

SYNOPSIS:

Where spirituality meets a normal life, Vernada is a fictional, short, romantic philosophical drama hybrid about two people who experience a connection beyond the physical. Andrey Tarkovski meets Yasujirō Ozu and Fan Ho for a collaboration.

SCENE 3.

EXT. UNIVERSITY BUILDING - TWO HOURS LATER

She walks out, starts walking along a street, she's never been here before. A guy appears behind her, he's walking in the same direction. He catches up and starts walking parallel to her on the other side of the road, she notices. She turns around the corner, appearing to have lost him, not that she was particularly worried.

Vernada looks to her side to see a cafe. It looks nice and green inside, she enters. The next moment she sees the same guy enter too. She looks away, a bit confused. Only a bit as she's quite mellow, so you can barely see any facial expressions if any at all. She orders a coconut latte at the counter, he comes up to the counter to order too. She finds a seat, sits down, starts to sip on her drink, without checking up on the stranger. He puts his coffee cup on her table, sits down next to her.

OCEAN

Which course are you on?

VERNADA

Economics.

She finally looks up at him, not blinking, not exposing any sign of discomfort.

OCEAN

Mine's microbiology.

Complete silence between the two as they sit looking in different directions.

VERNADA

Why are you here?

OCEAN

It's not my first time.
Did you think I was after you?

VERNADA

It's my first time.

OCEAN

Coffee's good.

He finishes his last sip very quickly.

OCEAN (contd.)

Goodbye for now.

And walks out.

She looks out the window to see him leave. Looks away. Picks up her cup again and sips as if nothing happened.

SCENE 4.

EXT. DIFFERENT UNIVERSITY BUILDING BACKGROUND. NEW DAY. SUNNY
- MIDDAY

Vernada sits by a statue. He comes up to her. She's fiddling with her hair.

VERNADA

Hey.

OCEAN

Hey.

I'm going down that street today.

He looks towards his right or left side.

VERNADA

Me too.

Are you going right now?

OCEAN

Right now is good.

VERNADA

Me too.

She finishes plaiting her hair, slides off the statue and they start walking.

Ocean keeps slowing down to explore/window shop, eyeing the space as he passes.

OCEAN

I've never walked on this street before.

VERNADA

You'd think having lived in the city you'd get to know the place.

OCEAN

Look at that, isn't it cool?

Vernada looks down, almost smiling with her eyes. They keep walking.

VERNADA

You know when the cells shed... What's the process of cells shedding called?

OCEAN

Think it's...

He stops, tries to think. Vernada stops right after and stares at him.

OCEAN

I don't remember right now.

VERNADA

It's okay to say I don't know.

They stop at a traffic light. Vernada slowly, subtly looks him up and down. She takes her hair stick out and passes it to Ocean as she fixes her hair. Meanwhile, he puts it in his pocket/bag without hesitation.

Ocean starts to 'break the ice' as they cross the street.

OCEAN

Where are you actually from?
Does a hometown exist for you?

VERNADA

Yes, technically I was born in a small village which
translates to 'Fires'.

OCEAN

'Fires'?

VERNADA

Yeah, bonfires.. sometimes explosives.

OCEAN

Cool.

SCENE 8.

INT. EVENING. VERNADA'S HOME - JUST PAST MIDNIGHT

It's late. Eano, Monte, Ocean and Vernada are all back at her's, with Kaira present. They've just finished playing cards and proceed to throw them on the table. Meanwhile, Ocean starts putting them back in the box. We catch them mid conversation about interior design.

EANO

Where interior design meets rituals.

KAIRA

Like in this house.

MONTÉ

Yeah. I took out the plastic drywall anchors and replaced them with the metal variant, now we're allowed to call it a 'case study house'.

KAIRA

How Bauhaus of you.

Eano

Now we're in the 'prime proprietors' category.

Kaira shows the two friends out. Ocean stays behind. Vernada exits the room with empty glasses, starts turning the lights off, room by room. There's only a few left to switch off, but Vernada decides to approach Ocean.

VERNADA

You're welcome to stay. There is room.

Ocean doesn't get a chance to say a wo-

VERNADA

It's this way.

She leads him into her bedroom, where the lights are off. Ocean sits down on the bed. We see a few shelves covered with normal things: flowers, wooden figurines, an hourglass, accessories. Other than that, the walls are pretty empty. Her desk only has one pen, a lamp and a few papers on it. Vernada exits to turn off the last switch in the living room. She comes back in. She sits down on a cushion opposite him, leaning against a wall.

VERNADA

I know what you're thinking, I'm fine down here. Sometimes sleep better on the floor.

She gets up and starts walking across to the window/sliding door.

VERNADA (contd.)

Anything you need? Some water?

There's a glass of water already on the windowsill.

OCEAN

No, I'm good. Thanks.

He lays down on his side, finally.

VERNADA

I almost wish I didn't have to sleep sometimes. So I could have more time to do things.

She looks at Ocean.

VERNADA
You're quite quiet.

OCEAN
Quieter than usual?

VERNADA
Plain-spoken is the usual.

Ocean curves a smile, one that is very hard to notice, but is still there.

VERNADA
I'll sit for a bit, I'll say goodnight now though.

She goes back to sit in her spot, her legs tucked underneath her laterally, to her left side.

OCEAN
Goodnight.

Ocean still has his eyes open, as if wide awake..

Vernada takes a few solid seconds to stare at the water gently shaking on the windowsill.. We can see a reflection of the motions on her face, with three dots forming a triangle on her forehead.

VERNADA
(quieter than usual)
That window always lets a bit of air in..

She starts getting glossy eyes.

Ocean turns to face Vernada, now with his eyes closed.

OCEAN
No wonder you get cold feet..

He opens his eyes slowly, sees her eyes watering. She sheds a tear or two. He closes his eyes. Again, slowly.

Vernada comes to lie down next to him, the distance between them being equivalent to almost a meter, a third less than. She looks at him, calms down before closing her eyes too. They are content. They fall asleep.