

ALIEN IN MY POCKET

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. KINGDOM - DAY

A blue sun shines over a grand, majestic palace. It rests on the highest hill that overlooks a city below. Small and large intricate buildings intertwine.

SUPER: "PLANET TOPO"

EXT. PALACE - ROYAL GARDENS - DAY

A young PRINCE SODO'CHI (5), a blue Topo with a stout body, short gangly legs and arms, and snail-like eyes stretching above his little round head, peeks around a lush bush that surrounds the palace walls.

A young CATALPA (5), a purple Topo with short eyelashes and as tiny as Sodo'Chi, pops out of the bushes with a roar, startling the prince who falls on his butt.

YOUNG CATALPA
(laughs to herself)
I scared you good!

YOUNG SODO'CHI
Did not!

Catalpa's attention turns to the nearby open window. She climbs the bushes to the top and peeks through to see...

KING EE'OH (40), light shade of blue, on the throne. He speaks with DUKE ZABA (25), bright orange, before him.

CATALPA
(to Sodo'Chi)
Your cousin Zaba is here. Come up and see. Or are you afraid?

YOUNG LADY RUINA (O.S.)
You act like a boy and not at all like a young lady, Catalpa.

A young LADY RUINA (5), pink in color and wearing a tiny cape, stands with arms folded, glaring.

YOUNG CATALPA
Do too, Ruina.

QUEEN SERENA (O.S.)
Sodo'Chi!

QUEEN SERENA (30), lavender in color, with long eyelashes and long thin legs and arms, glides towards them.

Ruina curtseys before the queen.

YOUNG LADY RUINA
Good morning, Your Majesty.

QUEEN SERENA
Good morning. You look adorable in
your cape.

Ruina giggles. Catalpa hops out of the bushes. Curtseys.

YOUNG CATALPA
Good morning, Your Majesty. My
father will be escorting you on
your journey today.

QUEEN SERENA
That's wonderful. Come now, my
tiny prince. We mustn't dawdle.

She picks up her struggling tiny prince and carries him away.

YOUNG CATALPA
Don't let any giants step on you!

Ruina glares at Catalpa, marches off.

INT. PALACE - ROYAL CHAMBERS - DAY

Queen Serena sets Sodo'Chi down on the elegant bed.

YOUNG SODO'CHI
Why do I have to go?

QUEEN SERENA
There are wonders and curiosities
spread throughout the galaxy.
Don't you want to see any of them?

Sodo'Chi crosses his arms.

YOUNG SODO'CHI
No.

QUEEN SERENA
You mustn't be afraid of giants.
They're harmless. As you or me.

YOUNG SODO'CHI
I don't care.

The queen removes her necklace with a blue jewel that softly
glows and slips it around him.

QUEEN SERENA
 A Berridian jewel. As rare and as precious as you. It will keep you safe.

King Ee'Oh enters.

KING EE'OH
 Are you ready for your adventure today, Sodo'Chi?

YOUNG SODO'CHI
 I don't wanna leave Topo.

KING EE'OH
 You're a big boy now. There's nothing to be afraid of.

Sodo'Chi hops off the bed, scurries underneath. Peeks out.

QUEEN SERENA
 He's been like this all day. I shall stay with him. He won't have any fun at a formal dinner.

KING EE'OH
 You haven't left the palace since he was born, Serena.

QUEEN SERENA
 If you're suggesting we leave him behind, all alone--

KING EE'OH
 I'll stay. Besides, delegates want to see the beautiful queen anyway.

EXT. PALACE - ROYAL GARDENS - DAY

King Ee'Oh holds Sodo'Chi as they watch Serena sway towards the royal saucer-like spaceship that fills the gardens.

Catalpa's father and the other royal guards escort the queen.

Catalpa waves goodbye to her father. He winks at her.

The spaceship shoots into the air.

Sodo'Chi jumps out of his father's arms. Dashes to Catalpa. Together they wave goodbye to the ship, disappearing from view -- it EXPLODES in a flash of light across the sky.

CATALPA (V.O.)
 Your Highness?

INT. PALACE - SODO'CHI'S CHAMBERS - DAY (19 YEARS LATER)

PRINCE SODO'CHI (now 24) is asleep in his bed. FREYA, an alien caterpillar half his size with a red-and-yellow pattern, lies with her fat belly in the air at the foot of the bed fast asleep.

Sodo'Chi's eyes flutter open.

CATALPA (now 24), grown up and looking very pretty with her long eyelashes, stands before him, breakfast tray in hand.

SODO'CHI
Catalpa?

CATALPA
Good morning, Your Highness. You have a big day today.

EXT. PALACE - ROYAL GARDENS - DAY

Catalpa and Sodo'Chi, with his pet in his arms, step towards a royal spaceship with its ramp down.

CATALPA
And remember, even though this is your first council, there's no need to be nervous. Duke Zaba will be there as well. He'll guide you. Oh, and... you might want to leave Freya behind.

Sodo'Chi sets Freya down. She coos as he pets her.

Sodo'Chi glances nervously at the ship. Catalpa encourages him with a nod. Sodo'Chi takes a step up the ramp.

INT. GALACTIC MEETING CHAMBER - DAY (ALIEN WORLD)

Resembling the United Nations on LSD, hundreds of alien delegates enter private booths encircling the vast chamber.

KING MUI, a hefty hippo-like alien, chomps on fistfuls of crunchy bits from a bag. QUEEN LILLY, slightly thinner, snatches the bag. Scowls at him. King Mui frowns.

In the booth beside him, three-inch-tall Sodo'Chi steps forward. Gazes out with wonder.

DUKE ZABA (now 45), a little bit taller and now darker orange in color, puts a hand on Sodo'Chi's shoulder.

SODO'CHI
Are they all delegates, Zaba?

ZABA
Yes, Sodo'Chi. They are the
leaders of races from across the
galaxy. From the bizarre...

A see-through GELATINOUS GLOBULE sits in a bucket in its booth. The crown on its head slowly sinks through.

ZABA
To the extreme.

A TORNADO sits in another booth. Lightning crackles around it. The tornado's eyes flutter open, but fall back asleep.

ZABA
From the largest...

A WHALE-LIKE being sits hunched in the back, dwarfing the room. Zaba glances at Sodo'Chi.

ZABA
To you.

He takes his seat. Sodo'Chi sits down beside him.

Holographic screens activate throughout the booths displaying the CHAIRMAN. Big blue eyes, gray skin complete with robe.

Alien subtitles translate.

CHAIRMAN (ON SCREEN)
Emperor Koda of Keeda wishes to
address the council.

ZABA
From pacifists...

Below on the floor, EMPEROR KODA, a hulking seven-foot-tall snarling lizard-like alien, with red reptilian eyes, swaggers to a podium escorted by personal GUARDS.

ZABA
To conquerors.

EMPEROR KODA
Intergalactic relations ensure the
future and prosperity of any world.
The lack of support this council--

A SHRIEK cuts him off.

Attention turns to Queen Lilly watching frantically as King Mui clutches his chest -- and keels over. Queen Lilly desperately shakes him.

QUEEN LILLY
Mui!

Zaba smirks. Sodo'Chi casts a worrisome glance at Catalpa.

Catalpa hops up and leaps over to Mui's booth. Climbs into Mui's mouth and disappears inside.

INSIDE KING MUI

Catalpa lies above the stomach opening, fingers dug into the lining. She closes her eyes.

Electrical impulses shoot their way through Mui's body -- to his unbeating heart. The flowing discharges make it THUMP.

INSIDE THE BOOTH

King Mui takes a breath.

QUEEN LILLY
Mui?

Catalpa crawls out of Mui's mouth. Mui's eyes flutter open a moment later. He sits up, confused.

QUEEN LILLY
Mui!

She squeezes him tight. Delegates applaud. Queen Lilly hugs Catalpa against her pillow bosom.

EMPEROR KODA
If we're finished with this foolishness, perhaps we could return to the matter at hand.

CHAIRMAN (ON SCREEN)
Emperor Koda, please resume.

Sodo'Chi forces a smile at Catalpa who takes her seat.

EMPEROR KODA
The lack of support this council has shown to bring relations to my world is appalling. We are not listed on any intergalactic tour, nor are we promoted. And not once since joining this collective, has Keeda been considered to host the galactic games. Are we not even worth consideration?!

Delegates whisper amongst themselves.

ZABA
Tell me, Sodo'Chi. What do you
think of Keeda?

An unaware Sodo'Chi suddenly appears on all screens.

SODO'CHI (ON SCREEN)
Isn't planet Keeda polluted?

EMPEROR KODA
Are you implying my people are
filthy creatures?!

SODO'CHI (ON SCREEN)
What? Who? Me?

EMPEROR KODA
Choose your words carefully, boy.

SODO'CHI
I only-- I mean-- I was speaking
with my cousin Zaba-- Duke Zaba,
about the state of your world.

EMPEROR KODA
Which is?

SODO'CHI
Uh... polluted?

EMPEROR KODA
You try my patience!

He pounds the podium -- it shatters to bits.

EMPEROR KODA
I shall order every one of my
squadrons to lay your world
asunder!

Sodo'Chi sits frozen with fear.

A grinning Zaba sets to stand -- until Catalpa bolts up.

CATALPA
That's absurd!

SODO'CHI
Catalpa--

CATALPA
If it's a fight you seek, I, royal
guardian, would be more than
willing to oblige.

Sodo'Chi winces.

EMPEROR KODA
(chuckles)
Adorable.

Zaba stands, confident.

ZABA
Emperor Koda, disregard the girl.
She forgets her place quite easily.

CATALPA
I will not--

ZABA
You will remain silent!

Catalpa sits down in a huff.

EMPEROR KODA
Finally. A man worthy of my
attention. I had begun to wonder
if they existed on your world.

Koda's guards snicker to themselves.

ZABA
I am Duke Zaba. Royal advisor.
And I implore you for the sake of
both our worlds not to go to war.

SODO'CHI
I didn't mean to--

EMPEROR KODA
Every word you utter boils my
blood.

ZABA
Forgive him, Emperor Koda. His
father, King Ee'Oh, faces his own
mortality. This is Prince
Sodo'Chi's first council and is
inexperienced in such matters.

EMPEROR KODA
He is responsible for his actions!
And in accordance with our laws,
his actions mean war.

ZABA
Surely a wise and experienced emperor as yourself, can overlook an innocent comment made by the young prince.

Delegates nod in agreement.

EMPEROR KODA
(smirks)
I will excuse the tiny prince. For your sake. Duke Zaba.

He swaggers away from the podium. Whispers fill the chamber.

ZABA
Come, Sodo'Chi. Let us return home to Topo.

Sodo'Chi's snail-like eyes droop with disappointment.

INT. ROYAL SHIP - ROYAL CABIN - OUTER SPACE

Sodo'Chi gazes out the window. Stars zip past. A RING at the door. He doesn't answer.

The door slides open. Catalpa enters.

CATALPA
Your Highness? I wanted to apologize. But as your guardian, it is my duty to protect you.

SODO'CHI
It will be my duty to protect the kingdom. And I almost brought us to war, Catalpa.

CATALPA
I don't understand how the viewer in our booth activated.

SODO'CHI
Zaba believes it was a glitch.

CATALPA
I certainly didn't help matters.

SODO'CHI
You saved King Mui. And you impressed Emperor Koda.

CATALPA
He called me adorable. I am not
adorable.

SODO'CHI
I'll never be as good a king as my
father. I can't even be as
confident as you.

A PING rings out.

COMPUTER
Destination reached.

Planet Topo comes into view out the window.

CATALPA
We're home.

INT. PALACE - ROYAL CHAMBERS - DAY (TOPO)

The blue sun slowly sets. Its rays beam down on King Ee'Oh, now gray, lying on top a flower petal, covered by a leaf.

Sodo'Chi kneels beside him. King Ee'Oh opens his eyes; they light up with a smile at his son.

KING EE'OH
Sodo'Chi. How was your first
council today? Did you make an
impression with the delegates?

SODO'CHI
I did, father.

KING EE'OH
Fear not the universe, even though
we may be its smallest inhabitants.

He passes a crystal shard to Sodo'Chi.

KING EE'OH
This is for you.

SODO'CHI
An image crystal?

KING EE'OH
Imaged with a world I visited with
your mother before you were born.
Take your first step with them.

SODO'CHI
I don't understand.

KING EE'OH
They are ready, Sodo'Chi, for so much more. But they need someone to guide them. You will be their voice and speak to the future of both our worlds.

SODO'CHI
How are you feeling?

KING EE'OH
I'm dying, Sodo'Chi.

Sodo'Chi clasps his father's hand. Tears well up.

SODO'CHI
Please, father.

KING EE'OH
My dear boy, you must summon your courage and face your destiny. Just as I face mine.

SODO'CHI
I'm afraid.

KING EE'OH
Be confident. Believe in yourself and follow your heart. I love you. My son.

King Ee'Oh closes his eyes for the last time. Sodo'Chi sobs.

EXT. BLUE GRASSY FIELD - NIGHT

Sodo'Chi sits quietly on the petals of a single, luminous flower alone in the field under twin crescent moons.

Catalpa spots him. Climbs her way up the leaves and sits down beside him. Offers him a smile. His eyes droop.

Catalpa reaches for his hand, but withdraws and folds her hands in her lap instead.

INT. MAGMA CAVERN - DAY

Scattered crystals protrude from the ground and walls. A river of lava flows below the rocky chasm.

Zaba peeks behind a boulder where Freya lies fast asleep.

ZABA
Here she is. No doubt enjoying the heat from the flowing magma.

Sodo'Chi steps over. Freya's eyes flutter open, she coos. Sodo'chi picks her up.

SODO'CHI
"Rite of Succession" draws near.
Yet no one believes I should be
king after what happened at the
council.

ZABA
Nonsense. You need only to perform
a noble deed to prove your worth.
A grand gesture to the people.

SODO'CHI
My father would have me open
relations with a new world.

ZABA
That's an excellent idea. I will
see to it that your ship is made
ready immediately. And I will even
look after Freya for you while
you're away.

SODO'CHI
They're giants.

ZABA
You must cast your fears aside,
Sodo'Chi. Face your destiny with
fire in your eyes. And when you
return, you will become king. As
I've always believed. As your
father believed.

SODO'CHI
Thank you, Zaba. For all your aid.
And support.

ZABA
My dear cousin, I only want what is
best for you and for Topo.

INT. PALACE - ROYAL LIBRARY - DAY

Sodo'Chi inserts the crystal shard into a sleek computer. Catalpa peers over his shoulder.

A holographic image of Earth projects, rotates before them.

CATALPA
Your father wants you to bring
Earth into the galactic council?
(MORE)

CATALPA (CONT'D)
You would be sponsoring a savage
warrior race like the Keeda.
Humans should remain quarantined,
Your Highness.

SODO'CHI
What better way to prove my worth
than by opening relations with
them? It's as if my father knew
what happened at the council,
Catalpa.

CATALPA
I told him, Your Highness. We
spoke in truths about everything.
Even you.

SODO'CHI
Me?

CATALPA
He wondered whom you might choose
as queen at "Rite of Succession".

SODO'CHI
I don't know.

CATALPA
I said it would most likely be Lady
Ruina. She is a noble. It's not
as if you could choose...

SODO'CHI
Who?

Catalpa lets out a frustrated breath.

CATALPA
Where on Earth will you go? Whom
will you talk to?

SODO'CHI
My father left notes.

He taps a button -- holographic satellites orbit Earth.

SODO'CHI
Humans communicate with each other
using primitive satellite systems.
I can simply contact them from
orbit and ask to speak with their
leader. Their language is simple
enough for our translator.
(MORE)

SODO'CHI (CONT'D)
I could address their entire world
without setting foot.

CATALPA
I'll alert the magistrates. And
the guards. We'll need to escort a
human back for the ceremony.

SODO'CHI
Humans are not accustomed with
extraterrestrial encounters. And
they're a fearful race. I cannot
arrive with a full delegation.

CATALPA
What do you suggest?

SODO'CHI
I will go alone. As my grandfather
did when he opened relations with
the Kittarians. They too were much
like the humans.

CATALPA
As your guardian, I'm going with
you.

SODO'CHI
I can handle it, Catalpa.

CATALPA
Unless you plan on removing me from
my position, I will continue to
perform my duty. Your Highness.

A grown-up LADY RUINA (now 24), tall and prissy in her elegant cape, approaches them. Curtseys before Sodo'Chi.

LADY RUINA
Prince Sodo'Chi. I hope I'm not
intruding.

SODO'CHI
Lady Ruina. No, of course not.

LADY RUINA
My father and I were in the Draken
Nebula offering aid when we heard
of your father's passing. We've
come to pay our condolences.

SODO'CHI
Thank you. I'm sorry it had to
interrupt your affairs.

LADY RUINA

Think nothing of it. People in
need are everywhere in the galaxy.

CATALPA

Indeed.

LADY RUINA

My father awaits you, Your
Highness.

SODO'CHI

Yes, I'll go immediately.

He hurries away.

CATALPA

If you'll excuse me, my lady.

LADY RUINA

Excuse you? I should think not.

CATALPA

My lady?

LADY RUINA

Your behavior towards Emperor Koda
was atrocious. And not dignified
of a queen. Or a lady.

CATALPA

I will not sit idly by and--

LADY RUINA

You are a guardian. Nothing more.
I trust you'll conform yourself by
the time you accompany the prince
and I on our honeymoon.

And with that she sways away.

Catalpa stands fuming. Gazes at the Earth still spinning.

EXT. EARTH

Planet Earth quietly spins.

INT. HIGHWAY DINER - DAY

JOE FROST (33), long hair and scruffy face, in leather, plaid
and jeans, finishes lunch at the counter.

The T.V., hung high in the corner, broadcasts CHANCIE (35), a
no-nonsense, knockout gal, addressing the camera.

CHANCIE (ON T.V.)
Thanks for watching today. And
don't forget to join me after the
weekend on Monday when my guest
will be fantasy and sci-fi author,
Joe Frost.

A picture of Joe appears on screen.

CHANCIE (ON T.V.)
Who tried to follow the success of
his first book "Birth of a
Werewolf", by killing his most
popular character in his recent
release of "Death of a Werewolf".
Which received unfavorable reviews
by book critics. And fans
everywhere.

DINERS take notice of Joe at the counter. They whisper to
each other as they point at him.

CHANCIE (ON T.V.)
Why did he kill Arora? We'll find
out live from Hollywood on the next
"Chancie".

She winks at the camera.

Joe takes a last bite of his meal. Throws down some money.
Grabs his motorcycle helmet, turns for the door -- an 8-year-old
girl scowls at him.

JOE
One day your face is gonna freeze
like that and you won't be cute
anymore.

EXT. HIGHWAY DINER - DAY

Joe kick-starts his motorcycle, a travel bag tied to the
back. Rips off down the highway.

EXT. KODA'S MOTHERSHIP - OUTER SPACE

It's an imperial star destroyer on steroids. Jagged edges
and mean. Swarms of menacing spacecraft fly in and out.

INT. KODA'S MOTHERSHIP - BRIEFING ROOM - OUTER SPACE

Emperor Koda listens patiently from his throne to his
ADVISORS seated around a worn stone slab serving as a table.

ADVISOR 1

We were once feared and respected throughout the galaxy. Now we are neither. But after we merge our forces with the Topos, no council would be able to stop our combined might. We will be invincible.

ADVISOR 2

Those insects would be in control of our army.

(pounds the slab)

We will be at their mercy.

ADVISOR 3

They follow their king. And their new king will be loyal to us.

ADVISOR 4

You're assuming Duke Zaba will ascend the throne. He's as incompetent as the prince.

ADVISOR 3

Their healing powers are to be respected.

ADVISOR 2

Only if they serve us.

EMPEROR KODA

Duke Zaba will become king. Even if I must place him on the throne myself.

An attractive KEEDA OFFICER, smaller than her male counterparts, enters with a spring in her step. Bows.

CUTE KEEDA OFFICER

(to Koda)

Duke Zaba requests communications.

INT. PALACE - ZABA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT (TOPO)

Zaba talks with a holographic image of Koda's giant head.

ZABA

The display at the council was brilliant. My worth to lead has been proven to my people.

EMPEROR KODA

Worth is proven with actions. Not words.

ZABA

Once I deal with the prince, the
throne will at long last be mine.
And when my army merges with yours,
the galaxy shall bow before me.

EMPEROR KODA

Before us.

ZABA

Yes, of course.

A KNOCK at the door -- Koda's image dissipates.

OUTSIDE ZABA'S DOOR

A blue figure dashes away. Zaba opens the door. Spots Freya sitting quietly. She coos.

ZABA

Freya? Has Sodo'Chi left you in my care?

He picks her up.

ZABA

My, you're getting heavy.

INT. PALACE - TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT

Catalpa attacks a target dummy with fierce determination.

INT. ZABA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Zaba feeds a leaf to Freya. A hum outside the large windows grabs his attention. He throws open a window.

EXT. ROYAL GARDENS - NIGHT

Vibrant foliage light up the castle. Flowers serve as lamps.

A huge saucer-like ship rises out of an underground hangar, dwarfing the palace -- shoots up into the sky.

INT. ZABA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Zaba dashes to his desk. Pulls out a small rectangular case. Opens it to reveal a simple REMOTE DETONATOR complete with an unlit light and a single button.

INT. SODO'CHI'S SHIP - COCKPIT - ORBIT OF PLANET TOPO

Planet Topo spins out the window. Sodo'Chi clasps his mother's jewel dangling around his neck.

Takes a confident breath. Slaps a big red button -- stars bend as space pulls towards the ship. Zooms away.

INT. ZABA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Zaba clicks the remote -- the light turns green.

INT. SODO'CHI'S SHIP - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

Stars zip past as Sodo'Chi cruises along.

IN THE ENGINE ROOM

A bomb is attached to the ship's engines. A light turns green -- blinks erratically.

INT. ZABA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Zaba taps the button repeatedly -- the light blinks red. He tosses the remote. YELLS into the air.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT

Catalpa huffs and puffs as she continues her relentless assault on target dummies set around her.

CATALPA
Conform myself?

She bounces from dummy to dummy, fists and feet fly.

CATALPA
If it wasn't for that glitch--

She freezes in mid swing as a realization strikes.

CATALPA
That made Zaba look like a hero.

She glares at the notion. Strikes the dummy.

EXT. ROYAL GARDENS - ZABA'S WINDOW - NIGHT

Catalpa skulks past the bushes along the palace walls.

Freya pops out of the opened window. Scurries over with a coo. Catalpa shushes her.

ZABA (O.S.)
That Cardillian arms dealer sold me
a useless bomb!

ME'CHA (O.S.)
The prince must have already been
in star drive when you activated
the device.

INT. ME'CHA'S SHIP - COCKPIT - ORBIT OF PLANET TOPO

ME'CHA, a feline goddess in a skintight outfit and jeweled collar, talks to Zaba on a holographic screen. Her bouncy white hair flows over her slick white fur. Subtitles translate Zaba's clicks for her.

ME'CHA
It should detonate once he enters
normal space.

ZABA (ON SCREEN)
I cannot leave the fate of my
destiny to chance!

EXT. ZABA'S WINDOW - NIGHT

Catalpa's eye stalks stretch and peer into the window to find Zaba speaking with a holographic image of Me'Cha.

ME'CHA
Is this why you called me?

ZABA
I have no army unless I am king.
You must--

A twig snaps outside.

Zaba peers out the window. His eyes stretch, each stalk taking a direction and spots Catalpa rounding a corner, an eye stalk glancing back at him.

EXT. PALACE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Catalpa sprints away -- straight into an awaiting Zaba and several imperial guards.

ZABA
Seize her!

Guards rush Catalpa. She moves as quick as lightning. Her fists and feet knock them senseless to the ground. Soon, she's the last one standing. Scowls at Zaba.

ZABA
Guards!

Catalpa dashes away.

INT. ME'CHA'S SHIP - COCKPIT - ORBIT OF PLANET TOPO

Me'Cha speaks with Zaba's subtitled projected image.

ZABA (ON SCREEN)
Find Prince Sodo'Chi. If he is
alive... eliminate him.

The screen closes.

ME'CHA
Men. They're all alike.

ANAXIA, the computer, responds with a female voice.

ANAXIA
So you've stated.

Me'Cha slumps into her seat.

ME'CHA
I'm dying, Anaxia.

ANAXIA
Vital signs reading normal.

ME'CHA
Not literally, you twit. But I
might as well be. Performing
meaningless tasks for unsavory
characters not even worth my
effort. Why do I bother?

ANAXIA
For the pretty jewels.

ME'CHA
I need more, Anaxia.

ANAXIA
You'll have to ask your father.

ME'CHA
My father would never let me quit.
I'm his prized jewel.

ANAXIA
This assignment might prove more
exciting than last.

ME'CHA
Perhaps. Topos are a curious
species. And ever so cute.

Me'Cha stretches luxuriously. Strolls off; her black-tipped tail swings behind.

ME'CHA
Keep surveillance on the prince's
guardian. I'm taking a bath.

INT. SODO'CHI'S SHIP - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

Stars streak past the window as the ship cruises along.
Sodo'Chi paces while practicing his speech.

SODO'CHI
People of Earth... Earth people...
People who live on Earth.

He lets out a drowned-out sigh. A faint beep grabs his attention. He tracks the sound to an air vent. The beep echoes down the shaft.

EXT. SOLACE RESTAURANT - BACK DOOR - DAY (EARTH)

The setting sun shines on LEEANA DAWSON (27), cute and spunky, in a waitress uniform. Ashes her cigarette.

The back door swings open. The OWNER peeks his head out.

RESTAURANT OWNER
Leeana! We got tables in here!

LEEEANA
I am baking in this godforsaken
heat. It's inhuman.

RESTAURANT OWNER
We got air conditionin'!

Leeana hacks a dramatic cough.

LEEEANA
I think I got the sickness.

RESTAURANT OWNER
You wanna be an actress? Act like
a waitress!

He slams the door shut disappearing back inside.

Leeana fixes her gaze on Joe who rides up to the drab office across the parking lot to the Solace Motel.

Joe pulls off his helmet. Exchanges a glance with Leeana. Strolls into the office.

INT. SOLACE MOTEL - FRONT DESK - DAY

Joe fiddles with a sign on the counter that reads "Free Coffee". It slips and crashes behind as Leeana enters.

JOE
My bad.

Leeana puts the sign back.

JOE
You're the desk clerk too?

Leeana stands straight.

LEEEANA
Welcome to Solace. Smack dab in the middle of nowhere. And it's hot out here, stranger. Baking under that sun. Sweat beatin' off your skin with a thirst that can never be quenched. Lemonade be damned.

JOE
Does that mean you got a room available?

LEEEANA
This may be a small town, and not big enough for a girl like me, but we always got a room available.

JOE
Lucky me.

LEEEANA
Lucky you. And scene.

She curtseys before him.

JOE
Actress, huh?

LEEEANA
That's the dream. Thank you for being part of my improv.

JOE
You use real life moments?

He passes her his visa card. Leeana scans it.

LEEEANA
Helps to look at it a little
different.
(off the card)
Joe Frost? As in "Birth" and
"Death of a Werewolf" Joe Frost?

JOE
Yeah.

LEEEANA
Did you kill Arora as a cheap way
to write another book? Or are you
just unoriginal?

She holds out his visa card. Joe snags it.

JOE
Look, I just want a room. I don't
wanna deal with fans or anyone
else. I just wanna be left alone.
In my room. Okay?

Leeana snatches a room key. Slides it to him.

LEEEANA
Your room. Mr. Frost.

JOE
The sign says--

Leeana grabs the coffee sign, turns her back to him.

INT. SOLACE MOTEL - ROOM 8 - NIGHT

Joe shuts off the old-school T.V. on the stand. An argument
outside grabs his attention. Peeks out the window curtain.

EXT. SOLACE RESTAURANT - BACK DOOR - NIGHT

Leeana argues with BUCK (27), a good looking cowboy.

LEEEANA
Emily?! Are you kidding me, Buck?!

BUCK
Leeana, I like Evan, but I ain't
ready to be a daddy. And Emily
ain't got no kids.

He climbs into his truck, peels away.

LEEEANA
Go on, get out of here! I hope you
and Emily are happy together!

INT. ROOM 8 - NIGHT

Joe climbs under the covers. Kills the bed light.

EXT. PALACE - DAWN (TOPO)

The blue sun breaks the surreal sky.

INT. HANGAR - DAWN

By the hangar doors, Catalpa peers around the empty room.
She bolts up the ramp of her bubble-like spaceship.

Freya skitters in, scurries up one of the landing gear legs
of Catalpa's ship and disappears inside.

INT. CATALPA'S SHIP - COCKPIT - HANGAR

Catalpa pushes a button. A holographic message pops up
"COMMUNICATIONS BLOCKED".

INT. ME'CHA'S SHIP - COCKPIT - ORBIT OF PLANET TOPO

A light blips on the console.

ANAXIA
Target in motion.

Me'Cha hops in her seat.

ME'CHA
Hello, my dear.

INT. CATALPA'S SHIP - COCKPIT - ORBIT OF PLANET TOPO

Catalpa pushes a button. Message reads "RECIPIENT
UNAVAILABLE". She punches in another set of commands.

EXT. CATALPA'S SHIP - ORBIT OF PLANET TOPO

Space ripples around Catalpa's ship as she enters star drive
and zooms away. Me'Cha's cloaked ship trails after her.

INT. SODO'CHI'S SHIP - ENGINE ROOM - OUTER SPACE

Sodo'Chi steps down a staircase tracking the now louder beep.

His eyes peek around the engine and spot the bomb, the red
light blinks with a beep.

Sodo'Chi rushes to a computer terminal. The holographic screen reads "SCANNER DISABLED. ENABLE?" Sodo'Chi taps "YES". An ALARM blares. Writing flashes; "BOMB DETECTED".

COMPUTER
Warning. Bomb detected. Warning.
Bomb detected.

Sodo'Chi backs away in fear. A PING rings out.

COMPUTER
Destination arrival in thirty
seconds.

Sodo'Chi takes a confident breath. Races to the bomb and rips it off the panel. Bolts to the air lock, throws it in. Hits the button.

A holographic screen pops up "CANNOT DISCHARGE WHILE IN STAR DRIVE. AUTO DISCHARGE UPON ARRIVAL?" Sodo'Chi taps "YES".

COMPUTER VOICE
Destination arrival in ten seconds.

Sodo'Chi sprints up the stairs.

INT. SODO'CHI'S SHIP - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

Sodo'Chi runs in. The familiar PING chimes.

COMPUTER VOICE
Destination reached.

The ship drops out of star drive. Earth ahead.

IN THE AIRLOCK

The door bursts open. The bomb is sucked out into space, the red light turns green -- BOOM!

IN THE COCKPIT

The blast rocks the ship, knocking Sodo'Chi down. His eyes widen as Earth races towards him.

EXT. DESERT - ROCK OUTCROPPING - DAY

Joe sits with feet propped up on the handlebars of his bike. Flicks away a cigarette. Takes a swig from a flask.

Notices a single desert flower growing through the rocky ground. Picks it, sniffs it, tucks it in his jacket pocket.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Joe rides through open terrain with a bandana and sunglasses.

Sodo'Chi's spaceship soars straight at him, smoke billows from a gaping hole on its side.

Joe glimpses the ship just in time to duck -- the ship zooms over his head and crashes down behind him. Joe tips his bike and rolls -- everything goes black.

INT. MILITARY BASE - MONITORING ROOM - DAY

A radar screen blips. AGENT MS. ROBINSON (45), black suit, glasses, hair tied back, peeks over the OPERATOR'S shoulder.

OPERATOR
It stopped, Ms. Robinson.

EXT. DESERT - CRASH SITE - DAY

A torn up trail leads to a smoking crater and Sodo'Chi's ship. Sodo'Chi climbs out of the crater. Spots Joe's downed motorcycle, front tire spinning slowly to a stop.

Joe's lifeless body lies several feet away. A cut on his forehead trickles with blood.

A hesitant Sodo'Chi approaches him. Clicks at him. Nothing. Hops up onto his chest. Clicks again. Nothing.

Sodo'Chi takes a confident breath. Climbs into Joe's mouth.

A few moments later -- a breath fills Joe's lungs. Exhales. Glimmering blue scales form over the cut, covering the wound.

A leg jerks. An arm moves. Fingers wiggle. Sodo'Chi/Joe sits up. His eyes flutter open. He picks himself up, stumbles back, falls flat on his back.

He gets back up. Steps to the motorcycle -- lifts it into the air with one hand. Unsure of what to make of the dangling wreck, he drops it. Walks off.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Sodo'Chi/Joe stands over flattened roadkill in the middle of the road. A Jeep roars towards him -- SCREECHES to a halt.

Leeana, in her waitress uniform, fumes. EVAN (5), cute as a button, sits buckled up in the back seat.

LEEEANA
Are you crazy?! I barely even saw
you standing there!

Sodo'chi/Joe gazes curiously at her.

LEEEANA
Where's your motorcycle? Did you
crash it or something?

Sodo'Chi/Joe glances back at the desert and setting sun.

SODO'CHI/JOE
Yes.

EVAN
What's wrong with him?

LEEEANA
He must have hit his head.

EVAN
We have to help him.

LEEEANA
You wanna help everyone, Evan.

EVAN
Please?

LEEEANA
(to Joe)
Get in.

Sodo'Chi/Joe climbs into the front passenger seat.

LEEEANA
Do you know who you are?

SODO'CHI/JOE
I am... I mean I... I do not know.

LEEEANA
What's that on your forehead?

She rubs off the scaly skin from his forehead. It flakes off revealing perfect skin underneath.

LEEEANA
I don't see a cut. You're lucky
you didn't kill yourself. The
hospital's one town over.
(MORE)

LEEEANA (CONT'D)

And there's no way I'm driving you
unless you're dying. You're not
dying are you?

SODO'CHI/JOE

No.

Leeana hands him bottled water.

LEEEANA

Here, drink some water.

Sodo'Chi/Joe gulps it back. Water splashes out of his mouth.

LEEEANA

Try to get some in your mouth.

INT. SOLACE MOTEL - ROOM 8 - NIGHT

Joe's motorcycle helmet rests on the desk. Leeana enters with Sodo'Chi/Joe on her heels. Bumps into him.

LEEEANA

Sit down, Joe.

Sodo'Chi/Joe sits on the bed. Leeana paces.

LEEEANA

You guys are all alike. You expect
some woman to take care of you
while you walk all over them. Well
I am not your mother. Amnesia or
not. Do you understand me?

SODO'CHI/JOE

I do.

LEEEANA

Quit looking at me like a lost
puppy.

She storms out, SLAMS the door behind.

EXT. ROOM 8 - NIGHT

Leeana stands fuming outside the door. Exchanges a glance with Evan in the Jeep. Turns and opens the door to find Sodo'Chi/Joe still on the bed.

LEEEANA

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to blow up
at you. Are you hungry?

Sodo'Chi/Joe nods.

LEEEANA

We have a pretty good cook. He's young, but don't let that fool you.

EXT. DESERT - CRASH SITE - NIGHT

AGENT JOHN DAVIS (25), clean cut, black suit and child-like wonder in his eyes, takes in the spaceship with Ms. Robinson.

MS. ROBINSON

Not very large. Perhaps one, maybe two passengers.

Davis snaps a picture of the ship with his cell phone.

DAVIS

Wicked.

He pulls out an asthma inhaler, takes a puff.

AT JOE'S MOTORCYCLE

Ms. Robinson kneels by the license plate "DAYDRMR". She glances up from her cell displaying Joe's driver's license.

MS. ROBINSON

Clean the area. Leave the bike.

Davis talks into the cuff of his jacket.

DAVIS

We are green for Mary Poppins.

Lights flood the area revealing the ship. Vehicles swarm in.

INT. SOLACE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Sodo'Chi/Joe slurps air between the ice cubes of his drink. Evan joins in on the fun as he slurps his glass. Annoyed DINERS glance on.

Leeana takes away Evan's and Sodo'Chi/Joe's glasses.

EVAN

Can we have another glass?

LEEEANA

Two are more than enough, Evan.

Evan gives her sad, puppy dog eyes.

EVAN

Please?

LEEEANA
Fine. Just one more.

EVAN
I have to pee.

He bolts off.

LEEEANA
Don't forget to wash your hands!

She strides off.

Sodo'Chi/Joe notices local COWBOYS who make their way downstairs to the bar. He follows.

INT. SOLACE RESTAURANT - DOWNSTAIRS BAR - NIGHT

With a thundering crack, a pool game is officially underway.

Sodo'Chi/Joe watches the BARTENDER pour tequila shots, set the bottle of tequila on the counter and deliver the shooters to a nearby table.

Sodo'Chi/Joe takes the bottle of tequila -- gulps it back. A WAITRESS rushes up to him.

WAITRESS
Hey, you gotta pay for that!

INT. SOLACE MOTEL - ROOM 8 - NIGHT

Sodo'Chi/Joe staggers in, hanging off of Leeana for support.

SODO'CHI/JOE
I love this world.

Leeana leads him to the bed. He flops down.

LEEEANA
You're heavier than you look.

SODO'CHI/JOE
I'm supposed to be the king.

He falls back and passes out.

Leeana notices his wallet sticking out of his jacket pocket. She snags it. Rifles through and pulls out --

A BUSINESS CARD -- KELLY ROSE. LITERARY AGENT.

INT. ROOM 8 - DAY

Joe groggily wakes. He stumbles into the --

BATHROOM

Joe pukes -- Sodo'Chi is ejected into the toilet. Joe falls unconscious to the floor.

Joe sits up a moment later, disorientated. Flushes the toilet as he clammers to his feet. Rinses out his mouth. Hears a KNOCK at the front door.

IN THE TOILET BOWL

The flushing water carries Sodo'Chi away. His fingers cling to the porcelain as the swirling vortex tries to pull him in.

INT. ROOM 8 - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Joe, his head still spinning, opens the door revealing Davis flashing his badge.

DAVIS

Joe Frost? John Davis, National Security. You alright?

JOE

Coming off a hangover I think.

DAVIS

Front desk said you had amnesia.

JOE

I don't know. Maybe. What's going on?

DAVIS

You had quite a spill last night. Training unit came across your motorcycle out in the desert. They said you're gonna wanna get a flatbed to tow it. They were amazed you walked away.

JOE

They find anything else?

DAVIS

Like what?

JOE

Nothing I guess.

DAVIS

Would you mind if I snapped a pic?
My sister's a big fan. She hates
your guts for killing Arora, but
she'd really get a kick out of it.

JOE

Sure, go ahead.

Davis poses with him and takes a pic on his cell phone.

DAVIS

Awesome.

He fishes out his card.

DAVIS

Here's my card in case something
comes back.

Davis strides off. Joe locks the door, secures the chain.

Freezes in his tracks at the sight of Sodo'Chi feet away,
dripping wet. Sodo'Chi waves with a smile.

SODO'CHI

Hi, Joe. I am--

Joe bolts to the bathroom, SLAMS the door shut.

BATHROOM

Joe looks into the mirror.

JOE

This might be a flashback. I have
done a lot of drugs. Or it's a
concussion. I did crash my bike.

A KNOCK at the bathroom door.

JOE

Just ignore it.

Sodo'Chi crawls in from underneath the door. His wafer thin
body pops back to normal as he exhales.

SODO'CHI

Hi, Joe. I am--

Joe bolts to the tub, whips closed the shower curtain.

SODO'CHI

You're afraid of me?

Joe peeks out from behind the shower curtain.

JOE
What are you?

SODO'CHI
I am Prince Sodo'Chi. From planet
Topo.

JOE
That ship barreling at me was huge.
And you're smaller than a Smurf.

SODO'CHI
My species is always disregarded
because of our size.

Joe grabs the nearby toilet plunger -- bonks Sodo'chi on the head. He knocks it away.

SODO'CHI
Please don't do that.

JOE
Oh my God.

He drops the plunger. Slumps into the tub.

JOE
Maybe I died in the desert?

SODO'CHI
The merging regenerates the host
body.

JOE
What merging?

SODO'CHI
My species can join with another,
enhancing the body beyond its
limits. A lasting effect is the
ability to understand each other's
language.

JOE
I can remember everything like it
was a dream. But I didn't have any
control.

SODO'CHI

The host consciousness is suppressed during the merge, allowing the user full control of the host body.

JOE

This is like that book I wrote about a brain tick from outer space tryin' to take over the world.

SODO'CHI

I'm not trying to take over the world. Merging is meant to heal. It is a great responsibility, taken with pride among my people. I would have left your body sooner, but I thought it best to explore my surroundings.

JOE

I feel... good. I feel really good.

Sodo'Chi smiles proudly. Joe steps out of the tub. Kneels down to get a closer look. Extends his hand.

Sodo'Chi cautiously approaches, climbs into his palm.

JOE

If you're not tryin' to take over the world, then why are you here?

SODO'CHI

I was intending to open relations.

JOE

You wanna be friends with us?

Sodo'Chi nods excitedly.

JOE

That's cool.

SODO'CHI

The climate?

JOE

Word play. It's how we talk. Welcome to Earth.

SODO'CHI

I'm sorry I almost killed you when I crashed.

JOE
It's cool.

INT. MAIN ROOM - DAY

Joe sets Sodo'Chi on the desk. Picks up a half-empty pack of cigarettes. Chucks it in the trash bin. Flops into a chair.

JOE
So what does this mean? Aliens are gonna start visiting us?

SODO'CHI
Travel would also be made available to anyone wishing to visit other worlds in the galactic community. But first I must speak with your leader. And I would also require a representative to return home with me. To introduce your world at the ceremony.

JOE
First of all, you don't want me addressing a crowd of aliens. Chancie's supposed to kick my ass on T.V. tomorrow about a book I wrote in front of God and creation.

SODO'CHI
Your people would see this?

JOE
Everyone would. Her show's broadcast live around the world. I'm having second thoughts about it myself. And second, I can't just take you to my leader. There are people here who are gonna wanna try and keep your arrival a secret.

Sodo'Chi hops off the desk.

JOE
Where you goin'?

SODO'CHI
I must return to my ship. Perhaps I can repair communications.

JOE
You can't just walk out there. You're gonna freak people out.

Sodo'Chi inhales a breath, flattens his body wafer thin and slides under the door.

Joe bolts to the door -- it's locked. Unlocks it.

EXT. SOLACE MOTEL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Sodo'Chi dashes across the lot. He stops, sniffs the air coming from Solace Restaurant.

Door 8 whips open. Joe runs out and spots Sodo'Chi heading towards the back door. Sodo'Chi slides right under.

INT. SOLACE RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - DAY

Joe crosses the kitchen, his attention on the floor. The 19-year-old COOK notices.

COOK
You're not supposed to be here.

JOE
I'm uh... looking for my mouse.

COOK
What's your mouse doing in my kitchen?

Sodo'Chi dashes past Joe who tries to reach out and grab him, but Sodo'Chi hops away towards the dining area.

INT. SOLACE RESTAURANT - DINING AREA - DAY

Sodo'Chi darts past a WAITRESS -- she jumps with fright, spilling her tray.

Sodo'Chi scampers under tables where DINERS try squashing him under their feet. Sodo'Chi hops onto a WOMAN'S foot. She SHRIEKS. Kicks him --

High up into the air --

Plops down into a water pitcher.

A LITTLE GIRL stares at him through the glass. Sodo'Chi waves. She waves back. Joe scoops him out of the water.

JOE
Sorry, folks! Just my pet mouse.

He shoves Sodo'Chi into his leather jacket's side pocket, closes the zipper. Leeana strides up to him.

LEEEANA
There's a mouse in your pocket?

JOE
Uh... yeah. He's pretty cute.

LEEEANA
How're you feeling?

JOE
Good. The amnesia cleared up.

LEEEANA
Oh. Well, that's great. Can I get
you anything? Coffee maybe? Some
cheese for your mouse?

JOE
No, thank you. We, uh... we should
really get going. Do you know when
the bus comes in?

LEEEANA
Doesn't run through here on Sunday.
And the nearest airport is clear
cross state. I'm afraid you're
stuck until tomorrow.

JOE
Lucky me.

LEEEANA
Lucky you. Well, I'm glad you got
your memory back, but some of us
still have to work for a living.

JOE
Sucks to be you.

LEEEANA
Smartass.

Joe exits. Leeana approaches Davis at a booth in the corner.

LEEEANA
Anything else, Agent Davis?

DAVIS
Just the check, Ms. Dawson.

INT. SOLACE MOTEL - ROOM 8 - DAY

Joe sets Sodo'Chi down on the desk. Closes the curtains.

JOE
You can't let anyone see you.

SODO'CHI
I must return to my ship.

JOE
I doubt it's still there. But if
it makes you feel better, we'll go
out to the desert and look around.
I gotta pick up my bike anyway.

EXT. DESERT - JOE'S MOTORCYCLE - DAY

Metal scrapes as Joe's motorcycle is hoisted onto the flatbed by the TOW TRUCK DRIVER, PHIL (70), barely a skeleton and not in any hurry as he goes about his business.

Across the way, Joe, with Sodo'Chi in hand, take in what looks like undisturbed soil where Sodo'Chi's ship once lay.

PHIL
Yer lucky the frame ain't bent!

Joe shoves Sodo'Chi into his jacket pocket. Walks over.

JOE
What're we lookin' at?

PHIL
Nothin' serious. Gonna have to
order the parts in to match. Or I
can salvage it from the yard if yer
in a real hurry. Have to wait till
tomorrow either way. Earl doesn't
work on Sunday.

JOE
Got a loaner?

PHIL
Real nice one. Even has AC.

JOE
I'll take it.

PHIL
Loaned out.

INT. SOLACE MOTEL - ROOM 8 - DAY

Joe is on the motel phone with his agent Kelly. Sodo'Chi watches a Road Runner and Coyote cartoon from the bed.

KELLY (V.O.)
Leeana called me last night. How
are you feeling?

JOE
Good. Better than good actually.

INT. KELLY'S OFFICE - DAY

The Statue of Liberty stands vigil out the high-rise window.
KELLY ROSE (40), as sexy as she is sassy, is on her smart
phone as she feeds her tiny goldfish in its bowl on her desk.

KELLY
You sound happier than I've heard
you in a long time. Find yourself
some inspiration?

JOE (V.O.)
Maybe a tiny bit.

KELLY
Good. Maybe you'll be inspired to
bring back Arora, Mr. Artistic
expression.

JOE (V.O.)
Kelly, I'm not--

INT. ROOM 8 - DAY

Joe paces while on the phone.

KELLY (V.O.)
You've got witches and zombies and
all sorts of magical creatures
running around in that world of
yours. There's leeway. And
another book.

An idea strikes Joe like lightning. He glances at Sodo'Chi
giggling at the Coyote's failure.

JOE
You're right, Kelly.

KELLY (V.O.)
I knew you'd see it my way.

JOE
No, about another book. I think I
found a new story.

KELLY (V.O.)
Discuss it with Chancie. You're
still going, right?

JOE
Bye, Kelly.

He hangs up.

JOE
Enjoying the T.V.?

SODO'CHI
I can hear my mother telling me not
to dawdle.

JOE
I'm sure she'd want you to smell
the roses.

SODO'CHI
What roses?

JOE
It's a saying. It means don't
forget to enjoy yourself.

SODO'CHI
How can I enjoy myself when my
mission has failed?

JOE
I was actually thinking about that.

He pulls a chair up across from Sodo'Chi. Sits down.

JOE
I could introduce you on Chancie's
show tomorrow.

SODO'CHI
But you said I shouldn't let anyone
see me.

JOE
This is different. If I introduced
you on Chancie's show, you would be
able to reach a mass audience.

SODO'CHI
Without my translator--

JOE
I'll translate for you. And all I want is the story rights.

SODO'CHI
Story rights?

JOE
That means I'm the only one who can write a story about you and contact with Earth. Look, I need you to do this with me. No one would ever believe me without any proof. What do you say?

SODO'CHI
I'm still stranded on your world.

JOE
Does anyone know you're here?

SODO'CHI
Catalpa. My guardian. She may pursue me when she cannot contact me.

JOE
Say hello on the show with me. Then all we gotta do is wait for her to bring you home.

SODO'CHI
I suppose I have little choice.

JOE
Say "deal" and we'll call it a deal.

SODO'CHI
Deal.

Joe holds out his fist.

JOE
Fist bump.

Sodo'Chi curls his fist, bumps it with Joe's.

INT. DAVIS'S CAR - ACROSS THE STREET - DAY

Davis observes Joe walk away. Raises his cuff to his mouth.

DAVIS
Roadrunner has left the nest.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE GAS STATION - GAS PUMPS - DAY

Joe enters the store. An AGENT at the pumps takes notice.

INT. ROOM 8 - DAY

Sodo'Chi watches Chancie on T.V. with a MALE GUEST.

CHANCIE (ON T.V.)
Your life story has inspired people
to reach for the stars. No matter
how far they might seem.

The audience members applaud.

MALE GUEST (ON T.V.)
You might find yourself in any
number of situations, Chancie.
Never give up. And just keep
going. No matter how scary.

Chancie holds up a book titled "NO MATTER HOW SCARY".

CHANCIE (ON T.V.)
Which coincidentally happens to be
the title of your new book.

MALE GUEST (ON T.V.)
Yes, coincidentally.

Everyone shares a chuckle, including Sodo'Chi.

CHANCIE (ON T.V.)
We'll be right back.

She winks at the camera. A commercial plays.

Sodo'Chi jumps up to the channel knob -- hops up and down.
The knob turns and switches to Sylvester and Tweety.
Sodo'Chi slides to the floor. Smiles proudly.

His attention turns to the doorknob -- it jiggles.

Sodo'Chi hops onto the desk, peeks out the window curtain to
find Davis manipulating the lock.

Sodo'Chi hops off the desk and scurries under the bed --
freezes at the sight of a MOUSE.

The door slowly opens -- Sodo'Chi dashes frantically under
the desk instead.

Davis enters. Scans the room. Peeks in the bathroom. Looks
under the bed. Under the desk --

Sodo'Chi hides nervously behind a leg post. Davis's face only inches away.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE GAS STATION - DAY

Joe wanders the aisle, notices an AGENT casually looking at him from the opposite side. Joe selects his items, brings them to the counter.

The pudgy STORE CLERK rings him up.

JOE
Heck of a day, huh?

STORE CLERK
I'll say. Agents been rollin'
through here all night and day.
Wonder what they're lookin' for.

Joe glances out to find the agent staring from the gas pumps.

JOE
Probably aliens.

STORE CLERK
You know my cousin seen an alien
once when he was camping in the
woods. They probed him and
everything. Even took his
underpants. I ask you, who takes
another man's underpants?

INT. ROOM 8 - DAY

Two very large AGENTS, complete with sunglasses, wait with Davis reading Joe's tablet.

Joe enters, grocery bag in hand.

JOE
What the f--

The agents throw him up against the wall and search him.

JOE
How's your sister?

DAVIS
She said to say hello.

Agent 1 shakes his head at Davis.

Agent 2 rifles through the grocery bag. Shakes his head.

DAVIS
Thank you gentlemen.

The two agents exit.

DAVIS
Sorry, Mr. Frost, I just--

JOE
Is that my tablet?

DAVIS
Uh... yeah.

Joe snatches the tablet.

JOE
Get out.

DAVIS
Mr. Frost--

JOE
Am I under arrest or something?

DAVIS
Are you withholding anything from
me?

Sodo'Chi peeks out from under the desk at them.

JOE
I got nothin' to hide.

DAVIS
Then you got nothin' to worry
about.

He steps to the door.

DAVIS
Interesting story you're working
on. A tiny alien traveling all the
way to Earth to establish first
contact. How'd you come up with
that little twist?

A SQUEAK grabs their attention -- the tiny mouse dashes
across the floor and slips under the closet door.

JOE
Got inspired by a mouse.

DAVIS
No doubt. Stay cool. Joe Frost.

He exits. Sodo'Chi steps out from under the desk.

JOE
You okay?

Sodo'Chi nods. Joe peeks out the window curtain.

JOE
That was too close.

SODO'CHI
Who were they?

JOE
Just stay as far away as possible
from 'em.

SODO'CHI
What should we do?

JOE
I got an idea.

He puts Sodo'Chi back into his jacket pocket. Zips it up.

INT. DAVIS'S CAR - DAY

Davis talks on his cell phone.

DAVIS
I believe he's in contact with the
alien, Ms. Robinson. It might be
smaller than we think.

He spots Joe exit his room, grocery bag in hand. Strides off down the street.

DAVIS
He's moving, Ms. Robinson.

EXT. TOW YARD - FRONT OFFICE - DAY

Joe knocks on the rickety screen door. Phil approaches.

PHIL
Office is closed.

JOE
I was hoping I could fix my bike
myself. Just need access to your
garage. And some tools.

PHIL
You ever work on a motorcycle
before?

JOE
My father was a mechanic. I worked
on bikes in his garage since I was
a kid.

PHIL
Well... I suppose it'd be alright.

INT. MECHANIC GARAGE - NIGHT

Sodo'Chi sits on a work bench surrounded by a pile of junk food, munching on potato chips.

Joe attaches front forks on his motorcycle set on a stand.

SODO'CHI
I miss my father. And my mother.

JOE
What happened to your mother?

SODO'CHI
She died when I was a child.
Almost twenty years ago. A
malfunction on board her transport
caused the star drive engine to
explode. My father raised me
alone. He always tried to make me
laugh. I wish to make him proud.

JOE
I'm sure he would be.

SODO'CHI
What was your father like?

JOE
He was the king of the castle.
Master of his domain.

SODO'CHI
Was he proud of you?

JOE
He died before I could find out.

SODO'CHI
I should have never come alone.

JOE
What happens if you don't make it
back?

SODO'CHI
Zaba would be crowned king. He is
next in line.

He peels back a chocolate bar wrapper. Takes a huge bite.

JOE
What if he sabotaged your ship?

SODO'CHI
Zaba?

JOE
I know, royal power grabs are the
oldest story ever told. We'd need
a twist. There's no way I can
finish this bike tonight.

He slips on his jacket. Pulls out his flask, the desert
flower also caught in his grasp. Chucks the flask.

Sodo'Chi's eyes turn red.

JOE
Wow, man, your eyes are red. You
gotta lay off the chocolate.
You'll be bouncing--

Sodo'Chi hops up and down.

SODO'CHI
This is so cool!

He hops off the bench, off the shelves and off the bike.

JOE
Off the walls.

Sodo'Chi bounces around -- Joe reaches out and grabs him.

JOE
You're quite a handful.

SODO'CHI
We should go see Leeana. Can we go
see Leeana? I think we should go
see Leeana.

JOE
She hates me for killing Arora.

SODO'CHI
Be confident. Believe in yourself
and follow your heart.

JOE
Good advice. Now be quiet and stay
in my pocket.

SODO'CHI
But I can't see in your pocket.

JOE
Dude, don't freak out.

He slides Sodo'Chi into his front jacket pocket. Peeks out.

SODO'CHI
Much better, thank you.

INT. ZABA'S CHAMBERS - DAY (TOPO)

Zaba speaks with the holographic image of Koda.

EMPEROR KODA
Is my army prepared?

ZABA
Patience, Emperor Koda.

EMPEROR KODA
My patience grows thin!

ZABA
I shall dispatch the legion to
Keeda upon conclusion of the
ceremony. When I am king.

EMPEROR KODA
Do not delay.

His image dissipates.

ZABA
Even you shall bow to me.

His quiet giggle quickly escalates into a roaring cackle.

EXT. SOLACE RESTAURANT - BACK DOOR - NIGHT

Leeana stomps out, hollers back from the doorway.

LEEEANA
Ask Julie where the money is! It
was her table!

She SLAMS the door shut. Stands fuming. Joe steps over.
Sodo'Chi's eyes peek out his pocket.

JOE
You okay?

LEEEANA
Peachy.

Joe holds out the desert flower.

JOE
I, uh... I picked this for you.

LEEEANA
Me?

JOE
Found it in the desert. Almost
died. No big deal.

LEEEANA
You expect me to swoon just because
you're giving me flowers?

JOE
Well, it's just one. So
technically--

LEEEANA
You know how many guys ride through
town and promise me the world?

JOE
I just--

LEEEANA
And you're just gonna leave, right?

JOE
Look, I was just trying to be nice.

He trudges off.

LEEEANA
And scene.

JOE
You're messing around with me?

LEEEANA
No one ever picked me a flower
before. Let me make it up to you.
Just name it.

JOE

I could use a ride to L.A. I'm supposed to be on Chancie's show tomorrow to talk about the book.

LEEEANA

I'd get to meet Chancie?

JOE

Is that a yes?

LEEEANA

Hell yes! Well, I mean, as long as you don't mind my son Evan coming along.

JOE

More the merrier.

LEEEANA

We could make a midnight run out of it. And I could fix us a quick bite.

JOE

I already almost died once.

LEEEANA

Hospital's one town over, smartass.

JOE

Then how can I possibly say no?

LEEEANA

Good. I'll get my keys.

She takes the flower and heads back into the restaurant.

INT. CATALPA'S SHIP - COCKPIT - EARTH'S ORBIT

Catalpa practices walking like a proper lady, awkwardly. She flops into her chair.

CATALPA

I'm every bit a lady as she. And there is no way I'm accompanying them on their honeymoon. I'd rather guard the royal stables.

(lets out a breath)

At least he'll be happy.

Her eyes droop. A PING rings out.

COMPUTER
Energy signature found.

CATALPA
Finally.

INT. ME'CHA'S SHIP - COCKPIT - EARTH'S ORBIT

Me'Cha checks her readings on her console.

ME'CHA
Is that how she's tracking him?

INT. JEEP - HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Leeana drives along with Joe. Sodo'Chi peeks out his pocket.

LEEEANA
L.A. will be the furthest I've ever been. You must travel all the time. I mean you can write anywhere, find inspiration anywhere, you could-- sorry. I tend to talk a lot when I'm excited.

JOE
I think it's cute. Kelly told me you called her.

LEEEANA
She was the only number I found in your wallet. Figured I should call someone. Hope you don't mind.

JOE
She's the only friend I got.

LEEEANA
Don't get mad, but... why did you kill Arora?

JOE
I was going through some stuff and... it came out in my work. Just because the hero gets the girl, doesn't mean they live happily ever after.

LEEEANA
Great attitude.

JOE
What about you miss "expect me to swoon?"

LEEEANA
You know how many guys hit on me?

JOE
I'm sure the whole fleet comes in just to hit on you.

LEEEANA
Are you calling me a tramp?

JOE
I'm just agreeing with you.

LEEEANA
You're unbelievable. No wonder you killed Arora.

JOE
You don't know jack about me.

LEEEANA
And you don't know jack about me.

JOE
Fine.

LEEEANA
Good.

JOE
Great.

Sodo'Chi's eyes independently watch them both.

LEEEANA
I have to pee.

She pulls over at a nearby rickety gas station.

JOE
Can't you wait till we get to your place?

LEEEANA
It's not good for you to hold it in.

She jumps out of the Jeep, runs into the station.

SODO'CHI
How do you know if the one you
choose is correct?

Joe pulls him out of his pocket.

JOE
What do you mean?

SODO'CHI
I am to choose a queen at the
ceremony. A noble lady. I don't
know whom to choose.

JOE
What about Catalpa?

SODO'CHI
She is my guardian.

JOE
Is that all she means to you?

SODO'CHI
Her father was a guardian and
escorted my mother on her transport
that day. We've been friends since
we were children.

JOE
I think it's important to be
friends with the person you're
gonna spend the rest of your life
with.

Leeana dashes out of the station, hurries to the washroom
with key and a bottled drink in hand.

LEEEANA
He wouldn't give me the key unless
I bought something!

JOE
You didn't get me anything?!

LEEEANA
Smartass!

She disappears into the washroom.

JOE
(to Sodo'Chi)
Teasing is a big part.

INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Leeana and Joe enter through the back door. Evan runs to Leeana who scoops him up.

LEEEANA
How's Mommy's little man?

EVAN
Good. How are you, Mr. Frost?

JOE
Good. And you can call me Joe.

MRS. STEIN (65), approaches, purse and jacket in hand.

LEEEANA
Thank you for watching Evan
tonight.

MRS. STEIN
He's an angel, dear. I'd better
hurry along. Mr. Stein thinks he
can renovate the bathroom thanks to
that blasted inter-web.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Joe, Leeana and Evan eat dinner at the table.

A black cat sits in a chair at the table staring at Joe.

JOE
He's just gonna sit there watching
me?

LEEEANA
Blu usually hides from people.
You're so silly, Blu.

Blu meows at her. Leeana's cell phone RINGS. She grabs it and looks at it.

LEEEANA
It's Kelly.

JOE
Why's my agent calling you?

LEEEANA
(answers the phone)
Hello? Hi, Kelly, how are-- ...
You're kidding. ... That's so soon.
... No, I can do it.
(MORE)

LEEEANA (CONT'D)
I'm driving Joe to L.A. tonight.
... Yes, he'll be there. ... Sounds
great, I'll talk to you then. And
Kelly? Thank you.

She hangs up, beaming.

JOE
What did she say?

LEEEANA
I got an audition tomorrow. In
Hollywood. I gotta pack.

She jets upstairs to her room. Joe quickly follows. His jacket hangs off his chair.

INSIDE JOE'S JACKET POCKET

Sodo'Chi wakes with a yawn and a stretch. Stomach rumbles.

INT. LEEANA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Leeana throws open a suitcase, starts to pack. Joe enters.

JOE
What just happened?

LEEEANA
When I talked to Kelly last night,
she asked me to tell her about
myself. So I told her how I've
always dreamt of becoming an
actress. I just never dreamed of
becoming a mom so soon. I mean I
love it, don't get me wrong.

KITCHEN

Sodo'Chi dangles from Joe's jacket pocket and drops to the floor, unaware of Blu and Evan watching his every move.

LEEEANA (O.S.)
Anyway, she asked me to send her a
head shot. I didn't have one. So
I used my cell phone to take a
selfie and sent it to her.

LEEEANA'S ROOM

Leeana grabs clothes from her closet.

LEEEANA

She then sends it to a talent agent in Hollywood who tells her about an audition happening tomorrow for some action movie called "Kiss My Fist". And that I would be perfect for it. Can you imagine?

Joe strides out.

KITCHEN

Joe slips on his jacket. Leeana peeks over the railing.

LEEEANA

A woman can't follow her dream?

JOE

Is that why you called my agent?

LEEEANA

I never asked Kelly for anything.
She offered. And if you weren't so
paranoid--

JOE

Look, I'm just gonna catch the bus.
You go and follow your dream. I'm
sure you'll be fine.

He marches out the front door.

EXT. CABIN - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Joe treads up the dirt road. Leeana races to the door.

LEEEANA

I am gonna be fine!

JOE

Oh, I know you'll be fine!

LEEEANA

What the hell is that supposed to
mean?!

JOE

Whatever the hell you want it to
mean!

LEEEANA

Jerk!

She SLAMS the door shut.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sodo'Chi crosses the counter. A vast sea of pots, pans and vegetables lie before him. He freezes in his tracks. An eye stalk glances behind.

Blu sits staring, body arched -- he pounces.

Sodo'Chi dashes away.

EVAN

Blu, no!

Sodo'Chi runs straight into a corner. Trapped.

Blu slowly inches towards him. A frightened Sodo'Chi gulps.

Leeana arrives. Spots Sodo'Chi -- SHRIEKS. A startled Blu jumps back, straight off the counter.

EXT. CABIN - ROAD - NIGHT

Joe stops in his tracks, pats his pockets. Jets back.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sodo'Chi faces Leeana -- who flattens him with a frying pan. Sodo'Chi pops back to normal. Clicks sternly at Leeana. She grabs a cleaver, hacks away as Sodo'Chi avoids the chops.

EVAN

No, don't kill it!

Sodo'Chi darts behind the toaster.

Joe runs in.

JOE

Stop! It's okay! He's an alien.

LEEANA

What?!

JOE

Just calm down and put the really big knife down. Okay?

Leeana drops the cleaver.

LEEANA

Okay.

JOE

Okay.

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - NIGHT

Catalpa's spacecraft slowly touches down. A ramp extends to the ground. The door slides open revealing Catalpa.

She checks her data pad. Hops down the ramp and dashes off.

Freya wiggles down one of the landing gear legs. Wriggles towards a tree and skitters up the trunk.

INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sodo'Chi steps out from behind the toaster with a click.

JOE
He said hello.

LEEEANA
You can understand him?

JOE
Yeah, just like I can understand you. He's not dangerous.

LEEEANA
Just because he's cute, doesn't mean he can't be dangerous.

JOE
He comes in peace.

LEEEANA
He can't be an alien. He's too small.

JOE
What does size have to do with it?

LEEEANA
It just does!

INT. DAVIS'S CAR - DIRT ROAD - NIGHT

Davis observes the back of the cabin where Leeana's Jeep sits parked. A lake down the way, a boat tied to the pier. He tears into a sandwich.

INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Joe hands a small piece of cheese to Evan.

JOE
Just don't give him any chocolate.

Evan gingerly passes the piece to Sodo'Chi who clicks.

JOE
He said thank you.

EVAN
Awesome. Maybe he can fit in my boat.

Evan dashes out the back door.

EXT. CABIN - LAKESIDE DOCK - NIGHT

Evan races across the wet dock -- slips and hits his head, tumbles into the water unconscious.

INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Leeana paces.

LEEEANA
This is amazing. This is incredible. I gotta breathe.
Evan?

EXT. LAKESIDE DOCK - NIGHT

Joe and Leeana approach the pier.

LEEEANA
(calling out)
Evan?!

She spots Evan floating face down in the water.

LEEEANA
Evan!

INT. DAVIS'S CAR - NIGHT

Davis drops his sandwich, picks up his binoculars.

EXT. LAKESIDE DOCK - NIGHT

Joe pulls Evan out of the water. Applies CPR as Leeana frantically watches on. No response.

LEEEANA
Evan!

Joe pulls Sodo'Chi out of his pocket.

JOE
Help him. Like you helped me.

Sodo'Chi nods.

INT. DAVIS'S CAR - NIGHT

Davis nearly jumps out of his seat.

DAVIS

Oh snap.

EXT. LAKESIDE DOCK - NIGHT

Sodo'Chi climbs into Evan's mouth.

LEEEANA

What's he doing? Stop him!

JOE

He can help.

LEEEANA

How is he gonna--

Evan coughs out water from his lungs. Lies back unconscious. Sodo'Chi crawls out of his mouth. A moment later, Evan's eyes flutter open.

EVAN

Mommy?

LEEEANA

Evan!

She squeezes him tight.

EXT. CABIN - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Catalpa glances her mobile device. Scurries to the cabin.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Leeana slides a new shirt over Evan. Joe sets Sodo'Chi down on the coffee table.

EVAN

I tried to reach for my boat, but I fell in.

SODO'CHI

My species can float on water.

EVAN

I wish I could do that.

Catalpa peers through the kitchen window. Lets out a click.

SODO'CHI
Catalpa!

EVAN
It's another one!

JOE
It's Catalpa. His guardian.

Joe opens the window. Extends his hand to Catalpa. She cautiously climbs into his palm.

He sets her down next to Sodo'Chi on the coffee table. She wants to hug Sodo'Chi, but withdraws.

CATALPA
(all professional)
Your Highness.

SODO'CHI
You came for me.

CATALPA
Of course I did. It's my duty.

Sodo'Chi hugs her tight.

LEEEANA
Aw, they're so cute.

CATALPA
How could you leave without saying anything to me?

SODO'CHI
I thought I could do this myself.

The front door swings open. Me'Cha de-cloaks revealing herself. She sports an earpiece connected to a monocle-like visor that translates her voice into clicks.

ME'CHA
Greetings, Your Highness. I've come to collect the bounty on your head.

Her high-tech bracer shoots an energy blast that sends Sodo'Chi and Catalpa running.

Sodo'Chi leaps towards Joe.

JOE
Hey--

Sodo'Chi wriggles into his mouth -- Joe falls to the floor.

LEEEANA
Oh my God, what's--

She's zapped, drops unconscious.

Evan runs and hides under the table. Peeks out.

Sodo'Chi/Joe stands up.

ME'CHA
Hiding in that human won't help,
Your Highness.

Me'Cha reels back a fist -- Sodo'Chi/Joe catches it.

SODO'CHI/JOE
I don't wish to fight.

ME'CHA
I do.

She unsheathes razor-sharp claws, slashes Sodo'Chi/Joe's face. Spins a kick and sends him crashing out the back door.

Catalpa scurries towards an unconscious Leeana. Clicks at her. Nothing. She opens Leeana's mouth.

EXT. CABIN - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Sodo'Chi/Joe sits up. Blue scales form over the gashes on his face. Rubs off the scales -- his wounds have healed.

ME'CHA
The merging is impressive. Yet your powers are reliant on the host body. Which is only human.

She pops out her claws -- Davis pulls up.

DAVIS
Holy cat burglar.

He snaps a picture of Me'Cha. Puffs his inhaler. Jumps out, flashes his badge, aims his gun.

DAVIS
Agent Davis. National Security.
I'm going to have to ask you to put your hands up. Or paws. Please and thank you.

ME'CHA
You're very polite. And cute. A
rare combination.

DAVIS
You speak English?

ME'CHA
Translator unit.

She sways over to him.

DAVIS
Stop! I mean it!

Me'Cha grins. Davis FIRES -- the bullet bounces off her.

DAVIS
Oh boy.

Me'Cha leaps -- but she's hit with a log and soars over the trees. Home Run! Catalpa/Leeana holds the other end.

DAVIS
Ms. Dawson?!

CATALPA/LEEEANA
(to Sodo'Chi/Joe)
We have to go, Your Highness.

She tosses the log.

DAVIS
No one's going anywhere.

Catalpa/Leeana and Sodo'Chi/Joe dash into the woods.

Davis bolts to the car. Spots Evan standing at the door.

DAVIS
Come on, kid, you'll be safe with
me.

EXT. CATALPA'S SHIP - FOREST - NIGHT

Agents load Catalpa's spaceship onto a flatbed.

BEHIND THE TREES

Sodo'Chi/Joe and Catalpa/Leeana watch on.

SODO'CHI/JOE
You brought your personal carrier?

CATALPA/LEEANA
Is there a problem?

SODO'CHI/JOE
It's too small for my host.

CATALPA/LEEANA
Then what do you suggest, Your
Highness?

AT CATALPA'S SHIP

Me'Cha de-cloaks. An energy blast from her bracer makes the ship glow as it disintegrates. She activates her cloaking field and disappears before awestruck agents can react.

BEHIND THE TREES

Sodo'Chi/Joe skulks away. Catalpa/Leeana follows.

Up the tree -- a cocoon is tucked away under the branches.

INT. JEEP - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Sodo'Chi/Joe sits at the wheel of the Jeep as he attempts to turn over the engine. Catalpa/Leeana sits shotgun.

CATALPA/LEEANA
Do you know what you're doing?

SODO'CHI/JOE
I watched Leeana do it.

The engine roars, the Jeep lurches and stalls.

CATALPA/LEEANA
Were you even paying attention?

SODO'CHI/JOE
Dude, don't freak out.

INT. JEEP - HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Sodo'Chi/Joe and Catalpa/Leeana drive along.

CATALPA/LEEANA
Zaba made mention of an army.

SODO'CHI/JOE
Why would Zaba need an army?

CATALPA/LEEEANA
The Kittarian might know. It was
her image I glimpsed on his viewer.
And I led her straight to you.

SODO'CHI/JOE
How did you find me?

CATALPA/LEEEANA
The Berridian jewel on your
necklace emits an energy signature.
You must dispose of it.

SODO'CHI/JOE
My mother gave it to me.

CATALPA/LEEEANA
The Kittarian could track it.
(glances at her crotch)
Your Highness? My host has to...

SODO'CHI/JOE
What? She has to pee?

INT. HIGHWAY GAS STATION - NIGHT

The scrawny, bug-eyed, bucktoothed STATION ATTENDANT stares
blankly at Sodo'Chi/Joe and Catalpa/Leeana.

STATION ATTENDANT
Washroom's for customers only.

CATALPA/LEEEANA
You want us to purchase an item of
inventory?

STATION ATTENDANT
We accept all major credit cards if
yer finding yourself short on cash.

INT. DAVIS'S CAR - HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Davis drives with Evan buckled up next to him.

OPERATOR (V.O.)
Mr. Frost's credit card was used at
a gas station nearing your
location, Agent Davis.

Evan grabs the CB handset, pushes the button--

EVAN
Copy that. In pursuit. Over.

OPERATOR (V.O.)
Copy that.

EVAN
Saw it on T.V.

INT. GAS STATION WASHROOM - NIGHT

Joe talks with Catalpa/Leeana. Sodo'Chi removes his necklace on top of one of the sinks. Holds it close. Sets it down.

JOE
What about the kid? Where's Evan?

CATALPA/LEEANA
He was gone when we returned. I shall remain merged until we're safe.

JOE
I thought the merging makes you stronger. Why is that chick tossing us around like a rag doll?

CATALPA/LEEANA
Chick?

SODO'CHI
Word play. It's how they talk.

CATALPA/LEEANA
The stronger the host body, the stronger the merge. And humans, I'm afraid, are delicate to begin with.

JOE
So what do we do?

CATALPA/LEEANA
Now that the Kittarian can no longer track us, we must keep moving to avoid her.

JOE
That's it?

CATALPA/LEEANA
I am doing everything I can to keep Prince Sodo'Chi safe. And if you don't like--

JOE
Whoa, whoa, whoa. You're doing a
fine job. Just calm down.
Breathe.
(to Sodo'Chi)
Is she always like this?

SODO'CHI
Always.

Catalpa/Leeana snatches him up.

CATALPA/LEEEANA
Let's go.

JOE
I'm driving.

EXT. HIGHWAY GAS STATION - NIGHT

Joe climbs into the driver's seat of the Jeep and buckles up.
Catalpa/Leeana puts Sodo'Chi in her shirt pocket, buckles up.

JOE
After we find Evan, we'll stick
with the original plan.

CATALPA/LEEEANA
What original plan?

SODO'CHI
Chancie's going to kick his ass on
T.V.

Me'Cha de-cloaks outside the passenger side.

ME'CHA
Mind if I have a go?

Joe floors it.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Me'Cha leaps out of her ship above and lands on the road.

The Jeep roars towards her.

INT. JEEP - HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Joe spots Me'Cha waiting up ahead.

JOE
She's not moving.

CATALPA/LEEANA
Don't stop.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Me'Cha blasts the Jeep -- the pulsing shockwave forces the Jeep to flip over her and screech to a stop upside down.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

Catalpa/Leeana is upside down, Sodo'Chi jumps out her pocket.

CATALPA/LEEANA
Are you alright, Your Highness?

SODO'CHI
Joe!

Joe dangles unconscious from his seat belt.

CATALPA/LEEANA
I'll deal with the Kittarian.

SODO'CHI
Catalpa... be safe.

EXT. JEEP - NIGHT

A single punch forces the door to fly off its hinges.
Catalpa/Leeana climbs out.

CATALPA/LEEANA
Prince Sodo'Chi is under my protection.

ME'CHA
You have the spirit of a warrior.
Wonderful.

Me'Cha lunges. Catalpa/Leeana blocks everything she throws.

Me'Cha pops her claws -- slashes Catalpa/Leeana's face and arms. A solid kick sends her sprawling back.

Sodo'Chi/Joe steps out front of the Jeep.

SODO'CHI/JOE
I trust my dear cousin is compensating you well?

ME'CHA
I don't come cheap, if that's what you're asking.

SODO'CHI/JOE
What does Zaba intend to do with an army?

ME'CHA
silly boy.

She pops her claws, freezes in her tracks -- Catalpa/Leeana has a firm grip on her tail. Glimmering purple scales cover gashes on her face and arms.

CATALPA/LEEANA
Hands off.

She launches Me'Cha into the air -- she sails over the trees.

DOWN THE WAY

Me'Cha crashes through branches, lands flat on her back.

ME'CHA
Oh, bother.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Davis screeches to a stop behind the flipped Jeep. Hops out.

DAVIS
Nobody move.

CATALPA/LEEANA
We have to leave. Now.

DAVIS
Get in.

INT. GAS STATION WASHROOM - NIGHT

Me'Cha picks up Sodo'Chi's tiny necklace. Clenches it.

INT. DAVIS'S CAR - HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Joe sits shotgun. Leeana and Evan in the back with Sodo'Chi and Catalpa in hand.

Leeana rubs off the flaky scales from her face and arms leaving perfect skin underneath.

JOE
We need to get to L.A.

DAVIS
We need to get to the base.

JOE
They'd never let them go.

LEEEANA
He's right, Your Highness. They've
been keeping extraterrestrial
encounters quiet from the public.

DAVIS
They just wanna know what they're
dealing with first.

LEEEANA
After they slice them up?

DAVIS
The only one who wants to do any
slicing around here is that bounty
hunter. We can protect him. And
we can introduce him to the
president.

JOE
First of all, you wouldn't have a
hope in hell against that pussycat.
And I'd be screwed out of a book.

SODO'CHI
Are you worried about me? Or your
book?

JOE
I'm not having this conversation
with you right now.

DAVIS
We need to show them that they can
be trusted.

CATALPA
We should go to the base, Your
Highness. Your safety is all that
matters. And we could complete
your mission.

EVAN
Mommy says you can't trust them.

SODO'CHI
Relations cannot happen if people
do not trust me.

INT. ME'CHA'S SHIP - COCKPIT - NIGHT

Me'Cha speaks with Zaba, subtitled, on the monitor.

ZABA

I have already informed the people
of Prince Sodo'Chi's demise. Do
you realize what would happen if he
returned to Topo?!

ME'CHA

I have yet to fail an assignment,
Zaba.

ZABA

Be certain this is not your first.
For it would surely be your last.

The screen turns off.

ME'CHA

The prince is an interesting boy,
Anaxia. He fights with passion in
his heart I rarely see. Unlike
other men driven solely by their
egos.

ANAXIA

I thought all men were alike.

ME'CHA

I may have misspoken. That human
Davis was delightful as well.

ANAXIA

Your father would not approve.

ME'CHA

Hush, you.

She taps her bracer. Photos of Joe, Sodo'Chi, Leeana and Catalpa project on the holographic screen.

ME'CHA

Scan every transmission, Anaxia.
Look for any sign of our prey. I'm
taking a bath.

INT. ZABA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT (TOPO)

Zaba speaks with the holographic image of Koda.

ZABA

Prince Sodo'Chi cannot be allowed
to return to Topo. You must make
certain of this, Koda.

EMPEROR KODA

I shall see to the matter.
Personally.

His image flicks off. Zaba glances about the room.

ZABA

Freya?

EXT. FOREST - DAWN (EARTH)

The sun rises over the cocoon. It cracks open to reveal a red-and-yellow pattern inside.

EXT. MILITARY BASE - DAY

SOLDIERS, TANKS and HELICOPTERS patrol the perimeter.

INT. MILITARY BASE - OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Through the two-way mirror, two young FEMALE AGENTS observe Joe, Leeana and Evan awaiting in Holding Room 1.

FEMALE AGENT 1

I can't believe he killed Arora.

The agents glare at him.

FEMALE AGENT 2

You think he'll sign our book?

The agents rush out. Other AGENTS observe Sodo'Chi and Catalpa in Holding Room 2 where dollhouse furniture and accessories have been setup on the table to accommodate them.

SPECTATING AGENT 1

What do you think they're saying?

SPECTATING AGENT 2

I don't know, but... aren't they
the cutest things you've ever seen?

HOLDING ROOM 2

Sodo'Chi pokes at the plastic bookcase -- it falls over.

CATALPA

Must you touch everything?

HOLDING ROOM 1

Joe pours a glass of water for Evan.

LEEEANA

I can't believe I'm not dying for a cigarette.

JOE

It's gotta have something to do with the regenerative thing he was talking about.

LEEEANA

I feel amazing.

JOE

Right?

OBSERVATION ROOM

Davis is on Ms. Robinson's heels.

DAVIS

First contact is our top priority, Ms. Robinson. This is what we've been waiting for.

MS. ROBINSON

He's a writer, Mr. Davis. Has it occurred to you that he's telling us what we want to hear?

DAVIS

With all due respect--

MS. ROBINSON

We will lock down the aliens and determine for ourselves why they are here. The civilians can leave. No one will believe their story anyway.

Davis's attention turns to --

HOLDING ROOM 2

A guard enters holding a see-through plastic cage. Slams it on top of Sodo'Chi and Catalpa, trapping them.

OBSERVATION ROOM

Davis's jaw drops.

DAVIS
Ms. Robinson--

MS. ROBINSON
Your allegiance, Mr. Davis, is with us. Or do we need to look for a replacement?

Davis pulls out his inhaler, takes a puff.

DAVIS
No.

HOLDING ROOM 1

Ms. Robinson enters with two guards.

MS. ROBINSON
Mr. Frost, Ms. Dawson, you're free to go.

JOE
What about my aliens?

MS. ROBINSON
Your aliens?

Joe bolts up. The guards stiffen.

JOE
Prince Sodo'Chi is supposed to appear on Chancie's show with me.

MS. ROBINSON
This is not about you, Mr. Frost. But we'll guarantee all rights to your book. Isn't that what you want?

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

Joe marches along. Leeana and Evan keep up.

LEEEANA
You can't just leave him.

JOE
He left me.

LEEEANA
And you believe her?

Joe stops.

JOE
Do you not get the magnitude of
what's occurred here?

LEEEANA
Enlighten me, oh wise one.

JOE
I had first contact in my pocket.

LEEEANA
You're unbelievable. You never
even once stopped to think what
they could mean to anyone else. To
the world. All you care about is
that stupid book.

JOE
At least I'm not fake.

LEEEANA
I have never--

JOE
You like to pretend you're in some
fantasy world when you can't handle
what's in front a you.

He strides off.

LEEEANA
At least I try instead of killing
off important people in my life!
And I'm gonna miss my audition
because of you!

She marches off in the opposite direction with Evan in hand.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

FREYA, now with a dragonfly-like body and bat-like face,
swims through the air with four bat-like wings.

A flock of geese squawk past, pecking at her. Freya tumbles
past sharp beaks. She releases a SONIC SCREECH -- geese
scatter. Freya swoops to safety.

INT. MILITARY BASE - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Sodo'Chi and Catalpa sit in their plastic cage on a counter.

SCIENTISTS fiddle with gadgets and machines scattered about.

SODO'CHI
We're not going home, are we?

CATALPA
Not without a ship.

SODO'CHI
The Kittarian has a ship.

CATALPA
She'll kill you!

SODO'CHI
We stand a chance if we're merged.
But I cannot do it without you.

CATALPA
The humans will eventually
understand that we mean them no
harm. They may be able to help us.

SODO'CHI
By then it could be too late. Who
knows what Zaba will do with an
army. Why he could even merge them
with--

They glance at each other as the realization hits them.

CATALPA & SODO'CHI
Emperor Koda.

CATALPA
It's too dangerous, Your Highness.

SODO'CHI
Catalpa, as my guardian I am
ordering you to help me.

Catalpa crosses her arms. Lets out a breath.

CATALPA
How do you expect to find her?

Sodo'Chi ponders the question.

CATALPA
She's undoubtedly scanning
transmissions.

SODO'CHI
T.V. It's broadcast live around
the world.

CATALPA
How do we get on T.V.?

SODO'CHI
Chancie's show in L.A.

CATALPA
Now we just need to figure a way to
get out.

SCIENTIST TOM eats a chocolate bar as he passes by. Sodo'Chi
clicks at him. Tom approaches them.

SCIENTIST TOM
You clicking at me?

Sodo'Chi points to his chocolate bar.

SCIENTIST TOM
You want some chocolate?

Sodo'Chi nods excitedly.

SCIENTIST TOM
I probably shouldn't.

Sodo'Chi looks at him with sad eyes.

SCIENTIST TOM
Aw. Just a little then.

He breaks off a piece of his chocolate bar. Slides it in
through the flap on the cage.

Sodo'Chi clicks at Catalpa. Takes a huge bite of chocolate.
Catalpa does the same.

SCIENTIST TOM
Wow, you guys must be really
hungry. Maybe I can find you
something good.

He bumps into SCIENTIST SALLY behind him.

SCIENTIST SALLY
Are you feeding the aliens
chocolate?

SCIENTIST TOM
The blue one wanted some.

SCIENTIST SALLY
You have no idea what effect it
might have on an alien being.

SCIENTIST TOM
Scientific curiosity?

Sodo'Chi and Catalpa's eyes turn red. They hop up and down. The cage rattles -- crashes to the floor, the door flies open. Sodo'Chi and Catalpa scamper away.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

An ALARM blares. Sodo'Chi and Catalpa race down the hall.

Sodo'Chi flattens his body wafer thin and slides under a door. Catalpa follows his lead.

INT. EMPTY OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Catalpa pops out on the other side.

Sodo'Chi sprints to the air vent, squeezes through the grate.

A DOG BARKS outside, scratches at the door. Keys jingle.

Catalpa squeezes through the grate.

The door opens revealing a DOG HANDLER and a SECURITY DOG hot on their trail.

INT. AIR VENT - CONTINUOUS

Sodo'Chi and Catalpa blast around the corner of the vent shaft. Sodo'Chi peeks out.

The dog sniffs the grate. The dog handler shines a light into the dark shaft. Exits the office.

Catalpa turns and freezes at the sight of a MOUSE, staring at her. Sodo'Chi grabs Catalpa's hand and scurries past it.

INT. MEN'S WASHROOM - DAY

Catalpa and Sodo'Chi step out of the vent.

Davis washes his hands at the sink. Spots them.

DAVIS
Wait, please. You can trust me.

Catalpa clicks sternly at him. Davis kneels down.

DAVIS
You have every right to be upset.
They're just afraid of you. Your
friendship means the world to us.
Please, let me help you.

He extends his hand towards them.

Sodo'Chi and Catalpa exchange a glance. Sodo'Chi grabs Catalpa's hand. They climb into Davis's hand.

The door opens revealing the security dog and his handler.

Davis swallows Sodo'Chi and Catalpa.

DOG HANDLER
Agent Davis? Are you alright?

The dog sniffs Davis. He opens his eyes.

DOG HANDLER
Agent Davis?

Davis stands up.

SODO'CHI/CATALPA/DAVIS
I'm fine.

The dog sniffs the ground. Whimpers. Scratches at the door. The duo exit.

Davis takes a step, freezes.

SODO'CHI/CATALPA/DAVIS
Catalpa, what are you doing?

He steps awkwardly towards the door.

SODO'CHI/CATALPA/DAVIS
Trying to get us out of here, Your
Highness. ... Let me drive,
Catalpa. ... I can drive, Your
Highness.

Both hands reach for the door handle.

SODO'CHI/CATALPA/DAVIS
Catalpa. ... Fine.

A hand lets go of the door handle.

INT. MILITARY BASE - HALLWAY - DAY

Davis strides past hustling SECURITY OFFICERS crisscrossing the halls, straight to the elevator where Ms. Robinson exits.

MS. ROBINSON
Agent Davis. What are you still
doing here?

SODO'CHI/DAVIS
I had to pee.

MS. ROBINSON
Classy, Davis.

She strides off. Davis steps in the elevator followed by armed guards who pile in with him.

INT. MILITARY BASE - MAIN LOBBY - DAY

Elevator doors open. Guards rush out. Davis follows them through the main doors.

EXT. MILITARY BASE - DAY

Davis exits the building. Gazes out. A GUARD steps up.

GUARD
Agent Davis? Can I help you with anything?

SODO'CHI/DAVIS
Got a loaner?

GUARD
Sure. Follow me.

INT. DAVIS'S CAR - MILITARY BASE PARKING LOT - DAY

Davis opens his eyes to find himself behind the wheel.

Sodo'Chi and Catalpa smile at him from the dashboard.

SODO'CHI
Hi, Agent Davis.

DAVIS
I can understand you.

CATALPA
We thought you should drive.

Davis pulls out his inhaler, puts it to his mouth --

DAVIS
I don't need it.

SODO'CHI
Need what?

DAVIS
Nothing. Let's go.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

Joe stops. Glances back at Leeana and Evan getting farther away. Finally, he runs after them.

JOE
Wait! Stop! Please stop.

Leeana stops, her back still to him.

JOE
I'm sorry. I am a jerk. It's hard for me to trust anyone. I know this isn't about me, it's just... when I find something so rare, it's hard for me to let go.

LEEEANA
It's not everyday you get to meet an alien.

JOE
I was talking about you.

Davis pulls up. Rolls down the window.

DAVIS
You guys look like you could use a ride.

JOE
You're kidding me, right?

DAVIS
Dude, just get in the car.

JOE
What makes you think--

Sodo'Chi and Catalpa pop out of Davis's jacket pocket. They hop onto the dashboard.

EVAN
Sodo'Chi!

He jumps into the back seat.

INT. DAVIS'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Joe climbs into the front, Leeana gets in the back with Evan.

EVAN
(to the Topos)
Are you guys okay?

Sodo'Chi and Catalpa nod excitedly.

JOE

I'm sorry. I was more worried about losing that stupid book than I was about losing you.

SODO'CHI

It's cool. Agent Davis said he'll drive us to L.A.

JOE

You don't have to appear on the show with me. I'm not writing that book anymore. I still have one to finish.

SODO'CHI

But we must appear on Chancie's show.

CATALPA

It's the only way to bring the Kittarian to us.

JOE

Are you guys crazy?

SMACK! Freya plops onto the windshield.

LEEEANA

What the hell is that?

SODO'CHI

Freya?

Freya squeaks at him.

SODO'CHI

It's Freya! She must have gone through her meta-cycle.

Freya swooshes inside, lands on top of the dashboard as her wings fold in. Sodo'Chi hugs her.

CATALPA

She must have snuck onboard my ship.

SODO'CHI

She's always getting into mischief. Aren't you, Freya?

Freya coos.

INT. DAVIS'S CAR - HIGHWAY - DAY

Smiles abound as Davis drives. Sodo'Chi hops on top the back seat where Catalpa quietly sits.

Evan lies against Leeana fast asleep. Leeana strokes Freya who's asleep in her hand, her wings wrapped around her.

SODO'CHI
You're never quiet.

CATALPA
I've never seen you so confident.
It's rather nice.

SODO'CHI
When I saw you standing at the window, I wasn't afraid anymore. I know it's foolish.

CATALPA
It's sweet.

Leeana glances at them.

SODO'CHI
I could have never made it through my father's passing without you.

CATALPA
Your father encouraged me to become a guardian like my father. Whom I barely knew. But in becoming a guardian I learned who he was. What he stood for. Your father believed in me. You however, did not.

SODO'CHI
I was embarrassed to have a girl as a personal guardian.

CATALPA
Boys.

SODO'CHI
I am glad he chose you. I've also been thinking of who I would choose. As my queen.

Catalpa's eyes light up --

CATALPA
Yes. I mean, yes?

SODO'CHI
Lady Ruina was always nice.

CATALPA
She most certainly won't reject
your proposal, Your Highness.

She hops away to the front seat. Sodo'Chi winks at Leeana.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD - DAY

The sun shines bright over the Hollywood sign.

INT. STUDIO - GREEN ROOM - DAY

Joe and Evan sit at the vanity desk. Sodo'Chi sits on top of a makeup kit with Freya beside him.

JOE
You sure you wanna do this?

SODO'CHI
I'm sure. What about you?

JOE
I gotta pee.

He bolts to the nearby bathroom. Sodo'Chi smiles at Catalpa in Leeana's hand curled on the sofa across the room. Catalpa smirks at him, glances away.

LEEEANA
You're in love with him, aren't you?

CATALPA
It doesn't matter. He's a prince.
And I'm just a guardian. Neither noble nor lady.

LEEEANA
Do you have any idea how super cool you are?

CATALPA
Me?

LEEEANA
You're every girl's hero. You kick ass and take names. Your world would be lucky to have you as their queen.

A KNOCK at the door. Davis enters.

DAVIS
They're ready for you, Mr. Frost.
Always wanted to say that.

INT. STUDIO - CHANCIE'S STAGE - DAY

Chancie is on air as she addresses the camera and STUDIO AUDIENCE, mostly young women.

CHANCIE
Five years ago "Birth of a Werewolf" brought together Arora and Bastian. A werewolf and a vampire born from different worlds, caught on opposing sides of a war. And found love against all odds.

Cheers from the audience.

INT. GREEN ROOM - DAY

Evan and Davis watch the T.V., feasting on a tray of snacks.

CHANCIE (ON T.V.)
Until "Death of a Werewolf" ripped them apart.

The audience BOOS.

BACKSTAGE

Joe turns to leave, Leeana stops him.

INT. KELLY'S CONDO - DAY

Kelly watches Chancie's show, sipping on a glass of wine.

KELLY
Take it easy on my boy, Chancie.

CHANCIE (ON T.V.)
Author Joe Frost.

INT. CHANCIE'S STAGE - DAY

Joe shuffles on stage. A single clap rings out, but quickly stops, realizing it's alone. Joe flops into his chair.

CHANCIE
There's only one question on people's minds right now. Why did you kill Arora?

INT. ME'CHA'S SHIP - EARTH'S ORBIT

Holographic screens rifle through a multitude of pictures and stop on the live feed of Chancie's show.

ANAXIA
Prey identified.

Me'Cha hops into her chair.

JOE (ON SCREEN)
I just... lost faith.

The audience sighs.

CHANCIE (ON SCREEN)
We'll be right back.

INT. CHANCIE'S STAGE - DAY

Crew prepare to come back from commercial break.

STAGEHAND
Back in thirty.

Joe pulls out Sodo'Chi from his jacket pocket.

JOE
You ready?

Sodo'Chi nods excitedly.

CHANCIE
Is that a mouse?

STAGEHAND
And five, four, three...

He signals '2, 1, GO!'

CHANCIE
Oh, we're back. And Joe brought...
something. It's adorable. Can we
get a close up of this?

A CAMERAMAN moves closer.

Joe holds out Sodo'Chi who stands in his open palm. Sodo'Chi waves with a smile. Audience sighs.

JOE
This is Prince Sodo'Chi. An alien
from planet Topo. He came here
hoping to open relations with us.

The audience whispers amongst themselves.

CHANCIE
Isn't he a little small to be an
alien?

JOE
It's all relative.

Sodo'Chi lifts into the air by an unseen force -- Me'Cha de-cloaks with a firm grip around him.

ME'CHA
Greetings, Your Highness.

Joe shoots up -- Me'Cha swats him away with her tail.

BACKSTAGE

Freya flies to Sodo'Chi.

Leeana exchanges a nod with Catalpa in hand -- swallows her.

ON STAGE

Chancie talks into her mic and earpiece.

CHANCIE
Cut to commercial! ... What do you
mean "no way"?!

Freya unleashes a sonic screech at Me'Cha who drops Sodo'Chi to clasp her ears.

Freya swoops down and catches Sodo'Chi. Carries him to Joe who swallows Sodo'Chi -- cameraman follows their every move.

Me'Cha zaps Freya. She falls stunned to the floor.

ME'CHA
Now, Your Highness. Where were we?

She spins a kick and sends Sodo'Chi/Joe flying up the aisle. She lunges at him and sends him reeling through the doors.

Catalpa/Leeana steps to Me'Cha.

CATALPA/LEEEANA
We're not finished.

ME'CHA
You don't quit, do you?

CATALPA/LEEANA
It's my job.

ME'CHA
Mine too.

Me'Cha shoots an energy band around Catalpa/Leeana who falls to the floor. Me'Cha steps up the aisle to the exit.

CHANCIE
This interview is not over!

INT. STUDIO LOBBY - DAY

Me'Cha sways towards Sodo'Chi/Joe who climbs to his feet. Her knuckles crack as she clenches her fists.

EXT. STUDIO - STREET - DAY

Sodo'Chi/Joe skips along the street, cars screech to a halt.

Me'Cha strides out after him, cameraman on her heels.

INT. CHANCIE'S STAGE - DAY

Catalpa/Leeana's muscles bulge as she snaps the band -- it dissipates. She races out.

EXT. STUDIO - STREET - DAY

Sodo'Chi/Joe climbs to his feet. Wipes blood away from his mouth. Cameraman moves in.

Catalpa/Leeana runs out into the street.

CATALPA/LEEANA
Run, Your Highness!

Me'Cha shoots another energy band around her, she falls to the ground. Catalpa/Leeana tries to snap the band, but it only squeezes tighter.

ME'CHA
I've reversed polarity. The more you struggle, the tighter its grip. And I'm afraid if you left that body now, the pressure would surely kill the poor girl.

She circles Sodo'Chi/Joe. Cameraman adjusts for the shot. Evan and Davis race out.

ME'CHA
 I'm most curious. What are you
 doing on this forbidden world?

SODO'CHI/JOE
 I came to open relations.

Me'Cha glances at the spectators. Cell phones record.

ME'CHA
 Aren't they a bit primitive?

SODO'CHI/JOE
 You were once like them.

ME'CHA
 That was a long time ago. It was
 your grandfather who befriended us.

SODO'CHI/JOE
 Ironic turn of events.

ME'CHA
 Indeed.

SODO'CHI/JOE
 What's your name?

ME'CHA
 Me'Cha.

SODO'CHI/JOE
 Do you really want to kill me,
 Me'Cha?

ME'CHA
 I don't wish to.

She aims her bracer at him; it hums to life.

ME'CHA
 But I have a contract to fulfil.

Sodo'Chi/Joe drops to his knees, falls back unconscious.
 Sodo'Chi crawls out of Joe's mouth to the bewildered crowd.

Cameraman moves in as Sodo'Chi steps to Me'Cha.

Joe sits up.

SODO'CHI
 If to save my life means taking
 yours... I cannot. All I ask is
 that you leave my friends alone.

ME'CHA
I only want you.

Translator clicks. Sodo'Chi drops to his knees before her.

SODO'CHI
I hope Zaba and Emperor Koda
appreciate what you're doing for
them.

ME'CHA
Tell me, Your Highness... how are
you any different?

SODO'CHI
I follow my heart.

Me'Cha lowers her arm. Picks him up.

ME'CHA
You're simply adorable.

Koda's mothership blots out the sun. Hordes of smaller Keeda
ships soar over the city like locusts.

A T.V. NEWS REPORTER reports live from the street.

T.V. NEWS REPORTER
We're here live where Armageddon
has broken out! Aliens from
another world have--

Koda's personal spacecraft sets down in the middle of the
street amidst panicked spectators.

KEEDA SOLDIERS march out in thick armor, heavy duty artillery
and high-tech visors.

Soldiers stiffen, posing, as the cameraman tracks past.

Koda steps out of the ship. Smirks at the camera.

Koda plods over to Me'Cha. Holds out his meat hook of a
hand. Me'Cha holds Sodo'Chi close to her.

Koda grips her neck, she gasps for air. Finally, she hands
Sodo'Chi over. Koda releases her. Me'Cha falls to the
ground, hacking.

Koda turns to his men. Holds Sodo'Chi high.

EMPEROR KODA
Victory!

KODA'S SOLDIERS
Victory!

Koda marches to his ship.

His LEAD GUARD approaches him.

KODA'S LEAD GUARD
My Liege, a group of galactic
council scout ships have entered
the system. They no doubt have
come to investigate our presence.

Koda stops.

EMPEROR KODA
Eliminate them.

KODA'S LEAD GUARD
But the council--

EMPEROR KODA
Anyone who opposes me shall be the
first to fall.

He turns to the cameraman trying to get a shot of him.

EMPEROR KODA
Humans. Your planet now belongs to
me. Koda of Keeda. Your Emperor.

He swaggers away.

EMPEROR KODA
(to lead guard)
Deploy the resource collectors.
Strip this world bare.

KODA'S LEAD GUARD
Yes, My Liege.

Koda re-boards his craft with his troops. The ship flies
back to the mothership with all other ships following suit.

ME'CHA
Well. That's that.

She taps her bracer -- the band dissipates around
Catalpa/Leeana who springs to her feet.

CATALPA/LEEANA
I should kill you where you stand.

ME'CHA
Don't be foolish. Had I not handed him over, we wouldn't be having this pleasant conversation now.

CATALPA/LEEEANA
Had you not gotten involved, we wouldn't be in this position we are now.

ME'CHA
Let's not quibble over semantics.

Joe steps over. Cameraman zooms in.

JOE
Ladies, I don't mean to interrupt, but are we being invaded right now?

ME'CHA
After Duke Zaba claims the crown tomorrow, he will merge his army with Emperor Koda's. And the Keeda are one of the strongest races in the galaxy. Together--

CATALPA/LEEEANA
They'll be unstoppable.

Davis pushes the cameraman aside, Evan right behind him.

DAVIS
It sounds like doom for the rest of us. And I don't wanna die.

ME'CHA
I don't want you to die. Even though you did shoot me.

DAVIS
Believe me, I'd rather just take you out and show you a good time.

ME'CHA
You would?

DAVIS
Well, yeah. I mean you're gorgeous. But we're being invaded by some freaking aliens.

Me'Cha taps her bracer -- her ship de-cloaks above. Lands.

EVAN

Wow.

ME'CHA

I do have a ship. And my contract
has been fulfilled.

CATALPA/LEEEANA

You are now in service of his Royal
Highness.

ME'CHA

We'll discuss payment later.

JOE

He's my friend. You're not going
anywhere without me.

EXT. KODA'S MOTHERSHIP - EARTH'S ORBIT

The menacing mothership orbits the Earth as swarms of Keeda
ships fly to-and-fro.

INT. KODA'S MOTHERSHIP - KODA'S CHAMBERS

A TERRARIUM rests on a desk. Inside, Sodo'Chi climbs a long,
leafy plant to the top where a force-field keeps him trapped.

He reaches out to touch the field, but decides against it.
Breaks off a leaf instead. Touches the field -- it instantly
fries the leaf, leaving a charred edge behind.

Koda stomps in. Grabs a bag of food pellets and tosses in a
few. They easily tumble through the field.

EMPEROR KODA

Eat your food.

The translator on his earpiece clicks. The intercom DINGS.

KODA'S LEAD GUARD (V.O.)
My Liege, humans are attacking the
collectors.

EMPEROR KODA

If you cannot handle a few humans,
kill yourself now!

KODA'S LEAD GUARD (V.O.)
Situation under control, My Liege.

Koda smirks to himself.

Sodo'Chi sits down on a log.

SODO'CHI
You intend to destroy the Earth?

EMPEROR KODA
I intend to harvest the Earth.
Which will prosper under my rule.
As will all.

SODO'CHI
And what will you do with me?

Koda grabs an alien clock with flashing, intricate lines.
Sets it down on the table in front of Sodo'Chi.

EMPEROR KODA
I grant you an honorable death at
the rise of the new day. Thirteen
hours.

Sodo'Chi chuck's a food pellet at the terrarium glass.

SODO'CHI
That isn't food.

INT. ME'CHA'S SHIP - COCKPIT - EARTH'S ORBIT

Me'Cha pilots. Leeana sits next to her in the co-pilot chair
as Catalpa watches from the console.

Koda's mothership is close enough to touch.

CATALPA
Won't they see us?

ME'CHA
You didn't.

LEEEANA
How are we even gonna get in?

ME'CHA
Through their loading dock.

LEEEANA
We're just gonna walk in?

ME'CHA
They'll never know we're there.

LEEEANA
Where can I get one of those
translators?

ME'CHA
They're available at any starport.

The sound of cannisters crashing echoes from the other room, startling the girls. Evan and Freya race in.

JOE (O.S.)
My bad!

INT. KODA'S MOTHERSHIP - KODA'S CHAMBERS - EARTH'S ORBIT

Koda gazes out the window. An armada of Keeda ships swarm around planet Earth like bees around a hive.

EMPEROR KODA
Life does not grow when the soil
has been spoiled. Nor does it
flourish when the very air stings
your skin.

SODO'CHI
The galactic council can help. You
need only but ask.

EMPEROR KODA
Keeda are conquerors! Not beggars!

SODO'CHI
There's no shame in asking for
help.

EMPEROR KODA
You're a fool like your father.

SODO'CHI
My father?

EMPEROR KODA
He would not listen. He could not
see the greater glory. How
fortunate someone else among you
could.

SODO'CHI
Zaba.

Koda drops an apple into the terrarium.

EMPEROR KODA
Enjoy your last meal. Insect.

SODO'CHI
Galactic council treaty states--

Koda tosses his earpiece aside. Sodo'Chi clicks away.

EMPEROR KODA
Chirp all you want. I find your
clatter relaxing. And it's been a
long day.

EXT. KODA'S MOTHERSHIP - EARTH'S ORBIT

Me'Cha's cloaked ship glides through the field unnoticed.

INT. KODA'S MOTHERSHIP - HANGAR

Me'Cha's ship sets down in a quiet corner of the busy hangar where Keeda ships sit docked.

INT. ME'CHA'S SHIP - COCKPIT - HANGAR

Me'Cha powers down the ship.

JOE
How are we gonna find him without
his necklace?

ME'CHA
Anaxia, initiate cabin scan.

A HUM fills the room.

ANAXIA
six life forms detected.

ME'CHA
Species match; Topo. Wide search.

ANAXIA
Scanning.

JOE
That's pretty cool.

INT. KODA'S CHAMBERS - EARTH'S ORBIT

Koda is asleep in bed. Sodo'Chi glances at the alien clock; more than half of the lines have disappeared.

His attention is drawn to the shiny rocks and crystal shards laying about. He picks up a crystal. Glances at the force field. His eyes light up as an idea strikes.

Crystal shard in hand, Sodo'Chi climbs the plant to the top. Slides the crystal up the glass wall and into the field -- a beam of light shines through the crystal, redirecting a portion of the field, leaving a narrow gap behind.

Sodo'Chi flattens his body and slides gingerly through the thin gap to freedom.

He jumps down to the pellet bag with a crunch -- Koda snorts, but falls back asleep.

Sodo'Chi scurries across the room, flattens his body and slides under the door.

INT. ME'CHA'S SHIP - COCKPIT

Me'Cha pets Freya's belly who coos with delight.

LEEEANA

How can you be so calm?

ME'CHA

I've found patience to be a virtue.

ANAXIA

Species found.

A holographic blueprint of Koda's mothership pops up. A moving blip flashes along a corridor.

ME'CHA

He's moving.

INT. KODA'S MOTHERSHIP - CORRIDOR

A Keeda GUARD DOG, lizard-like with razor sharp fangs, rambles around the corner with two Keeda soldiers.

Sodo'Chi peeks out, sprints away in the opposite direction.

Notices a map of the ship -- a dot indicates his current position. Races down the hall.

INT. ME'CHA'S SHIP - COCKPIT

All eyes follow the blip.

INT. KODA'S MOTHERSHIP - HANGAR ENTRANCE

Sodo'Chi stands before the giant doors. Glances behind.

The guard dog rounds the corner, spots him. Growls.

Sodo'Chi flattens his body and slips under the door.

INT. KODA'S MOTHERSHIP - HANGAR - CONTINUOUS

Sodo'Chi pops out on the other side. Alien mechanics and personnel shuffle between Keeda ships being serviced.

The doors slide open revealing the snarling guard dog and the two Keeda soldiers. An ALARM blares. Sodo'Chi darts away.

The guard dog mows through personnel as he pursues -- leaps into the air and jumps in front of Sodo'Chi. Growls at him.

Sodo'Chi backs away.

The two soldiers charge in.

The guard dog bites down -- swallows Sodo'Chi whole. Burps.

Soldier 1 shrugs at Soldier 2. They walk off.

The guard dog falls to the ground unconscious. After a brief moment, his eyes shoot open. Clammers to his feet.

CATALPA/LEEANA (O.S.)
(whispering)
Sodo'Chi!

Catalpa/Leeana de-cloaks behind a stack of crates. A high-tech bracer strapped around her wrist.

The guard dog trots over with a bark.

CATALPA/LEEANA
Shh! Get out of there.

EXT. KODA'S MOTHERSHIP - EARTH'S ORBIT

Me'Cha's cloaked ship soars out of the hangar. Zips away.

INT. ME'CHA'S SHIP - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

Sodo'Chi's eyes light up at his necklace held out by Me'Cha.

ME'CHA
I believe you dropped this. Quite pretty. And rare.

Sodo'Chi takes the necklace. Passes it back to her.

SODO'CHI
A gift. For you. It will keep you safe.

ME'CHA
I could just eat you up. Anaxia, set course for Topo.

She sways out. Leeana sets Catalpa down next to Sodo'Chi before flopping down with Evan.

Sodo'Chi smiles at Catalpa, who forces a smile.

LEEEANA
What a day.

SODO'CHI
It's not over yet.

Stars bend towards them. They zoom away.

JOE
(to Leeana)
You said you wanted to get away.

LEEEANA
I also said I had an audition to
get to. I wonder if this means
it's canceled?

JOE
Can I talk to you for a sec?

He grabs Leeana by the hand and leads her away.

INT. CARGO ROOM - OUTER SPACE

Containers fill the room. Joe and Leeana enter.

LEEEANA
What is it?

JOE
Are we good?

LEEEANA
You 'n me?

JOE
Yeah.

Leeana nods with a smile.

JOE
That's it? No improv?

Leeana shakes her head. Joe kisses her.

EXT. PLANET TOPO

The blue planet twirls around the blue sun.

EXT. PALACE - ROYAL GARDENS - DAY

Topos and alien guests fill the gardens. Holographic screens project Zaba holding Lady Ruina's hand before the HIGH CLERIC atop a stage in front of the audience.

HIGH CLERIC
By "Rite of Succession", may--

His attention and that of the crowd divert to the sky;
Me'Cha's ship smoothly touches down.

Me'Cha steps out with Sodo'Chi and Catalpa. Joe, Leeana and Evan right behind them. Freya flutters through the air.

VOICE IN THE CROWD
Prince Sodo'Chi is alive!

The audience cheers. Zaba snarls to himself.

ZABA
My dear cousin. My heart sings
with joy at your well being.

SODO'CHI
As does mine. Dear cousin.

Me'Cha sets Sodo'Chi and Catalpa down on the stage.

ME'CHA
Duke Zaba, as the newly appointed
guardian of the royal house, you
are hereby charged with treason.

The crowd GASPS. Lady Ruina smirks at Zaba, marches off.

ZABA
What will you do?

ME'CHA
I assume treason is punishable by
death, even on this world?

SODO'CHI
No. I will not take his life.

ZABA
You are truly compassionate,
Sodo'Chi. As a king should be.

Koda's mothership breaks the clouds and blots out the sun.
Hordes of Keeda ships fill the sky.

Koda's personal spacecraft touches down. KEEDA SOLDIERS march out. Koda steps out, his translator on.

EMPEROR KODA
(to his men)
Gather them all!

Keeda weapons shoot bubbles that entrap Topos.

Keeda soldiers secure alien guests, Joe, Leeana and Evan.

Koda steps to the stage.

SODO'CHI
What do you want?

EMPEROR KODA
I had to abandon my siege of Earth
because of you! You will give me
what is owed.

SODO'CHI
Your deal with Zaba is not valid
with me.

EMPEROR KODA
Irrelevant! You will swear
allegiance to me or your world
shall be reduced to a burning
cinder.

Sodo'Chi glances at Catalpa, who for the first time looks worried. Sodo'Chi takes a confident breath.

SODO'CHI
I challenge you.

CATALPA
Sodo'Chi, no.

SODO'CHI
Catalpa, I must.

EMPEROR KODA
Surely you jest.

SODO'CHI
In accordance with your laws, I
have every right.

Koda's lead guard steps to Koda.

KODA'S LEAD GUARD
The prince is correct, My Liege. A
tribe leader may--

Koda smacks him.

EMPEROR KODA
I know the law!

SODO'CHI
Do you accept my challenge?

Koda glances back at his men observing his next move.

EMPEROR KODA
When you die, your people will bow
to me.

SODO'CHI
So be it.

Koda lifts his fist and smashes the stage.

Sodo'Chi leaps away and dashes to Joe who scoops him up.

JOE
I get access to a ship anytime I
want.

SODO'CHI
Deal.

Joe swallows him.

EMPEROR KODA
You fight without honor!

Sodo'Chi/Joe opens his eyes.

SODO'CHI/JOE
A challenger may use all of their
abilities. As stated by your laws.

KODA'S LEAD GUARD
The prince is correct, My Liege.

Koda growls. Reels back his fist -- Sodo'Chi/Joe catches it.

SODO'CHI/JOE
Sucks to be you.

A solid punch rattles Koda. A succession of blows stagger
him back. A final uppercut sends him crashing to the floor.

Koda tries to sit up, but collapses back into a heap.

Sodo'Chi/Joe turns to Koda's lead guard.

SODO'CHI/JOE
I will contact the galactic council
on your behalf. Together, we will
rebuild your world. If you allow
us to help.

Koda's lead guard glances at his men.

KODA'S LEAD GUARD
Release the prisoners!

Bubbles pop releasing Topos.

Sodo'Chi/Joe exchanges a proud smile with Catalpa.

Zaba skulks to Koda, whose eyes are barely open.

EMPEROR KODA
Do not fail.

He swallows Zaba. A moment later, his eyes shoot open.
Climbs to his feet.

ZABA/KODA
This challenge is not over. Dear
cousin.

SODO'CHI/JOE
Zaba?

CATALPA
How dare you?!

ZABA/KODA
I am the king!

He charges, decks Sodo'Chi/Joe -- he rockets through a stone
wall. Zaba/Koda races after him.

EXT. PALACE - MAGMA CAVERN - DAY

Sodo'Chi/Joe staggers to his feet -- Zaba/Koda knocks him
straight back into the cavern. Zaba/Koda runs in.

Koda's soldiers block the entrance behind him.

INT. MAGMA CAVERN - DAY

A backhand launches Sodo'Chi/Joe across the chasm, straight into the wall. He collapses to the ground. Struggles to sit up. Blood drips from his mouth.

Zaba/Koda plods over.

ZABA/KODA
Even as you heal, you can feel the pain. Can't you, Sodo'Chi?

He drops his foot on Sodo'Chi/Joe's back, pinning him to the ground -- bones break as he pushes down.

INSIDE JOE'S BODY

Sodo'Chi winces from the pain.

IN THE CAVERN

Zaba/Koda stands over Sodo'Chi/Joe.

ZABA/KODA
We too have limits.

He kicks Sodo'Chi/Joe across the chasm, he skips along the ground near the edge of the bank, river of lava below.

Sodo'Chi climbs out of Joe who lies unconscious.

SODO'CHI
Think about what you're doing,
Zaba.

ZABA/KODA
Oh, but I have. And my name will be echoed across the galaxy. Yours will be on the lips of every human, cursing you for their fate.

EXT. MAGMA CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Freya flutters past Koda's soldiers who ignore her.

INT. MAGMA CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Zaba/Koda towers over Sodo'Chi before him.

SODO'CHI
Why are you doing this?

ZABA/KODA

They would perish without us. We are their saviors, Sodo'Chi. And they treat us like their pets. When they should revere us as gods! And I did not spend twenty years biding my time only to step aside so that you could continue as your father would.

SODO'CHI

I don't understand.

Zaba/Koda chuckles to himself.

ZABA/KODA

How could you? You were only a child then. I had been expecting that all of you would be traveling on the ship that day. But you had to throw a fit.

SODO'CHI

No...

ZABA/KODA

No more will they look down upon us. No more will we have to suffer their incessant behavior towards us. We will finally be given the respect we deserve, Sodo'Chi, as I make the universe kneel before me.

Sodo'Chi glares at him, curls his fists.

SODO'CHI

I won't let you.

ZABA/KODA

You'll have to kill me, Sodo'Chi. And I know you won't. Your heart is your weakness.

Zaba/Koda brings his massive foot down upon Sodo'Chi who leaps out of the way.

Freya flies to Sodo'Chi. He hops onto her back. They zip away. Zaba/Koda claps his hands --

The shockwave knocks Freya straight across the canyon, smacking into the wall. She falls dazed, landing on a protruding ledge with Sodo'Chi.

SODO'CHI
Can you fly, Freya?

Freya's wings pump the air. She hovers off the ground -- a boulder smashes in the wall near them like a cannon ball.

Zaba/Koda pulls another boulder from the ground.

Sodo'Chi hops onto Freya's back -- a boulder smashes inches away. Sodo'Chi holds on tight as they fall.

SODO'CHI
Freya!

Freya opens her eyes, lava before her -- she beats the air with all her might and sails back up.

Zaba/Koda thunderclaps -- Freya avoids the shockwave. She releases a sonic screech -- Koda clasps his ears.

Sodo'Chi jumps off of Freya -- and falls straight down Koda's throat. Koda's body freezes in its tracks.

SODO'CHI/ZABA/KODA
What are you doing, Sodo'Chi? ... I
can't let you do this, Zaba. ...
Release control of this body
immediately!

He stumbles back, tumbles over the ledge.

Sodo'Chi pops out of Koda's mouth. Leaps towards Freya soaring towards him -- grabs her leg.

Zaba pops out of Koda's mouth. Sodo'Chi reaches out --

It's too late as the lava claims both Zaba and Koda.

Sodo'Chi's eyes droop.

EXT. MAGMA CAVERN - DAY

A crowd eagerly await outside.

Koda's soldier's step away from the entrance.

Joe steps out of the cavern. Holds out Sodo'Chi who waves. The crowd cheers.

EXT. ROYAL GARDENS - DAY

Sodo'Chi stands on stage before the High Cleric and audience.

SODO'CHI
 As a tribute to my mother and
 father, I invite planet Earth to
 join our community.

Whispers ripple through the audience.

SODO'CHI
 Humans are like us. Compassionate.
 Caring. And doubtful of
 themselves. Yet they hope to
 strive for more as they follow
 their hearts and embrace a future
 of endless possibility.

He motions to Joe who takes a step forward.

JOE
 When I first met Prince Sodo'Chi, I
 thought he was too small to be an
 alien. And on my world, depending
 on who you ask, size matters.

A hefty rhino-like alien guest belches out a laugh.

JOE
 If he's taught me anything, it's
 that it's the size of your heart
 that counts. And the sky's the
 limit.

HIGH CLERIC
 Prince Sodo'Chi, your deeds have
 proven worthy of your right to lead
 Topo. Whom will you embrace as
 your queen to share your journey
 with?

A group of noble ladies perk up. Including Lady Ruina.

Catalpa casts a solemn gaze to the floor.

Sodo'Chi takes a breath. Crosses to Catalpa and extends his hand to her. Her eyes stretch in amazement.

HIGH CLERIC
 Does the noble lady accept the
 prince's proposal?

Finally, Catalpa takes Sodo'Chi's hand.

CATALPA
 With all my heart.

The audience cheers. Lady Ruina marches off.

Sodo'Chi and Catalpa share a kiss.

HIGH CLERIC
By rite of succession, may the
future bless us today!

BOOM! CRACK! Elaborate fireworks light the sky.

PHOTO MONTAGE:

Photo of the alien wedding party including Evan, Leeana and Joe holding Catalpa and Sodo'Chi.

Photo of Sodo'Chi, with cake on his face, and Catalpa looking slyly at him with cake on her fingers.

Photo of Me'Cha dancing sexy at the reception on the dance floor. The alien men's eyes glued to her, including Joe and Sodo'Chi. Catalpa and Leeana scowl at them.

Photo of our two couples relaxing on an alien beach. A very big alien baby, its mouth wide open, is about to chomp down on Evan's unsuspecting ice cream cone.

Photo of Joe holding a vibrant blue rose under a spiral galaxy and massive full moon. His eyes wide open at a glowing alien bee, its stinger aimed at his nose.

Photo of Sodo'Chi and Joe addressing world leaders at the G8.

Photo of a movie premiere. The poster "Kiss My Fist", shows Leeana posing with fist clenched. Joe and Leeana wave with Sodo'Chi and Catalpa. Kelly scowls at her date whose eyes are on Me'Cha, escorted by Davis in a tuxedo.

Photo of a bookstore. A banner reads, "'RETURN OF A WEREWOLF' BOOK SIGNING." Joe signs autographs. Leeana and Evan hold Sodo'Chi and Catalpa who wave to the eager crowd. Davis oversees security with Me'Cha, who grins at him.

Photo of the Earth. An array of alien spacecraft fly to the planet and to a new starport in orbit. Through the see-through domes, aliens, Topos and humans mingle in restaurants. Queen Lilly and King Mui, his mouth wide open in mid-laugh, among them.

FADE OUT.