

ALL THINGS END (WORKING TITLE)

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EXT. RASHA'S HOUSE - SUNSET

A girl, RASHA (16) sits on the steps of a wooden porch. She won't stop fidgeting. In the distance, an OFFICER appears to be talking with the girl's MOTHER and FATHER. Rasha stops fidgeting, and looks at the officer. She can't hear a thing. The officer has his hand on the mother's shoulder. Rasha tears off toward the FOREST near her house.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

Trees all around. Rasha is on her knees, weeping. She stops.

RASHA

Huh? Why is the forest so quiet?

Rasha searches the forest. AURELIA, a figure with ornate robes and welcoming arms appears. The figure motions for Rasha to journey deeper into the forest with her.

AURELIA

Come child. Learn.

Aurelia enters deeper into the trees. Rasha hesitates for a moment, then follows the figure in.

EXT. OASIS - NIGHT

Little waterfalls in a stream trickle over rocks into a POND. Fireflies and other lively critters are all around.

RASHA

Where am I? What is this place?

AURELIA

It does not matter. Just be. Exist.
Feel...

Rasha finds a large, flat rock near the pond and sits.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. CONNER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

MOVING BOXES strewn about. CONNER (early 20s) is packing a SUITCASE on his bed. He sees RASHA walk by his door.

CONNER

Hey, Rasha. Gotta sec?

Rasha enters the room, and helps Conner fold and pack his clothes.

CONNER (CONT'D)
 ...I'm glad you're taking this so well. I thought I was letting you down, sis.

RASHA
 It's your dream, Conner. I won't stop you from that.

Rasha folds and packs another article of Conner's clothing.

RASHA (CONT'D)
 I have a dream, too, you know. I'm going to...

CONNER
 I know. And, I can't wait to see Rasha, the Nobel laureate, on that stage. You'll make them waves sing.

The two close the suitcase together and sit on the bed.

CONNER (CONT'D)
 Let's meet there, sis, in Europe.

RASHA
 Sweden.

CONNER
 And Switzerland. I've just gotta see the Alps.

RASHA
 Sweden and Switzerland. Sure.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. OASIS - NIGHT

RASHA is in tears. AURELIA guides her to watch the creatures near the pond.

AURELIA
 Nothing ends, child.

RASHA
 Some things do.

AURELIA

Maybe... Show me the forest. What do you see?

RASHA

Nothing... Maybe I see decay, and birds abandoning their young. And, one forest spirit who should mind her own damn business.

AURELIA

I see the light of fireflies glittering in the dark, though their count dwindles. I see algae growing in the moonlight, though only the snails know. And, I see creatures fending for themselves and their families, knowing only their own life. That, child, is the forest.

RASHA

Then even the forest should die!

AURELIA maintains her composure.

RASHA (CONT'D)

(sincere)

I'm sorry.

AURELIA

Nothing ends, child. Nothing.

RASHA

Perhaps not.

RASHA stands and shows her respect to AURELIA, then leaves the WOODS.

EXT. RASHA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Rasha walks to her parents, hugs them, then goes inside.

RASHA (V.O.)

I won't, can't, ever see Conner again. But I'll keep our promise. I'll get to Switzerland, and I'll visit the Alps. All like we said.

EXT. ALPS - AFTERNOON - YEARS LATER

An older RASHA (mid-30s) stares at a vista. She sees an IMAGE OF CONNER in the great blue of the sky.

RASHA
Nothing ever ends, Conner. Nothing.

END