

GREEN HOPE

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OSEAN

EXT. BEACH-DAY 1

Caption: 1418

The tropical landscape is idyllic. The green vegetation stands out from the river, contrasting with the rocky terrain of volcanic origin that flows into the beach. There is no one in sight. We hear Maresia's laughter in the background (OFF). The laughter echoes once more. In the distance, in the sea, Maresia swims with superhuman speed and agility, evading someone who is laughing.

MAREZIA

I won, Leo. I won again!

Maresia emerges from the water and runs toward the sand. At that moment, she notices a turtle, Hope, walking towards the sea. Maresia lies down on the sand to admire its journey with a smile on her face. Maresia touches the turtle and feels a connection with the animal. Leo's head emerges from the sea.

LEO

It's impossible to swim like you. I don't know why I don't know why I keep insisting on this game.

MAREZIA

Because today is a special day. I'm turning 18, and as my best friend, you can't say no to anything.

Maresia embraces him and runs laughing along the beach, heading towards the forest area. Leo looks at her, smitten.

MAREZIA (CONT'D)

Aurio Aurio, come out, I know you're there. Don't be proud. Come on, you know I love birthdays. (Calling out) Aurio!

Aurio jumps from tree to tree, descending the trunk effortlessly with his hands and feet, showing no difficulty. He takes a leap and joins Maresia. Leo walks toward the two of them.

MAREZIA (CONT'D)

You should have come diving with us. The bottom of the sea was more beautiful today than yesterday.

AURIO

You say that every day.

MAREZIA

Because it's true. If you had come with us, you would have seen.

AURIO

Do you already know what gift your parents will give you?

MAREZIA

I have no idea; I haven't even thought about it. I wouldn't mind being a carefree child forever, without responsibilities.

AURIO

Not me. In a week, I turn 18, and I can't wait to receive the outermost regions and get the island where my mother was born.

MAREZIA

I know that's what you want the most.

LEO

We have to go, we're running late.

MAREZIA

The last one to arrive is a rotten egg.

Maresia runs towards the sea and swims the distance, leaping like a dolphin in the water. Aurio climbs to the treetops and moves from branch to branch. Leo is left unsure of what to do and sprints along the beach at high speed.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST/WATERFALL-DAY 2

The location is decorated for Maresia's birthday. Poseidon, God of the Sea, and Asling, Goddess of the Forest, are ready for the ceremony. They wear long dresses and flower crowns on their heads. Leo, Aurio, and other Gods eagerly await Maresia's arrival. Aurio approaches Poseidon.

AURIO

(Impatiently)

Father, Maresia is taking forever... Can you tell me what gift you will give her?

ASLING

(Cold and distant)

You will find out at the same time as everyone else. Return to your place.

Poseidon touches his arm to calm him down. Maresia runs with the Hope turtle in her hand, laughing. She is wearing a white dress and a flower crown.

MAREZIA

sorry for the delay. This special guest didn't want to miss out.

Aurio appears impatient. Maresia twirls around, hugs her mother. Asling smiles, proud, and hands her a bouquet of flowers.

MAREZIA (CONT'D)

You're the most beautiful one at the party, mother.

POSEIDON

Let us commence the ceremony. We are all gathered here to celebrate Maresia's coming of age, born in the year 1400 on the island of Madeira. Daughter of Poseidon, myself, the God of the Sea, and Asling, the Goddess of the Forest.

Aurio shows signs of growing anxiety as the speech progresses.

ASLING

The offering is made to the eldest and legitimate daughter for having proven her courage on various occasions, with no doubts regarding her fair character.

POSEIDON

Raise your right hand and promise before the Gods that you will value and preserve the nature, biodiversity, and natural resources of the islands. You will use them as models of sustainability for the rest of the world, ensuring the quality of the air, sea, soil, and all beings of the outermost regions.

AURIO

(Furious) No... Father?

POSEIDON

Promise and accept this offer.

Maresia exchanges glances with Aurio, who refuses to meet her eyes, filled with anger. Asling encourages her with a look to accept. Maresia hesitates. The other Gods converse among themselves. Maresia looks at her brother and raises her right hand in the air.

MAREZIA

I, Maresia, accept and promise to care for the outermost regions: Martinique, Mayotte, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Reunion Island, St. Martin, Madeira, Azores, and the Canary Islands.

The Gods applaud. Aurio runs off into the forest, disappearing among the trees. Maresia becomes worried but is congratulated and greeted by the others, unable to go after her brother.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST-DAY 3

Aurio is lying on top of a log, furious.

AURIO

You promised that the islands were mine.

POSEIDON

Your mother and I had a conversation...

AURIO

She's not my mother, she never treated me like a son. She doesn't even treat me like a God.

POSEIDON

You're being unreasonable.

AURIO

Maresia wasn't interested in the islands, but Asling knew it was what I wanted the most, so she gave them to her.

POSEIDON

In a week, you will turn 18, and your offering will be the tropical forests of the planet. Isn't that incredible?

AURIO

I don't want them. My mother was from Mayotte, that's where I was born, and you know the islands are my right. How could you do this to me?

POSEIDON

Your responsibility is no less than your sister's. Your mission is to prevent deforestation and climate change. The tropical forests are the lungs of this planet.

AURIO

I don't care. I refuse. I won't accept it.

POSEIDON

It is decided, Aurio. The survival of planet Earth and the human race depends on you and your sister. Difficult times lie ahead. You know the prophecy.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST-DAY 4

Aurio is standing with his back turned as Maresia approaches...

MARESIA

I came as soon as you called. I gave you your space, but you know we can work together in the regions. I know how much you wanted the islands... Collaborating is...

A wooden cage falls on top of Maresia and closes.

MAREZIA (CONT'D)

Aurio! Aurio! What is this? Let me out of here, Aurio! Please... let's talk.

Aurio turns his back and walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERFALL-DAY 5

Caption: Several days later

Aurio pretends to be concerned in front of Poseidon, Asling, and Leo.

AURIO

We searched everywhere. Nothing. There's no sign of Maresia.

ASLING

I know my daughter; she would never just disappear like this. Someone did something to her. Was it you?

AURIO

(Ignores her, turns to his father)

I could never harm my sister.

POSEIDON

Asling, with Maresia missing for over a week... You know the rules.

ASLING

No!

POSEIDON

Aurio turns 18 today. As the eldest, he will receive the tropical forests and the ultraperipheral regions during the ceremony.

ASLING

Never! He's a bastard, the product of your affair with a human. (To Aurio) Admit it already. What have you done to her? You'll never have anything, you'll never be a God, and you'll never be one of us!

Without warning, Aurio has a fit of rage and uses his powers to make large, heavy trees fall on Poseidon and Asling, crushing them. Leo hides, frightened. Poseidon tries to speak.

POSEIDON

Why? It was all going to be yours.

AURIO

It will be mine anyway.

POSEIDON

There's something you need to know...

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Aurio doesn't want to hear it and leaves him behind. Poseidon dies. Aurio approaches Leo.

AURIO

Everyone will meet the same fate. Are you with them or with me?

Leo follows him, with no other option.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLIFF-DAY 6

Aurio gazes at the horizon. Leo is sitting beside him, looking miserable and frightened.

LEO

(Timidly)

You can still save Maresia. You can turn back.

AURIO

I can't and won't turn back. With the islands, the sea, and the tropical forests, I become the most powerful God on the planet. I'll have respect, power, and money. Everything that my family denied me.

The caravel of the navigators João Gonçalves Zarco, Tristão Vaz Teixeira, and Bartolomeu Perestrelo appears on the horizon. Aurio smiles. Raising his hands, he manages to change the course of the winds and influence the ocean currents, directing the caravel toward the Island of Madeira.

LEO

You can't bring humans to our island. You know the prophecy.

AURIO

I am the prophecy. I want humans to work for me.

LEO

Don't do this..

Aurio uses his powers to project Leo several meters away. Aurio looks on with satisfaction as the navigator's caravel approaches.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST-DAY 7

Leo's head emerges from the vegetation. He touches his head, dirty and sore from being thrown. A few meters ahead, Maresia is trapped in the cage, dehydrated from being out of water for so long. She calls out to him.

MAREZIA

Leo... Get me out of here.

LEO

I can't. He'll kill me.

MAREZIA

seek help from my parents. Tell them I'm trapped here.

LEO

(Sad)

Your parents... They didn't survive.

MAREZIA

They didn't survive? what happened? what do you mean? Leo?

Leo hesitates and decides to push the cage into the water.

MAREZIA (CONT'D)

Leo? Together we can defeat Aurio.

Leo appears to have a moment of hesitation, but he pushes the cage deep into the sea, and we see it submerge.

Underwater

It becomes apparent that Maresia can breathe underwater. As the cage descends deeper, a swirling current of water surrounds the cage, attracting everything in its vicinity. Fish approach, and marine plants are drawn into the spiral. The cage settles on the sandy seabed. Maresia smiles sadly at the fish surrounding her. The Hope turtle swims around the cage. Maresia reaches out and touches it through the bars, feeling a sense of sadness.

CUT TO:

NOTE: TIME PASSAGE FROM 1418 TO 2023—USING ARCHIVE IMAGES OR ANIMATION—IMAGES DEPICTING THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD OVER THE LAST 623 YEARS.

EXT. IMAGES—CLIP—DAY 9

Among the images, we see flashes of Maresia and several oxygen bubbles. We witness images of progress juxtaposed with the destruction of the biosphere: deforestation through tree cutting and wildfires; excessive consumption of natural resources; wasteful use of plastic and paper (the opposite of a green economy)—the strain on the environment due to the imposition of human habits and customs—litter in water bodies, landfills, marine animals dead or entangled in plastic bags, oil spills in the sea; pollution from cars and factories; exploitation of poorer communities and food waste.

CUT TO:

EXT. AURIUS'OIL-OIL RIG-DOCKS-DAY 10

Inside a luxury car, we see Aurio's hand, severely affected by dermatitis, picking up a mask with an incorporated oxygenation system. Aurio observes his disfigured and aged face in the rearview mirror of the car. He covers his face with the mask. Outside the car, we see protesters holding signs opposing oil drilling: "For the defense of nature," "Not another drill," "Stop environmental crimes," "Climate change is real."

LEO

Aurio, we can't stay here for long. There might be aftershocks from the recent earthquake.

AURIO

Great, maybe they'll take away these protesters.

Leo looks around. Security guards are holding back the protesters from advancing toward the oil company headquarters.

LEO

You're sick. Why don't you get us out of here? First, there were hurricanes, then floods, and now earthquakes... why do you think this is happening?

AURIO

Because I still don't have all the power I desire.

Columns of smoke rise to the sky from the tops of the chimneys on the offshore oil rig. Aurio steps out of the car, passing unscathed through the line of protesters and heading towards the building.

CUT TO:

EXT. AURIUS'OIL OFFICE INT.-DAY 11

The room is filled with a series of monitors that form a large screen. On each of the screens (streaming images from surveillance cameras), we see the busy activities of employees continuing their extraction work at the oil company; we witness deforestation operations, garbage piling up in an open landfill, and dumping of waste into rivers. Sitting in front of AURIO, facing the screens, Tomás tries to hide his distress over what he sees. Leo stands beside Aurio.

AURIO

Tell me, how much do you need to further increase my profits this year?

TOMÁS

It's not possible to continue exploiting the sea, the land, without taking greater risks.

AURIO

I asked how much you need, not if it's possible.

TOMÁS

Aurio, making money at the expense of people and natural resources is easy, but we're reaching a point where climate change is causing species to disappear... We have the spotlight on us.

AURIO

Are you afraid, then? I called for an entrepreneur, not another activist. You can go grab a sign and join the group outsider if that's the case.

TOMÁS

I need time to figure out how we can continue to profit from the remaining natural resources without drawing attention.

AURIO

I was told you were an expert... If you're not up to the task, I'll bring someone else.

TOMÁS

I just need time, and I'll give you everything you want. There's still much to explore in the outermost regions.

Aurio leaves the room.

LEO

We're all going down with him, aren't we?

Tomás approaches Leo.

TOMÁS

Listen, I can see you're not like him. I can help you if you help me. I've been searching for Maresia. Do you know the legend about her? Do you know anything about it? They say her brother made her disappear.

LEO

Don't talk about Maresia here, it will enrage him. She vanished a long time ago. She probably didn't survive.

TOMÁS

But we need to find her. She's the only person who can help us.

LEO

She's not a person, she's a goddess.

TOMÁS

Even better. Only with Maresia's powers, the help of activists, entrepreneurs, and everyone who cares about the planet, can we reverse this destruction. Help me.

Leo becomes frightened.

CUT TO:

EXT. LABORATORY INT.—DAY 12

The television is tuned to a thematic channel (we suggest Discovery Channel). Tomás searches the following on his laptop's search engine: "blue economy," "sustainable economy," "green and digital transition." On the countertop, among other projects, there is a book titled "Green Hope: The Legend of Maresia." Tomás picks it up and ponders. His thoughts are interrupted by the ringing of his cellphone.

TOMÁS

(Lies, nervous) Hello. I'm fine.
(MORE)

TOMÁS (CONT'D)

(Pause) No, we're not going to destroy the plantations to raise another 500 thousand heads of cattle. This is my order, if they disobey, they're disobeying Aurio. (Pause) Yes, it's my final word.

Tomás hangs up the phone, relieved. Leo enters, in a hurry.

LEO

Do you have permission to use the oceanographic vessel and Aurio's team? Are you going to search for more oil?

TOMÁS

No. I'm going to search for Maresia, and you're coming with me.

LEO

Aurio will kill me.

TOMÁS

That's why we have to get rid of him first.

EXT. MAR—DAY 13

Clips of Leo and Tomás diving at various depths in an attempt to find Maresia.

Tomás and Leo dive. The marine flora and fauna are impoverished. The ocean floor has few corals, all of them colorless. Visibility is poor.

CUT TO:

OSEAN

EXT. SEA-DAY 14

Caption: One month later

Underwater

Tomás and Leo descend once again in search of Maresia. They separate. We follow Tomás, who shortly after sees a giant turtle, Hope. Curious, he follows her and realizes that she is indicating a path to him. After swimming for a while, he sees a cage covered in algae, bivalves, and other marine crustaceans. Inside is Maresia, asleep. Despite the passage of time, the goddess remains beautiful and young. Tomás touches her, and she awakens and moves away. He takes a pad from his vest and writes with a pen: "I came to save you." Maresia extends her hands. Tomás gives her his hands, and when they touch, Maresia is able to "see" what has happened in the world over the past 623 years. Through successive flashes, similar to those in scene 9. Distressed by the images, Maresia cannot stop crying, and her tears cause a tsunami. The phenomenon is quick and intense, and tragedy seems imminent. Tomás is carried away by the rushing waters, at risk of drowning. The cage containing Maresia is swept away, and the impacts on the ocean floor cause it to open, freeing Maresia. She swims quickly and manages to reach the unconscious Tomás.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH-DAY 15

Maresia emerges from the water, carrying Tomás in her arms. She looks around, trying to understand where she is. Maresia places Tomás on the sand and touches his heart, reviving him. He wakes up.

MAREZIA
who are you?

TOMÁS
My name is Tomás. I have known your legend since I was a child, and I was always mocked for believing you existed. Until I started working with Aurio and..

Maresia moves away.

MAREZIA
You work for my brother?

TOMÁS
Yes... No. I mean, it was just a disguise to find you. We need you.

MAREZIA
Me? Now that the prophecy has already been fulfilled? There is little to be done. I saw it when I touched you.

TOMÁS

If we work with activists and scientists, we can still recover.
Together, we can bring hope back to many territories and achieve a society that is socially, environmentally, and economically developed.
Trust me.

At that moment, Leo emerges from the sea, wearing a diving suit. The two of them stop and look at each other for a moment. Maresia has tears in her eyes, hurt.

MAREZIA

How could you? You were my best friend.

TOMÁS

We don't have much time before Aurio notices our absence. Leo was the one who got us the boat to search for you.

LEO

Forgive me. I had no choice. Aurio destroyed everything... Either I joined him or ended up like the others.

Maresia looks at them, suspicious.

TOMÁS

Listen, you're a goddess, you can survive anywhere, but for me and millions of other humans, this planet is all we have.

LEO

Help us, please.

MAREZIA

(Determined) Take me to Aurio.

CUT TO:

EXT. AURIUS' OIL RIG-DAY 16

There is a hole in the ground where materials are burned, releasing a huge flame. Workers are rebuilding a structure that broke down as the platform was affected by the tsunami. Aurio is wearing his mask and giving orders to the workers, who obey.

AURIO

Don't stop the extraction work!

Maresia approaches and appears before Aurio. Leo and Tomás stop a little behind.

MAREZIA

Enough, Aurio. This is over.

Aurio stares at Maresia, incredulous. He looks angrily at Tomás and Leo. Maresia is surprised by her brother's aged and weakened appearance.

AURIO

Look who came back from the ashes... I thought you were dead, dear sister. I see that the last 623 years haven't affected you.

MARESIA

Looking at your face, the same cannot be said. Aurio, I survived to save the planet and to give you a chance to live.

AURIO

Me? Don't make me laugh.

MARESIA

You have skin problems, respiratory issues, body aches... I'm sure you've wondered why.

Aurio remains alert, containing his anger.

MARESIA (CONT'D)

Father told me that, being the child of a human, if you were exposed to radiation, sunlight, chemical pollutants, certain viruses and bacteria, you wouldn't have the same resistance as us. You would eventually get sick...

Full of rage, Aurio advances toward Maresia, who steps back, getting closer to the fire pit.

AURIO

Shut up. You want to steal everything from me again.

MARESIA

I want to save you.

AURIO

Liar!

Maresia almost falls into the flaming pit but manages to dive into the sea. Aurio takes out his phone and makes a call.

AURIO (CONT'D)

I need all the security guards here.

Aurio walks toward the office when Maresia emerges from the sea and appears in front of him. Aurio tries to use his powers but struggles, as they are greatly weakened.

With effort, he manages to throw Maresia back toward the fiery pit. Maresia almost falls but jumps away just in time. A group of armed Security Guards approaches Tomás and Leo, causing great tension.

OSEAN

Maresia throws an iron barrel at Aurio, hitting him. Further back, the guards grab Leo and Tomás, pointing their guns at them. Maresia approaches Aurio.

MARESIA

Let me help you. You can still regain your health. You can go to Mayotte, your mother's land, or Madeira. We were so happy there. Remember?

AURIO

I don't need you. Who wants Mayotte or Madeira when they can have the whole world?

MARESIA

What good is the world to you without everything that is most beautiful in it? You're destroying everything, you, the planet...

Aurio lunges at Maresia. The two fight and end up near the fiery pit again. In the last moment, Maresia breaks free from her brother, causing him to fall into the pit. She thinks she has lost him, but she runs to the pit and sees that Aurio managed to hold onto the platform. Maresia wants to help him and extends her hand, but to reject her sister's help, Aurio uses his last remaining strength to propel himself into the sea. The mask comes off his face, and we see that the water starts dissolving his skin on his face and body. Desperate, Maresia sees her brother disappear underwater and decides to dive in to save him. The Hope turtle assists her, supporting Aurio on its shell. Maresia grabs him and brings him back to land. The guards release Leo and Tomás when they realize Aurio has been saved. Maresia extends her hand to her brother.

MARESIA (CONT'D)

while there's life, there's hope.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESEARCH CENTER INT.-DAY 17

Caption: One month later

Tomás is showing Maresia various studies on environmental impact.

TOMÁS

Aurio never knew that I worked with the researchers at the center. Our mission has been to promote sustainable practices in the outermost regions and around the world. We've been engaged in a global fight for biodiversity preservation.

Maresia's eyes fill with tears. Tomás notices.

TOMÁS (CONT'D)

was it something I said?

MAREZIA

I couldn't fulfill the promise I made to my parents, but you all are fulfilling it.

TOMÁS

It's not your fault, Maresia. There's much to be done, and every bit of help is valuable.

MAREZIA

And what areas have you been working on? Leo told me about valuing the sea as an essential resource for each island.

TOMÁS

Yes, we've moved away from fossil fuels and shifted our focus to renewable energy. This also involves a shift toward social accounting, not just financial, as it used to be.

MAREZIA

And that's where the digital aspect comes in, right?

TOMÁS

Exactly. However, we need to create conditions for everyone to have access to digital resources. We need to provide more inclusive tools so that wealth can be redistributed and new wealth can be created for fairer distribution.

MAREZIA

I understand... 623 years away is a long time, so many new things, both good and bad. But I know I want to help. Tell me what I can do.

TOMÁS

And what about Aurio?

MAREZIA

Right now, he's not a threat. Don't worry. I'll take care of him. Tell me more.

Tomás smiles. Maresia embraces him, leaving Tomás flustered. Tomás projects various images of the research center's work onto the wall: free-roaming animals, wind turbines, dikes, organic farming, recycling centers, among others. Maresia smiles, excited.

CUT TO:

EXT. UN HEADQUARTERS—DAY 18
Musical scene

Tomás is participating in an anti-poverty protest. The signs held by the protesters read: "No exploitation of resources from poor countries," "Fight for biosphere protection," and "Distribution of

wealth worldwide.” Tomás chants slogans amidst the crowd.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND BEACH—DAY 19
Musical scene

Maresia is teaching a class to underprivileged students (ages 5–10). She shows them drawings depicting climate change. Leo runs at high speed, chasing Maresia. The students laugh.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND FRUIT PLANTATION—DAY 20
Musical scene

Tomás, Maresia, and Leo are gathered with farmers, teaching them how to cultivate the land in a sustainable and productive manner.

End of musical scene

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN—DAY 21

Aurio is weak, moistening his lips with an aloe vera leaf when he sees bare feet in front of him. He looks up and finds Maresia standing before him. Aurio tries to stand up to turn his back on her but fails.

AURIO

Did you come here to rub it in my face that you're the goddess of the planet?

MAREZIA

I came to tell you that despite the time you kept me captive, the world has incredible places and people. People who are committed to rectifying all the wrongs that have been done.

AURIO

You've always been an optimist.

MAREZIA

Aurio, the planet is recovering. People have come to realize that cooperation is the only way to sustain life on Earth.

Aurio remains silent.

MAREZIA (CONT'D)

Come back. The tropical forests need you. Our parents wanted us to work together. We can still fulfill their wish.

AURIO

Leave me. I deserve to die.

MAREZIA

I can't do this alone. Nor can I leave you behind.

AURIO

I trapped you in that cage, but you disappeared, and I never managed to find you again. Truth be told, I didn't try.

MAREZIA

We can't change the past, but the future can be different.

AURIO

Can you forgive me?

MAREZIA

If you shut down your businesses and promise to help fulfill the promise I made to our parents—"value and preserve nature, biodiversity, and all the natural riches of each region"—I forgive you.

AURIO

If I survive to fulfill that promise... yes.

MAREZIA

If people realize that sustainability works in the outermost regions, they'll want to apply it worldwide. Father always said we could use them as models, and he always knew what he was talking about.

Maresia extends her hand. Aurio accepts it. They embrace.

MAREZIA

Together, we'll heal you and the planet. While there's life, there's hope.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH—DAY 22

Aerial shot from the tropical mountain to the sea. We follow the movements of a healthy Aurio, moving among the tree branches toward the palm trees that mark the boundary between the beach and the mountain. Maresia swims in the sea, laughing, and runs toward the shore. Hope, the turtle, emerges from the sea behind Maresia, who embraces her. Maresia shouts out to the sea.

MAREZIA

I still beat you, Leo!

Tomás is sitting on the sand, laughing, amused by watching them.

CUT TO:

END