

EARTH UNLIMITED
Episode 1: Spread Your Wings and Fall

By

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2014 by Bryant Reil

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INT. MORNING - OUTSIDE BIT'S ROOM

Kyla is knocking hard on the door to Bit's bedroom. A view of the early morning forest is visible through a window at the end of the hallway.

KYLA

Wake up wake up wake up! I'm
leaving in 5 minutes!

BIT

(shouting)
I'm trying to sleep!

KYLA

But I'm LEAVING for the Academy!

BIT

So what? I'll see you in two
months!

KYLA

But I want a hug before I go!

BIT

Ask mom!

KYLA

But I want a hug from YOU!

BIT

Get lost! (Sound of something
hitting the door)

KYLA

Fine! Whatever! You twerp!

Kyla blows a kiss at the door and goes downstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. MORNING - DOWNSTAIRS AT KYLA'S HOUSE

Kyla comes into the kitchen where Lianaria is preparing breakfast of apple slices, eggs and bread. Kyla's packed bags are next to the door. Kyla grabs a plate of food and starts eating as she converses with Lianaria.

LIANARIA

Did you get to say goodbye to your
brother?

(CONTINUED)

KYLA

Well, kind of. At least I know he's alive in there.

LIANARIA

Do you want me to get him up?

KYLA

Nah. Let the lazy brat sleep.
(suddenly looks startled) Where's dad? He's supposed to walk me to the coach stop!

LIANARIA

Don't worry, he just stepped out to get something. He'll be back in a minute. I'm a little sad you didn't want me to take you...

KYLA

Well, you know, he was gone for so long on that last delivery I just wanted a little time alone with him. I guess you could come with us.

LIANARIA

That's generous of you, but I'm going to stick around until Bit gets out of bed. Besides, it'll be nice of you to get a little daddy-daughter time!

The door opens and Philosthenes walks in with two pairs of well-made but simple open-toed leather shoes.

KYLA

(grabbing shoes)

Are these for me? Thank you so much! (Kyla puts her plate on the counter and throws her arms around Philosthenes' neck in a hug) You're still coming with me to meet the coach, right?

PHILOSTHENES

Of course, dear. Who else is going to carry your bags?

KYLA

(grabbing her bags)

Well as you can see I've been working out. But thanks for

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KYLA (cont'd)
volunteering anyway. (She dumps the
bags in Philosthenes' arms and
kisses his cheek.) Let's go!

LIANARIA
Not without a hug! (Lianaria hugs
Kyla) Bye, dear!

KYLA
Bye! Punch Bit in the face for me!

LIANARIA
Will do!

As Kyla and her dad walk onto the dirt road in front of
their tree home Kyla smiles broadly and skips ahead. The
road is lightly populated by people walking or doing chores.

NEIGHBOR 1
Off to the Academy, Kyla?

KYLA
Yes, Sir!

NEIGHBOR 1
Well have fun!

KYLA
Always do!

NEIGHBOR 2
Don't forget to write!

KYLA
Will do!

PHILOSTHENES
So are you excited to be moving out
on your own?

KYLA
Of course! I mean, I'm going to
miss you and all, but this is so
exciting!

Kyla and Philosthenes sing "Daddy Dear" as they walk to the
coach stop. When they arrive Kyla places her bags next to
the bench and hugs Philosthenes.

KYLA
I'll see you at the Autumnal
Festival!

PHILOSTHENES

Take care, dear!

Philosthenes leaves with a couple glances behind him as Kyla sits excitedly at the coach stop. Philosthenes disappears in the distance.

KYLA

(wildly enthused)

Best day ever! (It starts to rain - Kyla is slightly less enthused but still smiling) Second best day ever! (A passing coach splashes mud all over her. Kyla frowns.) Third best day ever.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY - EQUINOX ACADEMY

The coach rolls up the road to a large but simply designed education complex. Kyla is muddy and tattered and a little dismal but lights up when she sees the front gates. She jumps out as the coach stops and tosses out her bags, and runs to the gates before a holler from the coach driver reminds her to go back and pay. She slips the driver a handful of leaves and a few acorns. She grabs her bags and runs in through the open gates and looks around in awe. She stops, suddenly realizing she doesn't know where to go.

KYLA

(to a passer-by)

Uh...hi...excuse me...could you tell me where to...(passer-by looks at her but walks by so she turns to another). Hi, I'm new and I need...(to another) First day...don't know where to...(this person bumps her as they walk past, causing her to drop a bag).

INTERCOM

This is the last call for new arrivals to check in at the orientation desk in Victory Hall. If you have not received your orientation package, please proceed to the orientation desk in Victory Hall immediately!

Kyla looks around until she sees a white building marked Victory Hall not far ahead.

(CONTINUED)

KYLA
Oh! (Kyla grabs her dropped bag and runs for the building)

CUT TO:

INT - DAY. VICTORY HALL

Kyla is at the end of a large line behind a young demoness.

KYLA
Hi! Is this the line for orientation?

LILI
Oh, you mean this incredibly long line of people with packed bags that leads to that desk under the sign that says 'New Students-Check In Here?' Because no, this isn't it.

KYLA
(taken aback)
Oh. Sarcasm. Uh...love it.

LILI
You're easily amused, aren't you?

KYLA
Uh...I guess so. (Momentary pause as Kyla considers her options). I'm Kyla. I just got here from Nim.

LILI
Oh? Nim? Am I supposed to know where that is? (Lili eyes Kyla up and down, noting her mud-soaked apparel). Looks like it's at the bottom of a mudhole.

KYLA
Uh...no...it's in the Aspen Forest...

Aspen, who with Eunoe has since lined up behind Kyla, lets out an excited gasp. Kyla turns her head.

EUNOE
(gesturing her head back at Aspen, who is standing behind her)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EUNOE (cont'd)
My friend here is a big fan of
Aspen trees.

ASPEN
It's also my name!

EUNOE
She named herself after her Aspen
tree.

LILI
Oh, you named yourself? Class act.
You know what would've been more
accurate? Loser!

KYLA
(upset)
We weren't talking to...

EUNOE
(interrupting)
She's a demon. Best thing to do is
ignore her.

LILI
Yeah, like I care if I get to talk
to you losers anyway.

EUNOE
Anyway, I'm Eunoe. This is Aspen.
(Looks at Kyla's ears). You're an
elf, I take it?

KYLA
(touching her ears, and noting
Eunoe's are rounded)
Yeah...guess the ears are a
giveaway, huh?

LILI
That and the ugly face.

Kyla shoots Lili a dirty glare but doesn't speak to her. She
looks back at Eunoe and scans her bark and leaf clothing
ensemble.

KYLA
Are you nymphs?

ASPEN
No...

(CONTINUED)

EUNOE

I am. She's a dryad. You must have met a dryad before, living in your forest?

KYLA

Yeah...but they don't really ever talk to us...

EUNOE

They tend to be shy.

KYLA

That's what I thought about nymphs. But you seem pretty friendly.

EUNOE

Nymphs aren't shy. Just very picky about with whom they speak.

KYLA

(smiling)

Oh! Well, I'm glad I passed. My name's Kyla. It's nice to meet you! So...what are you studying?

EUNOE

I'm taking animal design. Aspen's studying...

ASPEN

(jumping in, to Eunoe's surprise)

Trees, of course.

LILI

(smirking)

You're a dryad and you don't already know about trees? How much dumber could you be? I mean, they're made of wood. Like your head.

KYLA

(noting Aspen's hurt expression, angry)

Look, you got a problem we can take this outside!

LILI

(eyes burn with flame, smiling fiercely)

And lose my place in line? I don't think so! We can do it right here!

(CONTINUED)

A large centaur approaches and glares at Lili and Kyla. They look up at him. Lili's sneer turns to a fake smile.

CENTAUR

If there's a problem, why don't the two of you step into my office and we can talk about it!

LILI

Oh, no problem! Just having a little discussion with an old friend!

KYLA

(still upset)
Whatever.

CENTAUR

Any more out of you two and you're out. Clear?

LILI

Crystal! (whispering to Kyla as the Centaur walks off) You got lucky this time!

EUNOE

Don't worry about her. Not many people are going to side with a Demoness, but she might just find a way to take you down with her. So...I like the shoes. Where did you get them?

KYLA

Oh! My dad made them. He's a shoemaker.

EUNOE

Well, they are simply lovely!

Fade out as the continue talking

KYLA

Thanks, they look like leather but they're really softened bark!
(Aspen gasps) But don't worry, he knows how get it without harming the tree!

CUT TO:

INT - DAY. VICTORY HALL

Kyla is now next in line. She, Aspen, and Eunoe are sitting on their luggage, bored and sweating. Lili leaves the orientation desk in a huff.

RECEPTIONIST

Next!

KYLA!

Oh! Me! That's me! (runs up to desk with her luggage.)

RECEPTIONIST

Name?

KYLA

Kyla Nim.

RECEPTIONIST

(looking through papers)
How do you spell it?

KYLA

Kyla, K-Y-L-A, Nim, N-I-M.

RECEPTIONIST

(looking through more papers)
No one here by that name.

KYLA

What? But I got my acceptance letter...

RECEPTIONIST

Well, I don't have any record of your registration form.

KYLA

Registration form? Isn't that what I filled out before I was accepted?

RECEPTIONIST

I mean the form to register for which courses you want to take. You were supposed to complete it and send it back.

KYLA

(deflated and worried)
Uh...what?

(CONTINUED)

RECEPTIONIST

(sighs)

Go see the Dean of Registration.
Down the hall to your left. NEXT!

KYLA

But...

RECEPTIONIST

NEXT!

CUT TO:

INT. REGISTRATION OFFICE

Kyla is sitting in a chair in a small but finely decorated office. The Dean of Registration, a grizzled old gnome, is rapidly sifting through stacks of paperwork as Kyla watches with a concerned look.

DEAN OF REGISTRATION

(finishing his search)

No, nothing. We mailed you the registration package but I have no record we ever received the completed forms.

KYLA

(worried)

I...but I didn't know I had to...

DEAN OF REGISTRATION

It was all explained in the instructions.

KYLA

Oh...Well I don't think I read that part. You see I was so excited to be accepted that...

DEAN OF REGISTRATION

What kind of student do you expect to be if you can't follow instructions?

KYLA

You're...you're not going to send me home, are you?

DEAN OF REGISTRATION

Well, that's up to you. You aren't registered for any courses, but the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DEAN OF REGISTRATION (cont'd)
 first week is a free week anyway so new students can make last minute changes. You'll just have to fill out the paperwork. (Tosses a pile of papers on Kyla's lap). And the paperwork for getting the paperwork in late. (Tosses another pile of paperwork on Kyla's lap, and continues piling it up as he continues speaking). Paperwork for why you came to my office. And this is the paperwork to explain why you didn't do the first paperwork. Registration forms. Dorm contract. Student code. Financial report. Paperwork to explain how to collate all the other paperwork. And you'll need to do an essay to explain the efficiency of bureaucracy. Any questions?

KYLA
 (under a mound of paper)
 Do you have a pen?

DEAN OF REGISTRATION
 (looking around desk)
 Oddly, no.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM HALL

Kyla is struggling with her bags and mound of paperwork. She nearly drops it when Aspen and Eunoe come up from behind her and each grab a bag.

EUNOE
 Glad you made it! I got a little worried after you got sent to the office...

KYLA
 Yeah...me too.

EUNOE
 I see they left you with some homework.

(CONTINUED)

KYLA

Yeah.

EUNOE

Which room are you in?

KYLA

Uh...(straining to look at the tag on her key, but can't get a good angle over the mound of paper. Aspen takes a look).

ASPEN

Three seventeen! Right across from us!

KYLA

(excited)

Oh! That's awesome!

EUNOE

Yeah, we can be gal pals! Let's drop this off and we'll show you around campus!

KYLA

Love to! But...uh...I have a bit of paperwork to do first...

EUNOE

Right! Well, pop by when you're done. So who's your roommate? Friend from home?

KYLA

I don't know. The Dean said this was the only room with a bed available.

EUNOE

Oh. Ouch. I don't think I could live with a stranger.

KYLA

Oh, it'll be fine. I get along with everyone.

ASPEN

What if it's that demon that was standing in front of you in line?

(CONTINUED)

KYLA
(deflated)
I...guess I could learn to get
along with her...

EUNOE
Good luck! Hey, worst case
scenario, you're welcome to crash
with us. Aspen doesn't sleep so you
can always use her bed.

KYLA
Dryads don't sleep?

ASPEN
Well, sort of. We don't lie down.
We meld with a tree for the night.
I've picked out a lovely oak. There
weren't any available aspens.

KYLA
Well, thanks for the offer. I'll
keep it in mind. Thanks so much!
I'm so glad I met you today!

Aspen takes the key and unlocks Kyla's dorm room for her. Inside the dorm are two beds, one fitted with light sheets and the bedding on the other folded on top of the mattress. A desk next to the made bed has thinly worked gold plates on it. A few of these have writing engraved on them. A pencil-sized tool that looked much like a chisel lies across one of the plates. Eunoe and Aspen place Kyla's bags by the unmade bed, and Kyla drops her mound of papers on the empty desk by her bed with a relieved sigh.

ASPEN
Those look like real gold! And
she's using them to take notes!
More humane than paper, if you ask
me. (Aspen eyes Kyla's stack of
papers mournfully).

EUNOE
We'll let you get to work. See you
later, Kyla!

ASPEN
Come visit when you're done!

KYLA
Thank you! It was nice to meet you!

Aspen and Eunoe leave and close the door. Kyla looks at the gold plates curiously. She looks for any other sign of her roommate but there are no decorations or other items in view. Finally she sees a box under the bed. It is finely carved wood. She reaches under the bed, but thinks better of herself and grabs her own bag, sifting through it.

KYLA

(pulling out a pen)

Oh, good! (grabs a paper from the top of the pile). Ok-name. Good! I know that one! (writing)
Kyla...Nim. (she peruses the page and sighs).

The day drags on. Cut-scenes of Kyla filling out papers and the stack of completed pages rising as the other shrinks. Kyla wipes her brow, opens a window, and grabs a next page.

KYLA

(to herself)

Course registration! Huh...what to take...what to take...Beginner earth magic? Uh...no. Melodies of the Sun? No. The Theoretical Physics behind the Creation of Pascal's Homunculi and it's Effects on the Centaur Migration of 1926...uh...do they have a course to explain what that even means?

A strong wind suddenly blows the papers from their stacks. Many fly out the now-open window. Kyla leaps up and helplessly watches them scatter onto the ground outside her window.

KYLA

NOOO! (she turns around to see Aura standing in the doorway).

AURA

I'm sooo sorry! I didn't know you were here!

KYLA

What did you do? It took me all day to fill those in! (Kyla notices a strong breeze is still emanating from Aura, who becomes more translucent).

AURA
I-I'm so sorry!

KYLA
Sorry? It took me hours to fill all that in!

AURA
Let me help. I can get them back for you.

KYLA
Sure, if you can even find them all! And you're still blowing everything around! (Aura becomes more transparent. Her expression is apologetic). And what's happening to you?!?

AURA
I'm so sorry. I'm not used to being around groundlings. This is exactly why we don't use paper where I come from.

KYLA
(noting the gold plates have not moved)
Uh-huh. (still a little miffed, but wanting the help) Well, we'd better get gathering all that up. Gonna take the rest of the evening.

AURA
Allow me.

Aura evanesces into a cloudier form and flies through the window. She floats around outside, causing swirls of wind to pick up all the papers that had been scattered.

KYLA
Whoa!

Aura flows back in with the papers from outside. She is back to her regular level of translucency. The papers organize themselves into piles.

KYLA
Well...I mean...they're still mixed up...but HOLY COW THAT WAS THE COOLEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE! What ARE you?

(CONTINUED)

AURA

Oh...thank you. I'm a Daughter of the Air. My name's Aura. I guess I'm your new roommate. (looks at the paper). It's hard for me to control my wind flow all the time. You might want to buy some gold plates to write on instead.

KYLA

Uh...sure, I'll look into that. Anyway I'm Kyla.

AURA

I'm so sorry, Kyla. Can I make this up to you somehow?

KYLA

You kind of already have. And hey, I don't think we're going to need air conditioning in here, Breezy.

AURA

No, we will not. And my name's Aura.

KYLA

Right.

CUT TO:

INT. EVENING - CAFETERIA

Kyla, Eunoe, Aspen, and Aura are sitting around a table eating. Aspen has a raw fish on her plate, and Eunoe has a salad. Aura has nothing in front of her, and Kyla has a sandwich.

KYLA

(with mouth full)
So...Aspen...you don't eat vegetables?

ASPEN

No. I can hear them scream.

KYLA

Uh-huh. But Eunoe's salad's ok?

ASPEN

Oh, I know other creatures need to eat plants. I just can't do it. And they make me sick.

(CONTINUED)

EUNOE

Aspen can get most of her nutrients
when she melds with trees.

ASPEN

But I like a little fish once in a
while.

KYLA

But you don't like it cooked?

ASPEN

Not really.

KYLA

I have to say, you're a lot
different than I expected.

EUNOE

Tree spirits don't cook. They are
understandably hesitant to use
fire.

KYLA

And you're a vegetarian?

EUNOE

No...just not really hungry.
So..Aura, was it?..what do Air
Spirits eat?

AURA

Well, I'm not an Air Spirit. I'm a
daughter of the air.

KYLA

(with mouth full)
What's the difference?

AURA

Air spirits are commoners.

KYLA

I see. Well, do you eat?

AURA

No.

KYLA

Cool. You don't eat, and Aspen
doesn't sleep! That's more food and
an extra bed for me! Hey, Eunoe,
what don't you-

(CONTINUED)

Kyla is interrupted as Saul swaggers up to the table.

SAUL

Greetings, ladies. I saw this assembly of beautiful enchantresses and thought I must pay you the proper respects. My name is Saul. Now, let me compliment each of you in descending order of attractiveness.

KYLA

What?

SAUL

(to Eunoe, who rolls her eyes)
Your golden hair flows like the golden rays of the sun as it descends upon the morning meadow. You skin shines like the dew off the flowers, and your eyes send my heart fluttering into the world of dreams. (To Aspen, who giggles) The trees of the forest whisper your name-uh-whatever it is-

ASPEN

Aspen!

SAUL

Aspen...Aspen. Your beauty resonates through the vales and hills as you dance with the grace of the trees.

KYLA

Trees aren't all that graceful...

SAUL

(ignoring Kyla's comment, speaking to Aura, who stares at him in bemusement)
Your beauty is such that to show it in its full opacity would blind the eyes of those men who gaze longingly in your direction. (to Kyla, who sits up with a hidden smile. Saul looks at her blankly for a moment). Cool shirt. (Kyla crosses her arms and frowns.) So, I don't suppose you ladies have room at the table for one more?

(CONTINUED)

Saul tries to squeeze himself in next to Eunoe but she glares at him and refuses to budge. Saul looks at her.

SAUL

Surely, dear nymph, you recognize the bond between nymph and satyr? I have spent many moons frolicking with the nymphs of my homeland. Most of them are dumb as bricks, and I'm kind of surprised to see one here, but hey, satyr and nymph, right? It's a natural pairing!

EUNOE

I know many satyrs. I don't care for any of them.

SAUL

(temporarily offended, but quickly gets over it)
Well-ok, right, a lot of them are kind of jerks. But not me. Why, if you take the time to know me-

EUNOE

You aren't sitting here.

SAUL

Right. I'll just sit over here. (walks over to Aura's end of the table and sits next to her. She doesn't move, so Saul is left half-sitting over the edge of the seat.) So, where you girls from?

AURA

I am from the City of Aeolis.

SAUL

Cool. Where's that? Is it far?

AURA

Sometimes.

SAUL

Huh?

AURA

It moves around. Right now it's pretty far, but it should get here in about a week.

(CONTINUED)

SAUL

Uh, cool. (look at Aspen) And you?

EUNOE

Do you mind? We were having a conversation.

SAUL

Oh, of course! Carry on! Don't mind me.

EUNOE

So have you figured out what courses to take yet, Kyla?

KYLA

No, not yet. I mean, I know this sounds strange, but I've never really thought about what I wanted to do with my life. But I get a free week so I'm just going to try as many classes as I can.

At this moment Lili walks past the table.

LILI

I bet they could use you in med school. They always need cadavers!

SAUL

Hey, she is not bad looking! Somewhere between you and you. (Saul points at Aura and Aspen).

EUNOE

Is that the girl from the line?

KYLA

Anywaaaaaay...I'm just going to drop in on as many different classes as I can.

ASPEN

I have a flower singing class in the morning. Would you like to come with me?

KYLA

Yeah, that sounds awesome! I love singing!

(CONTINUED)

SAUL

I have a tap class you can come to!

AURA

You're a tap dancer!

SAUL

Sure! We satyrs are naturals!
(stands and does a short tap on his
hooves). I mean, most of my classes
are in engineering, but I don't
think you'd be good at them.

KYLA

(angry)

And why not? Think I look stupid?

LILI

(from off-camera)

Yes!

SAUL

No, no, no. I don't think that
you're stupid. It's just you're a
girl. Girls hate engineering.

KYLA

That is soooooo rude! And I happen
to LOVE engineering!

AURA

I hate engineering.

KYLA

What time is your class, goat-boy?

EUNOE

Just an FYI - satyrs consider that
a compliment. I know that isn't
what you intended. Call him a
nanny.

SAUL

(offended and shouting)

A nanny, am I? Well, I just happen
to be the top scorer on my entrance
exam!

KYLA

(also angry)

Well, I can engineer circles around
you!

(CONTINUED)

SAUL
We'll see about that!

KYLA
Yes! We will!

SAUL
Then I'll see you tomorrow!

KYLA!
Yes! You Will! What time?

SAUL
7 am!

KYLA
Uh...pretty early...but okay!
Where?

SAUL
The Chiron Laboratories building!

KYLA
Well I'll see you there!

SAUL
Great! (Saul storms off)

Kyla sits a moment in a huff, then turns to Eunoe.

KYLA
What does an engineer do, exactly?

CUT TO:

INT. ENGINEERING ROOM

The engineering room is filled with square tables, each with a chair at each side and a large box placed in the center. Kyla and Saul are sitting next to each other at one table. The room is filled with various students, all male. Sharing Kyla and Saul's table are a gnome and a brownie, who are looking at Kyla curiously. A wizened centaur enters the room and addresses the class.

PROFESSOR
Good morning! I thought it would be fun to start the day with a little building exercise. On each of your tables is a box filled with random objects. Using ONLY items from the box - and without the aid of magic
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PROFESSOR (cont'd)
- you are each to build a device
that is capable of measuring time!
Any type of mechanical timepiece
will do. Begin!

SAUL
Alright! Piece of cake!

Saul flips the box over and dumps the contents all over the table. Pieces range from tubes and gears to a goldfish bowl filled with water and complete with fish. Saul and the other two start sifting immediately. Kyla stares at it in bewilderment. The brownie quickly assembles a sun dial, the gnome an elaborate water clock, using the goldfish as a functional piece, and Saul builds a cuckoo clock which has a small satyr that kisses a nymph at each hour. Overwhelmed, Kyla grabs a gear and places it on top of a wooden block, which immediately falls over and catches fire. The centaur approaches and looks at each item in turn.

PROFESSOR
(looking at the sundial)
Uh..well, that does technically
meet the requirement, so well done,
I guess. (The brownie beams. The
centaur looks over the water clock)
Clever! Very clever! I love how you
blend the mechanical and natural
environment! (looks at the cuckoo
clock, which Saul winds into
action) That...is...brilliant! The
most stupendous piece I've seen on
my centuries of teaching beginner
engineering! How wonderful! You
Sir, are going places! (Saul smiles
boastfully at Kyla. The professor
walks over to Kyla and frowns.)
Uh...sometimes it helps to sketch
it out first.

SAUL
(to Kyla)
Thank you for living up to the
stereotype!

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

Saul and Kyla are walking down the hall after class. Kyla looks sad and singed. Saul is skipping and smiling.

SAUL

I don't care what the others said,
I think what you did was an
engineering marvel! Maybe you could
be an arsonist! Do they have a
class for that? Hey, wanna go for
breakfast?

KYLA

Nah...I think I'm going to see if I
can still make it to Aspen's flower
singing class.

CUT TO:

EXT. ORCHARD

Kyla and Aspen are in an orchard full of apple trees which are ready to be picked. Kyla looks a little happier. Most of the other students are nymphs, druids, or fairies, though there is noticeably a male orc and a quartet of goblins. The professor is an angel with glowing white eyes.

ANGEL

Now we are of course going to begin
with the simplest of arias, the
song of the harvest. I'm sure most
of you know it, but for those who
don't, it goes like this (Angel
sings the following words with a
beautiful melody and very high
pitch). Lea-nara-o-neani,
lia-sana-o-eo.

When the angel finishes her song, the apples within a ten-foot radius of her drop to the ground.

ANGEL

Now the effective radius depends on
your volume, of course, but the
pitch is critical. In the language
of trees, you see, pitch can alter
the meaning of words. Now, why
don't you all spread out and choose
a tree. Remember, the words are
Lea-nara-o-neani, lia-sana-o-eo.

(CONTINUED)

The students spread out and start singing. Kyla chooses a tree adjacent to Aspens. The Orc sings in the background remarkably well with an unusually high pitch for his size. Kyla waits for Aspen.

ASPEN

Lea-nara-o-neani, lia-sana-o-eo!

Her voice is soft and gentle yet many apples fall from her tree. She smiles at Kyla.

ASPEN

Now you try it!

KYLA

(looking up at her tree, and
sings in a lower pitch)

Lea-nara-o-neani, lia-sana-o-eo!

ASPEN

Well...no. You just offered it a
new hat. A little higher.

KYLA

(straining to sing as high as
she can, which is still lower
than the others)

Lea-nara-o-neani, lia-sana-o-eo!

ASPEN

Closer, but now it thinks you want
a massage.

KYLA

(straining to the point her
voice cracks as she sings)

Lea-nara-o-neani, lia-sana-o-eo!

The tree bursts into flames.

ANGEL AND ASPEN

Oh my!

The Angel and Aspen both rush to the tree and sing in
unison:

ANGEL AND ASPEN

Iliara-saril-ponae-kinin-hasa-minoi!

The trees sweats and extinguishes the flames. Aspen and the
Angel glare at Kyla, who looks down in shame.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY - EDGE OF A CLIFF

Kyla is standing on the edge of a cliff next to Aura. She is holding a large electric fan in her hands. The cliff is lined with students, mostly daughters of the air and air spirits, but there are a few winged creatures such as a harpy and a couple fairies. The non-air spirits all carry fans like Kyla's. A large air elemental is floating off the edge of the cliff and addressing the class.

AIR ELEMENTAL

...so those of you who can't produce wind on your own have been provided with fans. So you will glide off the cliff down over the meadow and send a light breeze over the grass. Now there are several rabbits hidden in the meadow. I want this breeze gentle, so if you startle any of the rabbits and they run, you will be docked points. Take your positions!

The students edge closer to the edge of the cliff, ready to leap (or glide). Kyla sticks the tongue out of the side of her mouth in concentration and holds her fan in front of her.

AIR ELEMENTAL

Go!

The student fly/glide off the cliff, except Kyla, who falls straight to the ground. Aura glides back to her.

AURA

Kyla - do you know how to fly?

KYLA

(in pain)

No.

AURA

Oh. I don't think this is for you.

KYLA

(sarcastically)

Thank you for the heads up.

AURA

You're welcome.

Aura glides off. Kyla's fan catches fire.

CUT TO:

INT. LIFE SCIENCES CLASSROOM

Kyla is sitting next to Eunoe in a large classroom. This room has models of various animals, and at the front is a picture chain of human evolution. The professor is a bespectacled old elf with long white hair.

EUNOE

(whispering to Kyla)

I think you'll like this class.
It's sort of like engineering-only
more artistic. And interesting.

KYLA

(muttering)

Great, 'cause I'm so good at both
of those things.

PROFESSOR

Welcome, class! (looks at Kyla)
Nice to see an elf or two in this
class! As you probably well know,
elves have a long and proud history
in animal design! It was the
renowned elf designer, Tiberianis
Olisterii who created the first
human by refurbishing a used monkey
chassis. (Professor points to the
first picture on the evolution
table). As you can see, the design
was altered over time to make the
human taller, sleeker, and more
upright. Although originally
designed to be an easy prey for
lions and other predators, the
human proved to be a resourceful
and adaptable creature. Now this
chart is not up-to-date: the
current model is notably rounder
than what you see here. Now, since
this is our first day, I thought
I'd start you off with a simple but
interesting assignment: sketch what
you think should be the next model
of human! Should they be taller?
Larger craniums? Claws? Be prepared
to show your design to the class
and explain WHY you think yours
would be a fitting design for the
next model of human being. Pull out
your sketchbooks and begin!

(CONTINUED)

The students open bags and pull out booklets and pencils. Kyla doesn't have the proper materials, so Eunoe hands her a spare. The other students begin immediately. Kyla looks around, unsure what to do, and looking up at the ceiling while tapping her chin with her pencil. Occasionally she starts to draw, then stops. Time progresses as she looks more and more confused.

PROFESSOR
One minute left!

Kyla panics and starts sketching madly.

Cut to Euno standing in front of the class with her diagram. It is a well-drawn picture of a man with an extra large nose and various blow-up circles around the sketch.

EUNOE
...and so due to its thicker skin,
the next model of human will be
better able to resist mosquito
bites, which cause millions of
deaths by disease. In addition, the
larger nostrils and bronchial
filter will assist the new human
obtaining and cleaning oxygen more
effectively in a more toxic and
carbon dioxide concentrated
environment.

PROFESSOR
Thank you, miss...?

EUNOE
Eunoe.

PROFESSOR
Well done! It seems you have had
some experience with this. Now,
who's next? (looking at Kyla) Ah,
our elf friend. Please come up to
the front.

Kyla swallows nervously and slowly makes her way to the front as Eunoe reclaims her seat, smiling at Kyla on the way past. Sweating nervously, Kyla pauses before slowly holding up her picture, which is a crudely drawn image of a giant stick figure holding a tree in one hand, an extra arm protruding from its chest, and breathing fire.

PROFESSOR
(grimacing)
Um...well, why don't you explain
this to us, please?

(CONTINUED)

KYLA

Uh...sure. Um...I made him really big so lions don't eat him. He's holding a tree here to defend himself. And, uh, he has an extra arm. I just thought that would be cool.

PROFESSOR

And what's that coming out of his mouth?

KYLA

Oh, he breathes fire. Like a dragon. Rawr!

There is a dead silence as everyone stares at Kyla. The paper ignites in her hand. She looks down sadly.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

Kyla is looking at a bulletin board ponderously.

KYLA

Tried that...tried that...tried that...tried that...Ah! Earth sciences!

Kyla runs to a nearby information counter.

KYLA

Excuse me, where is the elevator?

INFORMATION BOOTH WORKER

Depends, where are you headed

KYLA

The center of the earth.

INFORMATION BOOTH WORKER

Down that hall, third left, then your first right.

KYLA

Thank you!

Kyla runs down the hall. There is an elevator door. Sitting on a bench next to it is Lug, holding a Sunshine Pony lunch box. He looks at her warily. Kyla pushes the button but the door doesn't open. She sees the light is already lit. She waits, but nothing happens.

(CONTINUED)

KYLA
(to Lug)
Does this thing work?

LUG
(looking away shyly before
speaking)
Takes long time.

KYLA
Oh. Are you going to the center of
the earth?

LUG
Yes.

KYLA
Cool! Are you taking the earth
science class?

LUG
Not class. Work.

KYLA
Cool. (awkward pause)
Soooooo...what do you do?

LUG
(shifting uncomfortably)
Spin earth.

KYLA
I don't follow...

LUG
Easy. Earth go round and round.
Make night and day. I spin earth.

KYLA
Oh! Cool! Do you think I could do
that?

LUG
(looking at Kyla)
Can you push?

KYLA
Well, I pushed my brother down the
stairs last week. Got in pretty big
trouble for it, though. My mom says
I need to grow out of it but the
kid is such a twerp!

Kyla awaits a reaction from Lug, who looks away. She looks at his lunch box.

KYLA

So...you're a Sunshine Pony fan, huh?

LUG

Yes. I like.

KYLA

Yeah, I was really into them...(trailing off) when I was a little girl...

LUG

You are girl?

KYLA

Uh...yes. Anywaaay...mind if I tag along? I'm still trying to decide on a course of studies. Trying them all out, you know, see where my aptitude lies.

LUG

You shouldn't push brother down stairs.

KYLA

Thank you. Duly noted.

The elevator dings and the door opens. Kyla jumps up. Lug stands up, holding his lunch box in front of him. They enter the elevator, and start the ride down in awkward silence to elevator music. The ride down is very long.

CUT TO:

INT. CENTER OF THE EARTH

After a long ride, the elevator finally stops and Kyla, now more frazzled than ever, crawls out gasping for air. The entry to the center of the earth is carved straight from the rock, so the walls are hot stone. Veins of magma flow from the ceilings and down the walls. There is a loud grinding sound from down a very large corridor.

KYLA

Oh! I thought I'd never get out of that thing!

(CONTINUED)

Lug goes to a nearby locker, pulling out a helmet and placing his lunch box inside. He then grabs a spare helmet from a hook on the wall and hands it to Kyla.

LUG

For you.

KYLA

Oh, thank you. (Dons helmet) Why do you need a helmet? Aren't you made of rock?

LUG

Is rule. Follow me.

Kyla follows Lug through the corridor which leads to a great spherical room. A railing is set on either side of the path inside the sphere, and Lug grabs it as he enters. He lifts off the path slightly as gravity seems to fail inside the cavern, but keeps himself steady using the railing. Kyla fails to grab the rail and notices her feet are slow to move back to the ground as she steps. She smiles and does a little jump, which sends her straight up. Lug grabs her by the ankle and pulls her back down, gesturing for her to grab the rail.

Covering the inside of the sphere are thousands of mostly gnomes and some other creatures hovering in front of knobs suspended from ropes that protrude from the rock, giving the appearance of being lined with microvilli. Occasionally the ropes pull towards the wall, at which point the gnomes grab them by the knob and pull them back. The path Kyla and Lug are on crosses the horizontal plane of the sphere to a large vertical stone shaft at the sphere's center. Kyla stops on entering the sphere and looks at the gnomes working.

KYLA

Wow! What is this place?

LUG

Gravity Well. We go there (points to the shaft at the center)

KYLA

These guys are in charge of gravity? Cool!

A nearby gnome (Ignatius), a male with dark hair, smiles at Kyla.

IGNATIUS

Pretty neat, huh? First time here?

(CONTINUED)

LUG

No time talk. I go work.

Lug walks off to the central shaft.

KYLA

Yeah! What are you guys doing?

IGNATIUS

Keeping everything on the ground where it's supposed to be! Making sure people like you don't go flying into space!

KYLA

Wow! I thought gravity did that by itself!

Several of the workers chuckle.

IGNATIUS

No, I'm afraid there's no secret force of nature holding the world together! It's all done with hard work! These ropes are attached to everything in the world. If something jumps or drops, we need to yank it down before it flies off! Why, you yourself have a rope attached to you so we can pull you back down when you jump! (Kyla looks at her body). Well, it's invisible, of course. And you've probably noticed it doesn't work in here! Picks up again in the shaft where your friend headed - those guys need to stay grounded to keep the earth spinning!

KYLA

So...when I jump... one of you pulls me back down? What if you're not paying attention?

IGNATIUS

Then you'll fly up into space! But don't worry-everyone here is very well trained. It takes years of rigid training and study to get this job!

(CONTINUED)

KYLA

Can I try?

IGNATIUS

Sure! Here, just watch the end of this rope. If it pulls into the wall, grab it and pull! It's attached to a baseball.

KYLA

Baseball?

IGNATIUS

A ball. For a human game. They throw the ball and then hit it with a stick. So you just watch. As soon as the rope twitches, grab it and start pulling!

KYLA

Got it!

Kyla stares intently at the rope. After a few moments it starts moving. She grabs the knob at the end, but the knob slips through her fingers.

KYLA

Oh, crabapples! (Wipes hand on pants) Sorry, my hand is all sweaty. It's so hot down here!

IGNATIUS

Yeah, it gets pretty warm. Well, I guess someone just got one heckuva home run.

KYLA

I'm sooooo sorry!

IGNATIUS

No problem-it happens from time to time. Just gotta send a note to damage control. Not sure how them humans are gonna take seeing that ball flying off into space!

KYLA

Well this seems like a cool job. Not for me, though. Thanks for letting me try it out! I'm going to check out the earth rotation crew.

(CONTINUED)

IGNATIUS

Alright, well you have fun!

KYLA

Oh, one more thing-if I want a little extra gravity applied to something-how would I do that?

IGNATIUS

A little grease never hurt the palm, if you know what I mean!
(Ignatius holds out his hand)

KYLA

I do not.

IGNATIUS

Uh...money talks?

KYLA

Oh! (winks) Gotcha. (Digs in pocket and pulls out some leaves and an acorn). Do you take elf money?

IGNATIUS

Sure! Money's money.

KYLA

Cool! Now, here's what I need...(whispers something in Ignatius' ear)

IGNATIUS

Can do! But why are you whispering?

KYLA

I dunno. Well, talk to you later!

IGNATIUS

Thanks for popping by! Nice to see a friendly face pass by once in a while! Those earth turners don't give us the time of day!

Kyla heads to the shaft at the center of the sphere. The entrance is a heavy metal door which takes Kyla much struggling to open. When she does, she is in a large room with a massive metal rod at the center from ceiling to floor. Protruding from the metal rod are wooden beams as thick as trees. Large creatures, mostly earth elementals but also an exceptionally large minotaur, are pushing on the beams and turning the metal rod on its axis. Most of the creatures are in pairs but Lug is alone at his beam. Kyla

(CONTINUED)

runs up to him and starts pushing. Lug gives her a brief smile, then becomes intensely focused on pushing. The minotaur, pushing the beam behind and paired with a massive earth elemental, starts laughing as Kyla strains to push the massive wheel.

HEFF THE MINOTAUR

Haw haw! I don't think you're helping as much as you think you are, little girl!

KYLA

(grunting)

I'm...not...a...little...girl!
(after a momentary pause) Ok I am little, and I am a girl, but I'm stronger than I look!

HEFF THE MINOTAUR

Right. As strong as that little sissy next to you?

Kyla looks over at Lug, who does not seem to be paying attention.

KYLA

He seems plenty strong to me!

HEFF THE MINOTAUR

Oh really? Well, let's see how you do without me!

The Minotaur lets go of his beam and steps out of the way. His partner follows suit. The rod lurches. Lug strains further, and rock draws from the ground and into his body as he strains and pushes forward, keeping the wheel up to speed. Kyla, astonished, collapses onto her stomach, barely rolling out of the way before getting trampled by a pair of elementals from behind.

HEFF THE MINOTAUR

Huh! Nice trick, for a little pansy! Let's see what it takes to knock him down, boys!

Two more elementals pull off the wheel, which slows. Lug strains again, drawing more rock from the surrounding floor and increasing in size yet again. Slowly the wheel lurches to full speed.

HEFF THE MINOTAUR

(visibly angered)

Huh! Think you're a tough guy, huh? Everyone else off!

(CONTINUED)

ELEMENTAL 1

Uh...we can't let it stop
turning...we'll be fired!

HEFF THE MINOTAUR

(furious)

Never mind that! You gonna let the
new kid show you up? I said
everybody off!

The other elementals slowly let go of their beams and step to the side. The wheel slows almost to a stop, but with more straining Lug increases his size again until he is twice as tall as any other elementals in the room. He is soon pushing the wheel on his own, which infuriates the minotaur.

HEFF THE MINOTAUR

See this? This punk's trying to
take our jobs! He's making us look
bad! We gonna put up with it, boys?

ELEMENTAL 2

What do you mean? We could use
someone like him.

ELEMENTAL 3

A prodigy! Don't think even you
could do that, Heff!

HEFF THE MINOTAUR

I...I could easily do that! But I'm
no show-off!

The elementals chuckle, which angers the Minotaur further.

HEFF THE MINOTAUR

Get off of there, kid, I'm taking
over!

The minotaur tries to pull Lug off the wheel. Lug doesn't even acknowledge him, and the minotaur's efforts are in vain. Finally he gives up.

HEFF THE MINOTAUR

Whatever! Time to get back to work
anyway!

The minotaur and elementals get back to their positions. Lug reduces his size to normal, but says nothing.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCKER ROOM AT EARTH'S CENTER

Kyla, Lug, the elementals and the Minotaur are hanging up their helmets and getting their belongings from their lockers.

KYLA

(to Lug)

You were amazing in there! You are the strongest person I've ever met! (Lug smiles shyly). I've never seen anything like it! Wow, I could never do that job!

Lug is beaming at the compliment. He grabs his lunchbox from his locker, and his smile turns to shock as the minotaur grabs it away and holds it up to the rest of the room.

MINOTAUR

Aw, wook! Our wittle fwiend wuvs Sunshine Ponies! Or does this belong to your girlfriend here?

KYLA

Uh...totally not mine!

LUG

Is mine. I like.

MINOTAUR

Oooohhh. You like a show for little girls, is that right? Big tough guy?

LUG

Yes. Is good. (points at Kyla) She like too.

MINOTAUR

Oh, looks like we got a couple little kids wandered in from the Kindergarten.

KYLA

Hey...whoa. I am totally not into that. I said I liked it when I was a little girl.

MINOTAUR

That's right. Because it's FOR little girls! (to Lug) Right, little girl?

(CONTINUED)

LUG

I like is good show. Right? (Lug looks at Kyla with some distress).

By this time the other elementals have gathered around. Some are chortling, while others don't seem to care about what's going on, but no one intervenes.

MINOTAUR

Pretty lame, if you ask me. (to Kyla) Isn't it, little girl?

KYLA

(intimidated)

Well...yeah, I mean I guess it kinda is pretty lame...

Lug looks very hurt. The minotaur crumples the lunch box and hurls it into a corner. Lug looks at Kyla sadly and walks out. Kyla, looking regretfully after him, soon tries to catch up, but Lug is gone.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY - DEAN OF REGISTRATION'S OFFICE

Kyla is sitting at the Dean's desk. He is looking at her with a furrowed brow.

DEAN OF REGISTRATION

Well, I'm sorry you weren't able to come to a decision as to what you would like to study. I suppose our only option left is to have you fill out this aptitude test. Just fill it all out over the weekend and bring it to me first thing Monday morning.

The Dean hands Kyla a huge stack of papers.

DEAN OF REGISTRATION

(piling on stacks of paper as he speaks)

Also the late registration form again...in triplicate...the waiver for the late registration form...the late registration form additional fee agreement and its associated waiver...and a satisfaction survey. Have a great weekend!

(CONTINUED)

KYLA
(grunting under the weight of
the paper)
Looks like it'll be loads of fun...

CUT TO:

INT. KYLA'S ROOM

Kyla is sitting on her bed. The paperwork is stacked on her desk. Aspen and Eunoe are sitting on Aura's bed.

KYLA
So I've been in college for a week
and all I've learned is that I'm
terrible at everything.

ASPEN
I thought your singing voice was
lovely. Just...your range isn't
very high. But it's the perfect
pitch for singing to a cactus!

KYLA
(glumly)
Great. So I can live in the desert
and be a hermit.

EUNOE
And I loved you idea of a
fire-breathing giant human. You
just need to learn how to explain
it better.

KYLA
Nah. I mean, I'm not good at
anything. I've never won anything
in my life. I've never been top of
any of my classes in school. No
ribbons or medals for me at the
fair! Just be honest. I suck.

ASPEN
Oh no! Don't say that! You know,
these aptitude test are really
something. My sister took one and
it told her to be a veterinarian!
Can you imagine? A dryad
veterinarian? But she loved it!

(CONTINUED)

EUNOE

Yeah, there's probably plenty of things you're good at you aren't even thinking about.

KYLA

(more optimistic)

Yeah! You're probably right! I mean, there are millions of jobs out there and I really only tried a handful of them! I'll find something!

Aura walks into the room, accompanied by a strong breeze which blows the paperwork into the air. Eunoe, Aspen, and Aura look at in horror.

KYLA

It's ok, I got a guy.

CUT TO:

INT. CENTER OF THE EARTH

Ignatius pulls a bundle of cords.

CUT TO:

INT. KYLA'S ROOM

The papers suddenly fall back into their proper places.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY - DEAN OF REGISTRATION'S OFFICE

Kyla is standing in front of the dean, looking tired but excited.

DEAN OF REGISTRATION

Well, Miss Nim, you'll be pleased to know the results are in and I've found the perfect career for you in Communications!

KYLA

Communications! Awesome! Will I be learning new languages? Writing for the paper? (eyes widen) A news anchor?

(CONTINUED)

DEAN OF REGISTRATION

Nope! You're going to deliver messages! (The Dean slaps a brown cap on Kyla's head and hands her a sack of papers). You can start by handing out these flyers for the Autumn Social at the dormitories!

Kyla's expression slowly changes to horror as the screen goes to black.