(Obviously distressed)

That's never happened before.

ROSALINDA

No, it hasn't. And to be quite honest, I didn't know it was even possible.

SANDRIN

Neither did I.

GRACE

So...what are we going to do then?

SANDRIN

I think David and Rosalinda showed us what we need to do. We need to apply the same level of strategy as we do force. Obviously, the more the Firecloud conquers, the stronger it gets. It's already

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN (cont'd)
fooled us and the Wipiks and now
it's increasing in brute force. We
really need to find the Sunken
Garden as soon as possible.

ROSALINDA
Yeah, we do. Because at this rate,
by the time we do find it, that
might be all that's left of
Arshaka.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE ROYAL WAR CARRIAGE

A little while later, the entire line is steered over an underwater peak where they behold a panoramic view of the Trench Colonies, illuminating that part of the ocean floor like a beacon on a stormy night.

SANDRIN
(Joining everyone in the
Carriage as they look in awe
at the sight of the Trench
Colonies before them)
As many times as I've seen this
view, it never ceases to amaze me.

DAVID
I've never seen anything like it.

ROSALINDA
It just seems to have that effect
on everyone.

DAVID
So, what is it, exactly? I know
it's the entrance to these
underground caverns but,
this...outpost as guess you'd call
it. What, is it like, an
underwater city or something?

SANDRIN
Yes. It's the capital of the
undersea realm in Arshaka. The
central location for all marine
commerce and leadership.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

That's awesome.

SANDRIN

There's usually regular transport between the surface and the Colonies, but since the battle against the Firecloud really intensified, the activity in and around the Colonies has become heavily restricted and monitored.

DAVID

That's understandable.

SANDRIN

But honestly, if you're impressed by the way it looks now, you should see it under normal circumstances.

AUDREY

It's one of the most vibrant and valuable cities in the world.

GRACE

That's right. The doorway between two major sections of the kingdom.

Just then, Jordania comes up to the window of the Carriage on Princess Sandrin's side.

JORDANIA

We're preparing to arrive in the main square of the Colonies, Your Majesty.

SANDRIN

Very good. Is everything secure?

JORDANIA

Yes, Princess. We've had regular sweeps done by our forces and regular scans done by the Wipiks ever since we first heard of your approach on the surface.

SANDRIN

Excellent. If it's the will of the Creator, we'll finally locate the Sunken Garden and bring this seige to an end.

DAVID

I believe it is His will,
Princess. After everything I've
experienced over the past few days,
I firmly believe we have this
victory.

SANDRIN

(Looking at David with a smile
of affection and gratitude)

So do I.

At that moment, the line and its' escorts are brought into the Trench Colonies where they're met by a joyous reception. As the line stops and the occupants of the Royal War Carriage get out, they are continuously met by the cheers and applause of the various people and other beings that are there. Waving to the crowd with appreciation, they're immediately brought into the guarded safety of the Colonial Palace, which serves as the central leadership building of the Colonies.

CUT.

INT. - NIGHTTIME - THE COLONIAL PALACE

Later that evening, as David is in his quarters at the Palace, Rosie walks in.

ROSALINDA

(Dressed in a formal Arshakan
military uniform)

Hey brother.

DAVID

(Also in dress, just doing
some minor grooming in front
of a mirror)

Hey. You look nice.

ROSALINDA

Thanks. You don't look too bad,
yourself.

DAVID

Thank you. I try.

Rosie smiles.

ROSALINDA

So, you seem to be fitting in here
very nicely.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID
Where, Arshaka?

ROSALINDA
Yeah.

DAVID
Well, the people here are so nice. I can't help but fit in, you know? They're so welcoming. Like tonight, for example. This ball the people of the Colonies are putting on, with us as the guests of honor...I never expected that.

ROSALINDA
Yeah, they are definitely welcoming.

DAVID
(Noticing a slight attitude of concern coming from his sister)
Something wrong?

ROSALINDA
No, not wrong. Just...wondering, I guess you'd say.

DAVID
Okay. What are you wondering?

ROSALINDA
Well, I was wondering how long you're planning on being here.

DAVID
Here? Like, in Arshaka?

ROSALINDA
Yeah. I mean, even though the Firecloud has been gaining in strength, you and I and the Arshakans' combined resistance has still managed to push it back against the ropes. Now we're just about to make the final push so as long as we succeed in finding the Sunken Garden and finally bringing down the Firecloud for good, I was just wondering what your plans are once this is all over.

DAVID

Well, I hadn't really thought too much about it. I mean, I guess I figured I would get around to giving it some thought, but with everything going on recently, I've been preoccupied.

ROSALINDA

Okay.

DAVID

Why?

ROSALINDA

Because I see the way you and the Princess look at each other...the way you...interact. Now, I don't know exactly what that means to you, but I do know that Princess Sandrin doesn't really wear her heart on her sleeve when it comes to something she feels deeply about. In those situations, she really has to feel comfortable with expressing her emotions - and when it comes to you, I've noticed that she seems to feel very comfortable.

DAVID

Okay. Well, I can appreciate that. But what do you suggest I do?

ROSALINDA

Well, it's simple, David. If you have feelings for her, you need to tell her. I shouldn't have to explain that to you.

DAVID

I know, and you don't have to. Thing is though, first off, I don't even know if I'm staying here I mean, this is an incredible place - there's no doubt about that. And everyone I've met here has had an undoubtedly lasting impression on my life. Not to mention the fact that I've finally gotten to see you again after how many years? But honestly, I have a life back home. And as a matter of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)

fact, you also have a reason not to stay here permanently, either. I mean, you left us when you were nine. So Mom and Dad have gone for more than three decades without seeing a daughter they don't even know is still alive.

ROSALINDA

(Staring to get slightly annoyed)

That maybe true, but this isn't about me and you know it. I know Mom and Dad miss me, but I also know I have a duty to fulfill here - and so do you.

DAVID

Yes, I do. But I also know that this doesn't have to be permanent; not for either of us.

ROSALINDA

How do you know that? Yeah, okay, you've been brought here initially to help defeat the Firecloud. But do you really think you went through all the development you went through since after I came here, just to come to this world, defeat one enemy and just go back home afterward?

DAVID

So, what are you saying, that there are gonna be more enemies here than the Firecloud?

ROSALINDA

No, because I don't know that for sure. But what I am saying that the reason why you were brought here was so big, and the fact that you and Princess Sandrin click so well, that maybe there's more to you being here than just defeating the Firecloud. I mean, like I said, the life you have back home turned out to be a road to the purpose you've spent the past few days fulfilling here.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

(He turns and looks at her)

So what's your suggestion then?

ROSALINDA

My suggestion is for you to simply be open to the possibility that your life is here now - and that Princess Sandrin might be the one you're supposed to be with.

DAVID

(As the two of them leave his chamber and start walking together toward the ballroom)

Okay. But now I want you to think about something.

ROSALINDA

What?

DAVID

I want you to ask yourself...why would she, Sandrin, the Crowned Princess of the Kingdom of Arshaka, want to be with someone like me?

ROSALINDA

Someone like you?

DAVID

Yes.

ROSALINDA

What do you mean by that?

DAVID

I'm nobody, Rosie. and believe me, I'm not putting myself down. I know who I am and what I can do. And I'm proud of my upbringing, my accomplishments...but she's...

ROSALINDA

Royalty?

DAVID

Yeah...to put it lightly. I mean, she's beautiful, powerful, majestic...what would I have to offer her?

(CONTINUED)

ROSALINDA

I don't know, David. You're a successful writer, you have power here that no one else but me has as well, you're confident, intelligent, brave...I mean, she made you a commanding officer in her army, what, yesterday? And look how incredibly you've fulfilled that position so far.

DAVID

Yeah, but there's a difference between being successful because of what you've done and being amazing just because of who you are. Trust me, there's no comparison between the two of us.

ROSALINDA

(As they come to the doors of the ballroom, which are immediately opened by guards in dress)

But that's what you're missing, David...(They both turn and look to see Princess Sandrin sitting on a throne on the other side of the room, dressed in a spectacular gown, as the attendees of the ball face them and applaud. Just then, Rosie looks at David one more time)...There's no need for comparison.

With that, David and Rosie proceed down a flight of steps, as does Princess Sandrin on the opposite side, with the three of them meeting as the attendees of the ball continue to applaud and cheer for Princess Sandrin and her two guests of honor.

CUT.

INT. - NIGHTTIME - THE BALLROOM IN THE COLONIAL PALACE

Later on, as everyone is enjoying the ball, David and Princess Sandrin finally manage to make their way to one another for their first dance together of the night.

SANDRIN

(As she and David elegantly dance closely, but respectfully)

(CONTINUED)

So I noticed that you and your sister were engaged in a serious conversation as you arrived here tonight.

DAVID

How did you know that? The doors only opened as were finishing.

SANDRIN

I could feel the seriousness of it as you approached. I'm telepathic, remember?

DAVID

(Laughing slightly with amazement)

Yes, I remember. Did you hear what we were discussing?

SANDRIN

I don't eavesdrop unless I have to. What you and your sister were discussing was between you two. I just noticed the...intensity of the subject matter.

DAVID

Well, I don't know if I'd call it intense...

SANDRIN

All right. So what would you call it?

DAVID

(Thinking)

Um...maybe concerned.

SANDRIN

Concerned?

DAVID

Yes.

SANDRIN

Is everything all right? If I may ask, that is.

DAVID

I don't mind you asking. And yeah, everything's fine.

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN

Good.

They continue their dance without speaking for a few moments, just enjoying being together. After a thought however, David speaks up again.

DAVID

Princess, if I ask you a personal question, you are free to decline from answering. But if you do answer, I hope I'm not coming off as being too bold by asking. Offending you is not at all my attention.

SANDRIN

I know that, David. What's your question?

DAVID

Well, to be direct, I was wondering how you feel about me.

SANDRIN

That is a direct question.

DAVID

I'm sorry. I hope it wasn't too direct. As I said, I don't mean to offend you.

SANDRIN

(With gently playful smile)
You didn't offend me. I was just making an observation. However, I am a bit surprised that you asked me that question, only because the answer should be obvious.

DAVID

(Surprised at Sandrin's answer)

It should?

SANDRIN

Yes. I thought I had made my feelings clear in my actions and manner of conversation toward you.

DAVID

(Not exactly sure how to answer)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)

Oh. Well, yeah. I mean, you have. But, I just...wasn't exactly sure.

SANDRIN

Not exactly sure? Hmm. This must be a human thing then.

DAVID

What is?

SANDRIN

(Smiling again)

The idea of having to explain what's already been made clear, specifically when it comes to romance and emotions.

DAVID

(Laughing)

Okay, now you're just trying to be funny.

SANDRIN

I am?

DAVID

Well, I hope so.

Princess Sandrin laughs as they continue their dance, moving in slightly closer to one another but gradually toward the entrance to the nearest patio.

SANDRIN

David, you are the most amazing man, human or not, that I have ever met.

DAVID

(Surprised at the level of Princess Sandrin's feelings for him)

Wow. Thank you, Princess. You flatter me. I had no idea your feelings for me were that strong.

SANDRIN

I've had a long time for them to develop. All the time of communicating with you, although you never knew it was me...watching you become the man you are...it's

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN (cont'd)
like we've grown up together - and
I've loved you the whole time.

DAVID

...And I feel the same way. For years, decades, you were that voice in my head, that extra drive in my creativity. I think I always knew you were there; I just never realized it was you. But when I'd see pictures of you in the books and on the promotional material...it was like I was looking at someone I had longed to be with since I was a child, but who always seemed to be just out of reach.

SANDRIN

(As they stop moving but continue holding each other, standing on the patio with an enormous window beside them through which a vast and beautiful undersea world can be seen illuminated by the lights of the Trench Colonies)

Well...I'm not out of reach any more.

Just then, David and Princess Sandrin finally share a tender but passionate kiss, gentle and slow, in a moment that both of them have been secretly heading toward for the majority of their lives.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE OUTSIDE OF THE TRENCH COLONIES, JUST BEFORE THE ENTRANCE TO PASSAGE 28; THE MOST LIKELY PASSAGE TO THE LOCATION OF THE SUNKEN GARDEN

The following morning, as the line takes position at the start of Passage 28, David is watching as everyone makes the necessary preparations. After a moment, he turns and sees Kidria and her children taking their seats in the Royal War Carriage.

DAVID

(Following them in and sitting across from Kidria)

Kidria, I never got the chance to tell you, I'm really sorry about

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)
what you guys had to go through
with that Imposter who attacked us
back in Moneria. That was a really
nasty trick.

KIDRIA
Thank you, David. That was
difficult to face, but we've
learned to be resiliant.

DAVID
Well, you shouldn't have to
be. Not against things like
that. We're gonna find the Sunken
Garden, finally beat the Firecloud
and God willing, bring your husband
and Princess Sandrin's parents
back.

KIDRIA
(With an appreciative smile)
I know we will.

David smiles in return. Moments later, Rosie takes her seat and speaks up.

ROSALINDA
Well brother, this is it. This is
what we were brought here to do.

DAVID
I know. And believe me, I'm ready.

ROSALINDA
Um, David...before we set off, I
just wanted to bring up last
night's conversation. I hope I
didn't offend you at all.

DAVID
You didn't offend me, Rosie. I
understood where you were coming
from. It's just a hard decision to
make, that's all.

ROSALINDA
(Smiling)
I'm sure it is. (She thinks for a
moment) Although, you and Princess
Sandrin didn't seem to be having
too much of a hard time with it out
on the patio last night.

DAVID

(Smiling awkwardly)

Believe me, that might have made it
harder.

ROSALINDA

Well, I'm sure you'll have things
figured out by the time this is all
over.

DAVID

Yeah. I'm sure we will.

As the two of them share a pause and a smile, Princess Sandrin, Audrey and Grace, as well as Benjamin and Ashley and their parents, all take their seats in the Royal War Carriage.

SANDRIN

(Turning to David and Rosie as
they make room for her to sit
in between them while everyone
else is getting situated)

Good morning, you two.

ROSALINDA

Good morning, Princess.

DAVID

Good Morning, Your Majesty.

SANDRIN

You know, I was thinking...at this
point, after everything we've been
through together, I think it's okay
if you two just call me Sandrin.

ROSALINDA

All right then. (She
smiles) Sandrin it is. Thank you.

SANDRIN

(Smiling back)

You're welcome.

As Princess Sandrin sits back in her seat and takes David's hand, she thinks for a moment about the direction they're heading in and the possibility that this may finally bring the magnificent victory they've been fighting so hard for over so many years. Just then, David turns to her.

DAVID
(With an encouraging smile)
So this is it. The final stand.

SANDRIN
(Also with a smile)
Indeed. (She looks forward) All
right, into the passage!

With that order, the entire line heads into Passage 28 and prepares for what will hopefully be the day their entire world has been waiting for.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE INSIDE OF PASSAGE 28

A while later, as the line moves steadily down Passage 28, David looks around at the walls of the corridor, noticing something very strange.

DAVID
(To Princess Sandrin)
Um...Sandrin?

SANDRIN
Yes, David?

DAVID
Have you ever been down here
before?

SANDRIN
No.

DAVID
Okay. Well then, maybe you can
help me figure out why the wall is
moving.

SANDRIN
(Turning and looking at the
wall with complete and utter
surprise)
What?!

DAVID
(As everyone in the Carriage,
as well as in the line around
them, also rush toward the
wall, shining their lights to
be able to see what David's
talking about)

(CONTINUED)

Seriously! The walls down here are moving!

As everyone watches, they can see that it's not the walls that are moving but what seems to be ancient writing on the walls - more hieroglyphics. Steadily, they seem to be telling a story.

ROSALINDA
What are they doing?

DAVID
They're guiding us down through the passage.

SANDRIN
That's right. (She looks at David and Rosie, then back at the messages) Look, it's the story of everything that's happened to us so far - everything up until now.

GRACE
What about things that are going to happen?

DAVID
I don't think they're telling us the future - they're letting us know that we're on the right track.

AUDREY
But who's writing them?

DAVID
(Thinks for a moment, then comes to an incredible realization)
The Sunken Garden!

KIDRIA
What?!

DAVID
These messages are coming from the Sunken Garden!

TAYLOR
That's right! (She looks at everyone, then back at the walls) It makes perfect sense!

ROSALINDA

That's right, it does - this is
almost like a road sign!

After continuing to watch the writing however, David notices something else at what seems to be a stopping point in the story the wall is telling.

DAVID

Sandrin?

SANDRIN

Yes, David?

DAVID

Look up ahead there...at the end of
this picture. What is that?

SANDRIN

(Looking as she notices that
the writing seems to stop
around the image of various
passages heading out of a
circular object at the end of
the passage they're in that
appears to be hollow)

I don't know. It almost looks like
a complete change in the passage.

ROSALINDA

So where is it? Is it up ahead
somewhere?

DAVID

It seems to be. But where?

No sooner does David ask that question than the entire line comes to a halt.

SANDRIN

(Looking ahead telepathically
through the leaders of the
line's advance)

We've come to it. The passage ends
and there's a hollow cavern in
front of it.

DAVID

(As everyone gets out of the
Carriage and heads to the
front of the line where the
cavern is)

What do you mean, "hollow?" Like,
literally hollow?

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN

Yes. There's nothing in it. Just an open space that seems to fall into nothing.

A few minutes later, everyone reaches the front of the line and joins the crowd that has gathered near the end of the passage where the cavern begins.

DAVID

(Perplexed)

Okay. So now what do we do?

ROSALINDA

Good question.

SANDRIN

(Turning to Audrey and Grace)

Ladies, would you be so kind as to explore the cavern? See if there are perhaps any answers that we can't see from here?

AUDREY

(As she and her daughter comply)

Yes, Your Majesty.

Immediately, the two of them transform and fly into the cavern. Soaring above the chasm that separates the line from the entrances to what seems to be a multitude of other passages, many situated above others like stories in a building, Audrey and Grace try to find some connection between where the line is and the continuation of their journey toward the Sunken Garden, but to no avail. Moments later, they return.

AUDREY

(As she and Grace land and transform back to their human forms in front of Princess Sandrin)

Nothing, Your Majesty.

SANDRIN

Nothing at all?

GRACE

No, Your Majesty. Not even a hint of a new passage other than what's on the other side of the cavern.

SANDRIN
That is really strange.

Suddenly, Jordania steps forward.

JORDANIA
(Addressing Princess Sandrin)
Your Majesty, I think I may be able
to help.

SANDRIN
By all means, Jordania.

JORDANIA
There has been a legend which
originated among our people many
years ago and made its' way out
across the world.

SANDRIN
The Diamond Eyes.

JORDANIA
Yes.

DAVID
(To Sandrin)
You mentioned that before.

SANDRIN
Yes, I did. The explanation of
exactly what it is has long been
kept by the Vashirians.

JORDANIA
That's right, it has - until
now. (She turns to the side and
stretches her arm
out. Immediately, two young
Vashirian women step
forward) Behold, the Diamond Eyes.

SANDRIN
(Shocked at the revelation)
Jordania...your sisters?!

JORDANIA
Indeed, Your Majesty. Lacey and
Selena. Twins born with a
connection to the creative power of
this world like no
other. Together, they are known as
the "Diamond Eyes."

As Lacey and Selena step forward, David notices that they both have mesmerizingly beautiful, crystal eyes.

DAVID

I have to say, I never expected this.

LACEY

No one does. That's why our ability is a secret that is so well-kept.

Immediately, the two of them stand together and look straight into the cavern. As their eyes begin to glow, they both see a current of creative power streaming forward in a route that stretches across the cavern and connects with the highest passage on the other side.

SELENA

There it is!

ROSALINDA

You see it?!

LACEY

Yes! We both do! Clear as crystal! It's an energy stream, rising to the highest passage in the cavern! That's the way to the Sunken Garden!

DAVID

(Turning to Princess Sandrin)
That's great...but how do we get across? Can the striders make it?

SANDRIN

Not through the air. There's not enough room in this passage for them to reach the needed altitude.

DAVID

What about another celestial tunnel?

SANDRIN

The passage isn't wide enough for a tunnel that can accomodate the size of this line.

DAVID

So how do we do it then?

Just then, Benjamin steps forward and starts heading toward the cavern.

ASHLEY

Benjamin, where are you going?

BENJAMIN

(With a burning determination)

Our aunt and two of our uncles were taken by the Firecloud and it continues to overrun our world! If this is the way to the Sunken Garden, then let's get there and finish this!

SIMON

(As he and Fanadrine lunge forward to stop their son from possibly jumping the gun)

Benjamin, no!

LACEY

(As other people from the line also try to stop Benjamin)

It's all right!

Everyone looks at Lacey and Selena.

SELENA

It's all right...let him go.

At that moment, everyone watches as Benjamin heads toward the cavern with ferocity, then starts to slow down as he reaches the edge. After a moment of cautious hesitation, Benjamin steps forward. As he does this, a particle bridge suddenly appears, lit up in the same light as the Diamond Eyes saw the energy stream shining in when they first looked to find the continuation of the passage. Turning around in amazement as the energy stream itself visibly illuminates the bridge and the entrance to the continuation of Passage 28 that the bridge is connected to, Benjamin is met with both, joy and relief by his family and friends on the line as everyone prepares to head across the bridge. Moments later, he's brought back to the Royal War Carriage as Princess Sandrin gives the order to go.

SANDRIN

All personnel, move forward!

On her order, the line proceeds across the bridge and up to the continuation of Passage 28 as it leaves the cavern. Back in the Royal War Carriage, everyone discusses the situation.

ASHLEY

(Frustratingly but playfully
smacking her brother's
shoulder)

You could've fallen, Benjamin!

BENJAMIN

(Confident)

No I couldn't have. The Diamond
Eyes had already told us the route
was there.

ASHLEY

Yes, but you didn't know for sure
if there was an actual way to
follow it. None of us knew.

BENJAMIN

I had faith that if the Creator
made a passage that continued
across the cavern, there would be a
way for us to take it. Didn't you?

ASHLEY

Yes, but that was still a risky
move.

SIMON

That it was, Ashley. But it was
also a very brave one. And now we
are here, almost certainly on our
way to the Sunken Garden. (He looks
over at his son) Well done,
Benjamin.

BENJAMIN

(Obviously proud that his
father is impressed by his
bravery)

Thank you, father.

SANDRIN

Indeed Benjamin, well done. You
showed much faithfulness by taking
that step.

BENJAMIN

Many thanks, Your Majesty.

DAVID

So, I wonder how long it'll be
until we actually reach the Sunken
Garden.

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN

No one knows, but I sincerely believe we're very close.

KIDRIA

We are close. I can feel it. My abilities...they feel...stronger.

ROSALINDA

I can feel it as well. It's like I'm...more energized.

LUKE

Yes...that's exactly what it is.

SANDRIN

I think we can all feel it. It's like we're getting closer and closer to the source of our abilities here in Arshaka. No matter what they are, they're being enhanced. (She sits back) I know I can feel it in every fiber of my being.

As the line continues up Passage 28, the powers of everyone in it strengthens with every inch closer they get to the Sunken Garden.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE INSIDE OF PASSAGE 28

Several hours later, as the line continues to move through Passage 28, they start to notice that the tunnel around them seems to shake every once in a while. Passing it off as simply the fact that they're in a group of tunnels with the weight of the Great Ocean resting on top of them, people finally start to notice with the increasing strength of each tremor that something might actually be wrong.

DAVID

(As the line comes to a stop on Princess Sandrin's order)

What's going on up there? Is that normal?

SANDRIN

No. Definitely not. I've never even been down here before, but I know that's not supposed to happen.

(CONTINUED)

TAYLOR
So what could it be then?

At that moment, Princess Sandrin uses her power to look above the passage, ascending through the sea and finally making it to the surface where she is shocked to find the cause of the tremors.

SANDRIN
Oh, no!

ROSALINDA
What's wrong?

DAVID
What is it, Sandrin? Is everything okay?

SANDRIN
Not at all!

Immediately, she communicates the images in her mind to everyone else in the Carriage. Through her view, they see the Firecloud having grown so strong, so rapidly, that it's creating a force that is actually starting to de-stabilize the geological structure of Arshaka.

KIDRIA
Is that what I think it is?!

SANDRIN
It is. The Firecloud is literally beginning to tear our world apart!

DAVID
So what do we do?!

SANDRIN
We find the Sunken Garden as quickly as possible.

DAVID
That's it?!

SANDRIN
That's all we can do right now. Even if we tried to fight the Firecloud, its' power has grown because of all the territory it's covered despite our resistance against it up until now. So we can try and buy ourselves time by resisting it again and attempting

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANDRIN (cont'd)
to hold the structure of the world
together, but it would be in
vain. The Firecloud would still
continue to advance as it has been.

DAVID
So in other words, you're saying
that it's now a race against time.

SANDRIN
Unfortunately, yes.

DAVID
(Frustrated but obviously
determined)
Okay then. Let's win this race!

With that, the entire line virtually throws caution to the wind and increases to the maximum speed they can travel at while still being safe.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE INSIDE OF PASSAGE 28

Some time later, as the line continues to roar through Passage 28, they suddenly come to what looks at first like another cavern. After stopping to investigate however, everyone is shocked to realize what it really is.

DAVID
(As everyone in the Royal War
Carriage gets out and heads to
the front of the line to take
a closer look at the cavern)
What's going on? Is this another
chasm or something?

SANDRIN
No...this is something else.

ROSALINDA
(After a moment of looking at
the cavern)
Sandrin...is this what I think it
is?

SANDRIN
(Looking at the cavern with
amazement)
I think so.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

What? (He looks at Sandrin and
Rosie) What is it?

ROSALINDA

The end of the line.

DAVID

What...this is the Sunken Garden?!

SANDRIN

No, not yet. But it is the first
passageway. At least, according to
our research.

DAVID

Well, that's great! So what do we
do then?

SANDRIN

We need to organize a group to go
down into it. The entire line
can't do it, obviously. But this
is where it all gets very specific
- and potentially dangerous.

DAVID

(Without hesitation)

Wow. Okay. well, I know I'm
going. (He looks around) Who
else?

ROSALINDA

I am for sure.

KIDRIA

(To Sandrin)

Are you going, Princess?

SANDRIN

I would love to, but like I said,
this is where it all gets very
specific. David and Rosie were
brought here for this. I need to
be here to lead the protection of
the line and the mission. Because
now that we're here, the Firecloud
is going to be doing whatever it
can to stop us from achieving our
goal. So expect those tremors to
become very powerful, very soon.

LUKE

(As he and his sister step forward)

Princess, Taylor and I have a request.

SANDRIN

What is your request, cousin?

LUKE

We would like to accompany the group heading down the passageway.

SANDRIN

If you wish. But why?

TAYLOR

Because just as the line and the mission need protection here, this group is venturing into the unknown and needs as many weapons as possible.

KIDRIA

(Stepping over to her children)

Are you two sure you want to take this risk? As you said, you're venturing into the unknown-

LUKE

Mother, even though we all have the same type of power in Moneria, we don't all have the same destiny - the same purpose. This is ours.

KIDRIA

But you may not return.

TAYLOR

If the Firecloud isn't defeated, we might all suffer that fate. So if we're going to go down, we should do it fighting.

KIDRIA

(Stepping back and looking at both her children as they stand with David, Rosie and a number of guards and scholars that have been signaled by Princess Sandrin to join the group)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIDRIA (cont'd)

Your father would be proud of you
both - just as I am right now.

LUKE

(As he, Taylor and Kidria
embrace each other while
trying to hold back emotion
with strength and refinement)

We value nothing more.

Moments later, as Luke, Taylor and the rest of the escorts in the group turn to head down the passageway, Princess Sandrin faces David and Rosie.

SANDRIN

This is probably the most difficult
moment I've experienced on this
journey.

ROSIE

I feel the same way, Your
Majesty. (Sandrin gives her a
friendly but bittersweet smile) My
friend.

As the two of them share a hug between two longtime friends, like sisters, David watches. Moments later, as Rosie turns away and joins the group as they continue preparing to leave, David steps forward as Princess Sandrin places her arms around him, with him returning the gesture.

SANDRIN

Say it, David. Say it, if you mean
it.

DAVID

I mean it, Sandrin.

SANDRIN

Then I need to hear it. Even if
this is the first and last time.

DAVID

(Looking Princess Sandrin
directly in the eyes)

I love you, Princess.

SANDRIN

(Smiling affectionately)

I love you, my hero.

In a perfect moment, David and Princess Sandrin share another kiss before parting gently as David is the last to

join his sister and the others. Just then, as they turn around and everyone faces the passageway, it opens up as if it was expecting them. Heading down into it, the group looks only forward, with their focus now being on doing what is necessary to defeat the Firecloud.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE INSIDE OF THE FIRST PASSAGEWAY TOWARD THE SUNKEN GARDEN

As the group heads down, deeper underground through the cavern at the end of Passage 28, They can feel that this is new territory for all of them. The atmosphere seems to grow more and more tense, so much that everyone starts to notice the feeling of chills and even goosebumps - as if something is about to enter their lives that they can't control.

ROSALINDA

Does anybody feel that?

DAVID

I think the right question is, does anybody NOT feel that?

LUKE

(Uneasy)

I know I do. And I don't like it.

TAYLOR

It's really strange. (She slows down for a second, then speeds up again) Even Princess Sandrin, Mom, and all the rest of our Monerian family can feel it through us.

LUKE

I'm getting that as well.

DAVID

I can't help but figure that it has something to do with the fact that this is one of the passageways to the Sunken Garden.

ROSALINDA

What, you mean like a gate?

DAVID

Perhaps.

Just then, the guard officer of the group, a Tahuki, steps forward ahead of everyone else.

(CONTINUED)

TAHUKI OFFICER
Everyone needs to prepare.

DAVID
What's wrong?

TAHUKI OFFICER
A door is opening to another celestial tunnel, Commander - but not one that we control. This is restricted to the cavern we're traveling through; and it's initiated by something that doesn't exist anywhere else in Arshaka.

ROSALINDA
(Looking around, terrified, like everyone else in the group)
Where...where is it?

TAHUKI OFFICER
It's right in front of us!

Suddenly, the group sees that before them, the passageway comes to another cavern where what seems like a thousand giant snakes are slithering, coiling and climbing in every direction. Back at the end of Passage 28, Princess Sandrin and the others from Moneria suddenly experience an overwhelming wave of fear coming from the group in the passageway.

SIMON
(Shocked by the mental jolt they've just received)
What was that?!

SANDRIN
The group...they've come up against something!

FANADRINE
But what?! That's what I can't figure out!

BENJAMIN
I can't really tell - is it a danger to them?!

SANDRIN
I don't know - it's almost like it's blocking our attempts to identify it!

GRACE

Is there any way for us to get down
there and help them?!

SANDRIN

(Trying to figure out exactly
where they are)

I don't...I don't know how to get
down there!

AUDREY

What?! Wait, don't we just follow
the passageway that they took?!

SANDRIN

For some reason, I don't know for
sure that they're there!

AUDREY

(Shocked)

Wait...what are you talking about,
Your Majesty?

SANDRIN

(Also Shocked)

I mean, even though I know that all
we'd have to do is follow the
passageway down, I can't see us
doing it! It's like I know we'd
have to do it, I just don't know
how!

SIMON

Yeah...I'm getting the same thing!

ASHLEY

So am I!

BENJAMIN

I think it's safe to say that we're
all getting it! Whatever it is
they're facing down there wants
them and them alone to face it!

Meanwhile, back near the snake pit along the passageway, David, Rosie and their group are trying to figure out what do to as the snakes seem to be gathering in an almost strategic manner, heading toward the continuing descent of the passageway in what looks to be an attempt at keeping the group from heading down any closer to the Sunken Garden.

ROSALINDA
(Confused and terrified at the
same time)
David...what is this?

DAVID
I don't know. You've never heard
of anything like this before?

ROSALINDA
No, never.

DAVID
Well, if it is a gate like we were
discussing earlier, then there's
got to be a way through it.

TAYLOR
That's right - and with this kind
of gate, I think we'll get through
it by more than just brute
force. There's got to be more to
it than that.

LUKE
But what though? Maybe a hidden
meaning?

ROSALINDA
What, like this is a metaphor or
something?

LUKE
Yeah, basically. Remember,
everything surrounding the
discovery of the Sunken Garden
seems to be in signs and
hieroglyphics, right?

DAVID
That's right.

LUKE
All right. So what could this all
mean, then?

TAYLOR
(Thinking)
Snakes...what could snakes be a
symbol for?

LUKE

(Astonished by the numbers and
sheer size of each snake)

I don't know. They look like a lot
more than just symbols to me.

DAVID

(Realizing the emotion behind
Luke's comment)

That's it!

ROSALINDA

What's it?

DAVID

Luke's comment! (He turns to
Luke) Luke, why'd you say that
just now? You're scared, right?

LUKE

Yeah; well, just look at these
things - aren't you scared?!

DAVID

Of course I am, but that's the
point - it's fear! If this is a
symbolic gate, it symbolizes
fear! That's how it's making us
all feel, right? And if we want to
get through it, then what do we
have to do?! We have to overcome
fear!

LUKE

But what if it's not a symbol?! I
mean, what if it's real?!

DAVID

Why would it be real,
though? Everything that's happened
since we approached the cavern with
the particle bridge has pointed to
the Sunken Garden basically
directing us to its' location; like
it knows why we're here! So why
then would it try to destroy us
when we finally come to its'
gates?!

TAYLOR

(Looking at the snakes, then
turning to the rest of the
group)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TAYLOR (cont'd)
You're right, David - it's not
trying to destroy us; it's trying
to strengthen us!

With that, the group turns and continues down the passageway, toward the snakes, which are becoming more aggressive - but not attacking - as the group approaches.

TAHUKI OFFICER
(Holding the handle of his sword and looking at the snakes above and around them as they continue moving down the passageway)

Okay, Commanders, I believe your theory - but if just one of these things attacks us, I'm taking as many of them down with us as I can!

DAVID
(Also looking at the snakes)
Don't worry, Officer. They won't attack. No matter how close or aggressive they get, they will not attack.

TAHUKI OFFICER
I hope you're right.

Meanwhile, back on the line, Princess Sandrin and the other Monerians can see what's going on with the group in their minds' eyes.

SANDRIN
They're heading down the passageway!

GRACE
They're WHAT?!

ASHLEY
Yes...I can see it as well!

AUDREY
Did they battle whatever was coming against them?!

SANDRIN
No...wait! I can see what it is now! It's like the barrier it put up has been released!

SIMON
I can also see it!

SANDRIN
It's a gate!

KIDRIA
That's right! It's a test gate!

SANDRIN
They're figuring out their way past
it!

FANADRINE
This is beautiful! Are there any
more gates after this one?

SANDRIN
I don't know...but we'll find out
soon enough.

At the same time, down along the passageway, the group is just about past the cavern, and not a moment too soon for any of them. The snakes are following them, lashing at them and being extremely threatening - although still not attacking any of them.

DAVID
(Watching the snakes as
everyone is moving along
bravely but cautiously, ready
to defend themselves at any
moment)
It's okay...we're just about
through...

ROSALINDA
(Also watching the snakes)
Are you sure these things can't
hurt us?!

DAVID
No. But I am believing it because
that's the way it seems to be.

LUKE
I'm trying to get into their minds
and find out their intentions but I
can't seem to make anything out.

DAVID
If they're not real - like, if
they're just images created to
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)
scare us - then you wouldn't be
able to pick anything up from them,
right?

LUKE
(Thinking about what David
just said as they all continue
on while watching the snakes,
which are becoming more and
more threatening as the group
gets closer to the end of the
cavern)

That's actually a good point.

TAHUKI OFFICER
So what happens once we get out of
here?

DAVID
I don't know. But I'm sure we'll
find out.

Finally, after a few more minutes, the group is able to make
their way out of the cavern and away from the snakes as one
more big one lunges very closely to them just as they start
to head further down in the passageway.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE INSIDE OF THE FIRST PASSAGEWAY TOWARD
THE SUNKEN GARDEN

A short time later, the group finds themselves at what
appears to be the end of the first passageway and into what
looks like a second one.

ROSALINDA
(As they all come to the
junction of the two
passageways)
Well, I guess this is the end of
part one in our journey down here.

DAVID
(Looking at the beginning of
the second passageway)
Yeah. It looks like part two
begins right over there.

As the group heads in the direction of the second
passageway, they make their way into it, then are surprised

(CONTINUED)

to find that as walk further in, the passageway seems to progressively turn into what seems to be a beautiful but mysterious wooded area, complete with a warm breeze and the soothing sound of birds singing throughout the passageway.

ROSALINDA

(Looking around with wonder)

Is this it? Is this the Sunken Garden?

DAVID

(Also looking around)

I don't think so. A garden is kept, you know? Manicured. This is too wild to be a garden.

ROSALINDA

So what is it then?

TAYLOR

(Suddenly feeling something unusual in the recesses of her mind)

Wow. Luke, are you getting this?

LUKE

(Also feeling it)

Yes I am.

DAVID

Getting what?

TAYLOR

It's hard to describe; it's almost like...an enormously relaxing current. What do you think, Luke? Would you agree with that description?

LUKE

It would. (He opens his eyes wide for a moment) It's almost overwhelming.

ROSALINDA

Wait, what do you mean, "relaxing?"

TAYLOR

It's like, not so much a feeling of peace but more like the way you feel when you know you have something to do but you just don't feel like getting up to do it. You know, like a very lazy day.

DAVID

(Slowing down as Rosie and the escorts do the same, with them all looking at Luke and Taylor who are becoming more and more affected by the relaxation)

Are you guys okay?

LUKE

(Obviously struggling to stand as he sits down and leans against the wall of the passageway)

Yeah...just really...

TAYLOR

(As she does the same)

...Relaxed.

ROSALINDA

Is this some kind of trap?

TAHUKI OFFICER

(As he and his guards tend to Luke and Taylor)

No, maam. I think this is another test.

ROSALINDA

What, like in the last cavern?

TAHUKI OFFICER

Yes maam.

DAVID

(Looking around and listening)

He's right. This is another test.

ROSALINDA

Okay. But what's it about? The last one was about overcoming fear, right?

DAVID

That's right.

ROSALINDA

So then, what do we need to overcome here?

As they all look around for a moment, also starting to feel the relaxation, David suddenly figures it out.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

We don't have to overcome
anything. We need to establish it.

ROSALINDA

Establish what?

DAVID

Drive.

ROSALINDA

(Thinking about it for a
moment)

You know, you're right...it's like
a set of directions: Overcome fear
and establish the drive to move
forward!

DAVID

Exactly!

Suddenly, the wild foliage around them starts to straighten out and become a lot more organized - just like the outside of a garden.

ROSALINDA

(As everyone looks around at
the sudden change)

What is this?! What's happening?!

Just then, a voice pipes in from out of nowhere and surprises the entire group. The voice is that of a single bird that makes its' presence known out of all that are filling the passageway with their songs. The single bird is a blue jay.

BLUE JAY

What's happening Commander, is that you've solved the riddle.

ROSALINDA

(Stepping forward and replying
to the blue jay with a
combined sense of surprise and
wonder)

Did...you just address me?

BLUE JAY

I did.

ROSALINDA

You...know my rank?

BLUE JAY

That I do. I know much about you -
about all of you.

DAVID

(Equally as surprised)

You do?

BLUE JAY

Yes. Welcome to the Sunken Garden.

Just then, the blue jay turns to face the other direction as the entire passageway opens up to reveal a garden so incredible, so perfectly vast and sweeping, that it seems as if they've entered an entirely different world. Back on the line everyone is suddenly struck by a wave of creative energy that emulates such beauty and inspiration, such incredible emotion, that not just the Monerians, but everyone, feels and is affected by it so strongly that it almost knocks them over.

SANDRIN

(As she grabs onto the carriage to avoid falling over)

Wow...did everyone feel that?!

KIDRIA

Absolutely! They've made it!

ASHLEY

Yes they have! (She focuses on the feeling of the wave for a moment) I've never felt anything like it...it's like...

SANDRIN

...New life!

Back at the entrance to the Sunken Garden, the rest of the group is helping Luke and Taylor to their feet as the effects of the second gate wear off.

ROSALINDA

(To the blue jay)

But...why were our friends the only ones who were affected by the second test?

BLUE JAY

They weren't. They're just more sensitive to it because they're Monerians. But if you and your

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BLUE JAY (cont'd)
brother hadn't figured out the riddle as quickly as you did, all of you would have started feeling the effects. There was no chance of that happening though.

DAVID
(Confused)
What do you mean?

BLUE JAY
If you were anyone else, you wouldn't have figured out the riddle. The answer came from the connection the two of you have with this place. It's the only way you could've found it.

DAVID
So, what...you're saying that this place was waiting for us?

BLUE JAY
That's right. It has been since its' creation.

ROSALINDA
(Very surprised)
It has?

BLUE JAY
Yes. You are both a predestined part of the history of Arshaka. It's one of the reasons why the Creator made you.

DAVID
(Totally shocked to hear this)
Wow. This is...amazing to say the least. So what's next?

BLUE JAY
Next, you see what it is you need to do...

Immediately, the blue jay flies up to the center of the entrance to the Sunken Garden and opens his wings, revealing an enormous display that shows Arshaka intact but in ruins as the many civilizations who live there run for their lives from the Firecloud that has all but overtaken the kingdom.

DAVID
(Shocked at what he sees)
Is this...is this going on right
now?

BLUE JAY
It is. Down here in the caverns,
you and those who accompanied you
are in the only place not overtaken
by the Firecloud.

ROSALINDA
So, is there still hope then?

BLUE JAY
Of course there is. You're here.

With that, the group suddenly finds themselves in the middle of the Sunken Garden, with David and Rosalinda standing around an inexplicably bright light that seems to be emulating from a center spot of unseen origin.

DAVID
What is this?

ROSALINDA
I can't believe how bright it is.

BLUE JAY
It's the center of Arshaka's
creation - the Birth Light. It's
also the center of the Power that
flows through you.

DAVID
The Power that we've been using to
fight the Firecloud?

BLUE JAY
Yes.

ROSALINDA
So now that we're here, we're
supposed to use this to defeat the
Firecloud, is that right?

BLUE JAY
That's right.

ROSALINDA
So what do we do?

BLUE JAY

Exactly what you've been doing
since you've been here...but
stronger!

Suddenly, a collection of written symbols appears on the gate of the Sunken Garden. Feeling a connection with the symbols, David almost involuntarily speaks the symbols verbally by the Power that he and Rosalinda feel is starting to flow through them from the Birth Light. Just then, the Birth Light reaches out and envelops the two of them so entirely that they find themselves using their abilities without even trying. At the same time, back on the line, Princess Sandrin and the others are hit by a shift in the space around them that causes ripples through the air and catches everyone off guard.

GRACE

(Surprised)

Wow, what was that?!

AUDREY

That wasn't another quake, was it?

SANDRIN

No...I can see it!

FANADRINE

So can I!

KIDRIA

I can also...it's David and
Rosalinda! They're connecting with
the Sunken Garden!

Just then, they all see the wave of combined power from David, Rosalinda and the Sunken Garden spreading out and heading in every direction - including theirs.

SANDRIN

It's coming! Everyone hold onto
something!

Suddenly, the wave hits but without even realizing what happens next, the entire line finds itself transported back to the outside of Princess Sandrin's palace, with the wave of power already expanding for almost a mile around them, completely de-stabilizing the Firecloud in a ball of fire between the wave and the Firecloud itself as the Firecloud's forces fly out in swarms - immediately being met in battle by the legions of Arshakan forces, who are using their abilities and equipment, including armies of Wipiks, to take advantage of the fact that the Firecloud is finally starting to come apart.

SANDRIN

(As she sees David and Rosalinda suspended in a shaft of light - the Birth Light - with the Power in the Sunken Garden surging through them as it continues to blast the Firecloud)

EVERYBODY IN!

With that, Princess Sandrin and the other Monerians use the tremendous strength of their telekinetic powers to help fight off the forces of the Firecloud in a battle that's now raging across Arshaka. As this happens, Princess Sandrin tries to contact David but is having a hard time because of the energy that's flowing through he and Rosalinda as the two of them continue to fight the Firecloud with a spectacular level of Power from the Birth Light that has them both completely enveloped.

SANDRIN

(As she uses her powers against the Firecloud)

David! (No response as David is locked in the Power flow. Princess Sandrin calls again) David! Can you hear me?! (Again, no response) Rosie! Can you hear me?! (Still nothing) David! Rosie! Please answer me!

Suddenly, Princess Sandrin hears a faint voice in the recesses of her mind.

DAVID

Sandrin...

SANDRIN

(Overjoyed to hear David's voice)

David?! David, is that you?!

DAVID

Yeah...it's me...

SANDRIN

Are you all right?

DAVID

I am...

SANDRIN

Yes! David, you found it! You found the Sunken Garden!

DAVID

(Without physical response, only telepathic)

We did...we're still there.

SANDRIN

(Confused by David's claim)

But...I can see you! Both of you?! How are you still there?!

Just then, Rosie joins the conversation.

ROSALINDA

Our physical existence is being used as a weapon through which the power in the Garden is destroying the Firecloud, while our consciousness is being protected here, away from the Firecloud's defenses.

SANDRIN

(As she and the other Monerians continue to use their abilities in leading the Arshakans against the Firecloud's defenses)

I...don't even know how to respond to that! Are you all right?

DAVID

We're fine.

SANDRIN

I'm sure you know that we're all fighting the Firecloud's defenses out here...is there something specific we should be doing? Some kind of strategy we should be using?

ROSALINDA

There is. You know it already. The Power in the Garden was put there by the Creator and It quickened you to ask that question so you know what to do.

SANDRIN

(Thinking for a moment, then addressing the other Monerians)

Everyone, listen! The Power in the Sunken Garden is using David and Rosalinda's abilities to separate the most basic structure of the Firecloud's foundation while our forces continue to battle its' defenses! This has it off its' guard! What we need to do is combine our powers to strike one single blow against it that will completely dismantle the elements holding it together!

TAYLOR

(Who, along with Luke and the garrison of Arshakan forces that helped David and Rosie find the Sunken Garden, are also outside Princess Sandrin's palace, helping ward off the onslaught of the Firecloud's defenses)

Do we really have enough strength in our abilities for that?

SANDRIN

Yes, but only because of the Firecloud's weakened state so this is our moment - we have to do it right now!

On that order, the Monerians all come running to Princess Sandrin and as they each get to her, start firing off their telekinetic powers at a level none of them have ever reached before, creating a force in front of them that rapidly grows until it nearly reaches the sky. Finally, as the force reaches its' maximum level of power, it explodes into another wave that rams the last of the Firecloud's elemental structure, totally collapsing it from one end of Arshaka to the other in an explosion of energy the likes of which no one has ever seen. Finally, as the smoke and dust clear and the various residents of Arshaka realize that the Firecloud has finally been defeated, they all come walking out into the returned freedom they enjoyed before the Firecloud attacked the kingdom. However, they also begin to notice that something is different - very different. Meanwhile, in front of Princess Sandrin's palace, the princess and other Monerians, along with Audrey, Grace and many of their other allies, regroup after the explosion, also noticing that something is strangely different.

(CONTINUED)

BENJAMIN

(As he and everyone else look around, curiously)

Why does everything look like we're in a dream?

TAYLOR

I'm glad you noticed that. I was afraid I was the only one seeing it.

JORDANIA

No, I think we're all seeing it. What is this?

SANDRIN

I don't know. I've never seen anything like it.

Just then, David and Rosie approach.

DAVID

I think we know what it is.

SANDRIN

(Rushing to embrace David as she and everyone else are overjoyed to see that he and Rosie are okay)

You're all right!

DAVID

(Returning the embrace)

Yes, we're okay.

SANDRIN

(Turning then to embrace Rosie, who also returns the embrace)

That was...the most incredible...I have to say, I expected it to be spectacular when you found and connected with the Sunken Garden; but that...

ROSALINDA

Yeah, that was pretty amazing.

SANDRIN

It was more than amazing. It was beyond words.

AUDREY

That it was.

SANDRIN

So David, back to what we're seeing around us. You said you might know what this is about?

DAVID

Yeah, I think so. Rosie and I both can, actually.

ROSALINDA

It's another one of those things...like the way we were able to understand everything that was happening when we were connected with the Sunken Garden.

SANDRIN

All right. So...what is it?

DAVID

Well...I'm pretty sure it's...it's a reality shift.

SANDRIN

A what?

ROSALINDA

A reality shift. The very structure of Arshaka's reality is changing now that the Firecloud has been stopped.

SANDRIN

Wow. (She pauses for a moment) Is...is that a good thing?

DAVID

I'm pretty sure it is.

KIDRIA

Well, that's good. But then, what is our reality changing to?

ROSALINDA

The state it's supposed to be in at its' next level.

SANDRIN

Its' next level?

DAVID

Yeah.

SANDRIN

So...what does that mean?

Just then, the conversation is joyfully interrupted by the welcome arrival of three familiar faces.

KING AYLWARD

(As he, Princess Sandrin's mother and Jaxis walk up to the group)

That means a new day - a new era - is about to begin.

Immediately, Princess Sandrin rushes up to her parents and uncle, as do the rest of the family, embracing them warmly. Moments later, she turns to David and Rosie.

SANDRIN

These are my parents, King Aylward and Queen Trynia, and my Uncle Jaxis, one of the highest figures of nobility in all of Moneria.

KING AYLWARD

(As he, his wife and Jaxis all shake hands with David and Rosalinda)

It's a pleasure to meet you both. You have done a truly great thing, more than you realize.

DAVID

It's been an honor, Your Majesty.

ROSALINDA

I couldn't agree with my brother more, Your Majesties. I've been here longer than he has for specific reasons of course, but I have to say that I wouldn't have had it any other way.

QUEEN TRYNIA

We know that, Rosalinda, and we know the sacrifices your family has made. But they were sacrifices you were created to make - and that's why this new day is beginning.

SANDRIN

What is this new day, mother?

QUEEN TRYNIA

It was prophesied many years ago, a secret but ancient message that came from the Waiting Place itself and was intended for the knowledge of the king and queen only. It was said that a pair of warriors, one possessing a level of advancing ability and the other, a level of defensive ability, none of which had ever been seen anywhere else throughout history, would come from a world outside of Arshaka to help destroy a threat that would be unknown at first, but then turn out to be an elemental barrier of living, predatory space that separated the establishment of our two existences. The coming together of the warrior of advancement and the one who ruled Arshaka at the prophesied time would open a central door between our worlds that would create a merging upon the elimination of the barrier, gloriously bringing us together as a land of two great civilizations in one.

SANDRIN

(Shocked at hearing about this prophecy)

So...you mean that all this was supposed to happen?

KING AYLWARD

Yes. Earth and Arshaka have always been intended as one kingdom, one world. Even in terms of physical and even molecular structure, they're both shaped in a way that one day, they would merge together as one. That's why there have been so many subtle interactions between our peoples over the years. We were all being prepared to come together. It just had to happen at the right time, which was indicated by the allowance of the Firecloud to begin its' destruction of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KING AYLWARD (cont'd)
Arshaka. That was actually a natural event that was meant specifically to set the very steps of the prophecy into motion.

ROSALINDA
(Turning to David and smiling)
Wow, brother. So it looks like you don't have to make that choice we were discussing after all.

DAVID
(As he embraces Princess Sandrin, who returns the embrace tenderly)
No. It actually seems like it's been made for me.

SANDRIN
No it hasn't. (She smiles) This has been your decision the whole time. You have a free will, remember?

DAVID
(As he looks at Princess Sandrin with a combination of joy and love)
Yes, as a matter of fact, I do have a free will. And this is a choice I'm very happy with.

As David and Princess Sandrin share a tender but passionate kiss, Rosie thinks for a moment, then smiles

ROSALINDA
Mom and Dad are gonna love her.

DAVID
(Pausing for a moment to answer with a smile of satisfaction)
I think I already do.

With that, David and Princess Sandrin kiss again, this time with the dreamlike atmosphere across Arshaka turning into a bright light that will subside moments later, magnificently revealing the prophesied conjunction of the two worlds.

CUT.

END CREDITS.

