



“**T**his is it.” Jyoqu says. “It’s the real end to our story.”  
 Josh and Leisl are crying as the temperature becomes almost unbearable. Ori is hunched in a corner, once again. Xavier looks devastated - a devastation that seems strangely deep for reasons you can’t quite pin down.

Lukas is slack-jawed, dumbfounded, as if in disbelief of his own mortality. He grasps for the cardboard box. “If I’m going to go out, I want to see what it is. Before I die.” Slowly, delicately, he opens the box on his lap and peeks at the contents. There’s a strange emotion on his face - Sadness? Happiness? Hope? Nostalgia?

He looks up at everyone. “I think... we’ll be okay.”

“What do you mean?” Leisl yells, screaming as the metal beneath her feet begins to glow red. The sound of a rushing, ferocious burning roars above her voice as the ship hits the surface of Beta-One. “AIEEEEE!”

And then it stops.

The heat disappears.

The sound fades to nothing.

To nothing.

Nothing.

Nothing.

...

It’s impossible to describe the enormity of the nothing.

“At the heart of Beta-One...” Lukas says, “... is the single largest field of voidspace.”

Nothing.

You can sense the others, floating nearby.

“I know what the voidspace is now. Why it’s here.”

He lets go of the cardboard box, and it falls away into the nothing. What was inside it that could have told Lukas so much?

“You all belong somewhere else. Not here. You need to find your way back, and the voidspace is your starting point. Just imagine a new place. A new world. Another story.”

You drift towards the others, and grab hold of Oriana’s and Xavier’s hands.

“I’ll be fine. Jyoqu and I and our ship are going to emerge from a different voidspace, far from Beta-One, unharmed. But you all need to leave this universe.”

The five of you have formed a ring. You can sense something new, something different, taking from from the nothingness...

...Xavier lets go of your hand, and drifts away from the circle.

“Xavier!” You yell. “Get back here! We’re going home!”

You can only hear his voice now.



“...I think this is home, though. With Lukas. With Jyoqu. This world feels like it was made for me. It’s everything I need. It feels exciting. It feels *brave*.”

“Xavier...” Ori’s voice. You grip her hand a little tighter as you reach for Josh’s and close the circle of four.

“I’m going to be honest, I don’t really have any future back home. I’m a nerd. I’m a nobody. But now I’ve found somewhere I belong.”

“You know we’d be happy to have you.” Joqu. They sound so distant, now.

“I’ll... I’ll miss you guys.” Xavier’s last words to you trail off into nothing.

To nothing.

Nothing.

Nothing.

And then, a pinprick of light.

And you can sense the four of you, emerging into another world.



# Difference of Opinion

Author: Hadyn Tang



## Difference of Opinion

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1			2	3	4	5	6	7			8
	9						10			11	
		12				13			14		
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		43				44					
	45						46				
47				48				49			



## Act II Scene 4

# Difference of Opinion

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### Across

- 1 Cream or oven (5)  
 3 Chant-like or choosing (8)  
 7 Bounce or break (4)  
 9 Agent or stall (6)  
 10 Spreading or scoundrel (6)  
 12 Painter or capture (6)  
 13 Restarts or outcomes (7)  
 15 Types of alcohol or radios (7)  
 16 Poles or prejudice (4)  
 17 Laboured or strolled (6)  
 18 Reference or container (4)  
 20 Flexing or mocking (7)  
 22 Hairstyles or tapestry walls (5)  
 24 Campfire treat or mud volcano (5)  
 25 Sunshades or marchers (8)  
 26 Sea trout smolt or place of another (5)  
 30 Unstopped or untried (8)  
 32 Stayed or ooze (5)  
 34 Lingering or drifting (7)  
 35 Lunatic or enrage (6)  
 37 Is indebted or chooses (4)  
 39 Taxes or young soldiers (6)  
 41 Thread or viewing (6)  
 43 Australian women or cries (7)  
 44 Trick or beginning (6)  
 45 Disease or international permits (5)  
 46 Antelopes or damages (7)  
 47 Philippine coins or summits (5)  
 48 Stationery tool or without supports (8)  
 49 Solo songs or awry (5)

### Down

- 1 Interjection of dismay or lure (5)  
 2 Internet receivers or Australian dogs (7)  
 3 Chipping tool or right/left-handed (6)  
 4 Manages or stupid (5)  
 5 Interjection of shock or miniature (5)  
 6 Trifling or cycling (8)  
 7 Himalayan goat or claw (5)  
 8 Species groups or weblike membrane (4)  
 9 Exploring or inserting (8)  
 11 Computer fanatic or be crying (5)  
 12 Talked hypocritically or rumour (6)  
 14 Cave or positive electrode (5)  
 18 Easter cake or hard glassy mineral (6)  
 19 Dry dark scab or engraver (6)  
 21 Entrapping or gliding (7)  
 22 Unsmoothed or undirected (7)  
 23 Shouts or pinks (5)  
 27 Related to sun or bayonet (5)  
 28 Undresses or vomits (5)  
 29 Hitting or trumpeting (7)  
 30 Unbroadcast or not used to travel (7)  
 31 Superhero or tapsters (6)  
 33 Rutabagas or curses (6)  
 36 Ebbs and flows or levels (5)  
 37 Wait for or gobsmacked (5)  
 38 E Asian trees or flat circles (5)  
 39 Gorge or flavourful (5)  
 40 More foolish or shiner (7)  
 41 Moisture or animals done milking (7)  
 42 Beseches or foreperson (4)