

The Aresine Chronicles

Episode 1 "Arrival"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. IN ORBIT ABOVE ARESINE - DAYBREAK

The sun rises over Aresine slowly illuminating a fleet of clear-domed pods as they move out of the planet's shadow and arrive into orbit. The gigantic pods, 30 kilometers across, float effortlessly above the world below.

Each contains its own unique biome. Some enclose entire cities or towns. Others, forests, prairies, mountains, or deserts. Some are even giant aquariums filled with long stretches of beach or huge portions of ocean. Each dome is illuminated by a small artificial sun that arcs across the inside of its artificial sky.

A small shuttle gently makes its way across the expanse from one pod to another. The destination pod, the Elegant Elephant, contains a small, Appalachian, university town.

INT. SHUTTLE

Ji-LA, in her mid twenties, looks out a bubbled window at the serene planet below. Her child-like eyes take in the beautiful oceans and continents covered in strands of peaceful white clouds.

A slight gentle beeping signal begins once the approach path is locked in and continues until the shuttle aligns with the docking port.

INT. ELEGANT ELEPHANT SHUTTLE BAY

Following a brief depressurization, the shuttle doors open. Along with the other passengers, Ji-La exits. She runs into an old friend TRIANNE, also in her mid twenties, who is waiting to board.

TRIANNE

Ji-La! I haven't seen you since
school! How wonderful!

Trianne crosses her wrists and cups her hands around her
heart in fondness. Ji-La cups her hands around her heart in
reply.

JI-LA

It's beautiful to see you as well,
Trianne. Guess what, I'm finally
done with my PhD!

TRIANNE

That's great! Does that mean you
are coming back to the Elegant
Elephant for good?

JI-LA

No, I'm just here for a visit. Our
old history Instructor Sanford
invited me to present my thesis to
his class.

TRIANNE

It's good to see how your love of
history has grown into something
beautiful.

JI-LA

Where are you headed?

TRIANNE

The biological compatibility team
is meeting today on the Nimble
Thimble to prepare for the landing.
Isn't it incredible! Did you ever
think we would find a suitable
world in our lifetimes?

JI-LA

No. The odds have never been
great.

TRIANNE

But here we are! Aresine looks very promising. I'm trying not to get too excited, but -- so far -- the probe data fits our models perfectly!

Ji-la smiles weakly.

TRIANNE (CONT'D)

What's wrong, Ji-La? Your heart seems divided.

Ji-LA

It is. I'm not yet sure which future I will choose.

TRIANNE

I've heard that part of the fleet may continue wandering the stars, but I hope you come with us. Imagine what it will be like with a whole new world to create!

Ji-LA

It will be miraculous, I can't deny that!

TRIANNE

Come over for dinner with us tonight!

Ji-LA

That would be perfect! Thank you!

TRIANNE

What time is your class?

Ji-La hurriedly checks her wrist device.

Ji-LA

(excitedly)

Soon!

Ji-La takes off running.

TRIANNE
(shouting after her)
There are carts if you want one!

JI-LA
(shouting back)
The body was made to run!

EXT. INSTRUCTOR SANFORD'S MEDITATION AREA - A FEW MINUTES
LATER

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD (in his late nineties perhaps), sits on a Zen bench by a small lotus pond. Ji-La approaches, a little out of breath. She waits for him to come out of meditation. He begins conversing with her but his eyes remain closed.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD
Good morning Ji-La.

JI-LA
Good morning Instructor Sanford.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD
I recognize you by the sound of your footfalls. Always running. So glad you can be here today.

JI-LA
Thank you! And thank you for the invitation to your class.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD
How many pods do you see amidst the stars this morning?

Ji-La looks carefully out the pod's dome into the starry sky.

JI-LA
I see the Waggle Dance,
Cuyamaca...Happy Panda...
there's...I see Leona Moli, Sun
Wukong, Naciketas.
(looks over the whole sky)
That's all, right now.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

What about the Elegant Elephant?

JI-LA

(laughs looking around at
their location)

Yes! I can see the Elegant
Elephant.

Instructor Sanford finally opens his eyes very slowly. He flexes his fingers and makes fists to bring his consciousness back down into his body. He takes a deep breath.

JI-LA (CONT'D)

Have you heard about Aresine?

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Only a little. What are people
saying?

JI-LA

They are saying that our journey
may finally be over.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

A new home...after so many
centuries!

JI-LA

Have you ever visited a planet
before?

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Once. When I was your age I got to
join a landing party on New Orion.
So beautiful! But it was only a few
days before we realized that its
moon was unstable.

JI-LA

Will you still be happy, even if
Aresine turns out to be unsuitable?

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

(laughs gently)

Of course! Like you, and our parents and their parents all the way back to the launch. I am star-born! I have lived my whole life surrounded by the infinite expanse!

JI-LA

What if we never find another world? What if we are destined to be a spacefaring people?

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Planet or ship...are we not all spacefaring people?

JI-LA

Yes! You are right.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Are you ready for your presentation?

JI-LA

(shyly)

I suppose I am.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

No need to be shy. You're not a history student anymore. You are a historian! I'm sure the group will enjoy your discovery.

JI-LA

It's not that. It's just that...I've never found it easy being the focus of others' attention. And this is my first time in front of students.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

That's just a little shame. Almost all of us carry a bit of that.

(MORE)

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD (CONT'D)

But it's a barrier that separates
us from who we really are.

Ji-La nods with a tiny bit of a nervous smile.

EXT. CAMPUS PARK - A FEW MINUTES LATER

A huge tree floats upside down above a large circular well of light ringed by a walkway and a railing. Its root ball points upward towards the planet.

Nearby, under the shade of a large canopy, three girls, KALEEN, PIKAY, and BENERIKA, and three boys, ATEN, THORIN, and VEREK, all roughly 16 years old, congregate. They walk barefoot in the soft grass, all dressed in similar, white school uniforms.

Aten touches his wrist and music starts. They lock their arms together in a circle and begin dancing and swaying to the sound of drums, clapping and tribal wailing. Their movements are primitive and rhythmic.

Instructor Sanford and Ji-La arrive but do not interrupt them.

The music morphs into sharp, complicated, techno. They separate and their motions become energetic, robotic, and distinct.

Again the music morphs, this time to something classical with a hint of modern. They begin a very formal couples' dance, exchanging partners fluidly at intervals in synchronous harmony.

When the music stops the students all break into laughter.

Instructor Sanford and Ji-La approach. They are highly amused by the youthful glee of the class.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Alright everyone! Time to begin.
Please...let us sit.

Everyone takes their place around a jet black, rectangular, stone dais three meters long. Within the polished stone border all around its edge, there are six inches of perfectly clear and still water.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD (CONT'D)

We have a special guest with us today. Historian Ji-La is here to share something amazing.

The class members salute her with cupped hearts. She returns their salute. She trembles slightly, trying to hide her nervousness by holding her hands behind her back.

Ji-LA

Thank you Instructor Sanford.

(summoning her courage)

I thought we could start by talking about why we even bother with history. It's a fair question, right? Especially for the first day of class. Let's go around and each give our own ideas about why we care -- or don't care -- about history. Who wants to go first?

Kaleen decides she will be the one to break the ice since no one else jumps in. As she says her name, it appears briefly in glowing letters on her chest.

KALEEN

I'm Kaleen. I think history is about waking up to who we are by knowing where we come from.

Ji-LA

Good! Thank you, Kaleen!

Ji-La directs the group's attention around the dais with her gaze. Each name-light glows briefly as it is spoken.

ATEN

I'm Aten. Don't we study history so we are not "doomed to repeat the past"?

JI-LA

So history is about learning lessons so that we can avoid making mistakes?

ATEN

Yes! Learning the lessons of the past so we don't have to keep learning them over and over.

PIKAY

I'm Pikay. I guess I find history to be lots of darkness and very little light. For me, it's more of a challenge to our spirits.

JI-LA

That's a fair way to look at it. Do you think that studying history might make us emotionally stronger though?

PIKAY

Hmmm, I suppose so.

THORIN

I like to think the study of history as just something fun to do. I love learning about ancient peoples and times from our home world.

JI-LA

Me too!

THORIN

And I'm Thorin!

VEREK

History helps to fulfill our deep desire to frame our existence as a story, as something meaningful.

JI-LA

Very profound!

Ji-La continues looking at Verek, who all of the sudden realizes he's forgotten his name.

VEREK

Ah! Verek.

BENERIKA

I'm Benerika. History used to be nothing more than the tales told by the victors to justify their victories. But now that Akasha can show us what really happened, I think history is about healing. It helps us see how traumas have shaped our notions and habits so that we can let go of them. It is truth that sets us free.

The others give out an "oooo" as a slightly snarky appreciation of the depth of Benerika's answer. She chooses to take their snark as a complement and acts pleasantly happy with herself.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Ji-La?

JI-LA

Oh, you want me to answer too?

The class laughs.

JI-LA (CONT'D)

I guess I've always thought of history as an attempt to predict the future; to understand the cycles of life so we can know what forces we will encounter and how to control them. Some say that we can prepare for what's to come. But can anyone truly predict what will happen -- even at the next light-rise?

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

(ponders for a moment)

I've come to believe this is true
as well. Trying to know the future
is ultimately futile. Is history
then worthless?

Somehow the group's focus shifts around until it falls on
Kaleen.

KALEEN

I'm still in school! I don't know!

Laughter.

KALEEN (CONT'D)

Please Instructor, we want to hear
what you think!

Instructor Sanford thinks for a moment.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

I think of history as a glimpse of
the fullness of human possibility.

All the students and Ji-La are quietly pleased with this and
reflect on what he has said.

Ji-LA

So, is it worth continuing our
study?

WHOLE CLASS

Yes!

Ji-LA

Great! Your Instructor tells me
you had been discussing the Century
War at the end of your last term.
What happened in that era?

BENERIKA

It was the transition from the
Piscean age to the Aquarian age.
There was a huge explosion in
humanity's scientific knowledge.

(MORE)

BENERIKA (CONT'D)

But it led to tremendous inequality. Societal institutions were all failing.

VEREK

And some pretty crazy ideas about race. Ideas about superiority and inferiority based on superficial genetic differences were used as excuses for those with advanced technology to dominate those without.

JI-LA

Excellent observations! Many have said that the century war was an important turning point for humanity. What do you think?

ATEN

The first part of the conflict changed very little. The second part, though terribly violent, saw a shift in the world's balance of masculine and feminine energies to a slightly more harmonious state.

PIKAY

Then there was a long period without major conflict but lots of tension and many smaller conflicts. It was all very fluid and uncertain.

JI-LA

Very good! Did this period last?

THORIN

Not really. After a couple of generations the world got out of balance again. I think it had to do with the pressures of population growth.

VEREK

Yes, and the pressures of adapting to technological change.

JI-LA

How would you describe the consciousness level of this era?

PIKAY

The whole century was defined by fear. Outside of a few great souls, the whole planet was struggling with it. And, that led to great instability.

KALEEN

But then, thirty years before the launch, they began to turn away from their fear. I find this to be one of the most puzzling moments in history.

JI-LA

So, the main conflicts of the century war led to a period of uneasy balance. Then humanity nearly fell into darkness once again, but, something happened. There was a shift, an uplift.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Most historians have concluded that it was due to the breakthroughs in gravimetric field theory that led to greater harmony.

JI-LA

As did I. But, my research supports the theory that the shift started before gravimetric field theory was discovered, not after.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Yes, the evidence that the shift came first is hard to dispute -- despite the questions it raises. Do you have new insight on this?

Ji-LA

I believe so. I think there may have been another, entirely different, factor responsible -- but one easily overlooked. The Akashic data-field is truly the "Great Haystack".

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

And it's the historian's job to find the needles! This promises to be ground-breaking Ji-La. What have you prepared for us?

Ji-LA

I've charted a path through the Akashic records of almost a thousand years ago right at the end of the Century War. We will focus on a small group of friends. Two of them were, perhaps, the greatest physicists that ever lived.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Wonderful! Let's see what Ji-La has discovered!

The students remove their silvery holo-visors from their backpacks and set them on the pool's edge.

The Instructor Sanford removes a ceremonial bell from his robes and hands it to Ji-La. She accepts it with reverence. While chanting she rings it three times between verses and silences it by submerging in the pool.

Ji-LA

(chanting)

Mother/Father/Spirit
Of Life and Time and Space
(rings and submerges)
(MORE)

JI-LA (CONT'D)

Bless us on this journey
Into your memory
(rings and submerges)
Help us to understand
What is and isn't true.
(rings and submerges)

She then scoops up some water with the bell holding it now like a chalice. She takes a sip and passes it around for each to the others to also take a sip.

Each student takes a sip, passes the bell/chalice around, and dons his/her visor. While they do this, Ji-La types in coordinates on a holographic keyboard until the chalice returns to her. She pours out the left over liquid into an ornate bronze bowl and sets the bell/chalice down on the pool's edge.

She then dons her own visor and uses a series of graceful but deliberate hand motions -- a human-to-machine sign language -- to initiate their voyage.

Their forms begin vibrating until their bodies and the external world dissolve leaving only their radiant forms vibrating and glowing amidst a storm of rushing energy. Their radiant forms continue vibrating until they are no more than blurs that are taken by the rush.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. POOL COMPLEX - DAY - [AKASHIC RECORDS SEQUENCE]

From the rush of energy, the blurred forms become progressively more defined until they are once again recognizable as the radiant forms of the class standing at a pool complex from the 21st century.

DELIA and her friends, SOLANA and CHLOE, all in their early twenties, are sunbathing on chaise lounges at the pool's edge unaware of the viewers' presence.

Delia's phone buzzes.

DELIA

(looking at phone)

Hmmm? It's Devin. Haven't heard from him since high school.

SOLANA

(to Chloe)

Devin O'Neill? Isn't he that super-genius dork Delia dated back in high school?

DELIA

Solana! We ran into each other at the mall once and had lunch together. He wasn't a dork. He was nice. He just had zero social skills.

CHLOE

What does he want?

DELIA

(still looking at phone)

Evidently he's inviting me to some kind of get together tonight at Eaton's.

SOLANA

Is he asking you out?

DELIA

No, but he's saying it's really important.

DELIA (CONT'D)

(Delia types back while reading aloud)

Who else is coming?

DELIA (CONT'D)

(reading)

Eaton, Knox, and maybe Will.

DELIA (CONT'D)

(to Chloe and Solana)

I'll be the only girl? lame!

SOLANA

Totally!

DELIA

(typing)

Is this a party? Can I bring some friends?

DELIA (CONT'D)

(reading)

Yes, bring your friends. It's not a party, it's a project. I need your help.

Delia looks at her friends.

DELIA (CONT'D)

(to Chloe and Solana)

Wow, so many questions...

CHLOE

I'm not doing anything...I'm in.

SOLANA

Sure, whatever.

DELIA
(typing)
I can bring Chloe and Solana.

DELIA (CONT'D)
(reading)
Great.

The pool scene vibrates until it dissolves back into the rush taking the radiant forms of the class with it.

INT. EATON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The rushing energy slows to reveal a disheveled apartment.

Delia and friends make their way inside, through the open door. WILL and KNOX, also in their early twenties, are already there, standing around in the living room. The guys greet the girls with friendly hugs.

EATON walks in from the kitchen carrying drinks. DEVIN, a couple of years younger than the rest, follows.

EATON
Ladies, you made it. Great!
Everyone, take a seat.

He sets the drink tray on the beat-up old coffee table and takes a seat on a plastic cooler. The others join him on the found-on-the-side-of-the-road sectional, and a couple of plastic outdoor chairs.

DEVIN
(standing)
Ok, We've been working on a
project...

Delia interrupts to say what Devin would be saying if he was more tuned in.

DELIA
Good to see you guys! It's been a
while since High School! How's
everyone doing?

DEVIN

Yes, of course. How's everyone doing?

There's some general group chatter in response with about as much enthusiasm as Devin's question.

DELIA

O.K., what's this mysterious project, Devin?

DEVIN

Yes, the project...We've been working on it for about four years...

SOLANA

So, ever since high school. And, we can assume it's something significant?

DEVIN

Definitely.

EATON

Like...money-making significant?

KNOX

Yeah, like computer genius, billionaire significant?

DEVIN

(scoffs)

Far more!

General laughter.

KNOX

(sarcastically)

So this is Einstein-level genius stuff we're talking about here?

DEVIN

Einstein barely understood the space-time continuum.

That's enough to elicit wary looks between Delia and Will.

DELIA

Ok Devin, what is it? And why do you need our help?

DEVIN

I can't tell you exactly just yet.

He reaches into his backpack, pulls out papers and pens and passes them out to the others.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

I need you to sign these first.

SOLANA

What are these?

DEVIN

(nervously)

Umm, NDAs.

SOLANA

Ok???

CHLOE

What's an NDA?

KNOX

That's when your DNA gets really messed up.

The boys giggle.

DELIA

(to Chloe)

It's a "Non-Disclosure Agreement".

(to Devin)

So you're saying you'll only tell us, if we agree to keep this secret?

DEVIN

Uh, correct.

SOLANA

NDAs are for b-holes, Devin.

WILL

Yeah man, not cool.

SOLANA

Didn't you say you needed our help?

Sensing the general disagreement from the room, he collects the NDAs and puts them back into his backpack

DEVIN

Fine.

DELIA

How about this, we'll all pinky promise not to blab?

She reaches in to the center of the group with outstretched pinky. Everyone else, except Devin, does too. They lock pinkies.

ALL

Pinky promise!

CHLOE

So tell us, what is it?

DEVIN

We're calling it a harmonic field resonance generator.

KNOX

Dude, that is badass!

WILL

Yeah Knox, like you understand what he just said.

KNOX

(with a shovel full of
snark)

Hey, I'm a genius too. For real!

(MORE)

KNOX (CONT'D)

I taught my dog how to use a smart phone. I've even created an special app for him. He can use his nose to swipe right on pics of girl dogs that he likes.

There is general groaning amongst the group.

WILL

If it's your dog, he probably swipes right on the sheep.

Laughter.

KNOX

(chuckling)

You can laugh, but I'm gonna be rich off this.

DELIA

(ignoring Knox, to Devin)

Ok, explain it to us like we're five.

CHLOE

(also to Devin)

Cause, compared to you and your big brain, we are.

Devin struggles with how to say what he needs to say.

DEVIN

In broad terms, it's a way of manipulating an energy field so that it functions as a higher dimensional conduit.

SOLANA

Whoa! "Higher dimensional conduit"? So, this is all some kind of prank, right?

DEVIN

(miffed)

Uh...no.

WILL

This is something your company is working on?

DEVIN

Just me and my associate, Dr. Grace Mitsuhashi.

SOLANA

So why do you need us?

DEVIN

We need you to help us test it.

DELIA

Kind of like market research?

DEVIN

No, more like...um...medical-ish research?

SOLANA

Medical research? So, you need us to be your guinea pigs. Shouldn't you be testing it on animals first?

DEVIN

We did. We tried it out on Eaton's dog.

DELIA

(to Devin, alarmed)

Please tell me you did not kill Eaton's dog!

DEVIN

We did not.

Delia looks at Eaton. He reassures her with a subtle head shake followed by a definitive thumbs up.

SOLANA

And...? What happened?

DEVIN

It was inconclusive. It would probably be easier for you to try it than for me to explain it.

DELIA

Can you at least tell us what it's supposed to do?

DEVIN

If I tell you, it may make you biased. I need your honest feedback.

KNOX

Wait! Is this some kind of drug thing! Do you want us to try out some new kind of shrooms or something?

DEVIN

Ummm, no. I'm a physicist not a pharmacist. Let me get the release forms.

He reaches into his backpack again and brings out another set of papers. Everyone takes a moment to read them. Devin is clearly nervous as they do. They each begin calling out suspect passages.

WILL

Hold up! "Subject understands that experiment may result in mental and/or emotional changes that may or may not be temporary".

SOLANA

"Subject understands that experiment may result in psychotic episodes from the use of the device". Sheesh!

KNOX

Listen to this! "Possible
psychedelic experiences,
hallucinations, temporary
personality negation, etc." So
this is a little like shrooms!

After another minute or so of reading they all start looking
up. Devin is close to freaking out.

DEVIN

It's really just some standard
boilerplate from the internet...
(guilt beat)
I tweaked it a little.

WILL

Devin, can you go grab some air for
a minute? I think the rest of us
need to discuss this by ourselves.

DEVIN

Uh...ok. Sure.

He leaves through the slider onto the balcony and closes the
door behind him.

WILL

Does anyone else think this might
be a little wack?

DELIA

I'm not saying it isn't, but Devin
is for real. Remember when we were
sophomores? That was the year he
finished his master's degree.
Remember when he missed high school
graduation? That was because of a
"scheduling conflict". He was
defending his dissertation at
M.I.T.!

CHLOE

I remember reading about that.
"Devin O'Neill -- Real-life Boy
Genius".

WILL

I get that he's super smart. What
I don't get is why he's not working
at a university, or for a company,
or for the government or something.
Why is he living in a crap-ass
apartment complex -- no offense
Eaton -- and, why does he need our
help?

EATON

I can tell you this much. Right out
of high school slash M.I.T., he got
a job at some aerospace research
lab in California. I moved out
there too, trying to do the actor
thing. He let me crash on his
couch. I went on audition after
audition for a whole year and all I
got was one line in a commercial! I
barely made enough for gas to come
back. But Devin, he was making
truck-loads of money.

WILL

How did he end up back here then?

EATON

One day I get a call out of the
blue. He says he wants to move back
to the New River Valley area and
asked me where I was living. Next
thing I know he's renting a room
upstairs. I hardly see him,
though. He's always busy working
on this mysterious project.

WILL

What about this company he worked at?

EATON

He just said they didn't "get" his work.

CHLOE

Why doesn't he get a real apartment with all this money he made?

EATON

This is Devin we're talking about. His brain is up here...

(motioning up high)

...and real people life is down here.

(motioning down low)

As far as I can tell, his work is all that matters to him.

SOLANA

Even still...a liability release?

DELIA

You know, it's probably more of an ethical thing. I'm pretty sure you can't do research involving humans without them knowing what they're getting themselves into.

SOLANA

Hmmm...

KNOX

This really isn't any different than the forms you sign at the hospital.

WILL

Well, that's comforting! Can we really say that we know what we're getting ourselves into? He still hasn't told us what the deal is.

Nods of agreement.

DELIA

Let's bring him back in.

She gets up and opens the slider and motions him to come back in.

DELIA (CONT'D)

OK Devin, tell us what this device is and what it does -- in plain English. Otherwise, we're out.

DEVIN

I suppose that's fair. But most people have a hard time understanding.

SOLANA

Try us.

DEVIN

Grace and I have created a device that -- for lack of a better description -- induces a cascade of harmonious feelings in anyone within the resonance field.

WILL

Have you tried this on yourselves?

DEVIN

Yes.

DELIA

And...?

DEVIN

No negative reactions.

SOLANA

So you're saying this is 100% safe?

DEVIN

We're scientists. We can't say 100% anything. But so far, all the preliminary tests tells us it's not only safe, it's beneficial.

WILL

I just don't understand. If this is so important, why are you asking your us for help? Why not ask your scientist friends?

DEVIN

They had certain...limited ideas about the nature of physical reality. Besides Grace, there's no one from my old lab that I trust.

WILL

And you trust us? It's not like we were super close or anything back in High School.

DEVIN

I trust you because you were the only ones that didn't treat me like a freak.

(to Solana and Chloe)

And if you're friends of Delia's, I trust you too.

SOLANA

I guess the question is -- do we trust you?

Short awkward silence.

CHLOE

(to Delia)

Do you trust him Delia?

DELIA
 (to Devin)
 This is really that important?

DEVIN
 It is.

DELIA
 (to Chloe)
 I guess I do.

CHLOE
 (signs form)
 Here you go Devin.

KNOX
 (signs form)
 I'm in, as long as I get to go
 first!

Eaton is next, followed by Delia, Will, and Solana last.

DEVIN
 (holding papers)
 This means everything!

END AKASHIC RECORDS SEQUENCE

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. CAMPUS PARK - DAY - RESUMING

The class, no longer wearing their visors, debriefs.

KALEEN

They were so primitive! So much deception! It permeates everything.

ATEN

And they're so... the girls are so girly and the guys are so guysy! They don't seem like real, whole, people.

KALEEN

But at least they have senses of humor!

ATEN

Yes, I have to admit I was laughing at Knox's dumb jokes.

PIKAY

Can you feel the sense of disconnectedness? It's almost like they were swimming in it.

THORIN

Yes, they're so young but with so many hopes and worries about the future. So many complicated emotions.

JI-LA

Is everyone able to follow along with their expressions? I know the translator doesn't always catch everything from this era.

The consensus is that they are fine.

VEREK

I still don't see how this little group could have had any impact on humanity as a whole.

BENERIKA

It does seem strange. If they had truly changed the course of history, wouldn't we have heard of them before now?

JI-LA

Although Devin and Grace are friends with the others, their minds were rooted in a higher plane. Despite their incredible genius, which we will see coming up, they had no interest in fame or fortune.

This sinks in for the group.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

This has been fascinating, Ji-La!
Let's take a short break, everyone.

EXT. CAMPUS PARK - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Ji-La and the Instructor Sanford are by themselves looking out at the river flowing below. The dome is clear now and Aresine looms above them.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

They've made the dome transparent for a few minutes so we can see Aresine more clearly. What do you think?

JI-LA

Amazing! So much more colorful than I'd imagined! Blue water, white clouds, so many shades of blue and brown, yellow and orange. And it's so clear!

(MORE)

JI-LA (CONT'D)

You can see the mountain ranges and islands. Every part of it is wonderfully intricate!

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

You sound like someone in love.

JI-LA

Do I? Do people in love always feel this conflicted?

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

How so?

JI-LA

Like everyone, I've thought about the possibility of a living on a new world all my life. But now that it is almost real, my mind is uncertain.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Just your mind? Or your heart as well?

JI-LA

Yes, my heart is unsure which path to take. I've always been happy in the Fleet.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

All of us have many feelings about big choices. Rarely is there only one. Would it help to voice some of them out loud?

She cups her heart and bows.

JI-LA

Yes, Instructor...for this I would be very grateful.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Please.

JI-LA

As a historian, I have studied the past with all my heart and soul. I have learned both its strange and familiar ways. How can I be of use to this new future? Over time, I can only see the old world becoming less and less relevant. And shouldn't the old pass on so that the new can be born?

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Historian is just a role you play. Perhaps something new will be born in you.

JI-LA

(laughs)

I'm afraid of what this new world might become, as well. As we have travelled the cosmos, we have done so as one people. Will we not grow apart subject to the influences of a new solar system? Will we not inescapably walk down the path of division and conflict that our ancestors did? Perhaps if I stay with the Fleet, I can live in peace and happiness forever.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

It is true. How life will unfold on Aresine is unknown. And the unknown can be fearful. But you are not bound by anyone else's decisions. Settle or continue in space -- we will all be free to choose the path that is right for us. In life, I have found that, no matter how badly we lose our way, our way eventually finds us.

Ji-La ponders this for a moment.

JI-LA
 Your wisdom is my blessing,
 Instructor!

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD
 My wisdom!
 (laughs)
 I'm just an old fool who is
 surrounded by young people who
 inspire him and fill him with joy!

He cups his heart and bows towards Ji-La. She returns the gesture with great love.

The dome reverts to sky again. They all return and seat themselves around the memory dais.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- CLASS DONNING VISORS

WHOLE CLASS (V.O.)
 Mother/Father/Spirit

-- JI-LA RINGING BELL

WHOLE CLASS (V.O.)
 Of Life and Time and Space

-- JI-LA TYPING ON HOLOGRAPHIC KEYBOARD

WHOLE CLASS (V.O.)
 Bless us on this journey

-- JI-LA MAKING HAND GESTURES

WHOLE CLASS (V.O.)
 Into your memory

-- VIBRATION GROWS

WHOLE CLASS (V.O.)
 Help us to understand

-- THEIR RADIANT BODIES ARE ENGULFED IN THE RUSH.

WHOLE CLASS (V.O.)

What is and isn't true.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY [AKASHIC RECORDS SEQUENCE]

The class emerges out of the Akashic rush to see Delia's car driving down a two lane country road.

INT. DELIA'S CAR - MOVING

Delia is driving, Solana is navigating, and Chloe is in the back seat.

SOLANA

(looking at maps on her
phone)

Ok, it should be right around the
next curve on the right.

EXT. RESEARCH FACILITY PROPERTY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Their car pulls into the driveway of a rural property and rolls up to the gate. Chloe, Delia, and Solana get out. Knox, Eaton, and Will are already there.

DELIA

Hi Everyone!

Delia's phone buzzes. She reads a text.

DELIA (CONT'D)

(points)

It's this way.

She begins walking toward a small metal building a little ways away. The others follow across a grass field under a deep blue sky. Along the way, Chloe picks a small yellow flower and twirls it gently.

INT. RESEARCH FACILITY TEST ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They all file into the workshop, littered with the detritus of years of engineering work. In the center are a circle of four dentist-office style recliners and a couple of chaise lounges with pillows. They are positioned like the spokes of a wheel with the heads pointing towards the center.

GRACE, a woman in her mid-30's, sits at a desk outside the circle monitoring a laptop. Devin stands beside her. The others gather around.

SOLANA

(to Devin)

I thought this device was going to be too big to fit in your apartment. Why did we drive all the way out here?

DEVIN

We can't use it in the city. It causes too much electrical interference. I'm working on a fix for that though.

(to everyone)

Alright, everyone pick a spot and...

DELIA

Devin, how about you introduce us to your friend first?

DEVIN

Oh, of course. This is my research associate, Dr. Mitsuhashi.

GRACE

Please, call me Grace. Does anyone need anything? There is a fridge with water over here and a bathroom in back.

EATON

I'll take a water!

Grace steps to the fridge, pulls out a bottle and hands it to Eaton.

SOLANA
(whispers to Chloe)
Uggh! Plastic!

DELIA
I could use a bathroom break.

GRACE
(pointing)
Just down the hall.

BATHROOM

In the bathroom Delia emerges from the stall and looks at herself in the mirror

DELIA
Am I crazy? This seems like it
might be a little crazy.

She rinses her hands, splashes a little water on her face and dries off with a paper towel.

TEST ROOM

Delia returns to the group.

KNOX
So, does this involve any kind of
an anal probe?

He chuckles to himself. Chloe laughs too.

SOLANA
Only for you Knox, only for you.

GRACE
(trying her best to smile
graciously)
The experience is completely non-
invasive.

Will pulls his phone out.

WILL

(to Devin)

Is it ok if I video this?

DEVIN

Phones won't work in here. All electronics have to be specially shielded inside the test room.

Will realizes that it's true and puts his phone away.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Alright, everyone please find a spot. Sorry we don't have enough recliners for everyone. We were originally only expecting four.

GRACE

But six is better!

DEVIN

Um, yes. Yes, indeed.

GRACE

We have a short survey for everyone before we get started.

Once the crew picks their places (Knox and Chloe get the cots), Grace calls out each person's name and hands them a tablet when they raise their hand.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Knox Slater? Chloe Pierce? Eaton
Maris? Delia Brizo? Solana Rojas?
And, Will Parenti. Everyone ready?

There are yesses and hands up as they look over the survey.

EATON

Can someone read these out loud? I don't have my close up glasses with me.

CHLOE
 (to Devin and Grace)
 You ok if I read these out loud?

Devin confers with Grace briefly.

DEVIN
 Yes, but please, everyone, keep
 your answers private.

CHLOE
 (reading from the survey)
 "On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being
 the happiest, how happy would you
 say that you generally are?"

Pauses for everyone to mark their answer on their screen.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
 (reading)
 "Have you ever had an experience
 where you felt as if you were
 floating outside your own body?"
 Ok...

Pauses again.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
 (reading)
 "Have you ever taken
 hallucinogenic drugs like LSD,
 Peyote, Mushrooms..."

KNOX
 Shout out for shrooms!

Chloe struggles to pronounce Ayahuasca. Delia chimes in to help her out.

DELIA
 "Eye uh Waska"

CHLOE
 ...what she said.

Pauses for everyone to mark their answer.

KNOX

Just say no, people.

CHLOE

(reading)

"If so, did these drugs create a lasting sense of happiness or fulfillment in you?"

SOLANA

(sarcastically)

Good thing these aren't personal questions!

CHLOE

(reading)

"Have you ever been completely sedated for a medical procedure?"

Pauses.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(reading)

"If yes, were you ever unexpectedly aware of what was happening despite the anesthesia?"

EATON

Yikes!

Pauses.

CHLOE

And lastly,

(reading)

"Have you ever had a Vision or experience of God, Jesus,

(struggles to pronounce)

Budd-ha, All-ah, Kris-hana, Rama or any other saint, incarnation, or spiritual being whether on drugs or not?"

CHLOE (CONT'D)
(looks up at Devin)
For real?

DEVIN
Your answers will be completely
confidential.

DELIA
(softly to Will)
Hmmm? Maybe you were right about
this being a little wack.

WILL
(whispering back)
Good thing it's only our brains
we're messing with.

GRACE
Alright, if everyone is done...

Grace walks around the circle and collects the tablets being
sure to submit their surveys and shut down the screens.

GRACE (CONT'D)
All set Dr. O'Neill.

DEVIN
Alright everyone, go ahead and make
yourselves comfortable.

SOLANA
So, do we need to do anything?

DEVIN
No, just try and relax.

Knox, Chloe, Eaton, Delia, Solana and Will make themselves
comfortable in the recliners/cots. Devin and Grace fit each
of the test subjects with monitoring devices on their heads
and wrists.

Grace initiates the process on a laptop and the room goes
dark except for the lights from cell-phone sized LEDs
suspended from the ceiling.

The lights begin to chase themselves around the circle above the group and a pleasant transcendental hum fills the room.

The test subjects are relaxed lying back with eyes closed.

As the lights accelerate, they become a continuous white blur. Vibrational ripples begin distorting the space until the entire room radiates white light. The subjects are nothing more than faint overexposed outlines drifting through the whiteness.

After a few moments the whiteness itself dissolves into the vastness of the Milky Way. In complete silence the galaxy spins and moves ever so gently.

Clusters of stars begin spinning and vibrating until the image of the cosmos is now a cascade of rippling light. The ripples ultimately merge and become a rapidly spinning wheel. It slows until it becomes recognizable as the group still lying in their recliners and cots.

The group members come back to consciousness and reluctantly open their eyes. They all smile serenely, deeply moved by what they've experienced. Delia wipes away tears from her eyes. Eaton gently exhales with an "oh" of profound gratefulness. Chloe brings her hands clasped to her chest almost as if in prayer.

END AKASHIC RECORDS SEQUENCE

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. CAMPUS PARK - DAY - RESUMING

The students are all still a bit lost in the mind-link.
Slowly they remove their visors.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Are we all back yet? Thoughts
anyone?

BENERIKA

That was amazing!

VEREK

How is this possible? They were
experiencing higher dimensions...
using a machine!

THORIN

The whole group seemed immersed in
bliss!

PIKAY

I can't believe we've never heard
of this before. How did you come
across this in the Akashic records
Ji-La?

JI-LA

Only by chance. I was exploring my
family tree.

KALEEN

Who was your family member?

ATEN

Was it Delia? Will?

JI-LA

I'll tell you after we go through
the last part of the presentation.
(MORE)

JI-LA (CONT'D)

Then you will see why I think this
is such a significant event for all
humanity.

They are eager to experience the next part.

INT. SMALL LOCAL CAFÉ - AFTERNOON - [AKASHIC RECORDS
SEQUENCE]

The rush slows until it reveals the class's radiant forms in
a small café three years later. It's almost entirely empty
except for Delia sitting at a table drinking a smoothie. As
Will approaches, Delia stands and greets him with an
affectionate hug. They sit.

WILL

Delia! How have you been? Can you
believe it's been three years!

DELIA

I know -- three years -- it's been
too long. I've been good. Ever
since that day!

WILL

Yeah, ever since that day! Such a
profound experience!

DELIA

I know. It was the most profound
experience of my life. Nothing is
even a close second.

WILL

I want to try and share it with
people sometimes, but there's no
way to describe it.

DELIA

Exactly! After Devin went to all
that fuss about NDA's! Even if I
wanted to, I don't think I could
put it into words. All I know is
that I'm not the same person I was.

(MORE)

DELIA (CONT'D)

Deep, deep, down a part of me that
was empty was filled that day.

WILL

(nodding in agreement)

I'm definitely less of a muddle
than I was!

Both laugh.

WILL (CONT'D)

Have you seen Devin recently?

DELIA

You mean, at all. A few days after
the test, he texted to remind me
not to talk about my experience.
That was it.

WILL

Yeah, I got the same text. Have you
ever thought about -- you know --
asking Devin if we could try it
again?

DELIA

I still feel like I'm processing
the first time, I guess. It's
funny, for something that was so
incredibly ecstatic, you'd think
I'd want to go back every day and
just be high all the time. But it
wasn't an addictive kind of thing.

WILL

True. But the memory of it has
started to fade a little.

He ponders a bit.

WILL (CONT'D)

How about the others? Do you ever
talk to anyone else?

DELIA

I text with Chloe and Solana every once in a while. They're both doing fabulous. Solana finally finished her degree and quit her job at the bar. She's teaching second grade now. Making less money but she loves it. And Chloe! Chloe is getting married in the fall...to Knox, if you can believe it!

WILL

To Knox? Oh that's crazy!

DELIA

After that day, they really bonded. The wedding invitations are a little late, but you're on the list. You should be getting one soon.

WILL

I am really looking forward to that!

Knox, Chloe, Solana all arrive and stand at Will and Delia's table.

DELIA

It's so great to see you all! How is everyone?

SOLANA

So good! I can't believe it's been three years!

CHLOE

(to Will)

What are you looking forward to?

WILL

I just heard a rumor about an engagement?

SOLANA

(to Will)

Still waiting on your invitation,
too?

CHLOE

They are coming! I promise!

(to Knox)

Knox took them to the post office
today, right?

KNOX

Signed, sealed and soon to be
delivered!

WILL

Congrats, you two!

Will reaches up to Knox to give him half a bro hug. Knox,
Chloe, and Solana pull up some chairs and sit.

WAITRESS

Can I get you all anything?

Just then Eaton joins the group at the table and is greeted
warmly by the others.

DELIA

(to waitress)

I think we need a few more minutes.

The waitress sets some menus on the table, nods, and leaves.

EATON

Hey! Knox and Chloe...are you
getting excited now that the day is
fast approaching?

Knox smiles. His arm comfortably around Chloe.

KNOX

Oh yeah. I'm going to have to get
some warmer shoes though, cause my
feet are getting soooo cold!

Chloe laughs and gives him a playful elbow to the ribs.

CHLOE

We are very excited! How about you Eaton? What have you been up to since the day?

EATON

I'll be honest...everything changed for me that day. I'd been drifting since I came back from L.A.. But, after the test session, I just felt...more confident, more tuned in. I knew it was time for me to try something new.

(beat)

Plus, I met a guy.

General ooos and ahs of approval.

SOLANA

For real?

EATON

So real! We started a video blog together and now we travel around the world kayaking and posting. We've got sponsors and everything.

KNOX

Congrats, man! That is way cool!

DELIA

What about the one and only Will?

WILL

Me? A lot has changed for me too, I guess. As soon as I graduated college, I started at my Dad's accounting firm. I was pretty much set to make a career out of it. But, after the test session, I just couldn't do it.

(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

Every time I would go into the office and sit behind that computer screen, I felt like I was gasping for air.

SOLANA

So, now what?

WILL

So...now I'm a pilot.

DELIA

How am I just now hearing about this?

WILL

I only got my commercial pilot's license, like, two days ago.

Will crosses his fingers.

WILL (CONT'D)

I'm going to be working for a small feeder airline out of Roanoke in a couple of months.

The group is genuinely impressed.

KNOX

So...

(looks at Solana)

We've got a bartender turned teacher;

(looks at Will)

an accountant turned pilot;

(looks at Eaton)

a wanna-be actor turned social media star;

(referring to himself)

a slack-ass developer turned into a respectable, engaged, developer;

(looks at Chloe)

and a super-hot, supermarket checker turned into a super-hot, engaged, flower-shop owner.

Chloe gives Knox a small kiss and shows off her ring to the oohs and ahhs of the group.

CHLOE

How about Ms. Delia!

DELIA

Me? I'm still working at the old folks home. I like it, but I can't really say I've found my calling yet.

KNOX

Well it's a good thing you're not working for the phone company!

DELIA

Huh? Why's that?

KNOX

Cause then your calling would be calling.

General eye rolls ensue. Chloe laughs hysterically though.

Devin and Grace enter the café and approach the table. Knox gets up and grabs a couple more chairs from another table. They all sit.

WILL

It's good to see you Devin! Grace!
How have you been?

SOLANA

And why have you ghosted us?

EATON

Wow! Let's keep it chill people!

GRACE

No, it's a fair question. After the group resonance test, we started analyzing the data. It's been very challenging.

DEVIN

Yes, and that led to more and more on the production end. Grace and I have been working non-stop.

Grace nods in agreement.

SOLANA

Doing what?

DEVIN

That's why we wanted to meet here tonight. We thought it would be better to show you. We're only a few blocks away from our engineering facility.

GRACE

We still have a couple of hours until everything is clear. How about we eat first?

KNOX

Yeah baby!

AN HOUR LATER

Everyone is finished eating. The mood is festive and familial. After the waitress bussess the dishes. Delia then taps on her glass a couple of times with her spoon to get everyone's attention.

DELIA

Hey everyone. I was hoping we might go around the table and share what we experienced back on Test Day. We all kind of went our separate ways, you know? And I haven't felt like I could talk to anyone about it.

The mood suddenly becomes much more serious.

WILL

That's a great idea! What do you think Devin? We won't spoil anything at this point will we?

DEVIN

I guess it would be ok.

GRACE

But, remember, we shouldn't share our experiences outside of this group. Ego can get involved and make it harder to achieve resonance in the future.

All nod in agreement.

DELIA

You go first Knox.

INT. TEST ROOM [KNOX'S VISION]

Knox reclines amidst the ferociously whirling lights.

KNOX (V.O.)

I was laying back on the cot feeling relaxed. And then - bam! I suddenly felt like I'd woken up from a dream.

His eyes open suddenly and...

EXT. - CITY PARK - DAY

In extreme, slow-motion, vividness Knox sees and hears a little boy eating ice cream, kids playing, a bee getting nectar from a flower, and a dog happily being walked on a leash.

KNOX (V.O.)

I was in the city, everything was so vivid! It's like I hadn't been fully awake before. I was still me, but, now, everything was just more real. Somehow, I became more alive.

BACK TO SCENE

The group considers Knox's words in silence. Delia then looks to Chloe.

INT. BARN - MORNING - [CHLOE'S VISION]

The sun is shining, but the barn and everything inside is as still as a photograph.

CHLOE (V.O.)
I was out in the country at the
farm I grew up on. But everything
was frozen in time. Then I saw it --
this tiny spark.

A tiny spark of light passes through the closed barn door and glides gently through the air like a playful bee. It passes into the hearts of several animals in the barn. When it does, each comes to life and starts moving.

CHLOE (V.O.)
I saw it enter into the hearts of a
pig, a chicken, a mouse and an ant.
And when it did, each one came to
life! From that spark, I could see
that all life is connected, and,
that all lives are amazingly
precious! Even an ant's! Somehow I
just know this now. It's part of
me.

BACK TO SCENE

Everyone is amazed. Delia looks to Eaton next.

EXT. A TROPICAL RAINFOREST - DAY - [EATON'S VISION]

In the midst of a dense jungle, Eaton sits, mesmerized by the sounds of jungle life all around him. His form is translucent and indistinct.

EATON (V.O.)
I know it sounds weird, but I felt
like I was -- gone. I was sitting
in the rainforest perfectly still.
(MORE)

EATON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But my body and mind were just gone. Even my sense of "I" was gone. The best way I can describe it is that it was like I was part of the surrounding jungle. I could feel myself in the trees, the birds, the insects. I completely lost my sense of time.

His translucent form dissolves into a soft shimmer that expands into the surrounding forest causing the whole area to shimmer.

EATON

And then could feel it start to rain. A soft, warm, gentle rain bringing me back into my body.

His form slowly re-emerges as gentle raindrops fall on him and becomes more and more distinct.

EATON (CONT'D)

I can't tell you how amazing it felt! And the next thing I knew...I was back.

BACK TO SCENE

Everyone absorbs the vision silently for a moment.

EATON

What about you Delia?

INT./EXT. TEST ROOM TO INFINITY - [DELIA'S VISION]

Delia is back in the test room in her recliner, eyes closed. The lights whirl around her ferociously, but she is still.

DELIA (V.O.)

I don't know...it's so hard to put into words! I felt this deep cosmic hum that started in my heart and then kept growing and growing until it filled everything.

The sound of the cosmic hum begins. A pink translucent glow emerges from her chest, vibrating in sync with the hum and begins expanding.

It expands so rapidly that within seconds it has encompassed the room, the planet, the solar system, and the universe. But, all of it is still contained within Delia's gently spinning, semi-transparent form.

Within this form, images of people laughing, couples embracing, and children playing float through her being.

DELIA (V.O.)

And all I could feel was...oneness
and harmony. Deep, deep, harmony.
It wasn't just thoughts. I could
feel it all the way through me. It
was so incredible!

BACK TO SCENE

Reluctantly, Delia brings her awareness back to the café.

EATON

Solana?

INT. HOUSEHOLD MADE OF LIGHT - [SOLANA'S VISION]

Solana's form, brightly shining, floats gently through a house made out of light. She floats past people and furniture and all the little things that make up a household. Everything and everyone is beautifully luminous.

SOLANA (V.O.)

For me, I was surrounded by this
incredibly warm, comforting light.
It was like I was in a universe of
light. And everything, including
me, was made out of light. I've
never felt so perfectly happy. No
shame, no anxiety...it felt so, so
wonderful!

She smiles in rapturous joy.

BACK TO SCENE

Brief reflection.

WILL
I guess I'm next.
(to Eaton)
What you said about being gone...
it was the same for me.

INT./EXT. TEST ROOM INTO AN INFINITE SKY - DAY [WILL'S
VISION]

Back in the test room, Will reclines amidst the whirling lights. His eyes gently open and we dive deep into the darkness of one of his pupils like we're flying through a dark tunnel. We fly through the tunnel until it opens out into an infinite sky. The vision moves unimpeded through the lightly-clouded, blue sky whimsically changing directions at will. Nothing but distant flocks of birds can be seen.

WILL (V.O.)
No thoughts, no worries, just pure
awareness. It was like being a
bird flying in an infinite sky. I
felt... incredibly free.

BACK TO SCENE

Eaton smiles.

EATON
And so you became a pilot...

WILL
(laughs)
Yeah! I guess that must've been
part of it.

DELIA
(to Devin and Grace)
What about you two? You've tried
the device, right?

Before Grace or Devin can share their experiences, the scene begins vibrating violently until the Akashic rush envelopes everything.

EXT. NEXUS OF THE AKASHIC REALM

Suddenly the radiant forms of the class stand amidst massive streams of rushing energy. The noise is deafening.

A giant goddess made of flames stands before them. She holds a flaming sword in her right hand and wags her left index finger back and forth in a gentle but firm warning. She, then, tightens her left hand into a fist and reopens her fingers like an explosion.

The students' radiant forms are immediately expelled from the Akashic realm in a powerful burst of light.

END AKASHIC RECORDS SEQUENCE

EXT. CAMPUS PARK - DAY - RESUMING

Back at the park, the students frantically remove their visors.

THORIN

What just happened!?!

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

That was Akasha. She must not feel that we are ready to hear what Devin and Grace said that day. Generally, Akasha respects the privacy of people's spiritual experiences. It's a wonder she has shown us as much as she has.

JI-LA

Akasha will not show me anything related to Devin's research either.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

How unfortunate! It seems the secrets of the harmonic field resonance generator were meant only for that place and time.

JI-LA

I'll take us back in, but later
that evening.

They don their visors again, Ji-La punches in the coordinates and makes the activation gestures. The scene vibrates, the world dissolves, and the class's radiant forms blur into the rush.

EXT. SIDEWALK OUTSIDE CAFÉ - AN HOUR LATER - [AKASHIC RECORDS SEQUENCE]

The group is walking along a sidewalk. They arrive at what looks like an abandoned factory.

INT. PROJECT LAUNCH FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

Once inside, it becomes apparent that the abandoned factory is home to a secret launch facility. In the center of the space sits a small rocket no longer than a pickup truck.

Grace makes her way to a panel and unlocks it with her phone. It contains an air-traffic monitor and an electrical service disconnect with a large red handle.

WILL

This rocket is your project?

DEVIN

Yes. Seven years of work finally realized. We wanted you to be here to share this moment with us. The data from your test was the last major piece of the puzzle that enabled us to calibrate the system for deployment.

(to Grace)

Are we ready?

GRACE

(looking at air traffic
monitor)

All clear.

KNOX

Oh my God! They're going to launch
this thing right now!

DELIA

(to Will)

This is all legal, right?

WILL

I highly doubt it.

Devin nods to Grace. She pulls the red handle. The roof retracts and an enormous hot air balloon tied to the rocket begins rapidly inflating.

Once it's large enough, the balloon/rocket assembly starts floating. As it clears the ceiling, the fuel system hose decouples and the rocket/balloon assembly ascends into the sky untethered. After it reaches launch elevation, the balloon detaches and the rocket's engines fire. The group watches in astonishment as it speed upwards.

EXT. EARTH ORBIT

As the rocket orbits the earth, it ejects cell-phone sized devices that maneuver into fixed positions and deploy small solar panel arrays. They begin glowing as they activate.

DEVIN (V.O.)

Once the rocket reaches orbit, it
will release a series of micro-
satellites that will encircle the
entire earth. All, undetectable to
any physical instruments.

BACK TO SCENE

Will and the group suddenly realize...

WILL

The whole world will be one big
resonance field! Everybody will
have the same experiences we did!

MONTAGE [VISIONS OF WORLD HARMONY]

--People from all walks of life quietly absorbed in states of humble rapture.

--People smiling, laughing, hugging, holding hands.

--People expressing happiness through dance, play, and joyful speeches before large crowds.

GRACE (V.O.)

Not exactly the same. Each person will experience the resonance field in their own unique way. Some will be powerfully transformed like we were. Others will barely notice a change. But all will experience a greater sense of connection.

BACK TO SCENE

As the implications of what they have just witnessed dawn on them, they exchange hugs of joy. In deep gratitude, Delia takes up Devin and Grace's hands and kisses them gently.

END AKASHIC RECORDS SEQUENCE

EXT. CAMPUS PARK - RESUMING

The class removes their visors.

INSTRUCTOR SANFORD

Ji-La, what a wonderful truth you have discovered!

Instructor Sanford salutes Ji-La with folded hands.

BENERIKA

It's as if the world just needed a little help to make it through the last year before the Gravimetric Era.

VEREK

And somehow the universe provided
it.

THORIN

It makes me rethink my whole
understanding of the launch of the
Fleet.

PIKAY

Yes! Would it have even happened
without Devin and Grace?

Aten bows his head and salutes Ji-La with folded hands.

ATEN

Such a privilege!

The whole class bows to Ji-La with folded hands then
surrounds her in a group hug. Ji-La is taken aback at first
but then is moved to tears at their affection.

KALEEN

And your ancestor...it was Grace
wasn't it?

JI-LA

(wiping away tears)
Yes, I am, indeed, a distant
grandchild of Grace!

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. SHUTTLE BAY - THE NEXT DAY

Ji-La, wearing a spacesuit, and Trianne stand above the planet on a shuttle departure platform protected by an invisible force shield. Ji-La holds the hand of Trianne's little girl, MAISIE, five years old, who is excited about going to the surface. Others are busy loading and boarding a shuttle.

TRIANNE

I'm so glad you decided to come
with us to Aresine, Ji-La!

JI-LA

Thank you, Trianne. I think I'm
ready to be a part of the present
now, instead of always browsing
through the past like a ghost.

TRIANNE

Yes, It's time for the ghost to
live again.

JI-LA

How much preparation is left to do?

TRIANNE

Our team will be doing a final
analysis to match each pod's biome
with the right terrain, climate,
etc.. It should only take a week or
two until the pods can set down.
Can you believe it! We have
wandered the stars for almost a
thousand years!

A gentle, song-like, tone fills the platform to let the
passengers know it is almost time to depart.

JI-LA

Go with your mommy, Maisie.

Ji-La releases the girl's hand so she can run to Trianne.
Trianne takes her into her arms.

TRIANNE
(to Maisie)
Wave goodbye to Ji-La!

MAISIE
Bye!

They wave to Ji-La. Ji-La cups her hands around her heart in reply. Trianne's child attempts the gesture back with some difficulty.

TRIANNE
Are you sure you don't want to
take the shuttle with us?

JI-LA
I thought it would be good to mark
the beginning of a new era by
trying something new.

TRIANNE
Have fun, then! We'll See you on
the surface!

Another gentle, song-like, tone fills the platform to let the passengers know it is time to leave. Trianne and Maisie board the shuttle. Ji-La waves as it departs.

She walks towards the edge of the platform. AMANT, a young man roughly Ji-La's age, also wearing a spacesuit, steps to the platform's edge next to her.

AMANT
Are you free-falling to the surface
as well?

JI-LA
Yes, much more fun than a shuttle,
don't you think?

AMANT
Definitely! Are you ready for a new
home?

JI-LA

I think so. I will miss life in the stars, though. Life in the Fleet has always been so beautiful.

AMANT

Won't Aresine be beautiful too?

JI-LA

Can even the wisest amongst us know for sure?

AMANT

I hope not! That's what will make it fun!

Ji-La smiles.

AMANT (CONT'D)

Shall we fall together?

JI-LA

I would love that!

They put their helmets on and step through the energy shield near the edge of the platform. They take one last look at the Elegant Elephant and then at each other. The soles of their anti-gravity boots begin to glow white and they start floating off the platform. Moments later, the glow shifts to blue and they start falling towards the planet. Finally, they shift to red and their descent accelerates.

The stars, streams of multi-colored atmospheric sparks, and the fast approaching clouds and landscape all reflect in Ji-La's visor. Her face beams with wonder and awe.

END OF EPISODE