

Holtondome

Synopsis

SEG Holton is a farmer on a future Earth where deadly storms have forced what little remains of humanity to live in protective weather domes. His truck breaks down while hauling a wheat harvest back to Holtondome just as a lightning storm approaches. A black car rescues him before the storm hits, which surprises him because City folk can't usually be bothered to help farmers even for life and death. The driver, COOK, comments on Seg's blind left eye, and cautions him to be gracious to his bored passenger with enchanting blue eyes.

At Holtondome, the passenger, FI, declares that she does not like being alone and that Seg will be sleeping in her room. Seg's sister JEN objects, but Seg doesn't, so he moves in. Fi tells a story in the tavern about Holtondome's beginnings, which mentions a statue none of the residents know about. The story turns unexpectedly aggressive toward the sweet barkeep, but Fi compliments her in the end, explaining the entire escalation was meant as a lesson for Seg.

Seg gives her a tour of Appledome. They return to Holtondome with his childhood friend, VAL, who seems attracted to Cook. Seg sees a strange double-vision premonition of his brother outside of the dome, dying by a lightning strike. He investigates, not believing it himself, but discovers his brother was never accounted for. He convinces Cook to drive his weather-proof car outside, where they manage to rescue his trapped brother just before a lightning bolt hit.

Fi surprises everyone and becomes violent when she learns his brother had survived. She extracts from Seg that he'd had a vision, then confesses she has premonitions of people's deaths, too, and had been searching her entire life for someone like him.

After the traders arrive with Captain BHARTA, Seg has another vision of a woman dying on their way to interview his parents so Fi can learn more about his background. Seg also discovers the family medallions they all share have glowing lines that only he can see. The semi-annual interrogation from the Feds unexpectedly brings Seg and Val closer together, but turns disastrous when Val confesses during an impassioned session together that she illegally coerced Cook

to give her details about the City, breaking their Provider Pact. Seg also admits that Fi promised to take him away. Val makes him promise to take her, too.

Fi catches on that they made out and comes onto Seg strongly in retaliation, but backs off when she has a vision of Val dying. The family pendants, Fi also tells him, may be deadly to Holtondome if the Grand Chancellor finds out there here, but she won't tell him what they are. She takes him to a secret room in the center of the dome to hide them, where the statue from her story turns out to be real. She confesses Val is fertile, where Fi isn't, and never can be. They make out. Seg traces some mysterious black marks down the length of her body, which drives her into a frenzy. When he tells her about it, she says she doesn't have any marks.

Seg then pieces together, at her encouragement, that she's much older than she looks, to which she shocks him by admitting she's over twenty thousand years old. He can see her anxiety and intentionally takes the news in stride, for which she's grateful.

Things turn ugly when an insurrectionist shoots his mouth off about Seg's father—a man who promises to lift the trade ban by acceding to the Feds' demands. Seg punches him and is promptly arrested by Bharta for sabotaging negotiations, where he'll be tried in the morning and banished—a death sentence for any dome resident.

Fi and Val pull Seg's sister JEN to help dig up some dirt on the Feds that might help Seg. In the process, they discover a shoot-on-sight order has been issued for Val. While Fi is occupied, Val disappears, breaking her promise to stick by Fi's side.

Feeling she has nothing to lose, Val attempts to break Cook and Seg out of their holding cells so they can escape. Bharta catches them. Events turn violent and Seg realizes that Val's prophesized death is about to play out. At the last moment, Fi transforms into an otherworldly being and somehow changes her fate. Val suffers a gunshot wound to her shoulder but is otherwise fine. Fi pulls a series of favors and manages to get Val and Cook off the chopping block by accepting Val as her apprentice, and declares herself Seg's lawyer.

In a private session, Fi shows Seg pictures of her anatomy, which clearly aren't human. Seg is shocked but once again sees the trust she's put in him and takes the news in stride.

Fi convinces Bharta to allow Seg to attend the next storytime, where she regales the dome with a story of the history of the Mars missions, highlighting just how many resources and deaths the program has cost, bolstered by Seg's brother, who has become close with the head trader.

In a heated moment, Bharta kills Troy, triggering a dome-wide revolt. Bharta tries to kill Fi, but Seg interferes. Fi transforms again and somehow causes Bharta to die before he shoots Seg. The revolt leaves several residents and Feds dead, but also leaves Holtondome as a free community.

At Seg's brother's funeral, Fi gives an inspiring speech and reveals the location of the hidden statue. She then places a private call to the Grand Chancellor CHANG, allowing Seg to listen, where she admits the revolt was her fault. Chang agrees not to squash the revolt before a delegation is sent. It's also revealed that very few free Provider domes are left in the world, and that supplies are in a critical state.

Seg, Fi, Val, and Cook ready to leave for New Denver to meet with Chang. Seg drives off into the sunset, the whole world open.

Days later, a Fed force arrives at Holtondome and executes Jen's father. Jen runs to him, but a gravity anomaly sends Jen flying into a strange woman in shimmering armor—a woman who bears Fi's exotic features. The Feds refuse to back down at her behest. To Jen's horror, the woman causes every Fed soldier to explode in a fountain of blood. The woman demands to be taken to Fi. Jen obliges, steals a Fed vehicle, and drives the dangerous woman toward New Denver to keep her own family safe.