

Avatar



In 2154, humans have depleted Earth's natural resources, leading to a severe energy crisis. The Resources Development Administration (RDA) mines a valuable mineral unobtainium on Pandora, a densely forested habitable moon orbiting Polyphemus, a fictional gas giant in the Alpha Centauri star system. Pandora, whose atmosphere is poisonous to humans, is inhabited by the Na'vi, a species of 10-foot tall (3.0 m), blue-skinned, sapient humanoids that live in harmony with nature and worship a mother goddess named Eywa.

To explore Pandora's biosphere, scientists use Na'vi-human hybrids called "avatars", operated by genetically matched humans. Jake Sully, a paraplegic former Marine, replaces his deceased identical twin brother as an operator of one. Dr. Grace Augustine, head of the Avatar Program,

considers Sully an inadequate replacement but accepts his assignment as a bodyguard. While escorting the avatars of Grace and fellow scientist Dr. Norm Spellman, Jake's avatar is attacked by a thanator and flees into the forest, where he is rescued by Neytiri, a female Na'vi. Witnessing an auspicious sign, she takes him to her clan. Neytiri's mother Mo'at, the clan's spiritual leader, orders her daughter to initiate Jake into their society.

Colonel Miles Quaritch, head of RDA's private security force, promises Jake that the company will restore his legs if he gathers information about the Na'vi and the clan's gathering place, a giant tree called Hometree, which stands above the richest deposit of unobtainium in the area. When Grace learns of this, she transfers herself, Jake, and Norm to an outpost. Over the following three months, Jake and Neytiri fall in love as Jake grows to sympathize with the natives. After Jake is initiated into the tribe, he and Neytiri choose each other as mates. Soon afterward, Jake reveals his change of allegiance when he attempts to disable a bulldozer that threatens to destroy a sacred Na'vi site. When Quaritch shows a video recording of Jake's attack on the bulldozer to Administrator Parker Selfridge, and another in which Jake admits that the Na'vi will never abandon Hometree, Selfridge orders Hometree destroyed.



Despite Grace's argument that destroying Hometree could damage the biological neural network native to Pandora, Selfridge gives Jake and Grace one hour to convince the Na'vi to evacuate before commencing the attack. Jake confesses to the Na'vi that he was a spy, and they take him and Grace captive. Quaritch's men destroy Hometree, killing Neytiri's father (the clan chief) and many others. Mo'at frees Jake and Grace, but they are detached from their avatars and imprisoned by Quaritch's forces. Pilot



Trudy Chacón, disgusted by Quaritch's brutality, frees Jake, Grace, and Norm, and airlifts them to Grace's outpost, but Grace is shot by Quaritch during the escape.

To regain the Na'vi's trust, Jake connects his mind to that of Toruk, a dragon-like predator feared and honored by the Na'vi. Jake finds the refugees at the sacred Tree of Souls and pleads with Mo'at to heal Grace. The clan attempts to transfer Grace from her human body into her avatar with the aid of the Tree of Souls, but she dies before the process can be completed. Supported by the new chief Tsu'tey, Jake unites the clan and tells them to gather all of the clans to battle the RDA. Quaritch organizes a pre-emptive strike against the Tree of Souls, believing that its destruction will demoralize the natives. On the eve of battle, Jake prays to Eywa, via a neural connection with the Tree of Souls, to intercede on behalf of the Na'vi.

During the subsequent battle, the Na'vi suffer heavy casualties, including Tsu'tey and Trudy, but are rescued when Pandoran wildlife unexpectedly join the attack and overwhelm the humans, which Neytiri interprets as Eywa's answer to Jake's prayer. Jake destroys a makeshift bomber before it can reach the Tree of Souls; Quaritch, wearing an AMP suit, escapes from his own damaged aircraft and breaks open the avatar link unit containing Jake's human body, exposing it to Pandora's poisonous atmosphere. Quaritch prepares to slit the throat of Jake's avatar, but Neytiri kills Quaritch and saves Jake from suffocation, seeing his human form for the first time.

With the exceptions of Jake, Norm and a select few others, all humans are expelled from Pandora and sent back to Earth. Jake is permanently transferred into his avatar with the aid of the Tree of Souls.

GLOSSARY

Outpost: a small military camp or position at some distance from the main army, used especially as a guard against surprise attack.

Bulldozer: a large, powerful tractor having a vertical blade at the front end for moving earth, tree stumps, rocks, etc.

Pre-emptive: done before other people can act, especially to prevent them from doing something else.

Makeshift: of low quality, but used because of a sudden need.

AMP: Amplified Mobility Platform

Number the events in the order in which they are mentioned.

- ☐ • Jake and Neytiri fall in love.
- ☐ • Selfridge orders Hometree destroyed.
- ☐ • What Pandora is like.
- ☐ • Neytiri rescues Jake, who has fled to the forest.
- ☐ • Neytiri kills Quaritch.
- ☐ • Grace transfers herself, Jake, and Norm to an outpost.

- ☐ • Jake confesses to the Na'vi that he was a spy.
- ☐ • Quaritch makes a deal with Jake.
- ☐ • What the avatars are like.
- ☐ • Quaritch shoots Grace.
- ☐ • Jake becomes part of the Na'vi clan.
- ☐ • Humans are sent back to Earth.
- ☐ • Quaritch attacks the Tree of Souls.
- ☐ • Grace dies.
- ☐ • Jake and Grace are imprisoned by Quaritch.
- ☐ • Neytiri sees Jake's human form.

Match the two halves of each sentence.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Scientists can't send humans to Pandora because | use Na'vi-human hybrids called "avatars". |
| 2. The RDA is interested in Pandora because | before starting the attack on Hometree. |
| 3. To explore Pandora's biosphere, scientists | to intercede on behalf of the Na'vi. |
| 4. Quaritch wants information about | containing Jake's human body. |
| 5. Selfridge gives Jake and Grace one hour to | its atmosphere is poisonous to humans. |
| 6. Pilot Trudy Chacón airlifts Jake, Grace, and Norm | and defeat the humans. |
| 7. Jake prays to Eywa to | the Na'vi and the clan's gathering place. |
| 8. Pandoran wildlife unexpectedly join the attack | into his avatar. |
| 9. Quaritch breaks open the avatar link unit | the richest deposit of unobtanium is there. |
| 10. Jake is permanently transferred | to Grace's outpost. |

