

GOOD MORNING, MR. KAY:
CHAPTER ONE OF THE BLUE AGE

Written by

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FADE IN:

FLASHFORWARD - INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - STUDIO - DAY

A middle aged Asian man, MR. KAY, sits at his desk, drawing. Drawings decorate the walls, illuminated by vintage lamps.

CLOSE UP - DRAWING

Depicts two witches offering muffins to a sickly boy in bed.

BACK TO SCENE

HUA, the daughter of Mr. Kay, ambles down the basement steps into his studio.

When we are in the future, Hua and Mr. Kay have shorter hair.

HUA
Do you want lunch?

Mr. Kay turns around.

MR. KAY
Oh...maybe in about thirty minutes?

HUA
Sure.

Hua approaches the desk and looks over his shoulder. She embraces her father.

HUA (CONT'D)
Which one's which?

MR. KAY
The older one is Eleanor, and the young one is Mary.

HUA
I like their outfits.
(long beat)
You should make something about Eve.

Mr. Kay returns to drawing.

MR. KAY
I don't know if I want to write about her yet.

HUA
It would be interesting if you did.
No one would know they are real.

MR. KAY
I...I think I just want to work on
this one first.

Mr. Kay smiles.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
Maybe I'll insert a little Eve mask
somewhere.

HUA
You could do something with the
others, too. A little Unlyus in a
jar.

MR. KAY
Maybe.
(long beat)
You don't want to talk
about...them, right?

HUA
No...but I do want to know more.

MR. KAY
I would tell you, but we can't talk
about the...
(beat)
P-O-R-D-A-G-A.

CUT TO:

INT. WHITE SPACE

We are now in present day. The world is completely white,
and only a DISTANT HUSH can be heard.

This is White Space, an interdimensional realm.

SUPER:

"PART 1"

EVE, a native being of White Space, flicks her giant ears as
she waits.

She is twelve feet tall, resembles a bipedal llama. She also
wears a smiling mask.

SUPER:

"6 MONTHS AGO"

Mr. Kay looks uneasily at her before pulling his pajama sleeves over his hands.

EVE
Good morning, Mr. Kay.

Mr. Kay rocks on his heels.

Eve stares and flicks her ear quickly.

EVE (CONT'D)
How would you rate yourself today?

MR. KAY
Eh...a seven? Pretty good overall,
but I haven't really been sleeping
much, though.

EVE
How long?

MR. KAY
About two days. Give or take.
Can't really remember.

EVE
(long beat)
But you have improved from last
week. What's making you feel
better?

MR. KAY
Dunno. Work's going good. I feel
good.

EVE
Nothing different you did this
week?

MR. KAY
I started a painting.

EVE
May I see?

Mr. Kay nods and runs off.

Eve sits in silence.

An insectoid creature, CREATURE BLU, approaches Eve. She's faceless.

EVE (CONT'D)
Hello, mama.

Creature Blu's voice echoes as she speaks without a mouth.

CREATURE BLU
Hello, my dear. Where did he go
off to?

Eve cowers as a LOUD BANG rumbles in the distance. She turns back to her mother.

EVE
He's grabbing his painting.

CREATURE BLU
I haven't seen his art in quite
some time.

EVE
I haven't either.

Mr. Kay runs up to Eve, his canvas under his arm, and he places some bottles of paint and brushes on the ground. He reveals his painting.

It's just smudges of black.

Eve cocks her head.

MR. KAY
It's a really rough start to a
landscape.

CREATURE BLU
Oh, I can see it.

Creature Blu approaches the painting, observing its details.

CREATURE BLU (CONT'D)
Can I have it?

Mr. Kay puts the painting on the ground and kneels beside it.

MR. KAY
Have it?

CREATURE BLU
When you finish it.

Mr. Kay looks around and smiles.

MR. KAY
 (humorously)
 Where would you put it?

Creature Blu sloppily picks up the canvas. She doesn't have hands like us, just arms like a hermit crab's legs.

CREATURE BLU
 I got holes to cover up.

Creature Blu runs off, and Mr. Kay chases, laughing.

Eve whips her head back and forth as they run around her.

Creature Blu throws the canvas into the air, and it is swept up by what seems to be a gust of wind.

MR. KAY
 No!

EVE
 Don't worry. The energy currents around here aren't strong. It's just the upper level ones you gotta worry about.

The CANVAS CLATTERS on the ground a couple meters away, and Mr. Kay retrieves it and brings it back to his set up.

MR. KAY
 (to Creature Blu)
 What was that all about?

CREATURE BLU
 I like to have people chase me. It's funny. Your long legs are funny.

MR. KAY
 Well, you two look ridiculous as well.

CREATURE BLU
 All living beings look strange yet beautiful.

Mr. Kay begins to continue his painting, and Creature Blu rubs her head on his hair. Mr. Kay pets her.

MR. KAY
 Are there more holes forming?

EVE
 Yes. And difficult to repair.

CREATURE BLU
 Unlyus is doing most of it, but
 even he is having trouble.

A RINGING SOUND erupts behind Mr. Kay, and he turns around.

A feline beast, about the size of a golden retriever, bounds out of a portal. This is INGIO.

INGIO
 They're worse upstairs.

Ingio approaches and accidentally knocks over a jar of paint with one of her long talons. She rights it.

THE BLACK PAINT

Slowly expands over the ground.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay looks at his paint brush before using it to smear the paint.

INGIO (CONT'D)
 And the pinpricks aren't helping
 either.

CREATURE BLU
 But we need those.

INGIO
 Eve can hear fine. We don't need
 them. We can shut them down. You
 can.

Eve is grooming herself, and she looks at the spreading paint.

Mr. Kay stands and bends over to create a quick portrait of a woman on the ground.

MR. KAY
 Are the pinpricks...the listening
 things?

INGIO
 Yes. The weak, miniscule worm
 holes in the air of White Space.

MR. KAY
 The telephone.

INGIO

The telephone. But they are an opening, and it is easier to rip space fabric when there is already an opening. Blu, we need to close them.

CREATURE BLU

Let me think about it.

Mr. Kay makes some abstract marks before looking up.

EVE'S MASK

Glimmers in the light of White Space.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay raises his brush to eye level and begins to make quick marks upon the air.

A 3D drawing forms.

Eve approaches and leans down, her face right behind Mr. Kay's drawing.

MR. KAY

Can you stay there?

He makes a few more strokes.

Mr. Kay jerks his hands above his head.

The line art soars into the vast whiteness. A small shockwave bursts from it as it transforms into a physical mask.

It drops back into his arms, now a steel Oni mask.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)

Can...can I put it on?

Eve lowers her ears, and Mr. Kay removes her mask and replaces it with the new one. We do not see her face.

EVE

Thank you, Mr. Kay.

Mr. Kay's WATCH BEEPS.

He looks at his wrist.

MR. KAY

Oh, I gotta go. Work.

EVE

Work doesn't start for another hour
and a half.

MR. KAY

I like being early.

EVE

You could spend more time here.

INGIO

No, it's better to let him go, Eve.
I saw a pordaga snooping on the
other side earlier.

Mr. Kay looks up.

MR. KAY

Which level?

INGIO

34. Top level. Down here at
ground zero is safest. They're
ripping holes like crazy up there.

Ingio looks at Creature Blu.

INGIO (CONT'D)

Ever...she's gone.

Creature Blu doesn't react. Ingio stalks up to her.

INGIO (CONT'D)

I need you to listen, mother. Our
army is dying. We need you to make
more soldiers.

Creature Blu gazes up at her daughter.

CREATURE BLU

I can't.

Mr. Kay looks back at the portal and then at Eve.

MR. KAY

(to Eve; sotto)
Should I stay and listen?

EVE

It's up to you.

Mr. Kay walks up to Creature Blu and sits down.

MR. KAY

Why?

CREATURE BLU

I don't know. I make the mental image of my new child and send it to become physical in my womb, but it just never takes hold. It's like...it dissipates.

INGIO

Were you hurt?

CREATURE BLU

Not that I know of.

(beat; to Mr. Kay)

You are human. You are creative. What do you think might have happened?

Mr. Kay frowns and shakes his head.

MR. KAY

I know human anatomy. I don't know yours, mother.

Ingio gently approaches Creature Blu and whispers something.

Creature Blu stands up quickly.

CREATURE BLU

I would never let you do that!

INGIO

It's about to become the only option.

CREATURE BLU

We can't do that. They might be endangering us, but they are necessary.

EVE

Did you just ask to eat their dimension?

INGIO

It's a quick solution. And I can use the energy to repair our own.

EVE

It isn't all the pordaga. It's just...Ellipsis and their people.

INGIO

Well, if I can't wipe them all out, then we need to contact the igra. Get Gen.

EVE

Gen's busy. Her kingdom has their own issues with Ellipsis.

INGIO

And that's why I need to eat their dimension! They are trying to overthrow us all!

MR. KAY

But that will just set everything off balance.

INGIO

Eve, take your critter away. Go off and play with him like you always do.

Eve's ears pull back.

INGIO (CONT'D)

Don't look at me like that! We're trying to fix this dimension, and all you are doing is prancing around with your humans.

MR. KAY

I think I am going to head out. I'll just keep my things here.

Mr. Kay walks away, and Eve puts her leg in front of him, blocking his path.

EVE

(to Ingio)

I find value in saving people one at a time.

INGIO

Then save us. Save your family one at a time.

Eve looks down at Mr. Kay before gently using her foot to nudge him away. He walks slowly towards the portal.

EVE (O.S.)
 Get Trivis. They are also trying
 to stop Ellipsis. Get some Moving
 Skies to protect us. Also, why
 don't you use your ability in the
 mean time to figure out what
 Ellipsis is afraid of?

INGIO (O.S.)
 I can't get close enough, Eve.

Mr. Kay knocks on the air, and the TAPS ECHO through White
 Space.

EVE (O.S.)
 Then get a Moving Sky and get close
enough.

Mr. Kay slides a white panel aside before crawling through.

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM

The den is filled with quaint furniture and decorations.

THE BACK WALL OF THE FIREPLACE

Scoots aside.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay crawls over the ashes.

INGIO (O.S.)
 Do you know how difficult those
 things are to control? Even if --

Mr. Kay closes the door. He sits upon the hearth and looks
 around the bookshelves in the living room.

A PLAQUE

Sits next to tattered medical books, reading: "AWARDED TO DR.
 HAI KUNG FOR EXCEPTIONAL SURGICAL PRACTICE"

A LINE OF TROPHIES

Glitter in the sunlight falling through the window.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay starts to bawl uncontrollably.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - MIDDAY

Mr. Kay walks past a waiting room, phone in hand. He places it against his ear.

MR. KAY

Hello?

HUA (V.O.)

Hey, I just wanted to call. Are you doing alright?

MR. KAY

Yeah. I just got to work.

HUA (V.O.)

Oh, okay. I --

NURSE runs up to Mr. Kay.

NURSE

Dr. Kay! We just got a call about a bad car accident. We need you right now.

MR. KAY

I gotta go, Hua.

Mr. Kay nods to Nurse. He runs off.

HUA (V.O.)

I am in town. I am coming by later.

MR. KAY

Okay, okay. Just let yourself in. Love you.

HUA (V.O.)

Love you too.

MR. KAY

Bye.

Mr. Kay runs off down the hall.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - WASHROOM - LATER (MOS)

SERIES OF SHOTS

Mr. Kay scrubs his hands down.

MR. KAY (V.O.)
I am thankful for my work, don't
get me wrong. I am exhilarated I
can aid people every day. But the
coldness here, it's different than
the coldness of White Space.

A nurse helps Mr. Kay into a surgery scrub.

MR. KAY (V.O.)
There, it is comfortable. Eve and
they others...they provide this
unusual warmth that sets the soul
ablaze. Especially Eve. But there
is no Eve here.

Mr. Kay walks into the surgery room.

INT. HOSPITAL - SURGERY ROOM (MOS)

SERIES OF SHOTS (SLOW MOTION)

Mr. Kay and his team approach the table, where a young boy
awaits. He is horribly mutilated.

MR. KAY (V.O.)
I am a world class surgeon for two
reasons: to help people and make
money. I fear poverty.

Mr. Kay removes glass from the boy's leg.

MR. KAY (V.O.)
I wonder all the time if I could
ever survive on the streets. I was
raised in caring, middle-class
family. I never had to worry about
money, so I don't know how this all
started.

Mr. Kay stitches up a deep cut.

MR. KAY (V.O.)
As I grew into adulthood and independence became eminent, I started to worry greatly about money. Healthcare was the strongest option to keep my greatest dread at bay.

The boy flatlines.

Mr. Kay whips his head towards the monitor.

MR. KAY (V.O.)
I haven't been worried about debt since I paid off my college loans. I find saving people's lives to be an important thing to do. I want to give back.

A nurse uses a defibrillator.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - BOY'S ROOM - LATER (MOS)

SERIES OF SHOTS

Mr. Kay is talking to the boy and his parents. They are hurt as well but not severely.

MR. KAY (V.O.)
When I was a teen, I wanted to be a comic book artist, giving the world my talents and stories. But I got scared. I could have ended up poor.

The boy's mother hugs Mr. Kay.

MR. KAY (V.O.)
Comics don't save lives.

CUT TO:

EXT. MR. KAY'S HOME - EVENING

Mr. Kay unlocks his front door.

MR. KAY (V.O.)
When I return home after work, I will draw.

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - STUDIO - LATER

Mr. Kay is drawing at his desk, but he stops often.

MR. KAY (V.O.)

I draw for hours and make nothing.
It all just seems so pointless.
Comics don't give. They just sit
there. Yes, they entertain, but
what good is that?

INT. WHITE SPACE - SAME

Eve is sitting, her ears pricked. Creature Blu is laying at her feet.

EVE

And oh, how Mr. Kay is so wrong.
Surgery gives him staggering
paychecks, yes indeed, but how is
his heart doing?

Eve removes her mask and holds it at her chest. Again, we do not see her face.

EVE (CONT'D)

There is nothing there. His
choices eventually stalked him and
trapped him in his own agony. He
feels lost and betrayed by himself.

Eve bends down and rubs her cheek on Creature Blu's head.

EVE (CONT'D)

The stories he wants to tell are
billowing through his mind, but
they are going to be trapped there
forever unless he does something.

CREATURE BLU

Why is he hurting himself? He is
so talented.

EVE

His fright keeps him where he is.
And right now, there is no leaving.

(beat)

He doesn't have enough time to
follow his profession and make
grand series about superheroes or
the lives of comical old ladies or
a homeless mutt.

CREATURE BLU
Is he that unwell?

EVE
Yes. He's seen two therapists in
the past.

FLASHBACK - INT. FEMALE THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY (MOS)

Mr. Kay and a female therapist talk together, their forms
silhouetted against a window.

EVE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The first, the woman, always forgot
what he told her. What kind of
therapist is that? Who doesn't
remember their own patients?

EXT. WHITE SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Eve shakes her head while putting her mask back on.

EVE
Whatever. Mr. Kay left her, and
that's all that matters. The male
therapist was good.

FLASHBACK - INT. DOCTOR JAIME'S OFFICE - DAY (MOS)

The male therapist, DOCTOR JAIME, laughs with Mr. Kay.

EVE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He was nice. Very jolly.

CREATURE BLU (V.O.)
He's the one that diagnosed him
with depression.

EVE (V.O.)
Yes.

FLASHBACK - INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - BATHROOM - NIGHT (MOS)

Mr. Kay gazes at his bottle of pills as he stands in front of
the toilet.

EVE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Mr. Kay got medicine and got
better, but he didn't go back when
the pills stopped working.

Mr. Kay dumps the pills into the toilet.

CLOSE SHOT - PILLS (SLOW MOTION)

The pills fall into the water.

EVE (V.O.)

He thought that if his medicine didn't work, then he would be sad forever. He even continued to refill his prescription so Doctor Jaime wouldn't suspect he was unwell.

EXT. WHITE SPACE - SAME

Creature Blu looks up at Eve.

CREATURE BLU

But you know. You know what the matter is.

EVE

Yes. I figured that out. He has a daughter, right? I might have mentioned it before.

CREATURE BLU

Yes, he does. Hua.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

HUA'S BUTTERED TOAST

Is untouched on her plate.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay and Hua are sitting at the dining table. Mr. Kay drinks some of his coffee as he stares at a damp newspaper in his hand.

He turns it towards Hua.

MR. KAY

Oh look, Hua, there's an art show in Brooklyn this weekend. Do you wanna go?

HUA

Sure. I've been meaning to learn about some new artists. Weren't you going to set up a booth sometime?

Hua eats some of her dinner.

MR. KAY

Not anymore.

HUA

Why?

MR. KAY

Just not really interested.

HUA

Oh. Do you still have the spreadsheet of the expenses for an art booth? Like the slot rent and the framing supplies?

MR. KAY

I think so.

HUA

Maybe taking a look at it would help you become interested again.

(beat)

Look, I think I am going to move in with you.

MR. KAY

Oh, of course. You are always welcome here.

HUA

No, not for me. For you.

Mr. Kay puts his newspaper on the table and looks at her with bleary eyes.

MR. KAY

Me?

Hua pushes her plate away.

HUA

Yeah. I'm going to stay here for a bit.

MR. KAY

But college.

HUA

I talked to my professors, and I'm transferring to online.

MR. KAY

What? Why?

HUA

I know you haven't been eating. Your clothes fit looser. When I came at Christmas, you looked much heavier. No unhealthy heavy.

(gesturing to her father's figure)

But just not like this.

MR. KAY

I've just been eating better.

HUA

Dad, I know you haven't been eating regularly. Plus, you've always ate well.

Hua eats some more.

HUA (CONT'D)

When we would talk on the phone, just you catching up, your voice became weaker over time. I knew something was wrong. You sounded like you did before you saw Doctor Jaime.

MR. KAY

I feel okay.

HUA

But I know you aren't.

Hua takes her father's hands into her own.

MR. KAY

(sotto)

Hua?

HUA
 (sotto)
 Dad?

MR. KAY
 I am okay. You have your career
 ahead of you. I am not taking that
 away from you.

HUA
 You are not going to take away my
 career. I need you to eat
 something. I can make you some
 steamed vegetables.

MR. KAY
 I'm not hungry.

HUA
 What about some carrots?

Mr. Kay hesitates.

He nods.

Hua gets up and approaches the stove. She sets up a pot and
 steam tray.

HUA (CONT'D)
 I really don't want to leave you
 alone.

MR. KAY
 No, you gotta go to college.

Hua takes a bag of carrots out of the fridge.

HUA
 College can wait.

MR. KAY
 I'm not letting you sacrifice your
 education for me.

She rinses the carrots off.

HUA
 You need to go back to Jaime or
 someone else.

MR. KAY
 I'm already seeing a new therapist.

HUA

Who?

MR. KAY

Doctor Eve.

Mr. Kay returns to reading the paper, drinking his coffee.

Hua gently puts the carrots in the steam tray and lights the gas on the stove.

HUA

Who is Doctor Eve?

MR. KAY

The new therapist.

HUA

Hmm.

MR. KAY

What? She is. I just started seeing her. You'll see improvement soon.

Hua gets up from the table.

HUA

I'm...I'm going to get my things from the car. After you eat. And...

(looking around)

I think we need to clean a bit.

MR. KAY

(nodding)

Yeah, it's been a minute since I cleaned.

Mr. Kay gets up from the table.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)

I'll get started.

HUA

You need to eat first.

Mr. Kay sits back down.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - KITCHEN - LATER

Mr. Kay picks up a dirty plate out of sudsy water with his gloved hands.

Hua vacuums the grayish carpets in the living room.

Hua comes into the kitchen and empties the vacuum.

HUA
When was the last time you
vacuumed?

MR. KAY
I don't really know.

Hua looks around, slightly concerned.

HUA
How are dishes coming?

MR. KAY
Slowly.

HUA
Same for me.
(beat)
I am going to get dusting done. Do
you want to do the windows.

MR. KAY
Sure.

Hua nods and retreats to the study with a duster in hand.

Mr. Kay pulls off his gloves and runs to the living room.

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM

Mr. Kay crawls into the fireplace and hits the back of the brick firebox rapidly.

A GRANDFATHER CLOCK

Reads 8:34. The CLOCK TICKS.

BACK TO SCENE

The wall gently opens, and Mr. Kay creeps through.

INT. WHITE SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Eve is laying down, watching flying flowery insects fly about, petting their small heads.

ONE OF THE INSECTS

Opens its mouth to show Eve a glittery blossom.

BACK TO SCENE

EVE PURRS, and she turns to Mr. Kay.

EVE
Oh, hello. Look at these.

Eve gently scoops one of the creature out of the air and holds it out to Mr. Kay.

EVE (CONT'D)
What should we call them?

Mr. Kay looks at his feet.

EVE (CONT'D)
I like the name "flutters". They are sweet and like to float around your head. They're from Protegia. I don't want Ingio to eat Protegia. There are so many amazing things there.

MR. KAY
I'm scared.

Mr. Kay runs up to Eve and embraces her leg.

EVE
Why? The pordaga are up there.

MR. KAY
No. It's Hua.

EVE
Oh, I did hear a bit of that. I was listening. Walls between dimensions are pretty thin.
(beat)
She just wants to help you, Mr. Kay.

Mr. Kays pushes away and stomps on the floor, and GREAT VIBRATIONS RUMBLE through White space.

The FLUTTERS SQUAWK and dash away through a portal.

Eve watches them and flicks her ears.

EVE (CONT'D)

(annoyed)

It took me a long time to get them here. Protegia dimension creatures are difficult to fool.

MR. KAY

Eve, just heal me!

Eve crouches down before forcing her masked face into Mr. Kay's.

EVE

(gently)

Mr. Kay, we have only been talking about your depression for three days. It took you weeks after discovering White Space to finally get used to me and understand what all this is.

MR. KAY

Maybe if this place wasn't so strange then we could have started sooner! I could have been better by now!

EVE

Mr. Kay.

MR. KAY

It's not my fault that this interdimensional realm is so confusing! Where there's no ground, there's a floor. Ceilings are walls but also everything is infinite and nothing!

EVE

Mr. Kay.

MR. KAY

I'm standing on something, but I could be sideways or diagonal or inverted right now. You understand it! You live here!

EVE

(firmly)

Mr. Kay, I am no wizard. I can't just cast a spell. There are things you can do to help yourself, starting with meals that aren't just a cup of coffee.

Mr. Kay shakes his head, his eyes glossy from tears.

EVE (CONT'D)

The human body, your body, needs more than fluids. You need energy.

MR. KAY

I don't want Hua to move in.

EVE

I understand, but let her. She cares for you, and I think she can help you heal.

Eve hugs Mr. Kay.

EVE (CONT'D)

We know what is causing all of this, but with her help, I think I can show you that you are safe to pursue your dream.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER

THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK

Reads 8:34.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay sits upon the mantle and stares at his blackened hands.

Hua comes out of the study and into the living room. A towel is on her shoulder.

HUA

Are you alright?

Mr. Kay nods.

Hua sits down beside Mr. Kay.

HUA (CONT'D)
I am going to call up Doctor Jaime later to set an appointment. How does Monday sound?

MR. KAY
He's just going to up my dose.

Hua takes the towel off her shoulder and starts cleaning her father's hands.

HUA
But maybe that's what you need.

Mr. Kay shakes his head.

MR. KAY
I haven't been taking it.

HUA
Your medication?

MR. KAY
Yes.

HUA
Why did you stop?

MR. KAY
They weren't working. I decided...I thought there just wasn't any point in taking them.

Hua folds up the towel and puts it on the floor.

HUA
But that is very, very dangerous. You can get ataxia and panic attacks.
(beat)
But you know that. You're a doctor.
(beat)
You never talked to Jaime?

MR. KAY
No.

HUA
Oh. I'm...I'm going to go call Jaime.

Hua gets up and goes to the kitchen, taking out her phone.

MR. KAY
 (calling over to Hua)
 I'll have to ask off for Monday,
 but I don't know if they will give
 it to me.

HUA (O.S.)
 Just say it's an emergency.

MR. KAY
 Okay.

HUA (O.S.)
 Jaime? This is Kung Hai's
 daughter, Hua...Yes, hi, um, Dad
 just told me that he hasn't been
 taking his medication...lemme see.

Hua looks around the corner.

HUA (CONT'D)
 Dad, how long have you been without
 medication?

MR. KAY
 A couple weeks.

HUA
 Do you have a date?

Mr. Kay counts slowly on his fingers.

MR. KAY
 Since May 12th. When school got
 out.

HUA
 Okay.

Hua goes back into the kitchen.

HUA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Since about May 12th...no, no
 symptoms. I wanted to get an
 appointment with you on Monday.

MR. KAY
 (voice raised)
 What's he saying?

HUA (O.S.)
 You sure you don't want to get him
 in sooner? We are free
 tonight...oh, okay.

Hua comes into the living room and crouches near Mr. Kay.
 She holds out the phone. It is on speaker.

DR. JAIME (V.O.)
 Hai? Can you hear me?

MR. KAY
 Yes.

DR. JAIME (V.O.)
 I would ask if you are okay, but
 that doesn't seem to be the case.
 What's up?

Mr. Kay wipes his nose.

MR. KAY
 I'm hopeless.
 (long beat)
 I don't think I am ever going to
 get better. I feel like I am
 trapped.

DR. JAIME (V.O.)
 What's making you feel trapped?

MR. KAY
 Work. I am always there.

DR. JAIME (V.O.)
 Hmm.
 (long beat)
 Were you feeling any better with
 the medication?

MR. KAY
 A little bit, but then it went
 away. I...I flushed it all down
 the toilet.

DR. JAIME (V.O.)
 And you kept buying more so I
 wouldn't suspect.

MR. KAY
 Yeah.

They are quiet for a bit.

DR. JAIME (V.O.)
What are you thinking?

MR. KAY
What?

DR. JAIME (V.O.)
Like what's going on? Why is
working making you feel so
hopeless?

MR. KAY
I...I feel like I am never going to
escape it. Like I'll never be
happy. I need something beyond
what you are able to give me.

DR. JAIME (V.O.)
What do you mean?

MR. KAY
I don't know. I just don't think
you are able to help me.

DR. JAIME (V.O.)
Oh. Hmm. Do you want to come in
tomorrow morning?

MR. KAY
Tomorrow morning is alright.

DR. JAIME (V.O.)
Okay. Hua, can you hear me?

HUA
Yes.

DR. JAIME (V.O.)
I need you to stay with your
father. No going out with friends.
Make sure you can always see him.
Hai, you aren't feeling suicidal,
are you?

MR. KAY
No, sir.

DR. JAIME (V.O.)
Okay. Please call me or tell Hua
if you ever are. Even just a bit.
You are going to get better, and I
promise you that.

MR. KAY

Okay.

DR. JAIME (V.O.)

Okay.

(beat)

Also, do something fun tonight.

Nothing to do with work.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - STUDY - NIGHT

The study is cute, filled with potted plants and aged books. It is comfy. Mr. Kay is sitting in a chair in the corner.

A MEDICAL TEXTBOOK

Sits in Mr. Kay's lap. It depicts illustration of bile ducts.

BACK TO SCENE

Hua slips into the study with a small paperback in her clutches.

HUA

Can I come read?

MR. KAY

Oh, of course, of course.

Mr. Kay gestures to the wicker rocking chair next to him.

Hua slips a pink pillow off another chair and places it in the rocking chair before sitting down. She peels open her novel.

HUA

What are you reading?

MR. KAY

Just brushing up on some biology.

HUA

What part?

MR. KAY

Digestion.

They remain quiet for a second.

Hua gently closes his book before pulling another book off the shelf behind her. She puts it in her father's lap.

HUA

Dr. Jaime told you not to focus on work. You like Don Quixote, right?

MR. KAY

Yeah.

Mr. Kay opens the novel to where his bookmark is.

HUA

Did all of this start because Mom left?

MR. KAY

Hmm? Oh, no, no, I am happy for her. She likes the volunteer work the church gave her.

Mr. Kay smiles brightly.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)

She emailed me yesterday. Says the school she and the other ladies are building is coming along great.

HUA

Oh.

Hua turns back to her story and reads a few pages.

HUA (CONT'D)

But are you sad because she is gone? Are you upset she isn't here?

MR. KAY

A little. But this was going on when she was here. I was able to...control it a bit better.

HUA

But now you're alone.

MR. KAY

Yes.

HUA

I'll stay here as long as you need, okay?

MR. KAY

Okay.

Hua reads a few more pages of her book.

HUA

But you still draw, right? It makes you happy.

MR. KAY

Sometimes. I don't have a lot of time to. I don't have nearly enough time to make a comic book.

Hua furrows her brow and stares ahead.

HUA

But when I call you, at school, you tell me about your day, and you talk about all the paintings you make.

MR. KAY

I haven't finished a painting in a long time.

HUA

(gentle yet concerned)
Why would you lie?

MR. KAY

It makes you feel better. I didn't want you to worry. I wanted you to focus on your career.

Hua puts her novel on the floor.

HUA

But you are my father. I love you.

MR. KAY

But I want you to be successful. I don't want you to focus on me.

HUA

I know, and I am thankful, but you need to be cared for.

MR. KAY

I know, I know.

(beat)

How is school going, by the way?

Hua sighs.

HUA
It's going good. A company is already interested in getting me in for an internship.

MR. KAY
Oooh, very nice. What for? What will you do?

HUA
Just logo design. It's a small company.

MR. KAY
But you want to be a book illustrator.

HUA
Yes, but I just want some experience right now. My digital design professor said I will get a lot of experience. I'm building my portfolio right now.

Hua stands up and holds her hand out to Mr. Kay.

HUA (CONT'D)
And speaking about that, to the basement. I wanna see your studio.

Mr. Kay frowns.

MR. KAY
Why?

HUA
I want to see what you have been working on. I want to see with you. It's been awhile since I saw your art.

MR. KAY
But I don't have anything.

HUA
Have you started anything?

MR. KAY
A few pieces.

HUA
And I would like to see them.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - STUDIO - 5 MINUTES LATER

Numerous lamps light up around the room.

Hua slowly stalks about the perimeter of the room.

There are sketches of storyboards and characters thumbtacked onto the mahogany wood.

HUA
What's that smell?

MR. KAY
The sour one? Or the chemically one?

HUA
I think chemical, yeah.

MR. KAY
Fixative.

HUA
Oh, okay. I haven't smelled it that strong before.

Hua unlocks one of the windows and opens it.

Hua turns around and stops before one of the drawings.

HUA (CONT'D)
Who's this? Are they a new character?

Mr. Kay ambles up to her, squinting his eyes. His expression suddenly drops.

A DRAWING OF EVE

Is on the wall.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay rips the page off the wall and folds it up.

MR. KAY
Oh, not important.

HUA
(happily)
Dad, I wanna see.

Hua grins, thinking it is a game, and she reaches out for the illustration. Mr. Kay shoves the drawing into his pocket.

MR. KAY

It is no concern of yours. She is a villain.

HUA

Oh, I like those.

MR. KAY

You wouldn't like her.

HUA

I still want to see her.

Mr. Kay pulls away.

Hua's smile drops, and she puts a hand on his shoulder.

HUA (CONT'D)

(sotto)

Dad? What's wrong?

Mr. Kay removes the drawing from his pocket and peels it open.

THE DRAWING OF EVE

Smiles back.

HUA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Dad?

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay hands the page to his daughter.

MR. KAY

Hua, this is Eve. Doctor Eve.

HUA

Doctor Eve?

Hua grows pale.

HUA (CONT'D)

She isn't a person?

MR. KAY

No. She is a creature from White Space, a connecting dimension between our world and many others.

Hua slowly walks away from her father, pressing her fingers to her mouth.

HUA

Dad, are you okay?

MR. KAY

No, but Eve is helping me. All these creatures are helping me.

HUA

But...but we are alone.

MR. KAY

Alone?

HUA

The universe. It's just us and then the infinite black. Earth is the only place with life. What you're saying doesn't make sense.

MR. KAY

But it's real. All of what I have seen...is real.

Hua is staring at Mr. Kay, eyes wide.

HUA

Dad, do I need to call Mom?

MR. KAY

What? No.

Mr. Kay grabs Hua's wrist and drags her upstairs.

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - BASEMENT STAIRWELL

MR. KAY

I am going to show you Eve.

Hua snaps her shoulder back and yanks her limb away from her father's clutch.

Eve's drawing is locked in her fist.

HUA

Dad, I'm calling Mom.

Mr. Kay shakily walks backwards up the stairs, holding his hands out.

MR. KAY
Hua, just let me show you. Please.

HUA
Let me call Mom.

MR. KAY
Hua, no. It'll...it'll all make sense soon.

Mr. Kay dashes through the door to the living room. Hua pursues him.

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM

Hua rushes into the living room.

Mr. Kay is in the fireplace, slapping on the walls.

HUA
Dad, stop it!

Hua crawls over the hearth and pulls on his waist.

MR. KAY
Hua, just give it a minute!

Hua looks around her.

CHARRED LOGS AND THE FIREPLACE GRATE

Are in the corner of the living room.

BACK TO SCENE

HUA
(sotto; brow furrowed)
How many times have you been in the fireplace?

Hua whips her head towards her father as the BACK OF THE FIREPLACE GROANS.

HUA (CONT'D)
We are going to call...

The back of the fireplace slides open.

MR. KAY
(gesturing)
Eve.

Hua gazes at him, wide eyed. Mr. Kay gently holds his hand out to Hua, and she starts to cry.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
Oh, dear, it's okay!

Mr. Kay hugs her.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
It's weird, I know, but it is a safe, wonderful place. There is no society, no judgement. Just endless places you can go and infinite things you can make.

HUA
It's not real! I don't want to see it! Oh God, and I really don't want to see Eve!

MR. KAY
Oh, she isn't as bad as you think she is. Uh...she smells like peppermints!

HUA
What?

MR. KAY
Yeah, she is like Christmas. She smells like mint, and she likes to play. Eve's very...different, but she wants to save me. She knows about you.

HUA
Me?

MR. KAY
Yes, of course. She wants to meet you, become friends. Eve thinks you and her can help me.

Hua closes her eyes and buries her head into her father's chest.

CUT TO:

INT. WHITE SPACE - LATER

Eve crouches before Hua on all fours.

Hua jumps as some strange creatures blasts through a portal behind Eve and dashes into another.

EVE

(re: the creature passing through)

Animals use this place to travel. Other species do as well, but this place confuses them. They don't travel through here as much.

Eve leans towards Hua, interested in the new human.

EVE (CONT'D)

Animals don't think about why or how. They just accept the what. It is interesting. It is a gift of evolution, a wondering brain that is, but it also strips realms like these of normality.

Hua gently places her hand on Eve's mask, and she slowly looks down before jumping.

MR. KAY

Sorry. It takes awhile to get used to.

EVE

What's it like? Why are humans afraid of the ground?

HUA

It's like...traveling on a glass bridge over a canyon or cliff. You see the drop out of the corner of your vision, and you get scared because you think you might fall. Then you look down and see that you are safe.

(beat)

It just feels like we are floating.

EVE

What's a canyon like?

MR. KAY

It's like...a rip in the earth. And sometimes there's rivers in them.

EVE

Your world seems very interesting.
Lots of things. So much beauty.

HUA

Have you never been?

EVE

My job is here. I am made for this world, just like how you are made for yours. I have never left. I have looked through portals but never passed over. I mostly look at Protegia.

HUA

Protegia?

EVE

It's a very intricate world filled with creatures...I actually cannot say too much about it without my mother's permission. She has to approve who knows.

HUA

Oh.

Mr. Kay leans over to Hua, cupping his hand around her ear.

MR. KAY

(whispering)

Protegia has the por --

EVE

Mr. Kay.

Mr. Kay pulls slowly away from his daughter.

EVE (CONT'D)

And those who have been told cannot tell others without the permission of Kelpakaichi.

Mr. Kay gently nods.

HUA

Is that your mother?

EVE

Yes. Also known as Creature Blu or The Great Mother.

Hua runs her fingers over the carved smile in Eve's mask.

HUA
What's the mask for?

EVE
To hide my face. It seems to
disturb humans.

HUA
How come?

MR. KAY
Because it's the scariest thing in
the world.

HUA
How can a face be scary?

Hua pets Eve's ears. Eve lays down, and she wags her tail.

MR. KAY
It...it just is.

Mr. Kay brushes off a scuff on Eve's mask.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
I don't know how to explain it.
Eve shows people when they are
ready to see it.

HUA
Oh, okay.

Mr. Kay and Hua pet Eve in silence. Ingio bursts through a
portal.

INGIO
(to Eve)
Have you seen father?

EVE
He was around level 4 earlier.

MR. KAY
(whispering; to Hua)
That's Ingio. She is like White
Space's Athena.

HUA
(whispering)
She's a...warlord?

MR. KAY
(whispering)
Yes. Very powerful.
(MORE)

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
 Protects White Space.
 (normal voice)
 Oh, Eve, where's the new mask I
 made you?

Eve lifts her head, her ears going straight up and curving
 inwards like grand devil horns.

EVE
 I wanted to put it on again when
 you got back.

Eve walks over a few meters and pulls up an invisible panel,
 revealing a black pit.

INGIO
 (re: the hole)
 How do you find those? I still am
 having trouble finding a place to
 put my things.

EVE
 They are only on level zero. Just
 stomp around and listen for a
 hollow sound.

She reaches in and pulls out the Oni mask.

She switches out her masks and returns to the others.

EVE (CONT'D)
 I like its smile.

Mr. Kay laughs and gently touches the Oni's horns.

MR. KAY
 It looks good.

Mr. Kay brings Hua into a strong hug. White Space is silent,
 but a DISTANT HUSH, like someone continually breathing out,
 can be heard.

HUA
 What's that noise?

Eve looks over her shoulder and back at Hua.

EVE
 Just White Space. It's the sound
 of the energy moving.

HUA
 It's nice.
 (beat; sotto; to Mr. Kay)
 (MORE)

HUA (CONT'D)
 Absolute silence would have driven
 me mad.

Mr. Kay nods, and Hua separates herself from her father's
 embrace. She is giddy.

HUA (CONT'D)
 Sorry, I have so many questions!

EVE
 Yes?

HUA
 How many ways can someone get into
 White Space?

Eve stands and rises back up to her incredible twelve foot
 height, and she adjusts her mass upon her feet, tilting her
 feet this way and that.

EVE
 Entrances open randomly, my dear
 Hua. I do get quite a few children
 wandering into here because of it.

Hua furrows her brow.

INGIO
 They are alright.

EVE
 Yes. I help them get home, do not
 fret. These openings typically
 form where there is emotional
 instability, making them easier to
 come about. It is easier to tear a
 rip in space-time if it is weak, is
 it not?

HUA
 I guess.

Eve rubs her front hooves together.

MR. KAY
 (whispering into Hua's
 ear)
 That means she is laughing.

HUA
 (grinning; whispering)
 Laughing?

MR. KAY
 (whispering)
 She does it when she thinks
 something funny happened. She
 thinks your...agreement was funny.

HUA
 (whispering)
 Oh.

A SMALL BLACK PIT

Opens nears Hua's foot. Ingio stomps on it.

BACK TO SCENE

MR. KAY
 Everything alright?

Ingio lifts her foot. The pit is gone.

INGIO
 Yes.

Ingio walks up to Eve. Eve bends down so Ingio can whisper
 in her ear.

INGIO (CONT'D)
 Get them out of here soon. The
 pordaga are coming down.

Ingio runs off, and small hexagonal platforms appear before
 her.

They form a staircase, and she bounds up them. The PLATFORMS
 emit a shrill SOUND after Ingio jumps on them.

Eve watches her climb up before looking back down at the
 humans.

EVE
 Yes, these openings form where
 there are troubled people.
 Children in abusive households
 often come here, and I help guide
 them to safety and give them
 advice.
 (beat)
 I remember my first human.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - EXT. WHITE SPACE

A young Russian boy, ANDREJ, comes into White Space. He speaks exclusively in Russian WITH SUBTITLES:

ANDREJ

Hello?

Eve approaches Andrej, her ears back. She does not have a mask.

We do not see Eve's face.

Andrej steps back.

ANDREJ (CONT'D)

Are you a leshy?

Eve speaks in Russian WITH SUBTITLES:

EVE

A leshy?

ANDREJ

My father told me about them.
Trickster spirits.

(beat)

You scare me.

EVE

I do not wish to scare you. My
name is Eve; what is yours?

ANDREJ

My father told me not to tell
strangers my name.

EVE

Fair enough. That is excellent
advice. Is your father a smart
man?

ANDREJ

Yes. He makes a lot of money.

Eve pricks her ears.

EVE

But what does money have to do with
intelligence?

ANDREJ

He knows math. He got a good job
with it.

EVE

Ah, I see. So he has an abundance
of logical intelligence?

Andrej turns away and tries to get out of White Space. The
portal is not there.

ANDREJ

Where is my door?

EVE

Sometimes the portal closes.

(beat)

Logical intelligence?

ANDREJ

What are you trying to fool me
about?

EVE

Nothing. I just want to know about
who you are. I have never seen a
creature like you.

ANDREJ

Leshy knows what a human looks
like.

EVE

A human? That is what you are?
Well, I am not a leshy because I
did not know you are a human. I am
an Eve.

ANDREJ

Eve is strange.

EVE

You are strange.

Andrej takes in a deep breath.

ANDREJ

My name is Andrej.

EVE

Hello, young Andrej. Did something
happen to you today?

Andrej looks around, confused.

EVE (CONT'D)
Portals open here when someone is
upset or angry or something of the
like.

ANDREJ
My father was angry.

EVE
Oh.

ANDREJ
He called me a bastard child. He
calls me that a lot.

EVE
And what did you do to be called
that?

ANDREJ
I don't know. I was just playing
outside in the lot, and he said I
was a lazy fuck. I just wanted to
play with my ball.

Eve lowers her ears to her cheeks.

ANDREJ (CONT'D)
And he kicked me.

Andrej lifts his shirt to reveal his side. His skin is
covered in bruises.

EVE
Oh my.

Eve lowers her head to examine his injuries.

EVE (CONT'D)
Your ribs are broken, dear.

Eve turns, and she cups her hand around a faint, gray hole.
This is a pinprick. She calls UNLYUS, the father of White
Space.

EVE (CONT'D)
Unlyus, can you hear me?

UNLYUS (V.O.)
Yes...Eve.

EVE
I have a hurt child on level 2.

UNLYUS (V.O.)

Coming...

Eve turns back to Andrej, and Unlyus, a smokey creature, zips out of a portal, forming a large black cloud behind Eve.

Andrej shrinks back.

ANDREJ

Demon!

EVE

No, no. My father, like me, is also safe. He raised me to be kind.

Unlyus approaches Andrej and sets his hands on Andrej's head.

EVE (CONT'D)

You will get better soon. Tell me more about what happened.

Andrej looks cautiously at Unlyus's face.

ANDREJ

I went inside to work on homework. I don't cry anymore about it. It happens all the time. Then I walked into here.

EVE

This is White Space, Andrej. It is a dimensions that connects all others.

(beat)

I am sorry about what happened.

Unlyus pulls away, and Andrej lifts his shirt. The bruises are gone.

They stay quiet for a minute.

ANDREJ

Can I stay here?

EVE

Not forever, but for the time being, yes.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE SPACE

Hua nervously plays with her skirt.

HUA
You kidnapped?

EVE
I rather steal a child away from
their horrible home than leave them
to suffer, yes?

Hua furrows her brow.

HUA
But how do you know he would be
going somewhere better?

EVE
I have...friends on the other side.
I have other humans I know. Those
who want to help in my cause. I
get to know them. I know that
these children are being put into
good homes. I talked to other
families before I decided which one
Andrej should go to. It was a
lengthy process.

HUA
But...but you aren't their parent.

EVE
I see you are conflicted, Hua. And
I understand. But Andrej taught me
multitudes about humans.

FLASHBACK - EXT. WHITE SPACE

SERIES OF SHOTS

Andrej pets Eve's neck.

EVE (V.O.)
We were scared of each other. Him
more than me. I was still getting
used to humanity's unusual gestures
and appearance, but I soon came to
adore your species.

Andrej is riding on Eve's back.

EVE (V.O.)

There is a common good in your kind even though you all don't believe it. Yes, there are so many nasty things that happen, but in the end, I have noticed the stronger good will slay the weaker evil. Your species is very confused, but that is where I come to help.

Andrej is sitting on the ground before Eve, crying, and she wipes his tears with her hoof.

EVE (V.O.)

I might not be able to save everyone who is hurt, but I will do what I can. I have helped six children, and Mr. Kay, you are my first adult. Those children taught me how to be delicate with the human soul. They taught me how your kind's mind functions.

Andrej draws Eve's mask with his finger, black ink coming from his nail.

EVE (V.O.)

All of its strengths and faults were shown to me, and I want to use that power to heal the distraught of humanity.

The mask becomes physical in Andrej's hands.

EVE (V.O.)

White Space is a brilliant realm for my work.

Eve places the mask over her face.

EVE (V.O.)

The pained are automatically revealed to me, and they can come to this empty world. This is a place of nothing, but nothing is not bad.

Andrej hugs Eve's masked face.

EVE (V.O.)

There is peace. It is not overwhelming.

(MORE)

EVE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
A balanced mind can be found here,
and I want to balance you, Mr. Kay.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE SPACE

Eve tilts her head down to the humans before her.

White Space's unknown source of illumination swings about, causing their shadows to fly around across their body. They do not cast shadows.

EVE
Now, Hua, what do you know about
your father's state?

Hua nervously toys with her ebony hair, weaving it into a small braid next to her temple.

HUA
All of it.

Eve lowers her ears and nods.

EVE'S HOOVES CLICK as she pats her palms together, thinking.

EVE
Mr. Kay, I need you to fetch your
paint.

Mr. Kay nods and dashes up to where the fireplace portal is.

His fingers flutter through the air as he feels around, and he pats something solid.

He ducks through the portal as it opens.

HUA
Wait! I want to come --

Mr. Kay is gone.

Hua turns back around.

EVE'S MASK

Is gripped in her paws, but she drops it in response to Hua screaming. The CLATTER of the MASK ECHOES through White Space.

HUA'S EYES

Quiver.

THE FACE OF EVE

Is like a pit in her head, and the jaw of a dog is placed within it along with a mirror. The objects appear to be placed there for safe keeping. Hua can see her reflection.

HUA

Is briefly distracted by a portal opening.

UNLYUS

Slips through portals.

THE TENDONS

In Eve's head squirm and stretch as she speaks.

EVE

I...I didn't mean to scare you like that, Hua.

BACK TO SCENE

EVE (CONT'D)

You were curious, so I decided --

Hua looks awkwardly at her feet, and Eve slowly masks herself.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE SPACE

Mr. Kay dashes into White Space, brush and paint in hand. Eve steps to the side, extending her arm as if presenting White Space.

EVE

Create. Let your imagination erupt in any way possible. Draw anything that comes to mind. White Space is yours.

Mr. Kay fixes his tie, loosening its grip on throat, before creeping forward.

INSERT - MR. KAY'S HAND

Fumbles with the jar's cap before removing it.

MR. KAY

Places the cap onto the floor and paints upon the air.

THE HANGING DARK STREAKS

Take the form of a family of foxes.

THE FAMILY OF FOXES

Have extra large ears and puffy tails.

MR. KAY

Corrects some of the linework.

THE MOTHER

Is looking over her bony shoulder.

HER KITS

Are running after her.

MR. KAY

Slams his fist upon the air, bringing the drawings into material form.

SCARLET FUR

Grows around the lineart.

BUNDLES OF MUSCLES AND BONES

Grow in the air.

THE STOMACHS

Form and fill with acid.

THE LUNGS

Grow and form intricate masses of bronchioles and flowery alveoli.

BLOOD

Surges about the air.

THE HEARTS

Squirm into existence.

THE TRIO OF COMPLETE FOXES

Take off running, happy to play.

BACK TO SCENE

The foxes run around Mr. Kay's feet, stopping to sniff his socks and nibble on the hem of his navy slacks.

Mr. Kay kneels and strokes their fur.

A BLACK CIRCLE

Bubbles up under Mr. Kay's feet.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay jumps back, and the circle follows him.

The foxes jump up and down, excited about the discovery.

EVE (CONT'D)

Your mind is finally letting itself
loose, Mr. Kay.

Eve brushes some of the matted fur upon her chest and loosens a couple knots.

EVE (CONT'D)
 You are no longer tied to your art tools. The true weapon of the artist is a free mind. Now, create with the power of your brain. Use the power of adastrias.

MR. KAY
 Adastrias?

EVE
 The ability to create in White Space without tools. Andrej was the first to master it.

INSERT - MR. KAY'S FOOT

Mr. Kay lifts his leg, and the tar like substance snags onto his shoe.

THE BLACKISH FLUID

Turns a holographic blue as White Space's illumination reflects off its surface.

BACK TO SCENE

MR. KAY
 What do I do?

Eve trots up to Mr. Kay, her steps bright. She does a slow twirl, her weight preventing her from elegant movement.

EVE
 Dance, my dear! Dance and let your mind craft.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay gingerly nods and ambles off, gazing periodically over his shoulder at the black footprints.

He grows small as he travels away.

EVE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 It's strange it's going through his feet.

HUA (O.S.)
 What?

Mr. Kay jumps on the ground, causing a great spurt of ink to explode across the world.

EVE (O.S.)
 Adastrias is usually produced
 through the fingers, not the feet.

Hua and Eve follow the dark remnants of his creation.

HUA
 Maybe it's an age thing. Like
 children have adastrias in their
 fingers while adults have it in
 their feet.

EVE
 True.

Hua looks up at Eve.

HUA
 Eve?

EVE
 Yes?

HUA
 Where are you from?

EVE
 White Space.

Hua nibbles on her dried lip.

HUA
 That was kinda a stupid question.

EVE
 No question is stupid.
 (beat)
 Actually, some are. But that
 wasn't a stupid one.

Hua smirks.

HUA
 Are you the only one here?

EVE
 Of my species?

HUA
 Yes.

EVE
I am the only one of my kind, yes.
Creature Blu, my mother and the
controller of White Space, makes
all of us unique.

Eve gestures to her head.

EVE (CONT'D)
She designs us in her mind and then
her body transforms the ideas into
genetic code.

Eve pats her stomach.

EVE (CONT'D)
We form in her womb before she
gives birth. White Space is an
amazing place where mind always
becomes matter.

HUA
Ah.

Hua ducks her head and puts her knuckle on her chin,
thinking.

EVE
You should meet her one day.

Eve strokes her ears, trying to undo some of the fur's knots.

EVE (CONT'D)
Blu doesn't have eyes. She sees in
third person in White Space but
uses synthetic eyes when she goes
to other dimensions.

HUA
Synthetic eyes?

EVE
Yes, like doll eyes, drawings of
eyes. Anything not naturally
occurring. She has a collection of
toys.

HUA
Does she keep them in the holes you
kept your mask in?

EVE
Yes.

HUA

How...how do you see? Can you see?

EVE

Ah, I get that one from all humans I reveal my true face to. I can see, and it is just like how my mother does. I am looking from over there right now.

Eve points to her upper right.

EVE (CONT'D)

Andrej made my mask for me because I disturbed him so much, and I know what I look like. It does not scare me, but humans are built to see a face as eyes, nose, and mouth.

Eve points at the corresponding facial features on her mask as she speaks.

EVE (CONT'D)

Kelpa and I have, how should I say it, a floating eye? It is energy surrounding us that transfers imagery to our brains. My brain is long and wraps around the chamber inside my head. The jaw and mirror are not part of me.

Eve removes her mask and takes out the jaw and mirror.

EVE (CONT'D)

I like to put sentimental items in my chamber. I can see anything up to fifteen meters surrounding me at any angle.

Eve puts the objects back in their place and secures her mask on her head.

INSERT - HUA'S HAND

Hua puts her hand behind her back and forms a peace sign.

BACK TO SCENE

HUA

What's special about the jaw and mirror?

EVE

The jaw was a gift from Andrej. I miss him so. The mirror is so people can see themselves. I have noticed that organisms are afraid to view themselves for some reason.

HUA

Oh, okay.

Hua grins mischievously.

HUA (CONT'D)

How many fingers am I holding up?

EVE

Two.

Hua humorously rolls her eyes.

INSERT - HUA'S HAND

Hua puts down one finger.

BACK TO SCENE

Hua reveals her changed hand to the beast.

HUA

Wrong, wrong, Eve.

Eve pats Hua's head and releases a quick trill before rubbing her hooves together.

EVE

Funny, funny, human.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE SPACE - MR. KAY'S OCEAN - PIER - LATER

THE DARK, FRIGHTENING OCEAN

Laps against the trestles of the birch pier.

INCANDESCENT BLUE ROSES

Hug the boards beneath Hua.

BACK TO SCENE

Hua and Eve are sitting at the edge of a pier, a new addition to the dimension.

FLICKERING STARS

Glitter above.

BACK TO SCENE

Eve swipes an uneasy paw at the night sky.

HUA

What are you doing?

EVE

Can I not touch them?

HUA

The stars? No, they are much too far away.

(beat)

Why are you afraid to leave White Space?

EVE

It's new. It's strange. I want to help humans overcome their fears, but I am still to overcome my own. Ironic, isn't it?

HUA

Yes. But we all have fears. It is what makes us whole.

EVE

Whole?

HUA

Well, fear makes us have weakness. There are things we don't want to do or places we don't want to go. Every balanced being has strengths and weaknesses. Someone devoid of any fear is scary, right?

EVE

Villainous. I see.

Hua nods.

HUA

Other dimensions are nice. Well, from what I know. But, try to stay away from Earth. A lot of us would be confused by you.

EVE

Yes, but humans, open minded ones, succeed to understand me. You handled me quite a bit better than your father did, Ms. Hua.

HUA

What did he do?

EVE

He fainted immediately. I thought I killed him, and I didn't know how I would explain to Blu about the dead human. She adores humans as well. Thinks you all are cute.

HUA

Cute?

EVE

Yes, like how your kind adores dogs.

HUA

Oh.

EVE

It's not in a condescending way, though. Blu thinks you all look adorable. And I somewhat agree.

A DISTANT and UNCLEAR SHOUT speeds over the breeze. Hua gets up, looking over the ocean.

RINGS OF LIGHT

Are floating on the horizon. They are oil lamps.

THE SILHOUETTE OF A PIRATE SHIP

Comes into focus through the haze.

MR. KAY (V.O.)

(distant; from the ship)

Hua! Hua! Eve!

Hua grabs Eve's forearm and jumps up and down, pointing.

HUA
Dad's back! Dad's back!

Eve pricks her ears and emits a strange chortling sound, excited. She twirls in sluggish circles, keeping her head towards the ship.

A SHOCKWAVE RUMBLES over the waters, and a rowboat darts up to the dock. Eve squeaks happily.

HUA (CONT'D)
Eve, wait!

Eve jumps in, and the rowboat bobs violently. She almost falls into the ocean.

EVE
Oh, it's safe. Do not fret.

HUA
I could have flipped.

As the rocking slows, Hua lowers herself into the boat.

EVE
I know how to swim. Andrej made a pool one time.

The rowboat hastily drifts over the water, returning to the ship.

EXT. WHITE SPACE - MR. KAY'S SHIP - CONTINUOUS

A rope ladder launches over the uneven driftwood guard rails. Hua clambers up it, and Eve jerks the bottom rung.

HUA
(whispering)
Eve, let me get up first.

Hua crawls onto the main deck, and Mr. Kay happily hugs her at the top.

HUA (CONT'D)
I haven't seen you this happy in so long.

MR. KAY
How long is so long?

HUA
Maybe about 10 years?

MR. KAY
What happened then?

HUA
You got a raise.

MR. KAY
Oh.

A SHARP CRACK echoes through the air before a DEEP SPLASH comes from the ocean.

The humans rush to the side of the ship and look over.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
Eve?!

Eve is paddling desperately about in the black waters, and she jumps hastily up to a cannon hole in the hull.

EVE
I'm alright, I'm alright.

Eve climbs to the main deck and shakes her pelt dry, throwing water about.

EVE (CONT'D)
Mr. Kay, you must make your ladders stronger.

Eve trots off towards the ship's gallery. Mr. Kay swings his arms about.

THE SAILS

Undo themselves, and THEY SNAP in the wind.

THE SHIP

Emits a DEEP CREAK as it lurches forward.

BACK TO SCENE

Hua watches the pier reduce to a blue pinprick. Mr. Kay follows her gaze.

MR. KAY
We are traveling to a distant
hinterland. I want to build a
town.

Hua remains silent.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
Are you alright?

HUA
Oh, it's just...Eve showed me her
face.

Mr. Kay embraces his distraught kin.

HUA (CONT'D)
The bones...the tendons...

MR. KAY
The dog jaw?

HUA
Yes.

MR. KAY
That's what scared you?

Hua pulls her head back and locks her eyes on her father's
contorted, confused face.

HUA
Yes?

MR. KAY
Oh, I was afraid of the mirror.

HUA
The mirror?

MR. KAY
It's what Ingio is scared of as
well. She can force us to see
ourselves.

HUA
I didn't realize you didn't like
seeing yourself.

MR. KAY
It's not that. For Ingio...she
doesn't like to see herself. I...I
don't like to see my eyes.

HUA
How come?

MR. KAY
I...seeing my soul is hard. I can
tell...that I'm hurt. I don't like
to see my pain.

EXT. WHITE SPACE - MR. KAY'S SHIP - LATER

Mr. Kay and Hua gather around a blue fire.

THE FLAMES

Dance like rose petals in a spring breeze.

A PURPLISH FORCEFIELD

Surrounds the dangerous thermal energy, protecting the wooden
ship.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay is roasting a marshmallow above the flames.

Hua nibbles on a graham cracker.

MR. KAY
Does it taste okay?

HUA
For being crafted from a drawing,
it's pretty good.

Mr. Kay smiles.

EVE

Is up in the crow's nest, her head twitching this way and
that as she observes the world.

BACK TO SCENE

Hua looks up at her.

HUA (CONT'D)
How did you find White Space?

Mr. Kay pulls his marshmallow away from the heat and presses on it, testing its readiness. He puts it back over the blaze.

MR. KAY
An accident.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM

Mr. Kay, in his pajamas, is in the fireplace, looking into the flue, flashlight in hand.

Mr. Kay whistles.

THE FLUE

Is dark and ominous. A BIRD SQUAWKS in the darkness.

BACK TO SCENE

MR. KAY
I knew you were in there.

Mr. Kay flicks on his flashlight and points it up.

A BIRD

Holding onto the brick shrinks back as the light hits it.

BACK TO SCENE

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
There you are.

Mr. Kay stands up and gently scoops the bird up. The BIRD SQUEALS and flaps its wings.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Shush, shush, it's okay.

Mr. Kay crouches back down and teeters. He falls slowly and awkwardly, swinging his free hand about, hitting the firebox walls.

THE BIRD

leaves Mr. Kay's grip and flies out an open window.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay sticks his head out of the fireplace, watching the bird return to freedom. He smiles.

The WALL behind him GROANS before sliding aside.

Mr. Kay shrieks and tumbles into the living room.

EVE (O.S.)

Hello?

Mr. Kay hides behind the couch.

Eve walks by the portal and swings her head down to gaze through.

EVE (CONT'D)

Is anyone coming?

Mr. Kay remains quiet.

EVE (CONT'D)

Alright.

Eve pushes the portal closed, and Mr. Kay looks out from behind the couch.

He rushes back into the fireplace, placing his hands on the bricks.

MR. KAY

Hello?

EVE KNOCKS on the other side of the portal. Mr. Kay jumps back and hits his head.

EVE (O.S.)

Just bang it a bunch of times.
Usually about four does the trick.

Mr. Kay creeps forward.

MR. KAY

Are you stuck?

EVE (O.S.)

Stuck? I think you are the stuck one.

MR. KAY
Are you living in my house?

EVE (O.S.)
Probably not.

Mr. Kay shakes his head.

MR. KAY
That's a yes or a no. Is there a room behind here?

EVE (O.S.)
Depends on your viewpoint.

MR. KAY
Dammit, just open the door or I'm calling the police!

The fireplace slides aside, and Mr. Kay scowls, confused, at the vast whiteness.

Eve backs up and crouches to look at the confused human.

EVE
You got yourself into White Space.

Mr. Kay stares, open mouthed, at Eve before fainting.

FLASHBACK - EXT. WHITE SPACE - OUTSIDE OF MR. KAY'S HOME

Mr. Kay's upper body flops into White Space. Eve pricks her ears.

EVE
Oh.

Eve walks back and forth, unsure of what to do. She gently pushes Mr. Kay back into our dimension.

She walks away.

Walks back.

Twirls.

EVE (CONT'D)
(fearful)
Mama!!!

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE SPACE - MR. KAY'S SHIP - SAME

Mr. Kay smirks.

MR. KAY

I learned that something scary can actually be something important and lovely. Our fear just helps us survive and be cautious of the things we don't know about.

Hua nods.

HUA

But...this place is dangerous, isn't it?

Mr. Kay eats some of his marshmallow.

MR. KAY

Why do you think that?

HUA

I can sense it. Something's wrong.

MR. KAY

(long beat)

It is dangerous here. Even without the outside threats.

HUA

Which you can't talk about.

Mr. Kay nods.

HUA (CONT'D)

Does anyone else know about White Space? Mom?

MR. KAY

Just me. And now you.

Hua sticks her marshmallow into the fire, watching it burst into flames.

HUA

Where is this land that you are talking about?

Mr. Kay rotates his body towards the slender bowsprit. He points.

MR. KAY

There.

A GRAYISH GLOW

Is on the horizon.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay drops his arm.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
I have this story I want to make,
about two witches living in a
medieval town. They want to
practice their magic, which is good
magic, but they fear they will be
killed because of it. I want to
try to recreate the story.

CUT TO:

INT. WHITE SPACE - THE VILLAGE - WITCHES' HOUSE - MORNING

Mr. Kay listens to the DISTANT, HUSHED CLAPPING of BOARDS as
the other buildings grow and construct themselves outside.

The witches' home slithers about the trio as Mr. Kay's ink
becomes material.

VARIOUS HERBS

Fall from the ceiling's battens, strung up by twine.

A GRAND STEEL CAULDRON

Rolls into the middle of the room and rights itself upon an
iron stand.

BOILING WATER

Fills the cauldron.

A SMALL FIRE

Bursts to life underneath the cauldron.

GLOWING CRYSTALS

Emerge from the wall, igniting the room with various hues of purple, green, and blue.

EVE

Bends her head down a tad as the long crystals inch towards her head.

BACK TO SCENE

As the ruckus dissipates, two jolly witches, ELEANOR and MARY, spin out of Mr. Kay's line art, giggling.

ELEANOR

What a beautiful morning!

They start throwing this and that into the roiling stew, not paying to attention to their audience.

MARY

Indeed!

Mary, the youthful witch, holds up a sheet of thick skin, underside still coated in dried blood.

MARY (CONT'D)

Oh, oh, Eleanor! Thomas also has a sore throat! Some dragon's hide to fix that?

Eleanor, the older teacher, smiles.

ELEANOR

Excellent, Mary! Toss it in, my dear!

THE GREENISH FLUID

In the cauldron sloshes about as she pitches the flesh in.

SOME DROPLETS

Sizzle on the cold, dusty concrete ground.

BACK TO SCENE

Eleanor bumbles up to the viscous concoction and stirs it with strong hands. She grabs a terracotta jar off a crooked shelf and dumps its contents in.

Mr. Kay rubs his nose as the powder flies about.

HUA

What is it?

Eve releases some strained coughs under her mask.

MR. KAY

I think it's sugar.

EVE

It's very strong.

Mary holds out a muffin sheet to her friend, and Eleanor dumps spoonfuls of the magical batter into the molds.

Mary throws the sheet into a clay oven, and the FURNACE COUGHS as it bursts to life after Mary taps it with her wand.

The cheery women dance about on their worn sandals, swinging their skirts, as they celebrate their creation.

MARY

Oh, Ellen, Ellen, the parents of Thomas will be so grateful, won't they? Their boy will live!

ELEANOR

They will indeed be so joyous!

MARY

The muffins must be ready!

Mary flamboyantly jigs to the oven and opens the hatch.

Pink, sparkling smoke erupts out of the belly of the oven.

Mary pulls out the grayish treats, and she turns to Eleanor, crestfallen.

MARY (CONT'D)

They're so...dull.

ELEANOR

Add an illusion!

Eleanor flicks her wrist.

THE MUFFINS

Bounce up in their cups and twirl about before falling back, now appearing like blueberry muffins.

BACK TO SCENE

Hua breathes in, taking in the pastries' scent.

HUA
They are so kind, dad.

The witches cackle joyfully before putting the treats into a woven basket.

They burst out the door, and the trio follows.

EXT. WHITE SPACE - THE VILLAGE - WITCHES'S HOUSE

Mr. Kay, Hua, and Eve watch the witches walk down the road.

New humans come into existence as the village continues to form.

Mr. Kay twirls.

MR. KAY
Hua! Hua! This is it! This is what I have been missing!

Hua embraces her father, tears slipping from her eyes.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
Finally! It's here! I am with my stories!

HUA
This would make an amazing play, you know?

MR. KAY
A play?

Hua pulls away, afraid she might have offended him.

HUA
Maybe not a play. Maybe a book?

MR. KAY
Oh, I thought this was enough. This is what I want.

(MORE)

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
I don't want to go back. I want to
stay in White Space.

Eve pricks her ears.

EVE
(sotto)
Stay?

The village around them dissolves into mist, and the two
humans gaze around, confused.

EVE (CONT'D)
Did you ever listen to me?

MR. KAY
Eve, what's going on?

EXT. WHITE SPACE - CONTINUOUS

They look to Eve as the world turns white, and she stomps her
foot. She gets down onto all fours, yanking off her mask,
and she shoves her face into Mr. Kay's.

EVE
I have told you this countless
times: you are not allowed to
remain in White Space!

Eve swipes her arm through the air.

THE PORTAL TO MR. KAY'S HOME

Opens.

BACK TO SCENE

EVE (CONT'D)
This might seem like a wonderous
realm at first, but anyone who is
not born of Kelpakaichi will
eventually become insane from lack
of natural physics.

The light around them changes its direction again.

EVE (CONT'D)
 You might think you can just craft
 your own marshmallows and
 sustenance and water, but my dear
 Mr. Kay, let me tell you what is
 imagined is always imagined. It
 isn't real bread you bake or real
 juice you drink. It is all fake.
 You will die in White Space if you
 stay here.

Eve lowers her ears, ashamed, before she puts her mask back
 on.

Mr. Kay wipes a tear from his face.

EVE (CONT'D)
 The Grand Mother gives all her
 children a certain job, and I am in
 charge of knowing the fates of the
 organisms in all of the surrounding
 dimensions. I know your path, Mr.
 Kay, and I know yours as well,
 young Hua. And staying here, in my
 home, is not part of either of your
 life journeys. Now, leave.

Eve points her paw at the fireplace.

EVE (CONT'D)
 I forbid you to stay.

MR. KAY
 Eve...I'm sorry.

EVE
 I know. I know you are. You got
 carried away. But we can't have
 that right now.

Eve looks up.

INGIO

Is sitting on one of her platforms, gazing at the trio.

BACK TO SCENE

EVE (CONT'D)
 It isn't safe right now, anyways.
 I'm sorry, Mr. Kay, but we can't
 have a lack of control right now.

Hua rubs her father's shoulders as they walk away.

MR. KAY

I'm sorry. I...I won't do it again.

EVE

And you said that the other two times you tried to stay here.

Mr. Kay casts a forlorn glance over his shoulder before they return to earth.

The portal shuts, and Eve sits down, ears back.

INGIO (O.S.)

You shouldn't of let him run wild.

Ingio approaches her sister.

INGIO (CONT'D)

They're mundane misfortunes are going to destroy --

EVE

Can't you see I am in pain?

Ingio frowns.

Eve lowers her ears.

INGIO

You show pain for creatures that don't matter.

EVE

They do matter.

Eve lifts her head.

EVE (CONT'D)

All members of Creature Blu's family knows that everyone matters.

INGIO

But they aren't like us. It's like them showing remorse for an ant. They are nothing compared to us.

EVE

But that is why we must show them mercy. Don't you want your superiors to show you mercy? Doesn't Gen show you mercy?

Ingio scratches the ground and examines her long front claws.

INGIO

Gen is our subordinate. Trivis is our superior.

EVE

Gen is equal to us. Don't you want Trivis's mercy?

INGIO

(long beat)

What makes Mr. Kay special?

EVE

He's going to change the world. I can see his fate in this timeline. He will transform the comic book industry.

INGIO

And why is that important?

EVE

His characters will inspire a future civil rights leader. Mr. Kay's stories will give Matrix her strength.

INGIO

Then why don't you focus on Matrix?

EVE

Because that's not how this timeline works, sister.

INGIO

I'm surprised you still consider me to be your kin.

(beat)

Do you hate me?

Eve gets to her feet.

CREATURE BLU (O.S.)

What's going on?

Creature Blu walks up behind Eve.

EVE

(sotto)

I think I broke a human today, mother.

CREATURE BLU

Oh, dear.

Creature Blu sits beside Eve.

EVE

I kicked Mr. Kay out. For the time being. He was trying to live here again.

CREATURE BLU

But what you did was right. I would have done the same.

EVE

I thought you would be angry. You forbid us from harming humans or other creatures.

CREATURE BLU

You are right, yes, but a soul must be hurt if it means saving it. Mr. Kay will come to understand, don't you worry.

(long beat)

I am proud of you, Eve.

Ingio clenches her teeth.

INGIO

Are you proud of me?

CREATURE BLU

Ingio, of course I am.

INGIO

Then how come you never say it?

Creature Blu slowly turns her head away.

CREATURE BLU

(to Eve)

You are so kind, and I am so proud you have learned to care for all creatures. You do not judge organisms that look very different from us; you just befriend them.

EVE

It took me some time to get past how strange humans look, though.

CREATURE BLU

But you did. You didn't give up.
You didn't kill the child humans
because you feared them. You
discovered they had personalities
and needed you to protect them.

EVE

But why must we send them back?
Why return to the pain of the other
dimensions when White Space is
here, free of suffering?

CREATURE BLU

No place is free of pain. You are
suffering right now, yes?

EVE

Yes. I am confused.

CREATURE BLU

And confusion is part of life.

(beat)

And White Space is not safe. I
have accidentally made dangerous
creatures that we had to defeat.
And...they are here now.

EVE

Ellipsis.

CREATURE BLU

Yes. You all are my army. Ingio
leads us in war. She helps to
protect all of this, the neutral
dimension.

Cascading gas like that of dry ice slowly falls from the
crevice in Creature Blu's face.

CREATURE BLU (CONT'D)

But this place is going to
disappear.

INGIO

Then let them take it.

Ingio stalks off.

EVE (O.S.)

This is our home.

INGIO
Your home! When the hell have I
ever been accepted here?

Black smoke falls before Ingio, and she halts as Unlyus floats into view.

CREATURE BLU
Do you love those around you,
Ingio?

INGIO
No, I don't. I don't think any of
you love me.

Ingio wipes a tear from her eye.

EVE
We do love --

Ingio whips around, tears cascading down her cheeks.

INGIO
Then prove it! Say you are proud
of me! Say that when you look upon
me you only see greatness!
(to Creature Blu)
You designed me, mother! Do you
like what you designed?

CREATURE BLU
You are a warrior. I created
someone powerful to protect us all.

INGIO
So I'm just your little puppet?

Ingio prowls towards Creature Blu.

INGIO (CONT'D)
Just your little guard dog? Why
give Eve a heart and praise her for
it and then not praise me for my
bravery? I face a pordaga every
day.

CREATURE BLU
I do praise you...

INGIO
How? Tell me right now.

CREATURE BLU
I am proud of what you have done.

INGIO

But does it line up with your ideology? Respect and love the humans and the little, insignificant species? I don't understand it. What the hell is so important about them?!

CREATURE BLU

It is why we are all important. We are all pivotal within the universe.

Ingio shakes her head.

INGIO

Maybe some of us just aren't. Maybe most of us are just expendable. If humans are so damn important, get them to help us.

Ingio opens a portal before her.

INGIO (CONT'D)

Mother, good luck without me.

Ingio passes through the portal, and it zips shut.

EVE

Ingio?

Eve approaches where the portal was.

EVE (CONT'D)

I know you can hear me.

EXT. ATLANTA - ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Ingio sits against a brick wall.

A POLICE SIREN screams by.

INGIO

I am going to show you that I have a heart.

Eve's voice is muffled behind the wall.

EVE (V.O.)

I know you do. We know you do.

INGIO
Then...why? Why are you all
constantly shutting me out?

EVE (V.O.)
We don't intend to.

INGIO
Really? Do you really not intend
to?

Eve is silent.

INGIO (CONT'D)
That's what I thought.

EXT. WHITE SPACE

Eve undoes her mask. She takes out her mirror and tosses it.
It is absorbed by the remnants of the portal.

EVE
Take this.

EXT. CITY - ALLEYWAY - SAME

The mirror slides by Ingio's feet.

THE MIRROR

Reflects Ingio.

EVE (V.O.)
I want you to find a heart for
yourself first.

BACK TO SCENE

INGIO
I am going to find a human. I am
going to find my Mr. Kay.

EVE (V.O.)
I want you to be who you are. I am
not you, and you are not me.
Mother loves you...it's just...you
don't seem to love her.

INGIO
Because how can I love someone who
I don't think loves me?

EVE (V.O.)
Maybe she thinks you won't show
love back.

Ingio snorts.

INGIO
I'm leaving.

Ingio walks off.

EVE (V.O.)
Don't forget the mirror!

Ingio stops at the mouth of the alleyway. The brick wall
behind her pushes aside. Eve enters.

INGIO
I'm not taking your mirror.

EVE
I want you to find love for
yourself.

INGIO
What about me is to love, Eve? I'm
just a cold beast who eats
dimensions.

EVE
You are powerful. More powerful
than all of us. You are determined
and fearless. I am nothing like
you. I admire you.

Ingio flicks her tail, staring her sister down.

INGIO
No, you don't. You want to be like
mother. I want to choose who I am.
You all are good beings, but you
don't understand me.

EVE
But you are my sister. And you are
necessary to protecting the
universes.

INGIO
Eve, I want to find someone I would
sacrifice everything for. No
offense, but none of you are that
person.

EVE
I understand.

Ingio laughs.

INGIO
Of course you do. Eve understands
everyone.

EVE
I don't understand everyone, Ingio.
Everyone is complex. But I know
what it is like to seek someone to
care for.

INGIO
I don't want to waste my talents on
people I don't think care for me.
I want to find someone I would eat
dimensions for.

Ingio walks off into the darkness.

INGIO (CONT'D)
Good bye, Eve.

Eve hesitates before returning home.

EXT. WHITE SPACE

Eve slips through the portal.

CREATURE BLU
Is she gone?

EVE
I'm afraid so.

Eve spins rapidly in circles.

CREATURE BLU
Child, it is alright!

Eve flops down, her hair standing on end.

EVE
I lost my sister...and Mr. Kay and
Hua.

Eve lifts her head and lets out a shriek. Creature Blu
snuggles next to her.

CREATURE BLU
It's okay. He will come back.

EVE
You know he can't.

Creature Blu lowers her head.

CREATURE BLU
I thought you didn't sense it yet.

EVE
I can. The portal's gone.

CREATURE BLU
But you know what this means, my
dear? Mr. Kay is healing. He will
be fine. You know his fate, right?

EVE
Yes. But I love him, and I don't
want to say goodbye.

CREATURE BLU
I know, my dear. It is something
that has always upset you...when
the portal closes.

Unlyus strokes his daughter's head. Eve leans into his hand.

CREATURE BLU (CONT'D)
But you must know that what you
have done has saved him. You, Eve,
saved Mr. Kay. Hua will do the
rest.

(beat)
But, you will see him again. Why
is that, Eve?

EVE
Because he will still struggle with
his happiness. It is a pattern I
have seem amongst the creatives.

CREATURE BLU
You will go back when he needs you
again. Just a pick me up.

UNLYUS
The portal...will open...again.

CREATURE BLU
And they always do.

Eve gets to her feet.

EVE
I'll just use some of our energy stores to open another portal. A forced one.

CREATURE BLU
Please don't.

Creature Blu's beetle-like wings unfold from her back.

CREATURE BLU (CONT'D)
We need help. We have helped many humans, but I believe we will need their help now. Unlyus, go to Earth. Find humans to help us.

Unlyus nods and darts off.

CREATURE BLU (CONT'D)
Ellipsis is coming.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

Mr. Kay and Hua are sitting at the kitchen table, bowls of cereal before them.

Mr. Kay cries quietly.

MR. KAY
Hua! I was...was this close to being fully happy! And...and Eve said no!

HUA
Dad.

Hua takes his hand and rubs it gently.

HUA (CONT'D)
She just told you you can't live in White Space. You can still go back.

MR. KAY

But there, in White Space, it was just me...me and my stories. My mind became all there was. There was no worry of criticism. I was free.

Hua scoots her chair over to her distraught father and embraces him.

HUA

I know.

MR. KAY

I want to go back so bad.

HUA

Have you tried?

MR. KAY

Yeah.

Mr. Kay lifts his hand, and there is a band-aid on his palm. Hua grabs his hand.

HUA

What happened?

MR. KAY

I was hitting the firebox. And cut myself. I couldn't sleep after we got back last night so I decided to see if I could open the portal.

HUA

Oh. You okay?

MR. KAY

Yes.

Mr. Kay stands up.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)

We're closed out, Hua.

HUA

Are you sure it won't open again?

Mr. Kay nods.

MR. KAY

I gotta get ready for work.

HUA
We got the appointment.

MR. KAY
Oh yes. That and then work.

INT. HOSPITAL - LOBBY - MIDDAY

Mr. Kay is standing at the main desk, looking through patient reports.

The DESK NURSE at the computer turns to look at him.

DESK NURSE
I haven't seen you in a minute, Dr. Kay.

Mr. Kay closes the folder and gives her a forced smile.

MR. KAY
Been busy.

DESK NURSE
You are always in the surgery room.
Do you like it?

Desk Nurse pushes her roolly chair over to him.

MR. KAY
The surgery?

Desk Nurse nods.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
It's...it's very focus oriented. I like the focus it takes. But...but I don't know if I will continue with it.

DESK NURSE
But you are so talented! You've won awards, right?

MR. KAY
I have. I'm good at what I do. But I have other things I am good at doing.

DESK NURSE
Like what?

MR. KAY
I want to be a comic book artist.
And comic writer.

DESK NURSE
Oh, that's so nice! My sister
works at a publishing company.
She's an agent. Here.

Desk Nurse reaches into her purse and pulls out her wallet.
She extracts a business card and hands it to Mr. Kay.

DESK NURSE (CONT'D)
She always wants me to hand these
out when I can.

Mr. Kay takes it.

MR. KAY
Oh, thank you. I'll reach out to
her later.

Mr. Kay smiles and gently takes the patient reports off the
counter. He walks into the children's ward.

INT. HOSPITAL - CHILDREN'S WARD LOBBY

Mr. Kay and a nurse wave to each other as they walk by.

Mr. Kay looks through one of the folders before lifting his
head after hearing a CHILD LAUGH.

Some children are drawing on butcher paper on the floor. Mr.
Kay approaches them.

MR. KAY
Are you all having a good time?

CHILD #1 nods.

CHILD #1
Here's my mommy!

She points to a crude stick figure.

MR. KAY
Oh, beautiful! And who's that?

He points to a figure next to the mother.

CHILD #1
That's daddy.

Child #2 hands a crayon to Mr. Kay.

CHILD #2
Can you draw with us?

MR. KAY
Just for a minute. I got some
errands to run.

Mr. Kay sits on the floor.

THE TIP OF MR. KAY'S CRAYON

Touches the paper.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay's eyes widen.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
White Space.

INT. CRAFT STORE - NIGHT

Mr. Kay pulls a roll of butcher paper off the shelf, somewhat
struggling with the weight.

A STORE EMPLOYEE walks by with a cart.

STORE EMPLOYEE
You good?

MR. KAY
Yes, yes. Thank you. Oh, oh,
wait!

The Store Employee returns.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
How many of these rolls would I
need if I were to cover up a couple
rooms?

STORE EMPLOYEE
Like the walls?

Mr. Kay shrugs.

MR. KAY
Sure.

STORE EMPLOYEE
Probably a two or three. You would
be better off with just getting the
thicker roll.

Store Employee gestures.

A LARGE ROLL OF BUTCHER PAPER

Sits on a rack.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay smirks.

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER

SERIES OF SHOTS

Mr. Kay moves the table.

Mr. Kay pushes the couches against the wall.

Mr. Kay rolls out the paper.

Mr. Kay tapes some of the paper to the wall.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

Mr. Kay steps back.

The whole room is covered in the paper. Hua clomps down the stairs.

HUA (O.S.)
I was going to see what you were
doing, but you seemed excited so I
didn't want to bother you.

Hua sees the room.

HUA (CONT'D)
Oh.

MR. KAY
White Space is back!

Mr. Kay laughs and jumps into the room, watching the paper waver under his steps.

He lays down and closes his eyes.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
Finally.

A tear slithers down his cheek.

Hua approaches him and looks down at her father.

HUA
Do you...can we do this to the
whole house?

Mr. Kay nods energetically.

AROUND MR. KAY'S HOME - MONTAGE

A) INT. KITCHEN

Mr. Kay and Hua throw paper over the island.

B) INT. MR. KAY'S ROOM

Mr. Kay finishes taping paper to the walls.

C) INT. STUDY

Hua drapes paper over her and Mr. Kay's chairs.

D) INT. STUDIO

Mr. Kay covers the windows with paper.

END MONTAGE

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - STUDIO

Mr. Kay sits on the ground with paint and brush and begins to work on the paper on the floor. Hua finds him and crouches before him.

HUA
I like this better too.

MR. KAY
Do you want to help me decorate it?

HUA
What are we adding?

Mr. Kay hands her a paint brush.

MR. KAY
All our friends.

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSE:

"PART 2"

FADE IN:

INT. IGRA CASTLE - FORUM ROOM - NIGHT

A female igra, GEN, lifts her head. She has a strange discus head, and her brain can be seen through her thin skin.

SUPERIMPOSE:

"PRESENT DAY"

GEN
Did you get here safe?

A pordaga, TRIVIS, floats on the other side of the room. They are around 20 feet tall, resembles a weird organic kite.

TRIVIS
As safe as we could. Ellipsis is trying to tear down all dimension walls.

GEN
How is Blu fairing?

TRIVIS
Her birthing ability has been compromised.

Gen looks down at the table she is sitting at. She eats some of the food on her plate.

GEN
Can I get you anything?

TRIVIS
The energy around here is strong,
and that is enough.

GEN
Oh, yes, yes. I forgot. No food.
What about your Moving Skies?

GELATINOUS, GLASS-COVERED BEAN-SHAPED CREATURES
Float around underneath Trivis.

BACK TO SCENE

TRIVIS
They ate recently.

GEN
Good to hear.
(long beat)
How is Blu going about healing?

TRIVIS
Unsure. I got word that Ingio
left.

Gen drops her food.

GEN
Left?

TRIVIS
Didn't feel loved enough. Just ran
off to...Atlanta, was it? It's on
Earth --

GEN
I know where it is! Dammit!

Gen points to two guards in the corner of the room.

GEN (CONT'D)
Get my ship ready!

TRIVIS
Where to?

GEN
Earth! I am getting Ingio and
talking some sense into her.

Gen gallops off. Igra are centaur-like with crab-like lower bodies and long tails.

TRIVIS

Wait.

Gen halts.

GEN

What?

TRIVIS

Leave her.

GEN

Leave her? Trivis, she is one of the strongest out of all of us! The least I could do is get her back.

TRIVIS

I'll send a Moving Sky to find her. I need to keep you here.

A portal opens with the flick of Trivis's head, and a Moving Sky darts through it. The portal zips shut.

TRIVIS (CONT'D)

Now, what problems is Ellipsis causing for you?

Gen returns to the table.

GEN

They are trying to get control of our dark energy stores. And control of the dark matter grid.

TRIVIS

What can I do for you?

GEN

Give me as many Moving Skies as I can get.

TRIVIS

How many would you say would be sufficient?

GEN

Hundreds.

TRIVIS

Hmm.

Trivis looks down at their pets.

TRIVIS (CONT'D)
We can craft more. Blu needs some
right now. Her army is dying.

GEN
I have people to save.

TRIVIS
And so does she.

Gen nods.

GUARD #1 enters the room.

GUARD #1
Your majesty, your ship is ready.

GEN
I'll be there soon.

TRIVIS
You're still going to look for her?

GEN
No. I am going to get more help.

GUARD #1
Your guest has also arrived.

Gen turns around. A small hailee, a shapeshifting alien,
named W enters.

GEN
Oh, W!

Gen runs up to her and embraces the white hailee.

W
I got your call.

GEN
And thank goodness you did. All
help is appreciated right now.

W
I know some serten are interested.
Xeni is on board.

GEN
Oh, beautiful. I am unsure of how
much you can help right now, but...

W is staring at Trivis. Gen follows her gaze.

GEN (CONT'D)
Oh, yes, we are getting assistance
from the pordaga.

W carefully approaches Trivis.

W
You're a...pordaga?

TRIVIS
I am.

W falls into a bow.

TRIVIS (CONT'D)
Oh, thank you, but there is no
need!

Trivis nudges her to her feet.

TRIVIS (CONT'D)
And you are W?

W
Yes.

TRIVIS
It is wonderful to meet you, W. Do
you have any experience in
controlling guard animals or
something of the sort?

W
I...I don't.

TRIVIS
Well, could I interest you in a
Moving Sky?

One of the Moving Skies, TELEPATHY, moves towards W.

TRIVIS (CONT'D)
Telepathy is a good choice for
beginners.

W gently pets Telepathy's plated skin.

W
They're beautiful.

TRIVIS
And strong. You two will work
wonderfully together.

W smiles and prances around the room, Telepathy trailing
behind her. Gen watches.

TRIVIS (CONT'D)
(to Gen)
We can start cloning more of them.
Ellipsis is trying to destroy our
labs, but they are one of our top
priorities of protection.

GEN
How fast can you make them?

TRIVIS
As fast as you need.

GEN
Can we get them by the end of
today?

TRIVIS
Yes.

GEN
Can we get any pordaga here?

TRIVIS
Yes. We have a few travelling
commanders.

Gen gently lifts her arm. She frowns at her raising limb.

TRIVIS (CONT'D)
Are you being puppetteered?

GEN
I think so.

TRIVIS
Jerk your hand to get out of the
strings.

Gen quickly recoils her arm.

GEN
It's gone.

Trivis nods.

TRIVIS

Good.

(to W)

W, can you come back over here?

W is playing with Telepathy.

TRIVIS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I think Ellipsis is trying to puppeteer one of you.

W skips back up to Trivis.

W

What's puppetteering?

CUT TO:

INT. PORDAGA LAB

Cold. Black.

Lines of giant, life-sustaining tubs are lined up.

Clouds of gas float about inside the glass.

TRIVIS (V.O.)

What's puppetteering? Dear, how do I explain it? We basically go into a stasis inside these tubes in our labs.

A green and black pordaga, ELLIPSIS, is asleep inside one of the tubes.

They wake up quickly and exit the tube in a hurry.

ELLIPSIS

Every. Every time.

A scientist pordaga, UNDER, slips out of another tube.

UNDER

Did she shake you loose, too?

ELLIPSIS

Yes. Try W.

Under nods and enters the tube.

Ellipsis presses their head to the side of the tube.

TRIVIS (V.O.)
 We mentally tell the machine who we
 want to puppeteer, and that's when
 you feel it.

W (V.O.)
 Like there's something tied to you?

TRIVIS (V.O.)
 Yes.

THE SCREEN

On the top of Under's tube displays text that translates to
 "W".

TRIVIS (V.O.)
 Jerk yourself out of it.

BACK TO SCENE

Under exits the tube.

UNDER
 I heard Trivis. They're telling
 Gen and W how to get out of it.

Ellipsis shakes their head.

ELLIPSIS
 We need to make the attachment
 stronger.

UNDER
 Why are we trying to puppeteer
 people outside of experimental
 dimensions?

ELLIPSIS
 I want to send a message. Show
 them that we have control.

Ellipsis rubs their head on the side of Under's head.

UNDER
 Explain the plan again.

ELLIPSIS
 No universe works with an
 oligarchy. We, the igra, and Blu
 cannot share power.

(MORE)

ELLIPSIS (CONT'D)

A universe just went down because the power was split. We need to revert to an autocracy.

UNDER

Then why not tell them that?

ELLIPSIS

Under, they don't listen! I've told them, and they don't heed my warning. I have to fix this all by myself.

UNDER

So, you're going to be the absolute leader?

ELLIPSIS

No. I don't want to be. I just want to get the power so I can pass it off to someone who I know will take care of us all.

Ellipsis jerks their head towards their tube.

ELLIPSIS (CONT'D)

Wait.

Ellipsis floats over to it.

ELLIPSIS (CONT'D)

Who's Eve's friend again?

FLASHFORWARD - INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - STUDY - NIGHT

Mr. Kay and Hua are sitting together. Mr. Kay is reading a book, and he closes it.

MR. KAY

I think I should tell you.

HUA

About what?

MR. KAY

What was going on there.

HUA

With White Space.

MR. KAY

Yes.

(MORE)

MR. KAY (CONT'D)

(long beat)

There are creatures that want to control Blu's dimension.

Mr. Kay grabs his journal off a table and opens it.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)

The pordaga. They have all sorts of experiments involving things called "puppet dimensions". They like to mess with genetic codes and make new species.

Hua gets up and looks over her father's shoulder.

HUA

You got a drawing of one?

MR. KAY

I've never seen a pordaga.

HUA

Has anyone told you what they look like?

MR. KAY

All I know is that they float and don't have arms or legs. They're huge.

HUA

Like how big?

MR. KAY

20 feet tall, I think? Most of them are gentle, but some are evil.

HUA

Like people.

Mr. Kay nods.

MR. KAY

I wrote some things down that I overheard Blu talking about. They are working on this puppet dimension right now where they took our dimension, copied it, and replaced humanity with an entirely different sentient species.

Hua pulls her chair over and sits down.

HUA

Jeez. How much time did you spend in White Space?

MR. KAY

Days within a day. Outside time can stop if I will it to. And I don't even feel tired in White Space, which Eve told me is an illusion.

HUA

Like placebo?

MR. KAY

Yeah. White Space treats humans strangely, apparently. Eve says it doesn't happen to other species she sees walk through.

HUA

So we get...fakely overpowered?

MR. KAY

Something like that. I would just walk around with Eve, just following her routine. She wanted me to get used to White Space. I just know this property of us fascinates the pordaga.

HUA

Are they, like, ultra scientists?

MR. KAY

Beyond anything we know of. Their tech is only challenged by the igra.

HUA

Ee-gra?

MR. KAY

Also known as dimension benders.

Hua takes the journal from her father's hands before looking up at him.

HUA

So what is happening to White Space?

MR. KAY

Ellipsis, the main pordaga causing issues, is trying to break down the protective walls of White Space. They are creating these holes that Unlyus patches up.

HUA

And White Space is good dimension to own if you want power.

MR. KAY

Yes. And Blu isn't going to give it up.

FLASHFORWARD - INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - MR. KAY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mr. Kay sits in his bed, writing in the journal. A painting of Eve watches over his bed.

AN ALARM CLOCK

Reads 2:54.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay suddenly waves his arm above his head like he is swatting away spider's webs.

He grabs at his pajamas.

HIS JOURNAL

Drops to the floor. The PAPER CRUNCHES.

BACK TO SCENE

MR. KAY

Hua! Hua!

Hua runs into the room.

HUA

Do you feel it too?

MR. KAY

The strings.

Mr. Kay's left arm suddenly jerks up and extends, his fingers splayed.

HUA
(sotto)
What the hell is happening?

MR. KAY
What is going on with you?

Hua lifts her right hand, and a pen is furiously gripped between her fingers. Her nail beds are bleeding.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
Oh my God!

Mr. Kay rushes over, his arm still extended, and he gazes at her hand.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
Can you let go?

HUA
No! Ahhhh, it hurts!!!

Hua puts her free hand on her temple and shrieks.

MR. KAY
Hua!

Mr. Kay is slugged across the room, and he slams against his desk. His cup of pens fall to the floor, and his captured hand catches a pen.

Hua is drawing on the wall, and Mr. Kay joins her.

HUA
(sotto)
We're being puppeteered.

MR. KAY
What are we drawing?

Hua shakes her head and looks over her shoulder.

A PAIR OF SCISSORS

Is sitting on the desk.

BACK TO SCENE

HUA
Can you get the scissors?

MR. KAY
What?

Hua pulls her hand back and runs over to the desk. She snatches the scissors and cuts the air above her head.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

HUA
The strings! Can you feel the strings?!

Hua starts cutting up her pajama top.

MR. KAY
Stop! You're going to hurt yourself!

HUA
I need to get them off! I need to get them off!

Hua is thrown to the ground, and she shrieks. She has fallen onto the scissors, putting a gash into her face.

MR. KAY
HUA!!!

Hua stands up, trying to force her hand down, but she is forced to draw again.

HUA
None of it makes sense.

MR. KAY
What we're drawing?

HUA
Yes. It's all jumbled.

THE DRAWING

On the wall is broken yet shaded well.

MR. KAY
Something is trying to make sense of something.

Mr. Kay squints as he continues to draw.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
I think we're too close to tell
what it is.

Mr. Kay tries to step away, but he is forced back to the wall.

HUA
Just stay where you are.

Mr. Kay looks at the cut on Hua's face.

MR. KAY
Is it deep?

HUA
I don't think so. I'll be fine.

Hua leans back, trying to get a better view of the drawing.

HUA (CONT'D)
I see a head forming. The upper
left. See the eyes?

Mr. Kay leans back.

MR. KAY
Yes.

Mr. Kay pulls his hand away from the wall and throws his pen down.

MR. KAY (CONT'D)
Get off me!!!

Mr. Kay throws his hands around.

Hua lets go of the pen, and she grabs her wrist, her fingers shaking. She creeps onto the bed, slowly scooting back.

HUA'S EYES

Widen.

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Kay scoots to the back of the room. His eyes widen.

He runs out of the room.

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - A MINUTE LATER

Mr. Kay slides into the fireplace and yells at the wall.

MR. KAY
EVE!!! EVE!!! THEY'RE HERE!!!

INT. MR. KAY'S HOME - MR. KAY'S BEDROOM

A pordaga is drawn onto the wall.

MR. KAY (V.O.)
THE PORDAGA ARE COMING!!!