

FOSSILS

by  
Mondo Ghulam

Impact, Act III

Draft 04

INT. COSY, SCIENCE-OBSESSED CHILD'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Ellie 11, grips her window-ledge and glares through the void, up at the dark inscrutable sky.

She strokes her heavy fleece vest. Beside her, a shelf full of textbooks: Astronomy, Advanced Math and Physics. Scores of place-markers peek out of them.

Posters of Galaxies and Stars dominate the walls.

She sits down on a nobbled bright-yellow balance cushion and rocks. Scattered on the floor around her, chunks of brown and blue plasticene - torn apart.

She flicks through an astronomy book, more text than pictures. She throws it behind her.

An adult hand scoops-up the discarded tome. JANE, 30's, eleven years of worry and love, watches Ellie hunched in protest. Jane remains rooted to the spot.

ELLIE

There are trillions of planets  
Mum, why ours? Why not the moon?

Jane hugs the book to her chest. She looks anywhere but Ellie and spots a book on the shelf, jammed with tabs.

JANE

What's the second law of  
thermodynamics pumpkin?

Ellie brightens at the challenge, searches, then!

ELLIE

Nothing can be created or  
destroyed.

JANE

So, if that's true, then  
everything that's here must have  
always been here.

ELLIE

But I don't remember being here,  
before.

Jane sits beside her, but keeps a gap between them. She picks up the plasticene debris and works it together. Ellie rolls a bright-red textured ball between her hands.

JANE

Remember the dinosaurs?

ELLIE

Of course Mum!

Ellie opens her vest - a T-Rex (dinosaur) T-shirt.

JANE

They were all of life on earth.

ELLIE

And then they died.

JANE

Yes. But life went on.

ELLIE

And we became life?

JANE

Maybe life became us.

Jane packs the plasticene ball and offers it to -

ELLIE

Daddy didn't go on.

Jane falters, then places the WHOLE ball of brown-blue plasticene on the floor between them.

JANE

Do you remember Daddy's love?  
(then, like a secret)  
Do you still feel it?

ELLIE

Yes.

JANE

So do I.

Ellie burrows into Jane's body, hidden. Hesitant, Jane returns the embrace. Gentle at first then tight, close.

Jane opens her eyes wide and looks up to the window.

She watches the dark sky glow violet then, RED.

CUT TO: