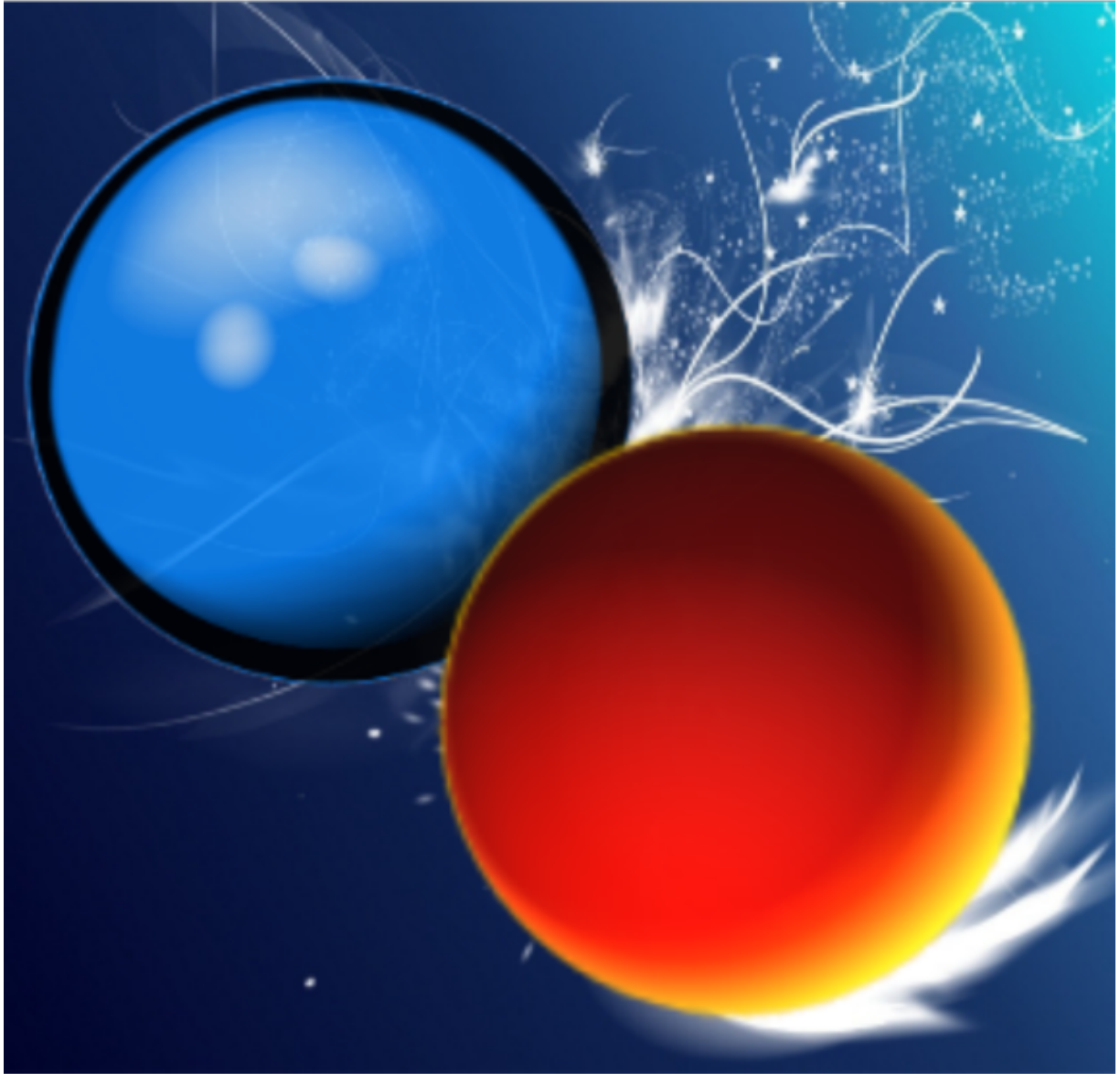


# The Journey



by  
**GP McClure**



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**FROM THE AUTHOR**  
*Introducing the ScreenNovella*

Welcome to the *ScreenNovella* (copyright), my own concept which was inspired by the screenplay format found in movie scripts.

The ScreenNovella reads more eBook than screenplay as it maybe a little longer than a typical screenplay and it adds more characteristics than found in the rigid screenplay format. It still maintains elements of the screenplay but creates an eBook format, hence it is a hybrid of the two formats, with conditions.

The ScreenNovella concept allows the writer to focus on character development and back-story while the reader uses their imagination to construct the scenes, much like a movie director does. As you read allow the “movie” to play out in your mind. As the story develops visualize each scene, create your own sensations, and feel each element of the story as you make it a part of yourself. Visualize and feel the happiness, joy, sadness, and suffering each character experiences within the story. Make these sensations a part of you. Feel the confusion of the characters as they try to make sense of a situation. You become the character.

You are the director and actor in each scene. As the story takes you from place-to-place, scene-to-scene, find yourself adjusting to each new environment. Feel the movie because you are the movie.

In conclusion I hope you enjoy this new eBook concept because there are more adventures on the way.

For more adventures visit us at:

[www.gpmcc.com](http://www.gpmcc.com)

## **GLOSSARY**

The following terms are the most common, but not the only ones used in screen writing. They are used here to help you understand the story.

### **CHARACTER**

All CAPS, the first time the character of the story is met/introduced.

### **CHARACTER NAME**

When any character speaks the name appears above the dialog.

### **DIALOG**

What the character says in the screenplay.

### **EXT**

Outdoors/Outside

### **INT**

Inside/Interior

### **O.S.**

Off Screen

### **POV**

Point of View

### **SCENE HEADING/SCENE**

A location and/or time of day the scene happens. The scene description and what happens where.

### **V.O.**

Voice Over

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## CHAPTER 1

FADE IN:

AN UNKNOWN LOCATION

ROBERT BURNETT, a man 35 plus years of age, worn clothes, long hair, beard, homeless type, opens his eyes; a blur is all he sees. As his eyes come into focus he sees only a light blue haze but nothing more. There are no windows, no doors, no walls, no ceiling, but he is standing. He looks around, only emptiness. He looks beneath him, he is standing on nothing. He puts one foot in front of the other, then another step.

**ROBERT**  
(whispering)  
What the hell?

He continues walking and begins to tremble with fear. He stops. His mind FLASHES BACK to a war scene, bullets bombs, and terrorist all around him. He is in an Army uniform, fighting for his life. He looks at the death surrounding him. He looks at the blood on his hands, his blood. He shivers, he sees the terrorist attacking him. He closes his eyes...

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**  
Ok. Ok. I'm not there. I'm not there. I'm here. I'm here.  
But where's here?

As he opens his eyes a sliver of white light appears. He looks at it, stares at it.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**  
What the...

He walks towards the light, it seems so far away, suddenly he is...

OUTSIDE – DAY

The light shines bright, blinding him. Shielding his eyes they began to adjust to the change of environment. For several moments he lets his eyes adapt and then looks at his surroundings.

There are no buildings, only people, adults and children, different races, men and women, all with a blank look on their face and they all seem to move in a lifeless, zombie-like manner. A man approaches,

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**  
Excuse me...

The man continues on, ignoring him. Robert looks around and what he sees takes him by surprise. Mountains in the distance seem to move, birds hover in mid-air, not moving, frozen in place. People are walking in a zombie-like state, not seeing, not aware that he exists, the landscape desolate.

He looks up; two big planets fill the sky, one blue with rings, the other a fire red. There is daylight, but no sun.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

(quietly, to himself)

I don't think I'm in Kansas anymore Toto.

He inventories himself, checking his pockets he finds his wallet. He opens it and the picture of a beautiful woman, about 18 years of age, is still there. He looks at her and smiles. He puts the wallet away, ensuring it is secure in his pocket. He is confused and dazed at the environment he finds himself in, unsure of his next move.

Two children, girl and boy, about 8 years of age, KELLY and MATT TYLER, approach him unseen.

**KELLY**

(quietly)

He doesn't look like the others.

**MATT**

(also quietly)

Maybe...

Robert startled by their presence, looks at them.

**ROBERT**

Who are you?

The children shocked, cling to each other scared, backing away from the stranger.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

It's ok, it's ok, I won't hurt you. I won't hurt you. Do you understand me?

The children nod, very scared. Robert sits on the ground so that he has to look up at them and makes no threatening move which would frighten them more.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

My name's Robert, Robert Burnett. Who are you?

The girl seems to summon some courage, but still scared.

**KELLY**

My name's Kelly... this is my brother Matt...

**ROBERT**

Kelly, Matt. Do you know where we are?

The children shake their head, their eyes are filled with fear.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

It's a little scary isn't it?

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## THE JOURNEY

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The kids nod slightly.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

It's ok, I'm not going to hurt you, I won't hurt you. Promise.

**MATT**

(shaky voice)

You're not scared?

**ROBERT**

I'm very scared.

**KELLY**

You don't act like it...

**ROBERT**

Well... let's just say I've had experience with being scared.

A sharp noise, strange and unearthly, last only a second, but the children leap into Roberts' arms, terrified. He holds them close.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

It's ok. It's ok. I won't let anything happen to you.

He looks around but can't determine the source of the sound. People continue walking, not seeing, not hearing, oblivious to everything. Robert gets off the ground and holds the hands of the children.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

How long have you been here?

**KELLY**

We don't know.

**MATT**

We went to bed last night and when we woke up...

**ROBERT**

You were here.

**KELLY**

How did you know?

**ROBERT**

Because that's what happened to me. Last thing I remember I was laying down in my car...

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## THE JOURNEY

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**MATT**

You don't have a home?

**ROBERT**

No... Not anymore.

**KELLY**

Why?

**ROBERT**

A very long story... right now... we need to find out where we're at.

**MATT**

Maybe some aliens took us.

**KELLY**

That's silly.

**MATT**

Is it?

Matt points to the sky, and Kelly looks at the two planets, like she had never seen them before.

**KELLY**

Maybe they did.

**ROBERT**

Well whoever took us, took a lot of people...

**MATT**

Why do they act like that?

**ROBERT**

I don't know Matt. Which way did you come from?

Kelly and Matt look around, Matt points,

**MATT**

That way...Or maybe that way...  
(points in different directions)

Robert looks around.

**KELLY**

Which way did you come from?

**ROBERT**

I don't know. I was in a strange room, then I was here.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**MATT**

Did you see a white light?

**ROBERT**

Yes. Did you?

The kids nod.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Well at least we have that in common. But if I can talk to you, and you can talk to me, why can't we talk to them?

The three look at the people moving in a sleepwalking-like state, unseeing, uncaring.

**KELLY**

I'm scared.

**ROBERT**

Your parents must be worried sick...

**MATT**

We don't have any parents.

Robert looks at Matt.

**KELLY**

Our parents died two years ago.

**ROBERT**

So where are you staying?

**KELLY**

In foster homes.

**MATT**

Some people are thinking of adopting Kelly, but not me...

**KELLY**

I won't let anybody split us up, I told you that. We're twins. Nobody is going to split us up.

**ROBERT**

You're twins?

**KELLY**

Yeah.

**ROBERT**

How old are you?

## THE JOURNEY

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**MATT**

Eight.

**ROBERT**

Well nobody is going to split you up, not while I'm around.

**MATT**

I'm hungry.

**KELLY**

So am I. Mrs. Henderson didn't give us any dinner last night... said we were bad...

**MATT**

She always says we're bad.

**ROBERT**

Mrs. Henderson?

**KELLY**

The people that take care of us.

**ROBERT**

Well, we need to do something about that. Come on; let's see what we can find.

As they walk Robert observes the barren environment. A sliver of blue light catches his eye, he stops and looks at it; not sure what it is.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Do you see it?

**KELLY**

Yeah, what is it?

**ROBERT**

I don't know... but we're going there.

**MATT**

Why?

**ROBERT**

Look around Matt, no buildings, no food, nothing, only lifeless people. That light might mean something... it might not.

## THE JOURNEY

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**KELLY**

(scared)

What if it doesn't? What if it separates us?

**ROBERT**

Nothing will happen to you, not if I can help it.

Robert holds their hands tight, takes a deep breath, then with commitment they begin to walk towards the blue light.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Hang on tight kids.

The three move towards the light, which seem so far away, but suddenly they enter...

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## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 2

#### A STREET FILLED WITH SHOPS – DAY

The street takes them by surprise and looks like it came out of the early 1900's era. Robert looks up, the planets are still above. Matt and Kelly also look up.

#### **KELLY**

They're still there.

Robert nods and examines this new place. More lifeless people occupy the streets. Some are picking fruit and breads out of produce stands, some are eating, and some are sitting at tables drinking what looks like wine and beer.

The three move towards and stop at a food stand. The man next to it looks to be the proprietor but he is inanimate and a blank stare occupies his eyes.

Robert gets some bread and tastes it. He breaks off a chunk and gives the kids each a big piece. They consume it quickly, as Robert watches them eat. He looks around but only silence fills the space. He gives them more bread and they eat slower this time.

SUDDENLY the noise, the same as heard earlier, pierces the air. He searches for the sound, but can't determine the direction. Everyone else oblivious and pay no heed to the sound or them. The kids scared, hold on to him tight.

#### **KELLY (CONT'D)**

What is this place?

#### **ROBERT**

I wish I knew Kelly, I wish I knew.

Robert gathers a piece of bread for himself and eats. He watches, observes, looking at the proprietor still standing like a statue.

#### **ROBERT (CONT'D)**

I don't guess we need to pay him. Come on; let's see if we can find some answers.

Holding their hands Robert takes the kids into a...

#### GENERAL STORE

The store is filled with linens, clothes, and other type goods, including cans of food. People are taking items off the shelves, but all are in a zombie-like state. Some people leave with their merchandise, yet no money changes hands. A clerk stocks shelves, oblivious to everything. Matt breaks away and runs to a counter, occupied by jars of candy. Robert and Kelly follow.

#### **ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Don't break away again Matt; I don't want to lose you.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**MATT**

I'm sorry.

**ROBERT**

It's ok. But we have to stay together.

**KELLY**

He's always doing that, especially with candy.

Matt goes for a piece but Robert stops him.

**ROBERT**

Wait.

Robert takes a small piece and tastes it.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

It's ok. Help yourself.

Matt and Kelly grab some candy. Again the same noise fills the air, lasting only a second. The kids jump but the zombies are still ignorant of everything.

**KELLY**

What is that noise?

**ROBERT**

I don't know; nothing like I've ever heard before.

**MATT**

Where's it coming from?

**ROBERT**

Good question.

They examine the contents of the store when an old man of about 80, HENRY GALLOWAY, enters and begins looking around. He sees Robert.

**HENRY**

Who are you?

**ROBERT**

I could ask you the same sir, but to be honest it's a relief to see someone alive.

Henry looks at the zombie crowd.

**HENRY**

Yes young man, I know what you mean.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**ROBERT**

Have you been here long sir?

**HENRY**

I honestly don't know. Time... time seems to...

The old man wheezes and begins to cough. Robert helps him to sit, the zombies paying no attention.

**ROBERT**

Are you alright sir?

**HENRY**

No. Cancer. I'm dying.

Robert is about to say something when Henry sees the kids.

**HENRY (CONT'D)**

Children... Are they with you?

**ROBERT**

Yes sir. This is Kelly and her twin brother Matt. My name is Robert Burnett...

The old man's eyes light up briefly, but he stays silent.

**HENRY**

My name is Galloway, Henry Galloway. So how long have you been here... in purgatory?

**ROBERT**

Not long, neither have the kids, apparently just a few hours. Do you know where we are sir?

**HENRY**

I haven't got a clue. I went to sleep and when I woke up, I was here. I just wish I knew where the hell here was... oh I'm sorry, my language.

**KELLY**

Its ok, we've heard worse.

**MATT**

Yeah, Mr. Henderson can really yell f...

**KELLY**

Matt! I told you not to repeat it! It's a bad word.

Robert and Henry smile. Henry gets up and almost bumps into someone.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**ROBERT**

They're like zombies, dead.

**KELLY**

Maybe we're dead.

Henry looks at her.

**HENRY**

No child, I thought the same thing, but now I don't believe that.

**MATT**

So where are we?

**HENRY**

Like I said, I really don't know, but I've been here long enough to form a few theories.

**ROBERT**

Theories sir?

**HENRY**

Stop with the sir bit, just call me Henry.

**ROBERT**

Habit.

**HENRY**

Military?

**ROBERT**

U.S. Army Ranger.

**HENRY**

So you got out?

**ROBERT**

Not by choice.

Henry looks at him.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

So sir... Henry, your theories?

**HENRY**

We may be between life and death, but not normal life and death. You believe in the Bible son?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**ROBERT**

Yes sir.

**HENRY**

So do I... Now. There was a time I didn't, but cancer changes everything. Anyway it speaks of a void, a waiting place for the soul if you will. When God determines if you go with Him, or to hell.

**ROBERT**

And you believe that is where we're at?

**HENRY**

No.

**ROBERT**

No? But you just said...

**HENRY**

That's normal death, but I don't believe we're dead. I think we're still alive. I need something to drink.

Robert looks around and sees some beverages, he picks up two bottles and looks at them; one is Coke, the other Pepsi. He is confused.

**ROBERT**

What the hell?

He gives them to Henry.

**HENRY**

Do you think God would have Pepsi and Coke waiting for us if we were dead? I don't.

**KELLY**

Matt thinks we were taken by aliens.

**HENRY**

Kelly, right?

(she nods)

That may very well be true. And then again maybe not.

**ROBERT**

You're not making any sense Henry.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**HENRY**

I know. But I know we're not dead. I don't know how we got here, I don't even know where here is, but I do believe this... I believe that we are part of the universe; that we have been swallowed by the universe.

**ROBERT**

The universe?

**HENRY**

The universe. At least that is what I'm calling it. I'm a physicist, have been for sixty years. I can tell you there are mysteries in the universe that one cannot imagine. I believe we are in one of those mysteries. But I also like Matt's idea that aliens are behind this. Well... not so much aliens as in E.T., but rather an intelligent force of some type. A force that may be as old as the universe itself.

**ROBERT**

That's hard to swallow...

**HENRY**

Look around then you come up with a better explanation.

**ROBERT**

What about all these people? They're human.

**HENRY**

Yes they are. And there are many more out there in the street. But they all seem to be in a lifeless state of existence. I've been thinking about that as well and have come to believe that we are on different planes of existence.

**ROBERT**

I don't follow.

Henry looks around, grabs some clear material, clears a table, and lays two sheets on top of each other. He then takes a marker and marks the top sheet.

**HENRY**

This sheet is us. This is our plane of existence. Here we can move about and interact without hindrance.

He takes the top sheet off and marks the second sheet.

**HENRY (CONT'D)**

This sheet represents another plane of existence.

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## THE JOURNEY

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He puts the first sheet on top of the second. The mark on the second sheet is clearly visible.

### HENRY (CONT'D)

We can see the second plane, but we can't interact with it. I believe these people are on the second plane, maybe even the third or fourth plane. We see them, they see us, but we can't interact, not directly anyway.

### ROBERT

But that one man almost ran into you a few moments ago. And we ate some bread a short time ago. If we can't interact with the people how can we interact with inanimate objects?

### HENRY

I don't have the answers; I don't even know the questions. But like I said, it's only a theory. Do you have a better one?

### KELLY

You mean these people can see us?

### HENRY

Yes, yes I think they can, but they can't talk to us and we can't talk to them. I think we look the same to them as they look to us.

Robert looks at the people, the store.

### ROBERT

So how do we get out of here? How do we get on their plane of existence?

### HENRY

I don't know. Maybe the same way we got here.

### ROBERT

So you're saying that whatever brought us here has to let us go?

### HENRY

That is my belief.  
(wheezes, coughs)

But I fear that for me it may be too late.

### MATT

Are all these people trapped, like us?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**HENRY**

(recovering)

I don't know Matt. Maybe, maybe not. I just don't know.

Henry sits again.

**ROBERT**

Is there anything I can do?

**HENRY**

I wish, but no...

A noise, different this time, like somebody banged something. Robert alert.

**ROBERT**

You kids stay here.

**KELLY**

Don't leave us!

**ROBERT**

I'll be back...

Robert goes out the door to

THE STREET

He looks around, and then sees her, a young beautiful dirty blonde woman of about 27, dressed in pajamas, KARA WILSON. She is mad, yelling at, but getting no response, from one of the lifeless people. She also holds what looks to be a large piece of wood.

**KARA**

(to the zombie)

Answer me! Where the hell am I?!

Robert slowly approaches her.

**ROBERT**

Easy Miss...

She looks around and sees Robert.

**KARA**

Where the hell am I?

Robert stands easy as she holds the weapon ready to use it.

**ROBERT**

Welcome to the Twilight Zone.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

What's that supposed to mean? Who the hell are you?

**ROBERT**

Someone you can talk to. You won't get a response from any of them.

**KARA**

I hit one but nothing happened! He didn't go down, nothing.

**ROBERT**

You actually hit him?

**KARA**

Yes! I said that didn't I? I don't like repeating myself. When I say something I expect you to hear it the first time!

**ROBERT**

Oh. Well that explains everything.

**KARA**

Explains what?

**ROBERT**

Nothing. You have a choice, you can stay out here, or you can come with me. But choose and choose now.

**KARA**

I don't take orders, especially from...  
(looks at his worn clothes)  
Homeless people.

**ROBERT**

Suit yourself.

Robert turns and heads back for the store. She looks at him.

**KARA**

Wait!

Robert stops and looks at her.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

I'm sorry. I'm just scared, very scared.

**ROBERT**

Welcome to the club. Come on, I have to get back.

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## THE JOURNEY

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She approaches and walks beside him.

**KARA**

What happened to me... To us?

**ROBERT**

We were just discussing that.

**KARA**

We?

**ROBERT**

Yeah, we.

IN THE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Kelly and Matt are holding on to Henry as Robert and Kara enter the shop. The kids run to Robert and hold onto him.

**KELLY**

Don't ever do that again, promise. Don't leave us...

**ROBERT**

I'll try not to.

**MATT**

Who's she?

**ROBERT**

I don't know, why don't we ask her.

Kara approaches the small group, looks at the kids, then Henry.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

I think introductions are in order. My name is Robert Burnett; these two are Kelly and Matt. I don't know their last names...

**KELLY**

It's Tyler.

**ROBERT**

Tyler. Kelly and Matt Tyler. They're twins. They're also orphans. And this gentleman is Henry Galloway. And you are?

Kara looks at the group,

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

I'm Kara Wilson.

**HENRY**

(thinking)

Wilson... your father wouldn't be Marvin Wilson would he?

**KARA**

You've heard of him?

**HENRY**

Yes. Yes I have. He's very big in investments.

**KARA**

Yes he is.

Kelly and Matt look at her; she watches the kids then looks at herself, becoming aware of her appearance for the first time. She looks around for something to cover herself.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

I'm sorry, I must look like a whore...

Kelly and Matt look at each other, Robert smiles.

**HENRY**

Apparently what took us, took us at night. Were you in bed Miss Wilson?

**KARA**

Yes I was. I remember closing my eyes, then waking up in a strange place, no windows, doors, no floor...

**HENRY**

I fell asleep in these clothes as well. So that answers that. As far as modesty Miss Wilson, this is a shop full of clothes, why don't you find something to wear.

Kara looks around and makes a disgusting face.

**KARA**

(snarky, condescending)

These clothes are so... Nothing of my style or class.. these are clothes for... poor people.

**HENRY**

Perhaps. But 'tis better to be dressed poorly than not at all. Don't you think?

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## THE JOURNEY

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Kara looks at Henry and the others. She nods then looks at the zombie people. She looks at some clothes, makes a selection then takes them into a fitting room.

**ROBERT**

I wonder why she's here.

**HENRY**

I don't know. I don't have an answer for that. I don't have an answer for why any of us are here.

**KELLY**

She's pretty.

Kara comes out dressed in Levi's and shirt. She finds some tennis shoes and puts them on.

**HENRY**

Feel better?

**KARA**

(arrogant)

Not really, but at least I'm dressed. If you can call these clothes being dressed... Far beneath the quality and style of what I deserve. What is this place?

Zombie people walk past her, she looks at them.

**ROBERT**

We don't know, but we can't stay here...

**KARA**

Why not? At least here it's safe, isn't it?

**ROBERT**

Maybe, but staying here doesn't help us find a way out of here. Whatever here is.

**KARA**

I say we stay... it feels safe here, I think.

**HENRY**

Robert's right, we need to start looking for a way out, a way to get home. We could stay here, and we might be safe...

(wheezes, coughs)

But we might not... With your arrival things are changing, to what degree...

**KARA**

You don't look so good Mr. Galloway.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### HENRY

Advanced cancer. I'm afraid I don't have much time left,  
but I think you also need my help.

Kara gives a questioning look.

### ROBERT

He's a physicist, if anybody can understand this situation  
he can.

Ok, we know there's food in here and on the street; I say  
we pack some supplies and try to find a way to get home.  
If that is even possible.

(to Kara)

You going or staying? Your choice.

Everyone looks at Kara.

### KARA

(apprehensive)

Going. I'm not staying here by myself.

Robert nods and begins to move. Kara looks at the kids as Kelly smiles at her. Unsure, she gives a little smile back.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 3

#### WALKING ON A ROAD – LATER

Some zombie people are present as the group walks along the road. Vegetation and trees seem alive and dead at the same time. Robert helps Henry while Kara holds the hands of the kids. All but Henry carry a backpack with Robert carrying the heaviest load. Very soon they find themselves all alone on the road as silence fills their ears.

**KELLY**

What happened to everyone?

**KARA**

It's like they all disappeared. I think I prefer having them around.

**ROBERT**

No animals, wildlife, nothing. Did you ever see that Robin Williams movie, "What Dreams May Come"?

**KARA**

No.

Henry shakes his head, hard time breathing.

**ROBERT**

This place reminds me of that movie.

**KARA**

How does that relate to us?

**ROBERT**

It doesn't. Not really. Great special effects, I just didn't care for the plot.

**KARA**

Are you going to keep us in suspense?

**ROBERT**

Never mind. Sorry I brought it up.

**HENRY**

I need to rest.

Robert finds a place for Henry to sit down. They stop and remove their backpacks.

**HENRY (CONT'D)**

How long have we been walking?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**ROBERT**

Maybe three hours.

**MATT**

Can I have some water?

**KARA**

Sure.

Kara pulls out a bottle of water to give to Matt, but looks at it.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Bottled water...

**ROBERT**

Don't ask; just be thankful it's drinkable.

Robert distributes a bottle to Henry and Kelly.

**HENRY**

There seems to be many common items here, things from our world...

**KARA**

Our world?

**ROBERT**

You did notice the two planets above us didn't you?

**KARA**

(looks up)

Yeah, kinda hard to miss. So Henry, you don't believe we're dead?

**HENRY**

No. And the more I observe this place, the more convinced I am of it. We have feelings, we have food, water, clothing... no. I don't know where we are, but we are not dead.

A sound rustles nearby and Robert becomes alert. He sees a tree limb and starts to pick it up...

The creature ATTACKS. It is large, formidable, four legs, large sharp teeth, and menacing eyes, but not like any creature found on Earth. Robert sees the attack coming and moves quickly as the creature barely misses him.

Robert grabs the heavy branch and swings, connecting with the creature. It yelps in pain and then moves away. It attacks again but Robert, quick to avoid the attack, puts a well-aimed strike into the creatures' side.

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## THE JOURNEY

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It squeals in pain then flees the area. Kara and the kids are next to Henry, all are terrified. Robert begins to calm himself.

**ROBERT**

Anybody get a good look at it?

The others are too frightened to move. Robert approaches them.

**HENRY**

Evidently this place has its own type of wildlife. Thank you young Robert, thank you.

The kids move to Robert and as he hugs them they shake with fear.

**ROBERT**

It's ok. I told you, I'll take care of you.

**KARA**

(shaking)

Me too?

**ROBERT**

You too.

She moves to him and begins to tear. The kids continue to hug him. All are quaking with fear. As he holds them he smiles at Henry who nods approvingly.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

(to Henry)

You ok?

**HENRY**

(nodding)

Safer with you around... Much safer.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 4

#### ON THE ROAD – EVENING

No sun but night is falling as the planets above begin to shine like full moons. Kara and the kids are working with a small tent that has been erected, making it ready for the night. A fire burns and food cooks. Robert and Henry sit around the fire as Robert tends the food.

**ROBERT**

We have to be careful with our supplies.

**HENRY**

I wish I could carry something, wish I could help.  
(coughs, wheezes)  
I feel so helpless.

**ROBERT**

Just hang in there Henry, you are helping, your knowledge is helping.

**HENRY**

Knowledge? What knowledge? Sixty years as a scientist and I know nothing... absolutely nothing.

**ROBERT**

You know more than us. At least with you we may have a chance to survive this. The thought of losing you...

**HENRY**

Thank you. You did good against that creature today. I fear that without you... our chances may not be so good.

**ROBERT**

It's called teamwork.

**HENRY**

So you're an Army Ranger?

Kara and the kids approach, she looks at Robert,

**KARA**

You're in the Army?

**ROBERT**

Was, not anymore.

The kids and Kara sit around the fire.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Got the tent ready?

**KARA**

As best I could anyway. Kelly and Matt helped a lot. I'm not very good with those kinds of things.

Robert begins to dispense the food, he serves himself last.

**ROBERT**

Eat slowly, we have to make these supplies last as long as possible.

As they eat Kara looks at the sky; the planets are displaying a beauty seen only in one's imagination.

**KARA**

In a strange way, it's beautiful. I feel like I'm in a dream.

**HENRY**

The universe is full of beauty Kara; all you have to do is open your eyes, and your mind.

There is a quote by Eden Phillpotts, "The universe is full of magical things, patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper". I always liked that quote.

**KARA**

What does it mean?

**HENRY**

Whatever you want it to mean. But basically we have to mature enough so the universe can convey its magic upon us. But not before we are ready to accept it.

There is an order to the universe. We often don't understand it and just as often we violate that order. When we go against the universe there is always price to pay. Sometimes that price is mild, sometimes severe. But the price must always be paid, by someone, at sometime. And if we violate the universal order bad enough, the consequences can be catastrophic.

(remembering)

**KARA**

How can you be so sure?

**HENRY**

Because I observe. No more complicated than that.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

(nods, to Robert)

So how long were you in the Army?

**ROBERT**

Seemed like a lifetime.

**HENRY**

How come you got out?

**ROBERT**

Didn't want to, but... things happen.

Robert silent as Henry watches him.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

You four will sleep in the tent, I'll stay out here.

**HENRY**

You can't stay awake all night.

**ROBERT**

I'm a light sleeper, I'll be ok.

Robert looks at the sky; the planets fill the night but the stars shine extremely bright. Kara watches him.

**KARA**

What are you thinking?

**ROBERT**

About another life, what I lost.

**KARA**

What did you lose?

**ROBERT**

Me.

He looks at her as the night light gives her complexion a soft and beautiful glow.

**KARA**

That sounds sad.

**HENRY**

Perhaps it's better than a lifetime of regrets. At least for me. So many regrets.

**ROBERT**

What do you have to regret Henry?

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## THE JOURNEY

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Henry looks at him and smiles.

**HENRY**

More things than I care to remember.

The kids yawn as they look at Robert.

**ROBERT**

Better put the kids to bed. It's been a long day. Maybe a longer one tomorrow.

Kara nods and the three leave for the tent. Henry moves beside Robert and they both gaze upon the magnificence of the heavens.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Why us Henry? Why are we so special? Why are we here?

**HENRY**

You ask me that before, and the answer is the same, I don't know. I wish I did, but I don't. Not even a clue. But there must be a reason. The Universe doesn't do anything without a reason. We just don't know what it is... Yet.

Robert looks at him.

**ROBERT**

You better get some sleep. I can see you dragging, and we need you.

Henry nods and heads towards the tent. He looks back and studies Robert still watching the stars and planets. He sighs and continues to the tent.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 5

#### ON THE ROAD - EARLY MORNING LIGHT

Daylight, but no sun. Robert is fixing coffee as Kara gets up, the kids and Henry still sleep. She approaches the campfire. She shivers trying to warm herself.

**KARA**

Is it me or is it cold?

**ROBERT**

It's chilly. How'd you sleep?

**KARA**

Not good. Henry had a hard night. Coffee?

**ROBERT**

I have to have my morning cup, I'm worthless without it.  
Want a cup?

She nods and sits by the fire as he pours her a cup.

**KARA**

How did you sleep?

**ROBERT**

I've had better nights. This place just...

He looks at her, she is edgy.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

What's wrong?

**KARA**

(embarrassed)

I have to go to the bathroom.

**ROBERT**

(smiling)

I dug a small latrine just over that rise.

(pointing)

I searched the area for any dangerous wildlife, but didn't find any. When the kids get up we better go with them when nature calls. You go with Kelly, I'll go with Matt.

She nods as he gives her a roll of toilet paper.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Just be careful with that, we only have two rolls.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

Toilet paper? Just how much stuff are you carrying?

**ROBERT**

Sorry, no toilet.

**KARA**

Can't have everything I guess.

She leaves and disappears behind the small hill. Robert notices Henry having a hard time getting up, and goes to the tent to assist him. The kids are stirring but still asleep. The two men approach the campfire.

**ROBERT**

Kara said you had a hard night.

**HENRY**

I always have a hard night. I'm afraid though that I gave them a difficult night. You?

**ROBERT**

I'm ok. Coffee?

**HENRY**

Yes, thank you.

**ROBERT**

I did some scouting, found a fresh water stream not far from here.

**HENRY**

Do you think its drinkable? And what about food?

**ROBERT**

I've been trained to spot bad water, but it looks pretty good. At any rate we'll boil it first. I also saw what looks like some fruit trees, oranges I think, but don't quote me on that. Still I think it's worth investigating.

I remember the fruit stands in the town; it had to come from somewhere.

**HENRY**

If there is fruit, then at least we won't starve. Of course I would expect the universe to provide sustenance, of the natural type. Still, I wonder about those cans of food, and the bottled water...

**ROBERT**

The Coke and Pepsi...

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## THE JOURNEY

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**HENRY**

That too. So many unanswered questions.

Kara returns.

**KARA**

I need to wash my hands...

**ROBERT**

Here, let me help you...

He gets a bar of soap and a bottle of water, gets ready to pour it on her hands.

**KARA**

(concerned)

Do we have enough water to do this?

**ROBERT**

I found another source of water, so that is the least of our worries.

**KARA**

Thanks.

She washes her hands. The kids get up and join them at the campfire.

**MATT**

I'm hungry. Where's the bathroom?

Robert and Kara smile at each other.

**ROBERT**

One breakfast and latrine journey coming up.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 6

#### AN ORANGE GROVE - MID-MORNING

The trees are full of fruit, all types of fruit but mostly apples and oranges. They still wear their backpacks as Robert keeps a watchful eye on them and the environment.

**HENRY**

You were right Robert, fruit. I don't think the universe is going to let us starve.

Robert grabs an apple and bites into it.

**ROBERT**

Not bad.

As they eat Robert continues to examine the surroundings when he sees it, a sliver of green light. They all see it.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Where did that come from?

**HENRY**

I'm not exactly sure. I have a theory but... Did you walk towards any lights similar to that one?

**ROBERT**

Yeah, so did the kids.

**KARA**

So did I. It was like I passed through it. It was... strange.

**HENRY**

I think you did pass through it. I encountered three different lights before finding you.

**KARA**

So what do you think they are?

**HENRY**

I think they're doorways. Like going from one room into another.

**ROBERT**

But they're not consistent. The first light I encountered was white, this one is green.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**HENRY**

You noticed that did you? Your powers of observation are sharp. A necessary quality for any physicist.

(coughs)

They seem to come up at certain times, like they want us to go through them, inviting us to pass through them.

**ROBERT**

You passed through three of them? What did you see?

**HENRY**

Two were just blank rooms, if you can call them rooms. The last light brought me to the village, or town, or whatever it was, where I found you. I spent some time there before you came along. I had time to think, to explore. I even found a library.

**ROBERT**

Why didn't you say something?

**HENRY**

Say what? That I found a library?

**KARA**

What did you find in the library?

**HENRY**

Just what you would find in any library, including mystery novels and research books.

**KARA**

Mystery novels?

**HENRY**

Of the earth type. I thought it strange, and a little unsettling.

**KARA**

How long were you in the town?

**HENRY**

Several days, maybe several weeks. Perhaps even months. I don't know.

I found a place to sleep and that general store where I found Robert and the kids is where I got my food. But how long I was there...

**KARA**

So you still think it was a good idea to leave?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**HENRY**

I do. And to be honest... It got extremely boring. It was time to leave, to find a way home.

**ROBERT**

(indicating the light)

So you think we need to go there? To that light?

**HENRY**

Yes. I think it is calling to us, wanting us to go wherever it takes us.

**KARA**

I'm not crazy about that idea...

**KELLY**

Do we have to?

**ROBERT**

No, we'll just stay on this road for a while longer...

A loud noise attracts their attention. They turn to see the creature is back, but this time with friends, six in all.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Run!

**KARA**

Where?!

**HENRY**

The light, towards the light!

Kara takes the kids by the hand and they run towards the green light. Henry moving slow as Robert helps him. The creatures moving faster, Henry and Robert not as fast.

**HENRY (CONT'D)**

Leave me!

**ROBERT**

Like hell I will!

He picks Henry up by the belt, looks at the light; it seems so far, the creatures gaining, Kara and the kids running as fast as they can, Kara looks back, Henry and Robert so slow, the light so far, suddenly they find themselves in

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## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 7

#### A DISCOTHEQUE ROOM

All of them are together and the creatures are not seen, like they were left behind.

It is a big room, filled with various colors of light, as a disco ball spreads the light. The room with a few people, dancing zombies, a band playing but no music is heard. A band member is standing at the mike singing but no sound from his voice.

Kara holds the kids, Henry having a difficult time as Robert helps him to a chair. Tables, cocktail waitresses, slow movement by the occupants. Drinks being served, a bartender, all zombie like.

**ROBERT**

(breathing hard, looks around)

Now what?

**HENRY**

Water...

Kara gives him water as they all catch their breath. Robert removes his backpack. Kara and the kids do the same. Henry begins to catch his breath, looks around.

**HENRY (CONT'D)**

(coughs)

I was right; the light is like a doorway leading to different rooms, maybe even a different plane of existence.

**MATT**

(scared)

Those creatures...

**HENRY**

I don't think they can follow us. At least I hope they can't.

**KARA**

This place looks like a discotheque.

**ROBERT**

I think that's what it is.

**KARA**

I've been in a few of these, but not like this...

**HENRY**

A different environment. Different but the same.

**KARA**

Can they see us?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**HENRY**

Maybe, but they can't talk or interact with us.

Robert begins to wonder around, looking, observing. A door leads into a foyer which leads outside. As he investigates he doesn't notice a shadow move ever so slightly. He comes back to the group.

**ROBERT**

(pointing to a door)

That door seems to go outside. An exit I guess.

(he stares at a spot)

Didn't we leave our backpacks right here?

The others look.

**KARA**

We did. We took them off right here... so where are they?

Henry looks,

**HENRY**

Perhaps like the animals they couldn't pass from one room to another.

**ROBERT**

So you're telling me we lost them?

**HENRY**

I'm afraid we did... Unless...

**ROBERT**

Great. Just great.

**MATT**

But we brought them with us...

**KELLY**

Kara gave you water from one...

**HENRY**

Yes she did, and we did bring them, but when we took them off..

**ROBERT**

That is when we lost them.

Henry nods, still thinking.

**KARA**

So now what?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**ROBERT**

We improvise. And we learn from our mistake. Any ideas Henry?

**HENRY**

At the moment...

Three thugs ATTACK from nowhere. They move fast and go for Kara and the kids, but Robert defends as he matches their speed with his own.

Armed with knives and meat cleavers the attackers have every intention of using them. Kara, the kids, and Henry clutch together and watch with fear as Robert engage all three in hand-to-hand combat. Robert is not gentle; he fights hard as their lives depend upon his combat and martial art skills.

As a zombie waitress walks by, Robert grabs a beer bottle off the serving tray and hits one of the attackers with it, he goes down. He grabs the serving tray, ripping it out of the waitresses hand and hits another, who staggers, stunned. He downs the third attacker and does a quick look at the waitress who is oblivious to everything. He looks at Kara and Henry,

**ROBERT**

(breathless)

Run!

**KARA**

Where?

**ROBERT**

Out the door! Outside!

Kara takes the kids as Robert grabs Henry and they move

OUTSIDE - A FIERCE STORM - DAYLIGHT DARK

The rain and wind take them by surprise as they move into the street. Robert looks back at the door, the three thugs standing inside it, not coming out, just watching their prey slip away. The wind is loud, strong, and foreboding as Robert takes Matt and Henry, Kara with Kelly. Kara holds on to Robert's shirt as the rain stings their face and the hard wind makes seeing difficult and hard to hear.

Robert looks around, and motions Kara and Kelly to follow him. The rain hurts as it pounds them relentlessly. They continue down the street but buildings are closed and dark. They are alone, fighting the storm. Robert sees a building showing lights and head towards it, they enter the...

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## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 8

#### HOTEL LOBBY

A very nice hotel, elegant, high class. Other rooms lead off the lobby, one to a bar, a drug store, a market/deli, a clothing store, and a gift shop. Some people are sitting reading the newspaper; desk clerks, porters carrying bags, helping customers, all zombie-like and oblivious to everything. Kara, Henry, and the kids stop to rest on a sofa, still hurting from the pounding of the storm.

Matt sits close to Henry as Kelly puts her arms around Kara. Robert investigates the new surroundings and the lifeless people occupying the lobby. He looks at a newspaper, and then puts it down. He moves to the reception desk to a computer, punches some keys and the machine responds. Henry approaches but appears weak.

#### HENRY

A computer... here...

#### ROBERT

Why not? Pepsi and bottled water...

Robert manipulates the machine, looking for something. Kara and the kids join him and Henry.

#### ROBERT (CONT'D)

The penthouse suite is open, top floor.

Robert looks at the front door, and then changes the computer screen.

#### KARA

What's wrong?

#### ROBERT

We may have uninvited guest, no sense telling them where we are...

Robert looks at Henry, now sitting with chills, he is not well. He approaches Henry,

#### ROBERT (CONT'D)

What can I do?

Henry pulls a prescription bottle from his pocket, the bottle is empty.

#### HENRY

See if you can find this... in the drug store...  
(coughs, wheezes)

Robert takes the bottle and reads the label.

#### ROBERT

Stay here.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

What about those thugs?

**ROBERT**

I don't think they're going to come out in this storm; at least they didn't follow us. But if it lets up...

**KARA**

They could be here.

**ROBERT**

Stay with Henry, I gotta find this.

Robert disappears into the drug store; he's gone for a several minutes, Kara and kids on edge, Henry hurting. Robert comes back with the medicine, a bottle of water, and a first aid kit. He gives the first aid kit to a questioning Kara and the medicine to Henry, who first looks at the medicine, then takes two pills.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Come on, let's get to the penthouse.

THE PENTHOUSE SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

The penthouse is huge, two large bedrooms, one king size bed to a bedroom, two big bathrooms, a small kitchen, a laundry unit, large overstuffed chairs and sofa, very elegant. Robert helps Henry to one of the beds, he strips him of his wet clothes, the old man is very sick.

Kara helps tuck the old man in as Henry chills, but the medicine begins to help. Henry begins to settle down. Robert and Kara look at him.

**KARA**

He's so sick...

**ROBERT**

Let him sleep...

They move out into the living area, Robert closing the door of the bedroom. He starts to falter then begins to fall; Kara catches him and helps him to the large sofa.

**KARA**

Robert...

As she puts him on the sofa she sees her hand is full of blood. She becomes shocked as she looks at the injured veteran. She looks at the kids and thinks.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Kelly, Matt. I saw a cart just down the hall, I saw some towels and robes on it, bring us several.

The kids scared.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**MATT**

What if those men come back?

**KARA**

I don't think so, not yet, but I need your help... Go get the towels and robes now!

Kelly and Matt look at each other, then timidly out the door disappearing down the hallway. Kara removes Robert's shirt, and notices he has several scars on his back and chest. Blood comes from a wound in his side. Kara opens the first aid kit and pulls some bandages out.

**ROBERT**

(weakly)

How bad?

**KARA**

I don't know yet... Damn it! Why didn't you tell me?

He collapses into unconsciousness as Matt and Kelly return with the items. Kara takes a towel and begins cleaning the wound, administering first aid.

**KELLY**

He's hurt... Is he hurt bad?

**KARA**

Bad enough.

**MATT**

What happens if he dies?

**KARA**

He won't die, I won't let him.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 9

#### HOTEL LOBBY – LATER

Kara and Kelly carefully look out the elevator door, but do not leave the elevator. A few zombie people walk the area.

**KARA**

It looks clear... nobody in sight but... them.

**KELLY**

Those bad people...

**KARA**

I don't see anybody. I don't think they followed us... I don't think they're here...

Slowly the two girls leave the safety of the elevator. It makes a ding and closes behind them as the girls jump.

**KELLY**

I'm scared...

**KARA**

So am I. Take my hand and we stay together.

**KELLY**

Do we have to be here?

**KARA**

We need supplies, and Robert needs more bandages... and some antibiotics.

Slowly the two girls make their way across the lobby to the

#### DELI/MARKET

Inside Kara takes a push cart as Kelly sticks very close to her.

**KELLY**

Matt's lucky, he gets to stay safe.

**KARA**

Believe me hon, if I didn't need your help... I wouldn't even be here. Besides, someone had to stay with Robert and Henry.

Kara keeps an eye out looking for any trouble but she is very nervous, shaking. Only a few zombie people fill the store.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KELLY**

You're really scared aren't you?

**KARA**

Does it show that much?

Kelly nods.

**KELLY**

So what do we need?

**KARA**

We need food, bandages, antibiotics... I don't know...  
I've never done any shopping like this before.

Kelly looks at Kara,

**KELLY**

But you're a grownup.

**KARA**

Yeah, one that has never done any grocery shopping  
before. No... all my shopping experience has been for  
rich clothes and shoes... a lot of good that does me now.

Kelly gives Kara a look and Kara looks at her, embarrassed.

**KELLY**

Fine... I'll do it.

**KARA**

You know how to shop? For food?

**KELLY**

Yeah.

Kelly looks at the supply available and begins to put items in the shopping cart.

**KARA**

(looking at Kelly)

Are you sure you're only eight years old.

Kelly gives her a frustrated look when a sound takes them by surprise. Kelly jumps and hugs tight to Kara.  
Kara looks around scared but only zombie people are in sight.

**KELLY**

What was that?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

I don't know, but we need to hurry and finish.

Kelly nods and begins to fill the cart again, but fear fills her eyes. Kara looks nervously around but only the zombie people come and go.

**KELLY**

I wish Robert was here...

**KARA**

So do I. But he's not...

**KELLY**

He might die...

**KARA**

No, he won't die... I won't let him.

**KELLY**

How do you know?

Kara looks at the young girl, the fear in her eyes.

**KARA**

(determined)

I just know. I don't know how I know, I just know. You like him don't you?

**KELLY**

Yeah. Matt and I both do.

**KARA**

Tell me about your parents... they died didn't they?

**KELLY**

A car accident... Matt and I were six.

**KARA**

Do you remember them?

**KELLY**

A little. Sometimes a lot. And sometimes not at all... why do I forget them?

**KARA**

I don't know... I've never had to deal with something like that... Where were you when your parents died?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KELLY**

In school. Mom and Dad were coming to pick us up... then something happened... I don't know what exactly... but the Principal told us it was bad.

**KARA**

You were in what... first grade?

Kelly nods.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

I can't imagine something like that...

Kara and Kelly continue to shop as Kelly fills the shopping cart.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

So what did your father do for a living?

**KELLY**

He was a store clerk... Mama worked at a restaurant. They worked all the time. Are you rich?

**KARA**

As a matter of fact I am. Does that bother you?

**KELLY**

No. Mama and I use to look at catalogs all the time. Mama really loved some of the clothes... but they cost too much. Mama got sad and said that Daddy needed more am... amb...ambit...

**KARA**

Ambition.

**KELLY**

Yeah. What's ambition?

**KARA**

I don't know... I never had any...

Kelly looks at her.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

I've never been ambitious in my entire life... I've always had everything given to me.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KELLY**

Mama said that Daddy worked hard, but if he would work smarter we could have many things. Mama was really sad because she couldn't buy Matt and me a lot of things.

Kara looks at the sadness of the young girl.

**KARA**

You loved your parents very much didn't you?

Kelly nods and begins to tear.

**KELLY**

Why do I forget them?

Kara holds her and wipes away the tears.

**KARA**

Does Matt miss them?

Kelly nods.

**KELLY**

Sometimes I can hear him crying and when I ask him what's wrong... he shrugs and says he misses Mom and Day... He misses them so much.

**KARA**

Oh honey...

The sound only this time louder, as the girls hold on to each other.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

(looking around)

What is that?

**KELLY**

It sounds like what Matt and I heard before...

**KARA**

Where? When?

**KELLY**

In the village, before you came.

**KARA**

Were you with Robert?

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## THE JOURNEY

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Kelly nods as Kara continues to look around.

**KELLY**

I hope Matt is alright...

**KARA**

He is. That room is pretty safe... At least I hope it's safe... I hope Matt knows what to do.

**KELLY**

He does. For a boy he's pretty smart.

**KARA**

Just like his sister.

Kara smiles at the young girl who seems to relax a little. They approach the laundry detergent section and Kara is really confused.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Oh my... I never knew there are so many brands.

Kelly chooses one.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Why that brand?

**KELLY**

Gets the clothes clean and makes them smell good.

Kara amazed at the young girl, and then a look of confusion comes upon her face.

**KELLY**

What?

**KARA**

I'm just amazed at how many common items there are...  
What is this place?

**KELLY**

Henry calls it the universe.

**KARA**

So many questions... no answers, but at the same time,  
everything we need. Look over there... sandwiches...  
you like sandwiches?

Kelly nods and the two girls make their way to the sandwich section. Many varieties fill the refrigerator compartment as they select and fill the cart. As they move Kelly takes Kara's left hand and feels the ring.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KELLY**

What kind of ring is that?

**KARA**

My engagement ring.

**KELLY**

Are you getting married?

**KARA**

I'm supposed to.

Kelly says nothing more as the two approach a magazine stand. THE BRIDE is prominently displayed. Kara looks at it, takes the issue and thumbs through it.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

I planned my marriage around the articles in this magazine. In fact it was this very issue... How?

Kelly observes her. Kara puts the magazine back, dumbfounded. She looks around at her surroundings, confusion on her face. Kelly says nothing but just watches her.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

All my life I've had everything given to me... prepared for me... even my wedding was organized for me... I've never done anything on my own... the spoiled little rich girl. I can't even do grocery shopping without the help of an eight year old... how pathetic is that?

Kara looks at Kelly.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

In some ways I think you're more mature than I am... I'm so worthless...

**KELLY**

No you're not.

Kara looks and questions.

**KELLY (CONT'D)**

I remember Mama saying that everyone has a special gift. She said that Daddy had a very special gift, the gift of writing but he never used it. Mama said he could write beautiful poems... but Mama said Daddy never believed in himself... I believe in you Kara... I really do.

Kara takes the young girl and hugs her. The sound takes them by surprise again.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

We better finish and get back upstairs.

**KELLY**

You think those bad men are here?

**KARA**

I don't know, I just don't know. We need to go get some antibiotics... the drug store...

The two girls enter

THE DRUG STORE

Kara begins to look for antibiotics. Bandages catch her eye and she deposits them in the shopping cart.

**KELLY**

What are you looking for?

**KARA**

Something to keep Robert alive.

**KELLY**

Are you sure he's going to be alright?

**KARA**

(softly, to herself)

He better be.

(looks at Kelly)

He's going to be fine.

Kelly looks worried.

**KELLY**

I don't want him to die... Matt and I...

**KARA**

(looks at Kelly, sternly)

He's going to be fine. I promise.

**KELLY**

(almost crying)

Mom and Dad left us... I don't want him to leave us...

Matt and I don't want to be left alone again.

**KARA**

You won't be... Robert and I will take care of you.

## THE JOURNEY

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Kara smiles and Kelly begins to relax. Kara adds more items to the carts as Kelly watches. The sound takes them by surprise again and they hold on to each other. Quickly they finish the shopping and head for the

ELEVATOR

As they enter the elevator Kelly pushes the button for the top floor, the doors close and machine begins to move.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

(softly, to herself)

What is this place? But maybe the better question is why am I here? Or maybe better yet... Who am I? What am I?

Kelly looks at Kara.

**KELLY**

You're the grownup who's taking care of Matt and me. And you won't let Robert die. That's who you are.

Kara looks at the young girl and smiles.

**KARA**

Are you sure you're only eight years old?

The two girls smile at each other as Kelly takes Kara's hand.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 10

#### THE PENTHOUSE SUITE – NIGHT

Robert opens his eyes and sees Kara, in a white robe, looking out the window, the storm still in full fury. Lightening illuminates the outside darkness followed by the sound of thunder.

His movement causes her to turn around and approach him. She sits next to him on the sofa, checks his temperature and smiles at him.

**KARA**

How are you feeling?

**ROBERT**

Better. How long was I out?

**KARA**

Several hours.

**ROBERT**

The kids?

**KARA**

Sleeping.

**ROBERT**

Henry?

**KARA**

The same.

**ROBERT**

What about you?

**KARA**

I grabbed a few winks.

Robert looks under the blanket.

**ROBERT**

Who undressed me?

**KARA**

I did. Nothing I haven't seen before. You have a lot of scars... war?

**ROBERT**

Yeah.

Robert sits up.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

### ROBERT (CONT'D)

Where are your clothes? Do you still have your clothes?

### KARA

I do. Don't ask me why, I don't know how after what happened to our backpacks. Anyway, this place has its own laundry unit...

### ROBERT

I think our attackers took our backpacks... Not the universe. So you washed our clothes?

### KARA

No, Kelly did. I've never done laundry before in my life. But Kelly and Matt, they're pretty... unique. That young girl even knows how to cook.

### ROBERT

You don't know how to cook?

### KARA

No. I've always let the hired help do that. I've always let the hired help do everything. I am so useless...

### ROBERT

I wouldn't say that.

### KARA

No?

### ROBERT

You took care of me, without you...

### KARA

I was scared to death. Losing you was unthinkable.

### ROBERT

I rest my case. Where did you learn first aid?

### KARA

High school, several of my gym classes. Guess I learned more than I thought.

(quietly)

I really need to thank Coach Grayson someday.

### ROBERT

You will and from my viewpoint you did well.

(studies her)

So, tell me a little about yourself.

---

## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

Why? You want to be bored to tears?

**ROBERT**

You are getting married.

Kara looks at the ring.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

That ring looks expensive.

**KARA**

It is. Ten thousand dollars worth.

**ROBERT**

So tell me about him.

**KARA**

(thinks)

His name is Garak Kaplan, he's a lawyer. A very powerful lawyer.

**ROBERT**

Good looking?

**KARA**

Very.

**ROBERT**

So how long have you been engaged?

**KARA**

Almost a year.

**ROBERT**

When's the big day?

**KARA**

That's a good question. I went to bed on a Thursday night; it was supposed to be on Saturday the 26th of June, but now...

**ROBERT**

Well, Henry can probably tell us more about the time issue, but if I had to guess, it may still be Thursday.

**KARA**

Yeah, right. What have you been smoking?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**ROBERT**

(concern for Henry)

Time may work differently here, I'll ask Henry.

**KARA**

He will be ok.

**ROBERT**

So... do you love him?

**KARA**

Who? Oh... Garak, yeah, I do.

**ROBERT**

How long have you known each other?

**KARA**

Two years. He's smart, funny... well maybe not so funny, but intelligent.

**ROBERT**

What about your family?

**KARA**

My father is heavy into investments; he's very, very rich. My mother is... well my mother. She's very high society, very elegant, just...

**ROBERT**

Any brothers or sisters?

**KARA**

One brother, Jason. He's married, two children, boy and girl. The boy, William is ten and the girl, Jennifer, is almost nine I think.

**ROBERT**

What's his wife's name?

**KARA**

Sarah.

**ROBERT**

Is she nice?

**KARA**

I always considered her to be nothing more than a bitch. A gold digger. I always believed she married Jason for his money.

---

## THE JOURNEY

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**ROBERT**

What does your bother do?

**KARA**

He's a banker. Very successful too. They live in New York.

**ROBERT**

When was the last time you saw them?

**KARA**

They're at the house, they came for the wedding.

**ROBERT**

So where do you live?

**KARA**

In L.A., the Bel-Air area. You? Where do you live?

**ROBERT**

Definitely not Bel-Air. Are you planning a big wedding?

**KARA**

Very. I've spent five months making sure all the tee's were crossed and the i's dotted. I wanted the perfect wedding, the best of everything.

**ROBERT**

Did you get the best?

**KARA**

Oh yeah, my father spared no expense... What about you? What about your family?

**ROBERT**

Nothing to talk about.

**KARA**

Don't give me that. Confess. I know you have a girlfriend or a wife; I found her picture in your wallet.

Robert looks at her.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

It was an accident, when we were washing your clothes your wallet fell on the floor and opened, her picture was there.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**ROBERT**

Where's my wallet?

Kara gets up and retrieves the wallet. Robert takes it and looks at the picture.

**KARA**

She's very beautiful and she's lucky to have you. What's her name?

**ROBERT**

Barbara... She's not my... She's my mother.

Kara surprised.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

This picture was taken when she was eighteen. It's the only photo I have of her.

**KARA**

Where is she?

**ROBERT**

She and my father died when I was three. I don't even have a picture of him. I really don't know who they were... what they were like... I know nothing about them...

Robert sad as he looks at the photo.

**KARA**

No brothers or sisters?

Robert slightly shakes his head.

**ROBERT**

I was told that Mom was pregnant when she died, but I don't know if it's true or not.

**KARA**

Who raised you?

**ROBERT**

Foster homes... And prison.

Kara surprised.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

When I was eighteen I got into a lot of trouble, I spent two years in prison.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

Did you deserve it?

**ROBERT**

Yeah, I did.

**KARA**

What did you do?

**ROBERT**

I assisted in an armed robbery. Got caught. After I got out I tried to stay straight but my old buddies decided they needed my assistance again... I don't know why I said yes. Maybe it was because I was hungry and needed the money.

Anyway I got caught, again. But the judge was pretty cool, he knew about my so called friends and nailed them to the wall. But he gave me a choice, go back to prison or join the Army. Well... I didn't want to go back to prison...

**KARA**

So you joined the Army...

**ROBERT**

It's strange, I found a calling there. A family. I was happy there. Then 9/11 happened, and I went to war. First Afghanistan, then Iraq, then back to Afghanistan. Then I was kicked out...

**KARA**

Why?

Robert silent as he puts the wallet away.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Evidently you were hurt, maybe more than once.

**ROBERT**

That's all past history now.

Kara observes him. Henry comes out of the bedroom; he has on a white robe. He looks better. Robert tries to get up but Kara makes him stay, she then helps Henry.

**KARA**

You're looking better.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**HENRY**

I feel better. Thank you.  
(looks at Robert)  
What happened to you?

**KARA**

He took a knife when he fought those thugs.

**HENRY**

(concerned)  
How do you feel?

**ROBERT**

I'll live. You?

**HENRY**

Only a matter of time young Robert. What about those thugs?

**ROBERT**

The storm is still going like crazy; I don't think they're going to bother us until it lets up.

**HENRY**

How can you be so sure?

**ROBERT**

I can't. Let's just call it a hunch.

Kara helps Henry sit at the table.

**KARA**

Hungry?

**HENRY**

Yes, yes I am. Thank you.

Kara pulls something out of the refrigerator.

**HENRY (CONT'D)**

You made this?

**KARA**

No, Kelly and I "acquired" it from the deli. Didn't get any complaints.

Robert gets up, puts the blanket around him and walks to the table.

---

## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA (CONT'D)**

You should stay there. I'll bring you something.

**ROBERT**

I'm not helpless.

**KARA**

You will be if that wound opens again.

**ROBERT**

I'll be fine.

Kara puts some food in front of them. Henry looks at her.

**KARA**

What?

**HENRY**

Just an old man, but you look... different.

**KARA**

It was the shower. I had a nice long hot shower, so did the kids.

Henry smells himself.

**HENRY**

I guess I need one as well. I'm a little ripe.

**ROBERT**

So am I.

**KARA**

Male testosterone. Eat, both of you.

---

## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 11

#### THE PENTHOUSE SUITE – LATER

Kara, now dressed, comes out of one of the bedrooms, closing the door. She looks at the two men, clean shaven, and dressed. She is shocked at Robert's appearance.

**KARA**

You look a lot better without the beard, clean shaven.  
When did you get a haircut, how did you get a haircut?

**ROBERT**

You act as if you've never seen a haircut before... There's one of those self-haircut gizmo's in the latrine. Gave it my best shot. I am not one for a beard and long hair but when you're homeless and broke...

**KARA**

It looks good... you look good... hair is just a little uneven... but I can fix that... later.

Robert gives a slight shrug as they sit at the table. Robert pours coffee for all.

**KARA**

Thank you. The kids were tired, they're still asleep.

**HENRY**

Let them sleep. Looks like that storm isn't letting up.

**ROBERT**

Good. We need the rest.

**KARA**

Think those goons will find us?

**ROBERT**

I do.

**HENRY**

What makes you so sure?

**ROBERT**

Those weren't ordinary thugs; I think they were al Qaeda.

**KARA**

(shocked)

You're kidding! Please tell me you're kidding.

Robert silent.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA (CONT'D)**

How did they get here?

**HENRY**

Maybe the same way we did. We don't know and probably never will.

**KARA**

That's a lovely thought. Are you sure?

**ROBERT**

Not positive, no. But... they fight like al Qaeda. At least they didn't have guns.

**KARA**

They didn't look Middle East...

**HENRY**

Not all al Qaeda members are of Middle East descent. Why didn't they follow us?

**ROBERT**

They may be terrorist but they're still human. I'll lay odds they never left that disco.

**HENRY**

With no one to guide them... unable to comprehend...

**KARA**

Then we show up...

**ROBERT**

Kill first, ask questions later...

**KARA**

They must be filled with fear.

**ROBERT**

The terrorist become the victims. How sweet is that?

**KARA**

So what do we do?

**ROBERT**

We stay until the storm lets up, then we make a run for it.

**KARA**

You think they'll hunt us?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**ROBERT**

You can count on it. But I can't take them all on again; I don't think I would survive another encounter.

**KARA**

Can't we stay here, maybe hide, or fight them here?

**ROBERT**

I don't think so, the way they fought, they're very well trained. I've met their type before, and lost friends that under estimated them.

With you, the kids, Henry... No, our only option is to evade them. Until then, we rest. And pray to God that the storm doesn't let up.

**HENRY**

I think that's up to the universe not God.

**KARA**

Doesn't God control the universe?

**HENRY**

A very deep theological discussion my dear, best left for another time. Speaking of discussions, I thought I heard you discussing your mother, among other things.

Robert looks at him.

**HENRY (CONT'D)**

We all have our skeletons Robert, you made a mistake, you paid for it... but I think you're still paying for it... or am I wrong?

Robert silent.

**KARA**

What do you mean Henry?

**HENRY**

Robert Burnett, Sergeant, US Army Rangers, Afghanistan, it is you isn't it?

Robert slightly nods as in shame.

**KARA**

What are you talking about?

---

## THE JOURNEY

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### HENRY

Several years ago there was a massacre in one of the Afghan villages. A young sergeant was charged with the crime, tried by court-martial, but found innocent of the atrocity. A sergeant by the name of Burnett, Robert Burnett.

Robert silent. Kara observes him.

### HENRY (CONT'D)

By all accounts that should have been the end of it. But, it wasn't. Some Army brass, pushed by an ambitious Senator, decided he was guilty, so they fabricated a charge to drum him out of the military and enhance their careers. They used his old prison record against him. Guilty beyond innocent.

### KARA

(to Robert)  
Is this true?

Robert nods.

### KARA (CONT'D)

(to Henry)  
How do you know this?

### HENRY

I remember reading about it. When you're in the hospital undergoing cancer treatments, you have a lot of time on your hands. I dabble in law as a hobby, always thought that if I wasn't a physicist, I would be a lawyer. Anyway, I found the case intriguing, so I followed it.

### KARA

So what happened?

### HENRY

Young Robert was discharged, dishonorably. But it doesn't end there. For some reason, that ambitious Senator decided that our Robert here was still guilty of war crimes. Crimes he did not commit, but guilty nonetheless.

So this politician enticed a Federal prosecutor to bring additional civil charges against him. He spent another 6 months in prison before his trial even started. An innocent man found guilty by politicians and the news media. He was tried in a civilian court for going to war and doing his job. I find the very thought appalling.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

Kara looks at Robert, still silent.

### HENRY (CONT'D)

When his case did come to trial, the prosecution didn't push so it took the jury all of two hours to determine his innocence. But the damage had been done; the politician and the corrupt military leaders, destroyed him. All because of a mistake he made when he was eighteen.

### ROBERT

I always believed in the system. That it was right and just. I knew when they caught me in that robbery I was guilty, I accepted it. But I never expected what followed...

### KARA

It's not right... Who was the politician?

### HENRY

No it's not... and unfortunately I never discovered who the players were in this sham.

### ROBERT

I could never find work after that and the Army wasn't going to let me back in. Every time I applied for employment... nothing. I even tried for food stamps, the government turned me down. The government.

I managed to scrape together a few dollars to buy an old car, cost more to fill it up today than the price I paid for it. But it's home. It's what I call home anyway.

When the Federal Prosecutor first arrested me, I was working; the marshals came into my place of employment, put on the cuffs, then hauled me off to jail. They didn't even read me my rights. I spent two weeks there before I knew what I was being charged with. During that time my landlord, broke into my apartment, stole everything I had, destroyed what was of no value... I had nothing. I lost everything. I had nowhere to go, no future.

I contemplated suicide, but... I'm too much of a coward to kill myself. So I do the best I can, how I can. An odd job here, there, just something to keep me going.

### HENRY

You mentioned your mother, may I see the photo?

Robert pulls out the wallet and hands it to Henry. He looks at the beautiful woman and begins to shake.

### KARA

Henry, are you alright?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**HENRY**

Are you sure this is your mother?

**ROBERT**

Yes.

**HENRY**

What did you say her name was?

**ROBERT**

Barbara.

**HENRY**

What was the name of her husband?

**ROBERT**

Jack.

Henry shakes, Kara and Robert concerned.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

What?

**HENRY**

I can't believe it... it's not possible... the chance is just...  
the odds... How? How can this be?

**KARA**

Henry? What is it? What's wrong?

Henry looks at Robert.

**HENRY**

Impossible as it is... your mother is my daughter.

Silence.

**ROBERT**

That's not possible...

**HENRY**

I remember when this photo was taken; the day of her  
eighteenth birthday... she was so beautiful. Her mother  
and I so proud... then...

**KARA**

What happened?

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## THE JOURNEY

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### HENRY

Barbara met a man just after this photo was taken, a man by the name of Jack... I didn't know the last name. I didn't care. I was against the courtship from the beginning. I felt Barbara was too good for just anybody; she was too fine of a lady. I had arranged for her to meet some very fine young men; but she would have none of it... I was controlling her life she said. She loved Jack and wanted to marry him. I forbade it. But... she turned her back on me and eloped with him.

I was furious. Oh how I hated your father. He stole my daughter and I had so many plans for her. My wife, Rosemary, your grandmother, supported your mother's decision. I was so enraged by her insolence... We fought, we had a bad fight. She went raging out of the house that night, a night much like this one. She got in the car and drove away.

The road was slick, the visibility bad; she skidded on a turn, ended up in the river where she drowned... I lost my wife and my daughter. I became bitter, so bitter. And I blamed everybody... Everybody. The only one I didn't blame was the one who started it all... Me.

### ROBERT

Did you ever try to find Mom?

### HENRY

No. She never came to the funeral. I never saw her again. After several years I found out that she and her husband had died in an automobile accident. That she had a son, I even discovered the last name, Burnett. But... I didn't know your first name. And it made no difference. I despised you. I blamed you for taking away my wife and daughter. And I didn't even know you. All I knew, all that I accepted was that you were responsible.

Then, a few years later I get diagnosed with cancer. I have operations but it kept coming back, until one day the Doctor tells me there's nothing else he can do. Terminal. Only a few months to live at best.

I began to re-evaluate my life, my bitterness, and I realized that I was unfair to you. I blamed you, an innocent man, for my mistake. I began to search for you, but so many years had passed. So much regret... I can't ask for your forgiveness, I don't deserve it; all I ask for is your understanding.

Silence. Kara looks at the two men, who are deep in thought.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**ROBERT**

I never knew...

**KARA**

So why now?

Henry and Robert look at her.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Why discover each other now? Why here? For what reason?

**HENRY**

The universe. The reason we are on this journey. A journey, this journey the universe created for us. Maybe a reason anyway, to find ourselves, our destiny.

Since my final diagnosis I have had time to reflect upon many things, including the teachings of the Bible. A most profound lesson is the way God works. So mysterious in His ways. And Jesus... His love for us... A deep and wonderful mystery.

I have come to believe this universe is part of that mystery. I also believe there are many forces which can affect the universe, affect us as individuals. Forces which give our lives meaning and a reason to live.

Forces that shape our lives; honesty, relationships, courage... forces that create who we become; powerful laws that direct our lives and our motivations, the laws of God. The laws of science.

**KARA**

I don't understand...

**ROBERT**

There are two types of laws in the universe, physical and mental.

**HENRY**

You comprehend the principle... physical laws, gravity...

**ROBERT**

Mental laws... success or failure, faith and hope.

**HENRY**

Exactly. And when they come together in harmony they become a powerful, unstoppable force. A force that can move the universe.

The rain and wind stops, as Robert up and looks out the window.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**ROBERT**

Get the kids up, we have to move.

Kara disappears into the bedroom. Henry comes up to him.

**HENRY**

Robert, I am so sorry...

**ROBERT**

One sorry at a time Henry... Grandpa... Grandfather...

**HENRY**

Let's stick with Henry for now, one step at a time...

Kara and the kids come out of the bedroom.

**MATT**

(sleepy)

What's going on?

Matt and Kelly look at Robert,

**MATT (CONT'D)**

What happened to you?

**ROBERT**

One little haircut...

**HENRY**

It did make quite an impact, a huge transition...

Henry looks at Robert,

**ROBERT**

What?

**HENRY**

I just noticed, you look a lot like your mother...

Kara gives a slight choke, Robert speechless.

**ROBERT**

We have to go.

**KARA**

How long do you think before they find us?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**ROBERT**  
(some pain)  
Not long...

**KARA**  
You shouldn't be moving...

**ROBERT**  
No choice, we have to go now.

**MATT**  
I don't want to leave, I like this place.

**KARA**  
We can't stay Matt, those men, they'll find us.

**KELLY**  
Robert can protect us.

**KARA**  
No honey he can't, there are three of them, and only one of him, and Robert's hurt. We have to leave, we have to leave now.

Kara turns to Robert,

**KARA (CONT'D)**  
How long do you think we have?

Robert contemplates and looks at Henry and the kids.

**ROBERT**  
An hour, two maybe.

**KARA**  
Long enough to feed the kids, get them taken care of?

Robert looks at them and considers.

**ROBERT**  
Just don't linger.

Kara nods and begins to get the twins ready to move.

**HENRY**  
Do you really think we can we out run them?

**ROBERT**  
I don't know Henry. I just don't know.

---

## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 12

#### OUTSIDE ON A STREET – SHORT TIME LATER

Light beginning to break as the clouds also begin to lift. Robert at the ready, watching, expecting trouble but amazed that the streets are dry. The group walks down the street alert, ready for anything when SUDDENLY the three terrorist appear in front of them, armed with knives and meat cleavers. Robert looks down an alley, it is a dead end but a sliver of yellow light appears.

**ROBERT**

The light! Run!

The group runs towards the light. Robert slow to follow finds a pole and keeps the terrorist at bay. The terrorist are hesitant to attack, but hate fills their eyes. Robert keeps them at bay, giving the others time to escape, then at the appropriate moment he quickly turns towards the light and enters

#### A LIGHT BLUE ROOM

A room of undetermined size. No windows or doors but there is light from an unknown source.

**HENRY**

Our friends?

**ROBERT**

I think we took them by surprise.

**KARA**

Will they follow us?

**ROBERT**

Maybe, I don't know.

**MATT**

Where are we?

**KELLY**

I don't like this place; I wanna go back to the hotel.

**HENRY**

I'm sorry honey, but I think each door is only a one-way trip. Somehow I feel that we're being manipulated, controlled... Like mice in a maze.

They look around, the room seems to be empty, Kara is the first to see it, a small object floating in air.

**KARA**

Robert...

Robert sees it; together they look at it, a ring, a wedding ring, beautiful in design and concept. Robert grabs it and holds it, examines it then gives it to Kara.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**HENRY**

What is it?

**ROBERT**

Looks like a wedding ring.

**KARA**

It's beautiful... I've never seen anything like it.  
(she puts the ring on her right  
ring finger.)  
Perfect fit.

**KELLY**

Look!

The others turn, a baby, newborn, naked, floating in air, alive but zombie like.

**ROBERT**

What the...

They all approach the baby, a boy. Kara is both amazed and in wonder. She looks at the baby with soft and loving eyes. She softly touches it and he responds slightly.

**KARA**

Henry... He moved, when I touched him. With the other  
people we've had no interaction, why this baby?

**HENRY**

I don't know Kara, I don't know.

**KARA**

(lovingly)  
He's so beautiful. So helpless...

**MATT**

Look! Over there!

A home, a large beautiful home, situated on the side of a hill overlooking a city providing an impressive view. All are mesmerized by the vision.

Matt looks around and sees a small American Flag resting next to a small cake on what looks to be a table. He picks up the flag.

**ROBERT**

Matt. What's that?

**MATT**

A flag. I wonder what it's doing here.

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## THE JOURNEY

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Robert sees the cake and begins to tremble a little.

**KARA**

Robert, what's wrong?

**ROBERT**

Just a memory.

**HENRY**

What kind of memory son?

Robert looks at all of them.

**ROBERT**

Why here, why now?

**KARA**

Robert? Tell us... What's wrong?

Robert looks at Matt and silently asks for the small flag. Matt hands it to him. Robert gently holds the flag with respect, remembering, his eyes far away.

**ROBERT**

His name was Michael O'Leary. Pure American but of Irish decent. He was oh so proud of his heritage. His ancestors came through Ellis Island in nineteen oh... four I believe. Yeah. His great-great grandparents, when they were only children. They were orphans and were escorted by no one. They were all alone. Seven of them, the eldest being nineteen at the time. The youngest four.

Mike and I went through boot camp together, and he became my best friend. He had a funny tradition... Every time he saw a cake he would put a small American flag in it. Stand it straight up in the center of the cake. Every time, without fail. See a cake, plant the flag.

I asked him why one time and he told me it was a family tradition. When his ancestors first got to America one of the youngest children had a birthday just a couple of days after landing on our shores. They didn't have candles; they didn't even have enough money to buy a cake. I don't know how, neither did Mike, but somehow they got a cake.

No candles but someone had a small flag. Much bigger than this obviously, but small. They used the flag in place of the candles. It became more than a birthday cake; it symbolized a new beginning, a new way of life. Over time, see a cake, plant the flag. Without fail... if at all possible.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**HENRY**

What happened?

**ROBERT**

We were on a mission, we got ambushed...

Robert sits on the floor, holding the flag next to him. A tear begins to form in his eyes as he remembers.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

The O'Leary's became very wealthy over time. Mike didn't have to join, but he did. He felt he owed something to the country that gave him fortune and health. He married his high school sweetheart... I wasn't there but apparently it was quite a something. Three children, a boy and two girls... the last girl being the baby he never got to see... Born one week before... He was so proud.

**KARA**

How did he die?

**ROBERT**

(tears)

Saving my life... He didn't have... to do that. But he was that type of man.

Robert looks up at Matt.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Mike always believed that our flag was very special. It defines who we are, what we are.

It is more than just a piece of cloth; it is a symbol of freedom, hope, something bigger than us. It reminds us that no matter how difficult the situation is, there can always be... hope. Our flag, more than anything else means hope, hope for everyone.

Promise me you will never take it for granted, because sometimes that symbol is all we have when we lose everything else. And that symbol can be a very powerful thing.

Matt nods and hugs him.

**MATT**

I promise.

Robert smiles and stands, the others looking at him as he gives the flag back to Matt, who puts it in his pocket for safe keeping. Robert smiles.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KELLY**

Look, over there!

Puppies, newborn German Shepherds, one very cute, the only one of silver and black color, all still with their mother. The silver and black pup approaches Matt and Kelly. She picks him up and begins to pet it. Kelly smiles and looks at Robert and Kara. The girl is beaming with a radiant smile. She then puts it back with the mother.

A newspaper is next to the mother dog, Kelly grabs it and looks at the paper, an advertisement is circled. She tears out the section of the paper and puts it in her pocket.

Kara looks towards the baby, she gives a gasp, the baby is gone.

**KARA**

Where did he go? The baby?

Everyone looks but no child. Kara looks at her hand, the ring is gone, they look at the house, it is gone. All the objects are gone.

**KELLY**

Where did everything go?

As they look around for the objects, Henry sees something, a man, a young man, DENNIS McCOY, clean cut, neat, with briefcase in his hand, standing inside a swirling black vortex. He starts to call the others taking his eyes off the scene for one moment, and quickly looks back to nothing. The others did not see the vision as Robert approaches him.

**ROBERT**

Henry, you ok?

**HENRY**

Fine, I'm fine.

**KARA**

What is this place? What do the images mean? They seem so real. And this space... it's open... how can everything appear and then just disappear?

**ROBERT**

I don't know, but we need to get moving. Come on.

Robert takes Kelly by the hand and helps Henry. Kara holds tight to Matt's hand as they walk the various hues of the blue environment. Without warning the terrorist APPEAR out of nowhere. With fear and hate in their eyes, knives and meat cleavers ready, they approach the group. Robert positions himself to protect the others. The terrorist slowly approach, looking at the space around them as well. Henry sees the sliver of orange light.

**HENRY**

Robert! This way!

## THE JOURNEY

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Henry moves towards the orange light as the others follow with Robert keeping the terrorist at bay. Kara looks back,

**KARA**

Robert! Now!

Then she runs into the light. The Leader throws his knife at Robert which suddenly drops to the ground as if it lost all momentum. Robert grabs it and throws it back, his aim deadly as it connects with the Leader. The move takes the other two by surprise as Robert takes advantage and heads for the light. He runs into...

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## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 13

#### A LARGE VALLEY – TWILIGHT

He is standing on a ledge overlooking a large abyss. With the two planets overhead he observes the area. It is luminescent in a beautiful dark and light blue radiance.

A large waterfall which flickers with white against the dark blue is at the far end of the valley. It feeds a river which sparkles like it is embraced by diamonds. Luminous rocks, including some that glisten like stars, adorn cliffs and ledges. They vary in color including green, red, dark blue, and black.

Robert sees the others waiting against the rock face, all frightened as Kara holds the children.

**KELLY**

Mama...

**KARA**

It's ok honey, Daddy's with us now.

She looks at Robert as he approaches, Matt runs to him.

**MATT**

Daddy! I'm scared!

Robert picks him up and looks at him.

**ROBERT**

Daddy?

Matt nods. Kara and Robert look at each other.

**HENRY**

What about our friends?

**ROBERT**

I put one down; there are only two of them now.

Robert puts Matt down but holds his hand. Kara holding Kelly by the hand, then takes Robert's hand. They look at each other again, and then survey at the area. Henry watches the action and slightly smiles.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Where the hell are we now?

**KARA**

It's beautiful.

Robert with a questioning look.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### KARA (CONT'D)

Look at it Rob, it is. It's so beautiful.

### ROBERT

(looking)

Yes, yes it is.

### KELLY

It's still scary.

Kara holds Kelly tighter.

### HENRY (O.S.)

I don't think we're the first ones here.

Robert breaks away and goes to Henry. The others follow. On the ground lie a skull and a skeletal hand which holds a large sword, two inches wide, almost 38 inches in length. What looks like Knight-of-the-Round-Table armor litters the ground.

### HENRY (CONT'D)

I wonder what he was fighting.

### MATT

Whatever it was, it looks like he lost.

A noise captures the attention of all; the two terrorist have arrived. They are full of fear and hate as they look for their would-be victims.

### KARA

(scared)

Why can't they leave us alone?

### ROBERT

Not in their handbook!

### TERRORIST POV

The two terrorist look around and see Robert and the others. They begin their advance towards the family. Hate and vengeance fills their eyes and facial expression. It is evident they want to kill and prepare their weapons to do so.

### ROBERTS' POV

Robert starts to grab the sword when an unearthly squeal assaults their senses. Everyone looks for the source of the sound, when they see it, a flying dragon. Large, deadly, but not fire breathing.

### TERRORIST POV

The terrorist see the dragon at the same time and back up against the rocks, terrified.

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## THE JOURNEY

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ROBERTS' POV

The creature set its eyes on the two terrorist, and attacks them. They try to flee but the beast grabs one of the terrorist swallowing him as the victim yells an unearthly scream.

The remaining terrorist terrified, trips and falls off the ledge into the abyss, screaming. The dragon is quick and intercepts the falling quarry eating him with one gulp.

The creature begins to circle the area looking for its next meal. Robert watches as the creature circles above them.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

(to himself)

Oh shit... This is not good.

Robert grabs the sword, still watching the monster above him.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Everyone behind those rocks... Now!

The others move behind large boulders as Robert, frightened and nervous, holds the sword, watching the dragon fly above him.

**KARA**

Robert!

Robert looks at her and shakes his head.

**HENRY**

He has to fight it.

**KARA**

Why?

Henry doesn't answer... then Kara realizes...

**KARA (CONT'D)**

To protect us... To stop it...

**HENRY**

Or die trying...

Kara comprehends as tears fill her eyes and she watches as Robert stands his ground.

The monster lands on the ledge, as man and beast come face-to-face. The creature's eyes deep fiery red and rhombus in shape. Long snout, menacing eyes, and sharp, ragged teeth stare down Robert.

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## THE JOURNEY

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It approaches Robert, then attacks. Robert swings the weapon, hitting the beast. It attacks again, but Robert is quick as he fights the monstrous creature. He gives several blows to the dragon, and draws blood. Kara and the others watch with fear as the battle for their lives plays out in front of their eyes.

The beast suddenly flies away but quickly returns dropping a large boulder almost hitting Robert, knocking him off his feet and flat onto his side, injuring his leg. The impact of the rock separates the sword from his hand and it slides to the edge of the cliff, where it teeters.

Robert hurt, his lower leg and the previous side wound bleeding, stands as the dragon lands on the ledge. The red menacing eyes and razor-sharp teeth of the beast are ready to strike its latest prey. The monster approaches as Robert backs up towards the edge of the cliff, towards the sword.

Robert, breathing hard, tries to rescue the sword, but the beast will not permit. It seems to toy with Robert, like a cat playing with a mouse.

Unseen by the others, Matt slips away, grabs a rock and throws it, hitting the creature in the side. The beast looks away to Matt, who is exposed to danger, and the anger, of the dragon.

**MATT**  
LEAVE HIM ALONE!

**KARA**  
MATT!

Kara scrambles for Matt as the beast directs its fiery monstrous eyes and sharp ragged teeth toward the young boy and Kara. Terrified, Kara, holding and protecting Matt with her body, stares at the beast. The distraction gives Robert an opportunity to grab the sword and thrust it into the chest of the dragon, where it stays.

The creature screams as blood pours from the wound. It stumbles, but gives one last attempt to destroy Robert. It misses and falls off the cliff into the deep abyss.

Robert is shaking hard and on his knees, as Kara and the kids run to him. Kara with tears in her eyes holds him, then kisses his face several times.

**KARA (CONT'D)**  
Don't you EVER do that again!

**ROBERT**  
(breathing hard, shaking)  
I'll... try... not to...

The kids hold him tight, crying. Robert begins to settle down as he holds them. He looks at Matt.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**  
That was... very brave.

**MATT**  
I couldn't let him eat you.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**ROBERT**  
Thank you.

He hugs Matt.

**KELLY**  
Daddy!

She hugs him as Kara grabs and looks at Matt,

**KARA**  
And don't *you* ever do that again!

She hugs and kisses him as Henry comes over,

**HENRY**  
Bravery beyond the call... you did good son, very good.  
As did you Matt. Very brave the both of you.

**ROBERT**  
(still shaking)  
Like I had a choice...  
(looks at Matt, smiles)  
Like we had a choice.

Robert grimaces in pain as Kara, by his side, looks him over.

**KARA**  
The wound is open again... and your leg... it doesn't look good.

**HENRY**  
We can't stay here, there may be more of those things,  
and I don't see another sword lying around anywhere.

**KARA**  
He can't move... he's hurt. You both need to rest.

Robert rips off a piece of his shirt and makes a bandage for his leg trying to stop the bleeding.

**ROBERT**  
Henry's right, no choice, we have to go.

He stands, throbbing with pain, as he puts weight on the leg.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**  
Fortunately it's not broken, hurts like hell, but I can live with that.

## THE JOURNEY

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**HENRY**

Let me carry you awhile...

**ROBERT**

How about we carry each other?

**HENRY**

I can do that.

Kara takes the kids by the hand, concern in her eyes for Robert, as Robert and Henry lean against each other. Very slowly they all begin to walk along the ledge. A sliver of brown light appears in front of them. The group stops and looks at it.

**KARA**

I wonder what's on the other side.

**ROBERT**

Only one way to find out...

They look at each other, and then walk towards the light.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 14

#### A PICNIC AREA – DAY

A large area full of beautiful green trees, lawns, volleyball nets with sand, a baseball diamond. The smell of a barbecue fills their senses as zombie people are cooking over the outside barbecues. Zombie children playing, a playground set swings and slides adorn the park. A large stone-brick building with toilet signs sits to one side of the grounds. Several water fountains, of various sizes and shapes, embellish the area. Hammocks are placed between trees, some are occupied by zombie people, and others are empty. The weather is very pleasant as the group surveys the landscape, but the planets remain fixed above them. It is a well maintained park and picnic area.

**ROBERT**

Now we rest. Maybe even get a little sleep if possible.

**HENRY**

I think we can all use the rest. God knows we deserve it.

**KARA**

Do you think God is in this place Henry?

**HENRY**

No. But that doesn't mean I haven't come to believe in Him. What about you Kara, do you believe in God?

**KARA**

Ask me that question two days ago and I would have said no... Now... on this journey... I just don't know.

**ROBERT**

At least it's a start...

**KARA**

With all the hell you've been through, you still believe in God?

**ROBERT**

Yeah... I do.

Kara looks at him when a group of zombie people leave a picnic table. Robert and the others occupy it.

**KARA**

Sit... let me look at those wounds. I need bandages...

She looks around, a first aid kit lies on another table as she and Robert look at it.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

I quit asking... quit trying to figure it out.

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## THE JOURNEY

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She grabs the first aid kit, then cleans and applies bandages to his side and leg wounds.

### KARA (CONT'D)

There, all fixed, for now. You keep opening those wounds... at some point...

### KELLY

I'm hungry.

### MATT

So am I?

### HENRY

This inter-dimensional travel seems to bring out our appetites. I could use something myself.

### ROBERT

Yeah, I think we all could. Kelly you and Matt stay with Henry. Kara, why don't you and I fix us a picnic.

### KARA

I think we need to clean up first, I feel grungy.

(looks at Matt, his dirty face,  
smiles)

And I see a little hero, who just fought a dragon but needs his face washed.

### HENRY

Well there is a toilet house over there. I think we can all use a cleaning.

### ROBERT

Well, let's go get cleaned up.

### SHORT TIME LATER

Kara and Robert begin to fill plates with chicken, beef, and all the trimmings, making several trips from different barbecue pits and other tables. Kara takes some food off the grill as one person seems to be cooking it.

### KARA

Thank you.

Soon their table is full and they begin to eat.

### LATER

Sitting at the table Robert, Kara, and Henry watch the kids play on a swing set. Kara is drinking a juice when she spills some on her; quickly she tries to wipe it off.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### KARA (CONT'D)

Great, just great. Now that's going to leave a stain. And I was just beginning to really like this blouse.

Robert and Henry smile as she amusingly feigns disgust over the spill.

### ROBERT

First this place tries to kill us, then it feeds us... At least we were able to get some rest. You look better Henry. That nap helped a lot.

### HENRY

That's the way of the universe Robert. First the challenges, then the rewards for those worthy enough to pass the test.

### ROBERT

A universal law?

Henry nods. Robert looks at Henry who is in deep thought.

### HENRY

We've been here for several hours, but it's not getting dark. The same amount of light, like time is standing still.

### ROBERT

Why? What's so special about this place?

### HENRY

Good questions. You're beginning to think like a scientist.

### ROBERT

Me? I barely made it out of high school. I think they passed me just to get rid of me.

### KARA

Why are you so hard on yourself?

### ROBERT

Part of my past Kara...

Kara looks at him but says nothing. Henry observes the two of them.

### KARA

I better check on the kids.

She gets up leaving Robert and Henry alone. They watch her approach Matt and Kelly, still having fun on the playground.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**ROBERT**

It feels safe here.

**HENRY**

In this place “safe” is an arbitrary term. But it does feel nice not having to fight off monsters.

Robert nods but notices Henry in deep thought.

**HENRY (CONT'D)**

You will soon be on your own.

**ROBERT**

What do you mean?

**HENRY**

It will be up to you young Robert to get them home safely.

**ROBERT**

We all leave this place together.

**HENRY**

Yes, yes of course. You know I was thinking about that blue room...

**ROBERT**

I wonder what its purpose was.

**HENRY**

I think it was a list.

**ROBERT**

A list?

**HENRY**

A universal list. A list of items that need to be done in a specific order. A list that affects all of us.

**ROBERT**

What makes you think that?

**HENRY**

There's an order to the universe Robert. Sometimes it doesn't make sense to us, but there's always an order and a reason for everything that happens. Noticed how those objects appeared in a specific way?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**ROBERT**

That baby really affected Kara, did you notice that?

**HENRY**

I did.

**ROBERT**

You think it means something?

**HENRY**

Yes, but what I'm not sure. I don't think even Kara knows. Do you remember the date you ended up here?

**ROBERT**

Is it important?

**HENRY**

It could be.

**ROBERT**

I remember going to sleep on the 24th of June. It was a Thursday.

**HENRY**

What about the kids?

**ROBERT**

I'm not sure about them but Kara said she went to bed on a Thursday night, she said her wedding was scheduled for the 26th. I assume it was the 24th.

Kara and the kids return.

**MATT**

Grandpa, you and Dad want to watch me swing?

Robert and Henry look at each other,

**HENRY**

Why not.

Henry begins to move but is weak.

**ROBERT**

Tell you what, why don't I watch you swing. Grandpa is pretty weak. Let's let him rest.

**MATT**

Ok.

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## THE JOURNEY

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Robert follows Matt to the swing set leaving Henry, Kara and Kelly alone.

**KELLY**

Boys.

**HENRY**

Well, they are good for some things...

**KELLY**

Like fighting dragons?

**KARA**

Yeah, like fighting dragons. You called me Mother...

**KELLY**

That's because you are. You're just like my Mom before... I don't want to go back to the Henderson's, Matt and I want to stay with you and Dad. And Grandpa to.

Henry and Kara smile as she looks at Robert.

**HENRY**

Tell me about the Henderson's, are they good to you?

**KELLY**

They're mean. All they care about is the money that the government gives them for taking care of us. And they lie to Mrs. Murdock.

**KARA**

Mrs. Murdock?

**KELLY**

She's the social worker that helps us. She's nice. Most social workers don't care, but she does. She comes and checks on us all the time, but Mr. Henderson, never lets us say anything. If we do, they punish us, bad. They're real good at lying. Mrs. Murdock thinks that they're great people. But she's wrong.

Kara considers.

**KARA**

If we get out of this, you and Matt will live with me.

**KELLY**

And Dad?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**  
(looks at Robert, smiles)  
Yeah, and Dad.

Kelly happy.

**KELLY**  
So where do you live?

Kara looks around and sees a pen and paper on another table; she retrieves it, slightly shaking her head. She writes and draws something down and gives the paper to Kelly,

**KARA**  
This is where I live.

**KELLY**  
It's a map...

**KARA**  
Yeah, so you can always find me. Where do the Henderson's live?

**KELLY**  
South Los Angeles. Where's Bel-Air?

**KARA**  
Near the Santa Monica Mountains.

**KELLY**  
Oh.  
(puts the map in her pocket,  
looks at Robert and Matt at the  
swings)  
Can I go play?

**KARA**  
Sure.

Kelly takes off to Robert and Matt. Kara and Henry watch.

**HENRY**  
You like him don't you?

**KARA**  
Who?

Henry gives her a look.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA (CONT'D)**

That obvious?

**HENRY**

To an old man, Robert has yet to see it.

**KARA**

Strange...

**HENRY**

How so?

**KARA**

I don't know.

**HENRY**

You don't know or you don't want to admit your feelings.

**KARA**

I'm confused I guess. I have this life... had this life... Now... Everything seems so... I don't know. What's wrong with me Henry?

**HENRY**

Nothing. But you are experiencing something you have never experienced before.

**KARA**

What?

**HENRY**

Maturity. You're growing up Kara.

Kara thinks and ponders a moment. She looks at him.

**HENRY (CONT'D)**

You may be old in years and body, but not in mind. You still feel like a child in many ways. Or am I wrong?

Kara slightly nods her head, and smiles.

**HENRY (CONT'D)**

You're not alone with those feelings Kara, we all have them. Sometimes we grow out of them, sometimes we don't. In my youth I was very arrogant. Actually I was so immature I became arrogant. I convinced myself, and eventually believed, that I was smarter than anyone else. It's why I became a scientist, to show the world I was right and everyone else was wrong.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

I find that hard to believe.

**HENRY**

Believe it. It was that attitude, that arrogant belief, that self-importance which made me lose my wife and my daughter. I was so full of myself... I couldn't see it. Any of it.

Then years after I lost Rosemary and Barbara I visit the doctor for a pain I was having. Cancer he tells me.

Of course I didn't believe it. I couldn't get cancer. Not me, not Henry Galloway, the great scientist. Cancer was not an option for me.

Yet... Here I was. The first time I realized how human I was, I was on the operating table with a surgeon standing over me, ready to operate. It was then I realized I was in some very serious trouble.

I woke up a few hours later; only to find out they didn't get all the cancer. I was still infected. Chemo and three operations later my doctor tells me... terminal.

All my past sins came flooding back. Rosemary, Barbara, Robert, all of it. And now here I am, an old man dying... when I just found a reason to live.

Kara looks at Robert and the kids playing.

**KARA**

Are they my reason for living Henry?

**HENRY**

I'm afraid only you can answer that question. Abraham Lincoln had a quote that I learned the real meaning of much too late in life. He said: "In the end it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

You have your entire life ahead of you Kara. I know being here, in this place it may not seem like it, but you do. This... journey will not last forever, this universe will change. The question is will you change when the time comes.

**KARA**

I've been so mean to so many people, I don't know if I can change.

**HENRY**

You can, if you decide to. I did. My arrogance treated me very well financially, but not where it really mattered,

(MORE)

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## THE JOURNEY

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### HENRY (CONT'D)

with my family. The people whom I should have loved better... but didn't.

Change can happen Kara, and it can happen significantly, if you want it to. You and only you can decide to change your life.

It matters not what happened before, only what happens now.

Speaking of change, you see that man out there playing with those children? He has the ability to change the universe, any universe. He just doesn't know it. He needs guidance, your guidance.

### KARA

How do I do that Henry? How do I guide him?

### HENRY

I don't know. But you will figure it out. If you want to figure it out.

Kara has a confused look on her face.

### HENRY (CONT'D)

You look skeptical?

### KARA

I am. You speak of change like it is so easy. For me it's not.

### HENRY

Are you sure? Or are you assuming you can't change?

### KARA

Yes, to both.

### HENRY

Kara, assumptions are a necessity in science. A scientist assumes a specific result will happen if explicit conditions are applied.

Then by controlled experimentation those assumptions are put to the test, where they either pass or fail. This way we discover what works, and what doesn't.

In life we, as individuals, often deal with assumptions, but unlike a science experiment we often have trouble separating a true assumption from a false one.

(MORE)

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## THE JOURNEY

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### HENRY (CONT'D)

When our assumptions are true they help us deal with the daily elements of life. Example, stopping at a red light. When it turns green we assume the cross traffic will stop on their red light. But what if a car runs that red light and collides with us, what then?

When I was young I ran the red lights of my life constantly, even to the point of destroying and ruining others. I paid a price for that violation. A heavy price.

Most people assume the worse in any situation thus they become afraid and let fear control their actions, control their existence. Hence they lose much of their life.

### KARA

You never let fear hold you back?

### HENRY

No. It was always my way no matter what. Many times that attitude served me well... but other times... Not so much.

You have your own red lights, your own fears, and you use your father's money to hide behind them. You are afraid of being true to yourself, afraid that others will think you weak. But you're not weak, you are extremely strong, you just don't know it yet.

### KARA

How is it you think you know me so well?

### HENRY

Because I see me in you. And this journey has opened my eyes in ways I never considered before. Tell me Kara what do you see when you look at Robert, first impression, don't think, just say.

Kara looks at Robert.

### KARA

Homeless. Someone beneath my station in life.

### HENRY

That's what most people see. Now that you know him, what kind of man he is, what do you *think* of him?

### KARA

I think of him as a man who is kind and gentle. A man who was mistreated by the legal system. A man who deserves more. A man who is brave, a man who fights dragons, a man who cares and protects.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**HENRY**

And that's exactly who Robert is. When I followed his case I discovered he was to be awarded the Silver Star for actions above the call of duty.

Kara surprised.

**HENRY (CONT'D)**

But the Army took that away. Just like the legal system took away his life.

**KARA**

He lost himself.

**HENRY**

Yes. But you helped him find it again. You're his foundation, the rock he depends upon. You are the precise element he needs in his life.

He's in love with you but he has yet to discover that aspect of his existence. And I think you may be falling in love with him.

**KARA**

You assume.

**HENRY**

I observe.

Robert and the kids return, Henry begins to cough. Kara looks at him.

**KARA**

Are you sure there's nothing the doctors can do?

**HENRY**

Positive. Just a matter of time. Time. So many regrets, so many sorrows.

(looks at Robert)

I need to go to the bathroom, if you will excuse me.

**ROBERT**

Need some help?

**HENRY**

There are some things I can do by myself.

Henry gets up and heads for the toilet house. Robert watches him go inside. Robert and Kara sit at the table as the kids head for the playground again. They watch as Kelly and Matt play on the monkey bars.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

They think of us as their parents.

**ROBERT**

I know. But... how can I support them? I can't even support myself.

**KARA**

What about me? I can do something.

**ROBERT**

Last time I looked you were engaged to be married.

Kara silent, thinking.

**KARA**

What if that changes?

**ROBERT**

I have a past Kara, a horrible past. I can't ask you to share that.

**KARA**

What if I want to share that past? To be with you. To stay with you.

**ROBERT**

You're a woman from a well-to-do family; you've developed a standard of living for yourself. You're accustomed to all the things money can buy. I have nothing to offer. Nothing except a hard and miserable life. I can't take care of the kids, but you can. You have the means to do it. You will take care of them won't you?

**KARA**

We both will.

**ROBERT**

Really? What about your parents?

**KARA**

They'll accept you.

**ROBERT**

Will they? I don't know them but I know the type... they'll never accept me. They'll disown you, make your life miserable. Do I have the right to come between you and them? Henry made that mistake, and look what happened... No. I won't make that mistake.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

Both of them look at the kids playing and having a good time.

**KARA**

You love them don't you?

**ROBERT**

So do you.

**KARA**

Yeah, I do. I want them. I really want them.

(slight laugh)

Imagine me... wanting children. I don't deserve them.

**ROBERT**

I think you do. I think you would make a wonderful mother. I know you would.

**KARA**

Would I? You don't know me, I have a temper, everything has to be my way, always has been. The spoiled little rich girl. But I'm nothing more than a rich bitch. Heavy on the bitch.

We have a maid, a woman named Maria... I was so mean with her, so cruel. I wonder if I will ever have the opportunity to tell her how sorry I am, tell her how much she means to me. How special she is... how much I love her.

And Sarah... I treated her worse than Maria. Will I ever be able to tell her how wrong I was? How lucky she is? She loves Jason, I realize that now. They've been married for so many years and all I've done is make her life miserable. I've been so mean, so cruel to so many people; can I ever make it right?

**ROBERT**

You can and you will. Just like you'll have the opportunity to take care of the kids.

**KARA**

Without you?

**ROBERT**

Without me. Besides you have a future with Garak. A good future. With me you will have...

**KARA**

Have what?

**ROBERT**

Misery. Only misery.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

A strange light and noise comes from the toilet house.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Henry!

Robert moving as Kara grabs the kids and follows him inside

THE TOILET HOUSE

Henry stands looking at the black swirling vortex in front of him. Robert approaches but is PREVENTED from reaching him by some sort of energy barrier. A strange noise emanates from the swirling cloud.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Henry!

Henry looks at them,

**HENRY**

The universe can be moved Robert, it can always be moved. You must learn how to move it, and you will. But I must go, it is my time.

**ROBERT**

Go where Henry?

**HENRY**

Wherever the universe takes me, wherever it sends me. But it's strange, I'm not afraid. In fact I feel peace. Perhaps this is the way the universe wants it to be.

(sad eyes)

I love you son, I love all of you. My biggest regret is that I may never see you again. Any of you. Become a family Robert. Love and cherish them, always.

Henry looks at the swirling abyss, then walks into it.

**ROBERT**

HENRY DON'T!

**KARA**

HENRY!

The vortex disappears leaving them shocked and alone in the toilet house, a room filled with only silence.

A PICNIC AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Robert, Kara and the kids sit at the picnic table. All are sad and shocked.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Why? Why did he do it?

**ROBERT**

I don't know, but he knew. He knew he had to leave. I don't know how, or why, but he did.

**KELLY**

Where did he go?

**ROBERT**

I don't know Kelly, I don't know.

**KARA**

So what do we do now?

**ROBERT**

We continue on.

**MATT**

Without Grandpa?

**ROBERT**

Without Grandpa.

A sliver of pink light appears, they all see it.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Time to go.

Kara takes Robert's hand, looks in his eyes.

**KARA**

Will this nightmare ever end?

**ROBERT**

I don't know... I just don't know. All I know is every time we feel safe something happens to drive us into the next room. Henry was right; we're being controlled, manipulated.

**KARA**

By who?

**ROBERT**

That's the universal question isn't it?

Kara nods, then, with Matt and Kelly, hand-in-hand they walk towards, and enter the light.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

### CHAPTER 15

#### A CARNIVAL – DAY

The carnival is not huge, but a standard movable environment, filled with rides and tents. Posters indicate, and point in the direction, of the various shows and rides available. Some zombie people walk the midway as Robert, Kara, and the kids look around them, with the planets above.

**KARA**

A carnival! Are you kidding me?

**MATT**

Remember Kelly... Mom and Dad said they were going to take us to the carnival...

**KELLY**

(remembering)

I remember... It was the day they died...

(turns sad, tearing)

Matt begins to cry.

**MATT**

They promised us a good time... Kelly... They never came back... They left us alone...

**KELLY**

(crying)

I miss them so much... Why did they leave us?

Kara holds Matt as Robert picks up Kelly to comfort her. Kara and Robert look at each other.

**KARA**

Why here?

**ROBERT**

I don't know... but it is cruel.

**KARA**

(mad)

Cruel? Putting these kids through hell? That's not cruel Robert, that's barbaric!

**ROBERT**

No argument.

Kara and Robert console the kids as they continue to cry.

---

## THE JOURNEY

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CARNIVAL – LATER

The group, holding hands, walk the midway. Amusement attractions on each side of them fill their view. Zombie people appear to be playing some the games, but no laughter, no sounds, only silence. Tents with various attractions spot the area as Robert reads the posters.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

The two-headed lady, juggling acts, magic, all the attractions of a standard carnival, without the circus. All we need now are the Killer Clowns from Outer Space.

**KARA**

Don't even jest about that Robert Burnett! Now you got me creeped out.

**ROBERT**

Sorry. The thought just entered my mind. And this place is creepy enough as it is. No carnivals, amusement parks maybe, but no carnivals. Shame that the Universe gives such a negative connotation to such a great concept.

Kara, Matt, and Kelly all look at him.

**MATT**

Did you ever go to the carnival Dad?

Robert looks at him and considers.

**ROBERT**

Once or twice, mostly when I was a teenager. But I always got in trouble and got kicked out. I always got caught. No matter how careful I was, I always got caught.

**KARA**

But prison changed you.

**KELLY**

(surprised)

You were in prison?

**MATT**

You went to jail?

**ROBERT**

Yeah, not my finest moment.

Matt and Kelly stare at him.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

### ROBERT (CONT'D)

When we get out of this mess I'll tell you about it.

They come to a stop as Matt and Kelly look at Kara, questions in their eyes.

### KARA

(looking at the kids)

Your father did some things that got him in trouble. And he paid for the mistake. Which means... Little boys should stay out of trouble.

### ROBERT

And always tell the truth. It's the lies which get you in trouble. It's always the lies.

Kara looks at Robert, then the kids, their confusion.

### KARA

Your father is not the child he was. He is now a man and has taken responsibility for his actions. He made a mistake, a serious mistake, but that is now in the past. Who he is now is the man that loves you, will protect you, fight dragons for you, and will give his life to save you. He is someone you can depend on, a powerful force which can move the universe. And he needs us as much as we need him.

Matt and Kelly look at Kara, who is looking at Robert. The twins look at each other, then at Robert. They move and hug him as he bends down and holds them tight, as Kara looks on and smiles.

CARNIVAL – SHORT TIME LATER

They sit at table eating hotdogs and drinking sodas.

### ROBERT

Henry was right; this inter-dimensional travel brings out our appetites. You kids want anything else?

(Matt and Kelly shake their head, looks at Kara)

You?

### KARA

No I'm full, thank you. What is this place? Why here? What does it want from us?

Robert says nothing, just shakes his head. He looks around, then sees it.

### ROBERT

Everybody finished?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

They nod their heads.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Let's go.

**KARA**

Where?

Robert gets up and throws the trash away.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

You really think the Universe is going to care about throwing the trash away?

**ROBERT**

Habit. Come on.

Robert leads them to a carnival machine. He looks at the inscription: THE INCREDIBLE MYSTERIO. The others gather around it. Inside the glass is the head and shoulders of a magician, but the image of the figure is that of Henry. They all gasp a little.

**MATT**

That's Grandpa!

**ROBERT**

(looking the figure over)

Maybe. Maybe not.

Robert circles the machine, no electricity or other connections are visible. A coin slot on the front of the unit seems to beg for a coin.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

I need a coin. Looks like twenty-five cents.

Kara thinks.

**KARA**

Wait here.

She departs for another booth as Robert, Matt, and Kelly look confused. Kara approaches one of the amusement booths. On the counter she sees several coins of the twenty-five cent denomination.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

(amazed, to herself)

Don't think about it Kara, just accept it.

She grabs the coins and returns to the group and gives them to Robert, who looks surprised.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**ROBERT**

How did you know?

**KARA**

It's the damn universe. Don't ask me, it just is.

**KELLY**

Mother! Language.

**KARA**

Sorry... My bad.

Robert shakes his head then takes a coin and puts it into the slot. The machine comes alive, but it is not the voice of Henry, a different voice.

**MYSTERIO**

I am the Incredible Mysterio. Ask and I shall answer.  
Speak and be amazed at my wisdom. Believe and ye shall  
learn.

Robert hesitates a moment looking at the image of Henry.

**ROBERT**

Where is Henry Galloway?

**MYSTERIO**

(mechanical movement)

That who ye seek is no longer.

**ROBERT**

Is he dead?

**MYSTERIO**

Death is but a doorway to the next dimension, a dimension of life or everlasting death, a dimension beyond.

Robert considers.

**ROBERT**

Where are we?

**MYSTERIO**

Where you have always been.

**ROBERT**

Explain.

The machine begins to wind down, but before it quits Robert inserts another quarter and the machine comes back to life.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

### MYSTERIO

The mind is vast, infinite in the ways of the creation.

### ROBERT

More explanation please.

### MYSTERIO

The mind, the thoughts of the mind can carry you far. To open the mind one must see beyond, beyond the limitations of the sight. Beyond sight.

### KARA

That makes no sense.

### ROBERT

On the contrary, it makes a lot of sense.

Kara questions but remains silent. Robert studies the face of Henry but the machine makes no movement, then it begins to wind down again. Quickly Robert puts another coin in the slot and it comes back to life.

### ROBERT (CONT'D)

What is the universe, this universe?

### MYSTERIO

It is you. All of you. You, the family. You, the concept of one. The universe of one. You, the power of one, the power of all.

### ROBERT

How do I move the universe?

### MYSTERIO

Together.

Robert thinks, looks at the others, their fear, their astonishment.

### ROBERT

How do we get out of here?

### MYSTERIO

As one.

The machine begins to wind down as Robert puts in another quarter but machine continues to wind down. He puts in another coin, still nothing. Then it stops completely. Robert adds one last coin, but to no avail.

### ROBERT

That's it, no more Mysterio.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

(sarcastic)

That was helpful.

**ROBERT**

It was, more than you know.

Kara surprised.

**KARA**

You actually understood that?

Robert nods.

**KELLY**

What does it mean?

Robert stays silent.

**KARA**

(sternly)

She asked you a question Robert, answer her.

**ROBERT**

(looks at the others)

It means we are going to get out of here. But I don't know when or where. I just know we are going to escape this place. We're going home.

He looks at Kara and she smiles.

**KARA**

Ok, so now what?

**ROBERT**

(looking around)

I don't know. No doorways, no light, I really don't know. But for now, we walk.

They all take hands and begin to walk the carnival again.

**KARA**

Think we should take in a show?

**ROBERT**

(considering)

No. I don't want to get trapped inside. This place isn't very big, and whatever is supposed to happen hasn't happened yet.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

He looks at Kara and kids, then shrugs his shoulders.

**KARA**

That's a lovely thought. Waiting for danger to approach... just to get out of here.

**ROBERT**

I don't set the rules Kara.

**KARA**

I never said you did. But it is frustrating.

**ROBERT**

(in pain)

That's going to leave some scars.

Kara really concerned.

**KARA**

You have got to go to a doctor.

**ROBERT**

(pain)

Pain meds are wearing off... and yes I need a doctor, but...

**KARA**

Are you bleeding?

**ROBERT**

No, just pain.

**KELLY**

(concerned)

Daddy, are you going to be alright?

Robert looks at her and Matt.

**ROBERT**

I'll be fine. Your mother will take care of me.

Robert smiles at Kara who blushes a little.

**KARA**

Fine, but as soon as we get home you are going to the doctor.

(Robert looks perplexed)

And I'm paying for it. No argument.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

Matt and Kelly look at each other.

**MATT**  
Grownups...

Kelly nods her head as Kara and Robert give a small laugh.

CARNIVAL – LATER

**KARA**  
(frustrated)  
We must have walked around this place three times, if not more. And you Robert, how do you handle the pain?

**ROBERT**  
I don't know. Why don't we sit and rest for a while.

Kara nods and looks for a place to sit when a sound captures their attention and they look around. Approaching them are six clowns, each with an evil intent upon their face, with a slow but steady movement.

**KARA**  
(scared, to Robert)  
You had to mention killer clowns!

**ROBERT**  
Run!

**KARA**  
Where!?

Robert looks desperately, then sees three more clowns approaching.

**ROBERT**  
Oh hell!

Many more clowns begin to surround them, as the family groups together, when Kara sees the gray light.

**KARA**  
Robert, the light! The door!

Robert takes the kids hands and moves towards the light, as the killer clowns, many more in number now, threaten them, cutting off their route to the light. Robert turns to, and pushes the kids to Kara.

**ROBERT**  
Take the kids and go! I'll make a path, head for the light,  
I'll be right behind you!

## THE JOURNEY

---

### KARA

Like hell! No way are we leaving you!

Kelly grabs Robert by the hand, as the clowns surround them. One clown begins to attack but Robert pushes him back, which opens a small space between some clowns. Taking the advantage and pushing more clowns out of the way, Robert leads the family into the light.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

### CHAPTER 16

#### A BLACK BEACH – DAY

A deep blue ocean stretches out as far as the eye can see. A deep blue sky highlights the planets above them. The black beach is pristine and without blemish, a paradise of beauty.

#### **KARA (CONT'D)**

(heavy breathing, looking  
around relieved, to Robert)

Really?! Killer clowns... We have got to work on your  
imagination.

#### **MATT**

Are we safe?

#### **ROBERT**

(looks around)  
For the moment.

No one is in sight, they are all alone. There are no buildings, but palm trees sway in a gentle breeze. They all look at the environment as Robert looks at the planets.

#### **ROBERT (CONT'D)**

At least some things are consistent.

#### **KARA**

Reminds me of Hawaii. Now what?

#### **KELLY**

Maybe we can find some sea shells.

#### **MATT**

Yeah.

#### **ROBERT**

Don't go far. Stay where I can see you.

The kids move off looking for shells and things of interest.

#### **KARA**

They seem to adapt quickly. Is it my imagination or am I  
beginning to sense a reason for all this?

#### **ROBERT**

A reason?

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## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

Yeah, a reason. This is a great place for a honeymoon. In fact Garak and I considered going to the black sand beach of Hawaii for our honeymoon, before we settled on Spain.

(considering)

Somehow having a honeymoon with him doesn't feel right anymore.

**ROBERT**

Why?

**KARA**

Just a feeling. I can't prove it, but I think he's cheating on me with his secretary, Stephanie.

**ROBERT**

What does she have that you don't?

**KARA**

A bigger chest. Much bigger.

**ROBERT**

Nothing wrong with your chest.

Kara smiles at him.

**KARA**

Thanks.

**ROBERT**

So why is he marrying you?

Kara silent.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Your money? Sounds pretty sleazy to me.

They watch the kids play with the black sand, then Matt approaches,

**MATT**

Can we go into the water?

**ROBERT**

No. We don't know what's there, so you and Kelly stay away from the water's edge.

**KARA**

You think it's dangerous?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**ROBERT**

Why take chances. Until we know more, we all stay out of, and away from the water.

**KARA**

So what do we do?

**ROBERT**

We walk.

**KARA**

Which way?

Robert looks up and down the beach and then chooses a direction.

**ROBERT**

This way is just as good as any other. Matt, Kelly, time to go.

They all take hands and begin to walk along the beach.

THE BLACK BEACH – LATER

Walking, still holding hands, Robert in some pain, Kara concerned.

**KARA**

This beach seems to go forever.

**ROBERT**

That it does.

**KARA**

I can't get over just how beautiful some of the places we visited were.

**ROBERT**

Visited?

**KARA**

Poor choice of words. Still it's so picturesque here. So peaceful. The ocean, the sky, so blue, so beautiful. I'm beginning to think that the color blue is the universe's favorite color.

I don't know... being with you and the kids... I feel... alive. Like this is the way life is meant to be.

**ROBERT**

Kara...

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

I told you I have a temper. I also have a determination when I put my mind to it, and I've decided I'm going to marry you Robert Burnett.

**ROBERT**

(bewildered)

Kara... There... there are so many problems...

**KARA**

And fighting strange creatures, terrorist, dragons, and killer clowns isn't considered a problem?

**ROBERT**

When you put it that way...

**KELLY**

What about us?

**KARA**

And you two, we will adopt.

Kelly and Matt smile at each other,

**MATT**

Yeah.

**KELLY**

We're family.

**KARA**

Yeah, we're a family.

They approach a large rock outcropping blocking their path which stretches into the ocean and up against a cliff.

**ROBERT**

I guess we have to climb over. We need to be careful, these rocks can be slippery.

They approach the rocks when they move; the outcropping becomes alive and begins to form into a massive creature made of rocks. Robert and Kara hold the kids tight and back up as the rock creature grows.

**MATT**

(very scared)

Daddy...

**ROBERT**

Back, everyone move back.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

They back away from the creature, still watching it as it grows.

**KARA**

What the hell is that thing?

Robert doesn't take his eyes off the creature,

**ROBERT**

I don't think a sword is going to help this time...

**KARA**

Robert...

They continue to step back away from the creature when it stops growing. They watch the rock creature but it no longer moves. Kara, holding tight to Robert while Robert grips the kids tight. Silence fills the air but no movement comes from the creature.

**KELLY**

Mommy...

Kara picks up Kelly as Kelly holds tight to Kara.

**KELLY (CONT'D)**

Mommy I love you...

The creature quivers very slightly. Robert notices the slight movement.

**ROBERT**

Did you see that?

**KARA**

See what?

Robert thinks.

**ROBERT**

Kara, what was it that Henry said, that the universe can always be moved...

**KARA**

Something like that...

**ROBERT**

Kara, I think this is the universe Henry was talking about.

**KARA**

What!?! How can it be? You think this thing is responsible for everything that has happened to us?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**ROBERT**

Yes.

Kara bewildered,

**KARA**

How? I mean... the universe? It's a rock!

**ROBERT**

Not the stars and galaxies we think of as the universe, but rather a power, a force, an entity that may be as old as the universe itself. And this creature is a manifestation of that power; something we can comprehend.

**MATT**

Can we kill it?

**ROBERT**

No, it's too strong, too powerful...

**KARA**

What makes you think this is the universe that Henry was talking about?

**ROBERT**

Just a hunch, something about it... Kelly moved it a moment ago.

**KELLY**

I did?

**ROBERT**

Yes.

He turns to Kara, takes and puts Kelly on the ground. He looks in Kara's eyes.

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

Do you love me?

**KARA**

Yes.

**ROBERT**

Will you marry me?

**KARA**

Robert, your timing is not the greatest...

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**ROBERT**

My timing is perfect, will you marry me?

**KARA**

Yes. I told you I was...

**ROBERT**

I've fallen in love you Kara Wilson, and I love these kids... I am so much in love with you... are you in love with me?

**KARA**

(softly)

Yes.

He turns to the creature, defiant,

**ROBERT**

You hear that MR. UNIVERSE! We're a family!

**KARA**

Robert...

**ROBERT**

It's something Henry said, remember? He said that there are many forces that can move the universe...

**KARA**

Courage, honesty, relationships...

**ROBERT**

And love, true love. The most powerful force in the universe, any universe, including this one. We can't kill it, but we sure as hell can move it!

He grabs Kara and kisses her a passionate kiss which she returns. The entity begins to shake, slowly at first then harder. They continue the kiss ignoring the entity. The entity changes shape like it is in pain. It moves in unexpected ways, but never attacks. The kids hold onto Kara and Robert as they kiss. Suddenly she breaks the kiss as Kelly yells,

**KELLY**

Mommy!

**MATT**

Dad! Mom!

**KARA**

Robert! What's Happening?!

## THE JOURNEY

---

Strange lights, swirling motions of light, she begins to dissolve...

Robert looks around, thinking, then inspired, he looks at Kara as she begins to disappear. He points at her and yells,

**ROBERT**

I'll find you! Stay and I'll find you!

---

## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 17

#### THE WILSON HOME - KARA'S BEDROOM – MORNING

Kara lies in her bed and wakes suddenly to the familiar surroundings of her bedroom. She's in her pajamas. She rapidly gets out of bed, not sure where she is going or what she is doing. She is very confused.

**KARA**

(to herself, nervous)

Was it dream? A nightmare? What happened? Did it happen? Robert? Matt? Kelly? Are they real?

She wonders her bedroom when she sees them lying on a chair, the clothes she was wearing; shoes, Levi's and shirt, folded, clean and neat. She holds them, looks at them.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

(to herself, still nervous)

Can it be... I wonder...

She unfolds the blouse; the stain is there, where she spilled the juice. She looks at it and then breaks into a huge smile.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

(to herself)

I was there... Robert, Matt, Kelly... they do exist. My family is real!

Elated, she rapidly begins to put the clothes on.

#### THE WILSON HOME - DOWNSTAIRS - MOMENTS LATER

Kara comes down the stairs and looks around. MARIA is cleaning, and without thinking, runs to her and hugs her. The movement takes Maria by surprise.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

I am so sorry, Maria, so sorry. Please forgive me.

**MARIA**

Forgive you Miss Kara?

**KARA**

I was so cruel with you, and you mean so much to me. I love you, can you ever forgive me?

Maria really surprised.

**MARIA**

Yes ma'am. Are you alright?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

I'm fine... it is so good to be home. Robert... I have to find Robert!

**MARIA**

Robert, Miss Kara?

Kara begins to move then stops.

**KARA**

(to herself, nervous, addresses Maria)

No! I have to stay here, he'll find me. He said he would find me. He'll find me...

Maria looks at her,

**MARIA**

Are you sure you're alright Miss Kara?

**KARA**

I have to stay here; I have to wait for Robert... the day! What day is it?!

**MARIA**

It's Friday, tomorrow's the big day...

**KARA**

Friday! Tomorrow?

**MARIA**

Your wedding.

**KARA**

Oh that... Change of plans.

She gives the bewildered Maria a kiss on the cheek and goes to the

THE WILSON HOME – KITCHEN

JANET WILSON is supervising the breakfast as cooks and other domestic help go about their chores. Kara comes in, sees her mother.

**JANET**

Morning sleepy head, tomorrow's the big day... What in the world are you wearing... Kara...

**KARA**

Mama! Oh Mama it is so good to see you!

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

Hugs her, taking Janet by surprise.

**JANET**

Kara? Are you alright?

**KARA**

I'm fine.

(continues to hug her)

It is just so good to see you.

**JANET**

Let me guess, pre-wedding day jitters.

**KARA**

Wedding day? Oh no. I don't give a damn about that...

I'm just glad to see you. I love you... I never told you that, but I do, I love you Mother...

The comment takes Janet by surprise.

**JANET**

Kara, are you sure you're alright?

**KARA**

I'm fine Mother. Where's Dad?

Two more people walk into the kitchen, JASON and SARAH WILSON. Sarah sees Kara, becomes agitated and begins to leave.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Sarah!

**SARAH**

(mad)

What? What the hell do you want now?

**KARA**

What do I want?

**SARAH**

After that little stunt you pulled last night...

**JASON**

Sarah, please, I'm sure Kara...

Kara jumps and hugs Jason taking him by surprise, taking all by surprise.

**KARA**

Oh Jason, I am so glad to see you!

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

Jason puts his arms in a light hug around Kara as he gives a bewildered look at Sarah, she returns the look.

**JASON**

I'm... glad to see you too Sis.

Kara backs away and approaches Sarah.

**KARA**

Oh Sarah, I am so sorry. I am so sorry for everything I ever said and did to you. Can you forgive me? Please forgive me...

Everyone in shock, especially Sarah.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

(tearing)

I was so wrong about you. So very wrong. Jason married a very good woman, I know that now. You are such a great wife for him... I hope I can be just as great a wife as you are.

Janet, in shock, looks at her daughter, then she looks at her son who looks at Sarah who is in deep shock.

**JANET**

It has to be wedding day jitters.

Kara's father MARVIN WILSON enters the kitchen; Kara runs to him and hugs him.

**KARA**

Daddy! Oh it's so good to see you...

More shock.

**MARVIN**

Kara are you alright?

**JANET**

Wedding day jitters.

**KARA**

It's not wedding day jitters Mother.

Maria enters the kitchen accompanied by a man about 34 years old, GARAK KAPLAN. Garak smiles as he sees Kara.

**GARAK**

Good morning love...

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

(distasteful)

What the hell are you doing here?

Garak shocked, along with everyone else.

**GARAK**

I was invited... for breakfast...

**KARA**

Oh.

**JANET**

Wedding day jitters.

**GARAK**

Tomorrow is the big day...

**KARA**

(coldly)

I'm not going to marry you; in fact the wedding is off.

Kara takes the ring off and gives it to Garak.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Go marry your secretary Stephanie; she's crazy about you... besides... she has a bigger chest.

Kara leaves the kitchen as everyone looks at each other, and all are dominated with shock and awe.

---

## THE JOURNEY

### CHAPTER 18

#### THE WILSON HOME - LIVING ROOM

Kara stands by and is looking out the massive windows towards the driveway. She waits. The others join her, watching her.

#### **KARA (CONT'D)**

(softly to herself, nervous)

He'll find me... he said he would find me... please find me.

#### **JANET**

Kara? What is going on? Why are you calling off the wedding?

#### **KARA**

Because I don't love him Mother. And I know he doesn't love me, he just wants access to our money.

Garak in disbelief as he looks at her.

#### **MARVIN**

I don't believe that! What has gotten into you young lady?

#### **KARA**

Robert and I moved the universe Dad; it's no more complicated than that.

#### **GARAK**

(angry)

Robert! Who the hell is Robert?

#### **KARA**

The man I intend to marry.

Everyone looks at each other.

#### **JANET**

When did this happen?

#### **GARAK**

How long have you known this "Robert"? Did you sleep with this bastard?!

#### **KARA**

Not yet. I will, but after we get married.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**JANET**

Kara!

**KARA**

Yes Mother?

**MARVIN**

Who is this Robert? When did you meet him?

**KARA**

Last night.

**JASON**

Kara you went to bed last night and I know for a fact that you never left the house.

**KARA**

But I did. And I came back after we moved the universe.

**JANET**

Moved the universe? It was dream; it had to be a dream.

**GARAK**

More like a nightmare.

**KARA**

I have to wait for Robert, he'll find me.

**JANET**

Honey, this Robert character is only in your imagination, a dream.

**SARAH**

She may be having a breakdown...

**MARVIN**

Kara having a breakdown? I find that hard to believe.

**JANET**

Sarah could be right Marv, perhaps the stress of the wedding... Maybe it's best if we postpone...

Kara oblivious to the conversation, still watching the driveway.

**KARA**

(softly)

Find me, please find me.

The others look at each other,

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**MARVIN**

Maybe you're right Janet. I think we should call a doctor.

An old car comes into the drive. Some smoke is coming out of it.

**KARA**

Yes!

She runs out to the

THE WILSON HOME – DRIVEWAY

Robert gets out of the vehicle and runs to her; they embrace with a passionate kiss.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

(holding his face)

I knew you would find me... I just knew it. You still have your haircut...

**ROBERT**

Sorry I'm so late, it doesn't want to run sometimes, and it's so slow...

**KARA**

When you move the universe, everything else is academic...

**ROBERT**

We moved the universe...

**KARA**

(excited)

We moved the universe...

**ROBERT/KARA**

WE MOVED THE UNIVERSE!

He picks her up and twirls her. They kiss and hug. The others bewildered. Marvin comes up to the couple, bewildered.

**MARVIN**

Who the hell are you?

**KARA**

Dad, this is Robert, soon to be your new son-in-law.

**MARVIN**

Like hell you will be! Get your hands off my daughter!  
NOW!

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

Oh Daddy, be quiet.

Kara and Robert kiss again.

**MARVIN**

Kara!

**KARA**

When you move the universe...

Marvin flummoxed as Janet approaches.

**JANET**

Kara?

**KARA**

Mama, this is Robert Burnett. Get used to having him around.

**MARVIN**

Like hell he will be!

Kara and Robert look at each other and smile.

**ROBERT**

Told you.

**KARA**

Yeah. I guess we're going to have to work on that. So now what?

**ROBERT**

We have to do this right. It's important we do this right. The blue room, remember the blue room? It was a list, a list that affects us. Henry said there was an order to the list. We have to follow that dictum. So the first thing is...

**KARA**

The ring! We have to find the ring first! The blue room, that blue room is our life, our future...

**ROBERT**

Yes! So we might as well get started.

She looks at his car.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

We'll take mine, let me get my keys.  
(leaves, stops, turns)  
Where do we start?

**ROBERT**

Downtown.

Kara quickly leaves. The others look at Robert, Garak approaches him.

**GARAK**

Who the hell are you? Where did you meet Kara? When did you meet Kara?

**ROBERT**

You must be Garak.

**GARAK**

I am. And I'm waiting for an answer!

Robert smiles and remains silent as Kara returns with her purse and car keys.

**KARA**

This way...

**JANET**

Where are you going? Kara!

**KARA**

To find my wedding ring Mother. Don't just stand there Army, move your ass!

Suddenly she stops.

**KARA**

My God!

She turns around and lifts Roberts' shirt in a frenzy fashion. The knife wound is there, but healed, a scar clearly visible.

**ROBERT**

It was healed. I don't know how...

**KARA**

Your leg?

**ROBERT**

The same. Just a mystery of the universe I guess.

## THE JOURNEY

---

Kara smiles. The others looking on in astonishment as she and Robert continue to the garage. The group looks at each other lost in bewilderment. Kara drives her car, with Robert in the passenger seat, out of the driveway and it disappears down the street.

**MARVIN**

(watching them disappear)

I think we need to find out who this son of a bitch is!

**GARAK**

And where the hell he came from!

Marvin and Garak head for Robert's car and begin to search it.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

### CHAPTER 19

#### THE STREETS OF THE CITY – LATER

Kara and Robert sitting in the parked car, frustrated.

**KARA**

We have been to five jewelry shops and they all looked at us as if we're crazy. All we want is a ring.

**ROBERT**

Maybe we are to them. But we moved the universe.

**KARA**

We moved the universe...

(they quick kiss again)

Still... if you were a wedding ring of the universe, where would you hide?

Robert quiet, thinking.

**ROBERT**

Your parents will never accept me, you know that don't you?

**KARA**

They don't have to; I'm the only one that has to do that.

**ROBERT**

What about the kids?

**KARA**

They'll find us. They will. Give them time.

Robert concerned as she silently consoles him. Then he sees it out of the corner of his eye, he looks at it, a shop across the street. Kara seems confused not sure what he is looking at.

**ROBERT**

Come on, I have a hunch.

They get out of the car and head for the

#### UNIVERSAL PAWN SHOP

The sign hangs over the door as Kara and Robert look at it, then each other.

**KARA**

Is it possible?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**ROBERT**

Do we have anything to lose?

**KARA**

Lead the way.

INSIDE THE UNIVERSAL PAWN SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

An OLD MAN, behind the counter, sees them come in. He observes them as they look at the ring assortment. They look intensely at the selection and then see it, the ring. They smile at each other and become excited. The old man approaches them.

**OLD MAN**

Can I help you?

**ROBERT**

This ring, how much?

The old man looks at it.

**OLD MAN**

Five hundred dollars plus tax.

Robert deflated as Kara looks at him.

**ROBERT**

I don't have five hundred dollars, I only have ten dollars.  
Damn it!

**KARA**

No problem.

**ROBERT**

Kara...

**KARA**

Shut up Army. There are some things you still have to learn about me. We moved the universe. You don't think I'm going to let a measly five hundred dollars stand in our way after that accomplishment do you?

Besides it's our ring; a ring of the universe. A ring created by the universe. And... five hundred dollars is very small price to pay for such a unique object... and for us.

She kisses him then turns to the old man,

**KARA (CONT'D)**

We want that ring. May I try it on?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**OLD MAN**  
You buying it?

**KARA**  
Yes. Do you size?

**OLD MAN**  
Yeah, I can size. Huh... Perfect fit.

**KARA**  
Yeah. I knew it would be. Five hundred even and you pay the tax.

**OLD MAN**  
Cash?

**KARA**  
Cash.

**OLD MAN**  
It's yours.

The transaction takes place as Robert, his pride hurt, browses the store when he sees it, the sword mounted on a large wooden shield. He shakes, remembering, then carefully examines it. Kara approaches him smiling, looking at the ring in the ring box, and then sees the sword.

**KARA**  
Is that...

**ROBERT**  
I think it is... I know it is.

**KARA**  
(trembling)  
When I remember... those eyes... the teeth... I think I'm going to have nightmares for a long time, a very long time.

**ROBERT**  
We all will, especially the kids.

**KARA**  
True. But I think your nightmares will be worse... You talk in your sleep.

He looks at her as she gives a small smile.

**ROBERT**  
I do not. Do I?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

Slightly. When you were recovering in the penthouse you mumbled a lot, and this was before the dragon.

**ROBERT**

What did I say?

**KARA**

You spoke of war... What you said was... We'll talk about it later. When you're ready.

Robert looks at her unsure how to respond.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

The kids are going to need help adjusting... their nightmares... my nightmares... our nightmares... I don't know what to do or where to begin.

**ROBERT**

We'll figure it out. I don't know how but we will.

Kara looks at the sword.

**KARA**

Let's get it.

**ROBERT**

It wasn't in the blue room. We have to do this right. It can wait.

Kara turns to the old man,

**KARA**

How much for the sword?

**OLD MAN**

Two hundred dollars. It's supposed to be some type of magical sword, if you believe in that nonsense.

**KARA**

(to Robert)

Maybe not magical, but very special.

(to the old man)

Any takers?

**OLD MAN**

Not yet.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

Can you hold it for us?

**OLD MAN**

Depends, you coming back for it?

**KARA**

Definitely.

**OLD MAN**

I need some type of assurance...

**KARA**

Will a hundred dollars hold it?

**OLD MAN**

Yeah.

Kara pays and gets the receipt. She then grabs some business cards and they leave the building.

OUTSIDE

**ROBERT**

Now what...

**KARA**

(thinks)

The baby!

(softly, smiling)

We have to make a baby.

**ROBERT**

I guess we should get married first.

**KARA**

That helps. We need to go.

**ROBERT**

Where?

**KARA**

To the courthouse.

She takes his hand and they proceed to her car.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

### CHAPTER 20

THE WILSON HOME - KITCHEN – LATER

Kara and Robert walk into the kitchen. Everyone is standing around, small talk.

**JANET**

Where have you been?

**KARA**

Mom, Dad, meet your new son-in-law.

**GARAK**

You got married!

Kara shows the ring, now on her finger.

**JANET**

Where!?

**KARA**

At the courthouse, about an hour ago.

Everyone flabbergasted, silent.

**JASON**

Kara, what about tomorrow, the wedding? You've been planning that event for months! The effort you put into it... the orchestra, the singers, the special catering...

**SARAH**

Your wedding dress... you said you would never be married in anything less...

(looks at Kara's Levi's)

**KARA**

Not important. Not anymore.

(to Robert)

You want some coffee?

**ROBERT**

(nervous)

To tell you the truth I prefer the kids.

**KARA**

They'll be here.

**ROBERT**

I think we need to look for them.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

We would never find them. They have to find us.

**ROBERT**

How?

**KARA**

I gave Kelly my address.

**ROBERT**

I hope she still has it...

**KARA**

She does.

Kara looks at how scared he is. She kisses him.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Trust the kids. They'll be here. They'll find us. They'll find a way.

**ROBERT**

How do you know?

**KARA**

Because you found me. And you didn't have a map. Kelly does.

Robert smiles at her and nods. One of the maids enters accompanied by a RAPIDPAC employee.

**RAPIDPAC**

I'm looking for a Robert or Kara Burnett.

**KARA**

I'm Kara Wilson... Kara Burnett.

**RAPIDPAC**

Sign here please. Weird, we were specifically instructed not to deliver this package until today. We've had it for over a month. Really weird.

Kara signs as he gives her a letter package containing an envelope. RAPIDPAC departs. Kara and Robert look at the envelope. The name Robert and Kara Burnett is all that appears on the package. Kara and Robert look at each other, confused.

**JANET**

What is it Kara?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

Kara opens the package. An envelope containing a single picture is the only item; a photo of Henry and a young man. Kara and Robert look at the photo, she turns it over, an inscription, she reads,

**KARA**

“His name is Dennis McCoy, trust him, he moves the universe.”

They look at the photo again; Robert holds it looking at Henry, Kara looking as well.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

At least you found each other.

Robert nods.

**ROBERT**

It makes no sense... who is he?

**KARA**

Henry says he moves the universe. Somehow I think we are going to meet him, and soon.

**MARVIN**

What the hell is going on?! Kara! I want an answer!

**ROBERT**

(to Kara)

I'm going to wait out front, watch for the kids... and this Dennis McCoy.

**KARA**

Ok.

She kisses him and he leaves the room. She looks at her family. Everyone still in shock.

**GARAK**

You married him?

**KARA**

Yes.

**JASON**

Why?

**KARA**

Because he moves the universe.

**MARVIN**

Do you have any idea who this man is?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**KARA**

Yes.

**MARVIN**

I don't think you do young lady. While you were gone I did some investigating on your Robert Burnett. Did you know that he was in prison?

**KARA**

Yes. When he was eighteen, two years for assisted armed robbery. He did his time.

Marvin startled, looks at the others, equally stunned. Kara moves to Maria, who is cutting vegetables.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Maria, you're a great cook, will you teach me?

Maria stunned.

**MARIA**

Teach you Miss Kara? To cook?

**KARA**

Yes.

**MARIA**

Of course I will, but you need to wash your hands first.

Kara washes her hands as the others are even more astonished. Marvin recovers.

**MARVIN**

There's more...

**KARA**

You mean Afghanistan Dad, the court-martial?

**MARVIN**

Yes...

Marvin and Janet look at each other.

**GARAK**

He was dishonorably discharged from the Army.

**KARA**

(mad)

I know. And I'm going to do something about that. That is so wrong. Robert was proven innocent of those charges.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**MARVIN**

(flustered)

I cannot have you married to such a... a man. I want this marriage annulled, immediately!

Kara looks at her father,

**KARA**

No.

**JANET**

Kara, I don't think you understand just how serious this is.

**KARA**

I understand very well Mother.

Kara picks up a knife and begins to cut celery alongside of Maria. The others look at her with more amazement.

**MARVIN**

If you do not have this marriage annulled, then... then you leave me no choice... you will never get any financial help from me!

Kara looks at her father,

**KARA**

Ok. Guess I will just have to find a job then.

Everyone floored.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Jason, you work in a big bank, you can give me a job right? I mean I think I can learn how to clean, even toilets I guess.

Jason looks at her with an open mouth; he looks at Sarah who is dumbfounded.

**JANET**

You... find a job? As a maid?

**KARA**

If I have to Mother, why not? I've watched Maria and the others do housework for years... it's dirty work but not difficult.

(MORE)

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

### KARA (CONT'D)

(firmly)

But listen to me now, all of you... I will never leave Robert, and he will never leave me. We have a love that is completely unshakable, unbreakable, and if that means I have to leave you, my family, to be with him, then so be it. But I'm hoping you won't force me to choose.

(to Maria)

How's this?

Maria looks at her work and nods, then smiles.

### MARIA

Very good Miss Kara.

### ROBERT (O.S.)

KARA! They're here! The kids!

Kara looks up, smiles big, gives Maria a quick kiss on the cheek, then begins to run out of the kitchen.

### JANET

Who's here Kara?

Kara turns,

### KARA

My children, Mother, my children!

Kara leaves as the others look at each other, and then follow her.

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

### CHAPTER 21

#### THE WILSON HOME - THE DRIVEWAY

The car pulls up into the driveway as Kelly and Matt get out, Robert runs to them, they run to him.

**KELLY/MATT**

Daddy!

The kids run into his arms and he picks them both up, hugging them. Kara comes running out of the house.

**KELLY**

Mommy!

Kelly breaks from Robert and runs to Kara, Matt follows quickly, Kara hugging, kissing Kelly as Matt approaches, hugs, kisses him.

**KARA**

My babies! You found us, just as I knew you would!

Janet and Marvin look at each other as the four begin to hug each other. Sarah looks on in awe, then to Jason,

**SARAH**

Your sister... with kids...

**JASON**

(flabbergasted)

I don't know hon. I just don't know.

An older black woman, GLADYS MURDOCK, approaches Janet and Marvin, she is bewildered.

**GLADYS**

Damnedest thing...

**JANET**

What? Who are you?

**GLADYS**

My name's Gladys Murdock. I'm a social worker working with foster homes. Matt and Kelly are two of my charges. I was doing my weekly inspection and the next thing I know they have me, literally forced me, to drive them here... I'll be damned. I've never seen them so crazy, so forceful.

**MARVIN**

Social worker? So those kids...

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**GLADYS**

Orphans. Their parents died two years ago.

**SARAH**

Why did you bring them here?

**GLADYS**

Said they had to find their new parents, something about moving the universe. Whatever that means.

**SARAH**

And you let them, you caved in to them?

**GLADYS**

I had to, and heaven help me, I don't know why. I just felt compelled to. I can't explain it.

Everyone looks at the family of four as they yell in unison,

**ROBERT/KARA/KELLY/MATT**

WE MOVED THE UNIVERSE!

Hugs and kisses. Janet and Marvin look at each other. Marvin looks at Garak, who is shocked.

**MARVIN**

Garak, I don't know what to say...

**GARAK**

Say nothing Marvin, say nothing. I think I'll be going.

**JANET**

Garak...

**GARAK**

Goodbye Janet... thanks for everything.

Garak looks bewildered at the four as they continue to hug and kiss; he gets into his car and drives away. Kara approaches her parents, holding the hands of Kelly and Matt as Robert follows.

**KARA**

Garak left?

**MARVIN**

He did. What you did to him...

**KARA**

Oh don't worry about him Dad; he's better off with Stephanie. I think he's been sleeping with her for I don't how

(MORE)

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

### KARA (CONT'D)

long anyway. It never would have worked out between us. He's such a sleaze bag. But now I want you to meet your grandchildren, Kelly and Matt Tyler.

### KELLY

You mean Burnett.

### KARA

Correction, Burnett. They're twins.

### GLADYS

Are you telling me you want to adopt these children?

### KARA

You must be Mrs. Murdock?

### GLADYS

(shaking hands)  
Yes, and you are?

### KARA

Kara, Kara Burnett, my husband Robert.

Gladys looks at Robert who is not very presentable. She shows doubt.

### GLADYS

I'm not so sure about this...

### KARA

We will adopt these children Mrs. Murdock. The sooner the better.

### GLADYS

There are procedures. You can support them?

### MARVIN

No they can't.

### JANET

Marvin!

### MARVIN

This... man can't hold a job. He has no income. He's a felon...

### KARA

Dad!

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**MARVIN**

You brought this on yourself young lady. You didn't think there wouldn't be consequences to your actions?

Kara looks at Janet, then to Gladys.

**GLADYS**

This is unusual, very unusual.

**KELLY**

We want to stay with Mom and Dad Mrs. Murdock, please, let us stay.

**GLADYS**

Kelly, I can't do that...

Kara looks at Robert who has a look of hurt in his eyes, when a Mercedes, dark blue, pulls up into the drive. A young man, Dennis McCoy, gets out with a briefcase. He approaches the group.

**DENNIS**

Excuse me; I'm looking for a Robert and Kara Burnett.

**ROBERT**

I'm Robert Burnett.

Shakes hands, Dennis looks at Kara.

**DENNIS**

You must be Kara. Just like Henry described you.

**KARA**

(shakes hands)

You're Dennis McCoy.

**DENNIS**

Yes. How did you know?

Robert produces the picture.

**ROBERT**

By this. You know Henry? How is he?

**DENNIS**

Your grandfather died last month.

Kara and Robert look at each other.

**ROBERT**

You said last month?

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**DENNIS**

Yes. I'm sorry. Henry said you and he had just discovered each other, but he didn't mention how. He was however, very proud of you.

**MARVIN**

What is going on here, who are you?

**DENNIS**

Dennis McCoy, I represent a man by the name of Henry Galloway. And you are?

**MARVIN**

Marvin Wilson, my wife Janet.

**DENNIS**

Henry told me about you, big in investments, with major offices all over the United States...

**MARVIN**

Yes.

**DENNIS**

Nice meeting you sir. Mrs. Wilson.

Dennis looks at the twins.

**DENNIS (CONT'D)**

You must be Matt and Kelly. Your grandfather told me so much about you. How you moved the universe.

**KELLY**

Did you move the universe?

**DENNIS**

Your grandfather said I did. I don't know what he meant, but he said I did.

**MATT**

You said Grandpa died?

**DENNIS**

Yes he did, I'm sorry.

Matt becomes sad as Robert consoles him.

**ROBERT**

Grandpa was really sick, remember?  
(MORE)

---

## THE JOURNEY

---

**ROBERT (CONT'D)**

(Matt nods)

Tell you what; we'll discuss this later, ok?

**DENNIS**

(to Matt and Kelly)

Your Grandfather loved both of you very much, he told me so.

**KARA**

Were you with him... at the end?

**DENNIS**

I was. He didn't die alone, and he didn't suffer. He passed very peacefully.

**GLADYS**

I don't understand, these children don't have a grandfather, they have no living relatives.

**DENNIS**

Yes, I know. Can we go inside; there are several things we need to discuss.

One of the servants, ANNA, is approaching the house, she carries mail. Very shyly she skirts around the group, Kara glances at her. Something Anna is carrying catches Kara's eye.

**KARA**

Excuse me a moment.

She leaves and catches Anna.

**MARVIN**

What is this nonsense about moving the universe?

**MATT**

We did, didn't we Dad?

**ROBERT**

You better believe we did.

Kara returns with a piece of paper, she shows it to Robert. He smiles and she puts the paper in her pocket.

**KARA**

Let's go inside.

**MARVIN**

Kara...

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## THE JOURNEY

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Kara ignores him and moves to

THE WILSON HOME - THE LIVING ROOM

Everyone follows Kara inside the home; her father gives her a look.

**KARA**

Please Dennis sit, Mrs. Murdock you too, please.

Everyone sits. Kara and Robert together, holding hands. Kelly and Matt on the floor in front of Kara and Robert.

**MARVIN**

I wish, I just wish someone would explain to me what the hell is going on! Is that too much to ask?

**DENNIS**

Perhaps I can shed some light on this situation. About four months ago a man named Henry Galloway came to my office and hired me as his full time lawyer. Henry had been diagnosed with terminal cancer, and it was only a matter of time before he succumbed to the disease. Henry had a grandson, a Robert Burnett, he also said that Robert would have a wife; her name was Kara, Kara Wilson.

Henry gave me specific instructions; I could not approach this house or anybody here until today, and before that I had to take care of some additional paperwork, concerning the adoption of Matt and Kelly. I liked Henry, he was a good man and he treated me very well.

For a man who was dying, he was calm, peaceful. He said he looked forward to a normal death. When I asked him what he meant, he just smiled, and said you would understand.

(Robert and Kara nod)

Mrs. Murdock, I understand that you are the social worker for Kelly and Matt Tyler, correct?

**GLADYS**

Yes. Yes I am.

Dennis pulls papers out of his briefcase.

**DENNIS**

These are transfer papers for Matt and Kelly, who are to be rendered immediately into the guardianship of a Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burnett.

He gives her the papers.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### DENNIS (CONT'D)

I had to get judicial approval for this transfer this morning; otherwise I would have been here earlier.

He pulls out more papers, to Robert and Kara,

### DENNIS (CONT'D)

These are power of attorney consents, authorizing me complete power of attorney over the affairs of one Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burnett. There is an expiration date of sixty days effective from today. They supplement the power of attorney Henry gave me.

He gives them to Robert.

### DENNIS (CONT'D)

I don't understand why, but your Grandfather said there would be no problem with you signing. It's a lot of responsibility and accountability; I would not blame you if you didn't sign.

### ROBERT

Got a pen?

Dennis a little stunned gives him a pen; Robert signs and gives the papers to Kara.

### ROBERT (CONT'D)

We both have to sign.

Kara signs and gives the papers back to Dennis.

### DENNIS

May I ask why, you don't know me; you have no idea what I could do with this type of power.

### KARA

Henry said to trust you, that you moved the universe...

### ROBERT

And that's good enough for us. How did Henry know we were married? How did he know we would be here today? How did he know the kids would be here?

Dennis, confused, puts the papers away.

### DENNIS

He didn't say, but he was positive about it.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

(to Robert)

Because he observed. He knew.

**GLADYS**

These papers authorize me to take the Tyler twins out of the Henderson house, and give Mr. and Mrs. Burnett complete custody, pending official adoption... effective immediately. I don't understand, nobody called me...

**DENNIS**

That's because it only happened this morning. You haven't received the official notification yet, but I was instructed to expedite the matter.

**KELLY**

Does that mean we can stay here Mrs. Murdock?

**GLADYS**

That's what it means Kelly, I don't know why, or how, but you don't have to go back to the Henderson's. You stay here with Mr. and Mrs. Burnett waiting for adoption. So strange.

**KELLY/MATT**

Yes!

Kelly hugs Kara. Marvin and Janet look at each other, Sarah looks at Kara unbelieving.

**SARAH**

Kara, this means you're going to be a mother...

**KARA**

That's exactly what it means Sarah.

**SARAH**

But you didn't want kids...

**KARA**

I do now, I do now.

Shows pride in the two kids.

**DENNIS**

There's more.

Everyone pays attention.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**DENNIS**

Robert your grandfather had an estate, he was the author of several patents, books, lectures, and he discovered, and invented, many things. He left you and Kara, the entire estate via a living trust. This estate is estimated to be in excess of 550 million dollars, and it is growing...

(to Kara)

Thanks to your fathers company and their investment strategies.

Everyone shocked, especially Marvin. Kara smiles at her father then looks at Robert,

**KARA**

(calmly)

I think we can work with that.

**JANET**

Kara! That's a huge amount of money, you're not excited?

**KARA**

Mother, after you move the universe, everything else is just lame.

She and Robert smile at each other.

**KARA**

(to Dennis)

Anything else?

**DENNIS**

There's some property issues you need to handle, Henry's house, his personal effects, estate transfer, but that can wait for a couple of weeks. And this...

Pulls out an envelope.

**DENNIS**

It's twenty-five thousand dollars in cash. Henry said that you will need some funds for expenses. He wasn't specific.

Hands the money to Robert, who hands it to Kara.

**KARA**

You learn fast. Anything else Dennis?

**DENNIS**

No, that's all.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

Good, because now we have some things that you need to do for us.

She pulls the paper from her pocket; it is a real estate junk mail brochure. A home, the same home they saw in the blue room, is prominently displayed.

**KARA**

We want you to buy us this house...

**ROBERT**

This house Dennis. Not a different one, not a different location, this house.

**KARA**

It has to be this very house. Ok?

Dennis nods, takes the paper and looks at it, a little confused.

**DENNIS**

Okaaaay.

**MATT**

Mom, the puppies...

Kara and Robert look at each other,

**KARA**

I forgot about the dogs...

**ROBERT**

So did I... where do we start looking?

Kelly pulls out a torn piece of newspaper from her pocket and gives it to Kara,

**KARA**

What's this?

**KELLY**

The address for the puppies.

**KARA**

Kelly, where did you get this?

**KELLY**

From the blue room. The newspaper, remember?

Kara gives the clipping to Dennis.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

There should be some German Shepherd puppies at this address. One is black and silver, it'll be the only one of that color, buy it. They're probably still nursing; just make sure we own it. We can pick it up later, after they're weaned.

Kelly and Matt smile.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

There's something else, what was it... oh!

(pulls out the business cards and  
receipt)

At this pawn shop you will find a sword, a big sword, mounted on a wooden shield, buy it. I've already put a hundred dollars down to hold it. Here's the receipt.

**DENNIS**

A sword?

**ROBERT**

A sword. Dennis it's important that you do everything in order...

**KARA**

Vital that you do everything in order... make sure the kids adoption goes off without a hitch...

**ROBERT**

Then, begin the process of buying the house... Then the dogs...

**KARA**

And the sword is last, it has to be last.

**ROBERT**

Any questions?

**DENNIS**

(bewildered)

No, I think I got it. Why?

**ROBERT**

It's the order of the universe.

**KARA**

How long do you think it will take you to take care of all this?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**DENNIS**

It's a weekend, a week from today, almost everything should be in process or done by then. You gave me complete power of attorney... Two weeks max, not counting the adoption time and escrow on the house, which will take about thirty days, give or take a few days.

**KARA**

That gives us a couple of weeks for a honeymoon...

**ROBERT**

What do we do with the kids?

Kara thinks.

**KARA**

We take them with us.

**SARAH**

Or, you can leave them with Jason and me.

Kara looks at Sarah.

**KARA**

Sarah, are you sure?

**JANET**

Yes she's sure, because they'll be staying here with us as well.

**MARVIN**

(surprised)

Janet!

**JANET**

Oh hush Marvin; we have two new grandchildren to spoil.

(to Kara)

So where are you going for the honeymoon?

**KARA**

I was thinking of Hawaii, there's a black beach there.

She and Robert smile at each other.

**KELLY**

Mom... are they family?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

Yes they are honey, and your Aunt Sarah has two children of her own that you can play with.

**KELLY**

Family. Works for me.  
(to Sarah)  
So where's your kids?

**SARAH**

They're spending the day at Magic Mountain.

**JANET**

Have you ever gone to Magic Mountain Kelly?

Kelly shakes her head.

**KELLY**

We've never gone anywhere. Mom and Dad never had any money.

**JANET**

Well, we are going to change that.

**MARVIN**

Janet...

**JANET**

Hush Marvin... Don't you see what's happened here? A miracle... Only a miracle.

Janet smiles at Kara, who seems to be on the verge of tears.

**MATT**

Why do you have to go on a honeymoon?

Kelly hits him.

**KELLY**

Remember the baby? He's our brother... Boys... what are they good for?

**KARA**

Fighting dragons.

**KELLY**

Yeah, fighting dragons.

Everyone confused as the family of four smile at each other.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**MARVIN**

Dragons?

Kara notices that Robert is in deep thought.

**KARA**

What? I know that look...

**ROBERT**

Dennis... I want you to do one more thing... After the house and everything else we asked of you is completed...

**DENNIS**

(waiting)

You going to keep me in suspense?

**ROBERT**

I want you to investigate and find out all you can about Matt and Kelly's parents. And how they died.

**DENNIS**

Ok, I can do that... Why?

**KARA**

Because we don't want them to forget who they are and where they came from. We want them to know their parents... Everything, both good and bad.

She looks at Robert and gives him an understanding smile.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

It's important they know their past, they know their parents, and how much their parents loved them.

Robert looks at Kara and the kids and smiles, as Kara hugs the two children.

**ROBERT**

Not knowing anything about your past... that is not a pleasant feeling.

**JASON**

(to Robert)

That happened to you didn't it?

Robert nods.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**ROBERT**

Yeah. And that lack of knowledge hurt me. It still does. I will not let these kids suffer that kind of pain. Growing up is hard enough.

**GLADYS**

Well, I don't have a lot, but what information I have I will gladly share with you Mr. McCoy.

Dennis nods his thanks.

**JANET**

(looks at Marvin)

And we will do whatever we can to help as well. Won't we dear?

Marvin gives in and nods.

**SARAH**

(looking at Jason)

As will we. Jason can find out about their finances, and all those kind of things.

Jason looks perplexed, but nods and smiles.

**JASON**

Whatever you need Dennis... I will do my best.

Kara and Robert smile.

**ROBERT**

Thank you. All of you. I know this may not be easy, but they deserve to know. They deserve the truth about the ones who loved them... but had to leave them behind.

Kara smiles at him while hugging the twins.

**DENNIS**

Well, I know a good private investigator, he's discrete and efficient, also a good friend of mine. But he's not cheap.

**KARA**

Doesn't matter, as long as he gets results.

Maria enters.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**MARIA**

Excuse me Mr. Wilson you have a telephone call from your office.

**MARVIN**

Thank you Maria. I was expecting a call so I better take it. With everything that is happening I forgot all about it. I'll take it in the upstairs office.

Marvin leaves the group.

**KARA**

Still in work mode I see.

**JANET**

Don't blame your father dear, it's who he is. But I will say this, he actually forgot about that call. You have shaken him to his core today.

Kara smiles, looks at Robert and the kids,

**KARA**

He's not the only one who has been shaken to their core. We all have.

**DENNIS**

(to Kara)

I hate to be a bother but could I use your bathroom?

**KARA**

(pointing)

Down the hall to the right.

**DENNIS**

Thank you.

Dennis leaves the area as the others just mingle in a fashion. Kara thinking,

**KARA**

Excuse me, I have to do something.

Gets up to leave.

**ROBERT**

Anything I can help with?

**KARA**

No, just stay with the kids, I'll be right back.

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## THE JOURNEY

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FIRST FLOOR DEN

Kara is waiting outside the den as Dennis exits the bathroom. He sees Kara waiting.

**DENNIS**

Kara, something wrong?

**KARA**

No, not really but I did want to talk to you alone.

(nodding to the den)

In here.

Marvin, unseen, observes the engagement and quietly stops outside the open den door out of sight. He listens.

**DENNIS**

Ok, what's up?

**KARA**

You can't tell Robert about any of this. Promise me you won't say a word to Robert.

**DENNIS**

(confused)

Ok, but I am at a loss.

**KARA**

Did Henry tell you about Robert's court-martial?

**DENNIS**

Not in great detail. I think he wanted to but his health and time didn't allow him to elaborate. But I got the gist of what happened.

**KARA**

Then you know Robert was found innocent of the charges.

**DENNIS**

I got that from Henry but I don't know all the details.

**KARA**

Neither do I, and that is what I want you to find out. I want you to use your private investigator friend to find out everything that happened. I also want to know what politician pushed this issue and why. I want to know everything.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**DENNIS**

Shouldn't Robert be involved in this conversation?

**KARA**

He will be, but not yet. If Robert finds out about this now I know he will put a stop to this investigation. I can't let him do that. For him it's not important, but it is to me. I have to know.

**DENNIS**

What if you don't like the results? He was in prison.

**KARA**

Yes he was and he paid for that mistake. But what happened after was not his fault and I am determined to hold the people who set up this sham, accountable.

**DENNIS**

You really love him don't you?

**KARA**

More than life itself. I never thought it possible. I sure as hell didn't love Garak like this. But Robert is special, very special. He can't, or won't correct this situation, but I can and I will. But I need your help. Will you help me?

**DENNIS**

Henry spoke very highly of Robert, the pride he had in his grandson was nothing like I have ever seen before. He wanted to be here so badly but for some reason he refused to. I don't know why?

**KARA**

Because there are things, an order, in the universe which govern our actions. Henry taught me that. It would have upset the balance of the universe if he showed up here before the proper time. I sound crazy don't I?

**DENNIS**

You sound like Henry, exactly like Henry. I didn't understand it then and I don't understand it now.

(thinking)

So you want to know everything about Roberts court-martial and dishonorable discharge. Correct? And the people responsible for it?

**KARA**

Correct on all counts.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**DENNIS**

Robert will find out, you know that.

**KARA**

I know and when the time comes I will take care of it, take care of him. My way. There's one more thing, are you aware that Robert was to receive the Silver Star?

**DENNIS**

No, I wasn't. Henry didn't mention that, but Henry didn't mention a lot of things.

**KARA**

Well he was. For what I don't know, and Robert hasn't told me. I need you find out. The Army took it away from him during the court-martial, just like the Army took away his life. I want it back.

Dennis in deep thought mode.

**DENNIS**

(sighing)

Ok. But I have a question... What task do I take on first, Robert or the twins?

**KARA**

The twins.

Dennis nods and heads out the door. Marvin hides so Dennis doesn't see him. Marvin looks inside the den at his daughter who is getting ready to leave the room. She is startled by her father.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Dad... what...

**MARVIN**

I heard everything Kara... don't worry I won't say a word. But I do have a question...

**KARA**

What?

**MARVIN**

What happened to you? When did you grow up?

Kara walks up to her dad,

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

Story for another day Dad.  
(she kisses his cheek)  
Love you.

Kara walks away as Marvin watches his daughter disappear into the

LIVING ROOM

**ROBERT**

Everything ok?

**KARA**

Everything is fine. Just some woman stuff I had to take care of.

(Robert puzzled)

Get use to it Army, you are in this for better or for worse.  
And you ain't getting out of it.

Maria enters.

**MARIA**

Excuse me Miss Kara, but the photographer is here.

**KARA**

Andre?

**MARIA**

Yes ma'am.

**KARA**

Send him in please.

Maria leaves and ANDRE a professional looking, elegant man of fifty enters. Kara greets him.

**ANDRE**

Miss Wilson, it's nice to see you again. I look forward to taking pictures of a beautiful wedding.

**KARA**

Change of plans Andre, I'm already married.

Andre surprised.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

The name's Burnett now, Kara Burnett.

**ANDRE**

How...when?

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

This afternoon.

**ANDRE**

So you don't need my services?

**KARA**

On the contrary, I need your services more than ever...  
Robert your wallet please.

Robert gives her the wallet. Carefully she takes the picture of Barbara out and gently hands it to Andre.

**KARA (CONT'D)**

Remember the portrait you did of me?

**ANDRE**

Yes ma'am.

**KARA**

I want you to do the same for this picture. I also want you  
to make copies, various sizes of it. Can you do that?

**ANDRE**

Yes ma'am. Who is she?

**KARA**

My mother-in-law.

**ANDRE**

She's beautiful.

**KARA**

Yes she is. This is the only picture we have of her, so  
please be very careful with this original.

**ANDRE**

I will. May I ask where such an exquisite woman is at  
this moment?

**KARA**

She died many years ago.

**ANDRE**

I understand. I will make it special, very special.

**KARA**

Thank you. I know you will.

She looks at Robert who is trying to hold back tears. Andre puts the photo in a portfolio he is carrying.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### KARA (CONT'D)

I still want photos... not official wedding photos, but pictures of us, as a family, the beginning of a family...

Kara brings Robert, Matt, and Kelly next to her.

### KARA (CONT'D)

My family.

### ANDRE

I'll have Clark come by to arrange and take the pictures. Tomorrow?

### KARA

That sounds good. Thank you.

### ANDRE

Meanwhile I will start on this new assignment you have given me.

Andre smiles and leaves.

### DENNIS

(to Robert)

There are several photo albums at Henry's house; I think you'll want to see them. When you come back from your honeymoon.

### ROBERT

I would like that. Very much.

Maria enters.

### MARIA

Miss Kara, your wedding cake is here.

### KARA

It's about time.

(grabs Robert)

You and I need to cut our cake.

Kara leads as everyone moves to the

### DINING ROOM

A large cake sits in the middle of the table. Exquisite in design, a figurine couple of a bride and groom sit atop the cake.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KELLY**

Wow! Mom, that's your wedding cake?

**KARA**

Yes. Took a long time to get it right. Took a long time to find the right man to share it with. So now we need to cut it...

**JASON**

Wait! Hold that thought, I'll be right back.

Everyone looks at him as he quickly leaves the room. Janet is perplexed as Kara moves next to her.

**JANET**

I don't know what we're going to do about tomorrow... all those guest that are coming. So many issues to take care of... reorganize...

**KARA**

One doorway at a time Mom, one doorway at a time. That's all any of us can do.

(thinking)

Mama... Henry said I was Robert's foundation, his rock. He also said I needed to guide him. What did he mean? But more important, how do I do that?

Janet, amazed and somewhat confused, looks at her daughter and smiles.

**JANET**

Oh honey, you and I have got a lot to talk about.

Kara nods and smiles.

**KARA**

Yeah, I think we do.

Marvin approaches Dennis who is standing next to Mrs. Murdock.

**GLADYS**

Mr. Wilson, Mr. McCoy and I were just discussing the change of events that has just transpired over the last few hours.

**DENNIS**

Mrs. Murdock and I were also discussing the adoption proceedings, and how Henry forced them to come about. If you don't mind me saying this sir, you seem to be rather calm with all this.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### MARVIN

Only on the outside. Inside I'm screaming my lungs out. I find the rapidity of what has happened to be... breathtaking at best... not to mention totally confusing. Yesterday Kara was... Kara. And today... today she's a wife and a mother. All in one afternoon. Henry Galloway arranged this?

### DENNIS

Only part of it. He told me about Mrs. Murdock and how pleased the twins were with her, how disgusted they were with the Henderson's, and how deeply Kara and Robert had fallen in love. I know it makes no sense, and when I asked Henry to explain, all he did was smile. I'm afraid that you and I, and Mrs. Murdock are destined to remain confused.

Marvin looks at Kara and Janet.

### MARVIN

Kara is really happy; it has been a very long time since I've seen her so happy. She's actually talking to her mother, for the first time in years. That in itself is a miracle. Where did Henry live?

### DENNIS

San Francisco. So do I. I'm licensed to practice law both there and here in L.A. I think that is why Henry hired me, well partly at least. He said I moved the universe.

### MARVIN

You said that before, what does it mean?

### DENNIS

I have no idea. And he wouldn't tell me.

Dennis looks at the family of four.

### DENNIS (CONT'D)

Something happened to the five of them, including Henry. Something extraordinary. But I have no clue as to what it was. or when it was.

Marvin looks at Kara and Robert, how happy they are and how the twins respond to them.

### MARVIN

Whatever it was changed Kara dramatically, and that is an understatement. And it changed her in one night. How?

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## THE JOURNEY

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### DENNIS

That is a good question Marvin. Henry spoke of many things, strange things. But the one thing he was adamant about was family. But he never once said how he found his family. Yet he spoke a lot about Kara, the twins, and Robert. And what they meant to him. He wanted to see them so badly before he died. But he refused to. Said the universe wasn't ready. I asked him ready for what? He looked at me, smiled, and changed the subject. I don't know Marvin. I'm at a loss, just like you.

### GLADYS

Perhaps it's a mystery of the universe. When I was real young my grandfather once told me that the universe is only the beginning of something much greater. Never knew what he meant, never gave it much thought until now.

### MARVIN

Maybe one day we'll find out. Mrs. Murdock before you leave today I would like for you to tell me a little bit about the twins. If they are going to be my grandchildren I would like very much to know who they are.

Gladys watches Matt and Kelly and their elated reaction to Robert and Kara.

### GLADYS

They are so happy, and they've been through so much hell. But it's going to take more than a couple of hours to explain who they are, how special they are.

### MARVIN

Well, in that case you will just have to come back here and spend some time with Janet and myself, and tell us all about them.

Gladys nods.

### GLADYS

I would be honored to Mr. Wilson.

### MARVIN

Dennis, when do you have to go back to San Francisco?

### DENNIS

Not until I get everything done that Robert and Kara wants me to get done. They are my only clients. Henry paid me well to keep it that way, for a while anyway.

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## THE JOURNEY

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### MARVIN

Good. If you have the time I would like for you to stop by the office Monday morning. I want to know all about Henry Galloway. And I also need to research his account. This is now a family matter, family account, and if we screw it up... Kara... God help me.

### DENNIS

I can arrange that, and yes, I understand exactly what you mean. Henry did mention her temperament in one of our conversations.

(pondering)

Still, I wonder... why a sword?

Jason returns with several glasses, some bottles of wine and champagne. One of the maids helps him.

### JASON

Can't cut a wedding cake without a toast...

Jason pours the bubbly, then,

### JASON (CONT'D)

To the bride and groom, my sister, and the man that changed her. Changed her from being a bitch, into a woman, a very beautiful and loving woman.

### KARA

More truth than you know Jason, so very true.

She kisses Robert, glasses clink and they drink. Matt pulls out the American flag he took from the blue room out of his pocket. Robert looks at him, Kara notices.

### ROBERT

Matt?

### MATT

I was just wondering...

### KARA

About what?

Matt looks at the flag, then the top of the cake. Robert and Kara smile at each other, as Robert lifts Matt up where he puts the stem of the flag into the top of the cake, behind the figurines. Matt smiles.

### MATT

A tradition. Do you think Mr. O'Leary would like it?

### ROBERT

I know he would. You just made it perfect.

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## THE JOURNEY

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**KARA**

Yes you did.

She gives Matt a kiss on the cheek.

**SARAH**

Don't just stand there cut the cake!

Kara cuts the cake and feeds a bite to her husband as Maria takes over the job of cutting. As the family mingles Robert looks at Kara as she feeds him and he feeds her.

**ROBERT**

I was thinking...

**KARA**

Concerning?

**ROBERT**

Going back to school, studying physics. What do you think?

**KARA**

I think Henry would be proud. Very proud.

As they kiss a passionate kiss, we shift focus to the:

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## THE JOURNEY

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### CHAPTER 22

#### UNKNOWN LOCATION

A **BLACK MAN**, a midget, about 30 years of age, opens his eyes; a blur is all he sees. As his eyes come into focus he sees only a light blue nothing. There is light but no windows, no doors, no walls, no ceiling, but he is standing. He looks around, only emptiness. He looks beneath him, he is standing on nothing. He puts one foot in front of the other, then another step.

**BLACK MAN**  
(whispering)  
What the hell?

FADE OUT: