

THE DIVINE

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. GRASSY FIELD - DAY

SUPER: DAY 1,003. PROXIMA CENTAURI B, 2088.

A lone Astronaut, AURORA, mid 30's, average in height, wanders curiously with an EKG meter in hand as she trudges through the lush green fields that span across this earth-like alien planet. A white RV sized Space Shuttle sits alone in the distance behind her.

Mountains stretch on for miles in the background as Aurora makes her way passed massive tree like organisms that seem to be breathing. She gazes up at the trees as they flex their limbs.

Wisps of clouds span across the blue skies just as on earth.

No Sign of sentient life anywhere, though.

EXT. LAKESHORE - DAY

Aurora approaches a large body of liquid water. A lake surrounded by a variation of plants, similar to those found on earth. The water sits abnormally still; not a single ripple or wave. Mirror-like.

She gazes at the lake with a look of astonishment. Deeply intrigued by the sight.

AURORA

(to herself)

Oh my goodness. This is amazing.

Aurora sets her backpack on the ground as she takes a knee on the shore of the lake. She then lays down a mat on the sandy ground and places several scientific instruments and vials onto the mat.

She dips the instruments into the lake to take samples but, still, not a single ripple from breaking the surface.

This trait of the water grasps her attention.

AURORA

(to herself)

Record to log. Even if I break the surface, the liquid water does not produce waves or ripples. It's fascinating. This could have something

to do with the molecular structure.
Possibly, even the atmosphere. I am
collecting samples now.

She continues on for a moment with her collections, filling
vials with the liquid waters of the lake.

Her collections are complete. Aurora places the vials
carefully into a steel canister. She seals it closed and
secures it snugly in her backpack.

AURORA
(to herself)
Okay, there we are. Nice and snug, so
no accidents happen.

With the canister secured, she latches her backpack shut,
looping the straps over her shoulders. Aurora rises to her
feet, slapping the sand off the knees of her space suit.

She looks out to the mirror topped lake for a moment and
soaks in its beauty.

EXT. SPACE SHUTTLE - DAY

Back at the Shuttle, Aurora begins to unload the collected
samples. She punches in a series of numbers and letters into
her computer, and with a hiss, a compact work station unfolds
outward from the space shuttle exterior.

Several compartment hatches open simultaneously.

SHUTTLE SYSTEM
(Robotic Voice)
Now ready to receive biological
materials.

Aurora places the canister containing the water from the lake
into one of the compartments and seals the hatch.

She repeats the same process with the rest of the collection
canisters.

SHUTTLE SYSTEM
(Robotic Voice)
Processing biological materials.

Her eyes dance around the neon interface as she checks the 3D
mapping systems for any new detections of bio-signatures in
the region.

A beat.

The look of hope washes away from her face as the logistics report shows no signatures.

AURORA
(to herself)
Damn. I guess the mission is done,
then? I've collected all I could find.

Aurora stares at the screen. Her fingers punches in another command.

AURORA
(to herself)
No harm in running another scan, I
guess. There has to be something else
on this planet. Let's send up a drone,
too.

Glancing down at her wrist gauntlet, she taps the interface with her finger twice. A small spherical drone detaches from the Space Shuttle and starts the scan of the surrounding geography.

She watches the drone zoom off into the alien landscape toward the mountain range.

AURORA
(to herself)
Hopefully it comes back with
something.

Aurora turns to go back to the shuttle.

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE - DAY

The interior of the Space Shuttle closely resembles that of an RV; kitchen, small seating area, restroom, and sleeping quarters.

Now, out of her space suit, with her red hair tied up in a messy bun, Aurora is in comfortable lounge clothes; a navy crew neck sweater, matching sweatpants, and black slides.

SAM, a black colored hamster, relentlessly sprints in its wheel as Aurora searches the shelves in the kitchen for something to eat while she waits for a notification from the drone.

She sighs.

AURORA
(to herself)
Mashed potatoes? Cream of Chicken?
Peanut butter? What to eat...

She turns to the hamster.

AURORA
Sam? What do you think I should eat?

The hamster continues to run his endless marathon.

AURORA
Mashed potatoes, it is!

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE: KITCHEN - DAY

Standing over the stove, Aurora pours the powdered mashed potato mix into the small pot of boiling water and begins to whisk the two together. As she makes her food, she glances over at the monitors to check on the progress of the signature scans.

Not a single ping yet.

She sighs, dropping her head.

AURORA
Oh, look. Food's done.

She turns to the hamster, he is face deep in his food dish, devouring every bit.

AURORA
Hey, slow it down a bit, yea? You're going to choke.

Aurora smirks as she reaches for a spoon and shuffles over to the booth.

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE: BOOTH SEAT - DAY

She sits cross legged in the booth as she eats the mashed potatoes from the pot it was cooked in. Aurora looks over at Sam, he is latched onto the water spout, chugging gulp after gulp.

AURORA
(to herself)
Damn it...

She eats another spoonful and scoots out from the booth.

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE: KITCHEN - DAY

Aurora shuffles over to grab a cup next to the water cooler as she chews her food. She brings the cup of water up to her lips and takes a drink.

Nodding her head in enjoyment, she takes another drink.

AURORA

That hit the spot, Sammy.

Sam, the hamster, stares aimlessly at Aurora as its tiny paws grasp at the cage.

She raises her cup to Sam.

AURORA

Cheers, Sam.

Aurora takes another drink.

AURORA

You know-- This might be the last mission to this planet if the drone doesn't pick up a reading.

She makes her way back to the booth.

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE: BOOTH SEAT - DAY

Aurora sets her cup on the table top and scoots her way back into the booth, again, sitting cross legged. She eats another spoonful of potatoes.

AURORA

Thirty-three months will come to an end and we'll be on our way back to Mars. Home.

She takes a drink.

AURORA

Are you excited, Sam?

The hamster stares at Aurora, still grasping at the cage.

She smirks softly at Sam.

Suddenly, a dinging noise breaks the silence.

DING. DING.

The 3D monitors pop-up. A red dot pulses on screen, showing the location of a detection hit.

SHUTTLE SYSTEM
(Robotic Voice)
Bio-signature, detected. Energy
source, detected.

Aurora stares at the monitors, wide-eyed.

AURORA
Holy shit, Sam... That's in the
canyon.
(a beat)
I've never had to go in that region,
before.

She shoots up out of the booth.

Racing over to put on her space suit, she blows a kiss to Sam as he trots into his plastic igloo.

EXT. SPACE SHUTTLE - DAY

Now suited up in her gear, Aurora marches out of the shuttle with a rifle slung over her shoulder and across her chest.

As she approaches the rear of the shuttle, she places her hand on a panel that opens to reveal a hover bike.

Aurora removes the backpack from her suit and attaches it to the rear of the bike.

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE: HOVER BIKE COMPARTMENT - DAY

She walks into the cramped compartment that houses the bike and begins to sync her wrist gauntlet to its navigation system.

A beat.

HOVER BIKE
(Deep Robotic Voice)
Synchronization, complete.

AURORA
(to herself)
Alright, let's see what that signature
is.

Aurora presses the ignition button and the bike begins to hover. She hops onto the seat, straddling the bike. Her foot taps the pedal and she speeds off toward the mountain range.

EXT. GRASSY FIELD - DAY

The hover bike speeds through an open field, parting the green landscape as Aurora makes her way toward the mountains. She glances down at the navigation system and notices that the reading is becoming stronger the closer she gets to the source.

As the bike races over a creek, the water below barely ripples from the energy.

AURORA

(to herself)

System - Record to log. I am currently on my way to the signature located in the canyon region - just over the mountain range - Two miles West of my shuttle's location. The intensity of the reading seems to be growing the closer I get.

Aurora zooms passed more of the 'breathing trees'.

EXT. MOUNTAIN BASE - DAY

Coming up to the base of the mountain range, Aurora slows the bike down. Once at the base, she idly hovers for a moment, searching for a trail to the other side.

She taps the side of her helmets visor, activating the heads-up display.

P.O.V

Her vision pans left to right, scanning the area.

AURORA

(to herself)

Come on, all I need is a trail over the mountains - Through the mountains would be best, really.

The heads-up display detects a passage in the face of the mountain. It targets the opening and highlights it for Aurora.

AURORA
(to herself)
Perfect. That entrance appears to be
big enough.

P.O.V END

Aurora taps the pedal, accelerating the bike.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TUNNEL OPENING - DAY

She slowly approaches the Cyclopean opening of the tunnel. Aurora hops off of the bike, ambling up to the passage, admiring the size as she peers into the abysmal blackness. Not much light breaks passed the threshold.

Returning to the bike, Aurora dwells in a moment of apprehension.

She hops back onto the seat, switches the headlamp on and proceeds into the tunnel.

INT. MOUNTAIN TUNNEL

The hover bike races through the tunnel passage, its headlamp cuts through the darkness. Aurora glances down at navigation system, the interface illuminates her face.

Aurora notices movement on the walls as she is driving. She clicks on the high beams.

The walls are alive.

Crab-like creatures of all sizes, seemingly made of rock and stone, crawl all along the walls of the tunnel.

They scatter away from the bike's bright headlamp.

AURORA
What the--? Oh my goodness! Holy shit!

The creatures smaller in size scurry across the pathway.

AURORA
Oh shit!

She dodges them.

Frightened, she stomps down on the accelerator and hits the throttle.

The energy of the hover waves sends the smaller creatures flying off of the wall.

Aurora rockets through the tunnel.

As the exit approaches rapidly, a larger rock creature drops from the wall, directly in Aurora's path.

AURORA

Fuck! No!

In a panic, she yanks up on the handlebars with all of her might but her efforts are in vain.

The nose of the bike clips the top of the creature's shell. Aurora is sent sailing through the air, screaming.

Swerving uncontrollably, the bike slams into the walls of the tunnel.

EXT. SAND DUNES - DAY

Aurora is ejected from the mouth of the tunnel, arms and legs flailing about. She screams at the top of her lungs as she plummets back down to the sand dunes.

P.O.V

With her hands and arms outstretched in an attempt to stop her fall, the dunes approach rapidly below her.

AURORA

No! No! No!

A beat.

Impact.

P.O.V BLACKOUT

EXT. SAND DUNES - SUNSET

Aurora finally comes to, shooting up onto her knees. In a hazy panic, she gasps and heaves. She claws at her helmet, trying to catch her breath. Her eyebrow and nose are bleeding. Rivers of red stream down her face.

She screams.

Breathing heavily, she frantically looks around. The rifle lays only feet away from her on the sand.

Aurora scurries over to the gun and clutches it, ready to fire.

She scans her surroundings, with the rifle aimed at the mountains in front of her as she anticipates the creatures.

Her heads-up display turns on. The glitched and fractured visor shows an energy signature of immense power. Aurora turns around to see the canyon region behind a small sand dune.

She watches as the solar system's star slowly submerges itself behind the horizon.

Aurora rises to her feet. Staggered, with the rifle hanging at her side, Aurora trudges through the sand.

EXT. CANYON REGION - SUNSET

Clawing at the sands, Aurora reaches the peak of the dune. She is greeted by a sight that freezes her. Her eyes widen, and her lips quiver as tears begin to fall from her eyes.

Rising to her feet, Aurora's tear filled eyes dance from left to right.

Her words barely escape her lips.

AURORA
(to herself)
Oh-- M-My...

Aurora staggers down the tall and steep side of the sand dune. Exhausted, she drops to her side, letting herself slide down the face of the dune.

As she comes to a stop at the bottom of the dune, Aurora picks herself up and starts to slowly make her way to the source of the system readings.

EXT. CANYON REGION - DUSK

In between the canyons, a gigantic mechanical ring levitates weightlessly as it rotates. Pulsing vibrations emanate from the structure, disturbing the sands below with every wave. Inside of the mechanical ring; a nebula-like, fiery and gaseous cloud, rages like the eye of a hurricane. THE DIVINE.

Aurora approaches cautiously, gazing upon the other worldly structure.

As she takes a step, a crunch.

Aurora glances down to see the drone buried in the sands.

AURORA

Rec-- Record to L-Log... I have found
the source-- I have located the source
of the ping.

(a beat)

It's-- a Dyson Sphere of some kind.

She taps the side of her helmet.

AURORA

System, record video and audio.

Gazing upon the massive structure as it rotates, Aurora steps
into the canyons.

EXT. CANYON - DUSK

AURORA

(to herself)

This-- This could change everything...
The structure seems to be a Dyson
Sphere-- containing some sort of
nebulous cloud.

THE DIVINE (V.O)

Welcome.

A booming, mechanical voice; seemingly originating from the
massive structure, fills the canyon.

Startled, Aurora's knees buckle.

She drops onto her knees.

AURORA

(to herself)

It-- It spoke. It just spoke. Holy
shit, it just spoke.

THE DIVINE (V.O)

Rise.

Aurora is frozen. She can't remove her gaze.

AURORA

(to herself)

What is this?

After a moment, Aurora staggers to her feet. Overwhelmed with emotion, she fights to hold her tears back.

Her lips tremble.

AURORA

What-- Is this? Can you hear me?

THE DIVINE (V.O)

Yes. Do not be afraid.

AURORA

What are you?

THE DIVINE (V.O)

I am only known as The Divine.

Aurora removes her rifle, tossing it onto the ground as she takes a few steps closer toward The Divine.

AURORA

Divine... What are you?

THE DIVINE (V.O)

I am neither benevolent nor am I malevolent. I just am.

Tears fall from Aurora's eyes.

AURORA

How-- How did you get here? Where did you come from?

THE DIVINE (V.O)

I have always been here. Observing. From the stars, over many cycles.

AURORA

So... It is true. There have been many forms of life and countless civilizations throughout time.

THE DIVINE (V.O)

More than you could ever fathom.

AURORA

My goodness. This is unbelievable. Your design-- there are countless religious scriptures that speak of structures like you coming from the sky--

THE DIVINE (V.O)
Ezekiel's wheel. The entities that you
call... Angels.

Aurora begins to hyperventilate, grabbing at her helmet.

AURORA
(to herself)
Oh my goodness... Oh my goodness.

THE DIVINE (V.O)
You are frightened?

AURORA
I am. I am frightened-- astonished--
bewildered, even. This is mind-
blowing...

With her hands still on her helmet, Aurora glances around in confusion, pacing from side to side.

Tears continue to well up in her eyes, threaten to fall down her cheeks.

AURORA
Who-- Who created you?

THE DIVINE (V.O)
Time. Evolution.

AURORA
I-- I do not understand.

THE DIVINE (V.O)
I am the creator and the creation. The
one being.

Aurora shakes her head in disbelief.

She takes a moment to collect herself. Aurora glances up at The Divine, its nebulous cloud rages inside the mechanical entrapment.

AURORA
This can't be... Something had to have
created you. There are self operating
A.I. systems and autonomous beings but
nothing-- nothing like you.

She drops her head and cries.

A beat.

THE DIVINE (V.O)

Your species has achieved many levels of technological advancements-- The beings of Earth, Luna and Mars are a savage and primitive race. You are a fascinating creature.

Aurora brings her head up and glares angrily at The Divine.

AURORA

Primitive? We have worked tirelessly to reach these advancements.

THE DIVINE (V.O)

Your species still dwells on the differences between one another. This is not a characteristic of an evolved species.

AURORA

Wait, you don't know that!
Humans are capable of--

THE DIVINE (V.O)

--Of war. The human race thrives on conflict. Eliminating each other with your weapons.

AURORA

What gives you the authority to judge my species?! Your judgments are unfair! Not all Humans are war hungry monsters. We understand compassion and empathy. We are not cold, like you.

Piercing white lights that line the rim of the The Divine, turn on one by one, illuminating the alien surroundings.

Harsh sounds of moving mechanical pieces echo out through the canyons as two thinner rings detach from the larger ring that houses the gaseous cloud.

The rings begin to spin at blurred speeds.

Aurora takes a step back.

AURORA

What is going on? What are you doing?

THE DIVINE (V.O)

Do not fear my actions.

The Divine levitates higher in canyon. The waves of energy emitted from the spinning rings vibrates the sands below, sending tremors through the ground.

Aurora braces herself as the ground trembles.

She panics.

AURORA

What is happening? What are you
doing?! Stop this, please!

Pieces of canyon rock hurl toward the ground.

Aurora steps away from The Divine, creating a greater distance between her and the entity.

Her visor glitches, turning on and off.

AURORA

Stop! Stop, please!

THE DIVINE (V.O)

From the moment of conception, the
human race has accomplished mere ticks
on the evolutionary chain.

Weeping hysterically, Aurora drops to the shaking ground, clawing at the sands as she fights to get away from the chaos.

THE DIVINE (V.O)

So "advanced" and yet, you are one of
the few lifeforms that has yet to
leave their solar system.

AURORA

Help!

The Divine hovers toward Aurora as she pleads. White lights turn red as the rings stop spinning.

THE DIVINE (V.O)

Your species must be eradicated, just
as parasites are.

A massive shockwave is released, sending Aurora flying through the air.

She crashes onto the sand. The force of the impact cracks her visor.

Aurora anxiously attempts to seal the visor shut with her hands to no avail as the alien atmosphere rushes into her helmet.

She gasps violently. Her eyes now bloodshot.

THE DIVINE (V.O)

Now, this will all come to an end for you. You will be no more. Merely a twinkle in time and space.

Aurora's body becomes weightless, levitating.

As she fights to breathe, her eyes turn red. Blood begins to leak from her eyes, ears, nose and mouth

The nebulous hurricane at the center of The Divine roars.

Her hands rip at her throat. Aurora is pulled toward the Cyclopean nightmare. The raging storm at the center of The Divine dilates to reveal a black hole.

As Aurora gets pulled closer to the center, her body begins to distort. Her limbs grow long and her torso is stretched to its limits.

She is sucked into the black hole, her body is torn apart by the force of the suction, yet at the same time, whole.

Aurora flickers in and out of existence as the nebulous storm retracts, consuming her.

BLACK OUT

EXT. CANYON REGION - NIGHT

The Divine hovers in the seemingly undisturbed surroundings of the solitary canyon. Its lights turn from red to white once again as the abysmal night drapes over the vibrant yet lonely alien planet.

FADE OUT

END