

CELESTRIA AND THE HIDDEN TELESCOPE

Written by

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Logline: When Celestria discovers a forgotten starborn telescope hidden in Nova's Observatory, they must confront visions of two possible futures: one as a celestial guard like their mom and one on Earth with their girlfriend Eve and their father, forcing them to choose where their heart truly belongs.

EXT. NOVA UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

NOVA UNIVERSITY overlooks the city from a peak, and the observatory is the old heart of campus with stone ridge walls and copper pipe spines.

INT. NOVA UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY - STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

There are stacks of star charts, boxes, lenses, and many astronomy-like objects crowded in this small storage room. The door clicks.

CELESTRIA (20, they/them, half-starborn, half-human, tall, dark brown hair) sneaks inside holding a flashlight with their girlfriend EVE (20, she/her, half-fairy, half-human, long pink hair, has glitter across her skin, average height), squeezing in behind them.

EVE

Celestria, you know the sign says  
"Authorized Personnel Only", right?

CELESTRIA

(jokingly)

I'm authorized by curiosity, Eve,  
and also the fact that I'm half-  
starborn.

They move in sync together. Celestria is scanning everything around them with intensity, while Eve is being cautious and just looking at everything around her. Celestria looks through a box and almost drops something.

EVE

(Quiet, but angry)  
Hey! Be careful!

CELESTRIA

(confident)

Hey, don't worry, baby. I will.

Celestria continues to look through boxes and pauses at an old wooden crate that is etched with white astronomy runes. Celestria sees text on the crate.

CELESTRIA (CONT'D)

(reading, confused)

"Ophieli-"...Nope, not her name. It  
says "Old Celestial". The letters  
shift.

EVE  
 (nervous)  
 That's not scary at all.

Celestria then opens the crate. They look through the crate and find an old brass TELESCOPE, engraved in starborn sigils that are worn out because of time.

CELESTRIA  
 It's like this telescope was meant to be seen by someone, like it was waiting for someone to look at it.

EVE  
 I mean, everything is waiting in here; it's a storage room.

Celestria takes the telescope out and mounts it on an old, antique tripod, the legs locking with a rocky clang. Once it is set up, all of a sudden, the telescope starts humming in a soft, high-pitched voice.

EVE (CONT'D)  
 (getting more scared)  
 Umm, I don't like that it is singing.

CELESTRIA  
 It's resonating.

EVE  
 With what? Bad decisions?

Celestria angles the telescope towards the small skylight above them, starlight beginning to show, and Eve looks with them. As they focus on the sky, the runes reveal and respond with a faint glow, purpose returning to Celestria.

CELESTRIA  
 (whispers)  
 Show me.

There is silence. In the eyepiece, the starfield shifts and reorders-

-A VISION: Celestria is armored as a CELESTIAL GUARD, dressed in a blue and purple guard uniform with a big gold star in the center, standing on a bridge of light.

EVE  
 Are the stars doing that...because of you?

CELESTRIA

It's not a show, it's showing the way.

Eve is scared and in awe of Celestria's bravery at the same time, while Celestria is calmer.

INT. NOVA UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY - STORAGE ROOM - LATER

The glow from the telescope pulses like a heartbeat. Celestria is drawn into it, while Eve is protectively watching Celestria.

EVE

Celestria! Take a deep breath, calm down! It literally is rewriting your eyes.

Celestria looks away from the telescope and at Eve

CELESTRIA

I can do this. The symbols, the visions, they are memorized in me. Like songs I have never heard.

EVE

(terrified, raising her voice)

This is not sounding good, babe. This feels extremely dangerous.

Celestria looks back into the telescope. The stars whirling-

-SECOND VISION: An apartment kitchen full of morning light. Celestria flips pancakes while Eve steals the first one. CARSON (44, Celestria's dad, short, dark brown hair) washes a mug, casually dressed. There is warmth and happiness.

CELESTRIA

Two futures. One in armor or one as a human.

EVE

How about we focus on not getting expelled?

The singing of the telescope continues to get louder and louder.

CELESTRIA

It all links together, the choice of duty and love holding the center.

EVE

You can't treat this like a flow chart; this is your destiny we are talking about.

CELESTRIA

Everything becomes understandable if you measure it long enough.

EVE

Cool, let's measure your safety then.

Celestria jokingly sighs. The telescope starts humming even louder now. Celestria looks over at Eve and, seeing that she is nervous, they grab her hand and leave the storage room.

INT. NOVA UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY - DOME FLOOR - NIGHT

Celestria moves both of them and the telescope to the main dome. The telescope is set. The shutter opens. The air tightens. Light comes from the shadows and reveals a bright figure, OPHIELIA (45, Celestria's mother, starborn, tall, long dark blue hair), through a projection made of light. She is wearing the celestial guard uniform.

OPHIELIA

(with an echo)

Daughter. This telescope was hidden because you were not ready.

CELESTRIA

You hid it from me this whole time because you were not ready to let me choose.

Eve is scared, but watching Celestria, trying to stay relaxed. The hum comes back, but this time deep and loud, harmonizing with Ophielia's voice.

OPHIELIA

The Guard needs you. The Guard needs you. A tear just opened at the gates; only you can close it.

EVE

They aren't a utility.

CELESTRIA

Mom, I'm hearing two calls. One from the sky and one from here. I don't know what to do.

OPHIELIA

Choice is a privilege of the  
protected. We protect, that is our  
choice.

Celestria flinches; the words hit her deep. Eve steps closer  
to Celestria.

EVE

You get a choice, Celestria; you  
can choose what you want to do.  
It's your life.

TELESCOPE POV: rapid visions flashing between the celestial  
guard battlefields, the kitchen, the dorm stairwells, patrol  
routes drawn across the Milky Way

CELESTRIA

(realizing)

If I choose one, I'm in a sense  
losing the other.

EVE

Not all of it.

OPHIELIA

Open the right door.

The machine overloads; Celestria and Eve run off.

INT. NOVA UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY - STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Celestria and Eve run to the stairwell, the hum of the  
telescope seeping through the building.

EVE

I don't like how it claims you, how  
she claims you.

CELESTRIA

It's where I'm from. It's part of  
me.

EVE

And part of you is here, with silly  
old me, your dad, and your favorite  
artist Laufey, of course.

CELESTRIA

(giggling a little)

Of course.

EVE

But for real, I'm scared. Not of the stars, not of all of this, but of waking up and you being...gone.

CELESTRIA

I'm also scared of choosing wrong and hurting the people I care about.

EVE

You won't hurt anyone for being honest about what you want.

CELESTRIA

(close to crying)

Then why do I feel like there is no right answer? I really don't know what to do. I need to figure this out once and for all.

Silence grows between them. They both take a deep breath and go back to the dome.

INT. NOVA UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY - DOME FLOOR - 5 MINUTES LATER

Celestria and Eve are back in the dome, the humming is back to being loud, and the runes on the telescope are glowing white. Celestria and Eve are holding hands. They both look at each other and then up to the stars when they hear Celestria's parents.

OPHIELIA (V.O.)

If you step forward now, the Gates open.

CARSON (V.O.)

Kiddo, whatever you pick, I'll back you. Just pick it because you want it.

The telescope starts to tremble, cracks racing along the brass.

EVE

Celestria-

CELESTRIA

Just one more time, and then I will decide.

EVE

I love you.

CELESTRIA

I love you more.

Celestria and Eve lean in to look through the telescope.

-RAPID VISION MONTAGE: The Guard saluting; Eve laughing in autumn leaves; Ophielia at the celestial gates; Carson sitting on the couch; a comet splitting; two rings; a funeral; patrol, home, patrol, home-

CELESTRIA (CONT'D)

(overwhelmed and loud)

Stop!!!

The telescope screams, cracking even more throughout the brass; it looks like it's about to explode at any moment. The eyepiece folds over completely, making Celestria not able to see anything. She grabs the telescope, and their skin begins to glow.

OPHIELIA

Stand up. Be who you are.

EVE

(grabbing their waist,  
emotional)

You already are! With me. Right now!

CELESTRIA

(In tears)

I want both!

EVE

Just choose one tonight and leave the door open for tomorrow.

OPHIELIA

You have to choose now! Choose!

EVE

You don't need to, Celestria!

CELESTRIA

Fine! I choose Earth!

Celestria exhales and lets go of the telescope. The telescope breaks even more. Brass shattering, glass cracking, and it explodes with dust dropping to the floor. Silence then returns. Both Celestria and Eve are startled, but relieved.

EXT. NOVA UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

Celestria and Eve go outside the observatory. They find a bench and sit down holding hands.

CELESTRIA

I still don't have the whole map.  
The universe is huge, and I'm just  
me.

EVE

Nobody has the whole map; we make  
it by experiencing life and walking  
to find it.

CELESTRIA

What if I regret it? What if  
tomorrow I want the celestial life  
more? Beat. This all still doesn't  
feel right.

EVE

Then we face that tomorrow.  
Tonight, you picked us. It's gonna  
be okay. How about some pancakes in  
the morning to make you feel  
better?

CELESTRIA

I would love that. Thank you for  
everything, Eve. I love you so  
much!

EVE

Of course, beautiful. I love you  
too!

Celestria lays her head on Eve, and Eve lays her head back on  
them. They sit with the starlight above them, a choice being  
made.

CELESTRIA

I don't need the telescope right  
now. I'm here with you, my Eve, and  
that's all I need.

FADE OUT.