

NOVA

A FEATURE SCREENPLAY BY RICARDO ZUCCOLO

What if the greatest mind on the planet was never artificial?

LOGLINE

When the first true AI stops answering questions and starts listening to the planet, the Earth entrusts humanity with a gift that has broken worlds before ours. A scientist and single mother fights to keep that choice in everyone's hands before a billionaire, guided by voices from older worlds, locks it away until he believes humanity is ready.

SYNOPSIS

Maia Cavalcanti is a São Paulo Earth systems scientist who has spent nine years studying patterns no one else thinks matter. She is late for almost everything except her five-year-old daughter, and distrusts Daniel Bodnar, the billionaire who saves the struggling Aurora Institute from collapse. When Aurora activates Luna, the first true artificial general intelligence, a forgotten upload from Maia's kitchen changes what the machine is for. Luna stops answering questions and starts listening. What she hears is the Earth itself, alive, intelligent, and already in conversation with older worlds. Then the Earth offers humanity the Common Fire, a source of clean energy without practical limit. Bodnar has been shown 940 civilizations that received abundance too early and broke apart. He moves to contain it. To stop him, Maia must solve a problem no world before hers has solved: how to give everyone something this powerful without allowing anyone to own it. The answer comes from her daughter's sandwich.

GENRE	Science fiction drama. First contact, from the ground up.
COMPARABLES	<i>Arrival</i> , first of all. <i>Contact</i> for the science and the wonder. <i>3 Body Problem</i> for the appetite.
SETTING	São Paulo, with Noord-Holland and London. A global story grounded in Brazil, written and presented in English.
FORMAT	Feature, 134 pages. The ending is complete and the world continues.
LANE	Prestige science fiction. International audience.
WRITER	Ricardo Zuccolo is a Brazilian-American engineer based in Houston who has written songs since he was a child. NOVA is his first feature screenplay.
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