



CHANGE-ABLE

PILOT COLD OPEN

written by Cindi Knapton

*"Our only hope to revive humanity is with the wisdom
and collaboration of Earth's indigenous first
peoples."*

--Oren Ramirez, Founder
Aurora Psychic Institute
Moons of Jupiter, 2124

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COLD OPEN**EXT. SIMPSON DESERT REFUGEE CAMP - NIGHT**

The stars of the night sky are blotted out by billions of bits of shimmering metallic atmospheric debris.

Below, on the otherwise pristine, windswept landscape, decades of fallen space stations reflect the eerie sky.

SUPER: PITJANTJATJARA LAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA - 2129

Across the desert, plastic trash swirls in a willy-willy (tornado) buffeting the camp fence. Inside, clustered humpies (lean-to huts) crafted from rubbish, wobble in the wind.

EXT. SIMPSON DESERT REFUGEE CAMP - CHARLIE'S HUMPY - CONT.

CHARLIE ANANGU, 13, Australian First Peoples, peeks out between sheets of scrap metal. Her ears are wrapped in cloth. A dilly bag (woven fiber pouch) is slung over her shoulder.

All clear. She slips out silently.

Turning back to the sad humpies, she opens her mouth, but she's too distraught to form words. Shamed, she turns away.

Charlie slips under the perimeter fence and scrambles across a rock gully.

Swallowing her grief, she plows forward.

EXT. SIMPSON DESERT - DAY

Kilometers away from the camp, Charlie surveys the landscape.

EXHALING with relief, she unwraps her ear protection and stashes the cloths in her tattered trousers.

Charlie can 'feel' the sound waves of nature. When she does, we can see the colorless sound waves that she can only feel.

A breeze SLIDES slow thick sound waves around her. She sways slightly as if bathing in the gentle air currents.

Eucalyptus leaves softly SNAP, CLICK, SNAP, creating thin quick waves bouncing and refracting off each other.

CAW-CAWING cockatoos pulse sharp overlapping waves.

In a triumphant expressive dance, her feet STOMP-STOMP the ground, pushing sound into the Earth. The Earth responds and reflects Stomp-Stomp waves back up to her.

Stretching her limbs into the expanse of openness, Charlie smiles at a pristine line of curving sandstone hills.

She feels the sounds of the Rainbow Serpent spirit that we can see. It SLITHERS in arcs, forming the hill's contours.

EXT. SIMPSON DESERT - DAY - FLASHBACK

At the same curving sandstone hills, AUNTIE, 84, and SISTER AUNTIE, 86, both Australian First Peoples, their eyes laced with cataracts, quietly SING and DANCE their SONGLINE.

With their ancient bodies, the Aunties make the sinewy movements of the Rainbow Serpent that formed these hills in the Dreamtime (long ago). YOUNG CHARLIE, 6, is mesmerized.

They gesture to Young Charlie to join. She covers her ears. Sister Auntie lovingly pulls Young Charlie's hands away.

SISTER AUNTIE
(Pitjantjatjara subtitled)
Hear the essence, unlock the story.

Afraid, Charlie re-grips her ears. Sister Auntie smiles. The Aunties fluidly switch from Pitjantjatjara to English.

SISTER AUNTIE (CONT'D)
Your pain is also your gift. It
lives inside you always. You will
use it when you are ready.

Charlie yearns to please, but can't control her own fear.

EXT. SIMPSON DESERT - DAY - PRESENT TIME

Forlorn, Charlie sings their SONGLINE to the curving hills.

She feels, and we see, giant boxing Kangaroo spirits SLAP tails across muddy ground to shape billabong water holes.

The spirit of an enormous scurrying spiny Echidna SPROUTS to transform into a pointy rock outcropping.

Charlie peeks under the outcropping. There, in a collage of chalk-painted symbols, is a line of white circles. Each has a dot in the middle. They are connected by 'V' footprints.

At her feet, pressed into the damp sand, she finds a trail of real-life claw prints. They are the size of baby human hands.

She tracks the prints until she feels the subtle sounds of water LAPPING, claws SCRATCHING, and bursts of CLICK-CLICKING. The Click-Clicking triggers an old memory.

EXT. SIMPSON DESERT REFUGEE CAMP - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Around a campfire, inconsolable Charlie, Auntie, and the six members of their impoverished MOB OF AUNTIES, stare at the deceased body of Sister Auntie, laid on an elevated platform.

As Auntie speaks softly, the Mob CLICK-CLICKs their tongues, echoing what Charlie just heard in present time.

AUNTIE

On the *Sorry Business* of Sister Auntie's death, we tell our mob's timeless story.

(Pitjantjatjara subtitled)

One day, hunting for witjuti grubs near a billabong, Sister Auntie found little Charlie, abandoned.

The Aunties Click-Click lovingly toward sheepish Charlie. She forces a sad smile.

AUNTIE (CONT'D)

From that day, Sister Auntie adopted Charlie as her own.

EXT. SIMPSON DESERT, SOUTH AUSTRALIA - DUSK - PRESENT TIME

As the sun sets, Charlie EXHALES grief for Sister Auntie.

Focusing on the Click-Clicks, she slips her dilly bag off her shoulder and slides down onto her belly. She silently creeps through scrub, right up to the billabong (waterhole).

Eye-level with a clan of scrappy-looking lizards who lap at the water, Charlie smiles. They cock their heads and CLICK CLICK at her as if to say "*G'day. Not bad water, eh?*"

She nabs the closest one by its throat, then stands up and lifts its meter-long body to arm's length. This keeps its flailing claws at bay. The other lizards scatter.

Charlie gazes into the lizard's cataract-laced eyes and nods respectfully. Transfixed, the lizard blinks back at her.

Suddenly, two SILENT Stealth Hovercraft with blinding search lights drop out of the twilight onto either side of Charlie.

Startled, she releases the lizard who scampers away under one of the Hovercraft's electric-blue suspension fields.

Charlie fumbles in her pocket, grabs her cloth wraps, and desperately tries to protect her ears.

She scans around, stunned. She can feel sound waves from the wind-slapped eucalyptus leaves SLASHING each other. But... How are there no sound waves coming from the Hovercrafts?

The Hovercrafts land. The Earth SIGHS under the weight.

The search lights dim.

The Hovercraft door opens with a piercing SHHHICK-POP. Its sound stabs into Charlie, forcing her to jam her fingers into her ears. To her, every sound is magnified to ear-shattering.

An ANGRY BLACK OPS GUARD, in black mask and riot gear, BREATHES HEAVILY with disgust. He steps out of the Hovercraft and THUDS onto the Earth. His sounds shove at Charlie.

Charlie peers into the Hovercraft to see who else is there.

Through the open door, a BUZZING light reveals perennially irritated MAJOR KOWALSKI, 35, CONTROLLED SHALLOW BREATHING.

Charlie screws up her courage, stands up straight, and lifts her chin with shaky childlike bravado.

A SULLEN BLACK OPS GUARD, sneers at her with contempt.

SULLEN BLACK OPS GUARD
Can't be walkabout!

Two more BLACK OPS GUARDS exit from the other Hovercraft, their energized power sticks (EPSs) drawn and activated.

CHARLIE
Me mob's been here for yonks!

ANGRY BLACK OPS GUARD
But ya abandoned your mob, din'cha?

CHARLIE
Walkabout! Needed a tick to meself.
I didn't know how to help them!

The Sullen Black Ops Guard slides a BEEPING scanner over Charlie's body. He nods to Major Kowalski. Charlie bristles.

The Angry Black Ops Guard nudges The Sullen Black Ops Guard.

ANGRY BLACK OPS GUARD
(whispers mockingly)
Grant's 'Princess' wants this mangy
pup for Aurora's psychic school?

They turn away from Charlie to CHORTLE. Charlie darts away.

Major Kowalski scowls and points to Charlie's escape.

The Sullen Black Ops Guard turns, raises his EPS, aims it at Charlie, and fires SIZZLING strands of electric blue energy.

Using her sound sensitivity, Charlie evades the sizzling EPS energy by navigating within the sound waves emanating from the WIND, TREES, INSECTS, BIRDS, and MOANS of the Earth.

Her ability to 'feel' the sounds of her surroundings, and then maneuver a clean, sleek course is truly remarkable.

Sound waves from the Black Ops Guard's pounding FOOTFALLS and HEAVY BREATHING let Charlie know exactly where they are, and in what direction they are moving.

She smoothly loops around a hill to evade them.

Confident that she escaped the Black Ops Guards, Charlie allows herself to slide into a gully to catch her breath.

Suddenly, the dusk horizon lights up with an EXPLODING bomb.

Its SCREECHING pulse-wave rumbles across the landscape like a white-hot seismic wave bearing down on Charlie.

The pulse WHIPLASHES Charlie backwards, THUDDING her onto the ground. She blinks up at the debris filled night sky.

Suddenly, The Black Ops Guards leer over her and LAUGH.

MAJ. KOWALSKI (O.S.)
(via radio)
Florben's bombing the camp for
strip mining! Back to Hovies ASAP!

Charlie stares up at their cruel face masks.

Her terror-filled eyes reflect the flash of another bomb.

Its screeching pulse waves RUMBLE towards Charlie.

BLACKOUT

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

BLACK PRE-LAP:

High-speed metal RATTLES and SCREECHES to a Crescendo.

INT. CHARLIE'S DECONTAMINATION TRANSPORT CAPSULE - DAY

Inside a dark, casket-sized metal capsule, ear pain from the screeches force Charlie's eyelids to burst open. She GROANS.

BLACKOUT

We slip into a confusing overlap of sounds and memories.

EXT. SIMPSON DESERT REFUGEE CAMP - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

At the funeral campfire, Auntie continues the Mob's origin story, but now her tone is distorted and foreboding. The Mob of Aunties are fearful. They side-eye guilt-ridden Charlie.

AUNTIE

(Pitjantjatjara subtitled)

We accepted Charlie into our
starving mob, knowing she would one
day revive humanity.

PRE-LAP:

The rattling screeching metal forms into a PIERCING SQUEAL...

At the campfire, verging on tears, Charlie clasps her ears.

CHARLIE

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO REVIVE HER!

(Pitjantjatjara subtitled)

I'm sorry, Auntie! I'm just a kid.

Charlie runs from the funeral. The Aunties are distraught.

PRE-LAP:

The rattling screeching metal SLAMS to a cold THUDDING halt.

INT. CHARLIE'S DECONTAMINATION TRANSPORT CAPSULE - CONT.

A cacophony of a hundred CHATTERING VOICES combine with the pounding metal CLANKS and THUDS of multiple machine systems. They assault Charlie's ears and JOLT her fully awake.

Charlie WRENCHES against her restraints. She shouts into the muzzling plate strapped over her mouth. It comes out like a pathetic SQUEAL. Panicked, she HUMS her mob's Songline.

Charlie hears and feels the sound of VOMITING. She convulses to keep the vomit splash sound waves from DRIPPING onto her.

LAURENT (O.S.)
Requesting forgiveness.

CHARLIE
Wwwhhwwzztt!?!

LAURENT (O.S.)
Feeling your frustration.
Decontaminating is about to--

INT. AURORA - PSY-COLONIZER LAUNCH BAY - CONTINUOUS

Two single-person sized decontamination transport capsules SHHHICK-POP open into a massive Launch Bay.

A third unopened capsule has blinking red indicator lights.

Scattered with cargo, the Launch Bay is dominated by three gigantic space vessels. Each is labelled 'PSY-COLONIZER', has a large, clear-windowed cockpit, and hundreds of portholes.

Major Kowalski directs two LAUNCH BAY MPs to disengage Charlie's restraints and lift her out of her capsule.

CORPORAL RUNNING WOLF, 22, North American First Peoples, stands 'at-ease.' He wears the insignia of UNION OF PEACE MILITARY on his grey camouflage sensor-covered uniform.

Out of the capsule, her hands now free, Charlie jams her fingers into her ears and screams through the muzzling plate.

CHARLIE
Llllmmmmgggg! Nnnnwww!

MAJ. KOWALSKI
Are you going to behave, Candidate?

Fearful, Charlie scans the Launch Bay MPs, and nods slowly.

Kowalski head-tilts to an MP who removes her muzzle.

CHARLIE
Baack t'me mmmobbb... Nnnow!

MAJ. KOWALSKI

Know how many humans are alive on Earth? Few pockets of oldies like your mob. Not exactly the talent we need to revive humanity. Florben bombed Earth into a giant toxic mining dump. That was my crew's last trip to Earth, ever!

Charlie takes a woozy swing toward Kowalski's jaw. She misses by a foot and teeters backwards. Running Wolf catches her.

MAJ. KOWALSKI (CONT'D)

Corporal Running Wolf, wrist restraints on her until she's in her red energy-dampening uniform.

CPL. RUNNING WOLF

Yes sir, Major Kowalski, Sir.

Running Wolf restrains Charlie's wrists in front of her.

Behind Charlie, nauseous LAURENT ZHANG, 13, Szechuan First Peoples, slides out of her capsule onto the floor. The front of her elegant traveling ensemble shows traces of vomit.

Laurent 'feels' the emotions of all living things. When she does, we can see the colorless sparks of the emotions that she can only feel.

In the vast Launch Bay, the sparking emotions of everyone on Aurora churn through, assault Laurent, and make her queasy.

A wave of nausea comes over her. She waves the MPs away, and pulls a cloth out of her sleeve to wipe her face and chin.

Wrist restraints in place, Charlie lifts her palms to below her chin so that she can get an index finger into each ear. She turns to Laurent and focuses her bleary eyes on her.

Raised with Aunties, Charlie has never seen another young person. Through her dizziness, she is enchanted by Laurent.

CHARLIE

G'day. Me names Charlie. Was that you yakkin' in there?

LAURENT (V.O.)

Confirming. Being Laurent.

Charlie's eyes widen on hearing Laurent's voice in her head.

MAJ. KOWALSKI

Candidates! Aurora will teach you to synchronize your psychic gifts to escape the limits of this this solar system! Or you'll die trying!

Charlie quickly whips her stunned face to Major Kowalski.

CHARLIE

(incredulous, unsteady)
Youse having a go?

Kowalski SNARLS, eyes the third capsule, then Running Wolf.

MAJ. KOWALSKI

Why aren't candidate arrivals coordinated? These two'll have to hold-up here 'til it opens. I'm not waiting. Corporal Running Wolf, you have the Launch Bay. I'll sort these rat-newbies in Orientation!

Kowalski storms out of the Launch Bay.

Attempting to quell her nausea and be as still as possible, Laurent carefully sits herself down on a cargo box. She watches Running Wolf direct the MPs to open delicate cargo.

Meanwhile, Charlie staggers through the slapping sound waves of Aurora. She's searching for an exit with the clumsiness of an agitated drunk. She comes to a hard stop and stares at...

A massive floor-to-ceiling faded mural of a man sitting in the lotus position. Each of the seven chakras of his spine glow in the seven ascending colors of the rainbow.

Mounted directly over the heart of the faded chakra man is a large screen with a looping Welcome Video.

ON SCREEN: AURORA WELCOME VIDEO

The totalitarian Union of Peace Military Flag waves heroically in Space. CANDIDATES in uniforms of every color of the rainbow march under the direction of MILITARY PERSONNEL.

MILITARY SPOKESPERSON (V.O.)

Welcome to Aurora! A Union of Peace Military citadel securing young psychics from Florben Corporation since 2127! Synchronizing as a team, to revive humanity!

INT. AURORA - PSY-COLONIZER LAUNCH BAY - CONTINUOUS

Pummeled by sound waves, Charlie totters over to Laurent.

CHARLIE

I want out of here!

Laurent slowly and carefully turns her body from watching Running Wolf to fully assess Charlie.

LAURENT (V.O.)

Wanting is masking. Needing to be here.

Charlie feels Laurent examining her. She releases jittery nervous sparks. Laurent feels this and steels herself.

LAURENT (V.O.)

You needing regaining self-worth. Yearning for belonging to a thriving community.

Exposed, Charlie blasts frantic embarrassment sparks. The sparks hit Laurent and she dry HEAVES.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

You should mind your own beeswax! Wait?!? Are you in me head?!? Am I in yours? I gotta get outside!!!

LAURENT (V.O.)

Understanding we are in space?

Laurent slowly points towards a porthole.

LAURENT (V.O.)

Telescoping lens to see Earth.

Confused, Charlie stumbles to the telescoping porthole. Through polluted space, beyond satellites and outposts on Mars, Charlie sees Australia on Earth.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I need out now! Help!!!

Her hands beat on the porthole, releasing a spray of furious sparks. Laurent is losing her battle to avoid vomiting.

LAURENT (V.O.)

Breathing is not there, only dying!

Desperate, Charlie turns toward Running Wolf and launches a wobbly attack run across the Launch Bay.

Laurent carefully stands herself up, steps into Charlie's weaving path, gently grabs her, and guides her to sit down.

Alerted, Running Wolf and the Launch Bay MPs turn to Charlie.

Laurent waves at them indicating 'it's under control,' then GAGS into her cloth. Her other hand grips furious Charlie.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Why'd you stop me!?!

The third capsule's flashing red lights become green.

CPL. RUNNING WOLF
Initiating capsule unlock sequence.

Running Wolf turns to the giant chakra man mural, discretely nods and touches his forehead with reverence. He then taps on a control panel. Laurent notices and continues watching him.

LAURENT (V.O.)
(to Charlie)
Discerning Running Wolf an ally.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Why should I trust him? Or you?

Laurent draws a triangle in the air. She dabs each corner.

LAURENT (V.O.)
Imagining a triangle. Aurora
psychic school reviving humanity.
Union of Peace Military conquering.
Florben Earth & Asteroid Mining
Corporation destroying. Stabilizing
in a triangle of emotional tension.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Florben bombed our camp. Who are
they? What do they want?

LAURENT (V.O.)
Uniting Florida and Bangladesh.
Submerging first under Earth's
rising oceans. Strip-bombing the
solar system for minerals.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Where's the Hovercrafts and the
black-suit-fellas that captured me?

LAURENT (V.O.)
 Forbidding them at Aurora. Locating
 Black Ops and Earth bound
 Hovercraft on a separate satellite.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
 How do you know? Why are you here?

LAURENT (V.O.)
 Wanting reviving humanity.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
 I couldn't revive even one of me
 mob. How can you do that?

LAURENT (V.O.)
 Synchronizing the gifts of our
 ancestors living inside us.

Overwhelmed, Charlie jams her fingers harder into her ears.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
 This is no gift!

INT. AURORA - AKIRA-SAN'S SECRET CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

A mystic psychic's lair, but... It's enhanced with live
 security surveillance feeds covering all areas of Aurora.

AKIRA-SAN, 73, Japan First Peoples, in a maintenance uniform,
 focuses on the feed of Charlie and Laurent in the Launch Bay.

AKIRA-SAN
 (to Aurora's Computer)
 Your influence persuaded Princess
 that Charlie was her selection. And
 Chun-Fen's daughter Laurent eases
 the shock of Charlie's transition.

AURORA COMPUTER (V.O.)
 Both are mission critical. To
 revive humanity, technology must be
 guided by carriers of indigenous
 Earth-born wisdom. They are them.

Akira-San pans a camera to the unopened third capsule.

AURORA COMPUTER (V.O.)
 Who is entering my Institute?

INT. AURORA - PSY-COLONIZER LAUNCH BAY - CONTINUOUS

Charlie tries unsuccessfully to open a hatch. She teeters unsteadily to another. Frustrated, she kicks at walls.

Charlie's sparks of angry emotion increase Laurent's nausea.

LAURENT (V.O.)
(shakily hopeful)
Exploring *serenely* is our solution!

CHARLIE (V.O.)
(mimicking her)
Getting to me mob is *my* solution!

The sparks of Charlie's condescension poke at Laurent.

LAURENT (V.O.)
(pleading)
Having a personal reason. A
needing! Calming if I reveal it?
Sharing my secret, Charlie?!?

Charlie shrugs.

Given approval, Laurent spews her feelings in a torrent.

LAURENT (V.O.)
Beloving my mother my other half
departing to Szechuan for birthing
me dedicating herself to Oren
instructing enrolling here if
missing from Narcissus...

Charlie stares at her, trying to follow, but she's baffled.

LAURENT (V.O.)
...no humans residing feeling
emotions of all living beings
including plants--

CHARLIE (V.O.)
(overwhelmed, disbelieving)
You *feel* the emotions of plants?!?

LAURENT (V.O.)
All living beings! Feeling all
beings on Aurora now! Unexpected
her disappearance my gift
controlling me more than I
controlling it *needing* support...

Confused and agitated, Charlie is about to implode.

LAURENT (V.O.)
 ...blending as an eager student
 carefully not perceiving as spying
 completing her unknown mission--

Charlie can no longer contain herself and freaks out.

CHARLIE
 (out loud)
 OUT OF MY HEAD! I can't help you!

She sprays Laurent with a tidal wave of angry sparks.

LAURENT (V.O.)
 Charlie! Quieting please!

Laurent is devastated that her vulnerability was rejected.

Charlie gawks at Laurent as she dry heaves into her cloth.

The door of the third capsule SHHHICK-POP opens. Running Wolf directs the Launch Bay MPs to assist the new arrival.

Charlie and Laurent stop arguing to watch twins PAVI and PAPRI, 13, untwine from the capsule with unnatural grace.

CPL. RUNNING WOLF
 Two? Welcome! How are you not
 affected by Aurora's energy?

PAVI AND PAPRI
 (simultaneous and bright)
 We are Pavi and Papri. We have
 adapted to many refugee stations.

Running Wolf is skeptical.

Charlie is unsettled by their appearance. She turns quizzically to Laurent. But Laurent scowls at her. Charlie feels how much she has hurt Laurent.

CPL. RUNNING WOLF
 MPs, we're good. I'll escort them.

The Launch Bay MPs nod and exit.

CPL. RUNNING WOLF (CONT'D)
 Newbies! Away to the Bunk Room and
 getting you in dampening uniforms!

Clutching at her nausea cloth, Laurent glides next to Running Wolf. Pavi and Papri saunter behind. As the group passes the Psy-Colonizer vessels, Charlie scrutinizes them.

LAURENT
 (whispers to Running Wolf)
 Knowing my mother Chun-Fen Zhang?

Running Wolf nods discretely and touches his forehead. He then subtly shakes his head to discourage more talk. He turns off the lights in Launch Bay.

INT. AURORA - HALLWAY - OUTSIDE LAUNCH BAY - CONTINUOUS

Running Wolf closes the Launch Bay door. Laurent teeters. Charlie removes her fingers from her ears to stabilize her.

Running Wolf locks the Launch Bay door on a visually screened key pad. As Pavi moves to see the pad, Papri giggles to distract Running Wolf. Running Wolf instinctively blocks it.

Holding Laurent's shoulder, Charlie 'feels' tiny sound wave PULSES coming from behind the keypad's screen. The pulses match Running Wolf's finger movements as he touches the keys.

Pavi and Papri notice Charlie's attention on the keypad. They smile and slide their arms through Laurent's arms to support her. Charlie jams her fingers back in her ears.

LAURENT
 (to Pavi and Papri, woozy)
 Thanking you, being Laurent.

Savoring Laurent's voice, Charlie smiles at Pavi and Papri.

CHARLIE
 G'day. I'm Charlie by the way.

Pavi and Papri look directly into Charlie's eyes.

PAVI AND PAPRI
 (simultaneously bright)
 We are Pavi and Papri!

Charlie recoils from their creepy simultaneous speaking.

INT. AURORA - HALLWAY OUTSIDE CLASSROOM 'ALPHA' - CONT.

Running Wolf leads the four Candidates. The sound of SCREAMING compels them to stop at a darkened class room. Its window glows with a gyrating simulator capsule inside.

GREEN CANDIDATES
 NO! Arrrggghhh!!! No! NOOOOO!

In the classroom, a thrashing capsule on flexible mounts simulates a Psy-Colonizer bridge. Inside, seven uniformed GREEN CANDIDATES slam back and forth into safety frames.

Below the capsule, uniformed BLUE CANDIDATES hold hands in a meditation circle. They appear to ignore the screams.

GREEN CANDIDATES (CONT'D)
STOP THIS! NO! NO! Uuuuuggghhhh!!!

Pavi and Papri gape into the classroom window. Laurent GROANS. Charlie turns to Running Wolf.

CHARLIE
The Blues just sitting there!?!

CPL. RUNNING WOLF
The Blue Candidates meditate to give Green Candidates support.

CHARLIE
Howzat supposed to work?!?

CPL. RUNNING WOLF
If Blues learn to synchronize their energy they can change the physical reality of the Greens. The military requires practice with real consequences. If they fail here, there will be injuries. If they fail in space they will die.

GREEN CANDIDATES
HELP US!!! STOP THIS!!! Uuuugggh!!

Suddenly, Laurent CONVULSES and falls unconscious. Pavi and Papri catch her. Charlie slips her wrist restraints under Laurent's head for support. Running Wolf lifts her feet.

CPL. RUNNING WOLF
Let's get her to the Bunk Room!

INT. AURORA - CANDIDATE BUNK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Running Wolf swiftly backs the group carrying Laurent into the cavernous room that bustles with Candidates and OFFICERS.

They find an open bunk and lay her down.

Running Wolf grabs four red uniform kits. He tosses two to Pavi and Papri. He removes Charlie's wrist restraints.

Running Wolf feels Laurent's weak pulse. He turns to Charlie.

CPL. RUNNING WOLF
Let's get this on her immediately!

Running Wolf unfolds Laurent's red sensor-covered uniform.

Charlie fumbles to remove Laurent's travelling ensemble while respectfully averting her eyes to a corner of the room.

In that corner, Charlie glimpses Pavi and Papri slip into their uniforms like a second skin.

Nearby, Akira-San drops a hidden camera behind a climate vent as he finishes 'cleaning' it. He moves toward another vent. Charlie tracks his movements. Then her eye is caught by...

JOCK, 14, and KNOW-IT-ALL, 13, both Space-Born and wearing orange uniforms. They stand 'at-ease' as military INSPECTORS review their bunks for tidiness. Curious, Charlie stares.

The Inspectors CREAK lockers open, scan inside, and SLAM them shut. Charlie winces. This snaps her focus back to Laurent.

Running Wolf and Charlie get Laurent into her uniform, boots, and ear forms. She settles. Her nausea stabilizes.

They help her sit up. Laurent slides her nausea cloth up her uniform sleeve. Relieved, Charlie smiles at her.

With Charlie focused on Laurent, Running Wolf gives Akira-San a discrete questioning look. Akira-San subtly nods, taps his forehead, and exits. Running Wolf turns to the four newbies.

CPL. RUNNING WOLF (CONT'D)
Pick a bunk then report to
Orientation. Jock will escort you.

Running Wolf exchanges confirming nods with Jock and exits.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
(to Laurent)
Ya knocked me for six.

LAURENT (V.O.)
Appearing delicate. Healing always.

Their eyes connect intimately. But Laurent icily breaks it off. She points dismissively to the last uniform kit.

Charlie rips it open, shyly undresses, slips into the uniform and boots, then pops the ear forms over her ears.

In her uniform, Charlie feels so amazingly in control of her sound sensitivity that she forgets she is in captivity. Her cheeky pleasure expresses itself in her STOMP-STOMP dance.

CHARLIE

Awwh, yeaaaah! Bonza! But how?

The Inspectors sneer at her, then dismiss Know-It-All and Jock. The Inspectors exit the Bunk Room.

Know-It-All sneers at Charlie and approaches her.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Supposed to kip in this barn with
how many other sheilas and blokes?

KNOW-IT-ALL

Union of Peace gave up binary long
time ago! Whadja expect, Earthling?

CHARLIE

Wasn't. I'm back t'Oz, as soon as!

KNOW-IT-ALL

Don't think so. By the way, they
call me Know-It-All. So, I know!

Know-It-All pivots to Jock and rolls her eyes dismissively.

Jock slides his burly body to be next to Laurent.

JOCK

You have a tiny crease on your
shoulder. May I smooth it for you?

Laurent nods shyly. Jealous, Charlie glares at them.

KNOW-IT-ALL

(to Charlie)

Geez! Wait 'til Princess sees you.

CHARLIE

Princess?!? I hate her! When I meet
her, I'm gonna tell her what I--

Jock sensually smooths Laurent's shoulder. Charlie gapes.

JOCK

(to Laurent)

Eduardo. Everyone calls me Jock.

Aghast, Charlie pouts silently.

LAURENT

Laurent. Signifying what is orange?

JOCK

That I've been here a month. You get a new color every time you pass a test. Orange when you pass the first-chakra survival test.

LAURENT

Testing survival?

KNOW-IT-ALL

The first chakra is fear of dying.

Laurent's eyes widen with fear. Jock winks at her.

JOCK

You'll be fine. Probably.

KNOW-IT-ALL

(to Laurent and Charlie)

Eventually, *if* you make it through training and don't die, you won't need the uniform dampers. For now, they're on a locked newbie-setting.

Jock notices that Pavi and Papri are using a tiny tool to modify the neck of their uniforms. But Charlie distracts him.

CHARLIE

Where'd they nab youse from?

JOCK

My parents sold themselves into indentured slavery to get me off their mining scow and into Aurora.

CHARLIE

You've got to be kiddin' me!

KNOW-IT-ALL

For some of us this is the only place where we can be ourselves.

JOCK

By the way, your uniform sensors pick-up everything, so watch what you say... And think!

Charlie freezes. Only her eyes move, scanning between them.

CHARLIE

(barely moving her lips)

Youse two havin' a go?

Jock points to a wall screen grid of candidate name-coded feeds. There are images of a greenhouse, kittens playing, puppies playing, the Australian desert, and a grilled steak.

JOCK

They track our thoughts wherever we are. I'm hungry for real meat! Grr!

Charlie tugs at her uniform with revulsion, then looks to Laurent for help. But Laurent keeps her eyes locked on Jock.

Rattled, Charlie tries again to connect with Pavi and Papri.

CHARLIE

I reckon you're the kits n' pups?

Pavi and Papri roll their eyes into the backs of their heads and wink repeatedly. Charlie GASPS and recoils. Jock notices.

JOCK

You'll learn to control where your mind wanders. Or you'll be dead!

CHARLIE

'Kinda welcome is that? Aren't you suppose to 'synchronize as a team?'

JOCK

Gotta earn your team, Newbie. It's not just given to you.

CHARLIE

Oiy! Me mob accepted me from go.

KNOW-IT-ALL

(sarcastic)

Don't know what they were thinking.

Charlie's jaw tightens. Jock SNIGGERS at her, and faux-graciously holds the door open as everyone exits.

Once they are out of the room, the video feed of playful kittens and puppies turns into mirrored twin feeds of Aurora being blown to bits by massive EXPLOSIONS in space!

INT. AURORA - CLASSROOM 'BETA' - LATER

In an almost empty classroom, scowling Major Kowalski stands cross-armed in front of a large screen. On that screen, a diagram indicates candidate uniform sensor functions.

Charlie leans defiantly against the wall by the exit door.

CHARLIE

No! Next transpo back to me mob!

Kowalski shakes his head and moves menacingly toward Charlie.

Pavi and Papri smirk with anticipation.

Laurent tries to mask her fear.

MAJ. KOWALSKI

Candidate Anangu, with the right skills and attitude you just may revive the human race. Or, if you flunk out but aren't lucky enough to die, you'll end up on sanitation duty on Aurora for the rest of your wretched life. This is your home until you earn a way out, and the only way out is away from Earth. Listening to me is your only option to survive! NOW SIT BACK DOWN!

Trembling with fear, Charlie stares pleadingly at Laurent. She turns away. Charlie weighs her options, swallows her resistance, and walks over to sit down next to her.

LAURENT (V.O.)

Unwanting to combine our troubles.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

(sarcastic)

Ta for naught.

MAJ. KOWALSKI

The school requires us to show this orientation film. Take this hippie propaganda with a gallon of salt.

Kowalski dims the lights with a hand-held control panel.

ON SCREEN: THE FOUNDING OF AURORA - FILM - CONTINUOUS

The scratched film resembles a relic from American elementary schools in the nineteen sixties.

SUPER: THE FOUNDING OF AURORA

Surrounded by relics from too many religions, OREN RAMIREZ, 52, smiles beatifically directly to the camera. His left hand has a prominent ring with a large violet gem stone.

Oren speaks with practiced serenity that rides the fine line between soothing, and grating in its pretentiousness.

OREN

I'm Oren Ramirez, founder of Aurora. Thank you for bravely bringing your ultra-sensitive gifts out of hiding and all the way to the safety of Aurora at the Moons of Jupiter. And thank you for surrendering your often over-sized egos to revive humanity! Synchronizing as a team!

Behind Oren a screen displays Aurora's original design.

Its nature-shaped modules are covered in psychedelic chakras, gods of many cultures, and Aboriginal white chalk-paint circles with dots at the center, connected by 'V' footprints.

INTERCUT BTWN ON SCREEN: ORIENTATION FILM & CLASSROOM 'BETA'

Charlie doesn't understand all of Oren's words, but she recognizes the dotted circles and 'V' footprints on Aurora. She can't comprehend how they exist in this un-earthly place.

The screen behind Oren becomes a time-lapse animation that demonstrates the environmental devastation of the solar system over the last hundred and fifty years.

OREN (CONT'D)

Our solar system's resources have been turned into corporate debris.

Earth's sea levels rise. From Earth to Jupiter, there are hundreds of satellites and tons of space debris. The Moon and Mars are colonized. Mushroom clouds spout debris into space.

OREN (CONT'D)

Aurora's psychics will revive humanity before we are extinguished by Florben's semi-sentient machines that don't need clean air, water, healthy plants, and the feel of Mother Earth beneath their feet.

Space stations clog the atmosphere. The largest station has a FLORBEN EARTH & ASTEROID MINING insignia. Scows chew on asteroids and spit EXPLODING dust clouds.

Eyes wide, Charlie is freaking out at what she's seeing.

OREN (CONT'D)

Your uniforms collect physiological and psychological data about your thoughts, movements, and gifts.

Terrified, Charlie nudges Laurent. She rebuffs her.

OREN (CONT'D)

At each chakra, sensors modulate
the energy you send, and receive.

Charlie looks at her new uniform. Everything hits her. She panics, jumps up, and runs for the door.

MAJ. KOWALSKI

That won't work Candidate Anangu!

Charlie rattles the door furiously and kicks it.

CHARLIE

OPEN IT!!!

Kowalski sneers and taps on his hand-held control panel. Instantly, Charlie contorts, falls to the floor in pain, and plunges her fingers into her ears.

Laurent shrinks into her seat and pulls out her nausea cloth.

OREN (O.S.)

Your training will keep you alive.

Charlie feels sound waves coming at her from all of the machines and people on Aurora. She tries to stand, but the sound waves push her down and thrash her from side to side.

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

Let's learn about the colors and
functions of your chakras.

LAURENT

(to Major Kowalski)
Tormenting her how?!!?

MAJ. KOWALSKI

I turned off her uniform dampers
and turned up her sensitivity.

The sound waves from their words slap at Charlie.

OREN (O.S.)

First chakra, red, survival.

Red light from the screen fills the room.

CHARLIE

(nasty to Maj. Kowalski)
You right, Mate? Enjoying yourself?

Laurent bolts toward Charlie to protect her.

LAURENT
 (to Major Kowalski)
 Needing turning them back on!

MAJ. KOWALSKI
 Are you going to behave, Anangu?

Charlie glares. Major Kowalski taps on his control panel.

MAJ. KOWALSKI (CONT'D)
 No? How do you feel about this?

OREN (O.S.)
 Second chakra, orange, emotion.

In the orange light, Laurent suddenly feels the sparks of emotions all around her and convulses with nausea.

OREN (CONT'D)
 Third chakra, yellow,
 clairsentience, feeling emotions.

In yellow light, Laurent feels Charlie's sparks of anger and shudders. Terrified, she looks into Charlie's eyes.

LAURENT (V.O.)
 Feeling emotions of every living
 being on Aurora assaulting me.

CHARLIE
 (to Kowalski)
 I'm going to kill you!

OREN (O.S.)
 Fourth chakra, green, affinity.

In the green light, Kowalski looms menacingly.

MAJ. KOWALSKI
 Me? Don't blame me! Commander
 Grant's visionary daughter
 'Princess' has seen that your
 pathetic navigational gift is
 essential for mankind.

OREN (O.S.)
 Fifth chakra, blue, clairaudience,
 feeling sound.

In the blue light, Charlie is battered by sound waves. Laurent is stung by emotions. They cling to each other.

Pavi and Papri lean forward to study their pain.

OREN (CONT'D)
Sixth chakra, indigo, clairvoyance.

In the indigo light, Charlie feels Laurent's convulsions of nausea and can no longer stand it.

CHARLIE
STOP IT!!!

Major Kowalski smiles triumphantly, and taps on his panel.

OREN (O.S.)
When you graduate to crew or
faculty and master the seventh
chakra, knowing, you wear violet.

In the violet light, with their uniforms reactivated, Charlie and Laurent slump against the wall in an exhausted heap.

ON SCREEN: ORIENTATION FILM - CONTINUOUS

These last clips are military propaganda in the Soviet style.

SUPER: THE UNION OF PEACE MILITARY RESCUES AURORA - 2127

MAJ. KOWALSKI (O.S.)
This is the real story, Newbies!

Florben ships attack Aurora. Aurora's core IMPLODES destroying almost all of its original nature-shaped modules.

SUPER: THE DEATH OF FOUNDER, OREN RAMIREZ (2071 - 2127)

The Union of Peace Military fleet heroically zooms in, surrounds the Florben ships, and easily destroys them.

SUPER: THE UNION OF PEACE MILITARY REBUILDS AURORA

Robotic military scows build a massive protective cage of grey boxes that surround the few original modules.

Through the grey-caged fortress, only hints of Aurora's original mystical symbols remain visible on her exterior.

SUPER: AURORA IS YOUR NEW HOME

INT. AURORA - CLASSROOM 'BETA' - CONTINUOUS

The room lights brighten. Still slumped on the floor, Charlie clenches with anger toward Kowalski. Laurent is terrified. But... Pavi and Papri are hungry for more information.

PAVI AND PAPRI
Does the military think that
Florben can travel beyond Jupiter?

MAJ. KOWALSKI
Without a string of outposts to
support them, Florben's semi-
sentient bot-scows can't even make
the leap to Saturn. The military
developed Psy-Colonizers to scoot
us right past those iron-heads all
the way to Proxima Centauri.

Pavi and Papri consider that. To enforce his point, Kowalski
taps his pad and sends a new image to the screen behind him.

The screen shows an artist's rendering of a valley on an icy
planet. At center, an environmental dome protects a cookie-
cutter military encampment with rows of farmed plant-life.

MAJ. KOWALSKI (CONT'D)
This will be your new world!

CHARLIE (V.O.)
(whispering to Laurent)
That's a prison camp.

Overwhelmed and depleted, Laurent can only blink.

MAJ. KOWALSKI
You four get to Mrs. Tuehepa's
class ASAP. We've had 'casualties'
in there. You'll have to catch-up.

Pavi and Papri eagerly scurry out of the room. Major Kowalski
moves to loom over Charlie and Laurent.

MAJ. KOWALSKI (CONT'D)
You'll be cleanin' toilets soon.

Disgusted, Major Kowalski turns and storms out of the room.

Laurent and Charlie are stunned.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. AURORA - CLASSROOM 'BETA' - CONTINUOUS**

The two of them alone, Charlie turns protectively to Laurent.

CHARLIE

I'm outta here. And I'm takin' you.

LAURENT

*Wanting to be anywhere but here.
Needing to be here. Discovering my
mother's mission. Saving her.*

CHARLIE

How ya gonna stand it? I'm gonna
kill Kowalski! Then I'm gonna find
Grant's Princess and give her a
bollocking! And those freaky twins!

LAURENT

(admonishingly)
Needing being careful!

Laurent points to her uniform sensors. Charlie shrugs.

Hoping to regain her composure before standing, Laurent
EXHALES and changes the topic to something more pleasant.

LAURENT (CONT'D)

Surviving how before Aurora?

Reminiscing, Charlie shrugs and starts to calm.

CHARLIE

Followin' the songlines.

EXT. SIMPSON DESERT - DAY - FLASHBACK

At the curving hills, joyful Auntie, Sister Auntie, and
Charlie SING and DANCE their mob's Songline.

Sister Auntie smiles lovingly at Charlie. She places her
hands over her heart and then opens them to Charlie.

INT. AURORA - CLASSROOM 'BETA' - PRESENT TIME - CONTINUOUS

Charlie's eyes brim with tears of joy. Then she remembers
where she is and shakes herself out of her reverie.

Laurent doesn't quite understand what Charlie meant.

CHARLIE

Creator spirit songs. Animal stories make it easy to remember geography lessons. Feeling the vibrations from Mother Earth.

Closing her eyes, she HUMS some of her mob's songline.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

That's how me mob navigate the wide open lucky country.

LAURENT

Kowalski *wanting* control. *Needing* your navigating for surviving!

CHARLIE

Forget Kowalski. How'd you get on?

Laurent smiles wistfully as she reminisces.

LAURENT

Feeling the needings of our plants.

INT. NARCISSUS - GREENHOUSE - FLASHBACK

Laurent's hands swirl to create a ball of invisible sparkling energy. Her mother CHUN-FEN ZHANG, 37, Szechuan First Peoples, nods and beams with pride.

LAURENT (V.O.)

Thriving on the Agri-ship
Narcissus. Alone. With my mother
quietly teaching me healing people
and plants with invisible energy.

Laurent's hands drop the sparkling energy onto nasturtiums. She uses her hands to gently spread the energy over them. The nasturtiums glow with joyful sparkling energy.

LAURENT (V.O.)

Feeling it is harmony.

INT. AURORA - CLASSROOM 'BETA' - PRESENT TIME - CONTINUOUS

Charlie SNIGGERS sarcastically at sad-eyed Laurent.

CHARLIE

Invisible? Alone and quiet? I might just fancy me'self a stickybeak.

Suddenly clear-eyed, Laurent is insulted by Charlie's insensitivity about her mother. She makes a furious face.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What? Stick my beak in? For a peek?

LAURENT

Joking is unfitting! Derailing
renewing my mother's mission!

Laurent stands and turns to Charlie with revulsion.

CHARLIE

Wait?!? What do you reckon?

LAURENT

Assuring my needings are met!
Finding my classroom! Conforming!
You taking care of yourself!

Laurent dashes out, almost slamming the door on Charlie.

INT. AURORA - CLASSROOM 'GAMMA' - MOMENTS LATER

A round windowless room lined with computer screens displaying current and historical events in our solar system.

Red- and orange-uniformed Candidates, including PRINCESS, 12, Know-It-All, Jock, Pavi, and Papri, give their full attention to imperious MRS. TUEHEPA, 74, Namibia, Africa First Peoples.

Behind her is a clear Psy-Colonizer vessel seven-seat bridge-simulator capsule on flexible mounts. It is identical to the one that was thrashing in Classroom 'ALPHA'.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Who can name three techniques to
synchronize the crown chakras of a
Psy-Colonizer bridge crew?

Princess aggressively waves her hand in Mrs. Tuehepa's face. The other Candidates roll their eyes.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)

Candidate Grant, your father
brought you back to Aurora a month
ago, when are you going to allow
other candidates a chance to shine?

PRINCESS

I was born to this. I can't wait
for everyone else to catch up.

Princess and Know-It-All exchange nods. The class GROANS.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Be that as it may, let's find out
what our new candidates think.

Mrs. Tuehepa looks toward Pavi and Papri but senses something unsettling. She stares into their not quite human eyes.

They smile robotically at her, just as... The classroom door slides open with a WHOOSH.

Laurent steps tentatively into the room. Charlie is a few cautious paces behind her. The class turns to gawk.

Charlie and Laurent notice the simulator capsule and blanch.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)

Candidates Anangu and Zhang! We do
not tolerate dawdling on Aurora!

Charlie brightens on seeing Mrs. Tuehepa's slight resemblance to her elderly Aunties. She desperately hopes for an ally.

CHARLIE

(Pitjantjatjara subtitled)
Hello, Auntie. I'm glad to see you!

MRS. TUEHEPA

We speak English on Aurora!

CHARLIE

Ya look like ya might be in me mob.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Unlikely, Candidate Anangu! What
gift brought you to Aurora?

CHARLIE

Some metallic horror-show ride.

The class LAUGHS. SIGHING, Mrs. Tuehepa reviews her datapad.

MRS. TUEHEPA

You are clairaudient, Candidate.

Charlie tries to shrug off her ignorance with a smirk.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)

That means you can hear energy that
other people may not notice.

Charlie turns to comedy to deflect her nerves.

CHARLIE

Aw yeah. I reckon I can hear a gnat's burp three clicks away.

The class LAUGHS again. Charlie embraces the moment and enjoys being cheeky. Know-It-All SNORTS disdainfully.

Mrs. Tuehepa directs Charlie to a seat. She turns to Laurent who tried to hide by sliding into a seat in the back row.

LAURENT

Being clairsentient.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Do we all know what a clairsentient is? Candidate Zhang feels emotions with her third chakra, or 'gut.' Who else is clairsentient?

Laurent scans the unfriendly faces until finally Jock overconfidently raises his hand. Relieved, Laurent beams at him.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)

This is a safe place to work hard and learn the skills that will help you to survive. Our class motto is:

Mrs. Tuehepa raises her hands in an uplifting motion.

ALL CANDIDATES

(simultaneously)

"Synchronize together and live!"

Across the room, Charlie and Laurent trade skeptical looks.

INT. AURORA - AKIRA-SAN'S SECRET CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

On the live-feed screen, Akira-San watches Gamma classroom where Mrs. Tuehepa is challenging Charlie and Laurent.

AURORA COMPUTER (V.O.)

Day one, Tuehepa is tough.

Akira-San GRUNTS agreement and zooms in on Pavi and Papri.

AURORA COMPUTER (V.O.)

Have you ascertained their identities?

AKIRA-SAN

No. Observation will continue.

INT. AURORA - CLASSROOM 'GAMMA' - MOMENTS LATER

The class watches exasperated Mrs. Tuehepa confront Charlie.

MRS. TUEHEPA

We are here to change each other in order to revive humanity!

CHARLIE

You're sayin' I was brought here to change people? That's not possible.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Candidate Anangu, step into the bridge capsule and we'll all be able to verify your hypothesis.

The class GASPS. Charlie trembles.

CHARLIE

Don't reckon so, Miss. I've already had me fill of show and tell today.

Mrs. Tuehepa opens the capsule door and waits for Charlie.

Charlie looks to Laurent for support, but gets a 'not my problem' shrug. Charlie sizes up Mrs. Tuehepa.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Consider it a personal challenge. Wouldn't you like to learn how to fly away from Aurora in a Psy-Colonizer vessel?

Charlie rises to the bait and bravely steps to the capsule.

KNOW-IT-ALL

Good luck, ya Terrestrial Geek!

Charlie scowls at Know-It-All.

Mrs. Tuehepa winces at that remark but doesn't comment.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Candidate Anangu, take the center chair. I'll lock your safety frame.

Through the glass, the class watches the frame fold down to hold Charlie tight to her seat leaving only her arms free.

CHARLIE

Is the class supposed to synchronize-meditate to help me?

MRS. TUEHEPA
They aren't trained for that yet.
They will simply be observing.

Charlie's eyes grow wide. She EXHALES with fear.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)
Candidate Anangu, for whom in the
class do you have the most innate
affinity?

INTERCUT BETWEEN TEST CAPSULE AND CLASSROOM 'GAMMA'

Charlie blinks in confusion.

Mrs. Tuehepa scans her control pad and smiles knowingly.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)
Candidate Zhang, please join
Candidate Anangu in the capsule.

Feeling all eyes on her, Laurent stands, reluctantly slides to the front of the class, and slowly enters the capsule. She takes the seat on Charlie's right side and glowers at her.

LAURENT (V.O.)
Conforming is impossible for you!?

Charlie swallows, too overwhelmed to respond. The safety frame locks Laurent into her chair.

MRS. TUEHEPA
Please note that Candidate Zhang's
third chakra is extremely sensitive
to emotional changes, so she is an
ideal subject for this experiment.

Laurent bristles at the words "*subject for this experiment.*"

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)
Candidate Anangu, for whom do you
have the least innate affinity?

Charlie scans the class nervously. Pavi and Papri glare.

CHARLIE
I don't know anybody here.

MRS. TUEHEPA
Aurora's computer knows.

PRINCESS
Duh, it's me.

Mrs. Tuehepa scans her control panel and nods in surprise.

MRS. TUEHEPA
Thank you for your self-awareness,
Candidate Grant. Enter the capsule.

As Princess saunters towards the capsule, Charlie tweaks at the name 'Grant'. Charlie cold stares at her as she enters and sits to her left. The safety frame locks Princess in.

CHARLIE
(aggressive)
Are youse the 'Princess'?

PRINCESS
My friends don't call me that. If
you mean, am I the one who saved
you before Florben bombed your camp
into a strip mine? Then yes, I am!

Charlie racks the safety frame, trying to grab at Princess.

CHARLIE
Then why didn't you save me mob
too? Lemme out! Miss! Mrs. Tuehepa!

MRS. TUEHEPA
Breathe! Your mission hasn't even
started and you can already sense
your team members are changing you.

PRINCESS
(to Charlie)
You'll be thanking me soon.

Charlie thrashes against the frame, too angry to speak.

MRS. TUEHEPA
Time to test Candidate Anangu's
hypothesis: "*She does not change
people.*" You'll start in autopilot.
When you reach obstacles, you will
need to work manually, together, to
save your lives.
(to control panel)
SAT-NAV: Engage autopilot path to
Proxima Centauri.

Mrs. Tuehepa taps her control panel. The capsule doors CLUNK and SHHHICK-POP lock. The capsule GROANS, lifts slightly, and begins a gentle swaying motion to indicate flight.

The classroom lights dim to black. The seamless perimeter wall computer screens project images of space so that from inside the capsule it appears to be moving through the stars.

Charlie scans the classroom with apprehension.

In the dark room, the other Candidates become an eager audience. They SNICKER at the glowing capsule, anticipating the emotional and physical drama about to play out.

Trembling, Laurent slides her nausea cloth from her sleeve.

The capsule rocks vigorously. Charlie turns to Laurent apologetically.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
She'll be right.

Laurent stares daggers at her.

Princess sneers at them and CHORTLES with delight.

Mrs. Tuehepa looks worried about Charlie and Laurent.

MRS. TUEHEPA
Candidate Anangu! Deep breath or
I'll open your endorphin module and
that won't do anyone any good.

Princess SNIFFS and shoots a look at her friend Know-It-All.

PRINCESS
It's obvious these newbies have
some past life karma to work out.

Know-It-All GRUNTS in agreement.

KNOW-IT-ALL
Thirteenth Century Romania.

MRS. TUEHEPA
Candidates Grant and Parlak! Hold
your banter. Completing past-life
karma is next week's curriculum.

Charlie is unnerved. Know-It-All shrugs. Princess smirks.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)
Candidate Anangu, what quality of
Candidate Grant's do you admire?

The capsule shakes. An approaching asteroid belt appears on the horizon of the class wall screen. Charlie is speechless.

She stares at the control panels and sees the autopilot blink and buzz through a sequence to avoid the asteroids.

PRINCESS

Pick quick or you'll regret it!

MRS. TUEHEPA

Candidate Grant, remember last week's discussion about when it is a tactical advantage to use threats, and when it is counter-productive to our desired outcomes?

Princess GROANS with resignation.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)

Candidate Anangu?

Startled, Charlie glances up from the controls to scowl at Princess. The capsule swerves to miss a small asteroid.

CHARLIE

I reckon she's cunnin'.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Let's turn that into a positive. Candidate Grant, how do you feel knowing that Candidate Anangu admires your intensity?

PRINCESS

Duh!

MRS. TUEHEPA

Duh, what, Candidate Grant?

PRINCESS

Duh, I am intense!

The class LAUGHS. Princess gives Charlie a reluctant smile.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Candidate Grant, what skill do you admire about Candidate Anangu?

The class SUCKS IN a collective inhale of trepidation.

Princess swallows her hubris and gathers her higher self.

PRINCESS

Her navigation skill will revive humanity. I need her. We all need her. I'm switching to manual.

Laurent SNIFFS, as if to say *"Navigation skills! I knew it!"*

KNOW-IT-ALL

Huh? This little rat's the one
you've been waiting for?

MRS. TUEHEPA

Candidate Parlak! When are you
going to learn respect for your
teammates' gifts? Only when you
need them to save your life?

The capsule jerks as Princess clumsily swerves to miss small
asteroids. Charlie 'feels' she would be a much better
navigator than Princess. She flushes with frustration.

CHARLIE

I don't want to revive humanity,
Miss! I want to go home.

MRS. TUEHEPA

That's not possible, Charlie.

CHARLIE

Don't know what this is, but I'm
not supposed to be here. Lemme out!
(to Princess)
Smooth out your drive!

Princess swerves hard to avoid more asteroids. Charlie and
Laurent slam against their safety frames.

PRINCESS

Why don't you fly?

Charlie sees Laurent's death grip on the safety frame, but
refuses to give into Princess' manipulation.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Candidate Anangu, what quality of
Candidate Zhang's do you dislike?

CHARLIE

What?!? No!

MRS. TUEHEPA

You must finish the challenge.

CHARLIE

I won't!

MRS. TUEHEPA

(to Laurent)

What if Candidate Anangu said that
you are difficult to work with?

Laurent squeezes her nausea cloth and turns to Charlie.

LAURENT

Telling her I am difficult?

Charlie shakes her head. She watches Princess jerk to barely miss an asteroid. But Charlie is determined not to help her!

Charlie and Laurent slam into their safety frames. Laurent convulses. Charlie sees that Laurent is about to vomit.

MRS. TUEHEPA

The truth, Candidate Anangu!

CHARLIE

(carefully to Laurent)

It is hard yakka sussin' out if
you're going to be sweet to me one
minute. Or worried about your own
self the next.

The class LAUGHS.

Laurent feels betrayed. Princess watches with delight. The capsule is peppered and rocked by small asteroids BANGING on the glass front. Charlie is trying to hold herself together.

LAURENT

Believing *you* are congenial?

CHARLIE

No! Laurent, I don't! I'm sorry!

KNOW-IT-ALL

Jeepers, Charlie. Just tell her
she's a hypersensitive emotional
clairsentient and get it over with.

The class laughs again.

Seeing angry tears form in Laurent's eyes, Charlie grabs the controls from Princess. She glides the capsule around a giant asteroid and sails through a dense field of small asteroids.

Princess smiles. She got what she wanted. Charlie navigated for her. The flight smooths. The pounding of the asteroids stops. The room goes quiet. Everyone listens.

CHARLIE

Why would *I* say that? Laurent has been very kind to me.

KNOW-IT-ALL

Ugh, now *I'm* gonna barf.

Laurent is physically steadied, but her tears are falling.

Charlie is devastated.

END OF CLASS BELL sounds. The capsule stops. The class lights turn on. The safety frames lift. And the capsule door opens.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Time for a meal break.

Laurent leaps out of the capsule and runs toward the classroom exit door. Charlie chases after her.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)

Meditate on these events. Come back to class ready to discuss how these crew members changed each other's Psy-Colonizer team functionality.

Laurent slips through the students to reach the door where Jock is waiting for her.

Charlie gets trapped behind other students and their desks. She analyzes hopping over them as Know-It-All grabs her arm.

KNOW-IT-ALL

More on Romania later.
(whispering in her ear)
We've known each other before.

Charlie blushes with revulsion, then turns to see Princess striding to the door. She's blocking Charlie's path.

CHARLIE

Why would you do this to me!?!?

PRINCESS

You are essential to my success. With you, my father will award me command of the first Psy-Colonizer to leave Aurora to revive humanity.

CHARLIE

You little--

Mrs. Tuehepa steps between them. Princess slips out the door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 I won't abandon me mob! If I do,
 I'm no better than me mother who
 abandoned me.

INT. AURORA - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Laurent moves briskly with Jock. Charlie runs to catch up.

CHARLIE
 Laurent! Please stop.

Laurent turns to her, arms crossed, but listening.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry.

LAURENT
 Saying that previously. Meaning
 what you were saying in class?

Charlie doesn't know how to answer.

Laurent turns away. She and Jock continue down the hallway
 reaching the large Meal Hall doors.

Charlie races in front of her and blocks the doors.

CHARLIE
 (whispering)
 No. I understand it's complicated
 because of... Your mum.

LAURENT
 Major Kowalski and Princess using
 my sensitivities, forcing your
 maturing. Leaving me alone!

Holding back tears, Laurent pushes Charlie out of her way.

CHARLIE
 I reckon I have that 'over-sized
 ego' that Oren-fella said. Me
 Aunties raised me. I don't know how
 to talk to you.

Laurent stops and DRY HEAVES into her nausea cloth.

JOCK
 Newbie, you're making her sick!

LAURENT
 Escorting me to enter please?

Jock puts his beefy hand in front of Charlie's face.

JOCK

Stop! I'm taking care of her.

Charlie watches Jock and Laurent go through the doors. She taps her foot, forcing herself to wait and give them space.

CHARLIE

(self-deprecating)

Onya, Charlie. Love your work. Only thing you're good at is navigation!

Just as she touches the door handle, she pulls her hand back.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Navigation?!?

Furious that she allowed herself to be distracted, she turns to scurry away from the Meal Hall with renewed purpose!

INT. AURORA - CANDIDATE MEAL HALL - CONTINUOUS

Jock and Laurent enter the large room that has a greenhouse along one wall, an automated meal-delivery system, clusters of spiritual statues, and ancient scrolls on the walls.

Candidates sit at tables segregated by uniform color. The room BUZZES with sparks of hormonally charged emotions.

Even in her dampening uniform, Laurent 'feels' this. She scans the room to see that Military and Faculty authority figures are conspicuously absent.

Jock smiles reassuringly and escorts Laurent to the head of the meal-delivery line. Jealous Candidates gawk at them.

Pavi and Papri whisper to a blue BRAGGART candidate. The three then turn toward an orange NERD candidate who is shuffling toward them. The trio GIGGLE mischievously.

The Braggart trips the Nerd. His food tray goes flying into the BLUE CANDIDATES. One of them, covered in food, punches the Nerd. Blue and ORANGE CANDIDATES join in the fight.

The Braggart confidently turns back to Pavi and Papri expecting congratulations, but... they have disappeared.

As the fight heats up, Blue Candidates overturn a table to hide behind. It is immediately pelted with food scraps.

Jock scans the crowd with an intimidating stare and barks.

JOCK

HEY!

All Candidates freeze, then scurry to clean up the mess.

Laurent watches Jock with admiration. He smiles at her.

INT. AURORA - HALLWAY - OUTSIDE LAUNCH BAY - CONTINUOUS

Nervous, Charlie taps the passcode onto the screened keypad.

INT. AURORA - AKIRA-SAN'S SECRET CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

On his screen, Akira-San sees Charlie enter the Launch Bay.

INT. AURORA - PSY-COLONIZER LAUNCH BAY - CONTINUOUS

In the dark room, her heart POUNDING with nerves, Charlie avoids security scanners by sliding silently along the walls to reach the closest Psy-Colonizer vessel.

With the entry door now unlocked, two STEALTH FIGURES slip into the Launch Bay. They wear black suits and masks that cover their bodies leaving only their eyes exposed.

They match Charlie's exact path and slide along the walls.

Charlie slips under the closest vessel and scans its restraint points. The lead Stealth figure stops and gives the 'hold' signal. The second Stealth figure nods minimally.

INT. AURORA - CANDIDATE MEAL HALL - CONTINUOUS

Jock and Laurent sit at the head of their table. Behind them Candidates elbow each other, itching to restart the fight.

Princess steps into the Meal Hall and smugly surveys the room. She pompously strides towards Jock and Laurent. The Candidates stop their jostling to watch her.

She directs her words to Jock, loud enough for all to hear.

PRINCESS

Your simulator results suck. If you launch now, you will all die.

BLUE CANDIDATE

(to Jock)

She's Pre-cog. Is she right?

JOCK
That's confidential information.

PRINCESS
Good luck figuring out which color
team will fail and kill you all.

Orange Candidates use this as an excuse to resume punching
Yellow Candidates. Blue Candidates shove Green Candidates.

JOCK
Pushing us to fight each other will
not manipulate us to follow you!

PRINCESS
(hissing at Jock)
You can't keep them in control.
(to all Candidates)
Joining my team means survival.

Princess saunters to the now deserted meal-delivery system.

Jock sneers, but he's distracted by a CANDIDATE's wild punch
that flings Laurent's food tray off their table. He grabs
Laurent and his food tray, and guides her to the greenhouse.

INT. AURORA - MEAL HALL GREENHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Jock and Laurent sit on the ground cover in the greenhouse
and share his lunch. Laurent beams with joy at being among
the plants and listening to her fellow clairsentient.

JOCK
Let the energy flow through you
without reacting to it. Or, imagine
you're a bubble and let the energy
flow around you. It's simple.

Laurent looks, and feels doubtful. Jock gets serious.

JOCK (CONT'D)
The key is, never let anyone ever
know you are afraid. If I ever feel
fear in you, you're off my team!

Unsure of herself, Laurent smiles nervously.

INT. AURORA - PSY-COLONIZER LAUNCH BAY - CONTINUOUS

Charlie methodically releases the Psy-Colonizer restraints.

Fascinated, the Stealth Figures watch her. They look at each other and shrug, then turn back to watching Charlie.

She rolls the gang stairs to the capsule hatch, steps up to it, but doesn't know how it opens. She removes her ear forms.

Fighting through all other sound waves from Aurora, Charlie feels tiny IMPULSE sound waves coming off of the hatch latch. She twists the latch right, left, out, and down. It opens.

Stepping into the bridge, she sees seats and controls just like the class simulator. She slips into the center chair.

CHARLIE

Computer: Engage autopilot path to
Earth, Australia, Pitjantjatjara
Land.

AURORA COMPUTER (V.O.)

Navigation cannot be engaged while
launch bay space doors are sealed.

She gazes at the gigantic Launch Bay Space Doors, GROANS audibly, then catches herself for making noise. She squeezes her eyes closed, bringing her attention inward.

SISTER AUNTIE (V.O.)

Your pain is also your gift.
(Pitjantjatjara subtitled)
Hear the essence, unlock the story.

Tuning in, Charlie feels tiny SIZZLING sound waves coming from a security panel near the Launch Bay Space Doors. She glides down the gang stairs to the door security panel.

She taps keys. She listens, then taps again, and waits.

Suddenly a yellow light at the top of the panel flashes and an ALARM blasts her with shock waves of sound. She tries to hit the last keys, but collapses to the ground.

The Stealth Figures look at each other with panicked eyes.

Charlie slips her ear forms back on, stands up and begins to complete the sequence. A large hand clutches the top of hers.

Running Wolf forcefully moves Charlie's body away and re-sets the locking code on the Launch Bay Space Doors. The blasting alarm and flashing lights stop.

CPL. RUNNING WOLF

Open these doors, you'll kill
yourself and humanity. The Psy-
Colonizers are critical to revival.

They tussle. Losing patience, Running Wolf grabs flailing Charlie by the neck, lifts her, and holds her at arm's length, just as Charlie did with the lizard.

CHARLIE

I CAN'T REVIVE ANYONE!!! Me mob kept dying and I couldn't save any of them. I was in too much pain, but now with my uniform I can help them. I gotta get back to Earth!

CPL. RUNNING WOLF

You can't escape your pain. You will learn to use your gift here. You will fly, but never alone.

CHARLIE

Stinkin' Union of Peace Military.

Running Wolf stares directly into Charlie's eyes and smiles.

CPL. RUNNING WOLF

We need you to fight the Union of Peace Military, from within.

Incredulous, Charlie's eyes widen, then her anger resurges.

CHARLIE

I don't care! Me mob needs me.

Empathetic, Running Wolf lowers Charlie's feet to the floor.

CPL. RUNNING WOLF

Your mob is tiny. All of humanity needs you. Laurent needs you.

CHARLIE

She doesn't wanna know me.

All fight leaves Charlie's body. Running Wolf releases her. Charlie looks at Running Wolf with exhausted desperation.

CPL. RUNNING WOLF

Does your mob practice astral projection? Perhaps Mrs. Tuehepa's meditation can connect you to them.

Running Wolf guides Charlie out of the Launch Bay.

The Stealth Figures exchange confused looks.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

PRE-LAP:

THREE GENTLE GONGS rings out.

INT. AURORA - HALLWAY AT HALL OF UNITY - MOMENTS LATER

A stream of every-color-of-uniform Candidates flow toward the doors to the Hall of Unity. They open automatically.

AURORA COMPUTER (V.O.)
Evening meditation in five minutes.

Running Wolf encourages Charlie to go through the doors.

INT. AURORA - HALL OF UNITY - CONTINUOUS

Exhausted, Charlie trudges into the magnificent room. She sees Laurent and Jock waiting in line and SIGHS with defeat.

Charlie summons her courage to speak to Laurent.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Can I talk to you?

Laurent gives Charlie a harsh stare. Jock turns to glare.

CHARLIE
Walkabout! Needed a tick to meself.

Jock inserts himself between Charlie and Laurent.

JOCK
Tick to yourself. Good one, Newbie!

Charlie glares back at him. Just then, Mrs. Tuehepa greets them. Barefoot and wearing a multi-colored Dashiki, she appears softer and more relaxed than she was in class.

MRS. TUEHEPA
Charlie and Laurent! If you ever need help, you are welcome to come here. Eduardo, please assist our new friends to join the circle.

Charlie and Laurent nod, remove their uniform boots, and place them with the other identical pairs. Jock gets rugs and places three of them in the large meditation circle.

Princess sits beside a spot-lit empty rug. Know-It-All is on her other side. Mrs. Tuehepa glides to the empty rug, smiles benevolently at Princess, sits down, and closes her eyes.

Both nervous, Charlie and Laurent scan around the room. Their eyes accidentally meet. Laurent quickly looks away.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Where are those robotic twins?

Feigning disinterest, Laurent rolls her eyes at Charlie.

LAURENT (V.O.)

Un-presenting.

Mrs. Tuehepa EXHALES with deep relaxation and opens her eyes.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Welcome! Our meditation circle echoes the powers of your ancestral circles on Earth. Hold hands. Close your eyes. Your sixth chakra, your inner vision, is behind your eyes. Train yourself to use clairvoyance to see energy. Then you will no longer be pained by feeling energy.

INT. AURORA - AKIRA-SAN'S SECRET CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

In white robes, Akira-San kneels on a beautiful Tatami mat, focusing his attention on a flickering e-candle.

On one screen he watches the meditation in the Hall of Unity, on the other are Candidate's inner visualizations: Charlie's Australian outback, Laurent's greenhouse, Jock's food, etc.

MRS. TUEHEPA (O.S.)

Find your ancestors and sit with them in a circle. Feel the wisdom.

INT. SAMURAI TEMPLE - AKIRA-SAN'S MEDITATION VISION - CONT.

As a clairvoyant, Akira-San sees human and spirit forms as uniquely colored energy-bodies. We can see what he sees.

SAMURAI with blue energy-bodies surround a sacred flame. They are overseen by a SHOGUN with a white energy-body. Behind them are the violet energy-bodies of their ANCESTORS.

MRS. TUEHEPA (O.S.)

Breathe in and feel the peace and wisdom of your ancestral homeland.

INT. AURORA - AKIRA-SAN'S SECRET CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Akira-san enlarges the feed of Charlie's inner visualization.

EXT. CORROBOREE DANCE - CHARLIE'S MEDITATION VISION - CONT.

At a fire-lit Corroboree (Ceremonial) Dance, Charlie, Auntie, Sister Auntie, and her Mob of Aunties STOMP-STOMP the ground. The Earth sends Stomp-Stomp sound waves back to them.

INT. AURORA - HALL OF UNITY - CONTINUOUS

Charlie's closed-eyed face beams at being among her family.

INT. AURORA - AKIRA-SAN'S SECRET CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Pleased, Akira-san's enlarges Laurent's visualization.

EXT. SZECHUAN MTN FIELD - LAURENT'S MEDITATION VISION - CONT.

Among the peaks of Szechuan, in a field of flowers, Chun-Fen and Laurent hold hands, laugh, and dance.

Laurent opens her hands, pleading with her mother to answer her questions. Refusing, Chun-Fen vehemently shakes her head.

Laurent's wizened grandmother XIAOQING, 75, Szechuan First Peoples, beams with love. Laurent runs to her.

INT. AURORA - HALL OF UNITY - CONTINUOUS

Laurent's close-eyed face beams with joy.

INT. AURORA - AKIRA-SAN'S SECRET CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Akira-San reluctantly enlarges Princess' inner visualization.

INT. GRANT HOME - PRINCESS'S MEDITATION VISION - CONT.

When meditating, precognitive Princess 'sees' humans as a collage of tiny pictures from the past, present, and future.

Her domineering father COMMANDER GRANT, 35, has an aura covered in thousands of images, like a coat of transparent sticky notes.

CDR. GRANT

You promised me a successful Psy-Colonizer team. Shall I return you to exile with your mother?

Princess' POV zooms in on a cluster of pictures near his heart. She rapid-fire flips through a blur of images, like clicking through a slide show, then suddenly halts on...

Princess and her MOTHER, 30, falling through empty space.

INT. AURORA - HALL OF UNITY - CONTINUOUS

Princess opens her eyes to wipe away tears. She scans the room to see if anyone noticed. Mrs. Tuehepa politely averts her eyes and continues to glide around the room.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Look within your heart and find one word to honor your ancestors.

Charlie opens one eye to look at Mrs. Tuehepa quizzically.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)

Don't think. Allow your ancestral consciousness to connect with you.

EXT. CORROBOREE DANCE - CHARLIE'S MEDITATION VISION - CONT.

Charlie stares into the fire and sees 'AURORA.'

She looks up to see Auntie, Sister Auntie, and the Mob of Aunties nodding at her with enthusiastic hopefulness.

AUNTIE

(Pitjantjatjara subtitled)
You carry our wisdom to the stars.

INT. AURORA - HALL OF UNITY - CONTINUOUS

Charlie opens her sad eyes, confused at being told by her mob to travel to the stars. She turns hopefully to closed-eyed Laurent. Laurent is absorbed in own her visualization.

EXT. SZECHUAN MTN FIELD - LAURENT'S MEDITATION VISION - CONT.

Xiaoqing beams knowingly at Laurent.

XIAOQING
 (Szechuanese subtitled)
 Reuniting.

INT. AURORA - HALL OF UNITY - CONTINUOUS

Closed-eyed Laurent beams with joy.

INT. AURORA - AKIRA-SAN'S SECRET CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Akira-San scans the singular words, one at a time: Jock's 'STRENGTH,' Princess's 'PERFORM,' Know-It-All's 'HEART,' then stops suddenly on Pavi's 'DESTROY,' and Papri's 'THEM.'

Shocked, he enlarges Pavi and Papri's visualization.

INT. VIRTUAL AURORA - PAVI & PAPRI'S VISUALIZATION - CONT.

Pavi & Papri 'see' beings as plates of ones and zeroes, moving robotically through virtual spaces.

In their identical mirrored visions, they see the other twin in a red uniform standing in what appears to be the Launch Bay. But the walls and objects are fluctuating projections.

A ones-and-zeroes robot Florben AMBASSADOR, instructs them. He sits in front of the Florben Logo and a map combining the flooded lands of Florida and Bangladesh.

INT. AURORA - AKIRA-SAN'S SECRET CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Akira-san is wholly unnerved. He spins the Hall of Unity surveillance feeds a full three hundred and sixty degrees.

They aren't there!

He checks the Bunk Room, then the Meal Hall, nothing!

He opens the feed from the Launch Bay. His jaw drops open.

BLACKOUT

INT. AURORA - PSY-COLONIZER LAUNCH BAY - LATER

In the dark Launch Bay the two Stealth Figures work carefully to modify a crate full of marked AUTOPILOT CONTROLLERS.

Akira-San, also in masked 'stealth mode,' sneaks up on them.

The Stealth Figures jump into martial arts defense stances.
Akira-San's eyes twinkle mischievously.

AKIRA-SAN
We offer the opportunity to talk.

One Stealth Figure swings a round-house kick at Akira-San's head. He grabs an ankle and drops the Figure to the ground.

AKIRA-SAN (CONT'D)
Reconnaissance against the military
earns our admiration. But sabotage
against our sacred candidates? No!

The other Stealth Figure pulls the first Figure to its feet.
In tandem, The Stealth Figures charge towards Akira-San.

From his hands, Akira-San shoots a Tsunami-style ENERGY WAVE towards them.

They hit the Energy Wave and are BOUNCED onto the opposite wall. The Energy flows over them and out of the Launch Bay.

The Stealth Figures' mouths SCREAM stabbing ENERGY WAVES that SCREECH through Akira-San and out of the Launch Bay.

INT. AURORA - CANDIDATE BUNK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Candidates sleep peacefully.

Dueling Energy Waves shoot and stab through the room.

Only Laurent appears to feel it. She tosses fitfully.

INT. NARCISSUS - GREENHOUSE - LAURENT'S DREAM - CONT.

In the Narcissus greenhouse, Chun-Fen still refuses Laurent's questions. Suddenly Energy Waves stab at the greenhouse plants! They slash at Chun-Fen!

INT. AURORA - CANDIDATE BUNK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Frightened awake and nauseated, Laurent gazes longingly at sleeping Jock. She cringes, ashamed to let him feel her fear.

A tsunami Energy Wave blasts through the Bunk Room. Laurent convulses.

Eyes fluttering on the edge of consciousness, she rolls over and stares at Charlie's lean-to mattress fort.

EXT. CORROBOREE DANCE - CHARLIE'S DREAM - CONTINUOUS

Across the campfire Auntie, Sister Auntie, and the Mob of Aunties smile at Charlie. Suddenly, a tsunami Energy Wave smothers the fire and drowns all of the Aunties.

INT. AURORA - CANDIDATE BUNK ROOM - CHARLIE'S FORT - CONT.

Inside her lean-to mattress fort, Charlie presses her fingers into her ears, and rocks her body to suppress her grief.

LAURENT (O.S.)
Charlie! Helping me now!

Charlie momentarily forgets her pain and GASPS bittersweetly.

INT. AURORA - PSY-COLONIZER LAUNCH BAY - CONTINUOUS

Akira-San jumps onto a stack of crates and SMACKS another ENERGY WAVE at the Stealth Figures.

They are knocked flat to the ground.

From the floor, the Stealth Figures nod to each other, and combine their screams to stab a humongous WAVE of energy at his body.

It SHOVES him up and across the Launch Bay to SLAM into the side of a Psy-Colonizer vessel.

INT. AURORA HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Adrenaline charged, Charlie ignores her painful ears and runs down the hallway carrying Laurent's limp body.

With each ENERGY WAVE that slams through the Hall, Laurent convulses and Charlie clenches her tightly. They arrive at the Hall of Unity. The doors auto-open.

INT. AURORA - HALL OF UNITY - CONTINUOUS

In the dark room, Charlie sets Laurent on a meditation rug, then jams her fingers into her ears.

Out of the darkness, Mrs. Tuehepa suddenly appears.

MRS. TUEHEPA
Thank you both for coming to help.

Confused, Charlie gapes at Mrs. Tuehepa then at Laurent.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)
Ready to revive humanity?

CHARLIE
NO! I'm just here to help Laurent.

MRS. TUEHEPA
One act of selflessness at a time.

Mrs. Tuehepa creates a circle of three meditation rugs. She and Charlie prop up Laurent's limp body with pillows.

Mrs. Tuehepa sits down, takes unconscious Laurent's hand and extends her other hand to sound-battered Charlie.

Charlie sits, reluctantly unplugging her ears to hold Mrs. Tuehepa and Laurent's hands. They form a meditation circle.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)
Close your eyes. Open the sixth chakra inner-eye, clairvoyance.

CHARLIE
What can you see?

MRS. TUEHEPA
I see too much. From an omniscient viewpoint, the universe does not need humans in its future. To it, all matter is simply energy flow.

Charlie's eyes widen with confusion.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)
Think of me as a neutral observer. You and Laurent are here to ensure that humanity is part of the future. You are connected to Earthly human life in a way that I no longer am.

CHARLIE
I don't understand. Is this like the Blues synchro-meditating to stop the Greens getting thrashed in the classroom capsule?

MRS. TUEHEPA
Similar.

CHARLIE

Reckon we've got Buckley's chance.

MRS. TUEHEPA

Focus, Charlie! Close your eyes now
and help Laurent to stabilize.

Desperate to help Laurent, Charlie squeezes her eyes closed.

INT. CHARLIE'S CLAIRVOYANT POV - CONTINUOUS

*Now that Charlie is looking at energy with her clairvoyance,
we can see the colors of energy that Charlie feels!*

Charlie sees an old white SNAKE spirit SPEW white sound waves
at twin red KANGAROO spirits. They CLAW red sound waves at
the snake. The kangaroos smile robotically at Charlie.

CHARLIE (O.S.)

I can see the sound waves that I
always feel. They're so colorful! I
see a sly old white snake and twin
robotic red kangaroos. They...

The kangaroos' eyes spin with ones and zeros. They encircle
Charlie and SCREAM stabbing Red Energy waves at her.

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

They're hollering at me. Annnnd...

The Red energy waves slice out into space and Charlie's POV
zooms out with them. She tracks the energy waves at dizzying
speed until she reaches the edge of the solar system.

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

And... I'm tracking with the waves
as they... Blast out into space?!?
(fearful, distorted)
WHAT! IS! HAPPENING!?!

MRS. TUEHEPA (O.S.)

Detach, Charlie! Float above our
solar system! Just observe!

With a loud POP, Charlie's POV stops hard to become a god's-
eye-view above our solar system. She EXHALES with relief.

MRS. TUEHEPA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Bring your attention to Aurora.

Charlie's POV smoothly floats back to rest above Aurora.

MRS. TUEHEPA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Can you see Laurent and I floating
 with you just above Aurora?

Charlie looks eye-level at Laurent's animal self. She's a sleeping yellow Panda Bear. Mrs. Tuehepa is a violet Owl. Charlie sees that her hands are now Echidna claws.

ECHIDNA CHARLIE
 (panicked)
 What?!? Are youse an owl? Is
 Laurent a bear? How can I help her?

OWL MRS. TUEHEPA
 From your sixth chakra, send her a
 clairvoyant hello.

Gentle energy waves travel from Echidna Charlie to nudge Sleeping Panda Bear Laurent. She blinks, smiles, and sits up.

PANDA BEAR LAURENT
 Greetings, Charlie. Mrs. T.

OWL MRS. TUEHEPA
 Charlie, you revived Laurent!

ECHIDNA CHARLIE
 I did? Laurent, you right?

INT. LAURENT'S CLAIRVOYANT POV - CONTINUOUS

In her mind's eye. Laurent sees Charlie as sparkling blue. Mrs. Tuehepa is sparkling violet energy.

LAURENT (O.S.)
 Yes. Charlie, seeing you. Seeing
 the invisible emotions that I have
 been feeling! Sparkling colors!

SPARKLING MRS. TUEHEPA
 Charlie, Laurent, synchronize your
 mind's eyes! Focus on our project.
 See Aurora as transparent. Don't go
 in it! Just observe from above.

INTERCUT: CHARLIE AND LAURENT'S CLAIRVOYANT POVS

Charlie and Laurent turn their attention down to Aurora.

Charlie sees Aurora becomes transparent. This exposes the school's inner structure including the colorful sound waves coming from all of its machinery and inhabitants.

MRS. TUEHEPA (O.S.)
 Charlie, where do you 'see' the
 entities?

Red and White Energy blasts emanate from the Launch Bay.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
 I see them in the Launch Bay!

MRS. TUEHEPA (O.S.)
 Yes! That's your clairvoyance!
 Laurent, what do you 'see' they are
 wanting?

Laurent sees the sparking emotions of the population inside Aurora. She focuses on the Launch Bay. The Red Entities are easy to spot within Aurora because only they do not spark.

LAURENT (O.S.)
 The white entity *wanting* reviving
 humanity, *needing* recognition of
 loyalty to the cause. The red
 entities, destroying humanity, un-
 sparking, un-emotioning.

MRS. TUEHEPA
 You are *seeing* energy, Laurent!
 Let's observe their interactions.

INT. AURORA - PSY-COLONIZER LAUNCH BAY - CONTINUOUS

And now we can see the fight in colored energy!

Akira-San, glowing in white, slides off the Psy-Colonizer.

He launches a gigantic White Energy wave that floods the Launch Bay and then passes out through its walls.

The Stealth Figures, glowing in red, SLAM against a wall.

With a swift move, Akira-San's right forearm pins the two Stealth Figures' necks against the wall. He smiles cunningly.

With his left hand, he removes their hoods revealing Pavi and Papri. He nods with respect, impressed with their skills.

At close range, Pavi and Papri SCREAM Red Energy at him.

INT. AURORA - HALL OF UNITY - CONTINUOUS

Eyed still closed, Laurent releases her hands from Charlie and Mrs. Tuehepa. Mrs. Tuehepa opens one eye to watch, sees Laurent swirling her hands, smiles, and closes her eyes.

Laurent's swirling hands form a sparkling ball of energy. Now, in her mind's eye, she can see it is rainbow-colored.

LAURENT (O.S.)
Creating harmonizing rainbow!

Laurent releases the rainbow energy into her vision of the Launch Bay and uses her hands to spread it around, just as she did with the nasturtiums in her greenhouse.

INT. AURORA - PSY-COLONIZER LAUNCH BAY - CONTINUOUS

Laurent's ball of rainbow energy drops through the ceiling to flood the Launch Bay in an immense sparkling swirl.

Suddenly calmed by the energy, glowing white Akira-San and glowing red Pavi and Papri stop and truly look at each other.

PAVI AND PAPRI
Do you agree to destroy the Union
of Peace Military?

Akira-San shakes his head woefully.

AKIRA-SAN
Yes, but... You two want to destroy
the military and Aurora's psychics.

Akira-San unsheathes a glowing white energy sword and raises it for a fatal blow.

AKIRA-SAN (CONT'D)
That cannot happen.

Pavi and Papri GASP.

He swings.

BLACKOUT

INT. AURORA - HALL OF UNITY - CONTINUOUS

Charlie watches the Red Entities dissolve to nothingness. Then the White Entity blasts out of the Launch Bay.

MRS. TUEHEPA (V.O.)
 Excellent! Let's wipe our sixth
 chakras clean and conclude!

BLACKOUT

Stunned, Laurent and Charlie open their eyes.

CHARLIE
 Hold on! Did we help some White
 Entity kill some Red Entities?

MRS. TUEHEPA
 You can't kill energy. They still
 exist. Somewhere. Energy changes
 form. What's important is that you
 two saved Aurora from destruction!

CHARLIE
 (sarcastic, disbelieving)
 That's a big accomplishment for two
 mugs whose ears shriek in pain and
 chunder at any emotions.

Mrs. Tuehepa grabs her datapad and taps two buttons.

Charlie and Laurent instantly relax with giant YAWNS.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 You mucked with our
 uniforms!?

LAURENT
You altering our dampering!?

MRS. TUEHEPA
 Until you are trained, your gifts
 are strongest without dampening.
 We've decided that two will
 represent Australia and Asia in the
 next Psy-Colonizer launch.

CHARLIE
We? No! I can't abandon me mob!

MRS. TUEHEPA
 The way to honor your mob is to
 keep their wisdom alive.

CHARLIE
 They need me. You expect me to
 revive humanity. I couldn't revive
 Sister Auntie. I don't know how.

MRS. TUEHEPA
 Look what you did together.
 Charlie, you revived Laurent.
 (MORE)

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)

Your consciousness went to the edge of the solar system! Laurent, you neutralized their destructive intentions toward Aurora! Together your gifts will revive humanity.

Overwhelmed, Charlie can't respond. Laurent jumps in.

LAURENT

Needing knowing about my mother.

MRS. TUEHEPA

A talented psychic dedicated to humanity's revival. Her Earth-seed stores will be travelling with you.

LAURENT

Knowing what is happening to her?
Being where now?

MRS. TUEHEPA

Your mother was breeding the last plants for the future ecosystems when she disappeared. She was very discrete. Only your grandmother Xiaoqing might know where she is.

LAURENT

Living with her when I was a child. Nurturing in the mountains of Szechuan. Journeying to her is impossible without a Hovercraft. *Needing to save my mother!*

MRS. TUEHEPA

You must put that aside for now. You two will lead Aurora's team.

CHARLIE

Lead Aurora's team? Is it all bullies like Princess, Know-It-All?
(can't look at Laurent)
And... That... Jock?

Laurent swallows her conflicted feelings for Jock.

MRS. TUEHEPA

They are in as much pain from their hypersensitivity as you are. But they are Space-born, raised in harsh un-Earthly environments.

Charlie rolls her eyes skeptically.

MRS. TUEHEPA (CONT'D)

They were not nurtured on Earth like you two. We need to integrate your Earth-born indigenous wisdom with the technology of space flight. Just as you did in class today, Charlie.

Charlie GROANS.

LAURENT

Explaining why our gifts not flourishing outside of Aurora?

MRS. TUEHEPA

Your gifts are strongest when psychics are together. To balance the power of the military, you must recruit more Earth born psychics to Aurora immediately.

CHARLIE

Recruit?!? I reckon ya mean kidnap. Explain why this Oren-fella wants psychic kids to fly to a new solar system to be in a prison camp?!?

MRS. TUEHEPA

No, Charlie! Oren Ramirez intended to revive humanity on Earth, not in a new solar system.

CHARLIE

What?!? How did this get so--

MRS. TUEHEPA

The Union of Peace Military turned away from Oren's goal as it provided no new planets to conquer. For your own survival, you must integrate yourself into the military's mission. Do not fight Kowalski, or Grant's daughter. She will do anything to win her father's affection, even turn humanity's future into a war. If you resist them, they will eliminate you.

LAURENT

Eliminating? Killing is accurate?

Reluctant, Mrs. Tuehepa nods and EXHALES with gravity.

MRS. TUEHEPA

That's more than enough for one
night. You need rest, sleep here.

Mrs. Tuehepa bows with respect, taps her forehead, and exits.

Exhausted, Charlie and Laurent collapse down on the
meditation rugs. Charlie struggles to talk without crying.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

She played us with our uniforms. I
reckon she's still playing us.
Revive humanity? Without me mob?

Laurent hugs her. Charlie finally allows her tears to fall.

LAURENT (V.O.)

I being your new mob.

Laurent weeps with her.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Trusting only you.

LAURENT (V.O.)

Promising doing this together.

Charlie nods and squeezes her tightly.

BLACKOUT

INT. AURORA - AKIRA-SAN'S SECRET CHAMBERS - LATER

Akira-San lifts Oren's left hand from its resting position on
a violet cushion. He removes the ring with the large violet
gemstone. Akira-San opens lotion and massages the hand.

AURORA COMPUTER (V.O.)

You handled our problems.

Akira-San smiles wryly and opens nail clippers.

AURORA COMPUTER (O.S.)

Last time they were too short.

Akira-San nods as he trims the nails, then replaces the ring.

He massages lotion into Oren's left foot, which is also
resting on a violet cushion.

AKIRA-SAN

I will engage with Tuehepa.

AURORA COMPUTER (V.O.)
 You loved her once.

Struck by melancholy, Akira-San gazes sadly onto Oren's body.

Except for his left hand and foot, Oren's transparent body is suspended in a gelatinous bath. He no longer has eye, mouth or ear openings, only scar tissue covering those sockets.

Through his transparent skin, each chakra is spinning with multiple colors and energetically linked through the gelatinous bath to Aurora's computer.

Akira-San finishes his grooming of Oren's left foot.

AKIRA-SAN
 To your satisfaction, Oren?

A blue light pulses from Oren's foot to his brain, to his throat chakra and to the computer to become synthetic speech.

AURORA COMPUTER (V.O.)
 Beautiful.

BLACKOUT

PRE-LAP:

WRLEEP! WRLEEP! WRLEEP!

INT. AURORA - CANDIDATE MEAL HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Anxious Faculty, Crew, and Candidates file into the Hall.

AURORA COMPUTER (V.O.)
 (looping)
 Attention! This is not a drill.
 Emergency assembly protocol. Report
 to the Candidate Meal Hall.

Major Kowalski stands on a center table flanked by 'at-ease' MILITARY CREW, including Corporal Running Wolf.

The Candidates whisper among themselves. Princess glares at Major Kowalski. Know-It-All and Jock stand beside her.

Akira-San, eyes downcast, stands with the Maintenance Crew.

Mrs. Tuehepa joins several nervous FACULTY MEMBERS.

Charlie and Laurent try to slip into the room unnoticed.

MAJ. KOWALSKI
Finally! The last of our candidates
are here. Shut that noise off!

Charlie and Laurent bristle at being called out. The emergency message stops, leaving tense SILENCE in the room.

Jock gives Laurent an enticing nod. Conflicted by attraction and intimidation, Laurent blushes and smiles nervously.

MAJ. KOWALSKI (CONT'D)
Refugee candidates Pavi and Papri,
arrived twenty four hours ago.
Their energy has disappeared from
Aurora without a trace, leaving
only their empty red uniforms.

GASPS in the room. The crowd BUZZES with questions.

Charlie turns to Laurent, but she is still staring at Jock.

MAJ. KOWALSKI (CONT'D)
Therefore, I declare Martial Law!

The crowd goes MUTE. Major Kowalski signals to open the doors. Armed Black Ops Guards with black face masks and riot gear stream through the doors and encircle the crowd.

MAJ. KOWALSKI (CONT'D)
That means all activities including
classes, meals, and meditation will
have a Black Ops Guard presence.

Charlie recognizes these uniforms as those of her kidnappers, and stops breathing. She GASPS and turns to Laurent.

Laurent watches a Black Ops Guard hand Jock a riot vest, mask, shield, and Energized Power Stick (EPS). Jock eyes Laurent while suiting up.

Laurent turns back to Charlie who has been watching her stare at Jock. She registers the magnitude of Charlie's distress.

Black Ops Guards run to tear down the ancient wall scrolls. They jostle Charlie. Laurent steadies her.

A Faculty Member runs to the wall to stop the destruction. Another Faculty Member turns to follow. Mrs. Tuehepa grabs his arm to stop him. She is remarkably strong.

A Black Ops Guard touches the first Faculty Member's head with his EPS. It emits purple energy. He drops to the ground. The second Faculty Member approaches to check him. He's dead.

MAJ. KOWALSKI (CONT'D)

We will begin by questioning those who had contact with Pavi and Papri. We'll review uniform capture files, but it'll be better for you if you come forward on your own.

Scowling at her uniform, Charlie turns to Laurent in panic.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Were Pavi and Papri the Red Entities? Who is the White Entity?

Princess slides between Charlie and Laurent and startles them. They bristle with displeasure.

Princess slyly places her fingers over the uniform sensors on either side of her throat. It appears that she is rubbing tension from her neck.

PRINCESS

(whispering)

I know what really happened. Would you two like an alibi? Commit to my team and I can cover for you.

Charlie and Laurent glance to Mrs. Tuehepa and then to Corporal Running Wolf. They both nod subtle encouragement.

Not knowing who to trust, Charlie and Laurent eye each other questioningly. Laurent gives Charlie a nod to proceed.

Charlie mimics Princess and slyly covers her throat sensors in the same faux 'neck-rubbing' manner.

CHARLIE

(whispers to Princess)

Get us a Hovercraft I can pilot to Earth to visit our ancestors, and then we'll commit to your team.

PRINCESS

(hissing whisper at them)

Well! Look who's cunning now.

Princess turns to size up Major Kowalski. She smirks and turns to back size up Charlie and Laurent. She grins with a decision and covers her throat sensors.

PRINCESS (CONT'D)

(whispering)

I have a few days of clean-up work for you to complete on Aurora.

(MORE)

PRINCESS (CONT'D)
Do that, I'll get you past Kowalski
to a Hovercraft.

A glimmer of hope passes over Charlie and Laurent's faces.

Princess sneers and shakes her head condescendingly.

PRINCESS (CONT'D)
To ensure you don't escape,
Eduardo, Grizelda, and I will go
with you to Earth.

As if kicked in the stomach, Charlie GROANS out loud.
Realizing what she's done, winces at her error. Major
Kowalski hears and swivels to them with contempt.

Princess stares him hard in the eyes and smiles. She drops
her smile and steps into the military 'at ease' posture.

Charlie meets Kowalski's eyes with trepidation, then INHALES
and turns her ire into determination. She turns to Laurent.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Together?

LAURENT
(whispering out loud)
I believe in you.

Charlie GASPS at the beauty of hearing those words with her
physical ears.

Laurent nods to emphasize her commitment to Charlie.

Inspired, Charlie proudly steps to be shoulder-to-shoulder in
line with Princess, and matches her 'at ease' posture.

Laurent steps to the other side of Charlie, shoulder-to-
shoulder and matches their posture.

The three young women, in line, 'at ease', present neutral
obedient faces, as if ready to follow the military command.

Major Kowalski blinks with surprise, then smirks, confident
that his show of power has cowed all three of them.

Princess, Charlie, and Laurent allow a hint of a smile to
cross their lips.

END PILOT