

A Fairy Tale for Adults Episode 4

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Tales of the Forgotten Fiction Network

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1 EXT. FOREST CLEARING

Colin and Nia stare, shocked, as the Unicorn is captured by mean gargoyles and evil versions of Colin and Nia.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

You're back dear listener! And not a moment too soon! To recap, Colin and Nia, after sharing a wonderful moment of reconnection, were woken by the terrible sounds of this poor Unicorn being captured not just by mean spirited gargoyles, but carbon copies of Nia and Colin!

COLIN

What the hell?

NIA

Why do they look like us?

COLIN

I don't... I don't know.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

The doppelgangers of Colin and Nia looked in their mirrors direction. It was cruel smiles they gave their counterparts. Evil Nia offered a mock salute before they turned, and with the gargoyles forcing the unicorn along, they ran off!

NIA

C'mon, we can't let them take it!

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Setting aside the impossibility of staring at her twin for the moment, Nia tugged at her husband's hand and once more they were in motion. The villains were fast and reached a stone chamber that was similar but different than the one previously used by the Crofts. The gargoyles, unicorn, and doppelgangers disappeared inside of it, and by the time the real Colin and Nia burst through the archway they were gone.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

It is at this point, dear listener, I could not longer just observe. I had to help!

DANIELLA
Oh no! Oh no, oh no!

NIA
What was that?

COLIN
Who said that?

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Colin and Nia while startled by my voice began searching for it. Colin was the one to find me first of course, because he'd always loved crickets as a boy and that's exactly what I was.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
I had my front legs pressed over my eyes and I was shaking my head. At this point the Crofts didn't even balk at a talking Cricket. The matter of the Unicorn was simply more urgent. They both went to the ground to be on eye level with me.

COLIN
Why do they look like us? And where did they go?

DANIELLA
They are you.

COLIN
Bull crap. I am not-

DANIELLA
They are the part of you that doesn't believe in such things. What you humans don't realize is your power to create. Every nightmare or dream you give power, every deeply held belief manifests in some form, somewhere. That form either does good or wrecks havoc, if not in your world, then in someone else's.

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Nia looked crushed, guilty, and deeply sorry. It is the feeling a child has when it realizes it has the capacity to cause harm, even when it doesn't mean too.

NIA

Oh no...

COLIN

What the hell are you saying? That I made that version of me? Why would I do that?

DANIELLA

Oh for Heaven's sake why don't they teach this to you all anymore!

DANIELLA (V.O.)

I shoved my prickly right leg into Colin's nose, clearly frowning at him.

DANIELLA

It's the side of you that believes in order to grow up, beliefs such as unicorns and 'magic' as you call it must be destroyed. So, you made something that will destroy it so you can be an 'adult'. Don't you realize that's why you can't see us in your world anymore? When you stopped believing, you gave us no choice. Sometimes we don't just fade away, sometimes we have to run and hide from the monsters you create to destroy us.

COLIN

(beat)

Shit.

NIA

Yeah.

(beat)

How do we stop them?

RAZIEL

It's not that easy anymore.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Nia and Colin looked over their shoulders, and there stood the towering imposing figure of the Angel. They got to their feet, but remained careful of where I was, which I appreciated.

COLIN

Why? What changed?

RAZIEL

They took the unicorn to your world.
Taking your power back won't be
enough. It must be rescued.

NIA

We'll do it.

COLIN

Send us back.

RAZIEL

How do I know you'll be successful?

COLIN

You have to trust us. Let us make it
right again.

NIA

Please, we can do this.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Raziel looked sternly at them for a
long moment. It is unnerving, getting
stared down by an Angel. It can feel
as if they are looking into the
deepest parts of you, where not even
the lies you tell yourself are safe
from the truth your heart keeps. Yet,
Colin and Nia were not unnerved. They
were speaking from their hearts.
Colin even took a step closer to
Raziel, holding her ageless gaze.

COLIN

We can do this. Please.

RAZIEL

(beat)

So be it.

2 INT. STONE CHAMBER

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Just like that, as if they were never
gone, Colin and Nia appeared in the
stone chamber on Earth at the exact
same moment they disappeared. Time is
different in the 3rd dimension
because Allie and Ethan didn't know
their parents had gone.

(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
The children were standing in the exact spot, with Allie holding their video camera and Ethan watching them.

DANIELLA
At first Nia and Colin were slightly disoriented. They looked at each other, at the kids, then back at each other.

NIA
We're back.

COLIN
The unicorn!

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Colin and Nia ran out of the chamber.

ALLIE
Guys! We didn't take the picture yet!

ETHAN
Where are they going?

3 EXT. STONE CHAMBER

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Colin and Nia, ignoring their children's shouts and questions, burst out of the chamber and immediately began scanning the field.

COLIN
There they are!

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Maybe a hundred yards away, at the second stone chamber a large van idled. A gargoyle climbed into the back with the Unicorn and slammed the doors closed. Not a second later, the van tires squealed and the vehicle took off. At this point Allie and Ethan walked out of the chamber, looking at their parents curiously.

ALLIE
What are you guys doing?

NIA
We can't lose them! Get in the car!

ALLIE
We just got here. What's going on?

ETHAN
Where are we going?

We should hear the beep beep sound of a car being unlocked,
and doors being opened.

COLIN
Hurry up, we've got to save the
unicorn!

ETHAN
We've got to save the what?

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Nia stopped at her open car door,
giving her children the firm unmoving
expression of a mother that is not to
be questioned.

NIA
Ethan and Allison Croft get in the
car right now!

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Ethan suddenly grinned. I said before
children were intuitive, and Ethan
could sense that something was
different. He ran over to the SUV,
while Allie reluctantly followed
behind them.

ALLIE
What is wrong with you two? Who are
you chasing?

COLIN
I told you, they stole a unicorn.
Buckle up.

4 INT. THE SUV

We should hear the tires screeching over gravel as Colin
jams his foot on the gas and takes off.

ALLIE
What are you talking about? There are
no such things as unicorns!

NIA

Yes there are. We're so sorry, we didn't know what we were doing.

ETHAN

It's okay, mom.

ALLIE

You guys are seriously freaking me out. What happened?!

DANIELLA (V.O.)

The SUV was faster than the van, and better off road. Slowly but surely, they were gaining on other vehicle.

COLIN

You'll see. Are you wearing your seatbelts? I'm gonna ram this guy.

ALLIE

You're gonna do what?!

ETHAN

I'm buckled in dad!

(beat)

Allie's good too!

ALLIE

Did you guys have a mid life crisis and smoke some weed or something?

NIA

Do it Colin. Get em.

COLIN

Here goes, hang on!

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Colin grinned at his wife. He tugged on the wheel, and the SUV slammed into the van. The impact jerked them all, and sent the van skidding wildly to the side.

ETHAN

Yeah! Get em Dad!

ALLIE

(screams)

Have you two lost your freakin minds?!!!

DANIELLA (V.O.)

The van regained traction and the passenger side window rolled down. An angry looking gargoyle stuck his head out, holding what looked to be a shotgun and shouted angrily at the Crofts.

ALLIE

Oh my god what is that!!!

ETHAN

It's a troll!

NIA

Have you never read any fantasy books? It's a gargoyle!

COLIN

Heads down kids!

NIA

Hang on everybody!

DANIELLA

Colin slammed on the breaks, causing the SUV to skid to a halt in the damp dirt. Colin's timing was perfect because the gargoyles shot sailed harmlessly in front of them. However, they were not safe just yet. The van rocked to a halt, and the gargoyle jumped out.

NIA

Crap. Colin look.

COLIN

Reverse?

ETHAN

Run him over!

NIA

No time. Everybody out!

5 EXT. SUV

DANIELLA (V.O.)

The kids wisely didn't ask questions this time. All four jumped out of the car just as the gargoyle pulled the trigger a second time.

(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
A large beam of blue energy wrapped
around the SUV and the vehicle
exploded.

Get your Michael Bay on with these sfxs.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
Nia shielded Ethan with her body, in
the same way Colin did to Allie as
their car blew up. Fiery pieces of
metal from the destroyed car rained
down around them, but luckily none of
it hit the family (which is a good
thing, because a hospital visit would
have slowed their quest
considerably).

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
The gargoyle laughed in delight at
the destruction, jumped back in the
van, and once more the vehicle sped
off.

COLIN
You okay? You all right sweetheart?

ETHAN
That was awesome!

DANIELLA
Both parents checked over their
children to ensure they weren't
harmed. Allie was clinging to their
father's side, trying to come to
terms with what had happened. They
were a teenager you see, on their way
to becoming an adult and because of
it, it was harder for her to swallow
this sort of scenario.

ETHAN
Where'd they go, Mom? And did they
really have a unicorn?

NIA
Yes baby they did. We've got to find
them somehow

COLIN
And get another vehicle.

ALLIE
Will you two please explain to me
what the hell is going on?

ETHAN
Guardian Angels. They'll help

COLIN
I don't know about that, Ethan. The last Angel we met was a real stick in the mud.

ALLIE
Seriously, why are you all ignoring my very important freaking question?

NIA
Allie, take a breath. I'll explain everything later. Right now, your father and I have done something bad, we've created something we didn't mean too, it's taken a unicorn, and it's going to kill it if we don't do something.

ALLIE
(beat)
You're serious?

NIA
Yes. This isn't a joke. We're serious.

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Allie glanced at their brother who was excitedly taking a picture of the wreckage on his iphone. But they did take a calming breath.

ALLIE
Okay. Let's go save the Unicorn, I guess.

ETHAN
Do you know where they've gone?

NIA
Colin. The chamber Colin! Calanon said his son used his mind to navigate it.

COLIN
(laughs)
Oh my god. Allie banished us. That's how we got to Carsteim!

NIA

All right, so they're us right? Where we would go if we were going to kill a unicorn?

ALLIE

Wait, I banished you to where?

NIA

Wait! I know. Ethan, let me see your cell phone.

ETHAN

Sure mom.

We hear the sounds of Nia typing on the cell phone.

NIA

(beat)

Okay, we're going to run back to the chamber, and when we get inside you have to think about this place.

ETHAN

Why that place?

NIA

(emotional)

When I was a teenager, one day, I got really angry at your grandfather. He kept encouraging me to use my imagination more. But we're really poor, there were a lot of bills piling up and I didn't want to listen to him. I needed to, grow up, get a job find a way to support him.

(beat)

To get him to stop, I wrote a story about killing a unicorn and I did it in this castle. The death of Imagination I called it.

ALLIE

(beat)

Wow. That's mean. And really sad, Mom.

NIA

I know. I was angry, and I didn't know that it might actually happen somewhere.

ETHAN

It's okay. We all do dumb things
sometimes, right?

NIA

Yes we do. Let's go you guys.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Nia quickly wiped the tears away,
drawing in a deep breath. Colin bent
and kissed her cheek. Nia smiled
affectionately up at him and touched
his face. He winked at her.

COLIN

Let's write a new ending to your
story.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

The Crofts ran as fast as they could
back to the chamber. The children
being in better shape got there
first. Colin and Nia arrived a few
seconds afterwards a bit out of
breath.

6 INT. STONE CHAMBER

ETHAN

Everybody hold hands.

ALLIE

Should Ethan and I both think it?

COLIN

Why not. Can't hurt.

ALLIE

Ready?

ETHAN

Ready.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

They closed their eyes and not five
seconds later, the Crofts
disappeared.

Epic transition sounds go here.

7 EXT. CASTLE RUINS

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world. - Albert Einstein

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Waves crashed again the cliff. Atop it, sat the remains of an old castle. Nature in all it's majestic beauty nearly reclaimed this magical place. The grass was tall, vines, and moss caressing stone walls that still stood. The Crofts appeared in a stone chamber just outside the ruins, and as they exited they saw the Van. The back van doors were open, and tracks in the dirt lead inside.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

The Crofts ducked behind half a broken wall, peering at the structure.

NIA

Okay. You two wait here. Your father and I will go inside-

ALLIE

(interrupts)

Not a chance. We're going to help you.

COLIN

This could get really dangerous. They have weapons.

ETHAN

All the more reason you need our help.

ALLIE

Exactly. We're coming with you.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Allie fist bumped their brother, who nodded firmly at his parents. Colin and Nia shared an unspoken glance, communicating in that way parents do, with a single look.

COLIN

All right but you stay behind us, and you have to promise to be really careful.

ALLIE

We will.

ETHAN

Scouts honor.

NIA

Hey Allie?

ALLIE

Yeah mom?

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Nia came closer to her child, framing their face between her hands.

NIA

Who you are is beautiful, and I want you to always feel comfortable with who you are. So please know that no matter what, *no matter what*, I love you, I'm proud of you, and I am here for you.

ETHAN

Awww. Me too, Allie.

COLIN

Me three.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

The unexpected words went straight to Allie's heart, warming parts of them, that were once afraid. Allie struggled not to cry, words failing them. But, that's okay. Sometimes we don't need words, sometimes a hug will do. Allie hugged their mom, brother, and father all at once.

ALLIE

(emotional)

Thanks you guys.

(clears throat)

Okay. Enough of this. We gotta help the Unicorn.

NIA

Right. You ready?

DANIELLA

Wait for me!

ALLIE

Who said that?

DANIELLA

I did!

COLIN

(grining)

Look down.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Their gazes lowered, and there I was, waving up them.

ETHAN

No way! What's up Jiminy?

DANIELLA

Why do all you humans call me that? My name, is Daniella Snugums.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Allie struggled not to laugh, because obviously I was very serious about this (and I was. I'd gotten into one or two arguments with Jiminy over the years and though he was a fine fellow, he and I didn't always see eye to eye where Gepetto was concerned).

ETHAN

Oh. My bad. Hi, Daniella!

NIA

Let's go.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Colin kissed the top of his children's heads, before he and Nia lead the way towards the Castle. It was probably a funny sight as the Crofts tried to sneak around the van. We all peeked inside but there was nothing useful. We followed a winding path towards a large archway that at one time was probably a beautiful entranceway. The light of the day came through the cracks in stone and open windows, making it easy for us to see inside.

8 INT. CASTLE RUINS

DANIELLA (V.O.)

As soon as we stepped in, the sounds of the distressed Unicorn echoed down the hallways towards us.

NIA

Hurry.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

We all broke into a run, rounding a corner, and before our eyes could process the situation we were attacked!

ALLIE

Look out!

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Two of the gargoyles dive bombed us, ready to snatch up the children, and we absolutely could not have that! What the Crofts (and these meanies) didn't know is that I am a special agent in her Angelicness secret service. My code name is Flip, given to me by Raziel herself. With a flutter of my wings I jumped into the air and kicked one of the gargoyles right in it's mean face. And I kicked it hard, sending it spiraling to the ground.

ETHAN

Don't you touch my sibling!

ALLIE

(struggling)

Let me go! Seriously I can beat you up!

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Simultaneously the second Gargoyle grabbed Allie! Ethan picked up a rock as Allie began wildly flailing and struggling, trying to get the creature off. Ethan threw the rock and it struck, but the creature didn't let go! Colin and Nia were coming to help but here came the doppelgangers too! Oh no!

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
Colin tackled, Colin. Nia grabbed Nia
from behind, lifting her off her feet
and dragged her backwards.

COLIN
(grunting)
Damn you!

NIA
(struggling)
Let go of me!

DANIELLA (V.O.)
If all that wasn't terrible enough
the third gargoyle, standing by the
unicorn, that was chained in the
center of the room, pointed its ray
gun at us, shouting for it's comrades
to move so it could get a shot.

STUFFED PIG
HANG ON ALLIE! WE'RE COMING!

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Princess, Sparks, and the other
Imaginary Friends from the meeting
were here! The rabbit gave Princess a
boost and she landed atop the head of
the gargoyle trying to grab Allie!
Thinking fast Princess did the only
acceptable thing, she bit down hard
on the gargoyle's ear!

PRINCESS
(with a mouthful.
Lots of grr)
Let... go....!

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Ethan, the cougar, and the rabbit
grabbed the Gargoyle's tail. Allie
reared back their fist, (their form
made me so proud) and punched that
mean gargoyle right in the nose!

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
And wouldn't you know it these
gargoyles are just bullies! The
gargoyle howled and wailed as it eyes
began to tear! It stopped trying to
grab Allie, and began yelling for a
time out. Can you believe it? A time
out!

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
I kept my attention on the meanie I'd rightfully and expertly jump kicked, giving them the warning they would catch the business side of these legs if they tried to get up! Spoiler alert, they didn't!

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
And while all this was going on Sparks, taking advantage of the chaos, crept to the center of the room. The gargoyle there must have sensed it was no longer alone, because it whirled around pointing it's ray gun at Sparks. But Sparks was unafraid. That old bear just kept walking closer.

SPARKS
You don't have to be mean and you don't have to be afraid. It's okay to be wrong. It's okay to say I'm sorry. I know it's going to hurt at first but... afterwards, you're going to be free. You're going to heal, and we'll help you. I promise. We all will.

DANIELLA (V.O.)
The Gargoyle's eyes began to water. It's lower lip quivered. A wealth of emotions ran through it. The kind of emotion we feel when we know we've done something we shouldn't. When we've stopped caring because it's easier than healing. But you don't have to be afraid anymore than this gargoyle does, because we're here for you too.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
The gargoyle sniffled, ears lowering, wings tucking in. It dropped the ray gun, looking sad and dejected, even scuffing it's feet on the ground. Without hesitation, Sparks went up to that gargoyle and gave it a hug.

SPARKS
We got you, friend. We got you.

ALLIE
Princess? Is that really you?

PRINCESS

Yeah it is! What kind of a friend would I be if I didn't help you save a unicorn.

ALLIE

I... I'm sorry. I stopped believing in you, I stopped talking to you, and I'm sorry.

PRINCESS

It's okay. Your parents reminded me not to give up on you.

ALLIE

They did?

ETHAN

Oh crap. Where are mom and dad?!

9 INT. RUINS CHAMBER

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Dragged away into another room of the Castle Colin and Nia were dealing with their Doppelgangers! Colin was struggling underneath, well, Colin!

Dramatic punching sound effect and grunt.

COLIN

Did you just punch me!? What is wrong with you?

EVIL COLIN

You made me Colin! I'm like this because of you!

COLIN

Well I was wrong, okay! You're wrong!

EVIL COLIN

You don't get off that easy! You made me a coward! You're a coward! You gave up on your dreams! You don't believe in anything if it's not logical, if it's not practical. You sucked the color of my world, out of both our worlds and now you're gonna pay for it!

Another dramatic punching sound. More sounds of struggling.

COLIN

Stop that! Stop it right now! We can change!

EVIL COLIN

No we can't!

COLIN

Yes we can! Any day, any moment, any minute we can change. I know I was wrong! I did what I thought was right because nobody showed me how either! It's not an excuse but it's real.

(emotional now)

I don't want mundane, I want magic, I want color, I... I don't want to be afraid anymore. I'm sorry, okay? Is that what you want to hear? I'm sorry. I was wrong, and I'm sorry and I'm going to do better, but you have to give me a chance...

We hear the sound of Nia and Evil Nia struggling. Evil Nia slams Nia up against the wall.

NIA

(painful grunt)

EVIL NIA

This isn't one of your stories, Nia. This is the real world. That means I can kill you.

NIA

Wow, that got dark.

EVIL NIA

I'm just doing what you wanted. I'm bringing your story to life see?

NIA

You don't get to use my pain against me.

EVIL NIA

You pushed your pain out into the world like it was acceptable. You made me because you wanted to hide rather than heal. Well here I am, Nia.

NIA
 (emotional)
 I know I did... I know but... my
 grandparents were sick, and this
 world doesn't care. Not if your sick,
 especially not if your black, nobody
 was going to help us. I had to let
 that part of me go. I had too.

EVIL NIA
 Yes! That's it Nia. Let it die. Let
 it all die.

NIA
 (choking)
 Stop..... choking me...

10 INT. NIA'S MIND

NIA (V.O.)
 Hey, wait a minute. You're in my head
 too, aren't you?

EVIL NIA (V.O.)
 Obviously. I'm you.

NIA (V.O.)
 Okay. Okay. We're going to figure
 this out. Me and you. Before I run
 out of air.

EVIL NIA (V.O.)
 There's nothing to figure out. You
 said it yourself. No one helps. No
 one cares. Imagination has to die.

NIA (V.O.)
 (her voice should get
 stronger the more
 she speaks)
 But that's... that's not the whole
 story. I can be honest about the
 reality of my situation and still
 believe in something better. In fact,
 I... I think have to. Because if I
 don't, if I just accept the mundane,
 it will never change. I should have
 listened to my grandfather, I should
 have kept writing. Maybe it wouldn't
 have paid the bills, I don't know.

(MORE)

NIA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 But it would have helped me heal, and
 it would have helped me keep
 believing in what could be, so I
 could teach my kids that this
 reality...

11 INT. RUINS CHAMBER

NIA
 (strong voice)
 Aint it, sister.

EVIL NIA
 What are you doing, stop that.

NIA
 Chapter 10. Nia realized she'd been
 mean, cruel even to the inner child
 inside of her that needed her.

EVIL NIA
 Stop it...

NIA
 Nia realized the spark of magic and
 imagination that existed inside of
 her was something her little corner
 of the world needed. It was Something
 her children needed. And Nia vowed,
 she would never...

EVIL NIA
don't you dare.

NIA
Ever Stop believing in what could
 be possible, what she knew was
 possible somewhere, ever, **ever**,
 again.

EVIL NIA
 noooo

NIA
 The End.

DANIELLA (V.O.)
 And just like that, with a flash of
 light and a reverberating boom, with
 all the power you beautiful humans
 possess, of healing and believing in
 the power inside of you, Evil Colin
 and Evil Nia, disappeared.

(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
The chains fell off the unicorn. The gargoyles, rightfully put in their place, returned to their world where there was a very angry Angel waiting for them.

Transition sound effect. Some magic fucking music goes here okay.

12 EXT. CASTLE RUINS

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Slowly the Crofts emerged from the Castle ruins. Colin and Nia held hands completely trusting of the unicorn that lovingly carried Allison and Ethan on it's back and the Imaginary Friends sat behind them. I, perched on the unicorns horn like the hero I was of course.

NIA
(emotional)
Oh my god. Colin, kids, look.

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Nia's voice trembled because all around them, things you can no longer see knew it was safe to once more expose themselves to the Crofts.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
What things you're rightfully asking. So I'll say to you, what have you stopped believing in? That's what they saw.

ETHAN
That is so friggin cool!

ALLIE
(happy crying)
I thought... but I didn't... and now... they are real. I knew they were real! I knew it!

ETHAN
Well, duh. Why wouldn't they be real?

DANIELLA (V.O.)
At that moment, Raziel appeared, as I suspected she would. When she came into view time froze.
(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
Well, for Allie and Ethan anyway. The
rest of us were perfectly aware.

RAZIEL
Well, well. You did it.

COLIN
Told you we would.

RAZIEL
Now you see. The unicorn was never
lost. You were. If you do not change,
nothing else can.

NIA
There's so much we don't know.

RAZIEL
You do not always have to teach them,
but you must let them learn.

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Colin and Nia looked at their
children, eyes moist.

NIA
I understand.

COLIN
So do I.

RAZIEL
This experience was for you. Ready?

COLIN
Oh, Raziel, I was rude to Calanon
when I first arrived. Would you
apologize to him for me?

RAZIEL
I am not your messenger human.

DANIELLA
I'll do it, Colin.

COLIN
(emotional again)
I use to talk to you. A long time
ago.

DANIELLA

I know. I heard you. I answered you too, you just couldn't hear me because you didn't believe I could speak.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Colin stared me with the kind of childlike wonder I'd not seen in his eyes for a very long time. I must admit I nearly teared up at the sight of it. He brought his head down and I lovingly hugged his nose.

DANIELLA

If one must grow up and get married though Captain Croft, she's a really good choice.

DANIELLA (cont'd)

Both Nia and Colin laughed as I had intended. Captain Croft was the childhood superhero name Colin had given himself when we played together. His face softened as he looked at Nia.

COLIN

Yes, she is.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

A blush spread across Nia's cheeks, but her smile could not have been any wider. I winked at them both, and jumped off landing perfectly on Raziel's shoulder.

DANIELLA

Now they're ready ma'am.

13 INT. STONE CHAMBER

DANIELLA (V.O.)

In the blink of an eye, Nia and Colin appeared back in the chamber. This time, Allie was standing in front of them, holding up the video camera. Ethan paused his perimeter walking to watch his parents. Colin and Nia were still hand in hand as they'd been when Raziel and I left them; Nia blushing, Colin smiling lovingly down at her.

ALLIE

Perfect you guys, hold it!

DANIELLA (V.O.)

They did, because you could say in that moment Colin and Nia were looking at each other the way two people in love do, who had forgotten they were in love, and were now realizing it again. It was Nia who looked away first, gently disentangling herself from Colin. After everything that happened she was a little emotional, and needed a moment to herself.

NIA

I'll be right back guys, keep doing your experiments.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Colin watched his wife leave, understanding as husbands who know their wives do. He gave her a moment, and turned his attention onto his son.

COLIN

Hey, Ethan? I need to go talk to your mom, but when I come back, I want you to show me how to use your dowsing rod.

ALLIE

Don't make fun Dad.

COLIN

I'm not. I'm being serious. I'd like to know.

ETHAN

Seriously?

COLIN

Yeah, seriously.

ETHAN

Okay!

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Colin winked at Allie and was rewarded with their playful eye roll. Colin walked out of the chamber and found Nia.

(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
She wasn't standing far from it, but
her back was to him, her gaze set on
the woods. Colin smiled quietly at
her back.

14 EXT. STONE CHAMBER

COLIN
Hey Nia?

NIA
Hmm?

COLIN
If you live to be a hundred, I want
to live to be a hundred minus one
day, so I never have to live without
you.

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Nia turned around and Colin could see
quite clearly she wasn't expecting
him to say that. The surprise in her
eyes was drowning in a sudden swell
of emotion as unexpected as his
words. Her eyes teared and he reached
up, framing her cheek gently in his
hand. Nia drew in a watery breath,
letting loose a soft laugh and even
softer smile.

NIA
What poetry book did you steal that
from, Captain Croft?

COLIN
Winnie the pooh.

NIA
(laughing)
Let's stop acting like ridiculous
adults.

COLIN
I agree.
(beat)
Come home?

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Rest assured, dear listener she did.

Magical fucking transition music goes here.

15 INT. CROFTS HOME

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Six Months later...

ETHAN
Daniella, come get in the picture!

DANIELLA (V.O.)
I was perched on Colin's shoulder.
Colin was sitting in front of his
piano, studying a piece of music he
was composing and stubbornly refusing
to listen to me.

DANIELLA
E-flat man. I'm telling you-

COLIN
Look cricket, I'm the composer,
you're the secret agent. Let me do
this eh?

DANIELLA
Fine, fine. Don't listen to me.

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Colin and I grinned at each other. We
often bickered as old friends do. I
hopped off his shoulder, and bounced
my way into the living room. Ethan
and Allie were standing with Calanon
and Thalion. Thalion and Ethan had
become fast friends.

NIA
(panic)
Colin!

COLIN
Coming!

We hear the sound of footsteps.

COLIN (cont'd)
What's wrong?

NIA
Raziel wants to come over. She's
bringing two Dwarves and the unicorn.

COLIN
Cool.

NIA

The dining room isn't big enough for a unicorn!

COLIN

Oh... Umm... manifest a barn?

NIA

I will cut you.

COLIN

(laughing)

Okay, okay. We'll get the backyard set up. I clean off the deck and-

NIA

There is no way I'm going to have enough time to-

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Colin cut his wife off smoothly by taking her face between his hands and planting a sweet kiss on her mouth. Nia, being quite the sucker for her husband was immediately softened by it.

COLIN

Captain Croft to the rescue ma'am. We'll handle it.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

As you can see, it was shaping up to be a wonderful dinner and I don't want to miss it. So! If you take nothing else from this story take this; love is powerful, as is your ability to create. You were not given imaginations just to craft fancy stories for your childhood toys. You were given imaginations so that you could build a world.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

So build it.

DANIELLA

Perhaps then, you and I can have a conversation one day. I would like that very much.

THE END