

Terranis

Written by Sydney Helen Egan

TERRANIS

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*To everyone who supported since the beginning.
In yun rekwe!*

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Terranis was originally read privately with friends over Zoom in March 2023, featuring the following cast:

Lunus - Ian Dominguez-Ball
Roquin - Mike Negron
Hakmew - Michael Darby
Pleos - JK Larkin
Genafra - Hannah Machado-Parker
Ethera - Jennifer Ruskowski
Lun Mante - Ima Otto During
Stel Turthinz/Stel Hunadser - Shawn Doherty
Stel Urie/Stel Rekwep - Chloe Solomon
Stel Ibnestke/Stel Okmenteff - Hayley St. James
The Iope/Stage Directions - Sydney Helen Egan

Terranis was then read privately with friends in Central Park, NY, in June 2023, featuring the following cast:

Lunus/Stel Urie - Shawn Doherty
Roquin - Mike Negron
Hakmew/Stel Rekwep - Chloe Solomon
Pleos/Stel Ibnestke - Hayley St. James
Genafra - Fara Adnin
Ethera/The Iope/Stage Directions - Sydney Helen Egan
Lun Mante - Thalya David

Terranis was then read in front of an audience at Open Jar Studios in New York, NY, in January 2026, featuring the following cast:

Lunus - Ian Dominguez-Ball
Roquin - Daniel Brenner
Hakmew - David J. Rosario
Pleos - JK Larkin
Genafra - Hannah Machado-Parker
Ethera - Julianna Belles
Lun Mante - Ima Otto-During
Stel Urie - Derek Etter
Stel Rekwep - Brashley Stein
Stel Ibnestke - Hayley St. James
The Iope - Isabelle Marseille
Stage Directions - Sydney Helen Egan

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Cast: 4 Men, 3 Women, 3 Non-Binary, room for a small ensemble

LUNUS (he/him) - Moon prince. Son of Lun Mante. Pleos's love interest. Dressed in red.

ROQUIN (he/him) - Working class, green blood. In the military. Carries a spear always. Ethera's love interest. Name means "Of the Mountains."

HAKMEW (he/him) - Elite class, green blood. In the military. Very loyal but has mixed views about the whole situation. Carries twin swords. Name means "Truth" or "Honesty."

PLEOS (he/him) - Working class, red blood. In the military. Lunus's love interest. Name means "Innocence."

GENAFRA (she/her)- Working class, green blood. In the military. Carries a katana like blade/machete. Asexual. Name means "Fighter."

ETHERA (she/her) - Elite class, red blood. Dressed in white. Very traditional in her beliefs. Roquin's love interest. Name means "Angelic."

LUN MANTE (she/her) - Moon Goddess. Tyrannical but doesn't believe she is.

STEL URIE (they/them) - Ruling Star of Life. Dressed in green. Leader of the Stels. Must be played by a transgender/nonbinary/GNC performer.

STEL REKWEP (they/them) - Ruling Star of Love. Dressed in pink. Most compassionate of all the Stels. Must be played by a transgender/nonbinary/GNC performer.

STEL IBNESTKE (they/them) - Ruling Star of Death. Dressed in black. Most sardonic of all the Stels. Must be played by a transgender/nonbinary/GNC performer.

THE IOPEs - A small ensemble of actors. Any swings and understudies should be a part of this. They walk on three metallic legs (almost spider-like) and have weapons on both hands; a flamethrower that shoots violet flames and a gun that shoots wires that can stab through people and spread around like vines. Two of them should double as Volzgond and Jemlek in Act I Scene i.

THE FREKMA - A flying animal mainly domesticated and bred for the military. Does not speak but flies into the audience.

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Settings:

Terranis - a small, Earth-like planet from a distant galaxy. It has two moons; The Silver Moon and The Blood Moon

Lun Mante's moon/The Silver Moon - an almost chrome like atmosphere; pristine and polished.

The Stars - a void like place with stars closely behind. It's calming yet foreboding.

Notes on Terron:

This language is used mainly when a character prays to the Stels or to Lun Mante or when Genafr is swearing. All character's should know this language. The words themselves are mainly gibberish and don't all derive from any other existing language, but are put together to create cohesive phrases. See Lexicon attached for translations and grammar. **Bolded and highlighted in pink = Terron**

Notes on Lunian:

This language dates older than Terron. Similar to Terron, it sounds mainly gibberish. Used more prominently in the show than Terron. All characters should know this language. See Lexicon attached for translations and grammar. **Bolded and highlighted in gray = Lunian**

Other Notes:

A “/” indicates when the next line starts.

A “-” indicates when a person's line is cut off.

A “...” indicates when a line trails off.

“(OV)” indicates an offstage voice

Any dialogue with parentheses “(...)” is what is translated from **Terron** or **Lunian** into English.

Ideally there should be one intermission. I usually put it between the end of **ACT III** and the beginning of **ACT IV**.

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ACT I

Prologue:

The stage is barren. Stars shine in the night sky. The Stels stand in a line in the following order: Rekwep, Urie, & Ibnestke. They address the audience in-synch.

THE STELS. We are the seers of this world. We see all. We know all.

REKWEP. Of past.

URIE. Present.

IBNESTKE. And future.

THE STELS. We provide our people all needs and desires.

URIE. Life

REKWEP. Love

IBNESTKE. Death.

THE STELS. This is the fate of our world. An invasion from within will occur to destroy Terranis in order to replenish and start the world anew. The leader, nay, the creator shall bring forth a new populus to replace the populus lost. However, there is hope.

URIE. The savior, one who can create life,

IBNESTKE. and destroy it,

REKWEP. one who can balance the energies both light and dark shall prevail.

THE STELS. They and those who follow will save our planet. Only when the creator is destroyed shall you defeat the creatures. Beware of the wolf in the guise of the lamb. A follower will act as a spy for the creator in order to betray and destroy the savior. The battle will occur once the facade is revealed. Once commenced, good shall triumph over evil. Love will win over hate. Our world will be restored and a new era of peace will begin. *(Spotlights on the Stels move to Lunus who is at center. He takes a loud deep breath as if just being born. Blackout).*

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Scene i:

We see Lun Mante gracefully pacing along a scaffolding. After a few laps she stops at center. She looks out towards the audience, smiles, and closes her eyes. She listens to the prayers of her people; spoken by the actors playing Lunus, Pleos, Genafra, Roquin, Ethera, Hakmew, Urie, Rekwep, and Ibnestke. We begin in Lunian.

GENAFRA (OV). Lun Mante, Steles Monek, en fringgey yen fin grine hunyagraff wenpol yeetrem. En fringgey yen fin ke urie yen feemj wen, ke pudye a mukyens, la ke detrewff och wen cabezteq. Wene fring fin yen, a grime hunyagraff la ke hunyagraff utuyer.

(Lun Mante, Ruling Stars, thank you for this world we live in. Thank you for the life you've given us, the food in our bellies, and the roof over our heads. We are grateful for you; in this world and the world to come.)

ROQUIN (OV). Lun Mante, Steles Monek, polinka, men eartyeb la frutent me keforte. Ven de jubyovep a grime hunyagraff wo de vorgutewite. Eft ten hequen grimes vorgenes te feemjen. Yen vana ten urie os ten fortulia ven fir rek fin ke utuyer. (Lun Mante, Ruling Stars, please, hear me and answer my prayer. There are people in this world who are suffering. They don't deserve these hardships they've been given. Please help these people. Better their lives so they realize that there is hope for the future.)

PLEOS (OV). Lun Mante, Steles Monek, polinka men hallu. En lofven ene coombey. Eft ene ke jubyov eni. Eni edfra. Bore, ene pilnem yb grines klijetwes turthe en men hallu eb vana. Ten ghevme polis anav, tey eft en loyred. Polinka yen resquop men ben grime ubstanche os en locte eb edfra hak. (Lun Mante, Ruling Stars, please help me. I fear I am lost. I am not the person I used to be. I used to be free. Now I'm imprisoned by these substances that I thought would help me be better. They've only made things worse, yet I cannot stop. Please save me from this addiction so I can truly be free again.)

REKWEP (OV). Lun Mante, Steles Monek, Ibnestke, polinka men hallu. Men panfe fir vex. Ibnest hene fir. Men mante tamerien hene fir vex oler la bore fir quo Ibnestke. Eft en sledmer locte vex. Eft en sledmer locte ibnest. Lun Mante, Ibnestke, polinka, ene pleanocey yen, yen wasdnik men panfe hegey. En kij jefdey hen. Iz oot foo. Heka yeetreem hen mife. (Lun Mante, Ruling Stars, Ibnestke, please help me. My father is gone. He's dead. My mother says that

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he is gone forever and is with Ibnestke now. I don't want him to be gone. I don't want him to be dead. Lun Mante, Ibnestke, please, I'm begging you, bring my father back. I still need him. It's too soon. Let him live again.) *(During those lines we see Ethera in a pristine dress sitting alone. She twiddles her thumbs anxiously. A young man enters. Ethera notices and tries exiting but he stops her. He wishes to speak to her. The two exchange apologetic looks as if they both realize the situation isn't what either of them hoped it would be. He gently takes Ethera's left hand and places a ring on her finger. He then kisses it and exits. Ethera takes a deep breath and then follows him. The next prayers are in Terron).*

HAKMEW (OV). Lun Mante, Lunus, Steles Monek, yun la menegg? In cuin wenme in el urthinz. Ine no tectey cookbe ni urie? In ect turth. In cuin vin si el groptrey urthin. Zemo, menegg si el xame ju min tin olumb kuyew si dame. Sa fi ine hun o kuyew vanes. Yun turth? Nad fi turth yun, yun unya min ni el tectey fagrehn? (Lun Mante, Lunus, Ruling Stars, are you there? I guess I really only have a question. Am I on the right path in life? I don't know. I guess it's a bit silly to ask. However, there's a part of me that feels like there's something missing. As if I'm meant for something better. Do you know? And, if you do, can you guide me in the right direction?)

LUNUS (OV). Lun Mante, Lunus, Steles Monek, awkrect hallus min. Kuyerp rek in si nas lutyope. In ect truth ret ectey kemp nin, zemo in cofearet nin leck ect glere ten lutyopen. Awkrect earye yun keforte min. Awkrect hagrishna glerem nin. Ect fereestu Stel Ibnestke. Nin evah utrewich urie yeftgweb uren. Awkrect hallus min! Hallus nin! Hagrishna glerem nin mife. (Lun Mante, Lunus, Ruling Stars, please help me. Someone I love is very sick. I do not know what is wrong with them, but I fear they will not survive this illness. Please hear my prayer. Please make them better. Do not send Ibnestke for them. They still have so much life left to live. Please help me! Help them! Make them well again!)

ETHERA (OV). Lun Mane, Lunus, Steles Monek. Awkrect earye min. Pollveta min urie, hashmina in oplus lipney, el usmallret. In hasmina amante ame vanme usmallret ame hunyagraff nac yebweg. Zemo, taffne mollveta, min nad rekwen min ect nac devlishna. In urthinz yun granges ten oplus tuyes. Awkrect nis poliq el usmallret. (Lun Mante, Lunus, Ruling Stars. Please hear me. All my life I've longed for one thing; a child. I wish to mother the most perfect child the universe could offer. However, despite everything, myself and my lover cannot conceive. I ask that you grant me this one request. Please give us a child.)

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URIE (OV). Lun Mante, Lunus, Steles Monek, Rekwp. Awkrect hallus min. Ine rekwp. In timer yun ten ri hin rek ect min. In hashmina hin. Bollveta in od xeema zemo rekwp hin. Yun hagrishna hin min rek. Hagrishna hin min hashmina nad min oplus; poll nad pollveta. (Lun Mante, Lunus, Ruling Stars, Rekwp. Please help me. I am in love. I tell you this because he does not love me. I want him. Everyday I do nothing but yearn for him. Make him love me. Make him want me and only me; now and forever.) *(During those lines we see Genafra, Roquin, and Pleos in a training session. Genafra has Pleos and Roquin face off with their respective weapons and begin the fight. Genafra stops it at one point to correct Pleos's form. He nods and resets with Roquin. They face off and begin their fight again. Almost immediately Roquin takes him down and Pleos ends up on his back. Genafra pantomimes yelling at him and she exits in a huff. Roquin reluctantly follows suit leaving Pleos alone. Pleos sits up and throws his weapon across stage. He wraps his arms around his knees and cries into them for a moment. Lights dim on him. The next few prayers are in English).*

ROQUIN (OV). Lun Mante, Steles Monek, Lunus? I'm gonna be honest. Whoever took the lead in creating me didn't do their best when it came to my physical exterior. I mean, really? I couldn't have been made more attractive? It has to be the reason women don't want me, right? Can't you do something about it? Can't you wave your hands and make me wake up in a better body tomorrow? It's really not that hard.

IBNESTKE (OV). Why can't I be better, Lun Mante? I try and try and try and no matter what I do others go out of their way to be better than me. I don't want that to happen again. I want to be better, smarter, more accomplished than those others claim to be. You will make me better.

PLEOS (OV). There's only one thing I could ever want, Lun Mante. Something I would die for, kill for, fight wars for. Something I've been pining for my whole life; money. I want to be able to bathe in wealth and have everything I could ever want. (pause) Why won't you give me this?

ETHERA (OV). Are you even there, Lun Mante? Do you even exist? *(During those lines we see Genafra taking care of an animal; a Frekma. An older man enters: Commander Volzgond. She stiffens herself as he paces in front of her. Hakmew is seen from the side. He watches from afar. Volzgond stops himself and tells Genafra something. She goes from shocked, to overjoyed, to composed for her reputation's sake. Volzgond exits and Genafra jumps in excitement. She happily*

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embraces the neck of the Frekma and exits, passing by Hakmew. He tries catching up to her but stops himself. He lovingly watches her go and then exits in the opposite direction. As Lun Mante hears the above, she suddenly grows confused and then frustrated and then angry. Suddenly silence. Lun Mante looks around to see if somebody, anybody, would be praying to her. Gradually we hear the whole cast offstage repeating, "Lunus," over and over, gradually getting louder. During this Lun Mante summons one of the Stels, Ibnestke. Once they enter Lun Mante points to them as if sending them on a task. Ibnestke exits. When the ensemble reaches their loudest everything is silent again. Lun Mante has a single spotlight on her. She looks out into the audience).

LUN MANTE. (scoffs) Pathetic. (*Lun Mante holds her arms out. Blackout.*)

Scene ii:

Blue and red lights rise on the stage. A girl wearing white is laying on the ground. She appears unconscious. She has some burns on her clothes but no blood. Surrounding her are wires that bury into the ground. Some rise into the black starlit sky.

ROQUIN (OV). Hello?! Is there anyone out there?? (*Roquin enters carrying a long spear. His clothes are distressed. He looks as if he was fighting*). Hello? Can you hear me? Do you need help? (*He drops the spear and runs to her body. He holds her in his arms*). I'm so sorry. You didn't deserve this. (*The following is in the language of this planet, Terron, with translations that are projected upstage of Roquin. Terron is mainly used in prayer*).

ROQUIN. Lun Mante, ect hashmentu sin. Vane sin! Min granges ten oplus tuyes. Awkrect! Ect fereestu Stel Ibnestke. Sin uren abtek. Sin uren abtek!

(Lun Mante, don't take this woman away. She is good! Grant me this one request. Please! Don't send Stel Ibnestke for her. Let her live. Let her live!) (*Ethera wakes up. She's startled*).

ETHERA. Who are you? What do you want?

ROQUIN. You're okay

ETHERA. Get away from me!

ROQUIN. Wait! Please! I'm not gonna hurt you! I want to help. (pause) Um- My name is Roquin. What's yours?

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ETHERA. Ethera.

ROQUIN. Ethera. That means “angelic”, right?

ETHERA. Yes.

ROQUIN. It’s nice to meet you. *(Roquin holds his hand out to Ethera and she takes it. They help each other stand).*

ETHERA. What is going on? Have the violet flames died down?

ROQUIN. Yes they have.

ETHERA. Then the battle is over! Terranis is safe now?

ROQUIN. The battle is over, but, sadly, Terranis is far from safe. Those creatures still roam and the wires are spreading across the planet. *(Ethera clasps her hands in prayer. They move from in front of her heart to above her head).*

ETHERA. **Lun Mante, fereestu hallus ju ame Steles Monek.** (Lun Mante, send the Ruling Stels for help.)

Is anyone else alive?

ROQUIN. I have no idea. I got separated from my friends during the battle. *(Frekmas are domesticated flying animals used for battles).*

ETHERA. Ibnestke could have come for them for all we know. Roquin, I am scared.

ROQUIN. Don’t worry. We’re going to be okay. They’re not coming for you. I just don’t know why Lun Mante would allow this to happen. These creatures infected the planet with wires and they’re spreading with every quake.

ETHERA. Did you see them? Those creatures?

ROQUIN. Yes.

ETHERA. What are they like?

ROQUIN. Brutal fighters. Their weapons are not like ours. They’re metallic and attached to each of their arms. We look weak in comparison. They are huge too. They stand on three legs. One hand has the weapon that projects violet flames and it’s hotter than anything in the universe. The other hand has the weapon that shoots the wires. If the wires continue to spread, Terranis will die. *(The ground starts shaking. This jostles them).*

ETHERA. Roquin!

ROQUIN. Another quake! The wires are spreading! We’ve gotta get out of here! *(Roquin grabs Ethera’s hand and they run offstage).*

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Scene iii:

Lights rise on Hakmew on a Frekma, flying very high in the air. Some wires shoot at the two but they dodge. The Frekma lets out an elk-like call.

HAKMEW. Easy. Easy. We're okay. *(Hakmew talks in his communicator.)*

Commander, we're being hit hard. I've never seen flames like this before.

VOLZGOND (OV). Keep steady, Hakmew.

HAKMEW. But sir, these things are after anything that moves. I don't know how we're gonna eradicate all of them. We need a strategy, sir- Sir? *(Static)*. Dammit! *(He tries a different channel)*. Genafr? Are you out there? Something's happened to Volzgond's communicator! *(Static)*. Genafr? Genafr?! *(Static. Frantic)* No. No. No. No! NO! Shit!! Genafr!! *(Static. Hakmew's Frekma gets restless, grunting like a koala)*. Calm down! We're fine! *(pause)* She's fine... *(Violet flames shoot at them and they dodge)*. We're fine! She's fine! *(Violet flames shoot at them again and they dodge.)* She's fine!! Oh shit!! *(Violet flames shoot at them once more and it hits the Frekma. They fall. Blackout.)*

Scene iv:

The wires have spread. More appear along the stage as well as rising to the sky. Genafr enters. She has a wound on her left arm that's bleeding. Her blood is green. She talks in her communicator, a device for warriors to contact other warriors. She also carries a katana-like blade.

GENAFRA. Commander Volzgond! Sir! Do you read me? *(Static. When Genafr uses Terron, she mainly uses it when swearing)*. **Rotefkt!** (Dammit!) Volzgond! Roquin! Pleos! Somebody! Please help!! Our troops have fallen and more wires are spreading! Those creatures burned half the troops and the other half were impaled with the wires. Ibnestke has already taken a quarter of our troops and the rest are hanging by threads. *(pause)* I fear they may come for more. *(pause)* Please somebody send help! My Frekma has fallen. His wings were torn by one of them. Hakmew was shot down. The others on Frekmas are missing. *(pause)* Will anybody help? *(Static. Genafr throws her communicator. She looks up at the stars and clasps her hands in prayer)*. I cannot believe I'm doing this. **Lun Mante.**

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Lunus. Steles Monek. Collteva! Hallus min! Ect rewanus oculus min jame. Ect fereestu Stel Ibnestke. Hallus min! HALLUS MIN! (Lun Mante. Lunus. Ruling Stars. Anybody! Help me! Do not turn your eyes from me. Do not send Ibnestke for me. Help me! HELP ME!) (*Genafra stands and runs offstage. Blackout.*)

Scene v:

Bright white lights rise. A woman, Lun Mante, in silver is slowly yet non-anxiously pacing across the stage. She appears to be looking down toward Terranis. She smiles a bit. A man in red, Lunus, runs in

LUNUS. Mother! Do you see what's happening down below?

LUN MANTE. Yes.

LUNUS. Mother, other beings are attacking our planet with weapons unlike our own. A quarter of Terranis' population has been killed and their souls are with Stel Ibnestke.

LUN MANTE. Yes, Lunus, I am well aware of the situation at hand.

LUNUS. Then why aren't you stopping this?

LUN MANTE. I cannot.

LUNUS. Yes you can, mother, send a cataclysm to destroy these creatures.

LUN MANTE. They're called Iopes and I cannot destroy them.

LUNUS. Why?

LUN MANTE. Because this is their fate. This is the prophecy.

LUNUS. The prophecy?

LUN MANTE. Yes. The planet will be reborn.

LUNUS. Reborn? I don't understand.

LUN MANTE. Those people down there, they lose faith in us. In you, in me, in the Stels. They doubt our ways, and seek to progress without my- our consent. It is almost as if we no longer exist to them. If we no longer exist to them, then they no longer exist to us.

LUNUS. So you're going to let these Iopes infect Terranis with their wires and violet flames.

LUN MANTE. No, Lunus. I'm allowing a new race to bring what I sought to flourish into fruition. If our planet's population must deplete, then so be it.

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LUNUS. Mother, you can't do this! Those creatures are a virus. The people down there were innocent.

LUN MANTE. The people down there were greedy. They were envious of each other. They only wanted what would benefit themselves. Those pitiful things are too prideful. What are they to be proud of? (pause) They brought this upon themselves. I am sorry, Lunus. You will understand in time. *(Stel Ibneskte enters).*

IBNESKTE. You called for me?

LUN MANTE. Yes, there are more ready to be collected.

IBNESKTE. Yes, Lun Mante. *(They exit. Lunus speaks to his mother in Lunian, a language we'll explore later).*

LUNUS. **Woi grine fir vanematis?** (Why is this happening?) *(Lunus exits. Lun Mante walks to center stage. She looks down toward Terranis. She smiles as if she is content with what is happening. Blackout).*

Scene vi:

Lights rise on Terranis. Wires have not spread more than they did previously. Ethera and Roquin enter climbing down a cluster of wires. She keeps looking back.

ETHERA. I feel like we are being followed. *(Roquin looks back).*

ROQUIN. We're not. We're okay. *(An Elk-like call of a Frekma can be heard off stage. Ethera holds Roquin's arm tightly. Roquin looks up).* It's okay! Relax! It's just a Frekma. See? *(Roquin points to the sky. The two follow it with their eyes).* We'd probably get a lot farther on one of those. Huh. *(Roquin chuckles, but immediately stops when he realizes Ethera isn't chuckling back).*

ETHERA. I am frightened, Roquin. I fear Terranis may be destroyed if this continues.

ROQUIN. There has to be a reason these creatures invaded. (pause) Something tells me it was going to happen all along.

ETHERA. Why, though? Why here? Why today of all important days? Why not on some lesser planet with no people residing? **Lun Mante, hallus nis! Vane nises fruaa!** (Lun Mante, help us! Our souls are good!)

ROQUIN. Will you stop that? She clearly isn't helping us now.

ETHERA. It is the best that I can do. I am sorry I do not possess your weapons or fight in battles like you. I am sorry you are losing hope in our Stels and in Lunus

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and in Lun Mante, but if they cannot help us who will? The creatures? Because they are clearly doing a lot to help keep Terranis safe.

ROQUIN. I understand that, but praying doesn't solve all of our problems. Fighting them does. (Pause.) What did you mean by "important days?"

ETHERA. Um- Today. Well- It was my wedding day today.

ROQUIN. What?

ETHERA. I was supposed to be married today.

ROQUIN. No, I understand that, but- Really?

ETHERA. Yes. *(Pause)*

ROQUIN. So, who is he?

ETHERA. Pardon.

ROQUIN. Your fiancé. Who is he?

ETHERA. His name was Jemlek.

ROQUIN. Jemlek? *(Roquin starts laughing).*

ETHERA. I beg your pardon?

ROQUIN. No, I'm sorry, but - *(He laughs more).*

ETHERA. What is so funny?

ROQUIN. You were gonna marry Jemlek?

ETHERA. I am guessing you know him?

ROQUIN. Oh do I *know* him! Jemlek is one of the biggest cowards in the regime. He could hardly hold a spear let alone use one. Stel forbid any of us tried to hit him anywhere, especially in the face. He has a thing about his nose. He always hid during training exercises. The fact that he ranked higher than most of us was really telling about our admirals.

ETHERA. But his name means "heroic."

ROQUIN. It may mean "heroic" but he certainly was not.

ETHERA. And your name meaning "of the mountains" holds you in higher esteem?

ROQUIN. I never said it did, "Angelic," but how could you be in love with someone like him? *(Pause. Roquin continues laughing).*

ETHERA. I was not in love with him. Not yet that is.

ROQUIN. Yet?

ETHERA. I only met him yesterday.

ROQUIN. An arranged marriage? The elite still does that?

ETHERA. Yes, but he was a really nice man.

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ROQUIN. I understand that. (pause) You know, I'm not surprised at all that he didn't join the battle. We wouldn't want him to break his precious nose.

ETHERA. Maybe he did not because he died before he could! Maybe a group of those things attacked us, and Jemlek pushed me out of the way so I would not get impaled! Maybe I watched him get scorched as he tried to save me!

ROQUIN. Oh...

ETHERA. Pretty heroic if you ask me.

ROQUIN. I'm sorry for making fun of him.

ETHERA. And I forgive you. (*The sound of an Iope approaching is heard offstage*). What was that? (*Roquin's eyes grow large*).

ROQUIN. Get down! (*They duck as a violet flame blows across the stage. Once it's snuffed, an Iope enters. It has three metallic legs almost like a spider, the upper body is similar to a body builder's, and the arms are equipped with weapons. A flame thrower on the left and a wire gun on the right. Roquin and Ethera stand in terror. Roquin hides Ethera behind a column of wires*). Stay here.

ETHERA. Roquin no! (*Roquin begins to fight the Iope. He lunges at it with his spear but is thrown over its shoulder. Roquin falls to the ground. The Iope shoots the wires aiming at Roquin but he rolls over as the trigger is pulled. This cuts his arm. Roquin jumps on the Iope's back and stab its shoulder. The Iope cries out in pain and becomes angrier. The Iope throws Roquin toward Ethera and it preps its flame thrower. As this happens, Ethera holds up the necklace she is wearing. A white light begins emitting from it and it hypnotizes the Iope*).

ROQUIN. How are you doing that?

ETHERA. It is not moving! Kill it! (*Roquin lunges at the Iope stabbing it in the chest. The Iope cries out in pain and falls to the ground dead. Once Roquin pulls the spear out from the Iope, its body falls apart. Roquin looks over at Ethera. They run and embrace each other*). You saved my life!

ROQUIN. No. You saved mine.

ETHERA. You are bleeding. (*Roquin notices the green blood coming from his arm. Ethera tears off a piece of her skirt to use as a bandage and wraps it on his arm*).

ROQUIN. How did you do that?

ETHERA. I did not do it. It was Lun Mante.

ROQUIN. Again with this nonsense.

TERRANIS

ETHERA. This was a gift from her. It is meant to protect those who possess it and keep them from harm. (pause) I may not have your particular weapons, but I know how to protect myself. *(Roquin walks up to the Iope).*

ROQUIN. Not so fearsome now is it. *(He kicks one of the legs and hurts himself).*

ETHERA. I do not understand why you despise our higher beings when you were praying to them earlier.

ROQUIN. What do you mean?

ETHERA. When you found me. As I was coming to, you were praying to the Stels for me to be saved. You feared that I was killed and you wished for me to live. You do believe in the Stels. You do believe that there is hope in the stars.

ROQUIN. I don't know what you're talking about.

ETHERA. I heard you speaking in Terron. *(Pause).*

ROQUIN. Okay. Fine, I was. I was desperate. I thought you were dead. I'm sorry people from my side don't pray as much as the elite. It's such a red blood thing.

ETHERA. Blood has nothing to do with it. Pleos has red blood and he is from the working side.

ROQUIN. Yes, but most people with red blood are special to Lun Mante's son, and anyone special to him gets special treatment from Lun Mante and the Stels, so you do the math. *(Russling can be heard offstage. Roquin prepares to fight again as Ethera gets anxious. Genafra enters limping. She is injured from battle).*

Genafra!

GENAFRA. Oh thank the Stels! I thought I was the only one left. *(Genafra winces in pain. Roquin and Ethera run up to her.)*

ROQUIN. What happened to you?

GENAFRA. The wires hit my Frekma and made us fall from the sky. Then one of those things tore the wings off and tried to impale me with the wires. I ran off before anything else happened. When I got far enough away I tried contacting everyone; You, Pleos, Volzgond, everyone. No one answered. I was beginning to fear that I was the only one left. (Pause) Who's the princess?

ROQUIN. This is Ethera. I found her in the scorch. Do you know if Pleos or Hakmew are still alive?

GENAFRA. Negative. As far as we're concerned, they're missing... Or dead. *(Another quake begins and everyone is being jostled. More wires begin spreading).*

ETHERA. We have got to get out of here or Ibnestke will come for us!

TERRANIS

GENAFRA. I know where to go! Follow me! *(Genafra tries walking but stumbles. Roquin and Ethera help carry her offstage. Blackout.)*

Scene vii:

Lights rise on a boy, Pleos, laying on the ground. He isn't conscious. He has cuts on his arm leg and face. His blood is red. The faint sounds of explosions can be heard in the background. There is a faint quake. No wires spread but it shakes everything around Pleos. Once the shaking stops, Lunus enters. He is looking around for someone. Anyone. He approaches Pleos and sees the color of his blood. People with red blood were saved by Lunus at their birth.

LUNUS. Red. *(Ibnestke enters. They are surprised to see Lunus).*

IBNESTKE. Lunus. What are you doing here? You've never visited Terranis in person before.

LUNUS. I know.

IBNESTKE. You should go back to your moon. It's not safe here with the Iopes still roaming. Plus there are more souls to collect. (pause) Including that one.

LUNUS. No!

IBNESTKE. Excuse me?

LUNUS. Please! Not him!

IBNESTKE. May I ask why?

LUNUS. Do you not see his blood?! Red! He's someone I saved!

IBNESTKE. I'm sorry, Lunus, but he must come with me now. I must do as Lun Mante / instructs.

LUNUS. I'm her son! Do as I instruct!

IBNESTKE. I cannot. I am not allowed to. Now, if you'll excuse me. *(Ibnestke goes to approach Pleos, but Lunus stops them and pushes them down. This angers Ibnestke).*

IBNESTKE. What is your problem?

LUNUS. He's mine! I'm not going to let you take him!

IBNESTKE. You can't stop me. You can't stop the inevitable. *(Ibnestke stands up. Lunus runs to push them down again but Ibnestke holds their hand out and causes Lunus to stop moving. Ibnestke throws Lunus to the side and begins walking toward Pleos' body. Lunus stands up and quickly runs over to Ibnestke and throws*

TERRANIS

them across the stage. Before Ibnestke can do anything, Lunus holds his left hand out toward them causing them to freeze. Ibnestke begins choking. They fall to their knees and put their hands around their neck, struggling to breathe). Okay. Okay! I'll spare his life. (Lunus stops choking Ibnestke. He walks up to them and grabs them by the shirt).

LUNUS. If you see anyone bleeding, red or green, you spare them. Do you understand? *(Ibnestke nods. Lunus lets go of them). Go. (Ibnestke smirks and runs offstage. Pleos begins waking up).*

PLEOS. *(weakly)* Hello? *(Lunus runs to Pleos).*

LUNUS. Are you alright?

PLEOS. I don't know. I can't feel my legs. *(Pleos winces in pain.)*

LUNUS. Don't worry. I can help you. *(Lunus holds his hands over Pleos' body. Red light surrounds Lunus and Pleos. When the light dies down there is no more blood on Pleos with the exception of the stains on his clothes. Lunus helps Pleos stand. Pleos hugs Lunus tightly. Lunus doesn't know how to react to this. He's never been hugged before).*

PLEOS. Thank you!

LUNUS. Um- You're welcome. *(Pleos lets go of Lunus. He looks at him for a moment).*

PLEOS. How did you do that?

LUNUS. The same reason why your blood is red. *(Pleos realizes.)*

PLEOS. Lunus!

LUNUS. *(humbly)* Yes. *(Pleos kneels before Lunus but he makes him stand back up).* Oh, no, you don't have to do that.

PLEOS. Why not? You saved my life twice now. And you're Lun Mante's son. You're the son of a Goddess.

LUNUS. I'm the son of a monster.

PLEOS. What do you mean?

LUNUS. According to my mother, this was meant to happen. That Terranis would be invaded by another species and inevitably be destroyed. And she's just allowing it to happen because she feels that you and other people of Terranis are losing faith in her and are only caring about yourselves. She's just going to let these things invade and take the planet for themselves.

PLEOS. What can you do?

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LUNUS. I don't know. I'm trying to figure that out. I do know that we have to stop Lun Mante from letting Terranis die. We can't do this alone.

PLEOS. We?

LUNUS. Of course. I can't fight my mother by myself and I don't know how to fight an Iope. We're going to need all the help we can get.

PLEOS. Is that what they're called? The creatures?

LUNUS. Yes.

PLEOS. I have some friends who may still be alive. I have no idea where they would be.

LUNUS. I may be able to find them. Come here. *(Pleos walks closer to Lunus. He puts one hand on Pleos' heart and the other hand behind his head. Lunus pulls his head into his so their foreheads are touching each other. A red light surrounds them for a moment and then abruptly dies down).* Is this okay? How do you feel?

PLEOS. Strange, but I think I like it. *(Lunus removes himself from Pleos).*

LUNUS. Three of them are together by the mountains; a boy and two girls.

PLEOS. That must be Roquin and Genafra! I don't know who the other girl would be.

LUNUS. There's only one way to find out. We have to go to the mountain to see for ourselves. Come on. *(Lunus grabs Pleos' hand and they exit. Blackout).*

Scene viii:

Lights rise on the moon. Lun Mante and Stel Ibnestke.

LUN MANTE. He did what?!

IBNESTKE. Told me not to collect souls.

LUN MANTE. Why would he do that?

IBNESTKE. I don't know. I think he plans to rebel against you.

LUN MANTE. Lunus rebel against me? *(She laughs).* He's not powerful enough to do that.

IBNESTKE. I wouldn't be so sure. He appeared pretty powerful to me. *(pause)* Let me get the others here to get their input. *(Ibnestke waves their hands to summon the other Stels. Once they do, they one by one enter).*

LUN MANTE. **Min Steles Monek. Hallus min.** *(My Ruling Stars. Help me.)*

URIE. What's going on?

TERRANIS

LUN MANTE. It's Lunus. He tried to harm Ibnestke. I fear he may be trying to stop the prophecy from happening.

URIE. That's impossible. He isn't created to do harm.

REKWEP. You don't know that for sure. We each gifted him with parts of ourselves when he was born, remember? He could be more powerful than we thought he would have been.

LUN MANTE. Well, what exactly did you gift him with?

URIE. I gave him the power to heal so he could help save lives and bring peace.

REKWEP. I made him compassionate and empathetic so he could understand how others around him were feeling. *(Everyone looks at Ibnestke).*

LUN MANTE. What did you give Lunus, Ibnestke?

IBNESTKE. Anger. I gave him the power to hate and destroy what he hates. *(Pause. Everyone tries to take this in but can't comprehend it).*

IBNESTKE. (shocked) Why would Lunus hate me? I am a delight.

LUN MANTE. Why would he do this? Does he just want to rule Terranis on his own?

REKWEP. What about Urrekwib?

URIE. The second gifts? He doesn't know about that.

LUN MANTE. What?! *(composes herself)* What second gifts?

URIE. Well it was to come to a point where the savior in the prophecy would obtain a second gift; to help when the time came to save Terranis.

LUN MANTE. And you were going to tell me about this when?

IBNESTKE. What do you mean?

LUN MANTE. When were you planning to give me a second gift?

REKWEP. We weren't. Urrekwib is for the savior

LUN MANTE. You idiots! I'm the savior! Me! Who else is powerful enough for it? *(pause)* Here is what I want you to do. He's down there right now with the citizens planning a revolt, so I want each of you to go down there and stop him. Do it however you want to. Make the people hate him, make the people I gave a bevnys to use it to destroy him.

IBNESTKE. But, Lun Mante, most of those people are -

LUN MANTE. I don't care! *(composes herself)* It doesn't matter. Just do it. *(Ibnestke pauses time for a moment. Lun Mante is frozen. The Stels gather together).*

URIE. How could you let that slip?

TERRANIS

REKWEP. I'm sorry

IBNESTKE. What are we going to do?

URIE. She's gone mad enough already.

REKWEP. But this is not right!

IBNESTKE. She's going to destroy herself. We can't give her the second gifts, right?

URIE. We have to! She is our leader! We have to do what she says. It is what the prophecy foretold.

REKWEP. No it is not! The prophecy foretold the invasion to be ended by the savior. Lun Mante is the creator. If anything, Lunus is more likely to be the savior than Lun Mante. Lunus is much more compassionate than she is.

IBNESTKE. That's true. When Lunus attacked me, it wasn't out of hate towards me or Lun Mante. He was doing whatever it took to save that boy's life. He loves this planet.

URIE. But Lunus doesn't have the balance of energies light and dark. What do you want us to do? We can't go against her or else we'll be destroyed.

REKWEP. We need to help Lunus somehow.

IBNESTKE. Well, let's hope someone with a bevnys doesn't find him first. Whoever's left that is. *(Ibnestke starts time again).*

LUN MANTE. What are you all standing there for? Go! Go! *(The Stels exit. Lun Mante stops Ibnestke).* Not you. *(Ibnestke approaches.)* Did you find anyone?

IBNESTKE. Well, you know why I couldn't use the one *you* wanted, so I hope this one will suffice. *(Hakmew floats in laying flat. He is not conscious. Lun Mante sends Ibnestke away and they exit. Lun Mante holds a hand over Hakmew).*

LUN MANTE. **Yen sledmer, men nunye, Lunus. Steles tenya efte yen hallu.**

(Just you wait, my child, Lunus. No Stel will help you). (Hakmew awakens with a gasp. Blackout).

Scene ix:

Lights rise on Ethera, Roquin, and Genafra. Genafra is laying on the ground, Ethera is sitting holding her knees, and Roquin is trying to start a fire to no avail.

GENAFRA. I'd give up if I were you. The smoke will just attract those creatures toward us.

TERRANIS

ROQUIN. Better to fight them off than to freeze. *(Roquin continues to try and light the fire).*

GENAFRA. *(to Ethera)* So, you're saying that thing around your neck can kill these creatures?

ETHERA. No, Roquin killed it with his spear. This just made it paralyzed.

ROQUIN. I still don't understand how or why Lun Mante gave that to you.

ETHERA. I do not know why either. I just remember, before the invasion, Lun Mante came to me in a dream. She said that she was giving me a gift to protect myself. She said, "I am giving you something powerful. You must cherish it with your life and only use it when you are in danger." When I woke up the next day, this was around my neck. I did not know how it got there or what it did, but I knew that wearing it would keep me protected by Lun Mante. *(pause)* I hope she can come up with something to save Terranis.

GENAFRA. If she can't, then the Stels need to do something.

ROQUIN. The best thing we can do right now is protect ourselves. Those things can come out of nowhere, and they're still more powerful than us.

GENAFRA. They don't have Ethera's necklace thing.

ROQUIN. And we don't have their violet flame throwers or wire shooters. The Stels and Lun Mante aren't going to help us. It's only a matter of time before Ibnestke comes for us. *(Roquin tries to light the fire again but nothing happens. Footsteps can be heard offstage).*

GENAFRA. Do you hear that?

ROQUIN. It might be another one! *(Roquin stands and readies himself with his spear. Genera tries standing but struggles. Pleos and Lunus enter together).*

PLEOS. Roquin?

ROQUIN. Pleos! *(Roquin runs up to Pleos and hugs him).*

PLEOS. Thank the Stels you're okay.

GENAFRA. Where have you been?

PLEOS. Lost, but found thankfully. *(Everyone looks at Lunus).*

ROQUIN. Who are you?

PLEOS. This is Lunus. *(Ethera stands up).*

ETHERA. Yes! I thought it was you.

GENAFRA. How could you tell?

ETHERA. I felt it in my heart. *(She runs to Lunus and kneels before him).*

LUNUS. Please don't do that. I'm not worth kneeling to.

TERRANIS

GENAFRA. How did you two find each other?

PLEOS. I was laying somewhere before the mountains bleeding. Lunus found me and saved me from being taken by Ibnestke.

LUNUS. I was just doing what was right. My mother wouldn't have approved of it, but I couldn't let anymore people die because of this invasion

ROQUIN. Do you know why these things are invading us? *(Pause. Lunus is nervous to answer but knows he has to.)*

LUNUS. Yes. Apparently, this was meant to happen for a long time now. An invasion from within to wipe Terranis out of the universe.

GENAFRA. I always thought that meant by us.

LUNUS. The worst part is that Lun Mante is using this to punish you.

ETHERA. What?

LUNUS. She believes you are losing faith in her. She thinks you don't care that she rules and protects you, so she stopped caring and protecting you. Enter the Iopes.

ROQUIN. What are Iopes?

LUNUS. The creatures invading Terranis.

GENAFRA. What the fuck?!

ETHERA. What are the Stels doing about it?

LUNUS. Nothing as far as I'm aware. They are the ones who knew it was going to happen. *(to Genafra)* What happened to you?

GENAFRA. Apparently an Iope.

LUNUS. Let me help.

ROQUIN. What can you do?

PLEOS. How do you think I'm standing here now? *(Lunus approaches Genafra and puts his hands over her body. Red light projects like before and dies down. Once it does, the green blood is gone).*

GENAFRA. What did you do?

LUNUS. Can you stand? *(Lunus helps Genafra stand.)*

ROQUIN. How did you do that?

LUNUS. I don't know, actually. I've just been able to do it since I was created.

PLEOS. It's what he did to save me, like he did when I was born, and he can do it to save others. *(An Iope can be heard approaching offstage).*

LUNUS. What is that?

TERRANIS

ROQUIN. It's an Iope! Get down! *(Everyone ducks as wires shoot above them. An Iope enters).*

PLEOS. Come on! It's five against one! We have a chance!

LUNUS. Pleos wait! *(Pleos runs to the Iope, but before he could do anything the Iope throws Pleos toward Lunus. He catches him, and when the two land on the ground. Lunus should be on top of Pleos).*

GENAFRA. Ethera! Use your necklace thing! *(Ethera stands and holds the necklace up. A white light flickers but doesn't last and fades.)*

ETHERA. It is not working! *(The Iope begins approaching Ethera).*

LUNUS. Ethera, get out of the way! *(As the Iope gets closer).*

ETHERA. No. Is it really you? *(The Iope shoots violet flames at her. She dodges it but it hits her arm and burns her. She cries out in pain).*

ROQUIN. Ethera! *(Roquin stands and runs to Ethera's side. Genafra grabs Roquin's spear and runs to fight the Iope. She jumps onto its back and stabs it in the shoulder. The Iope cries in pain and falls on its metallic knees. Lunus stands up and approaches the Iope slowly. Before the Iope could stand up, Lunus holds his hands out toward it. Red light emits from Lunus' hands which stops the Iope. It begins choking and struggles to breathe. It falls to the ground suffocating. Eventually it stops moving and lays there dead. The light fades from Lunus' hands and he falls to his knees out of breath. Pleos runs to him and hugs him).*

GENAFRA. He killed it. It's dead. *(Pleos helps Lunus stand).*

ETHERA. How did you do that?

LUNUS. I don't know. *(pause)* I've never killed before. *(Ethera winces in pain. Lunus approaches Ethera and Roquin).* Are you okay?

ETHERA. I think so.

ROQUIN. Ethera, you were burned, and you're bleeding.

LUNUS. May I? *(Ethera nods. Lunus kneels next to Ethera and sees she is bleeding red).* You have red blood too? Like Pleos. That's how you were able to recognize me.

ETHERA. Yes. My father told me you saved me when I was born, but it was too late for my mother.

LUNUS. She's with Ibnestke?

ETHERA. Yes.

LUNUS. I'm sorry.

TERRANIS

ETHERA. It's so strange. That Iope looked like someone I know. (*Correcting herself*) Knew, actually?

ROQUIN. Jemlek?

ETHERA. Yes.

ROQUIN. How? They're not from here.

ETHERA. I do not know. (*To Lunus*) Would you?

LUNUS. No. They're as new to me as they are to you. (*During that, Lunus puts his hand over her arm. Red light emits and fades. The burn is gone but a scar remains and tattoos her arm*). Is that better?

ETHERA. Yes. (*She notices the scar left behind*) I have never seen a scar so beautiful before. (*Lunus and Roquin help Ethera stand*). I do not understand why this did not work. (*Lunus examines the necklace*).

LUNUS. How did you get this?

ROQUIN. Your mother came to her in a dream saying she was giving her a gift to protect herself and she woke up with it on. She used it the last time we saw an Iope, and it worked then.

LUNUS. I've seen this before. My mother only made ten of these. She called them "bevnyis." They're meant to protect the person wearing it if they are in danger. However, my mother made it so it would only work once.

GENAFRA. So much for Lun Mante partially being on our side.

ROQUIN. What about the other nine? Did she give any of those away?

LUNUS. As far as I'm aware no. If she hasn't she probably wouldn't give them away now. (*pause*) I don't want to let her get away with destroying this planet. I need your help to defeat her and save Terranis. It's not going to be easy. Some of us may die. Some of us may come out of this scarred. But all that matters is that we defeat the Iopes and Lun Mante. (*pause*) Will you help me?

PLEOS. I will. (*The two look at the rest of the group. Genafra walks up to Pleos and Lunus*).

GENAFRA. I'll help.

ETHERA. Me too. (*She walks toward the new group. Everyone looks at Roquin. He rolls his eyes and walks to the group*).

ROQUIN. Fine. Count me in.

LUNUS. Great! We will make plans in the morning, but now we need to rest. It's been a long day for this planet.

TERRANIS

ROQUIN. Shouldn't one of us stay awake and keep watch? You know, in case another Iope comes?

LUNUS. Yes. I'll keep the first watch. You go sleep and I'll wake you for the next watch.

ROQUIN. Lunus? *(pause)* Thank you.

LUNUS. You're welcome. *(The two shake hands. Lunus sits center stage. Pleos lays on the ground next to him. Ethera sits by the mountain edge at the back of the stage. She holds her hand out to Roquin to have him sit by her. Roquin sits back on the mountain edge and Ethera rests her head on his shoulder. Genafra lays on the other side of the stage alone).*

PLEOS. Lunus?

LUNUS. Yes?

PLEOS. Can I ask you something?

LUNUS. Of course.

PLEOS. What's going to happen if we don't survive this? What would the future hold for Terranis? *(Pause. Lunus doesn't know how to respond).*

LUNUS. I don't know. Let's just worry about right now and then figure the future out as it happens. *(pause)* Just go to sleep. *(Pleos holds Lunus' hand and lays down next to him. Lunus is caught off guard by the gesture but he smiles from it. The lights dim on them).*

Scene x:

Everyone except Lunus is asleep. Lunus constantly looks in different directions to make sure there's no danger. Rekwep enters slowly and approaches Lunus.

REKWEP. Lunus. *(Lunus is startled).*

LUNUS. You frightened me. What are you doing here?

REKWEP. I came to talk to you.

LUNUS. Let me guess; Ibnestke is mad that I tried hurting them and went crying to my mother.

REKWEP. Well, yes and no. They did tell Lun Mante what happened but they aren't mad at you. Actually, they're quite impressed that you are using your powers well. We all are. But she wishes to destroy you and anyone who follows you. She's sending each of us to come and weaken you.

TERRANIS

LUNUS. Perfect. And once you do, she'll have me killed and she'll destroy Terranis. *(Rekwep holds their hands out ready to weaken Lunus. They look around to the rest of the group and they stop).*

REKWEP. No! I'm not going to do that!

LUNUS. What?

REKWEP. Lun Mante has gone mad. She does not have the planet's best interest at heart. She looks at herself as the hero, the savior. Lun Mante is not the one to save the planet. It's you.

LUNUS. Me?

REKWEP. Yes. And we'll do whatever it takes to help you defeat her. I will make sure the other Stels agree with me. I want to give you something. An extension of your existing powers. *(Rekwep puts their hands on the back of Lunus' neck and on his chest. Pink light emits from their hands and then fades away. Rekwep stands and begins exiting).*

LUNUS. Wait! What did you give me?

REKWEP. You'll find out. You'll feel it in your heart.

LUNUS. Thank you. *(Rekwep exits further but stops to watch from afar. Pleos squirms and wakes up).*

PLEOS. No! NO!

LUNUS. What?! What happened?!

PLEOS. It was horrible! Lun Mante was setting everything on fire! Everyone perished and those Iopes took over!

LUNUS. It's okay. It was just a dream.

PLEOS. But it felt so real. (pause) She made Hakmew join her. He killed everyone. Even you. (pause) Lunus, what if this plan fails? What if my nightmare comes true / and Terranis is destroyed?

LUNUS. That won't happen. I'm not going to let that happen. *(Pleos embraces Lunus. Lunus doesn't know how react to this gesture. Rekwep gets a little closer).*

REKWEP. He cares about you, Lunus. You're confused on how to feel. I gave you compassion to sympathize and empathize with others, but I never gave you the ability to love. You deserve to love and be loved in return by someone who cares about you. It isn't much, but it will give you a reason to fight and to keep going; even when you are knocked down. *(Lunus smiles and wraps his arms around Pleos. Pleos feels this and looks at Lunus).*

PLEOS. Are you okay, Lunus?

TERRANIS

LUNUS. Yes. Yes, I'm okay.

(Rekwep begins to exit but stops when they see Roquin and Ethera sleeping).

REKWEP. Oh good. You two finally met. I'm so sorry these are the circumstances for it. *(To Ethera)* I'm sorry about Jemlek. I hope you understand. You were meant for far greater than what was originally planned for you. *(To Roquin)* You want to take care of her. To be the hero she dreamt about. However, you must understand that she is not a damsel and that she too can save herself. Give her the same respect as anyone else in the army, for that is what you all are now; an army. To save Terranis from Lun Mante. *(They wave their hand over the two. Pink light shines on them and fades away. Ethera leans her head on Roquin's shoulder and puts her right hand on his chest).*

REKWEP. Good luck. Everyone. *(Rekwep exits. Roquin instantly wakes up. He sees Ethera and smiles. Trying not to wake her, he moves Ethera off of him and lays her on the ground. He takes his jacket off and puts it on her. He stands up, grabs his spear and walks toward).*

ROQUIN. I can take the watch now. *(Lunus and Pleos look at Roquin).* You two okay? *(They look at each other).*

LUNUS. Yes we're okay. *(Lunus and Pleos stands up and move themselves near Genafra. They lay down and go back to sleep. Roquin sits where Lunus was. He looks over at Ethera sleeping. He smiles but snaps out of it and watches his surroundings. We see Hakmew look out from behind a rock higher on the mountain. He smirks at the group. Roquin senses someone there and looks behind him. Hakmew hides. Roquin resumes his position. Blackout. End of act).*

ACT II

Scene i:

Lights rise on Terranis. It's the morning. Everyone but Lunus is still asleep. Roquin and Ethera are leaning on each other. Pleos is next to Lunus and he slowly wakes up.

LUNUS. Did you sleep well?

PLEOS. I think so. You?

LUNUS. Not really.

TERRANIS

PLEOS. Are you anxious? About facing your mother? Anxiety usually keeps people from sleeping.

LUNUS. No. *(pause)* I just couldn't sleep at all. *(pause)* Last night, you didn't see anything odd? Or feel like something changed inside you? Like a warm feeling?

PLEOS. No. I mean, I felt something warm, but I've been feeling warm a lot lately. *(Roquin and Ethera wake up).*

ETHERA. Good morning.

ROQUIN. Hi. Are you okay?

ETHERA. Yes.

ROQUIN. *(to Lunus)* I'm guessing the rest of the night went smoothly?

LUNUS. Yes. *(Roquin and Lunus stand up).*

LUNUS. You didn't happen to notice anything odd during your watch?

ROQUIN. No. Why? Did you?

LUNUS. No.

ETHERA. You do not look well. Are you sure you are alright?

LUNUS. Yes, I'm fine. *(pause)* Different, but fine.

ROQUIN. Different how? *(Genafra wakes up).*

GENAFRA. What's going on?

PLEOS. Nothing. Lunus just isn't feeling well.

GENAFRA. Is he sick or something?

LUNUS. No. *(pause)* Have any of you ever woken up and feel like you're finally you, and you feel like everything is starting to make sense? *(No one responds).*

Never mind. I sound foolish. *(pause)* We're going to need new weapons if we're going to win against my mother.

GENAFRA. Who needs weapons when we have you and your powers?

LUNUS. My powers aren't going to be enough. For all I know, Lun Mante could have thousands by her side prepared to kill anything that even blinks near me.

We're going to need every material we could find. We'll have to use materials from any of the ruins to make weapons, and we'll have to find a proper shelter and food. *(Ethera sees something shining on the ground and picks it up).*

ETHERA. Look. It's just like mine. Another bevnys.

GENAFRA. Lun Mante must have given the other nine out before the invasion.

PLEOS. Whoever this belonged to might not have used it.

TERRANIS

LUNUS. There's only one way to find out. If my mother gave out all ten and they haven't been used, then the rest may be somewhere on the planet. If we are able to find the other eight, we may stand a chance against her.

PLEOS. What about the Iopes?

LUNUS. If we find any we kill them on sight. We have to start moving now. Let's go. *(Everyone exits. Roquin begins exiting but Ethera stops him).*

ETHERA. Can I talk to you about something?

ROQUIN. Can it wait? We have to get going. *(Roquin tries walking but Ethera grabs his hand.)*

ETHERA. Please?

ROQUIN. What is it?

ETHERA. What Lunus said, about feeling like things make sense? I think I know what he means. I feel that way too. *(pause)* I do not know what happened while we slept, but once we woke up, I looked at you and- *(pause)* I do not know. Did you feel something?

ROQUIN. Not this morning. During the night I think. I don't know. How did you feel?

ETHERA. Warm? Safe? My stomach felt odd.

ROQUIN. Nauseated?

ETHERA. Yes.

ROQUIN. Did it somehow feel like you were home?

ETHERA. Yes. You felt something too?

ROQUIN. I think so. I wasn't sure what it was though. I'm still not sure what it is.

ETHERA. Me neither. *(pause)* Do you think this was meant to happen? This feeling?

ROQUIN. Maybe? I don't know. It's all so new to me. I've never felt this way before. *(Pause. Roquin and Ethera look at each other. Roquin walks up to Ethera and kisses her. Once they release they are bashful and confused).*

ROQUIN. Should I have not done that?

ETHERA. I do not know. *(pause)* It was nice.

ROQUIN. Was it?

ETHERA. Yes. *(Pause).*

ROQUIN. It was nice for me too. *(They both look at each other and smile).*

TERRANIS

ETHERA. We should catch up with the others. *(Ethera places the found bevnyis around Roquin's neck. Roquin exits first. Ethera stays for a moment. She takes the ring off her finger and leaves it behind. Blackout).*

Scene ii:

Lights rise on the stars. Three thrones are set onstage and lit in the respective colors of the Stels. Urie and Ibnestke sit on their thrones while Rekwep stands at center facing the audience.

URIE. What did you do?

REKWEP. I did what I thought was right!

URIE. By blatantly rebelling against our leader?

REKWEP. No! By siding with the savior; the real savior.

URIE. You gave Lunus another gift! Did you even stop to think about the imbalance that could cause? He could become more powerful than Lun Mante because of you!

REKWEP. Good! That's the idea!

IBNESTKE. Okay, we all just need to calm down for a moment before we do anything rash. *(to Rekwep)* Why did you give Lunus another gift?

REKWEP. I wanted to help him; give him a reason to fight. I realized that, despite everything she's done, Lun Mante's beliefs about the people were wrong. I watched Lunus with his party. He loves our planet more than anything. They all do. They all are willing to save this planet and restore peace.

URIE. All? What about those who lost faith in her?

REKWEP. A sliver of the population at best. Those people were genuinely greedy and selfish. She can't let a small percentage of the people dictate the beliefs of the majority. She needs to listen to everyone, not a handful of toxic and small minded people.

IBNESTKE. I've collected most of them for Lun Mante already.

URIE. Well, what do you want us to do then? We can't just choose sides.

IBNESTKE. But we can though.

URIE. What?

IBNESTKE. We're the only ones who actually saw the prophecy coming, right?

URIE. Yes.

TERRANIS

IBNESTKE. So only we should know if it's playing out as we foretold, right?

REKWEP. Of course.

IBNESTKE. Well, think about it. An invasion from within set to destroy Terranis. A new populus to replace the populus lost.

REKWEP. Yes, the Iopes.

IBNESTKE. And the savior is one who can create life and destroy it and can balance the energies both light and dark, right?

URIE. Yes, which Lunus cannot do. Lun Mante can.

IBNESTKE. But is Lun Mante the savior or the creator?

URIE. The creator of course.

REKWEP. Then Lunus *has* to be the savior then.

URIE. But how can he if he doesn't fit the description?

IBNESTKE. That may be where Urrekwi comes in. *(Pause. Urie takes this in).*

URIE. What if she finds out?

REKWEP. She won't. Have faith.

URIE. But what if she does?

IBNESTKE. She's too worried about being the "one sole ruler of Terranis" to even pay attention. *(Pause. Urie decides).*

URIE. Fine. How do you want to do this? *(Blackout).*

Scene iii:

Lights rise on Terranis. The group enters by climbing down a mountain. Pleos is now wearing a bevnyis. They climb over rubble and wires. As they climb down the stage begins to shake. Everyone freezes where they stand and holds onto whoever is next to them. Wires spread a little bit. When the stage stops shaking the group continues moving. The sound of an Iope can be heard offstage. Roquin stands in front of Ethera, Pleos holds Lunus's arm, and Genafra holds her blade ready to fight. The sound fades away. The group continues walking for a few minutes. Pleos sees something shining on a pile of rubble.

PLEOS. Another one.

GENAFRA. That makes three so far *(Ethera walks over to the rubble and picks up the bevnyis. Once she does a charred hand flops out of the rubble and is seen. Ethera screams and runs to Roquin. Lunus goes to examine the hand).*

TERRANIS

PLEOS. Who is that?

LUNUS. It's hard to tell. They're scorched so much they're unrecognizable.
(Genaфра walks over to the hand. She holds it and examine it. She notices the communicator on the wrist. A red light blinks on it. She pushes a button and she hears a recording of her saying, "Commander, we're being hit hard. I've never seen flames like this before." Static. "Commander Volzgond, do read me?! Volzgond! Roquin! Pleos! Somebody! Please help!!" Then static).

GENAFRA. Volzgond. It's Volzgond! *(She lets go of the hand and begins walking away).*

ROQUIN. Genaфра. Genaфра!

GENAFRA. Fuck you! Fuck all of you! Fuck the Stels! And fuck this planet and that fucking tyrant that we called a fucking goddess! **Yun hashmina mollveta blere, tec? Ect yun ibne mollveta!** (You just want all of us to be extinct, right? You can't destroy all of us!) Why did she do this to us? WHY?! I don't think I'll ever understand. I'm not sure if I want to understand at this point. I want her dead. I want to see her bleeding, if she even bleeds at all. I want to take her head as a trophy for all of Terranis to see who we bowed to. Maybe then the people will respect her. *(Genaфра breaks down. She is crying. Lunus approaches her).*

LUNUS. I'm sorry, Genaфра. I'm sorry for everything. I just want this to end.

Mante, polinka loyred grine! Yen eft fabyet wawred nestken yen ijen?
(Mother, please stop this! Can't you see how much damage you've caused?)
(Pause) We need to keep moving.

ROQUIN. Shouldn't we find a place to rest? It's beginning to get dark.

LUNUS. Yes. You're right. Um- There. We'll go there. Come on. *(Lunus walks and the others except Genaфра follow. Ethera stops and puts the bevnys around Genaфра's neck. As this happens Ibnestke can be seen above everyone. They wave their hand and a black light emits over Lunus. He pauses for a moment and continues walking. Ibnestke exits. As they walk the set changes to show the ruins of a house. Despite it looking like it could crumble at any second it is actually still intact).*

PLEOS. Are you sure this place is safe?

LUNUS. It should be. *(The group enters. There isn't much around. Mostly open space. There are some wires strung out at the stage right corner of the ceiling. There is a window in the back on stage left).*

ETHERA. Should someone find food?

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LUNUS. Yes. I will go.

ROQUIN. I'll go with you. In case you come across an Iope?

LUNUS. Yes. Do you mind?

ROQUIN. Not at all. We'll be back. *(The two begin exiting).*

ETHERA. Wait! What if an Iope comes here? We do not know if Volzgond's bevnys works.

LUNUS. Um- *(to Roquin, Pleos, and Genafra)* do those things on your wrists still work?

GENAFRA. Negative. *(Pleos and Roquin check their communicators).*

PLEOS. Mine works.

ROQUIN. Same here.

LUNUS. Good. Pleos, you stay here with Ethera and Genafra. If anything happens, use those to contact us. *(Pleos and Roquin hold their communicators against each other's. They beep indicating that they've synched up).*

PLEOS. Be safe. *(Roquin and Lunus exit).* So, now what?

GENAFRA. We wait, I guess, and be useless.

ETHERA. We are not useless.

GENAFRA. I know I'm not. But you two? We're better off killing ourselves than face an Iope if it's just the three of us.

PLEOS. Okay, what is that supposed to mean?

GENAFRA. Pleos, be realistic. Out of everyone in our unit, you were by far the weakest. I'm honestly surprised you of all people survived this long. *(To Ethera)* And you. You got lucky. The elite is never drafted. They have a choice and we don't. Us on the working side have to fight whether we'd like to or not.

ETHERA. I- I did not know that.

GENAFRA. Of course you didn't. Why would any rich person have to worry about putting their damsels in distress?

ETHERA. *(Whispering)* I am not a damsel.

GENAFRA. What's that?

ETHERA. I am not a damsel!

GENAFRA. Oh you're not? Gee I didn't realize.

PLEOS. Genafra, stop!

GENAFRA. Why? While we're out there getting maimed, she and the rest of her kind get to bathe in their wealth while drinking libations without giving the slightest thought as to what's happening in the real world. Not to mention you two

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are both red bloods so you would get special treatment regardless of whether or not you have money to your name. Can you even throw a punch, Ethera?

PLEOS. Genafra!

GENAFRA. No, I want to see. She says she's not a damsel. She should prove it.

(to Ethera) Go ahead, darling. Hit me. *(Ethera shakes her head).*

GENAFRA. Aww. Why not?

ETHERA. Because using violence never solves anything.

GENAFRA. Maybe it doesn't, where you come from, but this is the real world and it's crumbling around us. Come on then. Hit me! You know you want to, / Ethera.

PLEOS. Genafra / shut up!

GENAFRA. Do it you stupid bitch!! *(Ethera slaps Genafra across the face.*

Pause. Genafra laughs). Wow! Maybe you're not as much of a damsel as you make yourself out to be.

ETHERA. It's not funny.

GENAFRA. No, it's hilarious.

PLEOS. Genafra, that's enough! We're in the middle of a war here. I understand you're angry right now and I'm sorry Volzgond is gone. I know you two were close, but that doesn't give you the right to be cruel. *(Pause).*

GENAFRA. You're right. *(To Ethera)* I'm sorry for harassing you.

ETHERA. It's okay. I'm sorry I slapped you.

GENAFRA. Don't be. I deserved it. *(pause)* You hit good actually. I can't imagine how you'd be on the battlefield with a blade. *(Ethera laughs).*

ETHERA. How do you think I would be?

GENAFRA. Better than him probably.

PLEOS. Okay. I'm not that bad on the battlefield am I?

GENAFRA. No you're not bad. You're just... lanky. *(Pleos rolls his eyes as Ethera and Genafra laugh.)*

ETHERA. To be frank, I am glad that Roquin went with Lunus. Something happened today, and I need to talk to someone about it.

PLEOS. What happened?

ETHERA. Remember what Lunus said earlier about feeling different?

GENAFRA. Yeah.

ETHERA. I was talking with Roquin and- I don't know what happened last night, but when I woke up, I looked at him and everything seemed off. It was good though. It's a little hard to explain. Then he kissed me.

TERRANIS

GENAFRA. Did you want him to?

ETHERA. Well, I didn't know he was going to do it at the time so-

PLEOS. Did you kiss him back?

ETHERA. Yes.

PLEOS. Do you love him?

ETHERA. I think I do.

PLEOS. What do you mean *you think* you do?

ETHERA. I mean, I only just met all of you. You've all known each other longer. I never once thought of him as anything until this morning. For the Stels' sake I was going to marry another man yesterday.

PLEOS/GENAFRA. What?/*Really?*

ETHERA. Yes. It was an arranged marriage. (Pause) And he was killed. And then all of this happened. I'm just so confused.

PLEOS. I'm confused. Why would you let Roquin kiss you knowing your fiancé died the day before?

ETHERA. I do not know. I remember hearing someone saying, "I've always had plans for you," in my dream last night. So, deep down, I feel like this was always inevitable. Unexpected, but inevitable.

PLEOS. I understand what you mean. Recently, I've kind of found myself attracted to someone I didn't expect to be.

ETHERA. Really! Who?

PLEOS. Well- um- (*Pleos laughs awkwardly*). It's a bit complicated.

GENAFRA. It's Lunus.

ETHERA. Wait, really?

PLEOS. Maybe...

ETHERA. That's wonderful!

PLEOS. I know. I wasn't expecting it either. I mean he's a god and I'm, well, me.

ETHERA. So?

PLEOS. So why would he want someone like me?

ETHERA. Because it's what his heart wants. If Roquin and I were meant to happen, then maybe you and Lunus were too.

PLEOS. Maybe.

GENAFRA. Romance is weird. I don't know how you can feel that way for another person.

ETHERA. What do you mean?

TERRANIS

GENAFRA. I mean, having someone else's life become a major priority because you have a romantic or sexual attraction to them sounds terrifying.

ETHERA. Oh come on You mean to tell me you've never looked at someone and felt something?

GENAFRA. No. I've never had any attraction to anyone before.

ETHERA. Never?

GENAFRA. Never.

ETHERA. How come?

GENAFRA. I just never had. It's something that never crossed my mind. *(Pause)*

ETHERA. Well, you'll always have platonic love. From us friends. *(correcting)* Family.

GENAFRA. I know, and I'm okay with that.

PLEOS. Good, because, when this is over, I'm not allowing any of us to go a day alone. *(Everyone laughs. Ethera stops).*

ETHERA. Do you think this is going to work out? Stopping Lun Mante? Stopping the Iopes?

GENAFRA. It should.

PLEOS. It will. Lunus will save Terranis. I know he will. *(Lights dim on the shelter. Lights on the outside brighten).*

Scene iv:

Roquin and Lunus enter. They are both carrying small dead animals in their arms.

LUNUS. So this is how the people get their food.

ROQUIN. On the working side, yes. The elite have others get their food and prepare it for them.

LUNUS. Why does there have to be an elite and working side? You're all people. Shouldn't you all be able to live like people?

ROQUIN. Sadly no. Some of us have been lucky to get ahead in life but the rest of us either work in whatever way we can or we get drafted into the army. In most instances we end up doing both.

LUNUS. Is that what happened to you?

ROQUIN. Exactly.

LUNUS. Do you ever wish that you could've had a better life?

TERRANIS

ROQUIN. Of course, but I'm content with how my life is. The only time I'm not is when the elite feel the need to show off their wealth. It makes me feel like the only reason they're happy is because of the money they have.

LUNUS. I wish there was something I could do.

ROQUIN. At this point, it doesn't matter. I mean the world is ending, so worrying about social classes seems pretty pointless. *(Russiling can be heard offstage).*

LUNUS. What is that?

ROQUIN. Get behind me! *(Roquin prepares to fight. Lunus stands behind him).*

HAKMEW (OV). Hello? Is anyone out there? *(Hakmew enters, stumbling).*

ROQUIN. Hakmew?

HAKMEW. Roquin! *(The two run to each other and hug. They're laughing).*

ROQUIN. Oh my, Hakmew, we thought you were dead!

HAKMEW. We?

ROQUIN. Yes we're all here; Pleos, Genafra.

HAKMEW. Oh thank the Stels! I thought I was the only one left on Terranis! *(Pleos and Ethera enter from the shelter).*

ETHERA. What's going on?

PLEOS. Hakmew! *(Pleos run over to Hakmew and embraces him. Roquin brings Ethera over and introduces her to Hakmew. He recognizes her from the elite. Lunus simply stands where he is. Everyone ad-libs as Genafra emerges from the shelter. When Hakmew sees her, they walk to each other. They stop where they are).*

GENAFRA. Is it really you?

HAKMEW. Of course it is. How could it not?

GENAFRA. I saw you get shot out of the sky. I thought you were dead.

HAKMEW. It's alright. I'm right here, and I'm not going away. *(Hakmew hugs Genafra. She doesn't reciprocate. Hakmew let's go).*

HAKMEW. I'm sorry. I know you don't like that.

GENAFRA. It's okay.

HAKMEW. I just thought I lost you.

GENAFRA. I know. I did too.

ROQUIN. Okay. Let's go inside. *(To Hakmew)* We can discuss everything you missed. *(Everyone except Lunus begins walking into the shelter. Pleos stops and walks up to Lunus).*

PLEOS. Lunus?

TERRANIS

LUNUS. Huh?

PLEOS. Are you okay?

LUNUS. Yes. Yes. I am. Just- something feels off.

PLEOS. About Hakmew? (*Lunus nods*). Why? He'll be a good asset.

LUNUS. I understand that, but something just doesn't feel right. I'm not sure I trust him yet.

PLEOS. You will in time. Roquin didn't trust you when he first met you, but now he does. (*Laughter can be heard in the shelter. A light slowly starts shining from inside*). Come on. Let's join the others. (*Pleos holds his hand out. Lunus takes it and the two walk into the shelter. Blackout*).

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