

FOR THE WORLD AND NOT US

written by

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1 EXT. ASFREIA'S OBSERVATORY - DAY

A silent day. In a cloudless blue sky, the sun looks down upon a giant telescope. It stares at the silvery moon hanging in the horizon.

2 INT. ASFREIA'S OBSERVATORY - DAY

ASFREIA, early 30's, her long golden hair sitting atop a flowing emerald robe, raises her head from the eyepiece. She takes a porcelain cup of tea and holds it close to her chest. The vapours dance below her face.

Light steps are heard from a nearby staircase. VALERIAN, early 30's, gold and blue eyes gleaming, silhouette emerges from the shadows. Asfreia looks towards him and gives a pained smile.

VALERIAN

You know...every time I come here,
it always reminds me of father's
place.

Asfreia places her cup down on a table of ripped paper and small artefacts toppled over.

ASFREIA

I hope then...you feel at home.

VALERIAN

I wouldn't be here otherwise.

Valerian walks to the eyepiece and looks into it for a few moments.

VALERIAN (CONT'D)

Hm. Still looking out for it?

ASFREIA

Someone has to...

Beat. Asfreia glances around the messy table. She shuffles to grab another cup of tea for Valerian.

ASFREIA (CONT'D)

How is Tizy?

VALERIAN

He's great. Picking up on plenty of
the time-ignorant spells. He's even
helping me with some of my own.

(MORE)

VALERIAN (CONT'D)

He wants to start walking already,
but I feel he's not fully aware of
the delicacy of that.

Asfreia giggles gently.

ASFREIA

He's always been such an eager one.
I can only imagine how loud the
room gets when you're both angry.

Valerian slinks back into a chair, hands behind his head.

VALERIAN

I don't get angry! Much. Only if it
concerns time ripping itself apart.

Valerian looks at the telescope, his gaze lowering to the
floor, then the messy table. Astrolabes, sextants, pens and
papers with annotated diagrams lie scattered on the table.
Small drops of water are drying on some of the drawings.

VALERIAN (CONT'D)

I think he knows.

Asfreia looks out the wide windows, her fingers tapping the
edge of the table.

ASFREIA

Yes. How's the-

VALERIAN

Asfreia. I've made my decision.

Asfreia shuts her eyes. Her fingers grab at another piece of
paper and her hand crushes it. She doesn't look at Valerian.

She starts to speak, stuttering. Her voice is quivering.

ASFREIA

(gulps)

I've...I've been trying to find
another way. Hoping I was wrong. A-
and, there could be...

Asfreia looks down, her watery eyes darting across the messy
table.

ASFREIA (CONT'D)

...a way. Perhaps I was too hasty-
that I convinced myself my resolve
was greater than my brother's, that
he would not sacrifice as much as I
would. But I...

Asfreia takes a few staggered breaths.

ASFREIA (CONT'D)

I have no right to mete out the fate of mankind. Or of this existence. Then, I am similar to him. Terrible and self-righteous. I have no right. Forgive me, Valerian. Forgive me.

Valerian stands and puts his hand on her shoulder.

VALERIAN

Forgive me too. I drag the heavens down with me because I too, have fallen in love with the earth.

They embrace for few moments before Valerian pulls away and gives her her cup of tea.

VALERIAN (CONT'D)

I agree to the terms of our deal. My apprentice will render unto you his assistance...under the impression he will save his home. In return, I will help you split me asunder, such that my mortal half can live amongst the world and people that we love. I will be reborn with no memories, a blank state, so that I can experience the world as an entity that can suffer...as someone who can grow.

Valerian grabs his own tea cup and sips it. He looks around the room. Framed renaissance-like paintings of their friends and allies hang alongside flowering vines and smaller, indoor trees.

Valerian grasps Asfreia's hand.

VALERIAN (CONT'D)

When I finally grow content of my existence, I hope and pray I will see you again, so that I can regale you of all the stories and tales that this world has to offer.

3. FLASHBACK EXT. HISCHA - DAY

As Valerian speaks, a montage showcasing the continent of Hischa flashes across the screen.

Diverse biomes of deserts, valleys, animals migrating, children playing in the rivers, men wading through a blizzard, shamans smoking in a circle, a mother comforting her crying child.

VALERIAN (V.O.)

In those painted horizons, I will collect countless sunsets. I will scale and walk the mountains that pierce the vaults of heaven, and sail across seas both still and treacherous. I will peer upon existence that cherishes its own conception...and grieves it. Wrinkles will grow across my face, built from the worries and the smiles of one lifetime. I will be surrounded by the laughter of others whose lives also contain the same ephemerality. As existence experiencing itself, I will hold those memories close to my heart.

4. INT. ASFREIA'S OBSERVATORY - DAY

Valerian is still holding her hand. The light of the sun gleams on their skin.

VALERIAN

And I will share all of this with you when we meet again.

Asfreia squeezes his hand tightly.

ASFREIA

Thank you.