

MY COSMIC ROMANCE

written by

Luciano Mello

First draft (translated from Portuguese)
onzellfilms@gmail.com

EXT. DEEP SPACE - NO TIME

billion km from Earth, the Voyager probe crosses deep space, appearing as just a small dot approaching a nebula.

As we enter, we see the enormity of the nebula with a cosmic network of colorful gases, planets, stars, and other celestial bodies.

The probe causes a chain reaction causing the nebula to start firing rays crossing its stars with rapid electrical impulses.

The impulses run through the entire probe like lightning in a storm, and inside we see a disk with information from Earth. The rays run through the disk and images and sounds that are recorded on the probe appear and play at high speed.

The electrical impulses multiply and in the distance we see the probe leaving the nebula with its electrical impulses almost forming the image of a neural network connection. After the probe passes, the gases change color.

In seconds we cross space and see the second Voyager 2 probe.

Electrical impulses run through the Voyager 2 recording all its content.

We turn from the probe to the vastness of space, and a small blue light shines, that is Earth.

Immediately we cross space and, approaching Earth, we slow down.

The interstellar light ray continues towards Earth, crossing the atmosphere.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

We see a blue earth in a beautiful watercolor on what turns out to be a wine label and next to the bottle there is a pair of hands manipulating a phone and entering a dating app. It opens a profile of a smiling woman in a beautiful photo, that's Lara's profile. The fingers open the messages.

CARLOS

(typing)

Yes this one.

LARA

(text)

I know it's a lovely place.

CARLOS
 (typing)
 Great, see you there then?

LARA
 (text)
 Perfect, see you there.

WAITER (O.S)
 Would you like to place your order
 sir?

At an elegant restaurant on the edge of the Lagoon, CARLOS, 37 years old, black hair, well dressed with a plain checkered shirt and a blue dark jeans, a bit crumpled, he fixes his disheveled hair by the reflection of the cell phone, and with a friendly face he looks at the waiter.

CARLOS
 Not yet... I'm waiting for someone.
 Almost an hour later.

CARLOS (CONT'D)
 (typing)
 I'm waiting for you with a bottle
 of Gaia Wine.

He prepares the phone takes a photo of the bottle and sends it to Lara, that's when he notices that the messages are not read and her profile disappears, only "This user does not exist" appears.

His face of disappointment becomes noticeable and he lowers the phone

The Waiter comes back and asks if he wants to order. Carlos responds, disguising a lackluster smile.

CARLOS (CONT'D)
 Well, my friend... my friend!

He had an unexpected event and won't come. Can you bring the bill and open the wine for me please, for the road. Thank you.

WAITER
 Would you like a glass sir?

CARLOS
 Plastic?

WAITER
 Yes.

CARLOS
Thank you, no need.

WAITER
Okay.

The Waiter leaves and Carlos is left alone at the restaurant table.

EXT. FLAMENGO PARK - NIGHT

Carlos walks through the Flamengo Park with a bottle of wine in hand. He stops to take another sip of wine, noticing how pleasant the night is. The view from the top of the park has a starry sky and an inviting lawn. He approaches a tree and lies down on the grass, looking up at the stars.

He grabs his phone and starts to browse other profiles on the app, but quickly gives up. His expression is one of disbelief and he deletes his profile and puts the phone in his pocket. He puts his hands on his head and appreciates the stars again.

CARLOS
I shouldn't be upset... I can't
take this personally.

Another short sip of wine.

CARLOS (CONT'D)
I'm tired of this, always the same
thing and for what?
(pause)
All this search doesn't have an end

And what am I really looking for?

As he contemplates the sky, Carlos recalls a song and begins to mumble the lyrics.

CARLOS (CONT'D)
(singing)
A sign, a door to the infinite, the
unreal What cannot be said, after
all, is a man in search of more, of
more.

After all, like stars that shine in peace, in peace

Carlos falls asleep, even though he has only had a little wine. The bottle is almost full.

It is indeed a pleasant night with a clear sky and Carlos lying down, snoozing under the stars, when we notice that a light begins to move and stand out among the others.

Carlos's face starts to get illuminated and the light intensifies until it is uncomfortable. He rubs his sleepy eyes and opens them. At this moment, the light changes color to a weaker purple tone, he still sees everything blurred, and gradually regains his vision. The light takes on a humanoid appearance composed of a cosmic network of lights enveloped by dark matter and covered by various stars, galaxies, and nebulae and the lights flowing through the inside of its body that takes the form of a female body made of the universe, and what would be its hair is a long tail of light that connects to the sky.

Carlos is amazed, with his face illuminated by the colors of that unique being that materializes in front of him.

CARLOS (CONT'D)
(still amazed)

Hi

COSMIC BEING

NASA?

Where is NASA?

CARLOS
NASA? NASA? The US space agency?
It's far, you're in Rio de Janeiro.

COSMIC BEING
Where NASA.

CARLOS
It's far away. I think you took the
wrong turn.

COSMIC BEING
I got lost at the entrance to the
atmosphere. I have questions.

Well, if you want, I think we can contact someone there. My sister Bia is a physics and mathematics professor at the federal university, she works with this and maybe she can help.

COSMIC BEING (CONT'D)
To have answers?

CARLOS

I think so. What's your name, I can take you there if you want and maybe help if you want, I'm a biology teacher, well, actually now I'm teaching online, the school I worked for fired me, sorry I'm rambling... how can I call you?

COSMIC BEING

Me?

CARLOS

Yes, I'm Carlos and you?

COSMIC BEING

ANA, I only know this name, can it be Ana?

CARLOS

Yes it's a beautiful name, it suits you.

ANA

Suits?

CARLOS

Because you're... beautiful.

ANA remains silent as she does not understand what he meant and Carlos a little embarrassed by what he said, turns and follows the park trail,

CARLOS (CONT'D)

Sorry... it's better we go, we have to catch a bus, she lives in the city center

ANA floats for a while but lands next to Carlos who picks up the wine from the ground, and both walk along the park trail. Ana's clouds and lights are still connected to the sky even when she passes through solid matter, her gases and lights and cosmic webs flowing through her body cross trees as if they didn't exist, like a cosmic ghost. All the internal lights of her body shine and pulse in colors from purple to yellow and white, like galaxies through space, contained in a void of dark matter that even the strong lights of the park can't illuminate.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Ana and Carlos wait for the bus, on a street near the park some people are at the bus stop but seem to not be bothered by a cosmic being standing there as if it were something commonplace.

The bus arrives at the stop and the two get on, we can see the light tail leaving through the roof to the sky.

The bus departs.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

The bus is not full, only a few passengers, a young woman on her phone, another reading a book, the worker in the other corner sleeping, an elderly lady looking out the window.

Carlos and Ana are seated at the end of the bus, he has an expression of enchantment but with a certain nervousness on his face, as if he thinks of something to say but remains quiet.

His elbow bumps into what would be Ana's elbow when his skin passed through the dark matter as if it were a cloud, small rays connect to his skin giving a mild shock and he smiles.

INT. BIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

In a well-decorated but slightly cluttered apartment with children's toys, BIA, 40, dressed in casual and light clothing, picks up the toys and the doorbell rings. She's surprised because who could it be at that time. She goes to the door and opens it, and Ana's light illuminates Bia's face, which has an expression of surprise and enchantment until she looks at Carlos when her expression changes to a more inquisitive look.

BIA

Well, unexpected visit decided to come out of hiding.

Carlos laughs awkwardly.

CARLOS

Well, yes... Sorry. I want to introduce you to Ana. She has some questions and needs your help.

BIA

Hi Ana, of course I can help. Come in and welcome.

Carlos and Ana enter, Carlos gives the wine bottle to Bia.

CARLOS
I brought wine at least.

Bia notices that the bottle is already open.

BIA
What was you celebrating...

DAUGHTER
Mommy!!!

At this moment, a 4-year-old DAUGHTER runs and clings to her mother's leg, Ana is curious about the small human who looks at her.

ANA
Hello.

DAUGHTER
Hi, who are you?

ANA
My name is Ana now, but I don't know who I am yet. Your mother is going to help me.

Soon the HUSBAND, a 50-year-old man with curly hair in shorts and t-shirt, emerges from the hallway.

HUSBAND
Sorry, I dozed off before her.

Carlos plays with the niece who smiles embarrassed and sleepy.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)
Wow, what a surprise, Carlos well accompanied? And with wine!

BIA
Yeah, but it's almost half gone.

CARLOS
No! I just had two or three drinks.

Bia picks up her daughter and hands her to her husband, who enters the hallway with the child. Bia and Ana enter the living room and Carlos follows them.

EXT. BIA'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ana is sitting on the couch between Carlos and Bia, with a TV screen in front of them, with a "Zoom" conference with 6 scientists.

Bia's two cats are circulating Ana's legs, purring.

ANA

When the Voyager passed by me, I explored it and inside it had a message about you all. I deciphered the golden disk. And I noticed there was another Voyager and I went after it and deciphered the other disk, I understood some information and not others.

BIA

The information is about humanity, the idea was to tell about our existence in this universe.

PROFESSOR 1

Ana, why in the feminine form?

ANA

It was the design that was on the Probe. There were many instructions about the human body, I just reproduced as close as I could.

RESEARCHER 1

Excuse me, through space and time this doesn't make sense, nothing is faster than light and it would take many years for you to get here.

ANA

I didn't come by light, in fact I didn't come, I'm there and here at the same time, there are paths that are not by light but by darkness.

RESEARCHER 2

Darkness, do you refer to Dark Matter?

(thinks)

To be faster than light, it would only be by...

BIA

Quantum entanglement. Which explains this connection.

(MORE)

BIA (CONT'D)
(points to the hair
connected to the sky)
Can I touch your hair?

ANA
Yes.

RESEARCHER 3
If this is it, it's fantastic,
we'll be able to revolutionize
physics.

RESEARCHER 1
It's possible, this would prove
several theories.

BIA
I don't feel any matter or force,
almost as if it doesn't exist, I
just feel heat and a slight
electric discharge.

RESEARCHER 1
Ana, how do you navigate like this
through dark matter?

ANA
I think human minds are still not
ready to understand the complexity
of...

BIA
Wait a minute, does that mean you
don't know?

ANA
Yes, I really don't know, I can't
explain how, I just know how to do
it, in fact this was the first
time, I just followed the flow and
the trail of the Probe.

PHILOSOPHER 1
Ana, would you be God's
consciousness.

ANA
God?

PHILOSOPHER 1
A creator of everything, of the
earth and the universe and of us
humans.

ANA

I don't believe I am God, I didn't create anything, nor do I know any creator of everything.

PHILOSOPHER 1

Humans believe in a creator of everything, and that the universe was created and all life is controlled by God.

ANA

An interesting concept, do these small beings that inhabit your body and keep you alive believe that your consciousness, that guides this complex biological conglomerate is their God? After all, it's you who's in control, your actions determine the destiny of their life.

The philosopher 1 thinks but shakes his head with a clear I don't know in his expression.

PROFESSOR 1

Why us. And the other forms of life in the universe? Have you visited other planets?

ANA

I don't know of any other form of life, you all only sent a probe into space.

RESEARCHER 4

The fact that you are conscious is impressive, until now we believed that consciousness

ANA

In truth, I don't know, I never noticed anything, space has always been lonely and silent until your Probe passed by.

PHILOSOPHER 1:

Maybe you always had a form of consciousness, and the probe brought you information, perhaps language helped, what is consciousness without information?

BIA

Yes, almost like an artificial intelligence.

PHILOSOPHER 1

I think it's more than that, because knowledge is more than information, it's understanding, and that is linked to living and experiencing.

RESEARCHER 1

Makes sense. How long will you be on Earth, Ana? Can you come here to talk some more, do some tests?

ANA

Time is strange to me, I can't maintain this projection for very long, I believe I will only be here for a few more Earth hours.

BIA

Oh, that's too bad. Do you plan on returning?

ANA

It's not a choice of mine.

Carlos is upset by this information, tries to disguise and gets up for the kitchen.

ANA (CONT'D)

I cannot understand the meaning of this consciousness, of this voice that questions me.

PHILOSOPHER 1

Ana, actually, no one here can explain this."

INT. BIA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Carlos helps himself to a piece of delicious carrot cake with chocolate frosting, continues eating until he reaches the door where he can observe Ana talking, he leans against the doorframe admiring her with a certain sadness in his gaze.

HUSBAND

I can't believe you're eating your niece's cake.

Carlos turns around worried.

CARLOS
I'm sorry I didn't know...

HUSBAND
I'm just joking with you, but
you're a fool.
(Laughs)
So, did you find a decent job?

Carlos forcedly laughs and turns back to the living room and ignores the question while looking at Ana. The Husband approaches Carlos.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)
She's beautiful.

CARLOS
Yes she is.

HUSBAND
So, did you hit that?

CARLOS
(turns his head)
Of course not, she doesn't even
have a body.

HUSBAND
But she's a woman...

CARLOS
No body, no gender.

HUSBAND
Nothing to do with it, you're so
politically correct and being
prejudiced. Get over it. Cosmic sex
must be good.

CARLOS
That's not what I'm saying. She
doesn't have a body.

HUSBAND
She doesn't have one but you can't
stop looking at HER and you're all
ashamed.

Carlos takes the plate to the sink and starts washing it.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)
Now I understand what the "I"
stands for in LGBTQI+ is
Interstellar.

Carlos stays quiet and heads towards the door.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)

Put soap on this, you wash poorly
as hell, every time you come here I
have to wash everything again.

Carlos puts the plate on the dish rack and returns to the living room.

EXT. LIVING ROOM OF BIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bia and Ana are standing while Bia drinks her wine.
Gesticulating strangely as if in labor.

BIA

It's crazy, it came out of me, look
at your luck, you don't have a
nervous system,
(Laughs and drinks)
but look it's a pain that
transforms you.

ANA

It's impressive how your colors and
lights change when you talk about
it.

BIA

It's Love that transforms.

The two are silent, reflecting on the conversation.

ANA

I feel like I can't answer your
questions.

BIA

I say the same, I would like to
answer yours.

Carlos grabs the wine from the table and approaches them.

ANA

How do we exist without knowing?

BIA

Ah I don't know, the more I
question the more doubts arise,
what I know is that I am here now
and life is lived one day at a
time.

(Drinks wine)

(MORE)

BIA (CONT'D)

And we fill this emptiness we feel
with wine.

Everyone is silent Carlos drinks his wine

BIA (CONT'D)

What a pleasure to meet you, Ana, I
think you should take advantage of
your remaining hours getting to
know a little more about us humans.
Carlos can accompany you through
the city.

ANA

Yes, I want to know. Let's go
Carlos?

CARLOS

Let's go.

EXT. BOARDWALK - NIGHT

The city of Rio is beautiful as always, with its old
buildings and boardwalks, the streets are not full, just a
few bars with tables on the sidewalks where people chat. Ana
and Carlos continue to walk, some homeless people sleeping on
the ground along the way.

ANA

Do all these lives that make up
your body have consciousness?

CARLOS

No... I don't think so,
consciousness is only mine, at
least it's the voice I hear.

Carlos thinks for a bit.

ANA

Are you their God?

CARLOS

God of my cells and molecules? I
don't think so.

CARLOS (CONT'D)

Curiosity is a characteristic of
the consciousness of any living
being.

ANA

Am I alive then?

CARLOS

Yes, you are a free consciousness,
without the burden of carrying a
body. I wish I could free myself
from my body.

ANA

Are you trapped?

CARLOS

In a way, yes, I don't have
absolute control over the body, and
one day this body will kill me.

ANA

And after that?

CARLOS

I don't know. Do you know?

ANA

No.

Ana points to a spider in a web between the leaves of a
plant.

ANA (CONT'D)

What is this being, does it have
consciousness?

CARLOS

We call it a spider, it's an
arachnid, yes it has consciousness,
it's just different from us humans.

Ana points to a roach on the sidewalk, Carlos gets scared and
circles Ana out of fear of the roach, Ana notices the nervous
system.

ANA

And that one?

CARLOS

Also, all living beings have
consciousness.

When Ana looks at Carlos from her point of view, we discover
that she only sees the magnetic fields and electrical
impulses that run through people's bodies, the colors and
intensities change, it's as if she sees the world as a huge
and advanced magnetic resonance, she notices the electrical
pulses change pulsing in the color of fear a light yellow
that quickly returns to light blue.

ANA
What was that?

His nervous pulses change to light red.

CARLOS
Sorry, I have a certain phobia with
roaches, it's silly I know I think
I inherited it from my mother.

ANA
Why do you apologize?

CARLOS
I apologize... it's because I
project my insecurities...
sometimes it's my fault and that
you.
(pause)
You're right, I don't know why I
apologize.

They walk along Copacabana beach boardwalk, where we see all kinds of people from curious tourists, annoyed residents, and workers in their jobs, in the background a couple argues because she goes to another side of him with an apprehensive face, the city life continues until they reach the entrance of Garota de Ipanema park at post 7.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

At the edge of the Arpoardor, people pass by some look but most are more concerned with their vacations and the daily routine of the beach workers, which was empty due to the hour. There is trash scattered on the sand and some people enjoying the view. At night, the darkness of the sea blends with the sky and the horizon disappears as the lights of the boats and stars shine as if they were close.

Carlos and Ana continue talking, and Ana notices a yellow fungus spreading on a tree. To her, it is just electrical impulses, the trees pulse slowly, and the fungus pulses like a city seen from above at night.

ANA
What is this?

CARLOS
These are fungi that grow on this
type of tree, they are quite common
around here...

ANA

They are very similar to you humans. Your nerve impulses seem like those of your mind.

CARLOS

It's very possible... but how do you know? What do you see?

ANA

I don't see, I perceive.

CARLOS

Feel?

ANA

I perceive the impulses and try to translate them according to the information I have.

CARLOS

That is feeling.

ANA

So I feel you.

CARLOS

Feeling is the foundation of everything.

Ana stops for a moment to enjoy the view, the sound of the waves crashing on the beach blends with the sound of the nighttime beach workers.

ANA

Of everything that?

CARLOS

Of our existence. Maybe, I don't know, I think so, why exist in this life without feeling anything.

ANA

Do you feel what from me? Do you perceive me without seeing me?

Carlos closes his eyes

CARLOS

Yes, I perceive your warmth and the sounds your body makes.

ANA

It's because of the Earth's atmosphere.

CARLOS

Besides, I like your curiosity, how your body changes color and your hair follows upward.

ANA

I don't know what sense this would have, what does liking mean?

CARLOS

I can't explain, I like being with you, in this little time we've spent together, you never criticized me, you never judged me at any moment. I like that.

Ana walks to the ramp that leads to the beach and Carlos follows her.

ANA

It's almost time to go.

CARLOS

Don't go.

Ana notices the colors of Carlos change, his pulse in sync with his electrical impulses.

CARLOS (CONT'D)

Stay here with don't go, let's be together.

ANA

Together?

CARLOS

Yes, you and me.

ANA

Like your sister and the other human the male and the little one?

CARLOS

Yes.

ANA

I don't have a body, why do you want to stay with me?

CARLOS

I...I...I don't know how to explain it, I just feel it.

ANA

You can't explain why I would be important to you? Then why do you ask me to stay here?

CARLOS

Because I don't want to be alone.

ANA

You are not alone. Why do you want me to stay here if you have all of humanity around you?

CARLOS

Because I feel good with you, I don't feel good with humanity, I feel alone. I choose you and not humanity.

ANA

This seems very illogical to me, you only humanize me for your interest in staying with me even knowing that staying here is not a choice I make.

CARLOS

Talking like that sounds a little out of context.

ANA

Am I wrong?

CARLOS

You're right.

ANA

I know

CARLOS

Take me with you, I don't want to stay here.

ANA

How? Your body wouldn't survive outside this atmosphere?

CARLOS

I don't want this body, I can't stand this life anymore, it's a bunch of animals devouring each other in every possible size and shape.

ANA

An unjust simplification for the complexity of your existence. Besides, this doesn't seem like a choice to me.

CARLOS

I'll kill myself and release my consciousness to follow you into space.

ANA

And are you sure that's what will happen?

CARLOS

No... I'm not sure, just hopeful.

The two are silent, Ana approaches Carlos.

ANA

Space is a lonely place, it's not a place for you.

Carlos remains silent, head bowed. Ana approaches him and gently takes his chin, lifting his face.

ANA (CONT'D)

Enjoy the human experience, because it is rich and very interesting.

We see a close-up of Carlos looking at Ana and a close-up of Ana.

ANA (CONT'D)

I'm going now.

Ana begins to float towards the sky, looking at Carlos who becomes smaller as she moves away. We hear the sound of a heartbeat and a pulsing sound from the body of Ann Druyan from the golden disc.

She stops and quickly returns, embracing Carlos in a kiss but gradually her body changes shape and covers Carlos entirely who remains there with eyes closed with a smile on his face. Ana returns to her form and again begins to float into space.

Carlos becomes smaller as she moves away, until he becomes a small dot in the city.

CARL SAGAN (V.O.)

Look again at the dot. That's where it is. That's home. That's us.

All those who we love, who we know, who we have ever heard of, all the human beings who have ever lived, are living their lives.

All our mixed joys and sufferings."

EXT. SPACE - NO TIME

We see the River from above and the night with its lights and in a zoom we see other nearby cities and soon we see the South American continent, with its lit cities and connected as another neural network.

CARL SEAGAN (V.O.)

Earth is, so far, the only known world that harbors life. There is no other place, at least in the near future, where our species can migrate. Visit, yes. Like it or not, at the moment Earth is our station. It has been said that astronomy is an experience that forms character and teaches humility.

Perhaps there is no better proof of the madness of human vanities than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underlines the responsibility of relating more kindly to each other and preserving and loving the pale blue dot, the only home we know.

EXT. YARD - NIGHT

We return to Earth on a Beach, Carlos is an old man arranging a telescope pointing to the sky, the GRANDSON a teenager of about 14 years old comes and yells Grandpa! Mom is calling. Carlos stores the telescope and follows but stops in the middle of the way and falls. He stays there and when the grandson realizes he approaches quickly.

GRANDSON
Grandpa! Grandpa!

The grandson kneels and raises the head of the grandfather.

GRANDSON (CONT'D)
Mom!!! Mom!!! Come Here...

Slowly the camera moves to the sky

FADE TO BLACK

THE END