

PASSIONS OF UTOPIA

a Telenovela

Created by

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1. EXT. ÓBIDOS YEAR 2123 - DAY

The sun reflects on the white walls of the medieval buildings of Óbidos. The narrow-cobbled streets are empty. At first sight, it looks like time has been standing still here. The high city walls prevent any sounds from the outside world from coming in. The only sound we hear is the soft sound of an inexplicable buzz. The sound reveals the futuristic setting in which Óbidosis is based.

2. INT. SWIMMING POOL WELLNESS SPA ÓBIDOS - DAY

A big, impressive swimming pool with art nouveau elements painted on the high walls. You can still hear the buzzing sound, but now you can see where it's coming from. The soft, vibrating sound is generated by the two girls NINA (18) and Johanna (18), sitting on the edge of the swimming pool. They look at each other with overly expressive faces. They are having a conversation, but they don't use words. The girls use the modern communication technique of Telepathy instead. Every time they use telepathy, we hear the vibrating buzzing sound.

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)

Don't worry about it. You got submitted. Be happy.

JOHANNA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)

Yeah.. it's easy for you to say. You are the one who received a special mention.

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)

So what? No one will remember that anyway.

Johanna shrugs and wants to jump into the water. Nina grabs her arm.

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)

Please... we dreamt about going to acting school since we were kids. We finally made it. School starts next week and we can finally leave this town. Can you just let it go?

Johanna sighs. She looks at Nina and puts on a fake smile.

NINA (CONT'D TELEPATHIC V.O.)

See.. that's my girl. I need you in acting school. Someone has to keep me

company so I won't miss Thomas too much.

JOHANNA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
I don't understand why you need him anyway. Boys are useless, you are better off without them.

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Are you crazy? You are talking about the men I am going to marry and have plenty of kids with.

Johanna's face falls.

JOHANNA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
(A bit jealous) well, let's see about that.

Johanna jumps in the pool.

3. INT. RECEPTION WELLNESS SPA - FOUR DAYS LATER

Johanna walks into the room. She sees Nina bending forward behind the desk. Nina looks tired. Johanna places her index finger on her temple and taps two times to turn on the transmission telepathy mode.

JOHANNA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Hey... any news from your dad?

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
I received a telepathic message this morning. He needs to stay in a wheelchair for at least six months.

JOHANNA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
(genuinely concerned) Oh no... what are you going to do?

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Honestly, I don't know. Someone needs to stay here to look after the spa and to take care of my dad. It's just...

Nina sighs.

NINA (CONT'D TELEPATHIC V.O.)
It is my dream you know... I don't want to stay here. I've waited my whole life for this opportunity and now...

NINA (CONT'D TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Thomas already offered to help me out
here. We could run the spa together.
He told me that this could be good for
us. We could see each other every day,
we could start the life he always
wanted.

Johanna looks at Nina. The thought of being so close to
Thomas every single day makes her heart skip a beat.

NINA (CONT'D TELEPATHIC V.O.)
But...

JOHANNA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
But?

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
I want to be an actress.. I don't want
to run the spa.

Johanna keeps looking at Nina. There is a long moment of
quiet.

Johanna inhales.

JOHANNA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Let me take over then.

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
What? What do you mean?

JOHANNA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Let me run the spa. I can look after
your dad.

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
What? You can't be serious.

JOHANNA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
I am. This is your dream.

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Yeah... but this is our dream. You
also want this.

JOHANNA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Yes. But I am not as good as you are.
You received the special mention...
remember?

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Yeah but..

JOHANNA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
(Interrupts Nina) Just go...

Nina hugs Johanna. Johanna looks away to hide the smirk on her face.

4. INT. WOODEN CABIN HOUSE FATHER NINA - 10 YEARS LATER

Nina enters her father's bedroom. Nina has grown up. She wears a long dress with long sleeves and high heels. She looks in the mirror and tucks her hair behind her ears. Nina looks like a typical soap opera star. She sighs one last time and looks at the dark corner of the bedroom. A person lies in bed. Nina comes closer. A small spotlight reveals her FATHER (50) face, looking at Nina from his bed. Nina taps her temple to activate her telepathic mode.

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Hey dad...

No response. Nina sees her father turning his head towards the other side. He is turning his gaze away from Nina.

NINA (CONT'D TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Sorry it has been so long

Still no response.

NINA (CONT'D TELEPATHIC V.O.)
How have you been? Why are you still
in bed?

Her father turns his gaze back to Nina.

FATHER (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
What took you so long to come back?

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Dad.... I (beat) Where's Johanna?

FATHER (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
I don't know. I never see her. She only comes by every now and then to serve me some leftovers. She took everything Nina. She took the spa.

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)

What? What do you mean.. she took the spa? The spa is yours? It is ours?

FATHER (TELEPATHIC V.O.)

Not anymore. She runs the spa now. She never gives me my medicines. She just left me behind. She doesn't want me to get better. If I get better, she knows she can't run the spa anymore. So, she holds me captive. I've been in this room for almost a decade. I want to get out.

Her father starts crying.

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)

But I don't understand. Why isn't Thomas taking care of you?

FATHER (TELEPATHIC V.O.)

How do you know about Johanna and Thomas?

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)

I came back immediately after graduation. I came back to see you, my beloved father. And I came back to see Johanna. To apologize for leaving her behind. But then I found out that she took Thomas away from me. She took the two men I love away from me.

CUT TO:

5. INT. DARK ROOM - FLASHBACK 6 YEARS AGO

We see Nina standing in a dark black room. She looks at something. She has tears in her eyes.

THE 360 CAMERA PANS INTO THE DIRECTION NINA IS LOOKING AT.

We see Thomas and Johanna hugging and laughing with each other.

End of flashback.

CUT BACK TO:

4. INT. WOODEN CABIN HOUSE FATHER NINA - FOLLOW UP

Nina her eyes are filled with tears again. She perches on the side of her father's bed. Her father tries to pull himself up in bed.

FATHER (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Oh Nina. Thomas doesn't love Johanna.
He never did and he never will. He has
always been in love with you.

NINA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
But why are they together then?

FATHER (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Because Johanna has been giving Thomas
love tea for the last nine years. She
knew he didn't love her back. So, the
only way to make him love her was by
giving him the magic tea. But Thomas
found out. So, they divorced one year
ago.

CUT TO:

6. INT. DARK ROOM - FLASHBACK 1 YEAR AGO

We see Johanna standing in the dark room. She holds a small glass vial of poison in her one hand. In her other hand she holds a cup of tea. We see her putting a few drops of the poison in the cup of tea.

Then we see THOMAS (30) standing behind Johanna. He looks over her shoulder and catches Johanna while she is trying to poison him.

End of flashback.

7. INT. RECEPTION WELLNESS SPA - SAME DAY

Nina enters the spa after being away for so long. The reception hall looks empty. Despite the empty hall, the room more or less still looks the same. Only without any customers. Nina reaches with her index finger towards her temple to activate the telepathic mode, but hesitates and brings her hand back towards her stomach. She walks towards the desk. She hears a stumbling sound coming from behind the desk. She knows Johanna is there.

NINA

Good afternoon. Can I make an appointment for the Special Treatment?

JOHANNA (OFF-SCREEN BEHIND THE DESK)

I'm sorry. That treatment is no longer available.

Johanna raises behind the desk. She stands face to face with Nina now. A not so pleasant reunion. Johanna wasn't expecting Nina.

NINA

Well hello again. You seem surprised to see me, don't you?

Johanna freezes.

NINA (CONT'D)

Get away from this desk. This isn't your spa anymore. From now on, I take over.

JOHANNA

You don't have the right to tell me what to do.

NINA

In fact, I do. This spa belongs to me. And to my father, whom you have neglected for the last ten years. How dare you..

JOHANNA

You were the one who left remember? You left me in this huge mess. I sacrificed my whole life for you. My dreams, my future.

NINA

Well it seems you managed quite well without me, didn't you? You took the spa and my biggest love away from me.

JOHANNA

You can have him if you like. He and your father are the most ungrateful bastards on this planet. The only thing he can do is cheat on me. I despise him.

NINA

So, the only solution was to poison him? Is that the only way you can make people love you?

JOHANNA

You have no right to talk. You took me for granted. You never thanked me, you never invited me to your premieres. You never said anything to me in the press. I was your best friend. I would give my life for you.

NINA

Well, I wish you did.

That was the last straw that broke the camel's back.

Johanna grabs Nina by the collar and pulls her over the desk. Nina tries to escape Johanna's headlock.

She pulls Johanna her hair. Johanna slaps Nina in the face.

The two girls start wrestling. They roll over the ground.

Nina trembles as she turns. She pulls herself up and quickly tries to walk away from Johanna.

Johanna grabs Nina by her ankle and Nina falls forward. Nina's face bangs against the desk. Nina lies unconscious on the floor. Her head is bleeding.

Johanna stands up and hangs above Nina. She holds Nina's arm, takes her wrist, and checks Nina's pulse. She counts the pulses. Then she takes Nina's other arm and moves her body behind the desk. She grabs a device out of the drawer and starts the Face Swap Procedure.

8. EXT. MANSION NINA - DAY

Johanna, dressed and face-swapped as Nina, arrives at Nina's Mansion. The mansion is situated on a plot of unkempt land. It looks old and dilapidated. It seems abandoned and left to languish, with Mother Nature fast reclaiming the exquisite architecture. Only the turret and brickwork are more or less intact.

She walks towards the front door. Johanna seems surprised. She gasps, eyes looking upward. She turns her gaze and sees an old, small name plate added to the front door.

Apparently, she didn't get the wrong address. This is the place where Nina lives.

9. INT. MANSION NINA - DAY

Johanna, as Nina, steps through the front door and enters the mansion. She walks through the entrance hall.

Johanna tries to turn on the lights, but there is no electricity. The place is a mess of crumbling plaster and peeling wallpaper. It has been left to rack and ruin. However, amongst the debris, architectural gems can still be glimpsed.

Johanna shifts her gaze to a table in the middle of the corridor. She walks towards the table. Opened letters lay across the table. Johanna grabs the letters and starts reading them carefully.

CUT TO

We see Johanna lying on the floor, surrounded by debt collection letters and subpoenas. She is still not done reading.

10. EXT. MANSION NINA - EVENING

Johanna, still as Nina, opens the front door and starts running. She stops halfway, drops to the cold, upkempt ground, and falls on her knees.

Johanna howls, her eyes burning scarlet...

11. INT. RECEPTION WELLNESS SPA - NEXT DAY

Nina's body still lies unconsciously on the cold floor behind the desk. She wears Johanna's clothes and her face looks different too: it is almost impossible to recognize her. We see the consequence of Johanna's face swap procedure: Nina's face and Johanna's face are merged.

Suddenly, the door opens and Thomas runs wicked fast towards Nina. He pushes Nina's father, who is still in a wheelchair.

THOMAS

Nina!!!

Thomas stops, parks the wheelchair, and kneels beside Nina. He holds her head in his hands. He taps two times on his temple to activate the transmission telepathy mode.

THOMAS (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
What has happened to her face?

Nina's father takes a closer look and turns his gaze towards the device, still laying on the desk.

FATHER (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
It looks like Johanna used the special treatment...

Thomas looks at the device. He sighs. He knows exactly what is going on.

Thomas softly slaps Nina in her face to attempt to make her regain consciousness.

Nina, as Johanna, wakes up. Thomas holds Nina in his arms. Nina opens her eyes and looks at Thomas. She starts crying. Thomas turns off his telepathy mode again.

NINA
Thomas... I

THOMAS
Shhtt.. it is okay. You are safe now.

NINA
Thomas I... I... I am so sorry.

THOMAS
You don't need to apologize.

NINA
No, I do. I left you here.. with her.
I abandoned you.

Her gaze shifts from Thomas to her father, still sitting in the wheelchair. Her father's eyes look deep into Nina's, tears dripping from their eyes.

NINA (CONT'D)
I abandoned both of you..
(Beat)
I am so, so sorry...
(Beat)
Can you both forgive me?

Thomas holds Nina even tighter. For a moment, they stay like this. Then their eyes shift and find each other. They do not blink, the moment fraught. Then Thomas nods.

Finally, they kiss.

12. INT. ROOM IN CHURCH - DAY

Nina, still with Johanna's face, looks in the mirror. She wears a beautiful, long, white wedding dress. Nina applies bright, red lipstick. She tries to apply the color as close to the edges of her lips. In the background, we hear the organ start MENDELSSOHN'S WEDDING MARCH. Nina tries to finish her make-up quickly.

CUT TO

13. INT. DARK ROOM - FLASHBACK 1 YEAR AGO

Nina sits at the table. All the debt collection letters spread out across the table. Nina doesn't read the letters. On the contrary, she pretends the letters don't exist. Nina puts her fingers on the two spots on her temples. She moves the two spots around with her fingers in circles. She starts the Teleportation procedure.

Nina's gaze turns to a big suitcase in the corner of the room.

NINA (SPEAKING TO TELEPORTATION APP)
One trip to Óbidos, please.

CUT TO:

An empty room, without Nina and her suitcase. She disappeared. The letters still laying on the table.

12. INT. ROOM IN CHURCH - FOLLOW UP

Nina, as Johanna, looks in the mirror one more time. She hears the wedding bells and inhales one last time. A small smirk appears on her face. We know this smirk, as Johanna put on the same smirk 10 years earlier when she came up with a plan to take over the Spa and Thomas.

Nina stands in the doorway and closes the door behind her.

THE END.