

2500

Written by

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A woman's voice is heard.

CHARA (V.O)
I can remember the first time I saw
the sunrise.

FADE IN:

EXT. - CHARA'S QUARTERS - DAY

A man (early to late 20s) is holding his hands over CHARA's eyes. They are both wearing CLEAR FACE SHIELDS to supply oxygen.

She is holding a TABLET from which a video of a sunrise is playing.

The couple is sitting against a wall.

Their home is desolate.

CHARA (V.O)
I didn't know whether to laugh or cry.
It was one of the most beautiful
things I'd ever seen.

Her eyes grow wide with excitement.

CHARA smiles at her boyfriend and stares back at the video in bewilderment.

CHARA (V.O)
Since the wars. This has been life. We
don't really have much here under the
domes.

WAR MONTAGE:

--Nuclear bombs exploding

CHARA (V.O)
Hundreds of years ago, we destroyed
the Earth. And with it, we destroyed
ourselves.

--Footage of war

--Pollution

CHARA (V.O)
We were left with nothing. No clean

air. No fresh food. There were only a few of us left.

--A barren landscape

CHARA (V.O)

So we did what any scared animal would do.

--Men building

--Dome

--Tunnels

--Chara's quarters

--Chara looking up

CHARA (V.O)

We hid.

CUT TO:

TITLE: "2500"

EXT. - IN THE DOME - DAY

CHARA is holding a RAG, dipping it into a BUCKET of water.

She scrubs the side of a building. Her breath fogging her oxygen mask.

Her boyfriend, ECHO rushes in.

ECHO

Chara!

CHARA

(startled)

What? You scared me.

ECHO walks over to CHARA.

He is holding a TABLET.

ECHO

Sorry, It's the neo-coms. There was another riot.

CHARA takes the tablet from ECHO.

She watches in horror as SCREAMS and SHOOTING can be heard.

CHARA

They broke through the dome.

Beat.

CHARA looks up from the tablet.

Where was this?

ECHO

Dome nine. Over in Latvia. They're tired of all of this. Living under this thing. Hidden from the rest of the world.

CHARA hands ECHO the tablet.

She crouches down and picks up the RAG.

She begins to scrub the wall again.

ECHO

Come on, tell me you haven't thought about the plan.

She continues to scrub, this time harder.

ECHO crouches down to CHARA.

He grabs her arm, stopping her from scrubbing.

ECHO

Tell me you haven't thought about it. We aren't the only ones sick and tired of being treated like animals. This whole "selection" bullshit.

CHARA stiffens.

-I'd rather be out there than stuck in here. And I know you do too.

CHARA puts the rag down.

CHARA

(challenging)

So what if we leave? You and I? What will we do? Where will we go? How do we even know if we can breathe out

there?

ECHO
We'll figure it out-

CHARA
Echo I know we talked about leaving.
But it's more complicated than that.
Here we have food to eat, air to
breathe. A place to live.

ECHO
Do you call this living? Chara we're
caged! We can't even choose who we
want to be with! They make us work
like slaves and tell us we're serving
a greater purpose. That we're helping
the collective. Well, I know what my
purpose is.

ECHO gazes intently at CHARA.

He places his hand on the corner of her helmet.

CHARA leans into his hand.

CHARA
Echo we don't even know what's out
there.

ECHO
I want to be with you Chara. I wasn't
selected and you weren't either. I
don't see the point in staying here if
I can't be with the one I love.

Then almost instantly, she stiffens again.

CHARA
I-

She looks down. At a loss for words.

ECHO
Char, what?

He searches her face for answers.

CHARA
Look, can we talk about this later. I
need to finish this.

CHARA looks down.

ECHO
What aren't you telling me?

CHARA
Nothing, I just cant-

ECHO grows upset.

ECHO
You want us to stay here.

CHARA
No, that's not it I-

ECHO
For god's sake, Chara then tell me!
What's gotten into you? You've never
acted like this.

Beat.

CHARA
I cant. I just need time. I need to be
alone.

ECHO
Is there someone else?

Beat.

CHARA
No, that's not it It's just that-

There is a painful silence.

Echo is hurt by this.

ECHO
If you can't tell me, then we have no
trust. And if we have no trust, we
have nothing.

ECHO storms away, leaving CHARA alone.

CHARA releases a breath and crumples to the ground.

She sits for a moment.

Then reaches into her BAG, removing a TABLET.

She taps away at the screen and bright words are revealed.

CITIZEN #31719

NAME: REINSFELD, CHARA

SELECTED FOR: REPRODUCTION

CHARA shuts the tablet off.

She looks around in a panic.

She closes her eyes and breathes.

CUT TO:

EXT. - ECHO'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

ECHO is sitting down.

In his hands is a TABLET.

He is watching something.

CHARA enters from around the corner.

She walks in, slowly.

She sits down next to ECHO.

Silence overwhelms the two.

CHARA

What are you watching?

ECHO tilts the tablet over to show CHARA.

It is a video of animals in nature.

The sun appears.

CHARA tries to break the tension.

CHARA

(quietly)

What do you think it felt like?

ECHO thinks for a moment.

He sighs.

ECHO
The sun?

CHARA
Yeah.

ECHO
Warm. Or hot. Like a fire.

CHARA
How about the sunrise?

The two watch the screen together.

ECHO
I imagine it feels like the world
around you is waking up.

CHARA closes her eyes.

ECHO
It's quiet at first. For a moment it
feels like you're the only person on
the planet.

ECHO watches the sun peek through a mountainscape.

ECHO
And then suddenly the tip of your nose
feels warm and fuzzy. And your eyes
fill up with this blinding light.

They sit for a moment.

CHARA starts to cry.

ECHO sets the tablet down.

ECHO
Char. Please tell me what's wrong.

CHARA turns towards ECHO

CHARA
I was selected.

ECHO stares at CHARA.

ECHO
You-?

CHARA

I dont-

They both search for words.

ECHO

Why didn't you tell me?

CHARA

Echo, I was going to tell you. Please believe me.

Silence.

And then I started thinking about what it means to be selected. The responsibility of repopulating the Earth. Feeling like the weight of humanity is resting on your shoulders.

ECHO

Do you want to repopulate? With...with some other person?

CHARA

No.

ECHO

Then what are you trying to sa-

CHARA

The survival of humanity shouldn't be dependent on them. They shouldn't get to decide who gets to love and who doesn't.

ECHO

What do you- I mean what does this mean for us?

They both turn to look at one another.

Beat.

CHARA

I have thought about it.

ECHO stares back at CHARA.

Running away with you.

ECHO

You have?

CHARA

Echo I want to so badly.

ECHO tilts his head so their masks touch. Glass separates their faces from touching, but they stare into each other's eyes.

ECHO

Char, I love you. If they come after you, we keep running. We don't even know what's out there. All these global riots, they mean something. We might not be the only ones out there. As long as we have each other that's all that matters.

They stare into each other's eyes.

At first, they feel terror at what they are about to do.

Then excitement.

CHARA smiles through tears.

CHARA

Okay. Then lets go/

ECHO laughs.

ECHO

Meet me at the edge of section 12 tonight. Just before dawn.

CHARA gets up. She's terrified but ready.

ECHO places his hands on CHARA's shoulders.

ECHO

Hey.

CHARA looks up at ECHO.

I love you.

CHARA

I love you.

CUT TO:

GETTING READY MONTAGE:

--CHARA suiting up.

--ECHO packing bags

--CHARA adjusting her oxy mask

--ECHO packing food.

EXT. SECTION 12 (JUST OUTSIDE DOME) - NIGHT

ECHO looks around.

CHARA appears.

They both breathe heavily with nervousness.

ECHO
Do you have everything?

CHARA
Yeah.

CHARA follows ECHO.

They are at the edge of the dome.

A faint CRACKLING SOUND can be heard as they approach the dome.

ECHO turns over to CHARA

ECHO
Whatever happens.

CHARA
Whatever happens.

They break through the dome.

A BLINDING LIGHT and WHOOSHING SOUND encapsulate the two.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN

Silence

The faint sound of FOOTSTEPS can be heard.

And BREATHING.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT DUNES -MORNING

There is a hill, behind it the dome can be seen.

Silence.

Then, two figures emerge from the top.

CHARA and ECHO walk down the hill.

CHARA smiles and ECHO.

She falls to her knees, then takes off her helmet.

She can breathe.

She closes her eyes and feels the warmth of the sunrise.

CHARA (V.O)
Whatever happens.

FADE OUT:

THE END.