

Gloriel

Chalom Lux

Ep. Two

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SCENE 1

INT. SPENCER ESTATE - DAY

Somewhere inside the lavish SPENCER ESTATE, a European-style mansion on top of a hill overlooking Chalom Lux and the surrounding city.

The camera slowly pans over a close-up of a TABLE, from a view above, showing MIMOSA's POCKETBOOK, laid out and revealing two pages. One has the title "The Threnody of Gloria Spencer" with a drawing of the TREE OF LIFE on the next page.

Voices can be heard conversing in the background. SONYA, the matriarch of the House of Spencer, can be heard greeting MIMOSA, who has just entered the front door.

SONYA

Oh! You're here! I will go fetch her then.

SONYA's voice trails off a bit.

SONYA (CONT'D)

Eukarya! Eukarya!

EUKARYA (ANNOYED)

Coming!

SONYA

This may be the single most important day of our lives, and you are still sitting there, talking with those internet friends!

MIMOSA

Oh- I'm not in a rush, um...

SONYA

No, no, no- you are doing us a great favor! Everyone in this family should be treating you with some respect, including my little sister.

CUT TO:

SCENE 2: DISSOLUTION

EXT. ILP - NIGHT

The camera cuts to SANYU, alone and standing in a modern-looking building. He looks out into the distance.

Suddenly, he receives a CALL. He answers.

SANYU
PRL. Sanyu speaking.

RED
Hello. This is Red.

SANYU's demeanor changes. He feels like this call must be a warning of some emergency.

SANYU
Did something happen?

RED
I wanted to inform you that finally, Dorian is awake.

SANYU turns with a look of disbelief.

RED (CONT'D)
Tell Mimosa to give up the plan. No matter who they assemble, any attempt at breaching Eiriel is now pointless.

SANYU
You said we could negotiate. That's my job. We know you're hiding that girl.

RED
We agreed you would be a neutral party, but time and time again you die on Mimosa's hill. You have nothing to offer us anymore, so I wish to formally cut ties.

SANYU
Red. You can't do this. You'll die in that forest.

RED
You can't convince me to turn back.

A long pause. SANYU walks to the edge of the building, he stands by the PARAPET, looking to the sky.

RED (CONT'D)

Hello?

SANYU

You are an Alkali. Just like me,
just like the rest of us.

The phone BEEPS, Red HANGS UP.

SANYU slams his fist into the PARAPET ledge. He puts his head down, defeated. Suddenly, he picks up his PHONE again and calls MIMOSA.

MIMOSA answers.

MIMOSA

Hello?

SANYU

It's Sanyu. The plan, tomorrow. Do
it. We don't have much time.

CUT TO:

SCENE 3: THE SPENCERS

Back at the SPENCER ESTATE.

SONYA

So, you say you know what may have
happened to our dearest Gloria?
Where is that- little book of
yours...?

MIMOSA

I'm pretty sure I've got most of it
down, but I'd like to verify the
information with you.

SONYA

Oh, of course!

Transition fade to MIMOSA sitting in a CHAIR, looking over their NOTES. Many voiceovers of SONYA and EUKARYA can be heard speaking.

SONYA (CONT'D)

She was really, just the sweetest
angel sometimes, but at other times
she would create splinters in the
family-

SONYA (CONT'D)

She would get...explosively angry sometimes. And every time she did that, we took away her dinner.

SONYA chuckles a bit.

SONYA (CONT'D)

And it worked many times! No kindness, no dinner.

EUKARYA

I dunno, she was kind of sensitive and she would always cry randomly and blame it on me and everyone would get mad.

SONYA

Well we worked on that- if she would cry we would tell her "Okay, no school!" And we would take away her schoolwork so that maybe when she grows up she could be a housewife. That's fair, isn't it? But she didn't think it was fair- no, she hated it.

EUKARYA

And then one day she ran away, and we didn't see her again.

SONYA

Then we found her jacket a little ways away from the university. It was torn- she- she could have been eaten!

EUKARYA

What?

SONYA

Oh- I- I didn't tell you until now, it- it was too horrible for you to think of as a child!

CUT back to the POCKETBOOK on the TABLE.

MIMOSA

I can assure you, Gloria wasn't eaten. My organization knows just where she is.

SONYA

She's alive!?

MIMOSA

Of course. She's just been hiding away.

SONYA

So she was kidnapped! What- who could have done this-

SONYA's voice trails off.

CUT TO:

SCENE 4: THE THRENODY OF GLORIA SPENCER

EXT. TABLE, CHALOM LUX - DAY

MIMOSA

So, this is all the information I got. I think it links up pretty well with the other side of the story.

SANYU

So Red wasn't lying, then?

MIMOSA

I hope no one was lying. Give me your notes, so we can compare.

SANYU hands MIMOSA a NOTEBOOK.

MIMOSA (CONT'D)

Let's tell this story from the beginning.

MUSICAL NUMBER: THE THRENODY OF GLORIA SPENCER

TRANSITION TO:

SCENE 5: LOOK AT ME!

EXT. EIRIEL (LAGOON TRAIL) - DAY

Deep inside the FOREST of EIRIEL, worn trails and wilderness surround GLORIA, who is curiously searching for flowers.

MUSICAL NUMBER: LOOK AT ME

GLORIA sings as she describes how she can make anything in her imagination come to life. She shows off her MAGIC, calling on the MOTH multiple times.

The scene cuts a few times to her DRAWING and COLORING different MONSTERS. She ends the song, back at the trail:

GLORIA
*...And nothing outside matters
 either way!
 'Cause now I've got my friends
 here...each and every day!*

TRANSITION TO:

SCENE 6: MATEO

INT. MATEO'S OFFICE (MANZI STUDY ROOM) - DAY

MATEO sits with a comical amount of ENERGY DRINK CANS on his DESK. He's watching drag queens wrestle on his LAPTOP.

Suddenly, he receives a call from EUKARYA. He answers.

MATEO
 Hello? You called at sort of a bad
 time I'm really invested in this.

EUKARYA (SASSY)
 Well, it's important, so turn it
 off.

MATEO
 Ugh.

MATEO closes his laptop.

MATEO (CONT'D)
 What is it this time?

CUT TO EUKARYA'S POV:

EUKARYA
 Do you know a "Mimosa Minos?"

MATEO
 Is that a character from your girls
 kissing girls books?

EUKARYA
 Mateo. I'm being serious.

MATEO
 And I was bein' serious watching my
 show and you called and interrupted
 me!

EUKARYA speaks to MATEO as if he is a child, saying each word with lots of emphasis. CUT BACK TO MATEO'S POV.

EUKARYA
Do-you-know-a-Mimosa-Minos?

MATEO
Can't say I do.

EUKARYA
Ugh! Okay well, Sonya invited this person- Mimosa- to our house. And they say that they know what happened to Gloria.

MATEO
Who are they? Some sort of magic wizard?

EUKARYA
Yeah.

MATEO
Oh.

CUT BACK TO EUKARYA'S POV.

MATEO (CONT'D)
Have you heard of a place called Air-In-Burger?

EUKARYA
Uraagh!

EUKARYA slams the table.

EUKARYA (CONT'D)
Okay, I'm gonna need to you listen to me, okay? Listening ears on. I'm going to go find Gloria in the forest that she ran off to. Mimosa said she might have been kidnapped by a weird man.

(starts to whisper)
You are the only person I know, other than Sonya, who has an Alignment. So...you have to help us.

MATEO
You want me to go into the forest?

EUKARYA (SASSY)
Good, you're understanding.

MATEO

Is that all I gotta do?

EUKARYA

One more thing: I don't know how long it's gonna take to get there, and we might have to plan more than one trip, so I need you to talk to Erika and ask her to save our grades if we have to miss midterms for this.

MATEO

Ugh. Everything's for Erika! Now I'm gonna have to do brand deals again, asking people if they want to buy Mow Lawners!

EUKARYA

Mateo. You have to do this. Sonya doesn't want to go and we don't know if the people keeping her there have Alignments.

MATEO

Fine, I'll do it. Gloria sounds like a good friend anyway.

EUKARYA

She's actually a jerk.

MATEO

Well you're not helpin' my motivation here.

EUKARYA

I'll ask Mimosa if we can set up a time to meet.

A pause.

MATEO

'Ey, Yukane.

EUKARYA

Yeah?

MATEO

Didya' ever find out what happened to our partner for the math presentation?

EUKARYA

From last quarter?

MATEO

Yeah, him. What was his name again?
Nyl?

CUT TO:

SCENE 7: ALEPH

EXT. PSYCHOLOGY EAST TABLES - NIGHT

SANYU sits at a table, writing a LETTER to NYL.

SANYU

"Dear X,
Our organization needs you. We will
pay you handsomely. Please unblock
my number.
- +"

SANYU puts his head down, frustrated.

Cut to a view about 10 meters away from SANYU.

VFX: A PORTAL opens on the ground.

Cut back to SANYU's POV. He's anxiously tapping a PEN on the table. SANYU looks up at where the PORTAL was emerging from. The camera pans towards where he's looking. The PORTAL is gone.

CUT TO:

SCENE 8: MIMOSA AND MATEO

INT. MANZI LOUNGE - SUNSET

MIMOSA and MATEO sit at a table in the LOUNGE. MIMOSA is giving MATEO a lecture on the nature of the Fourteen Great Powers. MIMOSA has a small NOTEPAD on the table and a PEN.

MIMOSA

The world is governed by a series of magical Great Powers, and their corresponding Alignments. My organization, the Alkali, aim to research each Power, and identify their wielders. Out of a predicted Fourteen, so far we've identified nine people with unique Alignments.

MATEO

What does that mean? I- You betta slow down, I need some Subway Surfers playin' or else I'm not gonna get any of this.

MIMOSA

When you get into the forest, there's three people to look out for.

MIMOSA begins to draw pictures on their NOTEPAD.

MIMOSA (CONT'D)

Allen can teleport by placing portals on surfaces.

MIMOSA hands a drawing of someone creating portals to MATEO. He looks at it.

MIMOSA (CONT'D)

Not much is known about Red's Power, but they can apparently control pressure waves through the air - sound.

MIMOSA hands MATEO another drawing, he's not done looking over the first one.

MIMOSA (CONT'D)

Finally, there's Gloria herself. She doesn't sound like the type of person to use a Power, even in self-defense. But, just in case: She can summon monsters.

MIMOSA hands MATEO another drawing. He drops the other two.

MATEO

But Eukarya said she didn't know any of this!

MIMOSA

She doesn't have all the info. I got all of this through Red. Red's an ex-member of the Alkali.

(beat)

Uh, since you listened all the way through, I'll give you this:

MIMOSA attempts to hand MATEO a small bag of candy. MATEO pushes MIMOSA's hand away.

MATEO
 I'm not a kid.
 (beat)
 Who are you people, really?

MIMOSA doesn't respond.

MATEO (CONT'D)
 I mean, you gotta be aliens or
 somethin', right?

CUT TO:

SCENE 9: GLORIA AND THE BARN

EXT. OLD BARN - DAY

GLORIA skips gleefully, holding flowers. She transitions into a run as she approaches the barn door. She KNOCKS some times in a purposeful rhythm.

GLORIA
 Allen?

CUT TO GLORIA alone, sitting down in the grass a little ways away from the BARN. She SPEAKS to her FLOWERS while holding them.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
 You really should have told me when
 you were finished growing! I
 couldn't remember where we planted
 you last year, but if you yelled at
 the top of your lungs, surely we
 would have heard!

Closeup of the FLOWERS, they obviously don't reply.

GLORIA looks back at the BARN, then back at the FLOWERS.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
 Hey, do you know where Allen and
 Red are?

The FLOWERS do not reply. GLORIA sighs.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
 If I had my coloring book, I could
 make flowers that can talk.

VFX: MAGICAL ENERGY begins to swirl around GLORIA.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
 Woah...So glowy...

GLORIA puts out her PALM.

VFX: A MAGICAL SHIELD appears.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
 Allen said that if I get strong
 enough, I won't even need my
 coloring book. I can make any
 monster I think of!

The SHIELD gets BRIGHTER and LARGER, eventually, a flash of
 LIGHT covers the screen.

CUT TO GLORIA rubbing her eyes. She then looks out at where
 the shield was.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
 Hello! What's your name?

A MONSTER is shown. It GROWLS shyly.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
 I'm Gloria!
 (beat)
 Hey, can you go find Allen or Red?
 I'm not allowed inside without
 them. It's gonna get dark soon, but
 now at least I'm not alone!

FADE TO:

SCENE 10: LOOKING UP

INT. SOUTH HALL 4TH FLOOR - NIGHT

MIMOSA and SANYU are sitting at opposite sides of a TABLE in
 an OFFICE BUILDING, with two half-empty GLASSES in front of
 them containing drinks. Looking out the window, they can see
 the skyline of Chalom Lux. The TWISTED TOWERS leer ominously
 in the distance.

A slow and mysterious jazz piano piece is playing. The coy
 buzzing of the building's ventilation reminds them of a time
 gone by.

MIMOSA
 Reminds me of Lōfii. I miss it a
 lot.

SANYU

Really?

MIMOSA

Well, I don't miss Fluo, or Chroma, or the idols, or...any of the political stuff. I just miss the feeling of being there.

SANYU

I'm glad we're past that.

MIMOSA

Really? You didn't enjoy being a cop?

A long pause. MIMOSA takes a sip from their DRINK and SANYU gazes out into the distance.

SANYU

Well, I guess it wasn't too bad.

Another long PAUSE. SANYU rotates his GLASS on the table.

MIMOSA

The other day, I ran into this old guy at grocery store, and he had a granddaughter-- she looked...six and she was carrying a little backpack with pencils and markers and stuff like that. I think she slipped and spilled everything on the floor, and so I went to go help her pick them up. The grandfather thanked me and started talking with me and told me that he used to work for the local newspaper. He went through the whole process of, you know, how they're made from start to finish and all the logistics behind getting a story, editing, you know...

(beat)

It really took my back, and he noticed, too. He asked me if I had ever worked in the news industry.

SANYU

What did you say?

MIMOSA

I joked and said "maybe in a past life."

MIMOSA takes another sip from their DRINK.

SANYU
You weren't lying.

MIMOSA
Do you wish we could go back?

SANYU
Nah. I don't think I'd be able to handle seeing all their faces again.

MIMOSA
Really? Everyone? Even Olivia-

SANYU gets up from his chair.

SANYU
We should shut up and stop talking about this. You'll just sound crazy to the people here. Mateo called you an alien.

MIMOSA (JOKINGLY)
It's hard being an alien.

The camera shows SANYU, facing away from MIMOSA, who remains seated.

SANYU
Tomorrow. We meet at 2. You, Mateo, and Eukarya will go.
(beat)
If we can take back Gloria, we'll be in prime condition for what comes next. Also,

SANYU turns to MIMOSA and sets down a PUZZLE PIECE onto the TABLE.

SANYU (CONT'D)
Our expedition team found this by the forest. There are probably more. When you go tomorrow, you should be searching.

CLOSEUP of the PUZZLE PIECE. MIMOSA examines it. SANYU takes it from MIMOSA's HAND.

SANYU (CONT'D)

You mentioned Olivia earlier. You realize that when she returns, she'll take over as leader of the Alkali.

MIMOSA

I know.

SANYU

She'll have a lot to learn.

A pause. MIMOSA stares down at their GLASS. Closeup of the GLASS, it's empty.

SANYU (CONT'D)

I'll see you later. Good luck.

SANYU opens the door and leaves. The ping of an ELEVATOR being called can be heard.

FADE TO:

SCENE 11: ALONE

EXT. EIRIEL (LAGOON TRAIL) - NIGHT

GLORIA is venturing through the dark, searching for ALLEN and RED. She is holding the FLOWERS from earlier.

GLORIA

Allen! Red!

(beat)

Oh, where could they be!

Suddenly, loud SIRENS begin to play, muffled by distance.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Code green? Oh no, I have to get back to the barn!

She looks at the FLOWERS in disdain.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

You're no help! Ever since I brought you along, I've felt more lost!

GLORIA runs offscreen.

CUT TO:

SCENE 12: PANIC ROOM

INT. MANZI STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

RED and ALLEN can be heard conversing behind a DOOR that a STAIRWAY leads to.

RED
 How could this happen now?
 Nothing's working-
 (beat)
 Dorian, it isn't your fault! It's
 the technology...

ALLEN
 It was working yesterday.
 (beat)
 What are you doing? Call Nihal. I
 need to go and protect Gloria. If
 they find out about this, it's all
 over.

CUT TO:

SCENE 13: MEETUP

EXT. EIRIEL (LAGOON TRAIL) - DUSK

EUKARYA, MIMOSA, SANYU, and MATEO stand near the OUTSKIRTS of the FOREST, preparing to enter.

MIMOSA gives the group instructions.

MIMOSA
 Alright. Let's start. We're
 gathered here tonight to retrieve
 Gloria from the forest of Eiriel.
 According to Red, it's separated
 into three parts:

MIMOSA turns over an old sheet of PAPER with a sketch on it.

MIMOSA (CONT'D)
 First, is the outer forest, the
 part that connects to Chalom Lux.
 If you keep walking, you'll find
 the middle forest and the Dorian
 Grove. If there's any monsters
 we're going to see tonight, they're
 probably over here.
 (MORE)

MIMOSA (CONT'D)

Finally, there's the deep forest
and Old Barn, hidden behind a gate.
That's where Gloria is. Our goal is
to breach the gate and save her.
Makes sense?

SANYU

Allen should be walking around the
middle forest, ready to catch us.
Someone needs to distract him.

MATEO

Allen...the tree guy, eh? Maybe
Eukarya can talk some sense into
him.

EUKARYA

What? No. I'm going past the gate.
She's *my* sister.

SANYU turns to MIMOSA.

SANYU

Mateo should go. From our
simulations, Tether is a better
choice against Jaro than Tohu.

MATEO

Huh? Who now?

MIMOSA

Those are the names of your Powers,
or Alignments. We- The Alkali, do
a lot of theoretical research on
Alignments, so we know what
combinations work.

MATEO

Well then, I guess it'll be little
old me against big bad Allen.

EUKARYA

Okay, so, who else is going with
him?

MIMOSA

Well, I'm going with you to find
the gate.

EUKARYA

Wait, you're going with *me*? Ew!

SANYU

I need to stay behind to watch for police. And if Red calls I need to have signal.

EUKARYA

So you're gonna make me go with Mimosa *alone*?

MIMOSA

My Alignment works well with yours. Just go along with it. You want to see Gloria again, right?

EUKARYA

Ugh, fine.

SANYU

I'll see you later then.
(beat)
Good luck.

FADE TO:

SCENE 14: WANDERING

EXT. EIRIEL (LAGOON TRAIL) - NIGHT

MATEO is wandering into the FOREST, alone. The audible camaraderie of the nature surrounding him juxtaposes his loneliness. He is in uncharted territory...

After walking for a bit, he hears some RUSTLING. Upon closer inspection, he hears ALLEN talking on the phone with RED.

ALLEN

What do you mean?

RED

They're not ready. It can't happen tonight. I've tried everything.

ALLEN

Give up on Dorian already. We need you.

RED

I can't go. I need to watch Dorian, worst case, we'll need to wipe their memories-

ALLEN
Gloria's in the Barn, right?

An uncomfortable silence.

ALLEN (CONT'D)
Red.

RED
I'm not sure. I've been here with
Dorian for hours.

ALLEN
What?

ALLEN scurries off. MATEO emerges.

SCENE 15: TO YOU, AND ALL OF YOUR REFLECTIONS

EXT. OLD BARN - NIGHT

MATEO catches up with ALLEN, near the outside of the OLD
BARN.

MATEO
Freeze!
(beat)
It's you.

ALLEN turns around, disgusted.

ALLEN
You're with the Alkali, aren't you?
I told you not to come here.

MATEO
The name's Mateo, and I wanted to
ask you a little somethin'. I heard
your phone calls earlier. If you've
got this miracle of a person-- who
can move mountains, summon storms,
turn torrents...why haven't we seen
any of them yet?

ALLEN
Who are you talking about?

MATEO
Your little friend, Dorian! I
thought you would've whipped em'
out by now.

ALLEN

They can hear you loud and clear,
you're just too much of a dumbass
to realize.

MATEO

What will it take, then? For you to
order them to come out? What about
gettin' into that little barn over
there?

ALLEN

The gate is sealed. I could take
you on, even without Dorian's help.

MATEO

It's funny how you[†] keep talking
about who you could call, instead
of doin' literally anything else.

†MATEO casts a PROJECTION.

ALLEN stares MATEO down for several seconds. MATEO has gotten
in his head.

MATEO's image in front of ALLEN fades to dust. ALLEN panics,
and sharply turns around, revealing MATEO's fist pummeling
ALLEN in the face.

ALLEN gets PUMMELED for several seconds, until FALLING to the
ground. He BLOCKS MATEO with a magical shield coming from his
left palm. His right hand firmly grips a WHIP, which is
currently all but useless.

VFX: Magical Shield: Jaro, in ALLEN's left palm.

MATEO (CONT'D)

I thought you were good at callin'
that type of stuff. What happened?

CUT TO:

SCENE 16: DOOM

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

EUKARYA and MIMOSA are sneaking past the numerous MONSTERS of
EIRIEL that GLORIA has summoned. EUKARYA confidently walks
forwards as MIMOSA cautiously trudges behind.

EUKARYA

Can you go any slower? God.

MIMOSA

We need to be careful.

EUKARYA stops.

EUKARYA

Do you even know what my Power can do? Like there's no way you chose me to go on your dumbass mission for no reason.

MIMOSA

Do you not want to save your sister?

EUKARYA

It's not stupid cuz' of that, it's stupid cuz' you're in charge. I know I can handle monsters, but what are you gonna do if one comes sneaking up behind us anyway? Just sit there and look pretty?

A GROWL can be heard somewhere close.

EUKARYA (CONT'D)

God damn it, look what you did. If we were any faster we wouldn't have to deal with this-!

MIMOSA shushes EUKARYA.

MIMOSA (LOUD WHISPER)

Shh! What are you doing? Stay quiet!

The MONSTER growls again.

EUKARYA steps forward to see the MONSTER much closer than she imagined.

MIMOSA (CONT'D)

Eukarya! What are you doing!

EUKARYA

What do you want us to do? Run? You sure as hell can't run, slow bitch. I'm fighting it.

SURGE PHASE

EUKARYA shoots a volley of small FIREBALLS at the MONSTER.

The MONSTER screeches and begins to spray out some spores resembling a green GAS.

EUKARYA (CONT'D)
It's your move, do something.

MIMOSA
Next time, tell me when you're going to attack, so I-

EUKARYA
Do something!

MIMOSA
I can't until the next Phase!

EUKARYA
Ugh! You're useless!

EUKARYA and MIMOSA run behind a TREE.

CHAOS PHASE

EUKARYA (CONT'D)
Chaos Phase, you got that?

MIMOSA holds a LENS up to their eye.

MIMOSA
Tell me when you're going to attack.

EUKARYA
Ugh, can't you just look?

EUKARYA sees the GAS get closer.

EUKARYA (CONT'D)
What the hell is that?

MIMOSA
Looks like spores...blow it away, quick!

EUKARYA
You really can't do anything! Ugh!
Arcspheres!

EUKARYA summons a horizontal ARC of fireballs, which propel outwards, dispersing the SPORES. MIMOSA is seen looking through their LENS.

MIMOSA
Modulo...

The MONSTER charges at EUKARYA.

EUKARYA

Mimosa!

MIMOSA

Repeat!

EUKARYA's Arcspheres reappear in front of the MONSTER, making contact and creating a blinding flash of light. The camera moves to EUKARYA, who has been knocked to the ground by the impact.

EUKARYA

Agh...what the hell...where did it go?

EUKARYA gets up. MIMOSA is standing, looking at a large FIRE remaining where the MONSTER once was.

CLOSEUP of MIMOSA's LENS.

CUT TO:

SCENE 17: MATEO VS ALLEN

EXT. OLD BARN - NIGHT

ALLEN's magic shield is still up. He transforms it into a PORTAL which blocks his figure from MATEO's view. Eventually, it disappears, revealing ALLEN, back on his feet and several feet away from MATEO.

CHAOS PHASE

ALLEN summons many PORTALS on the ground all around MATEO.

ALLEN

We warned you. Until Olivia returns, I won't listen to any Alkali.

ALLEN creates a singular portal in front of his feet. He prepares to strike using his WHIP.

MATEO shoots a RIBBON through a nearby portal, appearing on ALLEN's side and binding to his wrist.

After a struggle, ALLEN closes the portal, breaking the RIBBON and freeing his hand.

RESONANCE PHASE

ALLEN creates a new PORTAL beside him. MATEO, surrounded by portals, is now vulnerable once again.

CUT TO:

SCENE 18: MENIPHORA

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

EUKARYA and MIMOSA venture deeper into the forest.

MIMOSA
We're getting closer.

A faint MONSTER CALL can be heard in the distance, along with reverberated thunderous stomping.

MIMOSA (CONT'D)
That thing's either protecting her
or calling out to her.

EUKARYA
So you wanna go that way?

MIMOSA
Yeah.

CUT TO MOMENTS LATER

A large monster ROAR can be heard. The MENIPHORA appears and SLASHES at MIMOSA, who is thrown back.

SURGE PHASE

EUKARYA hits the MENIPHORA with a FIREBALL, temporarily STUNNING it. MIMOSA is laying on the ground, with one arm loosely clutching at their LEG. EUKARYA runs to MIMOSA's side.

CHAOS PHASE

EUKARYA
Are you okay? I-

The MENIPHORA GROWLS loudly again. EUKARYA must move.

EUKARYA sends a volley of FIREBALLS at the MENIPHORA, keeping it at bay.

MIMOSA
It cut my leg...I-

MIMOSA is winded.

EUKARYA

What the hell are you doing? Get up!

The Meniphora GROWLS again. MIMOSA quickly lifts the LENS to their eye.

MIMOSA

Repeat...

EUKARYA's FIREBALL VOLLEY plays again, angering the MENIPHORA.

RESONANCE PHASE

EUKARYA

Come on...dumbass...it's resonance...do something!

MIMOSA

Summon as many fireballs as you can...up in the air...everywhere...

EUKARYA begins to create many FIREBALLS in the AIR. MIMOSA holds up their LENS.

EUKARYA

Do I release them?

The MENIPHORA begins to charge. The FIREBALLS get copied by MIMOSA's LENS.

EUKARYA (CONT'D)

Mimosa!

MIMOSA

Now!

A flood of fireballs rain down onto the MENIPHORA. A large explosion can be heard from a distance. CUT BACK to EUKARYA and MIMOSA, on the ground and taking cover. They wearily sit up. Firefly-like embers still surround them.

CUT TO:

SCENE 19: MATEO VS ALLEN II

EXT. OLD BARN - NIGHT

ALLEN has caught MATEO in a bind. MATEO must move, or else ALLEN will be able to strike MATEO through the portal at his feet.

RESONANCE PHASE

As more PORTALS begin to block off MATEO's escape routes, he finally decides to move. MATEO dashes, trying to dodge all of ALLEN's portals. He shoots a RIBBON through a portal, which reaches ALLEN and binds to his ANKLE easily. MATEO runs, but is eventually caught by a well-timed strike from ALLEN through a portal.

FLUX PHASE

MATEO flinches and instinctively shoots a RIBBON directly at ALLEN, catching his other ANKLE. ALLEN strikes again, and MATEO falls to the ground. ALLEN begins calmly walking to wounded MATEO.

ALLEN

Let's wait this out.

MATEO struggles to stand. ALLEN reaches MATEO.

CADENTIAL PHASE

ALLEN (CONT'D)

You came here by your own will; I'm not sorry.

A giant magical shield appears in the sky above ALLEN and MATEO. A PORTAL appears below MATEO. He is sucked inside.

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 20: EIRIEL

EXT. DELIRIUM - MOMENTS LATER

MATEO awakens in a strange dimension of delirium.

SCENE 21: PUZZLE I

MIMOSA and EUKARYA are walking slowly in a deeper part of the forest.

EUKARYA

Where did you say this was?

MIMOSA

Near the Dorian Grove. After that is the deepest part of the forest. There's a gate blocking off the Old Barn, and we can't get to Gloria until we open that gate. In the map Sanyu gave us, there's some puzzle pieces marked around...and around here...there should be...

MIMOSA shines a FLASHLIGHT on the ground, eventually finding the BLANK PUZZLE.

MIMOSA (CONT'D)

Here!

MIMOSA picks up the BLANK PUZZLE.

EUKARYA

What's that?

MIMOSA

It's Gloria's.

EUKARYA takes the PUZZLE from MIMOSA and places the PIECES inside.

EUKARYA

How do we know what goes where?

MIMOSA

It's probably going to be easier when we get the other pieces.

EUKARYA

We should split up and find them, I don't want to have to walk slower because of you. I'll just send a fireball up to let you know where I am.

MIMOSA

Split up?

EUKARYA

Just say yes. We're going to run out of time.

CLOSEUP of MIMOSA, bewildered.

CUT TO:

SCENE 22: MATEO VS ALLEN III

EXT. OLD BARN - NIGHT

ALLEN is about to STRIKE MATEO.

Tense music plays as more PORTALS surround MATEO, finally ALLEN swings to strike.

Cut to a RIBBON shooting out.

ALLEN's HAND is caught by the RIBBON. ALLEN and MATEO are now in a stalemate.

Switch between MATEO and ALLEN's POV. They are both in a struggle. A PORTAL opens up below ALLEN.

Cut to MATEO's POV as the sound of ALLEN's portal plays.

MATEO turns around slowly, revealing ALLEN.

ALLEN punches MATEO and KICKS him to the ground.

After some time, MATEO sits up. ALLEN steps back a bit.

ALLEN (COLDLY)

Why did you come here? And where
are the rest?

MATEO

Who's "them?" I came here alone.

ALLEN

How did you get here?

MATEO

I just walked in the right
direction,
(beat)
I don't know you want me to tell
ya'.

ALLEN

The way to the barn is blocked by
gate. Only Gloria can open it. She
won't come out. The Alkali are not
welcome here. You should leave.

MATEO

When did I say I was Alkali?

ALLEN

I don't care if you're just a
friend to them, you need to go.

MATEO fires a RIBBON at ALLEN's ankle. He trips, and MATEO gets up.

CUT TO:

SCENE 23: PUZZLE II

MIMOSA places the BLANK PUZZLE on the ground and empties a BAG OF PUZZLE PIECES onto it. They begin to hold each PUZZLE PIECE and examine each of them. They then place them on the BLANK PUZZLE, one at a time. Suddenly, a faint BOOM is heard. MIMOSA looks up, and the CAMERA shows one of EUKARYA's FIREBALLS being shot into the sky. MIMOSA picks up the PUZZLE, gets up, and begins to walk towards the flare.

CUT TO:

SCENE 24: PUZZLE III

EUKARYA and MIMOSA reunite. EUKARYA sighs.

EUKARYA

Okay...if we just did your plan,
and didn't split up, and we walked
over there together, you would've
done something stupid and fell
again or, I don't know- something
stupid! And we would've both died,
because there were like 30 things
over there.

MIMOSA

Where'd they go? Are they still
following you?!

EUKARYA

I killed them idiot- I blew them
all up. Oh, and I got this.

EUKARYA drops some PUZZLE PIECES on the ground.

CUT TO MIMOSA arranging the PUZZLE PIECES. The camera is positioned above the PUZZLE as EUKARYA and MIMOSA fight to rearrange the pieces.

Eventually, the entire PUZZLE is solved, but it is missing one piece.

EUKARYA (CONT'D)

Where's the last piece? Hello?

MIMOSA looks for the last piece in their BAG, but doesn't find anything.

MIMOSA

I don't have it. Do you?

EUKARYA (SASSY)

I dumped everything I had on the ground. You should've looked a little harder. Now what? Mateo's gonna run out of time. And I need meet with Gloria!

FLASHBACK: SANYU shows MIMOSA the missing PIECE during their meeting from the scene "Looking Up."

MIMOSA

Sanyu has it. Sanyu has the piece. Ugh, send a flare up. He needs to get over here now!

CUT TO:

SCENE 25: RUNNING

EXT. FOREST OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT

SANYU walks cautiously with a FLASHLIGHT. Suddenly, a FLARE is seen in the distance. He notices. He pulls the MISSING PIECE out of his pocket and into the palm of his hand. He shines the FLASHLIGHT on it and starts to run towards the flare.

CUT TO:

SCENE 26: MATEO VS ALLEN IV

EXT. OLD BARN - NIGHT

ALLEN has hit MATEO to the ground again.

ALLEN

What are you doing this for? You can't win.

MATEO's body FADES away. ALLEN hears MATEO's voice behind him.

MATEO (VOICE)

Ya really don't know what my plan is?

ALLEN turns around and holds his WHIP.

ALLEN
I know what you're doing. It's
another projection.

MATEO
Doesn't matter! You were too late
to call!

ALLEN
If I hit you, you're dead.

MATEO
Well ya got TWO chances. TWO.

ALLEN swings in a random direction and misses.

MATEO (CONT'D)
Forgettaboutit! You didn't even
realize what our plan was. I'm just
here to buy time, so ya can't annoy
the others! You came in here with a
great hand, but now you got
nothin', nada, zilch!

ALLEN strikes and HITS MATEO'S PROJECTION. MATEO gets sent
flying back and rolls on the ground.

ALLEN
You're gonna tell me everything.

CUT TO:

SCENE 27: PUZZLE IV

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

EUKARYA and MIMOSA stand around the PUZZLE as SANYU rushes
into FRAME, holding the MISSING PIECE.

MIMOSA
Sanyu!

SANYU
What did you send up that flare
for?

EUKARYA
The puzzle, idiot. Do you have the
piece?

SANYU opens his PALM to reveal the PIECE. EUKARYA grabs it from his hand.

EUKARYA places the piece inside the PUZZLE. It begins to GLOW. The sound of a metal GATE opening can be heard in the distance.

SANYU

I passed by a gate on the way here.
Let's go. It should be open now.

MIMOSA picks up the PUZZLE and they walk offscreen.

FADE TO:

SCENE 28: LOOK AT THEM

EXT. OLD BARN - NIGHT

GLORIA sits, talking to a MONSTER and visibly scared. Her MOTIF plays again, but distorted.

GLORIA

What happened? Why do you look so sad? Are they really coming to get us?

The MONSTER growls sadly.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

That's not good...what happened to everyone who was going to protect the forest? How did they get so close? And what about Dorian and Red?

The MONSTER growls again.

CUT TO THE GROUP.

MIMOSA

There it is. Right ahead.

SANYU

Let's go.

EUKARYA

No. I'm going on my own. She's my sister. You're just gonna scare her. Just...go find Mateo or something. He's probably getting beat up.

MIMOSA and SANYU look at each other.

MIMOSA
 Fine. Send flares if you see
 anything. And remember, the
 rendezvous is at the sixth
 terminal. Northwest.

MIMOSA and SANYU exit. EUKARYA begins to RUN forward.

CUT TO GLORIA.

GLORIA
 Well, what do mean? I know it's
 scary but...we have to stay strong!
 Like everyone else who helped.

EUKARYA's VOICE can be heard in the distance.

EUKARYA
 Gloria!

GLORIA looks up.

GLORIA
 Oh no...they're here!

EUKARYA
 Gloria!

GLORIA
 Run!

GLORIA gets up and RUNS. The MONSTER is sluggish and doesn't follow.

Cut to EUKARYA, running towards them.

Close-up of EUKARYA's face as the monster GROWLS. She stops in place and is startled. She begins to charge up a fireball attack, and her palms begin to GLOW.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
 No!

The GLOW intensifies until a WHITE FLASH of light fills the screen. Cut to GLORIA, who begins to CRY and run away.

EMBERS surround EUKARYA. She hesitates, then speaks to the MONSTER.

EUKARYA
 Sorry...

EUKARYA runs forward again. GLORIA runs away.

CUT TO:

SCENE 29: CHASE

EXT. MANZI TRAIL - NIGHT

EUKARYA chases GLORIA through the TRAIL.

EUKARYA

What are you doing? Come back! It
doesn't have to be this way!

CUT TO:

SCENE 30: MATEO VS ALLEN V

EXT. OLD BARN - NIGHT

ALLEN is trying to get MATEO to speak up. He THROWS MATEO to
the ground and kicks him repeatedly.

ALLEN

Why do you want Gloria? Talk!

MATEO

Hey idiot, I'm just here to be a
good friend...it's just for some
politics reasons or somethin'! I'm
not a part of it!

ALLEN

Don't lie!

ALLEN KICKS MATEO again.

MATEO

Ow-! I'm trying to talk to you!
Hey!

ALLEN stops.

MATEO (CONT'D)

If you keep doing this, I'll call
my friends. You ever hear of Erika?
Or- have you ever heard of the
Loralyn Corporation? Ugh-
nevermind. You're too late! You
lost!

CLOSE UP of ALLEN's face, distraught.

CUT TO

SCENE 31: GLORIEL

EXT. MANZI FIELD - NIGHT

EUKARYA finally catches up with GLORIA. They have left the FOREST, and are now on the outskirts of CHALOM LUX UNIVERSITY. GLORIA feels like a fish out of water.

EUKARYA takes labored breaths as she quickly ascends the cobblestone trail. She reaches the end of the trail, revealing GLORIA, sitting down, covering her eyes.

MUSIC: A horror-like inversion of Gloria's string motif, rising tension as EUKARYA slowly walks closer to GLORIA.

Suddenly, the music stops.

EUKARYA

Gloria?

GLORIA sits still. EUKARYA advances.

EUKARYA (CONT'D)

Gloria-

GLORIA

Who are you?

(beat)

And how do you know my name?

EUKARYA (CRESCENDO)

What do you mean?

(beat)

What do you mean!? We came all this way, and you don't even recognize me?!

EUKARYA forcefully grabs GLORIA's arm, forcing her to uncover her face. GLORIA is taken aback. They look at each other.

EUKARYA (PLEADING) (CONT'D)

I'm Eukarya. Your sister.

GLORIA

Why do you look like that?

EUKARYA cringes. (She has dyed her hair and completely changed her appearance since the last time GLORIA saw her.) She ignores the question, but GLORIA is annoying her.

EUKARYA

We need to go.

GLORIA (TIMID)

But why do you look different...?

EUKARYA (STRICT)

We need to go!

GLORIA

I don't want to!

EUKARYA (EXPLODING)

Ugh! We came *all* this way to save you and you want to stay!? You don't even appreciate how much we went through to get here! You got *kidnapped*, and you can't even *think* of the right answer when your family comes and asks if you want to leave? What the hell are you doing- What the hell are you *thinking*?

GLORIA's cartoon persona vanishes.

GLORIA (ANGRY)

I didn't get kidnapped.

(beat)

Because you, and Sonya, and Bacestere, and everyone else were mean to me, I ran!

EUKARYA (SCEAMING)

What?

Despite EUKARYA's yelling, GLORIA is unfazed and interrupts her.

GLORIA

And those monsters? They're *my* monsters. They're my friends. They're- they're all way better friends than you ever were! I never wanted you, or anyone to find me. I never wanted to see you ever again! So I told them, and they said they would protect the forest from anyone like you!

EUKARYA falters and looks away.

EUKARYA (SEETHING)

You're an *idiot*.

(beat)

We all thought some evil force was keeping you trapped. That's why we fought our way through. If you really cared about your "friends," if you really cared about *anyone*, you would've left the forest alone. You would've come back.

(beat)

We've had a funeral for you every year since you went missing. Did you even think about how we felt when you ran!?

GLORIA

You only cared about me after I left. Because then there's no one to bully, and make fun of, and...hate-!

EUKARYA (CRESCENDO)

You were sensitive. That was another one of your problems. And whenever you got scared of something you'd just run away-

GLORIA (SCREAMING)

I'm not going back!

EUKARYA

Well too bad!

(beat)

Do you know where we are? There's people sleeping in their dorms behind you.

(beat)

I chased you out of the forest. We're in Chalom Lux now.

GLORIA

But how!? My friends told me they'd help me! They always show me the way if I'm lost! You're a liar!

EUKARYA

How do you think we got this far, Gloria?

GLORIA stares, not realizing what EUKARYA is suggesting.

EUKARYA (CONT'D)
 What do you think happened to the
 "friends" we ran into?

GLORIA shudders. EUKARYA turns away and prepares a magic attack.

EUKARYA (CONT'D)
 I should probably tell everyone
 else that we're here. In case *more*
 of them show up.

EUKARYA sends a FIREBALL out into the sky. When she turns around, GLORIA is missing.

CUT TO GLORIA running towards CHALOM LUX and crying, out of EUKARYA's sight.

CUT TO:

SCENE 32: BAD BEAT

EXT. EIRIEL - NIGHT

Back to where MATEO and ALLEN are.

MATEO
 Tough luck huh? In poker, we call
 that a "bad beat." Y'know, when
 statically you were gonna win, but
 you just got really unlucky.

ALLEN doesn't respond. He's visibly disappointed.

MATEO (CONT'D)
 You know you lost, right? Gloria's
 long gone. She is outta there!

MIMOSA and SANYU enter.

MATEO (CONT'D)
 Oh! Look who showed up! Now you've
definitely lost!

MIMOSA
 Allen.

MIMOSA (CONT'D)
 We can make this right, I promise.
 I know where Olivia is.

ALLEN turns around.

ALLEN

What?

MIMOSA

We'll help you two link up again,
just please, let Gloria go.

SANYU

There's a right and wrong decision.
Choose.

ALLEN

It's very in-character for your
faction to go ahead and lie about
something like this.

(beat)

Gloria needs to decide whether she
wants to leave on her own, but I
won't interfere with that choice,
and you won't either.

SANYU

She's already made her choice.

(beat)

If you have nothing else to add,
we'll be going now.

MIMOSA

You are not our enemy. When Olivia
arrives, you'll understand.

MIMOSA and SANYU walk away.

ALLEN turns to where MATEO was, but he is missing.

FADE TO:

SCENE 33: FINALE

EXT. BIO ANNEX GROVE - DAY

GLORIA sets a BACKPACK and NOTEBOOK down on the grass. She
retrieves a FLOWER and then sits down.

GLORIA

Have you ever felt lonely?
Sometimes I wonder what you feel
when I pick you up from the ground
and take you away. Do you feel like
a bird when I show you around the
grove? Or do you still feel like a
flower?

(beat)

(MORE)

GLORIA (CONT'D)

I guess birds can get lonely too.
And flowers.

(beat)

Maybe one day, I can show you
around the forest, and you can
choose a new home, far away from
this place. And maybe one year,
I'll go back to where I planted you
and see a whole grove of new
flowers, your friends!

And maybe one day, all my friends
will come back, and they'll run
around in the flower patches, and
laugh, and play...

But right now, I just have you,
flower. So I guess, until then,
I'll imagine, and I'll dream, and
maybe one day,

(beat)

The dream will come true.

END OF FILM.