

The Infinite

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FADE IN

EXT. PLANET -- DAY

We see a bright, hazy world. Then enters Dr. Oshun, a black woman in her 30s with natural hair and big, round eyes. She takes off her space helmet and looks around trying to get her bearings.

(VO)

One of the most prolific physicists of our age, Dr. Oshun redefined our understanding of gravity and space travel and designed the first interstellar vehicle. She set out on a four-person mission to find a place she named The Infinite.

Dr. Oshun carefully explores the new world in wonderment. She does calculations and inputs data. After finishing up her assessment, she has a puzzled look on her face. She walks out of frame.

(VO) (cont'd)

Then they disappeared but left behind a coded message. We haven't been able to decipher it so far.

EXT. PLANET -- 10 YEARS LATER

This time the planet is lush and green. There's trees, grass, and a fresh water source. It looks like a beautiful paradise. Except lying on the ground is DR. IVY, a black woman in her mid-40s, who is the quiet captain of the space mission and colleague of Dr. Oshun. She is unconscious with blood on her forehead.

RAYNA (O.S.)

Captain? Captain? Captain Dr. Ivy? Do you copy?

DR. IVY's eyes stay closed. She doesn't move.

RAYNA (O.S.) (cont'd)

Captain Dr. Ivy, are you there? Oh my god! She's not responding. DR. IVY?

DR. IVY's eyes finally open slowly, and she winces in pain.

DR. IVY

Yes, I'm here.

She slowly sits up and looks around.

EXT. PLANET -- CONTINUOUS

RAYNA, black woman, 30s, typical science type, is relieved. She's DR. IVY's PhD student.

RAYNA
Good. Are you OK?

DR. IVY
I'm banged up but other than that I'm fine.

Dr. Ivy carefully stands. All she sees is green grass and trees, no people.

DR. IVY (cont'd)
What the hell happened? Do you have any explanation for why the ship crashed? We were lucky we got to our escape pods in time.

RAYNA
All I can tell is that there was an explosion in the stern part of the ship.

DR. IVY
Hmm. Where are the others?

EXT. PLANET -- CONTINUOUS

LILA, mid 20s black, social media star, walks up to Rayna fiddling with her hollow phone (cellphone).

EXT. PLANET -- CONTINUOUS

Dr. Ivy starts walking as she hears:

LILA (O.S.)
Really, are you kidding me? I can't believe we almost died.

Lila's camera turns on.

LILA
Thank God!

DR. IVY
Lila's with you?

RAYNA

(annoyed)

Yes, she found me. For the life of me, I don't know how she managed that.

LILA

(offended)

I can hear you.

DR. IVY

And Nandi?'

RAYNA

I've been calling her, but she's not responding. Her coms are off. How do we find each other? I mean, at the speed we were going, even though we ejected seconds after each other, we could be miles apart.

DR. IVY

Look at the blank part of your wrist. Inside of it should be a working directional compass?

Rayna looks down.

RAYNA

This only tells this planet's north. If we all walk in the same direction, we could be walking parallel to each other. So that doesn't help.

DR. IVY

I have an idea. I hope we aren't that far apart. I grabbed a flare gun before we crashed. Tell me if you see this.

Rayna and Lila hear the gun go off and look into the sky.

RAYNA

It looks like you're about 42 degrees east of this planet's north. I'm coming that way now. But what about Nandi?

Rayna and Lila start walking.

DR. IVY

Wait a minute. I think I see smoke. I'm heading that direction.

RAYNA
But we are heading to you.

DR. IVY
It doesn't look far, maybe a mile
from my location. Head in this
direction, and I'll shoot off another
flare when I reach the smoke. Keep
your coms open.

RAYNA
Understood.

Dr. Ivy starts walking carefully.

EXT. PLANET -- CONTINUOUS

As Lila and Rayna walk, Rayna picks up rock samples.

LILA
I thought we were supposed to be
finding the captain and not
collecting stuff.

RAYNA
We are. We can do both.

LILA
I thought I would see some sort of
civilization or something. There's no
sign of Dr. Oshun.

RAYNA
This is a small part of the planet.
We have a lot of area to cover.

Lila takes out her camera and strikes a pose. Rayna turns
and looks at Lila with an annoyed look.

EXT. FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

Dr. Ivy walks around exploring the new world. She breathes a
sigh of relief when she sees NANDI, black woman, mid-30s,
devout follower of The Infinite cult. Nandi kneels in
prayer. She has made an alter of some sort. She wears the
infinity symbol on her forehead.

DR. IVY
(speaking into her com)
Nandi's safe.

Nandi stands and smiles when she sees the captain.

DR. IVY (cont'd)
What are you doing?

NANDI
I'm giving thanks to the ancestors
for guiding us to this glorious
planet. And I'm also giving thanks to
Dr. Oshun for being the prophet who
enlightened us. Rest in peace, Dr.
Oshun.

DR. IVY
You're acting like she already dead.

Nandi smirks confidently.

NANDI
She could be.

DR. IVY
(angry)
You don't know anything about her. I
never wanted to come on this trip.

NANDI
But lucky for you, it's people like
me, Lila, and other wealthy followers
from the church who *financed* your
trip.

DR. IVY rolls her eyes and turns her back.

DR. IVY
Rayna, what is your location?

RAYNA
I think I'm close. I saw some debris
from the ship. May be salvageable.
Where are you?

DR. IVY
Only about a mile from my original
location. I'm sending up a flare now.

Rayna looks at her compass and then the flare.

RAYNA
I got your location.

Dr. Ivy goes back to Nandi.

DR. IVY

Come on. Where's your pod? We need to retrieve whatever supplies we can.

NANDI

But we have everything we need here.

DR. IVY

I have no time for your fanaticism.

NANDI

Fanatic? I wasn't the one who petitioned the space commission for the last five years. I wasn't the one who tirelessly sought out resources and fiances. I wasn't the one who did countless talks and interviews across the globe like you did to pursue this course of action. If there's any fanatic here, it's you.

They stare at each other intensely for a few seconds.

DR. IVY

Lila and Rayna will be here soon so we can find shelter and resume our mission.

She walks away but turns back after a few steps.

DR. IVY (cont'd)

I fought so hard to come here, because she was, is my best friend.

NANDI

I think of her as a friend too even if we've never met.

DR. IVY

Well, I did know her...she was more like...we have to find her. Alive.

Dr. Ivy stuffs some supplies into a backpack.

DR. IVY

We were so close. Did everything together. We were classmates, lab partners, roommates...even got into the same grad school. She's the smartest person I know. Oshun had the big ideas and I usually went along for the ride. But we had that big fight before she left. I told her I wasn't going on the mission with her.

She wipes away tears. Nandi looks at her curiously.

NANDI

Why?

DR. IVY

(uncomfortable)

She got too close, obsessed, and weird. She was always weird and awkward. I mean, we're science geeks. But we really connected because of our love of physics. I shouldn't have said all this. Let's talk about something else.

Nandi smirks.

DR. IVY

What do you think Dr. Oshun will do when she meets you? I'm sure she'll be surprised that she has followers.

NANDI

We think she's gone.

Dr. Ivy frowns.

NANDI (cont'd)

But her legacy will last generations.

DR. IVY

Can you not talk about her like that?

NANDI

Look at this place. We believe that she's the reason this planet is so green and beautiful. The Infinite is a place where there was no pain, no poverty, no war, and no political agendas. A place to find happiness. If she *is* alive, I think she'll say enjoy this gift I have given humanity.

EXT. FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

Rayna and Lila are almost there but the trip is taking longer, because Rayna keeps inspecting things. She picks up a berry and examines it. Lila annoyingly looks on before walking away.

RAYNA

You need to keep up.

LILA

I am keeping up. You're so weird.

Rayna ignores her and still examines the berry. Lila is right behind her trying to see what she is doing.

RAYNA

Make yourself useful and sit over there. Stop following me. Don't touch anything.

Confused by Rayna's statement, she walks over to find something to eat. Lila goes to a bush and picks berries. But before she can put them in her mouth, Rayna slaps them out of her hand. Lila is taken back. It takes everything in her to not slap Rayna.

RAYNA

I told you not to touch anything.

EXT. FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

Nandi walks around taking in the beauty of the planet. Dr. Ivy sits and unsuccessfully tries solve the coded message.

DR. IVY

(to herself)

Why can't I decipher this message?

NANDI

Can I ask you a personal question?

She doesn't wait for an answer.

NANDI (cont'd)

Was Dr. Oshun developing feelings for you, or was it something else.

DR. IVY

(stammers)

What? I don't see what that has to--

NANDI

Don't worry about it. I have my answer.

DR. IVY

It's much bigger than that. You wouldn't understand.

NANDI

Uh huh.

Nandi walks around touching the leaves from her tree.

NANDI (cont'd)
 This is the place where we get to start anew. I can't wait for the others to see The Infinite. This will be our new home. The Infinite provides everything for us. Shelter, beautiful weather. Look, we even have food.

She picks up a piece of fruit and takes a bite.

DR. IVY
 Nandi--

Dr. Ivy runs up to Nandi, who has broken out into a sweat and looks weak and confused.

DR. IVY (cont'd)
 Nandi, are you OK?

Nandi falls to the ground and starts convulsing. Dr. Ivy panics and holds her unsure of what to do.

EXT. FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

LILA
 What is your problem?

RAYNA
 You. You aren't serious about this. You're arrogant, and think you know everything. You only came to get views for your online show. I'm glad your equipment you smuggled on the ship got destroyed.

LILA
 So what if I am? How am I hurting anyone? What is it to you?

Lila looks at her phone. They walk in silence. Rayna's com beeps.

DR. IVY
 (panicked)
 Did you bring a medical kit!

RAYNA
 Yes, I have it. What's wrong?

Rayna starts to walk faster then run for her life. Lila can hardly keep up.

DR. IVY
Nandi's convulsing. She's bad off.

RAYNA
What happened?

DR. IVY
She ate some fruit--

RAYNA
How much did she eat? How many?

DR. IVY
She took a bite.

RAYNA
Rinse out her mouth with some water!
I'll be there as soon as I can!

EXT. FOREST -- FIVE MINUTES LATER

Rayna and Lila run up to Dr. Ivy and Nandi out of breath. Nandi is leaning on Dr. Ivy very weak with her eyes closed. She's delirious. Rayna takes out a bottle of liquid out of her bag and pours it to Nandi's mouth.

RAYNA
Nandi, I know it's bitter but you
have to drink all it, OK?

Nandi slowly drinks it as Lila and Dr. Ivy look on nervously.

RAYNA (cont'd)
(nervously stuttering)
I'm not sure..but I think it's
working.

All three watch Nandi as she lies weakly on the ground.

DR. IVY
How do you feel?

NANDI
Like I been hit by a truck.

RAYNA
(to Dr. Ivy)
I'm still trying to access what's
safe to eat. So far, I haven't found
anything.

Lila realizes why Rayna slapped the berry out of her hand
now.

NANDI
(disappointed)
What is this place?

LILA
I wish I never came here.

Lila walks off, phone glued to her hand. When she gets to a
well-lit spot, she turns on the camera and holds it in front
of her.

LILA (cont'd)
What's up, subscribers, it's your
girl, Lila, and I'm here at the
mysterious planet call The
Infinite....

Something has caught her eye -- Rocks piled on each other in
an unnatural way. She puts down her phone and swallows hard
afraid to move for a few seconds. With trepidation, she
turns around breathing hard and walks in that direction. She
looks down. She moves the rocks around and then gasps when
she comes across what appears to be bones. She screams. The
other women look up when they hear it.

LILA (cont'd)
(into her com)
Captain, I think you need to see
this.

Dr. Ivy dreads what she's about to see.

EXT. GRAVESITE -- FIVE MINUTES LATER

Dr. Ivy and Lila stand looking down at a skeleton. Rayna has
stayed back tending to Lila.

DR. IVY
(speaking into her coma to Rayna)
Looks like remains. Wait a minute, I
think I see the name on the uniform.
It's Captain Raza.

She turns and looks at Lila, who has a terrified look on her face.

EXT. FOREST -- SOME TIME LATER

Nandi is feeling better and sitting up drinking water.

RAYNA
What do you think happened?

DR. IVY
I'm not sure how he died. Could be
his injuries or something killed him
on the planet. But the remains seemed
to be intact. I think he was in a
shallow grave.

LILA
We need some answers.

DR. IVY
Yes, we need to find the source of
that signal.

RAYNA
I've been working on it. I'm pretty
sure it's about 53 degrees south of
our location. But I'm also picking up
a second set of radio waves. Do you
think it's the crew trying to reach
us directly?

LILA
Do you think they know we're here?

DR. IVY
I don't know. But we do know the
direction of the source. We just need
to get there to find out what's going
on. Gather your things in five
minutes.

They all gather supplies.

EXT. FOREST -- FIVE MINUTES LATER

We see them walking.

EXT. SOURCE OF SIGNAL -- LATER

It's a gray, alien geometric object.

RAYNA

This is it. This is the source of the signal.

NANDI

I don't see anything. Where is everybody?

RAYNA

I don't know.

Rayna looks at the captain for answers and looks confused. The captain moves closer to the object.

CAPTAIN

(to Rayna)

Have you ever seen anything like this before?

RAYNA

No, I haven't. I don't know what it is. I don't know how something so small can send a signal back that far.

DR. IVY

You said there was a second signal?

RAYNA

It seems to be coming from over there, but it's much weaker.

They all walk in that direction.

DR. IVY

It's the emergency beacon.

RAYNA

It seems to be transmitting an audio file.

LILA

What does it say?

The audio plays.

DR. OSHUN (O.S.)

This is Dr. Oshun of Space Mission 3541. We have landed the second planet from the red draft star in the constellation. If you are receiving this file, be aware you cannot stay on the planet. I repeat, you cannot stay on the planet.

As the message plays, they are alarmed and unsure of what to do.

DR. OSHUN (O.S.) (cont'd)

To our dismay, the planet becomes sterilized by solar flares every 12 years. Our captain died in the landing. We have repaired our ship and after some deliberation, have decided to move to the fourth planet in the binary star system. But caution, there seems to be evidence of an alien presence.

Now they are terrified.

DR. OSHUN

In this message are coordinates for our location. Come find us.

The message repeats.

LILA

What are we going to do? We don't even have a ship.

NANDI

(hopeful)

The infinite will provide.

RAYNA

What are talking about? There is no infinite.

DR. IVY

Quiet! The ship crashed, but we don't know what the condition is. Or if they left supplies. We've landed on an alien world with evidence of some kind of first contact, and I'm not sure what any of this means. What I do know is we've gotten this far.

(MORE)

DR. IVY (cont'd)
If we stick together, repair the
ship, and get off this planet in
enough time, we will find them.

The three women look at the alien object, while DR. IVY
walks away from the terrified group.

DR. IVY
(whispers)
And I'll find you, Dr. Oshun. I
promise.

FADE TO BLACK