



THE FALSE MESSIAH S01E02

"Friendship".

Written by

M. Light

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - DAY (PAST)

Two holding hands between the noise of cars circulating, of people passing by.

(melancholic tune in piano)

It's little Simone (9) holding her mother's hand. In her other hand, she holds an ice cream. She enjoys it.

She looks up at her mother, barely visible between the rays of sunlight coming down from the ledges of the buildings.

The mother notices, she looks down to meet Simone's smile.

Although she smiles back, her gaze is tired, her eyes not rested.

People in the street pass by as an insensitive, blind mass.

As they reach the edge of the sidewalk, Simone's mother stops at the red light.

Simone tastes the ice cream, pushing it out of the cone.

Ice cream falls to the floor.

Simone bends to pick it up, letting go of her mother's hand.

As she struggles to grab the rapidly melting ice cream, the mother moves toward the street.

Light still red.

High-pitched, rumbling sound of a truck slamming the brakes.

Simone looks up in fright, her eyes meeting her mother's comforting gaze.

Time stops.

Mother's lips move; "goodbye Simone".

CUT TO:

OVER BLACK: (SOUND OF A CRASH).

OPENING: DANCING WITH TEARS IN MY EYES BY AVANTASIA.

"Dancing with tears in my eyes, weeping for the memory of a life gone by. Dancing with tears in my eyes, living out a memory of a love that died"

INT. ANNIE ROOM VR - DAY (PRESENT)

Montage sequence. (pop kinda sad song)

Annie in front of the tall mirror, posing in different outfits:

Wide pants and wide shirt in green tones.

Blue shirt and blue jeans.

Long purple dress and matching color jacket.

Red sweater and red urban sneakers.

Annie's face, disappointed, undecided.

Black shirt, matching shorts and dark gray panties.

She smiles and adds deep red color on her lips, keeps the red urban sneakers.

End montage.

Annie sighs in front of the door, opens it to---

EXT. LOBBY VILLA VR - DAY

The place with brick streets and locals of the same color, adorned with lots of vegetation, trees in shades of green, orange and yellow.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Welcome to the lobby Annie.

People walk calmly around the place, chatting, laughing.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
This is the common place where all participants can meet.

Other people ride bicycles, most of them in groups.

FEMALE VOICE
Do you want to know where your friend Simone is?

ANNIE
Uhm.

A yellow line appears on the floor indicating the path.

Annie walks along the line, observing the people around her, the stores offering exotic costumes and outfits.

A man stands in front of a store and sees an astronaut suit on display, he concentrates and his clothes change into the astronaut suit.

Other people also copy the outfits in the displays of different stores.

The line on the floor stops in front of a open restaurant.

Annie spots Simone inside, she is laughing next to a man.

Annoyed, Annie pauses for a moment.

Simone looks up and catches sight of Annie.

Annie blushes, turns around and walks away fast.

SIMONE

Annie! Annie, wait!

Annie keeps walking. Simone catches up with her.

SIMONE

Hey, where are you going?

ANNIE

I forgot something.

SIMONE

You know you can teleport back to your world with just a thought, right?

ANNIE

Like this?

Annie concentrates, she disappears leaving a trail of light blue in front of Simone.

Simone sighs.

The man who was sitting with Simone in the restaurant comes up to her, it's TED (20). he is dressed as a gardener.

TED

Who was she?

SIMONE

Annie, she's Kate's sister.

TED

So she's the one.

SIMONE
I better go check on her.

TED
Can I help?

Simone smiles.

SIMONE
I'll let you know.

TED
Okay, I'll get back to my GARDEN
then.

Ted disappears, leaving a light blue trail.

CUT TO:

EXT. MEDITATION TEMPLE INNER COURTYARD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A group of people dressed in the same attire, loose white meditation clothes, are sitting in the lotus position.

INSTRUCTOR
This is your final test, only the
person who manages...

Among them is Simone (15), in front of her, Veronica (15) both look at each other and smile as the instructor walks through the center of the square.

INSTRUCTOR
... to maintain the meditative
state for the longest time will be
chosen.

Veronica moves her lips; "good luck."

Simone responds in kind; "you too".

Then they both close their eyes and take a deep breath.

Days become nights and days once again.

Of the group of people meditating, there are now fewer left.

Now even less.

A new day begins, the instructor opens the heavy red wooden door to enter the courtyard.

Only Simone and Veronica are left.

A leaf falls from the top of a decorative tree, sways in the air.

The wind picks up the leaf, lifts it and then throws it to the ground.

A faint sound reaches Simone. Eyes close.

The whistling of the wind, the leaf dragging on the ground.

An echo, a dim voice.

The image of Simone's mother's lips moving creep into her consciousness.

SIMONE'S MOTHER

Good bye, Simone.

The echo is now clearer, it's Simone's voice, closer and closer until it is clear.

SIMONE

Mom! Mom!

Simone opens her eyes, profuse tears fall from her eyes.

She is upset, can't stop shaking.

In front of her, Veronica is still meditating.

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. ANNIE ROOM VR - DAY

Annie is standing in front of the window looking out, raindrops hitting the glass.

She rests her palm on the window, feels the cold.

She concentrates, the wall with the window move further into the depth of field.

Moving away from Annie.

Stretching the room beyond its original proportions, so far that Annie can barely see the window.

She concentrates once again, all the walls around her transforming into green leaves dancing in the air---

LEAFY FOREST VR

Annie twirls around her with the leaves in the air.

Among the leaves is Simone, gazing in wonder at Annie.

SIMONE
Annie, this is beautiful.

Annie gives a serious stare.

ANNIE
What do you want?

SIMONE
You know, the whole point of
Samsara is to connect with others.

ANNIE
(sarcasm)
Oh, I didn't know, please teach me.

SIMONE
Annie...

ANNIE
What?

SIMONE
Why are you trying so desperately
to be alone?

Annie goes to answer, but stops. The sky gets cloudy.

Suddenly, an announcement.

THALIA (O.S.)
Greetings to all!

Thalia's voice can be heard in all worlds, all Samsara
participants look up to the sky and listen.

THALIA (O.S.)
Today is a very special day.

Annie and Simone also look up.

SIMONE
It's about to start.

ANNIE
Start? What's about to start.

Annie looks at Simone, but she keeps looking up.

THALIA (O.S.)
Today the STELLAR competition
begins!

ANNIE
Stellar?

The sky of all worlds changes to a starry night sky.
The stars shine and pulsate.

THALIA (O.S.)
Stellar is about making connections
with others...

Lines form between the stars in the sky.

THALIA (O.S.)
To form constellations between the
worlds of all of you.

The lines between the stars form images in the style of the
zodiacal signs.

THALIA (O.S.)
Who will be the one to form the
largest constellation? Will someone
be able to unify all of them?

The participants in their different worlds smile when they
hear these words.

One of those smiles is from a man, it's a sinister smile.

THALIA (O.S.)
My dear ones, there are two ways to
make a constellation.

In the sky, the stars form a happy face (emoji).

THALIA (O.S.)
You can convince another user to
join, form a bond with you.

THALIA (O.S.)
Or...

THALIA (O.S.)
You can invade their world!

Now the stars form an angry face.

THALIA (O.S.)
If you wish to invade, you can
enter another user's world with a
request, in which case the host
sets the rules of engagement.

In the sky, two worlds made from stars collide.

THALIA (O.S.)

Or you can make your world collide
with another user's world and
impose the rules yourself, but if
you lose... your world will
disappear!

THALIA (O.S.)

Oh, I forgot to say, the winner
gets anything their heart desires.
Bye!

The transmission is cut, the sky in the worlds returns to normal. All participants stunned by this last statement.

Simone keeps looking at the sky with an embarrassed look on her face.

SIMONE

She's so reckless.

ANNIE

Who are you?

SIMONE

Meaning?

ANNIE

You're not a participant, are you?

SIMONE

No, I'm not. I'm a MODERATOR.

ANNIE

Why are you so interested in me?

SIMONE

I believe you can make it, Annie.

Annie's anger stops, she hesitates, a small smile rises on her face, but disappears.

All of a sudden!

A low, rumbling noise rustles the sky, a loud tremor causes Annie and Simone to look up.

In the middle of the sky, pushing the clouds with force, a planet descends swiftly and heavily towards them.

SIMONE

Run!

ANNIE
Wait, what's that!?

SIMONE
Just run!

Simone grabs Annie's hand tightly and pushes her to run away from the impact site.

In the middle of the run, Annie lets go of Simone's hand and runs off on her own.

Behind, the falling world finally hits the surface and raises a gigantic plume of dust and pieces of rock that fly through the air.

Simone and Annie are hit by the shock wave, both fall to the ground.

The world that has fallen is mounted on top of Annie's world.

From that world, a figure stands, partially covered by suspended dust.

ROBERT
Damn, I thought I crushed them.

ANNIE
Are you nuts! What the hell are you doing!?

ROBERT
Hey girl, nothing wrong here. Just following the rules, you see.

Annie gets up from the floor, furious.

ANNIE
Okay, I get it. You've come to conquer me, right?

ROBERT
Only one rule girl, whoever loses consciousness, game over.

Annie smiles.

ANNIE
Fine by me.

Annie runs to Robert, she's pissed!

SIMONE
Annie, wait!

Robert jumps from his world to Annie.

Annie brings her hand forward, towards Robert, concentrates without stopping running.

Before Robert lands on the ground, Annie manages to open a rift in the earth.

Robert falls to the precipice that forms beneath his feet.

Annie claps her palms together and the rift closes tightly.

ANNIE
Uh, I figured, lots of drama and little action.

As Robert's unconscious body emerges from the ground (which moves like water), Simone reaches Annie.

SIMONE
Annie...

ANNIE
Piece of cake.

SIMONE
No, Annie.

ANNIE
What?

SIMONE
This is no way to bond.

ANNIE
Bond? I just want to win.

SIMONE
I't the same, do you think your constellation will be strong this way?

Annie smiles sarcastically.

ANNIE
Tell me something Simone, you who seem to be an expert in this.

Simone looks Annie in the eye, her gaze stoic.

ANNIE
What's a bond to you?

SIMONE
Annie, I know it's been hard...

ANNIE
Hard? what the fuck do you know
about me!

Simone does not answer.

ANNIE
You can't lose something you don't
have.

Annie vanishes in front of Simone, her world collapses, like
crumbling mozaics leaving only a white background.

FLASHBACK

INT. SAMSARA TEST ROOM - NIGHT

The room is large and circular, there is a stretcher in the
center and medical devices, similar to a surgery room.

Veronica's on the stretcher. Tech guys connect diodes on her
head.

Simone, along with Thalia and a group of scientists observe
the situation from a---

MIRROR ROOM.

Simone approaches the mirror, puts her hand on the glass.

THALIA
She'll be fine.

SIMONE
I know, she's prepared for this. Is
just...

THALIA
I know, I feel it too.

THALIA
But we can't waste any more time.

One of the technicians next to Veronica holds up his thumb.

THALIA
Let's begin.

.

The technician takes a syringe, containing a red liquid, injects it into Veronica's arm.

Veronica looks into the mirror, although she can see nothing but her own reflection, she is looking at Simone, who smiles as she looks back at her.

Veronica closes her eyes and enters the---

VIRTUAL SPACE

Now, she is standing on a WHITE BACKGROUND.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Please select wallpaper.

VERONICA
Okay, I think I was able to log in.
Now I'm going to try to...

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Please select...
(now distorted)
Wallpaperrrrr...

VERONICA
You guys listening?

No response.

???
Ver... Veroni... how's my little
princessssssssss

VERONICA
Hello?

???
(scream)
Hello!!!

Frightened, Veronica looks around.

Behind her back, a figure rises from the floor, like a drop forming to fall, but inverted.

It's a person identical to her, but her eyes have no pupils.

Back at the---

MIRROR ROOM.

Scientists run from one side to the other.

THALIA

What do you mean we can't see
what's going on in there!

SCIENTIST

Communication is interrupted, we
don't know what...

SIMONE

Look!

Everyone looks towards the stretcher, Veronica is violently
shaking.

SIMONE

Stop the test! Just stop it!

SCIENTIST

We can't, we have no control!

THALIA

Turn off the power! now!

One of the scientists runs to the power box on the wall,
opens it and pulls down the lever.

The power goes out all over the place.

A moment of silence.

Then, desperate screams from inside the samsara test room.

A hard hit.

Light returns.

Simone looks in horror at the inside of the test room, the
walls, the floor, all covered in blood. The open door.

No sight of Veronica.

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. SAMSARA CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Thalia's heels clack on the ceramic floor as she approaches
the screens, which show worlds of Samsara participants.

Red lights, warning signs on the displays. Alarm goes off.

Assistants and technicians walk around nervously.

Thalia gets to the screens, looks to the side, finds Simone.

THALIA
It's been confirmed?

Simone nods.

THALIA
So, they're here again.

SIMONE
I'm going in.

Simone leaves Thalia and runs to the exit of the room.

EXT. ANNIE'S WORLD/LEAFY FOREST VR - DAY

Annie opens her eyes, she returns to Samsara.

She's greeted by the sound of leaves moving softly through the treetops.

She looks around calmly, her mind at ease.

Interrupted!

Robert is sitting under a tree, looking at her in boredom.

ANNIE
What da...

ROBERT
Yeez, it was time you came back already.

ANNIE
What the hell are you doing here?

Robert gets up from the floor, wipes his pants.

ROBERT
Don't you remember? you defeated me, I no longer have a world of my own.

ANNIE
So? that's not my fault.

ROBERT
But it is your fault, you defeated me.

ANNIE
You attacked first.

ROBERT
Hey, I don't make the rules.

ANNIE
No, you don't.

Annie turn her back on Robert.

ANNIE
Show me the world closest to my
location.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Locking position.

ROBERT
What are you planning to do?

Annie smiles at Robert.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANNIE'S WORLD/LEAFY FOREST - DAY

Annie's hair moves intensely in the hurricane wind that follows the movement of the entire world moving at great speed through empty space.

Upward, following Annie's gaze, another world is seen rapidly approaching.

ANNIE
What now!?

ROBERT
We crash!

ANNIE
Oh, that's reassuring!

ROBERT
It's awesome!

Annie's world hits the surface of the other world with force, however, neither she nor Robert are affected by the impact.

A cluster of FLOWER PETALS rise into the air.

In front of Annie and Robert, standing on the lawn, is Ted.

No pupils in his eyes.

Annie and Robert jump into the---

TED'S WORLD/FLOWER GARDEN

Ted continues to water the plants.

ANNIE

Hey! you know what we came for!

Oblivious.

ANNIE

Are you ignoring me?

ROBERT

I think he is.

ANNIE

Very funny.

Annie walks angrily, confidently, toward Ted.

As she approaches, the flower stalks rise, thorns lengthening swiftly toward her.

Annie barely manages to take a step back before being wounded.

TED

You know, you shouldn't go around making such a fuss.

ANNIE

We came to...

TED

(interrupting)

Hey, you.

Ted looks away from the flowers to look at Robert. His eyes completely white, disturbing, threatening.

ROBERT

Me?

TED

Yes, you wanna join me?

Robert is confused by this.

TED
I see you lost your world. Wanna
have mine? I can give it to you.

ANNIE
Hey...

ROBERT
Okay, what do you want in return?

Ted points at Annie.

TED
Her.

ANNIE
What? Wait a minute...

Robert walks toward Ted, leaving Annie behind.

ROBERT
So, we defeat her and I get your
world, deal?

TED
Deal.

ANNIE
I can't believe this.

Robert reaches Ted, offers his hand to close the deal.

But Ted takes the opportunity to pierce Robert's chest with
his right arm covered with thin, thorny stalks.

ANNIE
Robert!

Annie concentrates, spreads her hands in front of her,
pointing at Ted and Robert.

The floor opens once again, Ted falls off the cliff, but
drags Robert with him.

The thorny stalks, still buried in Robert's chest, stretch
out as Ted's body falls.

Annie runs to Robert, manages to grab his hand before he
falls off the cliff.

He is bleeding from the mouth, shocked.

ANNIE
Hold on!

Annie concentrates and presses her left hand.
 The floor closes again tightly, the stalks are cut.
 Robert falls semi-conscious to the floor.

ANNIE
 Robert, listen, you're fine.

ROBERT
 I'm bleeding...

ANNIE
 I know, but listen, this is not
 real, is not...

A tremor.

The ground bursts open, kicking up dust and debris in front
 of Annie and Robert.

A figure ascends swiftly from the ground, its silhouette can
 be seen rising in the dust.

It has wings.

ROBERT
 (fading)
 Annie...

ANNIE
 Don't worry, okay? Just don't
 worry.

Annie holds Robert's hand tightly, but she keeps looking up
 at the figure in the sky.

CUT TO:

INT. METAL DOOR IN THE CENTER OF SAMSARA HEAD OFFICE - NIGHT

(Song "Who will love me now" from Pj Harvey plays)

Simone, trembling and with tears in her eyes, holds a gun
 forward toward Veronica in the metal door.

Veronica digs her fingernails into the metal, scratching it,
 tearing her bleeding fingers to shreds.

SIMONE
 Please... please come back...

Veronica growls, roars loudly, her eyes lost.

SIMONE

Veronica... don't make me do this!

Veronica twists her body violently, she throws herself against Simone.

SIMONE

Veronica!!!!

EXT. TED'S WORLD/FLOWER GARDEN

Ted, with his body mangled, his arms stretched beyond human proportions, legs the same. Black wings on his back, staring lost, mad.

He swoops swiftly, aggressively against Annie, against Robert.

Terrified, with Robert dying next to her, Annie is unable to react. She can only close her eyes.

Ted is on top of them but a golden spear pierces his chest.

It's Simone who holds the end of the spear and lifts Ted's pierced body in the air with a look full of anger.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPILOGUE.

INT. METAL DOOR IN THE CENTER OF SAMSARA HEAD OFFICE - NIGHT

Blood on the floor, scratch marks on the door. A body covered with a white cloth on the side.

Simone, knees on the floor, sobbing. Thalia comes in.

SIMONE

Tell me Thalia... please... just tell me...

THALIA

Simone...

SIMONE

Tell me... why did I killed my friend!!

Thalia walks past Simone and toward the door. She puts her hand on the digital lock. The door opens heavily.

THALIA

Follow me.

Thalia walks towards the inside of the doors. Simone gets up from the floor and follows her.

As they walk through the doors, Simone stops, her look of astonishment.

In front of her, Kate's body floating in a glass cylinder filled with liquid.

FADE TO BLACK.