

THE OUTLANDS

EZRA LEVIN AUDITION SIDE

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Dr. EZRA Levin (late 50's) sits at his cluttered desk among piles of books, papers, and artifacts. A small desk lamp illuminates the room.

He looks upwards to the door as if someone just walked in.

EZRA

Ah! You're here. Good. I was just contemplating these ancient texts, reflecting on their wisdom and age.

He spreads one across his desk.

EZRA (CONT'D)

When one is so deeply connected to the past, one comes to appreciate the eternal cycle of time.

(beat)

A cycle that I find both comforting and deeply unsettling.

Ezra gets up and walks over to an artifact that sits on his shelf. He picks it up.

EZRA (CONT'D)

And this... Older than anyone alive today. Older than our nations, our wars, and our petty disagreements.

(beat)

And yet, it bears witness to human experiences no different than ours. Experiences like pain, love, conflict, and sacrifice.

He carefully places the artifact down. The heavy burden of responsibility stretches across his face.

EZRA (CONT'D)

I've carried this... This secret my entire life. It's something I wish I could share, especially with those close to me, like you.

(beat)

But the truth is, some secrets are just too dangerous to expose. They not only endanger me, but they put the lives of everyone around me at risk.

Ezra sits in his chair. He locks eyes with the imaginary person he's talking to.

EZRA (CONT'D)

I often lie awake at night and ponder the ethical implications of my double life.

(beat)

Can a man serve two masters? Both his duty and his friendship? I wish the answers were easy... But I do know this. There are greater things at play. Things that surpass even the deepest of friendships.

He closes his eyes and collects his thoughts for a moment.

EZRA (CONT'D)

So, if you're wondering why I keep these secrets, why I don't share everything with those dear to me, it's because sometimes the act of love isn't in what you reveal.

(beat)

It's in the the things you choose to conceal. Some burdens are meant to be carried alone, heavy though they may be.

Ezra stands and walks to a cabinet. He opens a drawer and gazes at something we can't see.

EZRA (CONT'D)

I've taken an oath. An unbreakable vow to protect something that has the potential to change the course of history.

(beat)

And protect it, I shall. Even if it means I must walk this perilous path alone.

(beat)

That includes sacrificing our friendship. Or even my life for a future that I may never see.

He closes the drawer and pulls a small key from his pocket. He locks the drawer.

EZRA (CONT'D)

Time is a cycle, yes. But every so often, the wheel turns in unexpected ways. And when it does... I will be ready. For myself, my ancestors, and for my friends that I keep in the dark in order to keep them in the light.