

First Day of Work!



PILOT

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"DREAM FACTORY" OPENING

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF CLOUD WORLD

Giant masses of clouds in a blue sky have an entire metropolis on them. The city is made of cloud buildings and cars, with round shapes and weather-related references everywhere.

In one part of town is the campus of the Dream Factory, led by a tall building that puffing white smoke.

EXT. SIDEWALK OUTSIDE DREAM FACTORY - DAY

NIMBUS is anxiously walking on the sidewalk. He is a blue, round-ish, cute cloud-like boy. He is wearing a slightly ill-fitting top, pants with suspenders, and a large backpack.

Ahead of him to his left is the billowy, majestic "Dream Factory." A pastel blue cloud girl in a dress, AURA, whizzes up to him. She is tall, slim, and bursting with excitement.

Aura and Nimbus are new trainees, fresh out of Cloud School, which contrasts some of the older, more hardened workers who pass by them.

She tugs on his arm, almost tugging him off-balance.

AURA

Aren't you soooooo excited Nimbi?

NIMBUS

Aura, for the last time, call me
Nimbus. We aren't in Cloud School
anymore.

Aura is a fast talker, and her words almost blur together as she rants, and goes through multiple emotions in one go.

AURA

(resigned)

I know.

(annoyed)

First day of work.

(excitement)

Ooooh, I wonder where we'll be
assigned!

(anxious)

Hopefully I get the creative
department-- I will just evaporate of
boredom if I get something like

(shudders)
packing.

She evaporates dramatically then comes back, giggling.

NIMBUS
 If they hear any of your great ideas,
 you'll definitely get put in creative.

A new bunch of cloud-forms stream from the doors and rush past. They range from darker blues and purples, to yellow and glowing white-- these are NIGHT WORKERS.

AURA
 Ooh! Night workers!

Nimbus stares at them and considers their jobs.

NIMBUS
 I'm not sure I'd be able to do the
 night shift. I like to be up with the
 sun.

AURA
 I might want to try it. It's probably
 super different though. Ya know,
dreams-

She mimics sleeping.

AURA (CONT'D)
 Instead of d--ream--mmss.

She spreads her fingers out wide like a rainbow, implying something bigger.

NIMBUS
 I suppose sleep dreams are more
 straightforward.

AURA
 Maybe... but we're day workers for
 now. What are you hoping for?

NIMBUS
 Oh... I don't know. I'm just gonna go
 where the wind blows.

A particularly heavy breeze comes by, pushing him forward, off-weight with his backpack. He brushes it off.

NIMBUS (CONT'D)
And I'll be fine wherever.

They turn onto the steps and head up towards the massive doors.

AURA
(sighs)
You're lucky you're so easy-breezy!

She seems genuinely upset by this, but the thought is soon forgotten as they reach the entrance.

The doors open inward to reveal a grand, white lobby. At the back is a large floor-to-ceiling window showing the expanse of the factory beyond.

INT. DREAM FACTORY FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Workers pull and shape clouds from a giant white mass.

One worker, not paying attention, keeps reaching behind them and pulling fluff, adding to their cloud, not realizing they are pulling from another worker's station.

The second worker is trying to shape a symmetrical cloud and is dismayed every time he turns it and adds more fluff, it ends up lopsided again.

Others are carefully mixing up vials of color from large dispensers to match colors with a key card recipe.

Most are pleasant swirling colors, but one worker has a gray sludge. They add more and more trying to match it to the silvery-purple their sheet has, but it overflows the vial.

Others inject various glowing, sparkling serums into clouds.

One station does database matching with people around the world.

Another packs clouds into bubbles and shoots them out into the sky below.

One bubble traps an ID card. The worker frantically runs to catch it as the bubble shoots out the pipe of the factory.

INT. DREAM FACTORY LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Nimbus and Aura enter, the place is busy with workers hustling about, no one seeming to notice the newcomers.

On the left is a large open doorway, with a deserted secretary's desk and a hallway. To the right are open staircases leading in both directions.

AURA

Let's see... we're supposed to meet in Room 228.

She marches straight through the door on the left and down the hallway. Nimbus looks around, uncertain, but follows.

NIMBUS

Shouldn't we ask someone?

AURA

Don't get your hydrogen in a bunch! 2 means the second floor. From there, we just keep walking and we'll find it eventually!

They walk down the hall, jump in an elevator and she confidently jabs 2. They get off and a sign in front of the door reads "200-220 <--, 220-280 -->".

INT. THE SECOND-FLOOR OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Aura shoots down to the right and down the hall, they see the glimpse of another girl with blonde hair, SKYE. Aura and Nimbus get to 228, which looks like a tiny office that is locked, dark, and empty.

They stand awkwardly in front of it for a bit, then SKYE doubles back and passes them, glancing at the door number, and then quickly going down the rest of the hall.

AURA

You think this is the right one?

NIMBUS

It looks deserted.

AURA

I'll bet that girl who just passed by is looking for it too! Should we follow her?

NIMBUS

Er... let's just head back to the lobby-- and get help. Are we even sure we're in the right building? It's a big place...

AURA

Hmm.

She takes out her cloud phone and taps at it furiously for a bit. She holds out her screen to the sign.

AURA

The message says 228. 228--

(she shakes phone)

228!

(she taps the sign)

Okay! Well?

Aura rolls her eyes and heads back to the elevator, Nimbus still looking around anxiously and trailing behind.

INT. DREAM FACTORY LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Back in the lobby now, Aura and Nimbus pass by a vending machine.

AURA

Ooh, snacks! What should I get?

She murmurs to herself while emphatically examining the options.

NIMBUS

We can get snacks later, we don't want to be late.

AURA

It's fine! It'll just take a minute.

Now am I feeling sweet... or salty...

Nimbus looks around, then checks his watch.

AURA (CONT'D)

Sweet, or salty. Sweet, or salty.

She chants this and it turns into a little melody which she hums, then turns to him.

AURA

What would you get?

NIMBUS

None of them. We just had breakfast.

She rolls her eyes then goes back to the machine, pressing her hands and face against the glass.

AURA

Oof, I don't know, I'll get them all.

She presses buttons rapidly and receives a wide assortment of snacks; Cheese Clouds, Sugar Swirls, Marshmallow Puffs, Sunny Smiles, Lightning Crackers to name a few.

Aura stuffs these into her bag and then heads back to the main part of lobby, Nimbus trailing apathetically.

There is now a small crowd of other trainees.

Skye, the girl from before stands sheepishly in the corner, trying to disappear.

TONNER is a hulking, slow-moving, dark blue cloud-boy who stands and stares straight ahead.

AERIAL and AERO are twin clouds that sit and chat among themselves emphatically.

ZEPHYR, a tall and charming cloud-boy smiles at them and slides over. AURA and NIMBUS join them awkwardly.

ZEPHYR

Dream Factory, day one! Are you guys excited?

AURA

Totally! What are you hoping to be doing?

ZEPHYR

I'll definitely be a runner since I'm so fast. It's kinda in the name... I'm Zephyr.

AURA

Good point. Anyone else?

Aerial, a purple girl-cloud, and Aero, gray boy-cloud step up. They are in sync, but not identical.

AERIAL

Aerial.

AERO

Aero.

AERIAL

We'll probably be put in production,

ya know--

She mimics pulling fluff and shaping it robotically, Aero mimes injecting the fluff. They whirr and beep like machines, Nimbus chuckles softly.

NIMBUS

Nice to meet you two. I'm Nimbus, and this is Aura.

Aura smiles but keeps glancing at her cloud phone.

AURA

We went to find the room but it's just an empty old office.

ZEPHYR

Really, 228? Hmm.

Tonner breaks off from the crowd and silently starts lumbering down the staircase on the right of the lobby. After a beat, Skye follows.

NIMBUS

Do you think they know where the room is?

AURA

Seems like it, but why downstairs?

They all head down the stairs, which wind down and around two flights.

AURA

Phew, I'm dizzy! I sure hope we aren't just on a wild goose chase.

NIMBUS

(shudders)

Geese.

FLASHBACK: Nimbus floating along a park, when geese, who are about cloud-sized, fly by in a V formation, spinning him around, feathers flying. His fear of geese is a running joke.

They head down a few halls and come across a door marked "228C." It is a large room with lots of chairs and tables.

AURA

Of course! It was cloud-level. They really gotta specify that C part.

INT. ROOM 228C - CONTINUOUS

She grumbles and takes a seat on the far right side of the room, Nimbus following. The rest of the trainees file in and take seats.

Aura sets up her space with a few different snack options, a nice notebook and colored pens. She samples the snacks while making a cursive, colorful header "Dream Factory: Day One." Nimbus takes out his legal pad and ballpoint pen and glances over at Aura, then scrawls "Work Notes."

CIELA (30s), a well-dressed business cloud-woman, enters, clipboard in hand.

CIELA

Good Morning everyone! I'm Ciela and I'll be training you guys. I hope you're excited for your first day of training here at Dream Factory, where we make dreams come true! I'd like everyone to make a name tag and then we will get started.

Each of the trainees takes a tag and writes their name. Aura does a particularly artful job with cursive and shading.

Nimbus looks around at the others' names again, trying to remember. Focus in on each member as he says their names.

NIMBUS

Okay, there's me and Aura, obviously, then we have Zephyr, Aerial, and Aero, I guess she is Skye, and Ton..ner.

He pronounces this like Conner but with a T.

CIELA

Let's get started with a little video refresher of what we do.

At the front of the room rolls down a large white screen, and the video begins, a pleasant female NARRATOR talks as a voice-over.

VIDEO:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Welcome to Dream Factory, where we make dreams come true.

Image of the dream factory with logo overlaid.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Here at Dream Factory, there are so many things you can do! Will you be a day worker, and work to create the hopes and aspirations of people everywhere?

Images of happy people winning awards at various events, becoming parents, getting married, publishing books.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Or will you be a night worker, and weave people's lives into stories for their sleep, helping them find new connections, have epiphanies, or maybe just add some excitement into their lives.

Images of people sleeping peacefully, dreaming in cartoon bubbles of happy things, one person having a nightmare, waking up and sweating.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

There's opportunity for you to work at any step of the process, from Creative--

Aura nudges Nimbus on the arm as the narrator continues listing roles with videos of the task playing. "Creative" is a board room with people sitting around brainstorming.

AURA

(whispered)

That's me! Please please please!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

... Production, Maintenance, Matching, and Sending.

Scenes similar to those when they first entered the Dream Factory play.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

We offer a flexible schedule to fit you. All clouds must work at least one night or day a week at the factory.

A calendar comes up illustrating the following:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But after that, you can choose how many additional days you spend here. Will the Dream Factory be merely part of your civic duty, or will you work here full-time, and make it into a life-long career?

Images of happy, high-level career Dream Factory workers, including the CEO, REVER DOUX, a broad businessman, play.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Remember to let your supervisor know when you'd like to work, and if you would like to transfer from your assigned roles, applications will be open after your first full month.

AURA

(whispering)

I definitely don't wanna work here the whole week, when will I have time for other things?!

NIMBUS

(whispering)

Like what?

Ciela looks over at them pointedly and they hush up.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The work we do here is vital to giving humans lives meaning. Without dreams, they wouldn't know what to work toward. They would just be walking around, without a purpose. No dream is too big or small.

Images of people learning how to ride a bike, writing an essay, solving a math problem in front of their class, other small daily wins.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

We thank you for serving your duty and contributing to the Dream Factory.

The video ends, the class claps politely. Ciela crosses to the front of the room as the lights come up.

CIELA

All right, so I'll be calling your

name and letting you know your assignment, then we'll split off and you'll start training.

Aura squeezes Nimbus's hand expectantly.

CIELA
Aerial. Shaping.

AERIAL
Knew it.

CIELA
Aero. Mixing and Filling.

AERO
Knew it.

They look at each other and mime robot hands.

CIELA
Aura--

She is interrupted by a pretty, silvery cloud-girl rushing in. TEMPEST wears fashionable attire and holds the newest model of cloud phone.

TEMPEST
Sorry I'm late!

AURA
(mutters)
Right when she was about to say my assignment!

CIELA
That's fine, have a seat please.
Anyways, Aura-- floor.

Aura looks devastated.

AURA
Floor?! What does FLOOR even really do?

NIMBUS
It'll be fine.

CIELA
Nimbus - Quality Control.

NIMBUS
I should've guessed.

AURA
Isn't your older brother in quality control?

NIMBUS
Mmhmm. I guess they figured it would run in the family.

CIELA
Skye. Floor.

Aura looks over at Skye, who is scribbling notes in a journal furiously.

CIELA
Tempest. Creative.

Nimbus' eyes widen as he slowly turns to Aura, bracing the worst. Aura is staring incredulously at Tempest, who is smiling wide.

AURA
(gritted teeth)
Are you kidding me!

CIELA
(pronounces it like Conner)
Tonner.

TONNER
It's Tone-air.

CIELA
(pronounces it correctly)
Sorry, Tonner, you're on matching.

Tonner grunts and nods.

CIELA
And finally, Zephyr, runner.

ZEPHYR
Ha ha!

He punches the air in excitement.

CIELA
All right, let's take a 5 then head to

your departments for training!

Ciela passes out their training guides, then leaves the room.
Zephyr swooshes over to the table Nimbus and Aura are at.

ZEPHYR

What did I tell you? A runner!

AURA

Congrats.

She smiles weakly.

AURA (CONT'D)

So floor...

She examines the training guide.

NIMBUS

From what I know, floor is basically walking around and checking how everyone is doing. Also helping keep the factory tidy and organized.

ZEPHYR

That's rough. I could see you glaring bolts at Miss Stormy Weather over there.

He gestures to Tempest with his head.

ZEPHYR (CONT'D)

I'm guessing floor doesn't have the creative liberties you had hoped for?

Aura flushes and tries to cover.

AURA

Ah, I mean, I'm sure Tempest deserves it, it's not like she prevented *me* from also being assigned to creative. I just gotta wait a whole month to try to transfer now.

NIMBUS

We'll get through it Aura. Besides, weren't you saying you weren't going to work full-time here?

This gives Aura hope.

AURA

You're right! I'll let them know I'm only coming in 4- no- 3 days a week. That'll show them!

She springs up and leaves to find Ciela, while the boys watch.

ZEPHYR

Yeah, I feel, even though I'm happy with my assignment, I don't wanna be full-time here either, I'd rather pursue my *other interests*.

He wiggles his eyebrows.

NIMBUS

Other interests?

ZEPHYR

Yeah, games. Any kind. Board games, video games, real life games...

He mimics karate chops through the air.

ZEPHYR (CONT'D)

I'm all about it. The strategy, the competition, the DRAMA.

NIMBUS

Wow. That's cool! So what do you want to do with that?

ZEPHYR

Make my own games. I'm only gonna be here a couple days a week for sure. What about you?

Aura rejoins the boys.

NIMBUS

Oh, I'll probably just work here the full week for now, I don't really have anything else I'd be doing, so why not.

AURA

I keep *trying* to get him to get a hobby, but Nimbus hasn't found anything he loves yet.

Nimbus shrugs and nods.

AURA (CONT'D)

I'm in the same stream as you though
 Zeph, I can't be stuck here all week
flooring the floor. There's SO much I
 wanna do. Maybe write a book, be an
 actress, paint,
 (serious)
 learn about genetics,
 (normal)
 I DUNNO, hiking, cooking--

Aura can hardly contain herself. She is very passionate and continues rambling on. Aero and Aerial join in on the conversation with all the commotion Aura is making.

AERO

There's nothing wrong with working at
 Dream Factory full-time, hey someone's
 got to do it.

ZEPHYR

Exactly, we need guys like you helping
 people dream, literally-- which also
 helps *us* follow *our* dreams.

He chuckles at his own clever realization and whistles away. Nimbus looks a little disheartened at this comment.

NIMBUS

I mean it's not like I don't want to
 have a dream of my own. I just haven't
 found it yet.

AURA

Don't worry, you'll find one soon, I
 just know it! There's so many to
 choose from, how can you choose just
 one?

NIMBUS

(dryly)
 Yeah, *that's* the problem.

AERIAL

Aero and I will be here most days too.
 We both love sports and exercise, but
 we can do that after work! So you
 won't be alone.

NIMBUS
Thanks guys.

Ciela enters again.

CIELA
Time to split! Follow your training
guides and have a great day guys!

AURA
(sadly)
See you later.

She drags her belongings up the stairs, looking back with puppy dog eyes.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Nimbus gets into the elevator and hits the 4th floor. Perky music plays as it goes and people get in and out at the 1st and 2nd floors. He looks at his training guide which reads Nimbus, Quality Control, Room 412, with a schedule below that.

INT. HALLWAY INTO THE CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He gets off at 4, the only one getting off at this level, and walks to the room. It's a small control booth type room, in it sits STRATUS, Nimbus' older brother (20s). He is leaner, with glasses, scruff, and a more studious demeanor.

He's watching different clouds pop onto the screen, running analysis on it, then passing or rejecting them. Behind the large screens is a large window overlooking the main floor of the factory.

STRATUS
Nimbus! They put you in Quality
Control! Naturally.

NIMBUS
Yeah, I should've guessed, huh.

STRATUS
I mean you weren't hoping for another
assignment, were you?

NIMBUS
No, not really.

STRATUS

Great! Let's show you what this is all about, take a seat.

Nimbus pulls up a chair and scoots in.

STRATUS (CONT'D)

So, here at quality control we are in charge of making sure all the dreams are first, well thought out, then we also check to make sure they were shaped and filled correctly, and that they were matched with the right people.

He pulls up a new cloud form on the screen. And types away at the keyboard. A profile comes up of the makeup of the cloud.

Label: Making a paper airplane. 10% thinking 20% research 20% learning 40% creation 10% testing. Ambition Level: Low, Creativity Level: Medium, Logic Level: Medium, Physicality Level: Low, Frequency of Dream: 40%

STRATUS

As you know, Dream Factory in the daytime is in charge of both larger dreams people have as well as smaller goals people want to accomplish.

Stratus highlights what he is talking about on-screen as he covers it.

STRATUS (CONT'D)

We formulate the percentage based on the time it'll take to do each portion, and that's what the mixers are in charge of. Ambition, Creativity, and all those other levels are pretty self-explanatory, then frequency of dream is how common that dream is.

NIMBUS

How common a dream is?

STRATUS

Some dreams are super common, like losing weight, especially around the start of the year.

(beat)

OOF it's at like a 90% frequency!

NIMBUS

Got it. Seems simple enough.

STRATUS

Yeah, the low ambition level ones usually are. And luckily those are the most common. The high ambition level ones require a lot more thinking though.

NIMBUS

What do you mean?

Stratus pulls out a clipboard and flips to a blank sheet. He draws to illustrate as he talks.

STRATUS

You see, it's like this. Low ambition tasks are small, day-to-day goals people have like learning new things, winning a match, basically having a good day.

He draws a large arrow and a smiley face.

STRATUS (CONT'D)

Medium is a little bit more long-term, a project, maybe it'll take a few months, right. But more steps are involved.

Nimbus nods along. The illustrations are nonsensical but Nimbus pretends to understand.

STRATUS (CONT'D)

Then high ambition goals are more of those life-long dreams that'll take people a year or more to accomplish. Those go down to people's core values, so it's important to make sure they are right.

He draws an apple core and a staircase.

STRATUS (CONT'D)

We also have to think about all the smaller steps that will get them from where they are now, to where they want to be.

NIMBUS

I see. So we make sure that all the measures look good, and then what?

STRATUS

Sometimes we'll ask creative to specify more, or add a unique twist to it. So for this one, since paper airplane making is pretty frequent, we want each one to be a little bit different.

He types in some notes and clicks to a new page and we see a paper airplane diagram.

STRATUS

For this one, we had creative add that this particular dream was for a super fast model.

NIMBUS

Right. The more specific a dream is, the more unique it is.

STRATUS

That adds interest and helps the matchers better match dreams to people. Oh, we also quality control the matches of people to dreams.

NIMBUS

So what happens if people get dreams that don't match them perfectly?

Stratus laughs and adjusts his glasses.

STRATUS

Dreams get abandoned all the time, and then people find new ones. C'mon, let's do some together.

Nimbus and Stratus approve the paper airplane dream, and pull up the next one, chatting about the data. Pan to the floor where we zoom in on Aura and Skye on the work floor.

INT. DREAM FACTORY FLOOR - MEANWHILE

Aura and Skye are standing on the floor as CIRO, the floor the manager stands nearby. Other WORKERS rush by without caution, moving dreams and supplies from place to place.

Ciro is an older man, with a cane and glasses, who is very friendly to each person passing by, oblivious to the rush they are in.

CIRO
How are you doing today, young man?

WORKER #1
(running past)
Great, and you?

CIRO
Lovely, did you have a nice weekend?

WORKER #1
(over his shoulder)
The best, catch you later!

Ciro smiles, pleased. Aura is looking at her watch and back at Ciro, appalled and concerned that they haven't done anything yet.

Skye is looking placid as ever. Ciro starts to make his way through the crowd to teach and talk at the same time.

CIRO
So, to be a good floor worker, you must know-- what?

AURA
(dryly)
The floor?

CIRO
Yes. The floor! Let us get familiar with our surroundings, right this way.

AURA
(aside to Skye, sarcastic)
Isn't this so fun?

SKYE
(misses it)
It's great!

They continue walking and pass a water cooler. A sign above the cooler reads "HYDRATE DON'T DISAPPATE"

CIRO
It's important to stay hydrated, and condensed, to keep it all together and

running smoothly in here.

He knocks his head with his hand and chuckles.

CIRO

Careful, though, make sure if you gotta precipitate to use the Little Vapor Room. We've had quite a few accidents over the years.

Aura shudders. And they keep walking. Skye puts her hand to the water and "drinks" some in, getting a little bit plumper.

They pass by many people and keep walking a bit, only to find themselves back at the same water cooler.

CIRO

It's important to stay hydrated--

AURA

Excuse me, Ciro? We've already been here.

CIRO

Oh? Well, let's keep moving then, no time to waste.

He continues moving slow as ever. Aura has to take slow, deliberate steps in order not to outpace him. Skye goes up to the cooler once more and "drinks" getting a bit more plump.

They walk and pass by more people. Ciro is humming along. They come across the water cooler yet again. Skye is already at it drinking before Ciro says anything.

CIRO

Ah, that's good dear, it's important to--

AURA

Stay hydrated, yes--

CIRO

-- and condensed--

Aura looks at Skye pleadingly who shrugs, water droplets shaking out of her with the movement. Ciro keeps spilling and Aura tunes him out, looking up to the control booth high above.

AURA

I sure hope Nimbus is having more fun.

CUT TO:

INT. CONTROL BOOTH

Nimbus and Stratus and much more comfortable now. Nimbus has taken his suspenders off and they are hanging down loose as he slouches in his chair. Stratus's tie is hanging around his neck and his feet are up on the control panel.

NIMBUS

Stratus, are we the only ones in this department?

STRATUS

There's a few other guys but it's a pretty small department. Especially because most of us are all-weekers. Some of the other jobs out there--

He motions out to the floor.

STRATUS (CONT'D)

A lot of them only do a day or two each week, so they need a whole lot more workers. You're gonna be working here all week right?

NIMBUS

Yeah. I mean-- hey Stratus, do you have any dreams of your own? I mean, did you always want to just work at the factory?

STRATUS

Yeah actually, I did. I've always loved numbers and analyzing stuff. I like to make sure everything is running in order, so I don't need another job-- this is the dream.

NIMBUS

Oh, I see.

Nimbus looks down at the floor, dejected.

STRATUS

Don't worry kid, you're still young, and it's only the first day, you'll

figure it out.

NIMBUS

Yeah, that's what everyone keeps saying.

INT. DREAM FACTORY CAFE - LUNCH TIME

Nimbus and Aura carry their trays of food over to the table of other TRAINEES (Aerial, Aero, Zephyr, Tempest, Skye, and Tonner).

Nimbus' plate is well-balanced (water, cloud noodles, star fruit), while Aura's has mainly sweets and junk food (swirls of cloudy cream, a rainbow juice, a gooey cheese cloudwich).

AURA

Heavens! I am starving!

NIMBUS

Really?

He glances at her bag, which still has some snack bags. Aura struggles to get the straw in her mouth with her tongue and takes a sip of the juice.

AURA

(slurps)

Mmhmmm.

NIMBUS

So how was the floor?

Aura puts her tray on the table.

AURA

Oh my cloud, it was so boring!

ZEPHYR

Boring flooring?

AURA

The training was *supposed* to be checking to make sure everything is safe, making sure everything looks nice and neat, making sure everything is running smoothly. Really, it was just walking in circles!

She swirls around and around and plops down in her chair.

AURA (CONT'D)

I felt like I was gonna start a
personal tornado up there.

NIMBUS

Hopefully it'll get better once you
get your own duties.

AURA

Doubtful.

Tonner has a laptop and is furiously typing throughout this.

NIMBUS

(mispronouncing)

Tonner, how was matching?

TONNER

Ton-air.

NIMBUS

Right, sorry. Tonner.

Tonner smiles and nods, but doesn't respond, keeps typing.

NIMBUS (CONT'D)

Oo-kay, so what about you guys?

SKYE

It was good! Interesting to see all
the different stuff on the floor.

AURA

Yeah, like all the sides of the water
cooler.

SKYE

I enjoy the repetition. It's calming.

AURA

Very calming.

She mimics snoring.

TEMPEST

Creative was cool, we just sat around
and thought. Then tossed ideas around,
sketched them out, you know kept the
creative mist flowing, or whatever.

AURA
 (wistful)
 Sounds great.

AERIAL
 Production's actually not as bad as we
 thought. It's kinda fun to shape
 little dream forms--

AERO
 And inject them!

AERIAL
 We can even sit while we work, so it's
 like rest time for us.

Aura whimpers and flexes her sore feet.

ZEPHYR
 Being a runner is awesome. They showed
 me a map of all the major airstreams,
 and we practiced delivering dreams to
 people. We did a batch drop in Canada,
 although you gotta watch out for the
 geese when you're heading there.

NIMBUS
 Geese!

AURA
 So I guess I'm the only unlucky one! I
 know me and Zephyr are only here as
 part-timers, and Nimbi-- uh, Nimbus
 and the twins are here full-time, what
 about you guys?

TEMPEST
 I'm not going to be here full-time. I
 already have other work, posting on
 the Atmosphere.

She holds up her cloud phone. The Atmosphere is a social
 media site. Tempest's page has selfies, pictures of sunsets,
 and scenery, and she has 173k droplets.

AURA
 Wow! So you're kinda famous, huh!

TEMPEST
 (humble brag)
 I'm just a small breeze right now, but

hopefully that'll gain force!

Skye looks up from her journal.

SKYE

I'll be here all week.

NIMBUS

Isn't there anything else you want to do?

SKYE

I like to make art, but I can do that enough at night and on the weekends.

She shrugs and goes back to her journal.

TONNER

Dream Factory.

NIMBUS

Yeah?

TONNER

Dream Factory.

Nimbus nods, hiding confusion.

AURA

If I don't get into creative next month, maybe I should look into other roles. Honestly, all of your jobs sound way better than what I'm doing now.

NIMBUS

Quality Control is pretty straightforward. It is kind of interesting to see all the types of dreams there are though.

AERIAL

Hey, maybe you'll get some inspiration!

NIMBUS

Maybe, but I hardly think pouring milk without spilling or remembering directions without using an app is my grand destiny. No offense.

He looks at Tempest apologetically.

TEMPEST

I can't come up with *all* the ideas.
(shrugs)
That's why we have a whole department.

ZEPHYR

I gotta fly. If I can deliver these
next dreams quickly, I think I can get
out of here in time for the big
cloudball game this afternoon!

He zooms off, and Skye and Tonner get up, causing Aura to
realize reluctantly she should get moving too.

SKYE

I guess I'll see you tomorrow Nimbus,
well, and every other day after that
too!

She smiles and Tonner grunts and salutes. They leave and Aura
and Nimbus drop off their trays then walk along a corridor.

AURA

Everything sounds better than floor.

NIMBUS

The sky is always bluer in another sky
I guess.

AURA

You should join me in trying out new
jobs when it's shadow week.

NIMBUS

What would I even do?

AURA

What wouldn't we do! I mean doesn't it
all sound interesting?

NIMBUS

No? I don't know.

He is starting to get overwhelmed and Aura is starting to get
frustrated.

AURA

You never know. Maybe it's because you
don't try.

NIMBUS

Is it any better to have too many options?

Aura scowls. She knows they are in opposite sides of the same boat.

AURA

C'mon. Think of it as an opportunity! The possibilities are endless!

NIMBUS

That's what scares me? What if it never ends? What if I never find anything I love?

AURA

But what if you do?

The two have stopped walking and have raised their voices quite a bit. Nimbus sighs.

NIMBUS

Look, I really admire your passion. And I'm here to support you through all your dreams. But I'm fine where I am.

AURA

Spending all your waking hours in the dark Quality Control booth? Don't you want to live in the sun-- see what's out there in the world?

NIMBUS

I... don't know. I know, I said it again.

They turn a corner and Aura relaxes a bit, sensing his pain.

AURA

It's okay. I'm sorry, I'm just frustrated with my own situation, but if you're happy, then I'm happy for you!

NIMBUS

Happy?

They reach the doors to the floor.

AURA

This is me. I'll catch you this
afternoon, if I don't get blown
awayyyyyy---

Aura dramatically acts like she is being dragged off.

NIMBUS

Yeah, see you then.

INT. CONTROL BOOTH - DAY

Nimbus enters the control room, Stratus is eating a cloudwich messily. Papers are strewn about the table.

STRATUS

You're back just in time! Do you think
you've got a good handle of things?

NIMBUS

In time for what? And sure, I guess.

STRATUS

Since you're here now, I wanted to
head out a little bit early today,
catch some zzz's.

NIMBUS

Oh, yeah sure, I think I'll be fine
for a few hours. You can head home.

STRATUS

Thanks bud, you'll be great, I know
it.

Nimbus looks through the current case and approves it, he
flips to the next.

MONTAGE - The clock ticks by as he continues to approve or
reject requests.

Finally, the clock reads 4:57. A knock on the door and Aura
comes in.

AURA

I got let out 5 minutes early! A cause
to celebrate!

She dances to herself in a mini party. Nimbus turns around as
he clicks approval on a case. He doesn't see the next case
that comes up yet.

NIMBUS

Aura! I'm almost done-- let me do just one more and then we can head out.

He turns to face the screen. He is in a bit of shock when he sees the dream read "Ambition Level: High" The dream is to become a chemist.

NIMBUS

Woah.

AURA

Woah what?

NIMBUS

This is the first High-level dream I've got. I haven't even done a medium level yet.

AURA

High level?

NIMBUS

Yeah-- these are important. I guess I'll save it for once Stratus comes back.

Aura studies the screen.

AURA

Ooh, a chemist. That's interesting.

NIMBUS

I guess it could be.

AURA

You could try it.

NIMBUS

What do you mean?

She crosses over and pulls up a chair.

AURA

You're going to spend all day reading what other people's dreams are, use that as a chance to find your own.

NIMBUS

Okay, I'm listening.

Aura was getting more excited now, as she does. She prints out the high-level file, and the printer near the door whirrs.

AURA

Whenever you get a dream that sounds interesting, the next off day, we'll go explore it together, see what it's like, try it out!

NIMBUS

Hmmm... I don't see how that could hurt.

He's still a little uncertain but Aura takes him by the shoulders.

AURA

Nimbus, is this all you want to do?

NIMBUS

You're right. If I don't find anything, I can always come back to quality control.

They head towards the door and he looks back around the now dingy control room.

NIMBUS

You know what, I'm going to ask them to put me as part-time--

He snatches the printout on the way out the door.

NIMBUS (CONT'D)

I've got a dream to find!

END CREDITS