

A PATH OF STARS

Written by

Alex Paige-Green

Inspired by the Sumerian creation myth's separation of Earth (Ki) and Sky (Anu), the parents of the Sumerian pantheon - the Anunaki.

"I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: The salvation of man is through love and in love."

~ Viktor E. Frankl

1 INT. KIA'S HOME - KIA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON 1

KIA sitting at her desk.

View out her window of the setting sun.

She is writing a letter. Signs it off with her name.

Hesitates for a moment before adding her cellphone number below it.

She closes the envelope with a heart shaped sticker.

Writes a name on it: **ANGUS**.

2 EXT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - NEXT DAY - AFTERNOON 2

Kia is walking down the corridor, as she turns the corner she sees ANGUS.

She backtracks. Peeks nervously around the corner.

Angus opens his locker. Something falls out.

The letter. He stares at it.

He bends over to pick up the letter.

Kia watches him look at it. He appears confused.

She crosses her fingers as she sees him opening it.

She begins to panic.

Turning away and rushing off, she bumps straight into the TEACHER.

He scowls at her as she collects herself and heads home.

3 INT. ANGUS' HOME - ANGUS' ROOM - SUNSET 3

Angus sits at his desk. Arms crossed. Concentrating.

He holds a pencil in his mouth.

The letter from Kia is in front of him. A blank page beside it.

Next moment he is standing at the window. His back to the viewer.

Next moment lying on the floor, staring at the ceiling. Arms crossed and same focused facial expression.

Next moment sitting upside down on the floor in the lotus yoga position. Balancing on his head, arms still crossed, face still serious.

Next moment lying on his bed with his head hanging off the edge, still crossed arms and serious facial expression.

His eyes widen in epiphany.

Lying with his head off the edge of the bed he sees his guitar leaning against his desk, and his flute lying upon it.

4 INT. KIA'S HOME - KIA'S ROOM - NIGHT 4

Kia is sitting on her bedroom floor. Distracted.

She can't concentrate on anything. Her homework is sprawled around her. She doodles absently in the margins of her incomplete maths homework.

Her brick of a cellphone vibrates on her desk suddenly.

She checks it. An SMS from Angus, saying he got her letter and wants to give her something at school the next morning.

Kia is ecstatic.

5 EXT. LOCKER CORRIDOR - NEXT DAY 5

Angus responds to Kia's note, in the form of a CD.

He approaches her and hands it to her.

Their body language clearly says 'I've never done this type of thing before.'

An awkward exchange in which no words are shared and little eye-contact is made.

6 INT. KIA'S HOME - KIA'S ROOM - NOON 6

Kia gets home and places the CD in her Walkman.

Angus' soundtrack begins to play.

There is a note inside the case.

Kia lies down on her bed and reads the note as she listens to the CD.

Beside her, a calendar shows the date, October 29th 2000.

7 EXT. SCHOOL EXTERIOR/STREETS/ - NEXT DAY - AFTERNOON 7

After school Angus offers Kia a ride on his bicycle. She bites her lip. Thinks for a moment.

Then gleefully accepts.

The street they ride through is lined with blossoming Jacaranda trees.

He stops at a hillside with a wooden bench.

Together, they overlook the unbuilt land beneath them. A beautiful vista of untouched green veld, dotted with trees, that disappears into the hilly horizon.

Angus plucks a stray lilac Jacaranda blossom from Kia's hair and gives it to her.

Kia's cellphone buzzes. Her MOM is calling her.

Her expression drops.

Angus offers to take her home on his bike.

She refuses the gesture. Preferring to walk home by herself - lest her parents see him.

She waves goodbye.

Angus lies back on the grassy hillside, admiring the sky. A happy expression is on his face.

8 EXT. NATURE RESERVE - MORNING 8

They go on a hike together, to the top of a nearby mountain.

As they walk up Kia pauses to admire the flowers, she plucks a handful of different ones: Morning glory, wild foxgloves, impala lily, blue squill.

As they walk up, Angus sees a bush covered in beautiful flowers - something like Lantana Camaras.

Kia sees him admiring them. Waves her arms for him not to touch them but he's in his own world, determined to impress her.

CUT TO:

Angus scratches at rashes on his arms while Kia rubs the sap of a bulbinella leaf onto his blotchy skin. Trying to soothe the rash.

She scowls at him. He grins sheepishly at her.

They both laugh.

9 EXT. NATURE RESERVE - MIDDAY 9

Angus gives Kia his hand, helping her up to the very top of the reserves mountain.

The wind blows freely so high up. Angus feels right at home.

They sit down together on a rock at the mountain's peak.

Below they see both the town which they live in and the open wilderness beyond it.

Kia rests her head on Angus' shoulder.

10 EXT. HILLSIDE: MONTAGE 10

[NOTE: Hillside and nature reserve mountain are not the same location]

AFTER SCHOOL ONE DAY:

In their school uniforms, Angus has brought his guitar with him.

He plays it for a while. Kia asks him to teach her how to play it. They both blush as he guides her hands along the strings.

ANOTHER DAY AFTER SCHOOL:

Kia sketches a butterfly perched on a nearby flower.

Angus is watching her draw.

He picks up a pencil and amends her sketch with his own imaginative flourishes.

A WEEKEND MORNING:

They lie on the hillside, watching the clouds above.

Angus points to the sky, describing something he sees in the clouds.

Kia draws it in her sketchbook. Trying to visualize the creations of his mind: dragons, leviathans, warriors, a city in the sky. A giant man holding it up and away from the earth below. She draws the scene, like something out of an ancient legend.

AFTER SCHOOL ONE DAY:

Kia pages through her sketchbook. Angus looks at it over her shoulder, resting his chin on her shoulder.

Her and Angus entertain themselves with the imaginative amalgamations they have created together from her life-drawings and his imagination.

She flicks to the last page of the book, a scene loosely inspired by the bench and the hillside.

The two of them, drawn with interesting, fantastical outfits. Angus like a young celestial warrior in the sky, and Kia a dryad princess upon the earth.

The image reminds Angus of something. He pulls out a small bag - Jacaranda seeds.

Kia accepts the bag excitedly.

Angus takes a pencil, and draws an arching piece of architecture, a swirling, filigreed tower from a fantastical world beside the dryad.

And a path of stars connecting the two characters.

11 INT. KIA'S HOME - KIA'S ROOM - DAY 11

Kia plants the seed in a small pot.

Places it right in the centre of all the potted plants that reside on her window sill.

Days and weeks pass and it grows from a sprout into a small sapling. Little gifts from Angus gather around it.

12 EXT. HILLSIDE - MORNING 12

Kia brings the little sapling with her.

Angus and her plant it together beside the bench. Their tree, planted at their spot.

Angus tunes his guitar while Kia unpacks a picnic.

SOME TIME LATER:

Angus has abandoned his guitar. They lie beside the remnants of their picnic on the picnic blanket.

The sun is setting and Angus gestures to the appearing stars with one hand, telling Kia a story about the constellations.

His other hand clasps hers.

She lies on her side, admiring him, lost in the world of his imagination.

The moment is broken suddenly as Kia realises how late it is. She feels around for something - her cellphone.

It's not with her.

13 INT./EXT. KIA'S HOME - DOOR AND HALLWAY - EVENING 13

Angus drops her at home in the dark and cycles off.

As Kia fits her key into the door her parents yank it open.

Holding her phone out in front of her - an SMS from Angus on the screen.

She hasn't told them of this boyfriend.

They point to his photo in the school year book.

Gesture to the wall covered in photos of their family, all one colour, one culture.

14 INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - NEXT DAY 14

Kia and Angus sit awkwardly between their parents - Angus's father being the TEACHER Kia ran into earlier on.

In the background a calendar reveals the date to be 29th September 2001.

There is a clear racial and cultural distinction between the two families.

Kia's parents show Angus' parents the contents of Kia's SMS inbox.

Angus' parents are shocked. They demand to see their sons phone.

Reluctantly he hands it over.

They grimace at the evidence on his phone.

The adults begin accusing one another. Gesturing angrily, blaming each side for this abominable relationship that has blossomed between their children.

Apartheid tensions represented in two families.

Angus tries to pull his parents down.

Kia jolts up and bangs her hands on the desk. Startling the parents into stillness with her assertiveness.

Kia locks eyes with Angus.

His expression drops in understanding of her unspoken words.

15

EXT. HILLSIDE - AFTERNOON

15

Kia and Angus meet in cold, rainy weather.

They stand together under one umbrella.

Angus digs in his pocket, pulling out a lock.

He hands it to Kia. She cradles it in her palms.

It is engraved with a heart. Inside the heart are the characters: "K + A 29/10/2000"

[Either they lock this onto one of their Jacaranda trees branches, or they engrave the same things onto the tree. Don't really want to encourage tree vandalism though]

Kia shows Angus that she has been accepted at another high school - holding up the acceptance letter to him.

His shoulders slump. His expression saddens.

Kia lifts a hand up to him. Holding out her pinky.

Confused for a moment he stares at it.

Then, he crosses his own pinky with hers.

A promise to meet again.

16 EXT. HILLSIDE - MONTAGE 16

Angus sits alone on the bench, in the rain. No umbrella.

Seasons pass and the little Jacaranda sapling beside him grows taller and broader. The lock/engraving remaining where they placed it.

One day he has his guitar with him.

The next he has his head tilted back, staring absently at the sky.

His visits become less frequent.

His usual spot becomes vacant as the tree grows into maturity.

For the first time it blossoms. Unfurling its lilac raiment.

17 EXT. MOUNTAIN/HILL TOP - SOME YEARS LATER - SUNSET/EVENING 17

After many years, Kia, now a grown woman, sits in the shade of the blossoming tree.

She watches the sun setting before her. Doodling in a diary open on her lap.

The date is 29th of October, 2007.

The stars that they had once watched on this hillside do not appear with the setting sun. The sky is mostly black. Now the glow comes from the developed city below her.

The sound of a motorbike parking.

Kia rises from the bench as Angus strides towards her.

They embrace.

The vista of the city beneath them looks like the starry sky once used to. The stars are now upon the earth.

As they kiss the two merge into sky and the earth.