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## REFLECTIONS

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I go more in-depth here about characters, themes, etc.

## Narrative Treatment:

Working Title: Worlds Apart

Working Logline: After a failed attempt at terraforming exoplanet C-328 for humanity's new home, a pair of twins crash on separate neighboring planets during the evacuation. Centuries later, they awake from cryo-sleep, becoming members of rival nations racing to take over a newly recovered C-328. Reuniting on a battlefield after 300 years of separation, they are forced to pit their personal loyalties against political ones. In their internal moral conflict that parallels the international war, will they choose to strive for peace, or end it with the destruction of the other?

reconcile with each other in the hope that they may peacefully unite the two warring nations as one.

## Character List:

**Scipio (lead)** - A 23-year-old member of Project Canary. Twins with Niki. Crashed on Aurelia. While he's kept close to those in power there, they want to manipulate him more, leading to lower confidence and a motivator of meeting expectations. To grow in the story, he needs to recognize his situation and see that he can set expectations for himself.

**Niki (lead)** - A 23-year-old member of Project Canary. Twins with Scipio. She's a very rational person, often seen as an ideal leader due to her ability to stay calm under pressure and act accordingly to problems. She crashed on Vanneth. She ends up closer to those in power there, and they're more willing to share with her, but it passes on a sheltered worldview with distrust of those outside that inner circle. To grow in the story, she needs to believe that an alternative reality is possible and that she can use her power to create it.

**Jenaro** - A 17-year-old affiliated with Aurelia's government. He was secretly tasked to befriend Scipio and manipulate him to achieve the president's goals, and if necessary, neutralize him. Similar to Scipio, he is moved by insecurities, and he has more compassion towards Scipio than simple manipulation would require.

**Agathangelos (Agelos)** - The 330-year-old former team leader of Project Canary, who later goes on to become the first leader of Aurelia. He was the one who led humanity to land on an exoplanet named C-328, inadvertently causing the deaths of thousands—including his wife, who had just recently given birth. Unlike Niki and Scipio, his cryopod malfunctioned and opened prematurely. Radiation, along with leaking chemical components from the cryopod, caused his body to enter a state of homeostasis. However, after centuries pass, his body begins to age again and weaken. With humanity on two other planets after the evacuation, he wants to return to and take over C-328 to recreate the incident that made him this way. In preserving himself, he's keeping the memory of the dead alive, as well as granting him the ability to continue ruling Aurelia from the shadows.

**Renata** - The 37-year-old governor of Aurelia's largest and wealthiest province. She's the descendant of Project Canary's team leader. She's empowered by her recent re-election, but her term limit leads her to grasp more desperately for faster power to cement her legacy. She tends to see things almost exclusively in the bigger picture, perceiving Aurelia on a grander scale rather than by its individuals. This reminds Scipio of his sister.

**Stoick** - The 55-year-old leader of planet Vanneth, by familial succession/inheritance of a large quantity of land. He's a stoic leader that doesn't often show warmth to the people close to him. Stoick is convinced that Renata is bluffing about Scipio, and sees the colonial gains driving the narrative as a way to cement his legacy.

**Cecilia** - A 21-year-old, successor to Stoick because of lineage. Initially glad to have someone about her age to look up to in Niki, she grows into an antagonist's role. Due to being raised with the expectation of inheritance and succession, she internally questions the amount of power her father appears to cede to Niki. A desire to be more impressive than Niki drives a hunger for a larger kingdom—even after Stoick's death. Given that Vanneth is a planet that has more practical rules and policies, she has a 'utilitarian' mindset (ends justify the means sort of ruling). She pushes for the

colonization of C-328, and after experiencing arguments, shuts out the possibility of diplomacy in her mind.

### **Setting:**

Due to the poor condition of Earth, the world is set primarily in an extrasolar system with two mostly-habitable planets and one formerly-habitable planet. The 'backstory' portions are set in a spaceship after the evacuation of Earth, and on the formerly-habitable one. The active 'present' for the majority of the show is set on the other two, thousands of years later.

Aurelia is a large, arid planet rich in minerals and precious metals. Visually, it included orange-yellow cliffs, and/or white-purple dunes. The few rivers that exist have allowed for foliage and agriculture (and civilization) around them.

Vanneth is a planet mostly covered in vibrantly blue water, with only a few sparse islands across the surface. The scarcity of land means humans have built artificial platforms to live on, and that true, arable land is very valuable. Higher civilization developed mechanical sea serpent/dragon hybrids (called MangaCauda) to aid them in exploring the world and hunting for food.

### **Act 1.1**

After numerous attempts to find habitable planets to populate, there is a promising candidate: C-328 (which will eventually become the main setting). As a part of Project Canary, a group of astronauts/scientists are chosen to land on this planet first and determine whether it's safe for the rest of human civilization to inhabit. After a successful landing, they run diagnostics and find some sketchy things going on. However, eager to land the colony, Agelos brushes it off and determines that it's safe. The characters find themselves as a part of a welcoming party for the rest of the colony.

After everyone has landed and the new civilizations' basic infrastructure is being built, it's discovered that the human activity is straining the environment, making it extremely

volatile. As a result, members of Project Canary are publicly shamed and ostracized. An argument between Niki and Scipio leads them to split apart. The colony disperses into smaller groups around the planet to reduce the environmental strain. However, it's not enough; natural gases leak into the atmosphere, a series of volcanic eruptions occur, and a spaceship's nuclear reactor is damaged. It explodes, creating a chain reaction with other nearby ships. C-328 fragments, and only two ships—on opposite sides of the planet—manage to escape to orbit in time. However, they're heavily damaged, and a field of debris and harmful gasses lies between them. The only way forward is away.

### **Act 1.2**

Two years later, the survivors of the fall of C-328 are approaching 2 of C-328's neighbors, which fall on the edges of the habitable zone. Due to damage that the ships obtained during the evacuation of C-328, the small crews are now forced to evacuate the ships they spent so long on, utilizing the cryo-escape pods. The launching of the cryopods doesn't go smoothly, and those who did successfully launch are split up and set hurtling towards the separate planets, amongst those split up are the twins. Niki's cryopod lands in deep waters, while Scipio's lands at the top of a mountain range. Their cryopods aren't discovered by the other members after the crash landing, and as such they remain in cryosleep...300 years pass.

### **Act 1.3**

Niki's cryopod is discovered by a Magna Cauda on a hunting trip.

Scipio's is discovered by a religious sect affiliated with the Aurelian government.

Both are hailed as the subject of some long prophecy based on old corrupted data that will unite the planets and their people, which grant them the status to meet with the regional leaders. When the twins are finally awakened from their long slumber, both societies are jubilant about their return. The twins, however, are surprised to learn that they have been asleep for 300 years and everyone they have known has long passed away as founders of Vanneth and Aurelia. Except for one person they unknowingly know, Agelos. However, Agelos hasn't revealed himself to them yet, preferring to control things from the shadows. Renata rules Aurelia with his guidance and Stoick doesn't know he exists. Ever since waking up, Niki has been told that she and her twin brother would unite the planets and bring society back together. Agelos, however, being the manipulative leader, prevented knowledge of Niki's awakening from reaching the ears of Scipio. While Scipio is skeptical about the prophecy, Renata assures him

that he's the subject. Meanwhile, Niki impatiently waits for the day she can reunite with Scipio.

## **Act 2**

After a few months, Niki grows into a powerful advisory role in the Stoick's [court], able to plan both [urban] development and deeper-sea exploration. Meanwhile, Scipio travels around Aurelia accompanied by Jenaro to boost morale/support for Renata, as well as figure out the distribution of resources.

Astronomers on each planet notice that C-328 has approached a habitable state, leading Stoick to begin preparations to return to C-328 based on the prophecy. Agelos, knowing that the return to C-328 would bring about a bloodbath, withheld this information from Renata as she concurrently began preparations to return to C-328. Following with the prophecies, the twins are placed in the midst of the preparations, unaware of the chaos that will ensue.

As Niki and Stoick get engrossed in planning the mission, Cecilia is left stressed with responsibility over pressing yet uninteresting matters, and envies Niki for her quick rise to favor. This leads to a falling out between Cecilia and Niki, who had previously become friends, able to enjoy downtime together.

A month passes, and both planets have launched a scouting party to C-328. In those scouting parties are Niki and Scipio. The scouting party of Aurelia arrives first, and sets up camp. Vanneth's scouting party detects the foreign group and prepares for contact. Due to the sabotage from Agelos, the first contact goes horribly wrong. He orders his people to fire upon the Vanneth party. He specifically targets Stoick, knowing that it would cause turmoil amongst the people of Vanneth.

With Stoick gravely injured, the people of Vanneth are forced to retreat. But not before Scipio gets a glimpse of someone familiar. Upon returning to Vanneth, Stoick calls Niki to his bed. He declares her a regent of Vanneth, causing Cecilia to spiral into insecurity and rage

## **Act 3**

It's a month since the first contact. In that short period of time, there have been numerous battles over land and resources. At this point, the two sides attack each other on sight. Seeing each other, and then watching how the situation has escalated leads the twins to question their leaders about the implications for the prophecy and the plan. After enough time, Scipio becomes fed up and decides to meet up with the Aurelian government. During his return to Aurelia, Scipio finds himself seeing someone familiar: Agelos. Agelos explains what happened in the 300 years the twins were missing, describing how he came to power, and how he was the one who created the prophecy as a way to manipulate the people. He even describes how he planted it on Vanneth as well. He then explains the true purpose of the colonization mission, acquiring the material needed to sustain his life. He believes that Vanneth will steal it from him, and the only way to guarantee that he acquires it is by eliminating the other faction. There's an argument between them, with Agelos seeing his goal as righteous and the only way to preserve his empire, and Scipio believing that it doesn't justify all the deaths. Against orders, Scipio returns to C-328 with Jenaro. Fearing that he would join the Vanneth faction and conspire against Aurelia, Agelos prompts Renata to order Jenaro to eliminate Scipio. During his assassination attempt, Scipio realizes that Jenaro is essentially like a younger version of himself, in the manipulability for respect. In convincing Jenaro to have some autonomy and disobey his orders, Scipio gains a better understanding of himself and is willing to work with Niki.

Meanwhile, tensions within the Vanneth faction have intensified. Cecilia has formed an unofficial sub-faction and carries out unsanctioned missions with appropriated Magna Cauda, undermining Niki's rule. Scipio and Jenaro make it to the Vanneth faction's base on C-328. Luckily, Cecilia is at Vanneth visiting Stoick, and Scipio is able to safely meet with Niki. After a long conversation explaining what they each went through, the twins reconcile. They vow to stand together and put an end to the war.

As the war for C-328 continues and the casualties increase, Renata begins to have doubts about their cause, and feels immense guilt. She starts to ponder Scipio's argument, eventually leading her to confront Agelos about how they handled the situation with him. She claims that they should consider ending the conflict through a peaceful treaty. Agelos initially argues against this, but eventually decides to support her choice. However, this is a deception, as he plans to play along and sabotage the situation when he has the chance. Renata proposes a meeting between leaders, which Niki accepts. Renata and Agelos depart to C-328.

On Vanneth, Stoick dies, and Cecilia promises him that she'll destroy Aurelia and take control of C-328. As an olive branch, Niki contacts Cecilia about the treaty meeting and asks her if she wants to represent Vanneth along with her. Cecilia agrees, but secretly plots to assassinate Renata. She returns to C-328 and pretends to make peace with Niki.

The meeting initially starts out well. Renata is surprised to see Scipio and Jenaro, and apologizes, promising to make amends on behalf of Aurelia. However, determined to punish the other side further, Cecilia calls a strike with her Magna Cauda. A battle ensues, with Renata retreating to an Aurelian warship and preparing to obliterate the gathered Vanneth forces. Scipio is heavily wounded in the fight. Niki and Jenaro drag him aboard a Magna Cauda, and she pilots it, crashing into the Aurelia warship. Having breached the hull, they make their way to the control center to confront Renata. The twins plead with Renata, explaining that it's a misunderstanding. Agelos makes an appearance, and tells her to launch an attack. She's unsure of what to do, her morals fighting against her loyalty to Agelos. In the end, she chooses to consider the lives of others, and refuses to bomb the Vanneth forces. However, the battle has taken a toll on the ship. It begins to fall apart, and Agelos ends up seriously injured. He has a moment of introspection, and eventually has a change of heart. He tells them to blame the attack on him, to use him as a scapegoat and portray the twins and Renata as the heroes who took down a dictator. While Renata initially pushes back against the idea, Agelos insists, claiming that it's his penance. Together, they bring Agelos out to be imprisoned, and Niki and Renata call off their respective forces. Cecilia is found as well, and is also captured and prepared to face her crimes.

A few days later, Niki visits Cecilia in her cell. She explains that she'd been working with Scipio and Renata to finalize the treaty. They're beginning an initiative to share technologies with each other and establish a united colony on C-328. Cecilia, however, still harbors feelings of resentment. Niki accepts this and leaves, but not before promising to honor Stoick and the many others lost. Simultaneously, Renata, Scipio, and Jenaro visit Agelos. They talk about all the events that happened, and Agelos—while not entirely satisfied with how everything turned out—encourages them to fix humanity. Niki, Scipio, and Renata reconvene, and set out to address the new residents of C-328.

Then the show runs out of funding and doesn't have a finale leading to a cult following that imagines—and fights over various endings and spin-offs which range from romantic to cynical. :)

Years later, when we somehow manage to become relevant again, we will proceed to write a buddy film with Agelos and Cecilia where they break out of prison and go on wacky adventures throughout the galaxy! :)

### **Detailed Description:**

#### **Act 1**

**Exposition:** Onboard the Canary, Niki and Scipio discuss the landing procedure with Agelos. There's an excited, almost festive atmosphere. C-328 appears to be one of the most promising candidates they've encountered, rich with minerals, water, and arable land. The ship enters the atmosphere, and the crew are treated to an almost utopian view. Vibrant, lush landscapes paint the planet's surface, inviting. It promised a place where humanity—plucked from its home and left to drift uncertainly through a void of darkness—could take root and flourish. It promised stability. Agelos broke the silence, giving orders to initiate the landing sequence. The Canary successfully makes it to the surface, and the crew sets up to collect data. After a few days of exploration and analysis, they're on the verge of declaring C-328 a suitable place to live. However, one thing is holding them back. Some areas seem to have extremely dense concentrations of flammable gases. The crew is hesitant to move forward until the issue is resolved, and set out to determine the cause. During the exploration phase, Agelos is contacted by the main colony fleet, urging Project Canary to report back soon. However, days later, they haven't found the source of these gas pockets. Agelos decides that the issue isn't significant enough to give up on C-328. However, the rest of Project Canary are still hesitant. To convince them, Agelos delivers a grand speech. "In times like these, hope is all we have. We need it. They need it—even if it's just an illusion. This



paradise...we'll turn it into a reality." The crew contacts the fleet and confirms that it's safe to land. Project Canary personally welcomes (unfinished)

**Inciting incident:** (discovery of the gas, Agelos controversy)

Agelos speaks with Scipio and talks about blame

He tells Scipio that the community

Scipio and Niki are discussing the situation and their plans for the future. Scipio suggests following Agelos and his group of supporters, but Niki refuses, claiming that it would make more sense to stay with the larger group. She calls him a fool for going off with Agelos, claiming that he's unfit to lead anymore. Scipio accuses her of being a traitor

(unfinished)

**Climax:** A maintenance engineer for one of the colony arks notices that there's

Gas leak into the engine

Investigates

(unfinished)

The two ships

**Act 2**

### **Act 3**

In an ambivalent moment, Agelos accepts himself as the scapegoat, who bears all the blame. he realizes

And part of him fights back

But another part of him knows that perhaps, it was justified