

Volcanic Emotions

By

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INT. GREAT HALL OF MAREEN- DAY

A WHITE sneaker TAPS the ground impatiently. SKY BLUE eyes look up at the CLOCK which TICK TOCKS. A SIGH.

JAQUIE, 17, average height, BLUE hair, in all WHITE, sits in the looming great hall with the rest of her community.

THE ELDER addresses the crowd from a podium.

THE ELDER

And with the current water situation, we're not sure how much longer the main generator will be able to help us...

Jaquie rolls her eyes. Fingers TAP the arms of her chair. A glance at the clock. Tick tock. The Elder drones on...

THE ELDER

So without further ado, the travelers who we have chosen to take on this endeavor are: Julian Spokan and Jaquie Silver.

Jaquie's head pops up in surprise and confusion.

JULIAN, 17, skinny, over six feet tall, runs up to the front. His 100 watt smile lights up the room.

JULIAN

Gracious elder, wonderful community members, it is our honor to embark on this journey so that our community can have clean water again. We will not fail you.

A LITTLE woman hurries Jaquie to the front and shoves her next to Julian. Julian smiles excitedly at her.

Jaquie smiles sweetly. A smile dripping with sarcasm.

JAQUIE

Hell no. I'm not going on some weirdo volcanic trip. No thanks.

Julian's smile fades.

THE ELDER

Miss Silver, you are the chosen one. You must do this. Only you and Mr. Spokan can.

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JAQUIE

Um, no. I won't.

Jaquie looks at the expectant crowd. Eyes land on JOE, HARD-FACED, SQUARE-CHINNED. He glares. She reverts her eyes.

JAQUIE

Fine. I'll do the stupid thing.

The community claps. Julian's smile returns and he attempts to hug her. Jaquie rejects the hug and stalks out.

EXT. GREAT HALL OF MARIN - DAY

Jaquie exits into bright sunlight. Julian follows.

JULIAN

Jaquie! Hey, Jaquie!

Jaquie doesn't stop walking.

JAQUIE

What do you want?

JULIAN

Well maybe do you think we should talk about our trip?

JAQUIE

I'd rather not.

JULIAN

Oh, come on. It'll be fun. It's like we're going on a quest!

Jaquie spins around to face Julian, who bumps into her.

JAQUIE

A quest, really, Julian? That might actually be the lamest thing I've ever heard. It seems to me the Elder is just sending us on his errands because he's too lazy to do them himself.

Julian looks around nervously and lowers his voice.

JULIAN

Don't talk about the Elder like that! He's a great man! And we should be honored to be chosen for such a quest!

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Jaquie rolls her eyes and turns to walk away. Julian grabs her arm and smiles that glowing smile.

JULIAN
C'mon Jaquie, it'll be fun!

Jaquie sighs.

JAQUIE
Whatever.

She keeps walking. Julian smiles, satisfied.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Jaquie and SARAH, 17, walk along a path at the park. The park is messy, with DROOPY trees and plants, uneven BROWN grass, and a significant lack of beauty.

JAQUIE
Really though, I just don't understand why I have to be the one to do this stupid thing. And why do I have to do it with obnoxious Julian?

SARAH
Oh come on, Jaquie, he's just trying to be nice. Besides, the trip could be fun.

JAQUIE
He's too damn nice. And I doubt I could have any fun hiking up a ginormous volcano with a righteous prick who smiles too much.

SARAH
Girl, if smiling too much is really a problem for you, then I don't know what will make you happy. Just do it. You don't exactly have a choice.

Jaquie scowls.

JAQUIE
I know.

EXT. BOTTOM OF VOLCANO - DAY

Julian, in jeans and a t-shirt, runs to the bottom of the looming VOLCANO carrying a SATCHEL. He shows an air of over-zealousness.

JULIAN

C'mon Jaquie. I'll race you up the volcano!

Jaquie, in different clothes but still in all WHITE, comes into view. She looks with disdain at the volcano.

JAQUIE

There is no way in hell I'm racing you up that stupid volcano. I'm only here because they made me. So tone down the enthusiasm, okay? Geeze.

Julian looks taken aback and a little hurt.

JULIAN

Okay, fine. Whatever. Let's just ruin a perfectly good day with a negative attitude.

They begin to walk up the volcano in silence. Julian peeps at Jaquie-- she continues gloomily, paying him no attention.

JULIAN

So this water situation, right? Pretty rough, huh? I mean-

JAQUIE

I'm gonna be real with you, Julian. I don't like you, so let's not pretend that we're friends. We're just doing this because the town needs some mineral to clean the water, and for whatever reason, we were chosen to get it. So why don't you just shut that pie-hole of yours, okay?

Julian, shut down, looks at the ground as they continue up the volcano. The terrain is strenuous, with holes and bumps.

EXT. BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF VOLCANO - DAY

Zoom out as Julian and Jaquie's figures get smaller and smaller. The volcano is a red-brown and ENORMOUS. It could fill up most of the state of MAINE it is so huge.

The volcano looks peaceful- calm beauty. The world is quiet.

EXT. PARTWAY UP THE VOLCANO - DAY

Zoom back in to Julian and Jaquie hiking up the mountain. They are both sweaty and breathing heavier.

JULIAN

So I'm thinking, if I can get the adults of our community interested in improving the parks and the children of the community excited about being outdoors and staying active, the whole community will be healthier and the environment will be in such better condition. I mean, just think how much better our community will be!

JAQUIE

Wow. You really are one righteous son-of-a-bitch.

JULIAN

Really, Jaquie? Come on. You don't have to be mean all the time. We all have dreams, you know. You don't have to belittle everyone else's just because you're grumpy.

JAQUIE

Fine. Whatever. I guess you're right.

JULIAN

Thank you. I am.

A beat.

JULIAN

So... do you have any dreams?

JAQUIE

I dream about getting off of this fucking volcano. I mean, really, this is actually ridiculous. I'm so

(MORE)

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JAQUIE (cont'd)
done with this. We should just head
back and get the mineral from
somewhere else.

JULIAN
You know that only the crystallized
andron particle on the second level
of the volcano will help with the
water. We have to do this. The
elder has given us this mission.

JAQUIE
Fuck the elder. If he wants this
particle so bad, he'll just have to
get it himself.

Jaquie turns to head back down the volcano.

JULIAN
We have to get the particle. We'll
get in trouble if we don't!

JAQUIE
Oh no, 'trouble.' God forbid we
break the rules and do what we
want.

JULIAN
Please don't leave, Jaquie. I'm
gonna need help. I don't want to-

Suddenly the foundation of the volcano TREMBLES. The ground
RIPS with a CRACK and Julian loses his balance. He TUMBLES
into the crack, dropping the satchel.

JULIAN
AHHHHH Jaquie help!

The volcano is shaking FURIOUSLY, now, as Jaquie runs to the
abyss. Julian is hanging off the edge, hands bloody, shirt
ripped. FEAR PENETRATING his EYES.

JAQUIE
Hold on! I've got you.

Jaquie grabs Julian's arms and attempts to pull him out. The
ground shudders and her hands won't stop SHAKING.

JULIAN
I can't hold on much longer.

JAQUIE

No shit. Don't worry. I'll figure something out.

Jaquie FRANTICALLY looks around the trembling ground for something- anything. Finding nothing, Jaquie turns back to Julian and tries to pull him out again.

He attempts to grab a rock protruding from the ground when the tremors knock both Julian and Jaquie into the crack.

INT. CRACK IN VOLCANO - DAY

Julian and Jaquie land hard on the ground. Everything continues to tremble. Jaquie's once very white outfit is now covered in blood and dirt.

JAQUIE

OHHHH. God this sucks.

She rolls over in pain. Julian groans and slowly stands up.

JULIAN

You okay?

JAQUIE

Never better. I may have just broken my body, but it's all good, really.

Julian stumbles over to Jaquie and helps her up. He looks up through the hole.

JULIAN

How the heck are we supposed to get out of here?

He circles the cavern. Small chunks of rock begin to fall.

JULIAN

Okay, we've got to get out of here NOW.

JAQUIE

You don't say?

Julian approaches a large, flat rock and, with effort, pulls it underneath the hole. He stands up on it.

JULIAN

Okay, here. If you come up here, I can lift you up, and then you can help me pull me out.

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JAQUIE
Yeah, because that worked so well
the last time.

JULIAN
Well do you have any better ideas?
Come on!

Jaquie huffs and climbs onto the rock. Julian lifts her up
and she reaches her arms as far as they can go.

JAQUIE
Julian! It's working! Just a little
bit further! I'm almost there!

All of a sudden Julian's support from below disappears.

JAQUIE
Oh my god, FUCK.

Jaquie falls hard and we hear the CRACK of her ankle.

JAQUIE
(in anguish)
AHHHH.

Jaquie looks around and drags herself over to Julian, who is
lying motionless, blood seeping from his head a few yards
away. Rocks fall all around. She is uncontrollably SHAKING.

JAQUIE
Julian!

Jaquie shakes Julian.

JAQUIE
Julian, you little fucker! You
better not be dead! Don't be dead!
Dammit, don't be dead!

Julian is DEAD. LIMP body flopping as Jaquie holds him on
her lap. EVERYTHING shakes: Jaquie's body, ground, walls.

Parts of the volcano CRASH down around Jaquie. She begins to
cry hysterically and rock back and forth, head bent over
Julian, ankle pointed at a weird angle.

A piece of the volcano falls over the hole above Jaquie, and
everything goes BLACK. We hear SOBS.

EXT. PARTWAY UP THE VOLCANO - EVENING

The volcano is calm. A mess of cracks, broken pieces of earth, dried lava. It looks like a city in a disaster movie.

A group of 6 stumble up the uneven and slightly trembling volcano, carrying flashlights, rescue bags, and pickaxes.

MAN #1
Have you found anything?

MAN #2
Nothing! Dammit!

MAN #1
We're just going to have to keep looking.

MAN #3
Wait! Look! It's Julian's satchel!

Man #3 runs towards the satchel, and the others follow. Man #3 picks up the half-destroyed bag and looks around.

WOMAN #1
Here!

She points to a pile up of debris and rocks.

WOMAN #1
I bet they fell and the pit got covered up!

The search party gets to work. Man #2 eventually pulls up a large piece of rock. He points his flashlight into the hole and we see the torn up pile of teenagers in a corner.

MAN #2
I found them! Don't worry guys, we're gonna get you out of there!

INT. CRACK IN VOLCANO - EVENING

Jaquie holds Julian tight. Scratches, bruises, and blood. Her ankle is deformed. We hear RAGGED BREATHING.

EXT. CRACK IN VOLCANO - EVENING

The crack is uncovered. Woman #2 pulls out a ROPE LADDER, attaches it to a rock, and Man #4 starts down into the hole.

MAN #4

Oh god.

He runs to Jaquie and Julian.

MAN #4

Oh no! Oh, Julian. No. No. Jaquie!
Jaquie are you all right?! Oh no.
It's going to be all right. Jaquie,
you're going to be all right.

JAQUIE

(raspy)

Julian. Julian.

She will not let go of Julian.

MAN #4

I know. I know.

Man #4 gently pulls Jaquie from Julian and lifts her up.

FADE OUT

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A nurse rushes Jaquie on a stretcher through double doors. Some of the search party follows. CHAOS. VOICES.

NURSE

We need to get her breathing
stabilized. She probably took in
too much smoke and dust. She's
dehydrated and we've got to get her
into surgery for that ankle right
now!

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A brightly dressed couple, AMBER and MANNY talk to Man #1 by a large black van. They hold each other as Man #2 opens the back and carries out Julian.

The parents run to Julian and hold him tight. Sobbing. Falling to the ground. UTTER DESPAIR.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - NIGHT

A team of doctors works on Jaquie. She is hooked up to oxygen. Hands on her ankle. Tools in her ankle. MEDICAL KNIVES, BLOOD, BEEPING from the heart monitor.

EXT. OPERATING ROOM - NIGHT

Joe and his wife, EMILY, sit on chairs by the door, scared and clutching each other.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Jaquie sits up in her hospital bed. She clutches what is left of Julian's satchel in her hands.

She stares blankly, face covered in bruises and scratches. Foot in a large cast. Steady BEEPING from the heart monitor.

EMILY
(voice sounds hazy)
Jaquie? Baby? How are you feeling
baby?

SILENCE.

EXT. VOLCANO - DAY

A small group of people stand on the second level of the volcano. They dig in the ruins with shovels and pickaxes.

One woman, BECKY, slams a pickaxe into the volcano and reveals a shimmering substance. She digs it out and holds it up excitedly. The others hurry towards her.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Amber and Manny walk into the home, holding hands. TEARS.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Jaquie cries.

The elder enters. Talks to her parents. Everything is a BLUR. The elder glances at Jaquie and leaves.

Emily approaches the hospital bed.

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EMILY

Jaquie, please. Just say something?
Don't you want to talk about it?

Jaquie glances at Emily. Grabs the glass of water on the hospital bed table and throws it across the room. SMASH.

JAQUIE

No! I do NOT want to talk about it!

She shakes. Trembling hands in blue hair. Hands cover face.

Emily, at first startled, recovers, hugs Jacquie.

Jaquie SOBS.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM - DAY

Becky stands with her companions and the Elder, holding the crystallized andron particles in her gloved hands.

With the Elder leading, she sets it carefully in a huge machine holding at least two tons of water.

The elder smiles with relief and shakes her hand.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

A funeral service. Julian's PHOTO sits atop the coffin. FLOWERS everywhere. Amber and Manny hold each other and cry. An unusually high number of people attend.

Jaquie stands in the back, alone, on crutches, ankle still in cast, scratches and bruises a bit faded. Around her neck is a strap and buckle from Julian's satchel-- a NECKLACE.

Jaquie clutches the necklace. Shakes her head. Hobbles away.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Jaquie sits against a rotting tree, fingering her necklace. Crutches strewn on the uneven ground. Hair blue. SAD EYES.

Joe enters and sits down next to her.

JOE

Hey kiddo.

A beat.

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JOE

I know this is hard for you sweetie. I can't possibly imagine what you went through. What that possibly could have been like. And I won't pretend to.

JAQUIE

It's so hard.

Jaquie's chin trembles.

JOE

I know baby. But it's been a long time since you've really done... anything. And you know what I think? I think Julian would have wanted you to smile again. He would have wanted you to keep on living, and remembering, and he would have wanted you to change the world. He would have wanted you to be happy.

Jaquie smiles through tears.

JAQUIE

Yeah. He would have. He was so kind. And I was so mean to him. It's just not fair.

JOE

I know, sweetie, I know.

He puts his arms around her.

She rests her head on his shoulder.

EXT. THE ELDER'S OFFICE - DAY

Jaquie knocks on the door, leaning on crutches. The elder opens the door after a couple seconds.

THE ELDER

Jaquie! Well, isn't this a surprise? What can I do for you?

JAQUIE

Hello, sir. Could we talk for a few minutes? I've got an idea that I'd like to run by you.

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THE ELDER

Why of course. Come on in.

The both enter his office.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Jaquie walks along a path in the park.

She's dressed in all white, once again, but this time it is a WHITE T-SHIRT with "JULIAN SPOKAN MEMORIAL PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION" written on the right breast.

Her hair is now purple. She no longer has a cast, but she does have a slight limp. Behind her is a large group of adults. She touches her satchel necklace.

JAQUIE

And this is where, through safe digging and exploration, we were able to come across usable and accessible crystallized andron particles so that our water will stay clean and healthy to drink.

PARENT #1

But how do you know that it was safe digging? What if this digging has exposed us to dangerous chemicals?

Jaquie rolls her eyes.

JAQUIE

We actually made sure that we had people who had no idea what they were doing do the job. Because who needs safety or quality, right? Really, lady, we brought in experts to make sure everything was safe, I mean, if all the green and all the life and all the people isn't proof enough.

She continues to walk along the path. She pauses next to a playground, where an array of children play.

JAQUIE

This is the first park the coalition built. What we want to do is instill an active and healthy lifestyle in children, while also keeping them environmentally aware.

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A little boy runs up to Jaquie.

BOY

Jaquie!

He hugs her tightly, then runs off.

Jaquie smiles and then addresses her group.

JAQUIE

This concludes the tour. If you would like refreshments, we have a healthy snack bar over by the West section of the park. Have a wonderful day.

Jaquie leaves the group; continues to walk through the park. Eyes Amber and Manny sitting on a bench, somewhat happy.

Jaquie nods in recognition and both smile and nod in return.

Jaquie makes her way to a bench where Sarah is sitting.

JAQUIE

God, I fucking hate people.

SARAH

Girl, you know you love this. And you know Julian would be proud.

JAQUIE

Whatever.

But she smiles, ever so slightly, fingering her necklace.

THE END.