

DAN (V.O.)
How odd. Are you certain?

NOVA
I mean, we haven't gone in-

Lizzie pushes open the doors.

NOVA (CONT'D)
-side. Ugh.

She presses the button on the radio.

The doors open with a loud, echoey THUD. Critter runs inside.

LIZZIE
They're open!

NOVA
Yes. They are.

The two of them head inside after Critter.

INT. TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Pieces of the roof and wall sit on the floor. Cracks crawl up and around the interior. Critter SNIFFS a pot, small bugs scatter.

Lizzie and Nova walk through the halls, their footsteps ECHO and CLUNK down the corridors.

LIZZIE
This is scary...

NOVA
We'll be fine. There's no one-

A large BUG bursts through a wall. It HISSES at the girl-leans, snaps it's pinchers.

CRITTER
(Frantic)
Yip yip yip yip, yip!

LIZZIE
You JINXED IT! It wants to eat us!

NOVA
Ughh!!

Nova grabs Lizzie's hand and drags her up a flight of stairs. Critter hops onto Lizzie's head.

INT. TOWER STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

They reach the top of the stairs, the bug in hot pursuit. The stairwell shakes, cracks SPLIT across the walls and ceiling.

A door sits at the top of the stairwell.

NOVA

I see the top! Almost there!

The giant bug grabs Lizzie's foot with it's pinchers.

LIZZIE

Ahh! Nova! Help!

Critter hops into the air off of Lizzie's shoulders and opens his mouth.

CRITTER

YIP!!

A blue SOUND-WAVE shoots from Critter's mouth. It hits the giant bug, along with the stairwell that surrounds it.

The ceiling COLLAPSES onto the bug, and the stairs BREAK beneath it's legs.

The bug falls down, down, down into the darkness.

NOVA

Woah...

LIZZIE

Yay! Critter, you did it! You're so brave!

Critter hops back into Lizzie's arms and PURRS. She hugs him tightly.

Nova looks down into the darkness of the stairwell.

NOVA

Well... no going back now, I guess.

Nova pushes open the door.

INT. ARCHIVAL TOWER TOP FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

The sisters and Critter enter quickly. Nova slams the door behind them. Lizzie pushes a chair in front of the handle.

LIZZIE

There. No more monsters!

Nova lets out a SIGH of relief.

NOVA
Now we can rest!

She sits down in a chair. Dust flies. She COUGHS.

NOVA (CONT'D)
Ugh. Gross.

LIZZIE
This is like Tim's attic. No one
ever goes up there. I bet no one
has come up here in forever.

Lizzie picks up a SCROLL and unfurls it. She wipes the dust away.

INSERT: SCROLL

A diagram of the planet. Sketches of Critter's species. Bug monster drawings.

On the bottom right corner, circles loop each other in a pattern- solar system sketch. Arrows point from each end of the sketch inward to the middle.

BACK TO SCENE

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Cool art!

Nova unfurls another scroll.

INSERT: SCROLL

Depictions of a planet's core. "Energy more powerful than the two suns"

BACK TO SCENE

NOVA
Looks like someone from another
system with two suns was here.
Because this planet definitely only
has one.

Nova furls the scroll back up.

Critter sniffs the sketch of his species on the scroll Lizzie holds.

CRITTER
(Sadly)
Yip...

LIZZIE
Oh... I'm sorry, little guy.

She pats his head.

NOVA
What? Does he know what happened?

LIZZIE
No, but he says he hasn't seen his
friends or family in a long time.
The drawing kinda looks like them,
also!

Lizzie holds up the scroll. Nova gets up from her seat and
takes the scroll from Lizzie.

NOVA
There's a note here.

Nova wipes the last bits of dust off of the planet diagram.

INSERT: SCROLL

A diagram of the planets. The layers of the crust all the way
to the core are colored and highlighted.

A scribbled red circle surrounds the core, along with the
text "PROTECT".

BACK TO SCENE

NOVA (CONT'D)
'Protect'? But, what would they be
protecting the planet's core from?

LIZZIE
I'm still mad at you!

Lizzie marches over to the opposite side of the room, where a
large white cloth covered the entire wall.

Nova presses the button on her radio.

NOVA
Hey, Dan. What would a planet core
need to be protected from?

No answer.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Dan?? Can you hear me??

Lizzie pulls the cloth off the wall.

INSERT: WALL

A huge engraved mural. Fractions of circles and lines make up the mashed design on the mural - not a specific picture or shape.

BACK TO SCENE

LIZZIE

Woah...

END ACT TWO