

New Denver

Synopsis

A mysterious capsule crashes along a Trader route, carrying a tall man with high cheekbones and inhumanly blue eyes. He asks a question in a flowing foreign language. The only discernable word is a name: O'Fi'Liara.

SEG Holton, FI, VAL, and COOK finally arrive at the dome city of New Denver. While larger and more technologically advanced than their own Holtondome, Seg and Val's excitement quickly turns to disgust at the extravagant and unproductive lifestyles led by the Cityfolk in a world that can afford neither.

They are, however, excited to see the Mars Museum. Their visit takes a turn for the strange when Seg spots an alien-looking box sitting in a chunk of Martian rock that only his blind white eye can see. Before he can tell anyone, Fi storms them away, delivering the devastating news that Grand Chancellor CHANG had ordered an armored unit to quell the insurrection at Holtondome that Seg started, which bodes ill for his home.

Amid Seg's grief, a man sharing Fi's exotic—and hitherto unique—features shows at their door, claiming to be her husband.

Seg's sister JEN continues to drive the woman in the color-shifting armor away from her family at Holtondome, a woman who resembles Fi, turned an entire platoon of soldiers into red mist seemingly with a thought, and claims to be looking for O'Fi'Liara. Jen's abject terror becomes sympathy when she learns that the woman KEL, is also scared, far from home, and is trying to prevent the same thing that almost happened to Jen's home from occurring at a galactic scale.

Fi's supposed fiancée, LEE, claims she is one of three god-like members of his race called a Straala, who has the ability to change fate itself. The news leaves Fi in shock, but when Seg tells her of the mysterious box he discovered, they break into the museum that night to get a closer look. The box contains an alien tube-device that they dare not try to operate, but while trying to retrieve the box itself, Seg suddenly finds himself on what appears to be another planet.

Meanwhile, Cook's attempt to introduce Val to his kids, who are old enough to be her great grandparents, throws her into an existential crisis about her

relationship, her place in New Denver, and her dubious future as Fi's apprentice astronaut. She encounters a large man, TOR, who shares Fi's features, and finds herself playing liaison between him and Chang.

Unable to find Seg, Fi recruits Cook and Lee, and reluctantly tells them everything, including her plan to safely test the alien tube-device, which Lee claims might be the rarest item in the galaxy, belonging to an extinct progenitor race called the Volnath. On their way to the mountains, they encounter Jen and Kel. Kel, being 100,000 years older than Fi, tricks her into a marriage proposal, but also promises to teach her how to use her incredible powers.

Val discovers that Tor is an all-powerful Straala from across the galaxy, and manages to get the two important men talking. After Tor demonstrates his power by creating a lava lake, Chang implores his help to fix their broken Earth, to which Tor agrees in exchange for Chang's help to establish relations with Fi.

Fi and Kel discover that the tube-device can transport matter between this world and another, alien world. Kel saves them from an accidental avalanche, using her Straala power to turn half the mountain range into solid diamond. Lee betrays them, however, and banishes Fi, Kel, and Jen to the alien world with the blue sun. Cook, who missed the actual betrayal, believes they perished in an accident and drives Lee to see Tor.

On a separate alien world with a yellow sun, Seg survives a deadly giant wasp thanks to a woman with advanced technology whose features are neither human nor like Fi, but resemble both. The woman confirms that he came from Earth, but drops a bombshell that Seg himself is not human.

Fi, Kel, and Jen are stranded on a world with a blue sun. Kel teaches Fi how to use her abilities, which may be their only ticket home. Fi notes the other two becoming abnormally close. They head toward civilization, but not before Fi uses her power to kick off a set of cosmic events to help them return home.

Back on Earth, Lee joins Tor, Chang, and Val. Seg miraculously materializes in front of Val, but their happy reunion is interrupted when Lee uses the tube-device to also banish Tor, liberating the galaxy of the Straala for the first time in his race's history. Seg tries to stop him, but is violently subdued.

He wakes to find himself and Val wearing explosive collars that will detonate if they get too far from Chang or each other. Chang reveals that they will be launching for Mars tomorrow so Seg can uncover more Volnath artifacts to help

establish Lee and Chang as galactic superpowers in the Straala's absence. Seg establishes that he will not be their tool by demonstrating his ability to traverse worlds, and that he's not afraid to take his own life to prevent Chang and Lee from imposing their fascist rule on the galaxy. His demand is simple: to be Chang's Co-Grand Chancellor, to which Chang reluctantly agrees.

Jen makes first-contact with the nightmarish but civilized locals where, surprisingly, their translators understand Kel's language. Sadly, her triumph ends when the local military arrives in force to cart them away.

Conversely, Seg is officially elected Co-Grand Chancellor. He, Val, and Cook have no intention of going to Mars and formulate a plan to steal the tube-device from Lee. Val pays him a midnight visit, but her intentions are flipped upside down when Lee makes an offer she can't refuse. Only a dome collapse, ultimately caused by Fi's ability, prevents her from betraying Seg. Meanwhile, Seg and Cook meet with the president of the company who manufactured their collars to see if they will help.

Fi encounters Tor in their holding cell on the alien world. Confusingly, he doesn't come off as the oppressive tyrant Kel painted him to be. Kel returns unharmed from questioning, to Jen's relief, whose romantic feelings toward the Straala finally surface. She is caught unawares when Kel proposes, putting them at an awkward distance while Jen sorts through her feelings. All of that is forgotten when they are brought before a crystalline being made of energy.

Seg and Cook set out during a lightning storm with an uncharacteristically morose Val to retrieve Jen and the other Straala, enabled by Val's successful retrieval of the tube-device and decoy collars from the security company. During their search, Seg has a vision of Cook and Val dying, validated when Feds arrive. Seg manages to grab Val just before Cook sends them to the other world for safety, but Cook himself is shot.

In the world with the blue sun, Val confesses her betrayal, and her remorse. Seg dismisses it as a manipulation of Lee's fate-changing power, but that's forgotten when they discover Seg has suffered a grievous bullet wound.

Fi et. al. learn that the crystalline being belongs to an interstellar cooperative who "oversee" this planet and countless others—and were responsible for exterminating the Volnath. The session is interrupted by an emergency signal from Val. The three Straala use their abilities to casually escape custody, but the

crystalline being pursues. Over the course of their battle, Fi uses her ability to save her own life. In doing so, she causes the being to detonate, costing tens of thousands of innocent lives, and convincing Fi that she should never use her abilities again.

Seg is near death by the time they reach him. Fi performs emergency surgery, but even the Straala's formidable powers can't save him. Summoning the last of his reserves, Seg sends himself, Fi, and Jen back to Earth, accidentally leaving the others behind. The lightning storm from before is still in full effect. Fi and Jen suffer a lightning strike, leaving Fi as the only person able to seek help. She encounters a group of Feds to discover Lee disguised among them. She ambushes him, only to find that he has summoned a planet-destroying bomb to ensure Fi had no planet to return to, and that the Straala would remain banished. Fi convinces him that a greater threat than the Straala exist, but when Lee claims he can't disable the bomb, Fi leaps through the wormhole, suffering vacuum and extreme cold, to emerge on the other side of the galaxy. The bomb is deactivated, but Fi is now stranded. She convinces Lee to go rescue Seg.

Seg wakes in a hospital to learn that Chang has been arrested for treason, leaving Seg as the sole Grand Chancellor of the Federated Nations. Jen has returned to Holtondome, Lee is in custody by his people, and Tor has returned to his empire.

Fi discovers that Chang, her once-lover, was responsible for The Fall. She uses her power one last time to end his life, closing that chapter, and returns to Seg. Kel declares that her interest in Jen had been purely political, and that she's leaving. Fi calls her a coward and a liar, which doesn't stop her.

Sometime later in Holtondome, Jen, torn by her love for Kel, who left without saying goodbye, and her responsibilities to her people, received word that a pod has appeared nearby. Inside, she discovers a communication device and an intricate rose from the one person she ever truly loved.

The woman who saved Seg from a wasp says goodbye to the planet she called home for so long. She phases to another universe just before the crystalline beings destroy everything.

Finally healed, Seg and the others embark with their new alien friends in a spaceship for Mars to discover more of the Volnath artifacts. On the way, Seg

notices a second moon that only he can see, that appears technological in nature, which sends Fi into insane, hysterical laughter.